



NEWSLETTER

March, 2009

AUSTRALIAN RACECOURSE MANAGERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Website: 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, Warren Williams – Qld, Secretary – Warren Williams

Inside this issue:

- Study Tour
- Morphettville Conference
- E – par Racing
- Around the Tracks
- ARMA News

Welcome to 2009 and the 21st issue of the Australian Racecourse Managers Association Newsletter. Next issue is due by June, 2009.

2009 Study Tour to Europe

The 2009 Study tour is all just about finalised and the eleven delegates (9 Racecourse Managers and 2 partners) are all looking forward to the 13 days travelling through United Kingdom, Ireland and France visiting numerous racecourses, training facilities and studs. The tour leaves Australia on 5th April and returns 19th April.

2009 Conference – Morphettville

Planning is well advanced for the 2009 conference at the South Australian Jockey Club's Allan Scott Park, Morphettville Racecourse in Adelaide from 24 to 26 August with race meeting on 22/8/09 and the Sunday tour on 23/8/09. John Tonani (RCM) and Brenton Wilkinson (Acting CEO), 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.

There will be two international speakers and visits to a number of racecourses and Steriline racing Manufacturing plant.

For all Racecourse Managers 2009 conference will be the inaugural "Partners Tour". ARMA will be organising in conjunction with Steriline a Partners tour for 2 days of the conference (Monday and Tuesday). So don't leave your partner at home bring them along and let them enjoy a couple days of South Australian Hospitality.

Expression of interests will be posted on the ARMA website and sent in mail.

Environmental Time Bomb ?

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 !!.../2**

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Around the Tracks

Queensland – Warren Williams reports

In southern parts of Australia we have seen the worst bush fires, but Northern Queensland have experienced the opposite – FLOODS. For most of February 2009 tracks from Cairns south to Mackay have been soaked with monsoonal rains. Townsville Track Manager Andrew Paton said it was not uncommon for the Townsville track to receive 250mm in an afternoon shower. Mackay Secretary Joe Hynes recorded 690mm in 36 days. Ingham racecourse when under water, not just a few inches of water covering track, but sections had water 1200mm over the running rail height. This part of Queensland is now just starting to dry and hopefully race meetings will return shortly.

The new synthetic track at Toowoomba has begun construction and is expected to be completed early Spring.

Sunshine Coast Turf Club have had lights for twilight and night racing installed and their first meeting under lights on 21 February was a success.

Brisbane Turf Club and Queensland Turf Club are on target to become one identity on 1 July 2009, and will be known as Brisbane Racing Club.

Western Australia – Geoff Murphy reports

Geoff Murphy from Western Australia has been appointed Tracks Manager for all Sky Raceday Racecourses in Western Australia.

He will be responsible for a total of 10 race tracks, making sure that raceday procedures are in place, helping with renovations, ensuring that they are completed properly, have input into Capital project, Input into programming rail moves, fertilisers, chemicals and what ever else I can help with to improve race track surfaces.

Regular visits to country tracks, my time will be split 50% Ascot and Belmont 50% Country tracks.

The programme will be to visit two country tracks per week, to advise and discuss any problems that my have.

I will be passing on the knowledge that I have, with the help of my experienced staff at Ascot Racecourse endeavour to increase the skills of the younger track curator on the way through at all country clubs.

South Australia – John Tonani reports

Allan Scott Park Morphettville – our second racing surface has been completed with the last of the turf laid three weeks ago. Running rails and winning post will be installed in coming weeks with a view to first race on the new track in mid-May.

Installation of a new drainage Pro-Ride was completed in November 2008. It has been well received by trainers and jockeys.

Gawler – this provincial track has temporarily closed until early 2010 for renovation of grandstand and racing surface.

Victoria – Martin Synan Reports

Martin Synan has been appointed Racecourse Facilities Manager at Moonee Valley. Simon Hodgson from Cranbourne Training centre has been reappointed Racecourse Facilities Manager at Cranbourne Racecourse and Training centre.

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