



NEWSLETTER

March, 2007

AUSTRALIAN RACECOURSE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Website: 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 13th issue of the Racecourse Managers Newsletter. Next issue due in June, 2007. Past issues are available on the ARMA website.

2007 Conference – Flemington – Home of the Melbourne Cup - August 27-30

Complimentary entry to a pre-conference Race Day at Moonee Valley on Saturday, August 25, courtesy of John Cameron, Chief Executive, starts the action for delegates arriving early for the 12th Australian Racecourse Managers Conference.

Conference build up continues on the Sunday with a tour to an ultra-modern training complex north of Melbourne followed by lunch at a nearby winery.

A Welcoming Reception will then be held in the early evening at the Crowne Plaza on the banks of the Yarra River.

Serious conference business gets underway on Monday, August 27 at Flemington in the Hill Stand and will continue through to Thursday, August 30, to allow adequate time for a thorough explanation and examination of the Flemington reconstruction, visits to other racecourses and training centres, and to hear presentations on local and overseas research and developments.

Highlights of the conference sessions at Flemington will be:

- *Planning the “new” Flemington* – tracks, profiles, drainage, irrigation, tunnels, facilities, the levee bank – inspecting and discussing the results – the whys and wherefores
- *Future Water Resources* – options for supplies, management strategies, coping with drought in Victoria
- *Profile Physics and Chemistry* – measuring, monitoring and maintenance
- *Racing & Training in the UK* – Royal Ascot redevelopment, latest experience with surface rating devices, training systems
- *California & USA Tracks & Meets* – agronomics of turf tracks from South to North, engineered tracks for OH & S requirements
- *World Racing* – policies, practices, equipment and facilities from West to East, the tropics to the arctic
- *Environmental Policy* – ARMA initiative to co-ordinate environmental management on racecourses
- *Track Standards* – recommendations on Ratings, Records, Maintenance and Infrastructure

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

Tuesday, August 28, will be devoted to visiting the GSA Bloodstock Training Centre at Mt Eliza, a feature of which is the sub-surface irrigation system, inspection of tracks and facilities at Mornington Racecourse where a new training track has been laid, and then onto Rye to visit another noteworthy training establishment.

The Conference Dinner will be held on Wednesday, August 29, in the Peak Room at Flemington with a Guest Speaker and presentation of the annual Racecourse Managers Awards.

A truly great conference is on the cards thanks to the hospitality of the Victoria Racing Club and the interest shown by Dale Monteith, Chief Executive and Terry Watson, Racecourse Manager. This, together with continued support from our sponsors ensures that the all-inclusive conference fee will be unbeatable value.

Accommodation will be based in Melbourne city with delegates bussed to and from Flemington. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hotel Enterprize in Spencer St (close to the Casino) at \$130 per twin/double room including full buffet breakfasts. Intending delegates wanting to book accommodation early at this venue should contact Anthony Lawson or Goran Novakovic and quote Booking No. 414140 [p.03 9629 6991, f. 03 9614 7963, e. res@hotelerprize.com.au].

Please complete and return the enclosed "Expression of Interest" form by April 30, 2007, to give us an indication of numbers attending and to facilitate the registration process.

Track Standards Workshop

A second, follow up Workshop to the initial industry meeting on Track Standards, held in July last year, will be hosted by the Moonee Valley Racing Club on May 8. Working Groups will present their reports on standards for Ratings, Records, Maintenance and Infrastructure with recommendations for implementation and future action.

Racecourse Managers Awards

The 2007 Awards will be for significant achievements in any facet of their operations by those involved in racecourse management. The Racecourse Manager of the Year Award will again be for "an outstanding contribution to racecourse management and for developing fellowship amongst racecourse managers".

Nominations are now open and can simply be made by contacting the ARMA Committee member from your State (see ARMA website under Contact Us) and recommending persons who have achieved something special for consideration, eg, successful track redevelopment, environmental management strategy, water saving measures, etc. Anyone can make a nomination, "the more the merrier".

Around the Tracks

NSW

- David Hodgson has been appointed Racecourse Manager at Royal Randwick. David was previously with Turnpoint, the company that was engaged by the AJC to assist with renovation of the main turf tracks. He has a 30 year background in environmental management and sports turf consulting.
- Adam Freebody has taken up the position of Racecourse Manager at the Ballina Jockey Club.
- Late news is that Dale Jeffs has resigned his position as Racecourse Manager at Warwick Farm to take up the post as Official Starter at the Singapore Turf Club.

WA

- Mark Phelan is the new Tracks & Grounds Manager at the Bunbury Turf Club.

NZ

Your Secretary was in New Zealand last November and took the opportunity to visit Neil Treweek at the Waikato Racing Club in Hamilton and Bart Cowan at the Canterbury Jockey Club in Christchurch:

- Neil manages 18 racedays a year at Waikato, 3 for the Cambridge Jockey Club and 1 for Taumarunui Racing Club. 60-80 horses are also trained at the course. The Course Proper is 1800m in length at the True position, 30-35m wide with a huge 450m home straight. The moveable rail can be shifted out to 14m. Neil also has responsibilities supervising other tracks throughout the two islands.
- Neil's son Todd Treweek has taken on the main job at Counties Race Club, Pukekohe.
- At Riccarton Park, Bart controls 26 meetings a year with two carnival weeks, the Grand National Jumps in August and the NZ Cup in November. 250-300 horses are in training. Course Proper is 2407m long and 28m wide with ryegrass turf on a silty loam profile. The track is under snow occasionally in winter and Bart had to scrape the snow away to do a Penetrometer reading last year. [Bart moved back to Adelaide in February for family reasons].