



# NEWSLETTER

July, 2010

## AUSTRALIAN RACECOURSE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION INC.

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

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

### Inside this issue:

- 2010 Conference
- Around the Tracks
- ARMA News

Welcome to the 26<sup>th</sup> issue of the Australian Racecourse Managers Association Newsletter. Next issue September, 2010.

### 2010 Conference – Canberra Racing Club – Thoroughbred Park

The 15<sup>th</sup> ARMA conference at Canberra Racing Club – Thoroughbred Park is in final stages of preparation. There has been overwhelming support from our sponsors for the conference. Canberra Racing Club Peter Stubbs, James Cataldo and staff will be great hosts for 2010 and have been very proactive towards ensuring this conference will be a success.

The conference program has evolved over the last 3 weeks with confirmation of speakers and tours (see program on website).

Although Canberra will be a bit “chilly” in August the activities, sessions, tours and catering will ensure we do not feel the cold. The conference dinner will as usual be a great night with a guest speaker, announcement of awards – **Turfcraft** Racecourse Managers awards, **Steriline** Scholarship and the inaugural **Anco** Racetrack Event award, plus this year we will have excellent dinner prizes, one from Anco and another from Programmed Property Services (I believe this has a very large \$ value).

For those members or non members who have not registered please do as soon as possible.

All registrations forms and conference program are available via website – [www.racecoursemanagers.org.au](http://www.racecoursemanagers.org.au) or email [arma@racecoursemanagers.org.au](mailto:arma@racecoursemanagers.org.au)

### Around the Tracks

#### Queensland

*Warren Williams Reports*

Queensland Winter carnival has just concluded with excellent racing and the weather being kind for majority of meetings. There was great racing at Gold Coast, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast, Doomben and Eagle Farm where 20,000+ people attended AMMI Stradbroke day.

July 1 saw the merger of the three codes of racing in Queensland – Thoroughbreds, Harness and Greyhound bodies into one control body which has been named Racing Queensland Ltd (RQL).

Racing Queensland Ltd has undertaken the management of all racing associated items at Sunshine Coast Turf Club (Corbould Park) and late August there will be the opening of a 400 box stable complex also at Sunshine Coast – Corbould Park. This stable complex will be managed by Racing Queensland Ltd.

Additionally on 1 August 2010 RQL will undertake management of Rockhampton Jockey Club racing and associated items which include, training, all tracks, stabling, race day integrity and officials.

## **Victoria**

### *Martin Synan Reports*

Martin Synan represented ARMA at the 2010 New Zealand Racecourse Managers conference and Marty has supplied the following information regarding this conference;

- This year's conference was held in Dunedin, New Zealand
- They had about 50 delegates from both racecourses and harness tracks
- The conference was well run and coordinated by Baz Woodcock
- They had 7-10 good sponsors, Sterline, PGG Wrightson who all mixed well with delegates, spoke well and had a wide range of products to offer
- They had speakers on Harness tracks, Graeme Maher, John Lischner and Barry Kitto, Australian racing and ARMA, Martin Synan, Agronomist, David Howard, NZ training update , Dudley Brown, Water management, Tony Davoren, risk management, Hamish Wallace. Tom Tamati also spoke about preparing a test wicket for international cricket and Coryn Huddy spoke about preparation of a rugby field for international rugby
- Most delegates arrived on the Saturday with the conference starting on the Sunday and finishing on the Tuesday.
- Several field trips were organised with a variety of racecourses (Wingatui), harness tracks(Fornbury), rugby fields( Carisbrook Park) and the Speight's Brewery
- On the last day the conference had a open forum which was well received with several guest speakers on the panel, Cameron George( Chief stipendiary steward), Dennis Ryan (NZTR Board of Directors and trainers association), Mark Davidson( Steward) and Garry Foskett (NZTR National venue inspector )
- This forum gave all participants a chance to express their view which was well answered and received by the panel
- The conference finished off with a formal dinner attended by all

## **South Australia**

### *John Tonani Reports*

Gawler reconstruction works are now complete and the club conducted the first race meeting early August. Unfortunately the new track received torrential rain after race two and the meeting was abandoned due to visibility. This was disappointing for the club as the track and facilities were out of commission for more than 12 months.

South Australia has had good winter rains, however they have also had severe frosts which had played havoc with the Kikuyu tracks.

Morphettville wetlands have worked well with the excellent winter rainfall.

Murray Bridge Racing Club are next for a major track redevelopment. It is envisaged that this might commence in the next 18 months.

Dave Sheppard has resigned from his position at Gawler Race Club.

## **New South Wales**

*Lindsay Murphy Reports*

There has been some employee movements throughout the tracks in NSW.

Dave Hodgson has decided to have a break from thoroughbred racing. Geoff Haines is now at Hawksbury Racing Club, Bernie Evans has moved to Wyong race Club and James Cataldo has taken a position with Australian Jockey Club – Warwick Farm. This leaves a vacant position at Canberra racing Club.

## **Western Australia**

*Geoff Murphy Reports*

York racing Club have completed the upgrades to track and will return to racing in September and will have six race meeting for the remaining of 2010.

WA tracks have been struggling with drought conditions, poor winter rains and the worst frosts in the last 30 years. As for South Australia, the Kikuyu tracks have been decimated and all WA managers are looking forward to some good spring rain and warm weather to re-ignite the Kikuyu.

## **Tasmania**

*Murray Pyke Reports*

The Elwick track in the South of Tassie has had very little rain for the last 3 months a total of 23 mm falling since the beginning of May and only 1.5 mm for July.

Water had to be applied to the Elwick track in June.

In contrast Launceston in the North has had 198.5 for the same period and 61mm so far for July. We are also experiencing very heavy frost in the North.

This and along with large field sizes and 10 races every meeting is putting the Strathayr track through its toughest test yet but along with continual rail shifts the track has been racing very well.

At the last meeting after 8 races the best spot to be was still on the rail for race 9 and 10.

Murray

## **2011 Conference**

Talks have continued with NZ Racecourse Managers Association. To date we will be looking at holding a joint conference in New Zealand South Island at Christchurch with proposed date of early July 2011. Updates will follow via emails to all members and a more detail of the NZ conference will be presented at 2010 ARMA conference.

## **Membership – new and renewals**

ARMA membership is now due, for those who have received renewal notices and have not renewed could you please do so. If any member did not receive a renewal notice or would like to join the association please email [arma@racecoursemanagers.org.au](mailto:arma@racecoursemanagers.org.au) with your name, club, address and email address or alternatively visit ARMA website - [www.racecoursemanagers.org.au](http://www.racecoursemanagers.org.au)