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PRESIDENTS REPORT

Annual General Meeting – 6 October 2016

I would like to welcome you all to the Annual General Meeting.

COMMITTEE NEWS

We welcomed Kellie Boyd and Joan Ironmonger to the Committee this year following the resignations of Christopher Dean and Peter Smiles. Garry Hubbard resigned as Chairman in May 2016, due to personal and business reasons and in his place I was appointed as the new Chairman. Dion Theodossi has filled the casual vacancy created by Garry's departure. The Committee now stands as:

Nigel Fish – Chairman
Susan Crow – Vice Chair
Susan Kinloch – Secretary
Barrie Scott – Treasurer
Noel Willaton
Kellie Boyd
Kim Peterson
Joan Ironmonger
Dion Theodossi

CATANACHS MELBOURNE CUP - NOVEMBER 8, 2015

2015 Melbourne Cup Day Picnic race meeting attracted our biggest crowd for a long time! This was a hugely successful day, which attracted local and visiting punters, families and corporate groups, with our marquee area at full capacity. Our Member enclosure was also at full capacity which was most encouraging. Fantastic catering by local providers and excellent kid's entertainment all day! Our signature Marks IGA Fashions on the Field was again a success and the renowned Davidson Brothers provided superb entertainment along with our regular roving minstrels. Horse nominations were excellent and winners were grinners at the TAB.

MANSFIELD CUP – DECEMBER 2015

Sadly our Mansfield Cup meeting in December 2015 received a very poor attendance. Given it was so close to Christmas we found ourselves competing with a number of Christmas party functions. With all of these factors in mind, a decision was made to seek an alternative date. Following a meeting with CRV we can confirm the new date:

The Mansfield Cup will be back, bigger and better than ever before on Saturday April 8th 2017 and we can't wait! We look forward to plenty of locals and visitors enjoying a great day out in the High Country.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new dedicated website www.mansfieldcountryraces.com.au is live and running and looks fabulous. Be sure to check it out if you haven't already! We thank Melissa Crow of Youlissys Creative for her efforts here.

CLUB INFRASTRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES UPGRADES

As a result of successful funding applications from Country Racing Victoria, and the Victorian Racing Industry Fund, we have

- Purchased a new Mower. Up until now, the track and spectator area mowing was carried out with an aged Kubota 2WD mower. It was unreliable and prone to breaking down and the maintenance costs had become excessive. The Club now hosts a brand new Kubota F3690 36HP diesel engine 4WD commercial 72inch out front mower deck C/W power steering and 2 range hydrostatic transmission.
- Upgraded our Watering System. The existing town water supply lines to the course needed to be replaced and large parts of the existing line are worn out and brittle. The upgrade will reduce maintenance costs and assist with conserving water.
- Refurbished the public toilets for Men and Women to block out vermin and debris hence maintaining a level of cleanliness and hygiene
- Installed permanent poles for the erection of shade sails in the Members and Public arenas
- Installed new stainless steel kitchen and new gas inlet in the Kiosk
- Installation of new state of the art plastic running rails

TENORS ON THE TURF 2016

On a warm sunny day on the 6th March, the talented trio, the 3tenOz along with their guest, Soprano Rebecca Currier, returned to the Mansfield District Racing Club to showcase 'VENICE TO VEGAS'. This event has now become an highlight in our calendar and has assisted in generating good profits for the Race Club.

The Club was also privileged to have as our guests the Minister for Racing Mr Martin Pakula and his wife Lisa. The Minister took great delight in announcing the \$33,000 in funding for the installation of plastic running rails which had been installed just prior to the Tenors event.

UTILISATION OF CORRECTIONS STAFF

We are proud to have been recognised as one of the organisations who successfully and competently engaged correctional offenders for various maintenance works at our Race Club. The community work program relies on volunteers to supervise offenders undertaking community work in addition to providing skill development and community engagement opportunities. In 2014 – 2015, the Community Offenders Community Work Program provided over \$1.3m of unpaid labour to community groups across the Hume Region.

We have been very privileged in our partnership with the Corrections Unit and continue to use the services of corrections staff to assist with the maintenance of our grounds and facilities.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Club is in a good financial position as is evidenced by the Annual Report which is tabled. I thank all the Committee who have worked tirelessly in making every post a winner and look forward to working with them for the new upcoming season.

In closing, I also thank all Club Members for their support and look forward to seeing all of you at the Cocktail Reception next Thursday 13th October and also at the two race meetings.

Nigel Fish
Chairman – Mansfield Race Club