



NEWSLETTER

December, 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 16th issue of the Racecourse Managers Newsletter. Next issue due in March, 2008.

2007 Conference Proceedings

Proceedings of the Flemington 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 \$25 each (inc. postage) – contact the ARMA Office.

2008 Conference – Eagle Farm

The 3rd or 4th week in August, 2008, is to be confirmed as the date for next year's conference at the Queensland Turf Club's Eagle Farm Racecourse in Brisbane, subject to race dates. Stephen Ferguson, CEO, and Bill Shuck are looking forward to being our hosts.

Attendance at a pre-conference race meeting at a Brisbane track will be arranged for the preceding Saturday. A pre-conference tour is planned for the Sunday prior to the popular Welcoming Reception in the evening.

The conference proper will start on Monday and finish on Wednesday, probably with the Conference Dinner. A feature of this year's conference will be more trade displays, machinery and product demonstrations. Increased delegate participation via group sessions and workshops is also being planned. Program details will be posted on the ARMA website as they are developed.

National Track Standards

A full report of the Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation (RIRDC) funded ARMA project: "Australian Racecourses National Track Standards – Monitoring, Assessment & Design" has just been released. This report gives details of the discussions and recommendations from the two workshops held in July, 2006, and May, 2007, summarised in previous ARMA newsletters.

The report can be purchased in hard copy from RIRDC for \$16 or downloaded from the RIRDC website: www.rirdc.gov.au [Publications/Free Downloads-Research Reports/Horses/07-159 AUR-1A]

An application for funding for a follow up project titled "National Standards for Track Measurement & Rating" is with RIRDC at the moment and may proceed next year subject to approval.

ARMA Environmental Policy

A letter of recommendation is being sent to Race Clubs to become involved in *e-par Racing*, a system designed to equip racecourses (and associated horse training facilities) with the latest techniques in sustainable environmental management. The system is modelled on *e-Par*, developed for the golf industry and now widely used with outstanding results in that sector.

Racing and training centres who subscribe to *e-par Racing* will be safeguarded from environmental mishaps and will be able to prove to regulators, financiers and insurers that they are being pro-active in this vital area of management. This will yield benefits to centres, not only in economic terms, but also in recognition for social responsibility and community standing.

Around the Tracks

VIC

Steve Torney and Scott Jarvis report that:

- Canberra commenced racing on their newly constructed course proper on Saturday 6th October. They have raced on 3 occasions with all reports indicating that the track is racing true and even with minimal damage. The last on Melbourne Cup day following 50mm of rain (GOOD 3).
- Brian Bath has taken up the position of Racecourse Manager with the Hamilton Racing Club. Brian was formerly 2nd in charge under Murray James at Ballarat.
- We have just completed a new training track lighting upgrade project at Wodonga Turf Club.
- Mark Cavanagh from Geelong Racing Club has taken up the Racecourse Manager's position at Tatura & Shepparton Racing Club.

also

- A great relief for everyone that spring racing in Victoria, with the Carnival in Melbourne and numerous Country Cups, was completed without interruption after the dark days of August – a credit to all RM's involved. The new Flemington track came through the Cup week with flying colours but didn't get the press the winners received. Nevertheless, very satisfying to those who toiled hard for 12 months to produce the immaculate surface.

NSW

- Andrew Small, our regular correspondent from NSW, has resigned his position as Projects Manager, Racing NSW Country, for another posting outside the racing industry. Andrew has been a great supporter of ARMA and conference contributor over many years and we wish him well.

QLD

- Geoff Fanning, a regular conference delegate and contributor, was missing from Flemington this year due to ill health. We wish Geoff all the best and look forward to seeing him at Eagle Farm.

ARMA News

- The ARMA Committee is to hold a full day meeting at Morphetville in late January to discuss a range of matters that cannot be dealt with sufficiently at the regular monthly teleconferences. Future conferences and tours, international liaison and exchange, and forward planning for ARMA will be some of the items on the agenda.
- Don't forget to check the ARMA website regularly for general news, merchandise for sale and jobs available. To lodge adverts. or jobs and/or engage in Members chat you need to join the Association – see under "Membership" - Application. Any ideas for increasing the usefulness of the website would be welcome – send us an email.
- Your Secretary caught up with Ian Trevethan last month on his Gisborne property. Ian and Judith are enjoying life back home in Oz after their sojourn in Singapore during the last few years. Whilst considering options, Ian has been having fun as a winning racehorse owner - with no complaints about the tracks !

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR 2008

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