



NEWSLETTER

March, 2008

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
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Welcome to the 17th issue of the Racecourse Managers Newsletter. Next issue due in June, 2008.

2008 Conference – Eagle Farm

August 18-20 are the main days for this year's conference at the Queensland Turf Club's Eagle Farm Racecourse in Brisbane. A good look at synthetic track options, turf research, nutrition and irrigation, equine influenza, racecourse inspections and demonstrations will be features. Current program details are on the ARMA website under "Conference".

Also on the website are Accommodation Options (wise to book early) and an Expression of Interest form for completion by intending delegates.

e-par Racing

All major Race Clubs and Training Centres in Australia have now been sent details about *e-par Racing*, the ARMA environmental initiative. The following press release has been circulated to the racing industry:

"Responsible environmental management on racecourses and training centres has become as important as good track preparation. Regulatory authorities now demand that organisations operating in ecologically sensitive areas monitor all potentially harmful activities and introduce safeguard measures. The penalties for negligence are severe as some golf club committees and staff have found to their financial and personal grief.

The Australian Racecourse Managers Association has been pro-active on this issue by adopting an Environmental Policy and launching a self-regulating, monitoring system called "e-par Racing" for all Clubs and training facilities. The system is a world first for the racing industry and is modelled on one developed to protect the golf industry. For any racing or training site within proximity of watercourses, heritage or conservation areas, environmentally sensitive locations or residential suburbs, the risk of an environmental mishap is too great to ignore.

e-par Racing is an environmental management system based on a software package, backed by advice and support from the initiating company Environmental Business Solutions. e-par Racing facilitates recording and monitoring of all work practices and procedures with environmental implications. These include chemical and fuel use and storage, waste treatment and disposal, water recycling and purification. The system highlights where improvements can be achieved and, equally importantly, provides evidence to regulators, financiers and insurers that serious attention, not just lip service, is being paid to environmental management.

The new initiative will provide all racing industry centres with a strategic asset that will save time, money, improve resource management and enable directors and officers to meet their corporate and legislative requirements. Through e-par Racing the Australian racing industry will take a leading role in setting and maintaining minimum standards of environmental management and performance. This industry self regulation will result in recognition for social responsibility, better community standing and promote a 'clean and green' racing industry."

At the time of this issue going to press **Doomben, Rockhampton, Newcastle, Muswellbrook, Hawkesbury, Rosehill, Canterbury, Randwick and Warwick Farm** racecourses have signed up.

What about your racecourse ?

Racecourse Management Scholarship

A Racecourse Management Scholarship has been established by Steriline Racing under the patronage of ARMA and with the support of the Hong Kong Jockey Club for the inaugural year. The Scholarship is valued at about \$5,000 and is for study of all aspects of racecourse management operations at the Hong Kong Jockey Club's racecourses for a period of two weeks between October and December, 2008. This grand initiative by Steriline will reward the pursuit of excellence among aspiring race track managers in Australia and be a major step forward in promoting further development of the racecourse management profession. Details will be advised to ARMA members shortly.

Around the Tracks

Two stalwarts of racecourse management have recently retired:

- Geoff Fanning stepped down as Gold Coast Turf Club Racecourse Manager in late March. Geoff has been with GCTC since 1973, initially as course ranger and race starter, then as track manager, and finally as Racecourse Manager since the early 90's. He started in the racing industry at Orange Racecourse in 1958 and also was race starter for the Western Region of NSW. Geoff had plenty on his plate at the Gold Coast, running more than 65 meetings a year and handling 500 horses in training. His outstanding contribution to racecourse management was recognised in 2000 when he was named "Racecourse Manager of the Year".
- John Jeffs told ARMA he has had "an amazing ride" in the racing industry, from Secretary at Cowra in the late 60's to Racecourse Manager at Sydney Turf Club from '73 to '89, then Hong Kong Jockey Club, '89 to '94, and finally at the Australian Jockey Club, '95 to '98, before becoming a successful Racing Industry Consultant in 1998 with clients throughout the industry. He paid tribute to his senior peer mentors, George Johnston at Randwick, Ron King at Flemington, Gordon McVeigh at Ellerslie and many others for their guidance along the way. John introduced the Penetrometer to Australian racing from France in 1975 and takes much satisfaction from its widespread adoption and use.

New and pending positions include:

- Adam Campton has stepped up from Assistant to Racecourse Manager at Hawkesbury, taking over from Justin Laney who has moved on to other pursuits.
- Andrew Paton has been appointed Course Curator at Townsville in place of Craig Henderson.
- Vincent Walsh is the new Assistant RM to Steve Schmidt at Kyneton following Jack Ramsdale's resignation.
- Leigh Murrell has joined David Patrick as his Assistant at Newcastle. Leigh was RM at Moree before working under Scott Olson at Wyong. He is the second of Scott's trainees to have been "poached" by David, the other being Jody Rodgers who is now at Cessnock. What will payback involve?
- Benalla Racing Club has yet to announce the new RM to take over from Shane Whitla.
- Queensland Turf Club is advertising for an Assistant to Bill Shuck
- Our Chairman Warren is breathing easier after the appointment of Malcolm Holmes, a Kiwi Rugby Union administrator, as the new Brisbane Turf Club CEO. Warren was Acting CEO in addition to his Venues and Racecourse Manager duties for several months.
- Welcome back to Andrew Small who has re-joined Racing NSW as Projects Manager/OHS Officer.

Track Rating Procedures in Vic

Recent media reports about some track rating anomalies and track surfaces have resulted in Racing Victoria introducing revised track preparation, inspection and rating guidelines as standard procedures. ARMA is observing developments and hopes that due credit will be given more often by the media and industry to the efforts of Racecourse Managers in preparing and rating "Good" tracks for racedays, as occurs in the vast majority of cases.

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