



# NEWSLETTER

December, 2006

## AUSTRALIAN RACECOURSE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Website: [www.racecoursemanagers.org.au](http://www.racecoursemanagers.org.au)

**Your Committee:** Warren Williams - Qld (Chairman), Martin Synan – Vic (Deputy Chairman), Lindsay Murphy - NSW (Treasurer), Geoff Murphy – WA, Murray Pyke – Tas, John Tonani - SA  
*Secretary* – Arthur Stubbs

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Welcome to the 12<sup>th</sup> issue of the Racecourse Managers Newsletter. Next issue due in March, 2007.

### 2006 Conference Proceedings

Proceedings of the Newcastle conference are now being mailed to ARMA members, current and past conference delegates, sponsors and industry bodies.

A limited number of copies are available for other interested persons at \$20 each (inc. postage) – contact the ARMA Office.

### 2007 Conference - Flemington

The week commencing August 27, 2007, is confirmed as the date for next year's conference. Attendance at a pre-conference race meeting at a Melbourne track will be arranged for Saturday, August 25, and a pre-conference tour is being planned for Sunday, August 26, prior to a Welcoming Reception in the evening.

The conference proper will probably run through to Thursday, August 31, to allow for presentations by several high profile speakers, a thorough look at the "new" Flemington, visits to "state of the art" Training Centres on the Mornington Peninsula, and Racecourse inspections in Melbourne and surrounds.

The general theme will focus on "Racing around the World" with observations of race and training track facilities and experiences in Europe, America and other countries being planned. Speakers from overseas will be invited to share their knowledge with us, fittingly, at our world famous Melbourne Cup venue. Important local issues such as environmental management, OH & S, track standards and profile maintenance will also be addressed by expert Australian speakers.

Program details will be posted on the ARMA website as they are developed.

### Around the Tracks

#### NSW

- Jeff Haynes has resigned his position as General Manager Racecourses at the Australian Jockey Club. The Club has engaged the company Turnpoint to assist manage the turf tracks at Randwick and has advertised for a Racecourse Manager for that venue.
- The Sydney Turf Club has recently commissioned a new Pro-Ride all weather training surface.
- At Dubbo, the temporary course proper alignment (which has been in use since March 2005) was decommissioned immediately following the Club's Melbourne Cup day race meeting on 7 November 2006. The transition sections, which link the final home turn alignment with the home & back straights, are presently being cut-in, along with associated irrigation works. Solid turf will be laid upon completion of earthworks. Subject to satisfactory establishment, the first race meeting held on the new alignment is programmed for 7 April 2007.
- At Grafton, construction of a new StaLok All-Weather training track has commenced, however delays have been experienced during the earthworks phase due to wet weather. Strategic re-alignment of the course proper is also being undertaken as part of this project (including associated irrigation works), along with construction of a new vehicle access road. Completion in December is being targeted, with immediate commissioning of the new training track. Contingent upon satisfactory turf establishment, racing should resume on the course proper before March 2007.

- A number of major irrigation projects are currently underway at larger regional centres including Muswellbrook, Scone and Wagga Wagga, along with similar improvements at Moruya. The majority of these projects relate to infrastructure works associated with utilisation of alternative water sources.
- Steve Kirkman has recently commenced as Racecourse Manager at Shoalhaven City Turf Club (Nowra).
- Ballina Jockey Club is seeking a Racecourse Manager (see ARMA website under "Jobs & General" )

#### VIC

- Scott Jarvis has taken up the position with Racing Victoria Limited as the fourth Regional Tracks & Facilities Manager in Victoria. Scott has had 15 years experience working with the Wodonga & District Turf Club. Scott's regions include Goulburn Murray and Wimmera Mallee.
- Dylan O'Neill has taken up the position of Racecourse Manager at Wodonga.
- Water restrictions are hitting the Victorian Clubs hard with many suffering severely. Several Clubs have had to resort to trucking water in from nearby supplies.
- The long awaited Flemington track upgrade commenced immediately following the Spring Racing Carnival. It is expected that racing will resume at Flemington in September 2007.

#### WA

- Bunbury Turf Club is still looking for a Tracks & Grounds Manager (see ARMA website under "Jobs & General" ).
- Wade Breen, Racecourse Manager at Geraldton Turf Club, has joined the ARMA.

#### QLD

- Craig Henderson has been appointed Racecourse Manager at the Townsville Turf Club, moving north from Ballina.
- David Maiden is the new Racecourse Manager at Cairns Jockey Club

#### SA

- The South Australian Jockey Club has sold the Cheltenham Park racecourse site for residential development. All metropolitan race meetings will now be run at Morphettville and Victoria Park.

#### **ARMA News**

- The ARMA website is now being "hit" with increasing frequency as members and other interested persons scan the trading, jobs and Association information pages. To make full use of the site you can join ARMA and then be able to view secure areas such as "Member Lists" and lodge adverts. or jobs. Go to "Membership" for an application form.  
Sponsor links are now being progressively added to the website.
- The ARMA Committee has just had a very worthwhile full day meeting at Moonee Valley to discuss forward planning matters that cannot be dealt with sufficiently at the regular monthly teleconferences. Strategic planning and future management were amongst items to be given due attention along with environmental programs, future conferences and tours. Members will be invited to contribute ideas for strategic planning options via the ARMA website (details to be circulated shortly).

*SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL  
MAY YOUR TRACKS BE GOOD(3) THROUGH 2007*