



BRISBANE
RACING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

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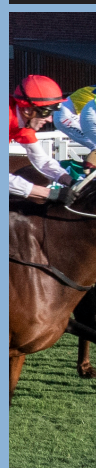


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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN ADVERSITY OFTEN SHOWS THE TRUE QUALITY OF PEOPLE

The BRC board is encouraged by the enquiries and pre-bookings for the feature meetings over Stradbroke Season presented by TAB.

It seems every day there is news of more interstate horses – and a few from New Zealand – headed to Brisbane for the six feature days of Stradbroke Season over May and June.

Punters love backing the big name jockeys and trainers. Last year we had very little involvement of visitors to the BRC meetings because of COVID 19 restrictions.

This year there is a real emphasis placed on the meetings at Eagle Farm and Doomben.

No doubt some of the interest from owners, trainers and jockeys in 2021 is driven by the great prizemoney on offer. Credit to Racing Queensland for programming five \$1 million plus races.

There has been some adjustment in the placement of some races this year. The Group 1 Moët & Chandon Queensland Derby now sits on May 29, the first of three successive Saturdays at Eagle Farm. Hence we have Moët & Chandon Derby Day, James Squire Oaks Day and TAB Stradbroke Day over three weekends.

The history and success of those three big events has created brands widely recognised throughout Australia.

The other real positive as we head into Stradbroke Season is the improving state of the Eagle Farm course proper.

Racing Queensland's track specialist Greg Puckeridge and our track staff led by Jim Roberts and Chris Hurley have worked tirelessly to produce a racing surface up to Group 1 standard. It's still a young track which requires constant diligence but we are headed in the right direction.

The comments of experienced riders in recent times have been complimentary. No doubt horses are winning from anywhere in the field.

Many canny racing enthusiasts have taken advantage of our "Two Carnival Packs" membership offering.

You can buy a membership which affords access to Stradbroke Season this year and 2022 for just \$430. A guest badge is an additional \$315. That's incredible value for 12 mid-year feature race days plus Summer Carnival and all the other Saturdays throughout the year.

However, this offer is not available for people who have been previous members of the BRC and lapsed their membership.

A lot of media has focused on the Magic Round of eight NRL matches to be played at Suncorp Stadium across May 14-16.

I'll be surprised if a lot of league fans don't find their way to Doomben on the Saturday afternoon to watch some racing magic.

We were deeply saddened by the recent passing of six people who gave wonderful support to our club.

Les Heinemann, in particular, devoted a lot of time to the club as a member of the board for 20 years. Deservedly he was awarded life membership of the BRC at the time of his resignation from the board in 2010.

Long serving Racing Priest Father Peter Gillam, former member Marie Kirwan, the wife of the late trainer Eric Kirwan, former jockey Neil Birrer and highly successful trainer Noel Doyle also passed in recent weeks.

Neville Bell
BRC Chairman



RACING NEWS | THE BIGGEST SPRINTS

Three-year-olds always create interest in Queensland's two biggest sprints – **the TAB Stradbroke Handicap** and **the TAB Doomben 10,000**.

In the past 30 years six sprinters from that age group have been successful in the Stradbroke. They were: *Impending*, *Sincero*, *La Montagna*, *Private Steer*, *Dand Ripper* and *Never Undercharge*.

Since the 10,000 changed to weight-for-age conditions in 1997 three-year-olds *Accomplice*, *Bel Esprit*, *Sea Siren* and *Epaulette* have won.

There are two significant points of difference in these two rich Group 1 sprints.

The Stradbroke is run under handicap conditions. So the lighter weighted horses usually attract good support from punters given their weight advantage.

Under the weight-for-age conditions of the 10,000 horses carry weight according to their age with an allowance conceded to female runners.

The other difference is the distance and the layout of the respective tracks. The Stradbroke is run at 1400 metres on Eagle Farm which has a longer home straight and rises from the 800 metres to the finish line.

The 10,000 since 2017, has reverted to a distance of 1200 metres.

Competition for the final places in the Stradbroke field of 18 usually gets tight. There are five lead-up races which guarantees the winner a position in the final line-up. The automatic qualifying races are;

- TAB Doomben 10,000 - 15 May
- TAB BRC Sprint - 22 May
- TAB Kingsford-Smith Cup - 29 May
- Mullins Lawyers Fred Best Classic - 29 May
- Ascot Green Moreton Cup - 5 June

This year there are 32 three-year-olds included in the first entries for the \$1.5 million Stradbroke on June 12.

For those with only a slim chance of beating the final cut, their best chance is to win the Fred Best Classic at Eagle Farm a fortnight prior.

The Stradbroke is rated one of the toughest sprints in Australia. The history of the race, particularly since the distance was extended from 1200 metres to 1400 metres in 1953, underlines how a Group 1 handicap event at a tough racetrack such as Eagle Farm is such a stern test of a racehorse.

Since the distance change, only two horses have won in successive years.

Champion New Zealander *Rough Habit* won in 1991 and backed up the next year to score again under 58.5kg.

Sydney sprinter *Black Piranha* was successful with 55kg in 2009 and again twelve months later with 55.5kg. *Black Piranha* was an exception in regard to his handicap weight. Most winners have a significant weight hike when they line up for back-to-back Stradbroke victories.

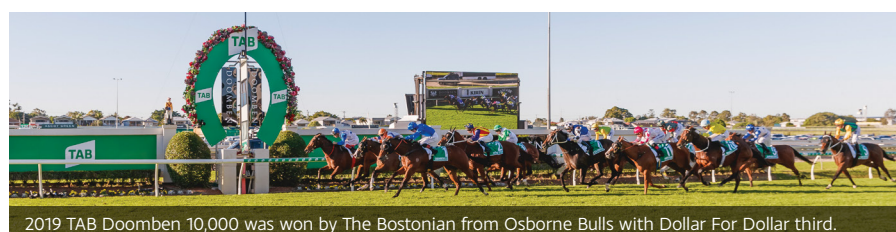
Daybreak Lover won the sprint twice but not in successive years. He carried 51.5kg to victory in 1985 and an extra 3.5kg two years later after a season at stud in the intervening period.



The past two winners of the Stradbroke are likely to be included in the field for 2021. *Trekking* was successful with 54kg in 2019 but finished only ninth last year under 58kg. *Tyzone* was the 2020 winner with 52.5kg but will be asked to carry more weight this year.

Interestingly, the Stradbroke is usually won by horses allotted weight in the 50- 55kg range. Since the introduction of metrics in Australian racing only two winners have carried more than 56kg to victory.

Rough Habit joined *Campaign King* with 58.5kgs as the highest weighted winners.



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RECENT PASSINGS

The Brisbane Racing Club is buzzing with excitement and activity with the much anticipated Stradbroke Season presented by TAB upon us. To reach this point it is important to reflect on the incredible contributions that many of our members and stakeholders have made over the years and we are saddened by the recent passing of six people with very close ties to the club.

Father Peter Gillam who served as the Racing Priest in Brisbane for several decades died on March 3 after a short illness aged 82. He was based at Our Lady Help of Christians at Hendra, near Eagle Farm, for many years and formed close friendships with many racing families in his parish.



Father Peter Gillam (1938-2021)

He was also a regular racegoer at Eagle Farm and Doomben racecourses and was known to be a very keen and successful punter.

"Father Peter was truly a man of the people. He loved coming to race meetings and always had time to offer assistance to racing folk. He was much loved," BRC chairman Neville Bell said.

Marie Kirwan, who passed on April 15 at age 101, first started attending Brisbane races as a young girl. She was a member of the Conquest family, possibly the most successful racing dynasty ever in QLD.

Her late husband Eric whom she married in 1944 became a highly successful



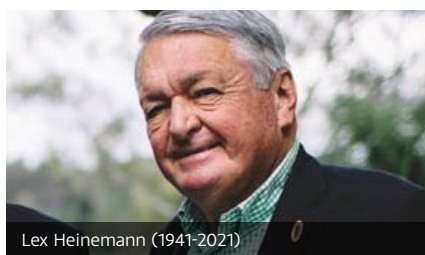
Marie Kirwan (1920-2021)

trainer based at Hendra. His notable winners including Brave Warrior, Prince Gauntlet, Heroic Isle and Sunblazer.

Mrs Kirwan, always stylishly dressed, was a regular in the Guineas Dining Room at Eagle Farm race meetings for many years.

Charleville-born **Lex Heinemann** was a member of the Queensland Turf Club and Brisbane Racing Club since January 1, 1969, until his sudden death on April 14.

Heinemann, 79, served on the board of the QTC for 20 years and was awarded life membership on his retirement from the race club in 2010.



Lex Heinemann (1941-2021)

He was a founding partner in Ray White Rural and was widely and respected throughout Queensland. He was the agent for some of the biggest rural property deals throughout the state.

"Lex loved the atmosphere of a race day. He was a tireless networker and devoted a lot of time and effort into his role as a racing administrator," Neville Bell said.

Noel Doyle was a capable jockey with a winning association with the champion mare Eye Liner but really made his mark in racing as a trainer based at the Gold Coast.

His best horse was Kinjite (Epsom Handicap and Spring Champion Stakes) but he was the original trainer of Stylish Century and enjoyed great success with other notable performers Don't Play, Brunchtime and Beau Zephyr.



Noel Doyle (1953-2021)

Neil Birrer was a regular top 10 inclusion in the Brisbane Jockeys' premiership tables for two decades from the early fifties.

His best wins were in the Stradbroke (Wallgar), Queensland Derby (Honest Man, Raajpoot) and Queensland Oaks (Hoa Hine, Meanmi Shadow and Kazan Retto).

Well known Brisbane legal identity **John Griffin QC** was a member of the Queensland Turf Club and then BRC since 1978 until his passing in early May. He was a regular racegoer at Eagle Farm and Doomben.



STRADBROKE SEASON
PRESENTED BY TAB



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1 MAY - 12 JUNE
EAGLE FARM & DOOMBEN




FASHION HIGH TEA | 4 JUNE

Celebrate the festivities of Stradbroke Season presented by TAB and treat yourself to a morning of leisure and fanfare at Eagle Farm Racecourse. The guests of the Stradbroke Season Fashion High Tea will spend the Friday morning before James Squire Oaks Day sipping on sparkling and indulging in a sit-down high tea.

Held at the heritage listed Eagle Farm Racecourse, keep abreast of the latest trends with an exclusive fashion showcase and have the opportunity to browse a selection of stalls from Brisbane's most renowned milliners.

In keeping with this year's Stradbroke Season theme to celebrate iconic Brisbane, taking to the catwalk will be past winners of Fashions on the Field and two of the best known faces on the Brisbane fashion scene for the past few decades, millinery doyennes Pam Cameron and Dale Olsson.

The event will be MC'd by Brisbane's own 'Mr Hollywood in Oz' and BRC Ambassador Damien Anthony Rossi.

Don't miss out - Book now to secure your tickets to a day of Fashion and Fun!



Package Includes:

- Indulgent sit-down high tea
- Three-hour (10:00am-1:00pm) beverage package with free-flowing sparkling wine including Chandon
- Gift Bags for all guests provided by Australian Fashion Label, HUSK
- Lucky Door Prize
- Pop-up millinery stalls
- Fashion Show



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RACING WHAT'S ON

MAY

SATURDAY 15

TAB Doomben 10,000 Day
Doomben Racecourse



SATURDAY 22

Doomben Cup Day
Doomben Racecourse



WEDNESDAY 26

Members Cocktail Party
Eagle Farm Racecourse

WEDNESDAY 26

Wednesday Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

FRIDAY 28

Kingston Town Club Lunch
Eagle Farm Racecourse



SATURDAY 29

Moët & Chandon Derby Day
Eagle Farm Racecourse



JUNE

WEDNESDAY 2

Wednesday Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

FRIDAY 4

Fashion High Tea
Eagle Farm Racecourse



SATURDAY 5

James Squire Oaks Day
Eagle Farm Racecourse



SATURDAY 12

TAB Stradbroke Day
Doomben Racecourse



WEDNESDAY 23

Wednesday Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

SATURDAY 26

Tattersall's Tiara Raceday
Eagle Farm Racecourse



NEW BRC STAFF

MEMBERSHIP MANAGER DAMIAN OLSEN

Damian Olsen commenced recently as the new Brisbane Racing Club Membership & Ticketing Manager. Damian has worked within senior management roles at some of Australia's most iconic venues for over 15 years including Director Membership & Corporate Sales at Suncorp Stadium. Experienced in delivering exceptional event experiences Damian joins BRC during the much anticipated Stradbroke Season and is looking forward to meeting many of our valued Members during the carnival and throughout the upcoming Membership renewal period.

DRESS CODE REMINDER

As the weather is cooling down, the Standard Dress Code in the Members Reserve is now in effect. If Members would like to visit our exclusive Member Bars during Stradbroke Season (Derby & Bernborough bars, and Apache Cat Cafe) please take note of our Winter Dress Code.

A reminder to all Members and their guests to ensure they are displaying their badges or swing tags whilst in the Members Reserve. This is required to maintain the integrity of the Members Reserve and any guests unable to show their badge or swing tag will be required to leave. Brisbane Racing Club are committed to providing the best possible experience for Members and their guests so your compliance is greatly appreciated in advance.





BRISBANE
RACING CLUB

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