



NEWSLETTER

December, 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 Secretary – Arthur Stubbs

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Welcome to the 20th issue of the Australian Racecourse Managers Association Newsletter. Next issue is due by March, 2009.

2008 Conference Proceedings

Proceedings of the Eagle Farm 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.

2009 Conference – Morphettville

Planning is well advanced for next year's conference at the South Australian Jockey Club's Morphettville Racecourse in Adelaide, main dates being August 24 to 26. John Tonani and Brenton Wilkinson, Operations & Facilities Manager, are looking forward to being our hosts for this return to the "City of Churches".

New presentations will include a report from Adam Ayre about what he learnt at the Hong Kong Jockey Club as the inaugural Steriline/ARMA Racecourse Management Scholar and a summary of the benefits from a year's involvement with E-par Racing by a participating Club. An account of next April's visit to racetracks and training centres in England, Ireland and France by the ARMA study tour group will also be keenly awaited.

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

Environmental Time Bomb ?

The 2008 Eagle Farm conference was told in August that, despite unanimous endorsement of ARMA's Environmental Policy Initiative at the 2007 conference, followed by 300 letters of invitation to Race Clubs across Australia early this year, only 14 racetracks are involved to date in *E-par Racing*. 11 are in NSW and 3 in Queensland. All metropolitan racetracks in Sydney and Brisbane are involved.

It is to be hoped that we do not see a "Wahroonga" time bomb go off at a Race Club due to neglect of good environmental management as authorities will crack down hard on cases of environmental spoilage and will not excuse ignorance. (Wahroonga Golf Club Committee was fined \$600,000 and its superintendent \$50,000 plus community service for a pesticide spill in 2003).

EPA's will recognize efforts being made towards sound environmental management and this can be achieved for a very modest outlay by Clubs joining *E-par Racing* (\$1250 joining + \$750 annual for ARMA members). Full details of the ARMA Environmental Policy, E-par benefits, entitlements and a registration form can be viewed on the ARMA website www.racecoursemanagers.org.au under News-Special Items. **Isn't it better to be safe now rather than sorry later !!**

Around the Tracks

Queensland

Bill Shuck – QTC and Warren Williams – BTC have commenced their E-par Racing program. Both clubs have received complimentary training from E-par and are now at full steam developing environmental policies and programs for each course. The initial assessment task has really pointed out the environmental areas that need to be addressed. These issues will be worked through as each module (= a golf hole) is completed as you plot your way around the “course”. This is a great opportunity for a manager to understand the importance of environmental issues within the workplace but also to involve all staff in one way or another so ownership is maintained with your workplace.

WW commented “For those who have not yet joined, I do not see E-par as a costly exercise or another job to be completed, but a workplace learning process that is going to benefit your racecourse and the environment.”

ARMA News

Change of Secretary

The ARMA Committee has accepted Arthur Stubbs’ notice of resignation as Secretary of ARMA to take effect from 31/12/08. Arthur advised the Committee that he enjoys the work with ARMA but thought it was time for the Association to look to the future. He will continue in the nominal role as Public Officer for the time being, as required by the Act, and will be available to assist with ARMA activities, if needed, at the Committee’s discretion.

Warren Williams has offered to provide future secretarial/management services to ARMA as from 1/1/09 and this has been accepted by the Committee. Warren will provide these services in a private capacity under similar terms and conditions as the existing secretarial contract. He proposes to stand down as Chairman but continue as a Committee member.

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL AND BEST WISHES FOR 2009

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[* Note: from January 1, 2009 - p. 0417 603 288 f. 07 3868 1281]