

**Thoroughbred
Racing
History
Association**



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Presented at
The Archive
Doomben Racehorse
August 15, 2020

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

DESPITE the interruption to our activities brought about by the coronavirus, this has been a busy and fruitful year for the Association, the seventh since our incorporation.

Perhaps our most notable achievement was enhancing our presence and managing to get the word out, both in racing and in the wider community, that with the Racing Museum and here in the Racing Archive & Library we have places of significant interest for people with a penchant for history and a care for racing.

We made these gains mostly by taking part in activities in the wider community. For instance, we hosted tours of Eagle Farm racecourse and the Museum as part of the Brisbane Open House 2019 event. We also hosted a visit to the Museum by Brisbane Living Heritage Network members who included a former president of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland, Denver Beanland.

We joined in the festivities and set up a display for the re-opening of the rejuvenated Ascot Park which was formerly the members' carpark for Eagle Farm, and we thank committee members Chris Morrison and Julie Anne Standfield for

carrying our flag that day. Another example of extending our presence was just before the lockdown enforced on the community by COVID-19 when we opened the Museum to Bernborough Club members ahead of their New Year's luncheon in February at Eagle Farm.

We also worked closely with two groups integral to racing, the Thoroughbred Breeders' Queensland Association by opening up the Archive & Library to delegates after their annual general meeting and on the occasion of the Silks & Spurs Christmas function in the Old Tote building we opened the Museum for the guests many of whom were former licensees and participants in racing.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 precluded us from taking part in the National Trust's annual Heritage Festival which traditionally had been the annual highlight of our activities.

On the upside, during the COVID lockdown some of your committee accepted an invitation to take part in a webinar hosted by the Living Heritage Network that outlined to museums and galleries like ours how to use social media platforms to market our product. Our delegates were pleasantly surprised to see highlighted during the presentation by the State Library an image and words about the Stanley

Room that is undoubtedly a highlight of any visit to the Archive. Subsequent to the webinar, the Association was invited to contribute a report on the Stanley Room for inclusion in the State Library's Queensland Memory e-newsletter for July, and the article was published under the heading "A record of one family's contribution to Queensland's racing history".

A significant factor in the drive to make our activities known more widely is the support from Bart Sinclair of the BRC, David Fowler of RadioTAB and Nathan Exelby of The Courier-Mail and Sunday Mail. They have been good communicators to the public for us.

Our activities have been underpinned by the sound financial position of the Association. This is due largely to funding from two strong supporters.

Firstly, the Bernborough Club has remained a stout supporter and has continued to contribute generously to the Association despite the fact that the club's major income-raising functions could not take place because of COVID-19 restrictions. Nevertheless, we were informed that despite this the Club would continue to support the Association with a contribution of \$5000. We thank the Club president Bart

Sinclair and his committee and its members for their generosity.

As reported last year, the Association secured funding assistance for three years from the Brisbane City Council under its Historical Organisation Assistance Grant Program. The program provided an initial amount of \$4700, and following our acquittal of that amount the program manager advised that we would receive the renewal for 2020-21 with an amount of \$4700.

These generous streams of support from the Bernborough Club and the Brisbane City Council have enabled us to enhance our Museum displays and assist our Archive processes and plan confidently for future activities.

Major improvements have included the purchase and installation of additional shelving for the Library. With that acquisition we more than doubled our bookshelf capacity, and quicker than Black Caviar in a Lightning Handicap the space was taken up.

We are exploring using some of the funding to install a digital kiosk that will enable visitors to select and view various

photographic collections that we are compiling in the Archive. We are also looking at building on our capacity to digitize the Archive records. We have improved office materiel, and we are looking to update our computer filing system and enhance our ability to make digital records of our memorabilia.

During the lockdown, thanks to the Brisbane Racing Club operations manager Trevor Bow the club's staff fitted out a new storeroom for the growing collection of historic photographs. Many of these photographs were moved across from the original storeroom in the Old Tote building at Eagle Farm or were retrieved from a long-closed storeroom in the St Leger Grandstand at Eagle Farm. Dusty, musty work made easy by the willing hands of committee members.

Julie Anne Standfield used a bursary awarded by the Living Heritage Network to attend the Museums & Galleries Queensland State Conference in September in Cairns.

We appreciate the work of our treasurer Bruce Halligan for his diligence with financial matters and recording, and we thank Bruce and Julie Anne for facilitating the work necessary to acquit the first round of funding provided by the Brisbane City Council.

Chris Morrison has strengthened our relationship with the Brisbane Living Heritage Network which is invaluable so that we can identify with 80 like museums and galleries around the city.

All in all, each of your committee and a number of dedicated supporters contributed strongly to getting the chores done through the year. In particular, Paula Burnett dutifully kept the Library open on every Wednesday, assisted by Ray Moriarty. Alayne Peterson provided invaluable legal advice with reference to the procedure required to alter our reporting date to satisfy the State Government.

Your committee for the year was Alayne Peterson, Chris Morrison, Paula Burnett, Paul O'Grady, Peter Lindeberg, Hugh Naughton, Julie Anne Standfield, Bruce Halligan and Laura Boni.

Finally, we thank 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.

Peter Howard

President
Thoroughbred Racing History
Association.