



# NEWSLETTER

September, 2009

## 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, Warren Williams – Qld, Secretary – Warren Williams

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Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> issue of the Australian Racecourse Managers Association Newsletter.

### 2009 Australian Racecourse Managers Conference

The 2009 Conference was held at Allan Scott Park Morphetville Racecourse Adelaide South Australia Study from 24 August to 26 August 2009. Despite the ordinary weather there was good spirit amongst all delegates and sponsors with just over 100 participants attending the Tuesday dinner. The conference also attracted attendees from Singapore, South Africa, United Kingdom and as usual the New Zealand gang could not miss an Aussie conference. Raji Jayaraju from Singapore Turf Club (STC) presented an excellent session on synthetic tracks and how the STC decided on the Polytrack for racing in Singapore. Other guest speakers included Jason Kerr from Melbourne Racing Club providing the clubs evaluation of plastic running rails, Rebecca Dynon's report on the 2009 Europe Study Tour, Murray Pyke's Tasman Park upgrade and host sponsor John Tonani portraying the developments that have occurred at Allan Scott Park Morphetville Racecourse in the past seven years.

Additional to his conference the delegates ventured to Lindsay Park Stud and Training Facility. Thanks must be portrayed to Sam Hayes and Nigel Evans for taking up their time on a Sunday showing all delegates and sponsors this magnificent thoroughbred facility. For those who use Steriline equipment, John Fargher opened his factory to the delegates for a very interesting visit also.

Congratulations to the winners of the **Turfcraft** Racecourse Managers Awards. Alastair Dowie from **Turfcraft** presented the following winners;

- Regional Racecourse Manager 2009 – **Murray Weeding** (*Sunshine Coast Turf Club*)
- Metropolitan Racecourse Manager 2009 – **John Tonani** (*South Australian Jockey Club*)
- Racecourse Manager of the Year 2009 – **Warren Williams** (*Brisbane Racing Club*)

Addition to the Turfcraft Awards, John Fargher from **Steriline Racing** presented the **Steriline Racing 2009 Scholarship** award to **Sean Bridges** from Brisbane Racing Club. The scholarship is designed to encourage young enthusiastic racecourse staff to gain training and experience, working for two weeks at Hong Kong Jockey Club. Steriline Racing, John Ridley and the HKJC and must be thanked for their support in providing training to the winner of the scholarship.

## **2010 Conference**

Initial discussions are being undertaken for the 2010 conference to be held in Canberra. The December newsletter will update the status for the 2010 conference.

## **Around the Tracks**

### **Queensland – Warren Williams reports;**

The merger of the Brisbane Turf Club and Queensland Turf Club to the new **Brisbane Racing Club** commenced on 1 July and now after nearly three months of operation the merger is starting to take shape. There is still operational areas that need fine tuning, but overall the staff are just getting into a rhythm racing every Wednesday and Saturday. Rockhampton Jockey Club in conjunction with Queensland Racing are undertaking the construction of a new sand track for racing and training plus the total reconstruction of the course proper.

Eagle Farm and Doomben training tracks are being renovated by Geoff Hatton from Sustainable Turf Renovations. This is the first time this sort of renovations have been undertaken to the tracks in Brisbane and Bill Shuck and Sean Bridges will be monitoring the outcomes for future renovation work.

### **Western Australia – Geoff Murphy reports**

It was good to see young track managers such as Brock Neeling, Northam Race Club attending their first conference in Adelaide. Brock only 19 years is doing a great job at Northam and gained a lot from the conference.

### **South Australia – John Tonani reports**

South Australian Jockey Club (SAJC) has a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) - Brenton Wilkinson. Brenton has been in the position as acting CEO and now the SAJC committee have confirmed his position. Congratulations Brenton!

Addition to the appointment of Brenton SAJC have engaged Jason Paech as Operations Manager and John Tonani as been promoted to Venues Manager. Well done John! Around the tracks in South Australia John Tonani has commented *“Gawler temporary sand track is completed and work on the grass racing surface at Gawler is now underway. McMahon’s contracting have been engaged to do the earth works based on the same construction design as the two Morphettville tracks”*.

### **Tasmania – Murray Pyke Reports**

Tasmania's very wet winter is playing havoc with racing with only the StrathAyr Track in Launceston being able to race in the last 6 weeks. Hopefully Hobart will be back in action this Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and Devonport are due to have a meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> September.

With an extra 2 meetings on the StrathAyr this winter and another 3 race meetings and one set of trials in the next 4 weeks it has been a big test for this new track in its first season. At this stage the track is handling the work load well.

Launceston has received 340 mm of rain in the last 2 and a half months.

### **Victoria – Martin Synan Reports**

I have made contact with relevant people, Trainers association, Jockeys association, Breeders association and Stewards and RVL to discuss and meet about concerns managers may have in Victoria, e.g. horses returning to scale on the running when tracks are not at there best.

Marty has nominated *“I am available for contact and help where possible. I as the ARMA rep for Victoria would like to build a working relationship with industry participants to work together on issues and for us to have some input and say. So far all my contacts have been very supportive and I believe it will be good for ARMA going forward”*.

## Epar Racing

Since the 2009 Conference Terry Muir and the Epar team have designed a new Epar folder cover for ARMA Environmental Management Systems (EMS). This is the progression towards a total EMS package designed for Thoroughbred Racing. For those who are still undecided about an EMS, call Epar and discuss further.

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