

**Thoroughbred  
Racing  
History  
Association**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2018**



**Presented at  
The Archive  
Doomben Racehorse  
June 18, 2018**

**T**HE highlight of Thoroughbred Racing History Association's year has been the development of the Stanley Room to house the superb collection of trophies and memorabilia gathered by horses owned by Bill and Evelyn Stanley.

As curators of the Racing Museum at Eagle Farm and the Doomben Racing Archive, we have been privileged to be asked to provide a home to display the Collection, arguably the finest collection of trophies won by a Queensland owner partnership in the post-war era.

We thank Mrs Stanley for her generosity and with our gratitude we extend our undertaking to take care of the collection for future generations.

Our thanks also to the Brisbane Racing Club and its staff for their work in building the room and to the Bernborough Club, whose generous funding provided to this Association has enabled us to present the display in a manner befitting its value to the racing community. Through this funding we were able to go the extra yards required with additions such as a feature mural, framings, signage, furniture and a facility to replay historic race recordings of some of Mr and Mrs Stanley's most significant successes.

One or two final touches remain to be completed, and we hope to formally open the Room soon.

Thus the Association completes its sixth year, having progressed from a meeting of supporters and enthusiasts convened by historian, the late David Gibson and our first president Helen Coughlan in November 2012.

The Association continues to gather and maintain the growing collection of racing memorabilia, books, documents, articles, photographs and audio and visual records of our industry's past, and we thank our supporters and contributors who have provided the items of interest.

We were able to hold an Open Day at the Archive and Library as part of the Bernborough Handicap race meeting at Doomben in December, and we hosted about 50 visitors. We had strong support from the BRC for this activity, and we were proud to have provided added value to the race day experience for patrons of the club.

Our calendar highlight was our *High Stakes* presentation as part of the National Trust's annual heritage festival in May. We took up the "our culture, our story" theme of the festival by highlighting the history of the winter carnival with a talk, race broadcasts, interviews and displays of memorabilia from past winter racing carnivals. We thank former

jockeys Graham Cook, Arthur Lister and Shane Scriven and trainers Dan Bougoure and Brian Smith for giving their time to recall their highlighted achievements at carnivals past. We thank Bart Sinclair, perhaps our No.1 supporter, for interviewing our guests. The feature was Graham Cook who responded to his invitation to take part by donating a framed montage of pictures of his father Frank's success in the 1948 Doomben Cup and his own Cup success on Golden Khan in 1975. It is a permanent record of a rare Group 1 double by a father and his son, and Graham asked that it be displayed at Doomben, the venue for the Cup successes.

Once the Stanley Room is completed, the TRHA will turn its attention to improvements in the Racing Museum at Eagle Farm. With this in mind we have placed an order for four new glass display cabinets with downlighting and side spotlighting. These will house some valuable trophies currently being held in storage including the 1889 Brisbane Cup, the 1935 King's Cup and the 1939 Brisbane Cup won by Spear Chief.

We are also in talks with the granddaughters of Mr E. A. Haley, the owner of Tulloch, who intend to provide for display the 1961 Brisbane Cup won by Tulloch at his last race before retirement. The family already have donated a set of

Stud Books and rare turf literature from Mr Haley's Te Koonna Stud which have been valuable additions to the McGill Library.

We first met with members of Mr Haley's family when the Association hosted a promotion of author Ken Linnett's award-winning book, *Tulloch, A Mighty Champion*, in October last year. A special guest that evening was Tulloch's strapper Lem Bann. Eagle Farm racecourse had played a role in the life of Tulloch, who had five starts for five wins at the track.

The planned improvements to the Racing Museum, we believe, will enhance the cultural significance of the Brisbane Racing Club's collection of memorabilia associated with the history of racing, and we hope to have the work completed in time for the reopening of Eagle Farm to racing this summer.

The QRHA remains ready to host racecourse tours, but in the past year we have had only two groups visit us. This low number is a concern, not so much because the tours can provide a modest source of income for the Association but because we believe we have a good product to show, perhaps even better now that at Eagle Farm we can add an overview of the infield stables and at Doomben we have the Stanley Collection to see.

Work done by our volunteers has enabled the Museum and Archive to maintain its place on Brisbane's Living Heritage Network of boutique museums and heritage sites, and for this I thank in particular Paula Burnett and Karen Best who have ensured the rooms are open at the designated hours every Wednesday.

The Association continued its quarterly newsletters, but we have missed the autumn issue and hope to resume with the next before the winter is out. We thank Karen Best, Martk Mazzaglia and Hugh Naughton for their regular contributions to the Newsletter.

At the same time, we maintain a website and a Facebook page that has 168 followers although some of our posts in the past 12 months have attracted upwards of 500 views.

The Association remains thankful for the generous support we receive from the Bernborough Club. As outlined earlier, contributions from the Bernborough Club have enabled us to enhance the presentation of the Stanley Collection and to budget for the improved display cabinets for the Racing Museum. We thank also the Bernborough Club's president Bart Sinclair for promoting the Association so strongly to Bernborough Club members and to the wider racing community.

David Fowler of RadioTAB and Nathan Exelby of The Courier-Mail and Sunday Mail have also helped to spread the word about our activities.

We thank also the Brisbane Racing Club for its support of our activities including the open day on Bernborough Handicap Day and for our National Trust Heritage Festival event. Our particular thanks go to its chairman Neville Bell and his directors notably David Dawson and Richard Morrison who take particular interest in our work.

Thanks also go to veteran photographer Noel Pascoe and his daughter Cindy Hurley for their photographic contributions.

Finally, I thank individually our fellow committee people for their continuous work – our secretary Alayne Peterson, treasurer Alan Capper and our other committee members Paula Burnett, Paul O'Grady, Fred Manahan, Hugh Naughton, John Wagstaff and Peter Lindeberg, and for several non-committee who have helped with our activities, Karen Best, Noel Best and Michael Craitem.

*Peter Howard*

President  
Thoroughbred Racing History  
Association.