



BRISBANE
RACING CLUB

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 42 - OCTOBER 2020



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Guineas Room Refurbishment

Doomben Racing Greats Mural

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Member Profile

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

Team BRC – from the chief executive Tony Partridge down to the casual staff – has earned the respect and admiration from everyone who watched their efforts since COVID 19 caused heavy disruption to our industry.

“Heavy disruption” would have become “devastation” if racing had not continued. Fortunately racing kept going and betting turnover actually was strong with so many sports shut down but as a business the BRC has endured some really stressful times.

Tony and his Senior Leadership Team stayed calm, gave clear direction and inspired the staff to maintain focus and deliver a great outcome.

As chairman I am proud of the unified sense of purpose and commitment that has anchored Team BRC’s resolve to survive this enormous challenge.

The BRC revenue was hit hard. The period of no racegoers was particularly difficult financially with no food and beverage sales, no gate takings and no corporate support.

Like so many organisations around Australia, BRC was able to keep many of our workforce employed through

Job Keeper, and the BRC was most appreciative of the compensation package offered by Racing Queensland for the loss of a large majority of our winter carnival feature races and no raceday patronage.

Together these two initiatives meant just over \$3 million flowed to the BRC. It allowed us to post a past year profit of just under \$1 million despite the appall caused by COVID 19.

More details of the financials are in the BRC Annual Report available online at brc.com.au/about-us/corporate.

Suffice to say it was lovely to be able to welcome members and the public back to BRC meetings when restrictions were lifted to some degree. It’s frustrating there are still some limitations on numbers at our racetracks but hopefully these will be eased very soon.

As outlined elsewhere in this newsletter the BRC is back with innovative ideas to improve the race day experience for racegoers.

At Doomben we have introduced amenities with a difference with The Pavilion (previously known by many

as the Gunsynd Gardens), expanded members AI-fresco areas in the bookies ring and the Trackside Marquee on the St Leger Lawn at Doomben to coincide with the Spring Carnival.

\$1 million has been budgeted for a major refurbishment of the Guineas Room and Oaks Bar on the first level of the John Power Stand at Eagle Farm.

The Guineas room will be the venue for the AGM on November 18 and we also are planning an official opening with a members’ lunch on December 12 which will be the day racing comes back to Eagle farm after a spring renovation.

Those members who attended the Opera night at Eagle Farm last month were understandably overjoyed with the night. Mezzo soprano Xenia Puskarz Thomas is an emerging talent on the world stage. She, her partner Samuel Piper and a very talented string quartet entertained us superbly.

Read more about the past year at BRC in the annual report.

Neville Bell
BRC Chairman

EAGLE FARM COURSE PROPER

Remedial work on the Eagle Farm course proper is progressing as planned.

Jim Roberts, BRC Director of Racecourses, said the preparatory work was almost completed in the first two weeks of the track renovation and was on schedule for a grand return on December 12.

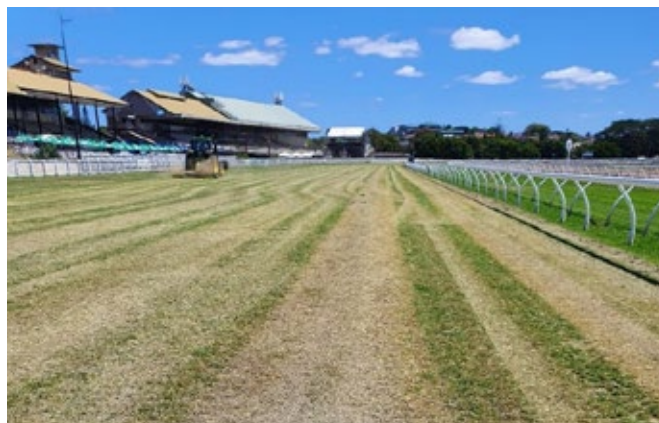
"We mowed the turf down to 30mms, scarified the track, verti-drained and vacuumed the waste. This process removes a lot of the organic matter which builds up over time," Roberts said.

"1 thousand tonnes of sand was then brushed in and the track hit with lime products and a lot of fertilizer. We also have applied fungicides.

"We've taken this time to carry out an audit of the irrigation system to make sure there are no blockages and all the area of the track can be watered evenly.

"Some rain would be very welcome. We are in the right time of the year for the grass to grow quickly. As the turf thickens and comes up we will add some more sand top dressing."

A feature of the return to Eagle Farm meeting on December 12 will be the \$250,000 The Gateway, a 1400 metres sprint where the winner is exempt from the ballot for the Group 1 Stradbroke Handicap next June.



GUINEAS ROOM REFURBISHMENT

A massive refurbishment of the Guineas Room in the John Power Stand will be formally introduced at the Eagle Farm "Return to Racing" meeting on December 12.

Members will be offered the chance to experience the big ticket enhancement at a lunch in the Guineas Room at the reopening of racing.

The BRC board approved \$1 million expenditure on a total overhaul of the first floor of the Members' Stand with the Oaks Bar also undergoing a total re-fit.

The biggest addition is a covered balcony on the eastern wall which will allow members a direct view of the pre-race parade ring under the canopy of the magnificent fig trees.

The Guineas Room will feature two huge screens to show all the racing action and there will be a number of screens around the room with the latest betting trends.

The refurbishment of the Guineas Room and Oaks Bar will bring level 1 of the Members' Stand to life. The Parade Ring views and natural light will make it a place many members will

want to enjoy all day while the improvements to the Oaks Bar, bathrooms and stairways will encourage members to move around throughout the grandstand over the course of a raceday.

We will deliver a food, and beverage experience befitting of a BRC Members' dining room and bar.

The male and female toilets have been upgraded and the old Cloak Room has been turned into a Pamper Room for the ladies.

From the new look Oaks Bar there will be an enhanced direct access to the viewing area of the grandstand.

"The refurbishment of the Guineas Room and Oaks Bar will take the race day experience for members to a very high standard," BRC chief executive Tony Partridge said.

"With the high level of food quality the BRC is known for, the 'feel' of the new amenity and the well placed deck will mean a great opportunity for members to enhance a day at Eagle Farm.

"I think members will be proud to entertain guests in the two new areas."





DOOMBEN RACING GREATS MURAL

The BRC board commissioned Brisbane-based artist James Ellis to paint murals of many of the heroes from racing at Doomben since the opening of the track in 1933.

The murals are along the southern wall behind the public grandstand as racegoers enter from the members' car park at Gate 5 on Hampden St. From left to right as you face the murals the legends line-up is:

BLACK CAVIAR

A sprinter with the stunning career of an unbeaten 25 starts. She was trained by Queenslander Peter Moody and ridden in 22 of her victories by Luke Nolen. She was judged the world's leading sprinter in four successive years (2010-13). Scored a stunning victory in the 2011 BTC Cup at Doomben at her only race in Queensland.

APACHE CAT

With his huge white face he had a cult following all over Australia. His eight Group 1 wins included the Doomben 10,000 (twice - 2008-09) and the 2008 BTC Cup.

MIGHT AND POWER

Australian Horse of the year 1998 and 1999. Successful in the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups in 1997 and the Cox Plate in 1998. Brilliantly won the 1998 Doomben Cup in course record time.

FALVELON

Crowned Australian Champion Sprinter 2001 and 2002. Was successful in the Doomben 10,000 (twice - 2001-2002) and the 2000 BTC Cup. Won the Hong Kong International Sprint (twice - 2001-02).

MICK DITTMAN

Rated one of the best ever Queensland riders. His 88 Group 1 wins included the big four of Australian racing - Melbourne Cup, Caulfield Cup, Cox Plate (twice) and the Golden Slipper (three times). Rode four winners of the Doomben 10,000 and two in the Doomben Cup.

REDZEL

Won the 2017 Doomben 10,000 and then was successful in the first two running of The Everest, the world's richest sprint. Retired with more than \$16 million in prizemoney.

GEORGE MOORE

Many rate this Queenslander as the best Australian jockey of all time. He rode 2278 winners in a glittering career which included the Doomben 10,000 five times and the Doomben Cup three times. He also won the Epsom Derby and Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in Europe.

TAKEOVER TARGET

His rise to fame started at Doomben. In 2005 he won the Summer Stakes and Doomben Stakes. He won the Doomben 10,000 in 2007. Successful in five Australian capital cities and also at Royal Ascot, Japan and Singapore. Won 7 Group 1s

WINX

Champion mare who had winning streak of 33 before her retirement in April 2019. Those wins included 25 at Group 1 level. Her first Group 1 was the Queensland Oaks at Doomben in 2015. She was twice hailed as the World's top rated horse.

BERNBOROUGH

Without doubt the greatest horse ever produced in Queensland. He had 15 straight feature race wins with his champion ranking given a massive boost by his two wins at Doomben in 1946. He won the equivalent to the 10,000 sprint with 10st 5lbs (65.5kg) and a week later won the Cup over 2200 metres under 10st 11lbs (68.5kg).

BRISBANE'S
Summer
OF RACING

28 NOVEMBER - 2 JANUARY

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EVENING UNDER THE STARS

The rampant COVID 19 infection rate in New York in recent months proved a blessing for some BRC members.

Young Brisbane-based mezzo soprano Xenia Puskarz Thomas should now be firmly established in New York where she was granted a scholarship to study at the renowned Julliard Art School. She previously was based in New York after being awarded the prestigious Lady Fairfax scholarship.

But a combination of the effects of COVID 19 in Australia and New York forced Xenia to study remotely from her family home in Clayfield, a neighbouring suburb of Eagle Farm racecourse.

Xenia agreed to a request to perform at a function "Evening Under The Stars" at Eagle Farm on October 1.

Due to the weather forecast the function was transferred from the parade ring to the Champagne Bar in the John Power stand.

The change of venue didn't detract from Xenia's spellbinding performance. For two of her songs she was joined by her partner Samuel Piper, an acclaimed baritone who earlier this year was studying in Italy under the Pelligrino scholarship.

Music for this memorable night was provided by a string quartet headed by Xenia's sister Eugenie on cello, Julia Hill and Sola Hughes on violin and Kyle Brady on viola.

BRC chairman Neville Bell, buoyed by the very positive feedback from a sold out crowd, is keen to continue more functions involving the arts to offer members a more diverse entertainment offering.

The BRC now has multiple venues for night functions and can offer a unique setting under the stars with the option of a late change to under cover seating.



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RACING WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 31ST

Moët & Chandon Derby Day
Doomben Racecourse

NOVEMBER

TUESDAY 3RD



Canadian Club
Melbourne Cup Day
Doomben Racecourse

SATURDAY 7TH

Saturday Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

SATURDAY 14TH

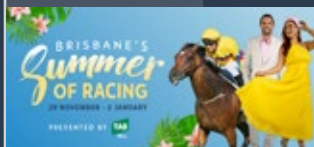
Saturday Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

SATURDAY 28TH

Tattersall's Thank the Heros
Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

DECEMBER

SATURDAY 5TH



TAB George Moore
Stakes Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

FRIDAY 11TH

Christmas Twilight Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

SATURDAY 12TH

The Gateway Raceday
Eagle Farm Racecourse

WEDNESDAY 16TH

Wednesday Raceday
Eagle Farm Racecourse

SATURDAY 19TH

Summer Fun Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

WEDNESDAY 23RD

Wednesday Raceday
Doomben Racecourse

SATURDAY 26TH

Grand Prix Stakes Raceday
Eagle Farm Racecourse



MEMBER PROFILE LESTER GRIMMETT

The BRC board recently awarded honorary membership to handicapper Lester Grimmatt in recognition of his more than 50 years service to the Racing industry in Queensland.

Lester first came into racing in 1969 when he was employed part-time as the short hand taker in the stewards' room on race days. In the event of an appealed decision he would provide a transcript of all evidence.

In 1973 he was appointed as the assistant handicapper to then chief of the department David Laing. Seven years later he took over the top job.

Lester has served in many areas of racing administration. At various times he also served in the harness and greyhound codes on a part-time basis.

Now 74 Lester has scaled back his work in the handicapping department at Racing Queensland.

"I can remember coming to the Brisbane track with my mother when I was four years old. I've been blessed to have worked in this industry for some many years.

RQ and the BRC combined to host a farewell function for Lester and his wife Ros who have been married for 49 years at Eagle Farm on October 3.

Lester is an avid AFL fan. He played, coached and was an administrator at Brisbane club level and still enjoys watching his grandson play in the juniors.

DATE CLAIMER

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

10am - Guineas Room, Eagle Farm

For further details visit
brc.com.au/membership/agm



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Mirvac
Mitavite / Hygain
Mitty's
Mullins Lawyers
National Jockeys Trust
Nuturf
Padua College
Priceline Pharmacy Ascot
Qld Country Life
Qld Hotels Association
Queensland Chinese Jockey Club

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