



## AJC BOARD QUARTERLY UPDATE - MAY 2009

### **Constitutional reform a key agenda item for members**

The message was clear during the recent Election process that members are looking for reforms in aspects of our Constitution and Rules. The Board has acted quickly on this issue and are creating a Working Party to look at issues with proposed outcomes to be considered at the AGM in November 2009. Importantly, submissions from members will be accepted for this Review and should be sent to the Chairman by 30 June 2009.

### **Appointing a new CEO is a priority**

With Norman Gillespie's recent departure, it is necessary to appoint a new CEO. The advertisements seeking expressions of interest in this important position are currently in circulation. The Board has appointed a selection committee to undertake the interviews and to bring the process to a close as soon as possible. However this important appointment will not be rushed and in the meantime we are lucky to have Darren Pearce acting as CEO, supported by Tony Crawford and our Management team.

### **AJC residential property sales a "hot" topic now and into the future**

The new Board has moved quickly to review, discuss and agree the way forward on the property sales undertaken to date and planned sales in the future. The review was led by new AJC Vice Chairman John Cornish.

This was a controversial issue leading into the Election and involves the ability to fund the bus way/Alison Road works to improve access to Royal Randwick which is also a priority requirement of the local Council and community.

The Board, on review of the detailed information and advice provided to it, came to the unanimous position to re-affirm the previous Board's decision which greatly assists with enhancing the AJC's overall funding needs. The Board recognises this is an unpopular decision with some members and appreciates their input to this process.

### **Ensuring good use of AJC land assets a critical issue into the future**

As part of the above review, AJC Vice Chairman John Cornish and other Board members have begun a full review of the AJC's two very fine areas of prime land (Royal Randwick and Warwick Farm). These locations underpin our racing and training operations and also our future aspirations. Through thoughtful and professional consideration of the best options to utilise these valuable asset bases, the Board- with input from the members and stakeholders- must work together to ensure we can continue to pursue our racing passion into the future.

This is an immediate requirement, building on the work already done on the Master Plan. Delegated authority has been granted by the Board to a sub group led by Vice Chairman John Cornish to develop and bring forward proposals which build on what has already been undertaken on the Master Plan.



### **Member's Service improved on race days**

Designated Members areas will be returned for mid-week racing at Royal Randwick and Warwick Farm. This will be supported by consistent dress standards for Members areas and the Mounting Enclosure for owners and trainers. Full details will be communicated to you shortly by our Membership Team.

### **Great gains now will make future progress easier**

It is often easy to forget the hard won gains, especially when the immediate challenges appear so urgent. In looking at the last two years, the AJC has had to deal with many difficult issues but out of that period have come some great achievements that need to be recognised.

The first is the new 99 Year lease the past Board secured at Royal Randwick as part of the World Youth Day Agreement. This puts the current Board in a great position to maximise the land asset use opportunities at Royal Randwick and at Warwick Farm. It also underpins the vision we all share of enhancing the racing experience for our members and public to allow everyone to fulfill their passion for racing.

The second achievement to take pride in is Royal Randwick's food and beverage services winning the Award for Australian Caterer of the Year. On behalf of the Board and members we congratulate Lynell Peck and her team on this impressive Award which provides a great foundation and example of what is achievable in moving forward.

### **Leading thoroughbred racing in NSW into the future**

The AJC Board accepts it has a great responsibility to exhibit strong leadership and represent the interests of its members and the industry in general in current debates on the future direction of the industry in NSW. There is currently a review being conducted on behalf of the NSW Government and Racing NSW by Ernst & Young as well as a range of other challenges on which we need to work with the Sydney Turf Club in ensuring our great industry thrives into the future.

### **Upcoming Race Days – put them in your diary now!**

Members' support and use of the AJC's facilities is an important part of running our Club and business in a viable manner.

Your attendance on race days is a key part of our ongoing viability. Why not get some friends together and come along on a regular basis?

The following race days are on the calendar in the near future:

Saturday 23 May	Royal Randwick
Tuesday 26 May	Warwick Farm
Saturday 6 June	Royal Randwick (Members Information Meeting & June Stakes Day)
Monday 8 June	Royal Randwick
Wednesday 17 June	Warwick Farm
Saturday 20 June	Royal Randwick
Tuesday 30 June	Warwick Farm