



BRISBANE  
RACING CLUB

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 5 - NOVEMBER 2021



## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Spring Racing here at the Brisbane Racing Club has generated a great atmosphere on course at both Eagle Farm and Doomben.

Corporate support over the Carnival meetings from October 9 to the final day on November 6 has been unprecedented. Total sales in corporate venues in this period has increased 12 percent on last year.

The "Incentivise" factor may have played a small role in this wave of high-end spenders wanting to be at the track to soak up the racing atmosphere. The Incentivise story is classic. It has placed racing front of mind for the majority of the community.

The BRC catering team has really risen to the challenge. Feedback on the quality of food and service has been outstanding.

Fashions and non-racing entertainment has been another highlight. The Oscar Oscar Salons Fashions on the Field organisers have been lavish in their praise of the standard of outfits. This is another reflection of how racing is perceived in Brisbane.

On the racing front, the BRC may have uncovered the next Queensland star of the track. Go Wandji's blinding finish to

score easily at Doomben on October 23 suggests he swiftly is heading up the ladder. It was the four-year-old's fourth win from five starts.

Like Incentivise, Go Wandji hails from Toowoomba. There is a mountain ahead of him to reach Black Type racing but mark him down as a horse to watch in the coming months.

Go Wandji and another Toowoomba-based sprinter Sir Warwick, won successive races at Doomben. It is healthy for racing to have two emerging talents coming out of small country stables.

I'm pleased to announce the Doomben COVID-19 vaccination hub has now processed 50,000+ people successfully getting "the jab". The racecourse was an ideal venue for this exercise with its proximity and parking access.

In case some Members didn't receive the recent notification of the passing of Phil Sullivan, I again want to recognise the immense time and expertise he provided to the Queensland Turf Club as a Board Member and Chairman. The board has conveyed our deepest sympathy to Phil's family.

We also sent a letter of condolence to the family of Dr. Brian Cole OAM, who was a Member of the QTC and then BRC for 57 years until his recent passing.

Don't forget the BRC AGM is to be held in the Eagle Farm Guineas Room on November 17.

Team BRC now is well advanced in planning for the summer racing season aka Road To Magic Millions presented by TAB.

If you are planning some family or business end of year celebrations, check out the wide number of options we are offering at both race meetings and non-race days.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the BRC tracks in the lead up to the festive season. We will have some exciting racing and fun off the track!

**Neville Bell OAM, GAICD**  
BRC Chairman



# RACING NEWS | THE ROAD AHEAD

## We're on the Road to Magic Millions!

As the Spring Carnivals in Sydney and Melbourne wind down, here in beautiful Brisbane we are gearing up for another stellar Summer Carnival.

Doomben and Eagle Farm are set to play host to a string of feature races over the next six weeks, culminating in the Magic Millions Preludes Day at Doomben on January 1.

The Summer Carnival, Road to Magic Millions presented by TAB has evolved rapidly in recent years, from Stakes races dotted here and there to now have a feature meeting on every Saturday right through December and into the New Year's Day meeting, which serves as the main lead-up to Magic Millions raceday on the Gold Coast on January 15.

The Summer Carnival now comprises of \$20M in prizemoney, with 31 feature races and six Wildcards to earn a spot into Magic Millions day.

The feature races start rolling in from November 13, with the Keith Noud Stakes at Doomben.

From Saturday December 4, BRC Members can look forward to six consecutive weekends of feature racing action, starting with the Group 3 TAB George Moore Stakes at Doomben, which is also home to the Winning Rupert and Mode Stakes for the three-year-olds.

On that December 4 raceday we also welcome all of our country friends to the city, with the running of the \$75,000 Country Stampede Final and the \$105,000 Country Cups Challenge Final.

A week later it will be the third running of the \$250,000 Roku Gin Gateway, a race that earns the winner a ticket into next year's TAB Stradbroke Handicap.

Inaugural Roku Gin Gateway winner Vega One has put this race on the map with immediate effect, having gone on to claim the Group 1 Kingsford-Smith Cup during Stradbroke Season presented by TAB.

December 18 is Ascot Green Grand Prix Stakes Day at Eagle Farm, which also comprises the Gold Edition Plate and Lough Neagh Stakes.

With Christmas Day falling on a Saturday this year, Doomben will host a bumper Sunday meet on Boxing Day, with the highlight being the Group 3 Magic Millions B.J. McLachlan Stakes, which last year provided the Magic Millions 2YO Classic quinella.

The finale for Brisbane's Road To Magic Millions race series is on January 1, headed by the Group 3 Magic Millions Vo Rogue Plate and \$200,000 The Buffering, which offers a wildcard into the Magic Millions Cup.

A new race on this card is the QTIS Magic Millions Ticket, a race where the winner can earn a wildcard into the MM QTIS event on Magic Millions day.

No doubt the summer will unearth some stars of the future, just as this year's Stradbroke Season presented by TAB did.

In one of the most successful Spring Carnivals for Brisbane graduates we have ever seen, there were no less than six individual Group 1 winners during the Sydney and Melbourne Spring Carnivals that came off a Stradbroke Season campaign.

The headline act was Caulfield Cup winner and Melbourne Cup runner-up Incentivise, who gave all Queenslanders plenty to cheer about through his three Group 1 wins and brave runner-up performance on Cup Day.



Queensland's favourite, Incentivise  
Photo credit: Grant Peters, Trackside Photography

Zaaki was also a Group 1 winner, even though he was unfortunately ruled out of the Cox Plate on race morning when he was a dominant favourite.

Finally, Eagle Farm's leading trainer Tony Gollan pulled off a coup when his outstanding sprinter Jonker stood up to win the Group 1 Manikato Stakes. It was Gollan's third Group 1 success for the calendar year following Krone and Vega One.



Jonker winner of the Group 1 Manikato Stakes  
Photo credit: Grant Peters, Trackside Photography

The other Group 1 winners that competed during Stradbroke Season presented by TAB were Private Eye (Epsom), Wild Ruler (Moir Stakes) and Sierra Sue (Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes).

Doomben 10,000 winner Eduardo also had a big spring. He failed to land a Group 1, but took out the Group 2 Shorts, ran third in The Everest and then won the \$1M Classique Legend Stakes.

Other Stakes winners this Spring that competed in Brisbane during May and June included, Tiger Of Malay, Tutukaka, Duais, Delphi, Savatoxl, Kementari, Bella Nipotina, Splintex, Giannis, Ranch Hand, The Astrologist and Phobeter.



# GIDDY UP CLUB

At \$25 this has to be the best valued Membership in Brisbane! The Membership entitles you to a General Admission ticket for one child plus two parents/guardians which is valued at more than \$80 each family raceday.

When you sign up, you will receive a Membership pack containing a Giddy Up tote bag, plenty of stickers, a yo-yo, activity book with coloured pencils, a drink bottle, a lunch cooler bag and a certificate signed from Lucky George himself. Your child will also receive a birthday card during their birth month.

Keep an eye out for promotions throughout the year for non-raceday deals! BRC's Giddy Up Club is open to under 18's.



The next Family Day, is the Teddy Bears Picnic Family Raceday at Eagle Farm on November 6, the final day of the Spring Racing Carnival.

Live entertainment and kids' treats will include Dora The Explorer Jumping Castle, two slides, snow cones and sweet treats.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the family to enjoy the racecourse and have fun together. It's fabulous value," Elsa Dalessio, the BRC General Manager Marketing, Membership and Strategic Partnerships said.

## GIDDY UP CLUB

**Does the love of racing run in the family? Join the Giddy Up Club in time for the Teddy Bears Picnic Family Raceday!**

**This Saturday, you can gain FREE ENTRY to the Nova106.9 Spring Garden Party kidzone precinct for one child plus two parents/guardians which is valued at more than \$80.**

**New Giddy Up Members will receive a welcome pack containing lots of Giddy Up merchandise including a tote bag, drink bottle, activity book with coloured pencils, heaps of stickers, a certificate signed from Lucky George himself!**

**ONLY  
\$25**



# CHRISTMAS EVENTS



The BRC is excited to offer two family events to celebrate the Festive Season at Eagle Farm.

On Saturday December 18 the Ascot Green Christmas Carols and Markets will open at 5pm on the St Leger Lawn.

An evening of Christmas Carols will be performed by the Birralee Choir with the Excelsior Band and an appearance from members of Opera Queensland.

The markets will feature gourmet food vendors and pop-up stalls around course.

On Wednesday December 22 the crowd favourite movie, Elf will be presented on the biggest screen in the Southern Hemisphere. Santa Claus will make an appearance on the Public Lawn before the movie start.

BRC General Manager Marketing, Membership and Strategic Partnerships, Elsa Dalessio said "these occasions have been very popular with families in past years. It's free entry for the Carols night and a gold coin donation for the movie. It's a great night out for the whole family."

## CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

December is the month of Christmas and exciting racing and what better way to celebrate than in style with a BRC fine dining experience available at Doomben and Eagle Farm on four prime race dates during our Road to Magic Millions presented by TAB, summer racing season.

At Doomben on Saturday December 4, and Friday December 10, racegoers can celebrate the festive season and also keep close tabs on runners from The Pavillion, the popular beer garden-style area adjacent to the Parade Ring and the raceday horse stalls.

The feature races on that Saturday are the Group 3 TAB George Moore Stakes and the Listed Mode Stakes. The Listed Bernborough Handicap will be the drawcard event on the Friday meeting which provides a wonderful opportunity for corporate entertainment in the lead-up to Christmas.

Instead of a boring office party in your workplace, bring your team trackside for a unique race day experience!

The BRC Christmas buffet can only be described as indulgent, with a three hour beverage package ensuring the party atmosphere will be lively.

At Eagle Farm on the two Saturday racedays (Dec 11 & 18) our most popular dining experiences are from behind full length glass windows in air conditioning in the Moreton Dining Room at the top of the Public Stand. The area offers a very special view of the horses as they come down the home straight and also line of sight to the big screen on the inside of the track at the winning post. A premium Christmas buffet and a three hour beverage package is included with a private bar and self-service TAB terminals available to all guests.

The snapshot list of packages (right) features the exclusive perks and prices for BRC members and non-members.

### 4 December in The Pavilion 80pax

Members \$110 • Non-Members \$130

- 1 Racebook per 2 guests
- QLD Style Christmas Buffet
- 3 hour Bronze beverage package
- Tote facilities in the space

### 10 December in The Pavilion 80pax

Members \$110 • Non-Members \$130

- 1 Racebook per 2 guests
- QLD Style Christmas Buffet
- 3 hour Bronze beverage package
- Tote facilities in the space

### 11 December in Moreton Dining 80pax

Members \$130 • Non-Members \$150

- 1 Racebook per 2 guests
- Premium Christmas Buffet
- 3 hour Bronze beverage package
- Tote facilities in the space

### 18 December in Moreton Dining 80pax

Members \$130 • Non-Members \$150

- 1 Racebook per 2 guests
- Premium Christmas Buffet
- 3 hour Bronze beverage package
- Tote facilities in the space



# MEMBERS WINE TASTING NIGHT | 20 OCTOBER

BRC Members can expect more exclusive and informative functions after the success of the recent wine tasting evening.

One hundred guests gathered in the Eagle Farm Guineas Room to enjoy a taste of seven wines, courtesy of Craig Stansborough, Accolade Chief Premium Winemaker.

The wines which will now be available on course at both Eagle Farm and Doomben race meetings were accompanied by a premium farmhouse cheeseboard.

The BRC's General Manager of Marketing, Membership and Strategic Partnerships, Elsa Dalessio, was thrilled with the response from Members.



"The wine was great, the service was fabulous and the Members took the opportunity to catch up with kindred spirits," Ms Dalessio said.

"This will be the forerunner to other similar events. We want to provide functions which are inclusive for all at an affordable price. The feedback I received was highly encouraging. The wine night was stunning and just as importantly very affordable."

# EAST MEETS WEST | 20 NOVEMBER



The BRC has provided 20 double passes to Members to attend the much anticipated East Meet West Music and Dance Gala at the Brisbane City Hall Main Auditorium on November 20.

The East Meets West evening of entertainment is the feature event of the 19th Brisbane Chinese Culture and Arts Festival.

As well as a stellar line-up of music entertainers, 12 members of the Queensland Ballet will perform a head-turning ballet repertoire.

World Class beatbox artist, Tom Thum, is sure to be a major hit as will internationally acclaimed concert pianist, Roger Cui, with Australian rising star Ruby Luck.

The Metamorphosis Ensemble will play a select number of popular eastern and western music.

"I think this will be a wonderful night of entertainment. There is something for everybody on the schedule which runs for over two hours," Elsa Dalessio, the BRC Marketing, Membership and Strategic Partnerships said.

"When we made this opportunity known to the BRC Members we were inundated with replies seeking the tickets that have been made available to the BRC. This is another part of the evolution of the BRC's partnership with the Arts world!"



Backing women in racing every day  
not just International Women's Day  
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# RACING WHAT'S ON

## NOVEMBER

### SATURDAY 6

Teddy Bears Picnic Family Raceday  
| Eagle Farm

### WEDNESDAY 13

Standard Raceday | Doomben

### WEDNESDAY 17

Standard Raceday | Doomben

### WEDNESDAY 24

Standard Raceday | Doomben

## DECEMBER

### WEDNESDAY 1

Standard Raceday | Eagle Farm

### SATURDAY 7

Country Finals Raceday | Doomben

### FRIDAY 10

Christmas Twilight Raceday | Doomben

### SATURDAY 11

Roku Gin The Gateway Raceday  
| Eagle Farm

### SATURDAY 18

Ascot Green Grand Prix Stakes Raceday  
| Eagle Farm

### SUNDAY 26

Members & Friends Raceday | Doomben

## JANUARY

### SATURDAY 1

Magic Millions Prelude Raceday  
| Doomben



### BRC STAFF MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## EXECUTIVE CHEF & HEAD OF CULINARY JOHN FELESINA

John Felesina, the BRC's Executive Chef and Head of Culinary, had a diverse and thorough education in the kitchen from his early teenage years.

Brisbane-born Felesina who attended St James Christian College in the Valley started work experience in restaurants when he was in Year 10.

"My mother always said I had an interest in food from a very young age. At 15 I was offered work experience at Muddies Seafood restaurant at Kemp Place. Friday and Saturday nights I would work in the kitchen doing all sorts of jobs like peeling potatoes to help the chefs," Felesina said.

"I also picked up some work experience at the Milano restaurant in Queen St. I absorbed everything that was going on in the kitchen at those great restaurants."

Felesina's formal apprenticeship started at The Cameo Room at Wickham Terrace and then on to Allegro under the Sheraton Hotel and his final year was at the Ridges Hotel at Spring Hill.

"A few months before Expo 88 began, the Ridges sent me to Como in Northern Italy to work at a premium hotel. I came back the following March to a position as a junior sous chef at the Ridges," he revealed. "and finished as the Executive Chef there."

After varied positions in the seafood industry Felesina and a close friend formed their own food business. Seven years ago the late Michael Fletcher lured Felesina to the BRC.

Canadian Club Melbourne Cup Raceday presented Felesina and his BRC team a big challenge. It takes months of planning to organize a huge offering on Moët & Chandon Derby Raceday and then back up three days later with Cup Day.

"Since COVID-19 hit, it has become a task to find suitable, well qualified kitchen staff," he said.

"It was normal in my time for chefs to be trained in butchering, bakery skills and fish mongering. You had to know how everything works in the kitchen. That being said, we have a very professional core in our BRC Culinary Team that deliver a high standard and premium experience time and time again."

By the smiles of racegoers at all levels of hospitality, it is a clear indication the BRC Culinary Team is delivering a winning menu.



BRISBANE  
RACING CLUB

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