

Thoroughbred Racing History Association



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Presented at

The Archive

Doomben Racehorse

July 17, 2019

THIS has been quite a successful year, our seventh, during which we enjoyed the accomplishment of three significant projects.

First, the Stanley Room was completed, providing an eye-catching presentation of the superb collection of trophies and memorabilia gathered by horses owned by Bill and Evelyn Stanley. We remain grateful to Mrs Stanley for entrusting the Brisbane Racing Club and this Association with the guardianship of such a valuable collection, which we are proud to display.

Second, the Association gratefully accepted Tulloch's 1961 Brisbane Cup trophy and other memorabilia of the champion for display in the Museum. Again, we thank Sue Ridgewell, Deb Haley and Ruth Bevan, three grand-daughters of Tulloch's owner E.A.Haley, for favouring the Racing Museum as a home for the Cup and the Tulloch memorabilia.

The Association developed a special area to display Tulloch's mementos and to highlight pictorially his unbeaten record of five starts for five wins at Eagle Farm. At the same time we purchased and installed three internally lit display cabinets which have enabled us to bring into the public eye such valuable and historic trophies as the 1889 Brisbane Cup, the 1938 Brisbane

Cup won by Spear Chief, the 1935 King's Cup won by Serlodi, the 1879 Mayor's Cup which was run by the Fortitude Valley Jockey Club on a racecourse near the Hamilton Hotel, the 1921 Governor's Cup and the 1862 Drayton Cup believed to be one of the oldest sporting trophies in Queensland's history. Hitherto, these had been kept in secure storage but now we have been able to share the treasures with the racing public.

We were able to meet the costs incurred in providing for the Stanley Room and the new displays in the Museum through the generous support from the Bernborough Club, and we thank the president Bart Sinclair and his committee and the club's members for their valuable contributions.

We extend our gratitude, too, to the BRC operations manager Trevor Bow and the club's staff whose skills and labour brought our plans for the Stanley Room and Museum to fruition.

Our third major project was the *Top Odds* presentation as part of the National Trust's Heritage Festival in May. This function, our fifth, has become somewhat of an annual off-track scene-setter for the winter carnival. We took as our theme this year the big betting trends that underscored past winter carnivals and were gifted with personal and colourful input from retired

bookmakers Basil Nolan and Mick Dolan as well as interviews with successful jockeys and trainers Jim Denman, Chris Munce and Bruce Brown. We thank David Fowler and Bart Sinclair for hosting a successful evening and the Brisbane Racing Club for its support of the function that was attended by 110. We note that our numbers attending this annual function grow steadily.

We were also afforded memorabilia and photographs of Gunsynd, which enabled us to feature his memory in the Museum. This memorabilia was provided through the generosity of Lucky Pippas whose brother George owned Gunsynd in partnership.

On a sad note, we grieved the passing of two of our committee, Fred Manahan and John Wagstaff. Fred, a noted and much respected veterinarian, had been a committee member since the inception of the Association and for some years was treasurer. His wise counsel has been sorely missed. John was a pastoral company manager from Blackall where he was active on various race club and regional committees. When he retired and moved to Brisbane, he embraced the opportunity to contribute to the Association's work in the Museum and Archive, and provided a much needed link with country racing for the Association.

Our elected treasurer Alan Capper stood down early in the reporting

year, and we thank Alan for his stewardship of our finances in recent years. Bruce Halligan accepted the invitation to come onto our committee as treasurer, and we have quickly come to appreciate his professionalism on matters of finance.

Chris Morrison has explored marketing opportunities to attract tour groups to the Museums. We know we have some real treasures in our collections and that thoroughbred racing – particularly at Eagle Farm – is woven into the fabric of Queensland history, and we have a desire to share those with others.

Thanks to Chris, we are able to open the Museum to the public every first Wednesday of the month. Another step that Chris has initiated is to secure a presence for the Racing Museum on the Australian Tourism Data website. Additionally, we are exploring ways to promote the Museum and the Archive as a day-out destination for retirees.

Chris and Paul O'Grady undertook a massive task of cataloguing more than 1,000 racebooks including historically significant racebooks from meetings at courses like Kedron Park, Coorparoo, Goodna and Woolloongabba.

Paula Burnett remained perhaps our most dedicated archivist and her diligence in opening the Archive

every Wednesday to fulfil our membership commitment to the Brisbane Living Heritage Network is much appreciated.

Recently, thanks to a submission made by Julie Anne Stanfield the Association secured funding assistance for three years from the Brisbane City Council under its Historical Organisation Assistance Grant Program. The program will provide amounts of \$4000, \$4700 and \$4700 over three years to be used for operating and maintaining our facilities and growing our activities.

Julie Anne, with the committee's approval, also applied for and secured one of two bursaries offered by the Living Heritage Network to attend the Museums & Galleries Queensland State Conference in September in Cairns.

Recently we were invited to take part in a podcast for the Living Heritage Network by nominating and explaining a feature item in our collection. We selected the 1946 Doomben Cup trophy won by Bernborough which enabled us to tell the story about the horse and his spectacular and sometimes controversial career.

As you can see we are working closely with the Living Heritage Network, a collection of some 80 similar museums and galleries around Brisbane.

We have maintained a website and a Facebook page that has 289 followers, an increase of 120 on last year, for which he thank Sharon Fenlon who found so many ways to get people to like, share, invite, view and give our site the thumbs up. One post, a tribute to the late Whopper Stephens, attracted more than 10,000 views.

We thank Bart Sinclair of the BRC, David Fowler of RadioTAB and Nathan Exelby of The Courier-Mail and Sunday Mail for promoting our activities to the general public.

We thank also the Brisbane Racing Club for its generous support and in particular the club chairman Neville Bell and directors David Dawson and Richard Morrison who take particular interest in our work. Our gratitude, too, is extended to Racing Club management and staff who responded to so many requests from us through the year.

Finally, I thank our committee people for their continuous work – our secretary Alayne Peterson, Paula Burnett, Paul O'Grady, Hugh Naughton, Peter Lindeberg, Chris Morrison, Julie Anne Stanfield, Sharon Fenlon and Bruce Halligan and ex-officio member Karen Best.

Peter Howard

President
Thoroughbred Racing History
Association.