

Thoroughbred Racing History Association Inc.

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From the President

The calendar year draws to a close with your committee functioning as usual, keeping the Racing Museum at Eagle Farm in good order and the Racing Archive and James McGill Library at Doomben expanding solidly with much appreciated new contributions.

Among the latter was a donation of 85 books about the turf and its horses and personalities that had been gathered by Toowoomba racing enthusiast Dawn Quainton. Dawn died in September and her books have been given to the Library for public use and safe keeping. Dawn had previously given the Library her collection of racing magazines such as Turf Monthly and Racetrack which with earlier contributions has enabled us to build up near-complete sets of the magazines. The contents have now been fully indexed

with gives us an easy reference when searching for requested articles.

We have received from Pam O'Neill some of her racing memorabilia and are working on a way to display this in a public area at Doomben as a tribute to Pam for her contribution to the changes that equal opportunity brought to racing. The display will be timely because of the high incidence of success being enjoyed by female riders in Queensland this season.

Other contributions include a 1929 publication titled Assumed Racing Names listing the hundreds of non-de-plumes registered with the principal clubs and used by owners to hide their identities. More about this later in this Newsletter.

Your new committee to manage the Association for 2022-23 was elected at the AGM in August. The committee is Julie Anne Standfield (secretary), Chris Morrison (assistant secretary), Bruce Halligan (treasurer), Steve Bermingham, Michael Donnelly, Nev Hacker, Peter Lindeberg, Ray Moriarty, Paul O'Grady and yours truly as president.

In August, we mourned the passing of Evelyn Stanley whose generosity enabled the Association in conjunction with the Brisbane Racing Club to develop for display the Stanley Collection of trophies and memorabilia of horses raced by Bill and Mrs Stanley. The Stanleys raced some 100 horses over 50 years and won such races as a W.S. Cox Plate, Doncaster and Stradbroke Handicaps with Rajah Sahib, the Australian Cup with Cyron and the Queensland Derby with Mr Cromwell.

Mrs Stanley was 98. After her obsequies the family gathered for a quiet wake at the Stanley Room. Her niece Judy Magub

remarked how appropriate it was for Mrs Stanley's family to share the memories of her and Bill's racing achievements.



ONE corner of the Stanley Room . . . a popular room to visit at the Racing Archive at Doomben.

Since our last Newsletter, the Association hosted its annual presentation as part of the National Heritage Festival. This year we took up a theme to mark the 40th anniversary of the last thoroughbred race meeting held at Albion Park.

The evening was titled "The Creek, Of Course" and special guests were Mike Pelling who rode the last winner there, Pat Duff whose first city winner was at Albion Park, Kerry Smith who rode the penultimate winner, and Wayne Flynn and members of the Railton family who raced the last of the great Creekers, Red Seas.

The highlight of the evening was a phantom call by David Fowler of a race contested by the best Creekers in its 100 years.

The field included Amberdown, St Aubin, Freebooter, Auction, Lucky Ring, Sumarco, Prunda, Ima Shadow and Red Seas.

And the winner? We will tell you at the foot of this Newsletter.

Peter Howard

Oaks was a Christmas gift

The Queensland Oaks has become one of the jewels of what is now known as the Stradbroke Season in the winter months. Many will remember when it was run in the spring but delve into its history and you will find that the first Oaks classic was run at Eagle Farm on Boxing Day, 1951.

Several breeders had lobbied the Queensland Turf Club to add the Oaks to its calendar to give locally trained three-year-old fillies a Principal race for their own sex and age. Principal races were the forerunner to the Group races that we now know under the Pattern race system.

Breeders pointed to the importance of the Victoria Oaks as a feature of the Melbourne spring carnival and the value that the classic meant for the winning filly as a future broodmare. Similarly, the Randwick autumn carnival had the Adrian Knox Stakes (now known as the Australian Oaks) as a feature race for three-year-old fillies.

The QTC committee may not have needed much prompting. The two early fancies were Maltmaid who was owned by the wife of committee member J.F. (Don) Meynink and Khazana owned by QTC chairman John Power in partnership with leading Victorian owner E.A. Underwood.

Both were trained by Mick Kenny who in October of that year trained the three placegetters in the Queensland Guineas: Friar's Frolic 1, Maltmaid 2, Khazana 3.

Maltmaid won the Oaks, ridden by Andy Tindall. Khazana was unplaced.

The QTC brought the 1952 Oaks forward to its November meeting, and Kenny and Tindall combined to win the second

running with Lady Hannah and two years later they won the Oaks again with Mian Mir.

In 1955, the Sydney filly Evening Peal breathed a touch of class into the race. She had come directly from the Melbourne carnival where she had won the Wakeful Stakes and VRC Oaks.

The following autumn she won the Adrian Knox Stakes to complete the clean sweep of the fillies' feature races – and in the 1956 spring she won the Melbourne Cup.

The Oaks remained a feature of the spring racing at Eagle Farm until 1956 when Urgona won, trained by Fred Best for C.A. (Big Bill) Edwards and ridden by Jim Standfield.

The QTC then transferred the classic to the winter in 1958 when Tommy Smith trained Orient to become the first of his eight winners of the classic.

The Meynink family won the Oaks for a second time in 1965 when Kulali trained by Vic Franks and ridden by John Harbutt won.

Kulali was a grand-daughter of Maltmaid

What's in a name?

An intriguing booklet given to the Archive & Library recently lists all the non-de-plumes used by owners of racehorses in Australia for the calendar year 1929.

The booklet, *Assumed Racing Names*, and marked "Not for publication", was compiled by Loddon Yuille who was the Registrar of Racehorses with the Australian Jockey Club at the time.

Assumed names were permitted under the Rules of Racing. Some owners simply

wished to avoid the publicity or did not want to be identified with racing. Some were captains of industry or eminent professional men who did not want clients or associates to know of their involvement in the sport.

Some were heavy gamblers who sought to keep their connection with horses hidden from bookmakers and their touts.

No, it wasn't to dodge tax – because non-de-plumes had to be registered with the Principal Clubs and were published in the clubs' official journals such as, in Queensland, the Racing Calendar.

In any case, the turf writers of the day usually managed to identify the personalities behind non-de-plumes and were not afraid to reveal the connections.

Perhaps the last non-de-plume used in Queensland and probably the best known was Anthony Dare, the assumed name used by Albert Sakzewski.

His horses won an estimated 100 races from the 1940s to the 60s. The best included Friar's Frolic who won the 1951 QTC Sires' Produce Stakes and Queensland Guineas.

Later knighted, Sir Albert became the first chairman of the Queensland TAB in 1962 and remained at the head of the board for 19 years.

In Sydney, the celebrated Lorna Doone was a successful owner in the early 1930s. As Lorna Bull and then under her married name Lorna Utz, she was a ranked tennis player and competed in doubles matches at Wimbledon.

Her husband Les Utz, also a top tennis player, became a Macquarie Steet specialist – and when they turned their

interests to racing they began to buy, breed and race horses under Mrs Utz's non-de-plume Lorna Doone.



TENNIS ace . . . Lorna Utz who raced horses under the non-de-plume Lorna Doone.

Dr Utz became a committee member of the Australian Jockey Club

Their best horse was Sylvandale who won the AJC and VRC St Leger Stakes and Australian Cup in his three-year-old season. He was runner-up in the 1934 Victoria Derby and was placed third to Marabou in the 1935 Melbourne Cup.

E.G. Blume, a wealthy pastoralist in the central west with a Brisbane home at Clayfield, raced his horses as E.J. Craven and among the races he won was the 1911 Caulfield Cup with Lady Medallist.

Blume's city home occupied a site on the highest ground in Clayfield and he built an observation deck from which with binoculars he could follow the races at nearby Eagle Farm. The house is now part of the St Rita's College campus.

A bloodstock quiz for seniors

Compiled by the punting schoolteacher

1. Name the jockey and trainer Inducted into Queensland Racing's Hall of Fame in 2022,
2. Name the two jockeys who shared the Brisbane jockeys' premiership in 1965-66. They rode seven winners between them on the last day of the season.
3. What horse was Mick Dittman's first Group 1 winner.
4. The Queensland Derby was traditionally run in the Spring until 1971. Who was the winner that year?
5. River Lad was a popular home-town winner of the 2014 Stradbroke Handicap because he was trained by Natalie McCall. Who rode him?
6. Affectionate won the 1970 Queensland Oaks on protest. Who was first past the post?
7. A full sister and brother won the 1968 C.E. McDougall Stakes and 1969 Hopeful Stakes, the spring feature races at Eagle Farm in that era. Can you name them?
8. Trained the winner of the Brisbane Cup seven times?
9. Next winter it will be 40 years since a Queensland horse won the Group 1 Doomben Cup. Can you name the horse.
10. Name the sire of the champion miler Dalrello.

ANSWERS: On Page 7.



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Association.

As this newsletter goes to press, we
have 960 followers.

How long before we reach 1000?

X is for Xylite, an infamous ring-in at the Creek

Continuing the series on the History of Queensland Racing by the alphabet

Ring-ins were not uncommon in racing in the 19th century. They were not frequent, but from time to time the authorities would uncover a well performed horse being substituted under another name. The James McGill Library, which is the centrepiece of the Racing Archive at Doomben houses a complete collection of the Racing Calendars dating back to the 1890s, and the early volumes contained occasional references to the malpractice.

Most involved horses who worked their way through the classes and went up in the weights in a certain country jurisdiction or region and then were

moved on to another racing district under a new guise so that they could start their careers afresh.

Perhaps the most brazen in the early years of last century was the Xylite case at Albion Park In October 1915.

A woman dressed in black took advantage of the strong bookmakers' ring at the racecourse known familiarly as the Creek with a daring betting plunge on the unraced four-year-old Xylite.

Xylite had arrived by steamship from Sydney a few weeks earlier. He came without a name, but his attendant Arthur Arnold registered him as Xylite and nominated him for a minor race at Albion Park.

When the bookmakers called Xylite's odds at 10 and 12 to 1, the woman in a black dress and wearing a black veil moved into the ring and walking from one bookie to another kept putting sums of 10 and 20 pounds on Xylite. She is said to have then retired to the grandstand and, taking a seat, declared to those around her, "This is a certainty."

The newspapers reported Xylite was backed in from 5 to 1 to even money.

Xylite won easily, but the Jockey Club's officials became suspicious when no one

came to the race day office to collect the prizemoney.

The woman in black was later identified as Vera Cleary of Sydney. She collected her winnings from the bookmakers and was seen leaving the course by motor car.

When investigating detectives interviewed Arnold in Sydney, he produced a lease signed by Cleary as the owner of Xylite. Cleary had raced several horses in Sydney and police established that Xylite was, in fact, Blacklock, a well performed horse from the Sydney pony courses.

Vera Cleary admitted to police she knew Blacklock but claimed Xylite was a different horse.

She claimed she had purchased Xylite for 30 guineas and had leased him to Arnold.

She was charged with conspiracy to fraud but her alleged co-conspirator Arnold disappeared after the initial police investigation and was never found. Without that key witness to be brought before the court the charge against Cleary was dropped.

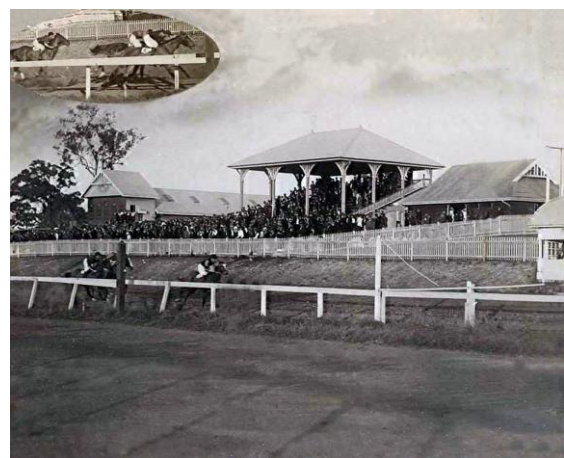
Straight from the Archives

Acting on the findings of a Royal Commission into unregistered racing in Queensland, the State Government enacted legislation that forced the closure of all unregistered courses by the end of 1931. Here's how the Queensland Racing Calendar (December 1958) recalled "The Famous Last Race" at Kedron Park on December 30, 1931:

"Unregistered racing was brought to a conclusion in Brisbane with the Second Division Handicap and Chrysler has the honour of winning the last race.

"In an open betting race Earl Tinspear was the favourite, but he failed to show up. After Chip Howalong had carried the field along Lygo went to the front at the three furlongs, while Keniltoy and Chrysler were also handy. Lygo was the first into the straight, but Chrysler went to the front, and lasted well enough to beat Tangram by a neck. Keniltoy was a length away.

"Les Tilbury rode four of the nine winners on the last day. Vince Markey two, and Barty Sinclair rode the winner of the last race. All three became top jockeys on the registered courses and later became No. 1 trainers."



KEDRON Park . . . picture of a race finish in June 1922.

Horse of changing owners

Highland, who was inducted in Queensland Racing's Hall of Fame recently, won several of Australia's principal races under three different owners.

Bred in 1921, his first owner was Mrs Bine Barnes, wife of J.H.S. Barnes of Canning Downs Stud fame. Highland had been bred at Canning Downs by the stallion Highfield and Mrs Barnes chose to race him in her colours.

He won the Hopeful Stakes at his first start, but did not win in another seven starts at two. He found form again as a three-year-old, finishing second in the Queensland Guineas and winning two races at Eagle Farm which prompted his trainer J.W. Noud to set him for the 1925 Stradbroke.

Highland won, beating Pidgeon d'Or owned by Terry Ahern in a close finish. Ahern, later to become chairman of the Brisbane Amateur Turf Club and two decades later founder of the Doomben 10,000, was a fearless punter. He lost on Pidgeon d'Or, but recognizing the potential of Highland offered Mrs Barnes 500 guineas for the horse. At first, Mrs Barnes declined to sell but later in the year sold the four-year-old to Ahern – and in his colours Highland won the 1926 Stradbroke.



PUNTER . . . Terry Ahern (white hat, second row) among the race day crowd at Albion Park in the 1930s.

Ahern and Noud campaigned Highland in Sydney. He did not win at several starts and they decided to sell the horse rather than return him to Brisbane where he would be asked to carry heavy weights.

He was bought by Mrs L.R. Buxton of Melbourne, a client of trainer Jack Holt and for her Highland won the 1928 W.S. Cox Plate and 1929 Toorak Handicap as well as several of the major weight-for-age races in the 1928 and 1929 spring carnivals.

SOURCE: Information on Highland gleaned from the limited edition biography *CEB: Studmaster of Canning Downs* by Loraine Nott, Pioneer Press. 1989. A copy is kept in the James McGill Library at Doomben.

Answers to the quiz

1. Tony Erhart and Pat Duff.
2. Skeeter Sanders and Len Hill.
3. Knee High, 1972 Doomben Cup.
4. Amby's Love trained by Jim Atkins.
5. Damien Oliver.
6. Morning Joy.
7. Sunset Sue and Gunsynd. They were sired by Sunset Hue from Woodie Wonder.
8. Jim McGill. He also owned the seven Cup winners.
9. Lord Seaman.
10. Aloe.

And the winner . . .

The winner of David Fowler's Phantom Call at the Heritage Festival event at the Racing Museum was Red Seas. He beat Auction after a stirring battle.



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