

ATC CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATION TO MEMBERS

JULY 2016



WINX & CHAUTAUQUA RATED WORLD'S BEST AFTER THE CHAMPIONSHIPS

There were many great highlights from the Sydney Autumn Carnival, but the performances of two horses further served to highlight the strength of Sydney racing.

Winx was rated the world's best miler and best horse on turf by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities after The Championships.

This followed her unbeaten Autumn campaign in Sydney where Winx took out four of our best races - the Optus Business Apollo Stakes, Precise Air Chipping Norton Stakes, China Horse Club George Ryder Stakes and that amazing victory in The Star Doncaster Mile.

At the time of writing Winx remained equal second on the overall World's Best Racehorse Rankings, and second best miler behind Japan's A Shin Hikari.

We look forward to seeing Winx in Sydney again during the Spring of 2016, where her trainer Chris Waller has already mapped out three races – the Pro-Ride Warwick Stakes at Royal Randwick on 20 August, the Tattersals Chelmsford Stakes at Royal Randwick on 3 September and the Group 1 Colgate Optic White Stakes (George Main) at Royal Randwick on 17 September.

Chautauqua – who won his second successive Darley TJ Smith Stakes with an incredible last to first finish – was rated the world's best sprinter after this win, a ranking he retains at the time of writing.

He went on after The Championships to beat a world-class field in the Group 1 Hong Kong Chairman's Sprint at Sha Tin.

Congratulations to Chris Waller and Hugh Bowman for their handling of Winx, and also to Team Hawkes and Tommy Berry for their great work with Chautauqua.

ROSEHILL GARDENS STAGE 3 REFURBISHMENT ON TRACK FOR SPRING

We are well into the final stage of our \$28 million refurbishment of Rosehill Gardens, which will make our great racecourse one of the best for spectators anywhere in Australia.

The popular Winning Post restaurant along with all spaces on the new Level 3 will be refurbished to compliment the new spaces already opened on the new Ground, Level 1 and Level 2 areas.

At the centre of the new Level 3 will be an expanded space with the capacity to be used as a flexible function space to cater for small or larger functions of up to 250 people.

Private suites on this level will also be refurbished, along with the public areas toward the southern end of Level 3.

ATC SECURES ROSEHILL BOWLING CLUB

The amalgamation with Rosehill Bowling Club became official with the final settlement of the agreement completed by June 1, 2016.

The ATC has taken over management of the Club and we are looking to promote the venue as a great destination for patrons before and after the races.

The ATC Executive are now working on plans which will see facilities at the Rosehill Bowling Club site upgraded for all ATC Members, as well as Members of the Rosehill Bowling Club.

The Rosehill Bowling Club is part of our long-term vision and masterplan for Rosehill Gardens, embracing the State Government's commitment to build a light rail network from Parramatta, connecting Rosehill Gardens with Homebush and ultimately parts of Sydney's northwest.



NEW WARWICK FARM CAR PARK NOW OPEN

ATC Members will have access to a new car parking area at Warwick Farm which has been built as part of the new development of the Inglis sales complex.

Bitumen parking spaces, including kerbsides and landscaped surrounds, have been built for almost 900 cars.

Patrons are able to access the new parking spaces through a new entrance which has been built on Governor Macquarie Drive.

As part of the new work the ATC has worked with Liverpool City Council to construct new connections along Governor Macquarie Drive.

The early stages of works for the new Inglis complex have begun, which in future years will see Warwick Farm house one of the best bloodstock sales sites in the world.

As the building works at Warwick Farm become more invasive, decisions will be taken on its ability to host premium race days.

LIGHT RAIL & CAR PARKING AT ROYAL RANDWICK

Construction of the light rail system and stabling yard in and around Royal Randwick progresses, and we remain focussed on the long-term benefits this project will bring to our local community, and the ATC's race day and non race day business.

Some night time work has commenced along Wansey Rd and we continue to work with the NSW Government in minimising disruption to our business and stakeholders, including trainers and participants.

One of the added long-term benefits of light rail to ATC Members will be a new 600-space car park, to be built above the existing day stall area.

Full details will be provided to ATC Members when details are finalised.

Once complete, the car park will be connected to the Queen Elizabeth II Grandstand, providing fully covered and easy pedestrian access to the racecourse, without exposure to the elements.

The new race day stalls will provide increased amenity to horses, strappers and racegoers.

While construction will cause some disruption to operations, we ask Members to share our vision for the long-term benefits.



PHILLIP MORLEY JOINS THE ATC BOARD

The ATC Board was pleased to welcome long-time Member Phillip Morley as a Director to fill the casual vacancy left by the departure of Steve Grant.

The eleven eligible ATC Members who applied were all interviewed, and Phillip was chosen on a multi-criteria basis, including for his racing knowledge and experience, and his extensive business career.

Phillip has not only a great passion for racing, regularly being on track as an owner and punter, but has also built a highly successful business career, which will add great skills to the ATC Board.

He has been a Member of the ATC since 2011 (and a previous member of the STC), and will serve the balance of Mr Grant's term, which expires in February 2018.

Phillip has owned and raced thoroughbred horses for more than 20 years, and has served as a Director on the NSW Racehorse Owners Association committee.

He has extensive business experience, with senior executive positions in the food industry, including at Woolworths, Coles and Dairy Farm International, as well as serving on a number of grocery industry boards and committees.



WE THANK COL TUCK FOR 44 YEARS OF SERVICE TO SYDNEY RACING

One of the stalwarts of the Australian Turf Club, our General Manager of Racing and Wagering Colin Tuck, retires with our very best wishes after a distinguished 44-year career.

“Tucky” commenced at the AJC on 13 January 1972 as a 15 year old, working in several roles before being appointed as the Club's Judge in December 1980.

In November 1984, Col was appointed as Assistant Racing Manager before a further promotion to Racing Manager in December 1989.

Upon the merger in February 2011, Col was appointed General Manager of Racing & Wagering.

Col's knowledge of Sydney racing and our Club is second to none and we are indebted for his tireless service.

I am sure we will occasionally be calling on Col in his retirement to share some of that knowledge, and we look forward to seeing him at the track, relaxing, for many years.



JAMES ROSS SECURED TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN ATC RACING

We welcome a significant appointment to the Racing Office team, with James Ross joining the ATC as General Manager, Racing, Wagering and International.

James has more than 15 years experience in the Australian and international racing industries, and amongst his key responsibilities will be to help attract more overseas competitors to Sydney's Autumn and Spring Carnivals.

He will also work on strategies to grow wagering on Sydney racing all year round.

James joins us from the VRC, where he was most recently the Racing and Development Strategy Manager, following stints with the Hong Kong Jockey Club and the Australian Racing Board.

There have been several new appointments this year to the executive team. Keep up to date at <http://www.australianurfclub.com.au/team/>

RAY MURRIHY AWARDED LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF ATC ON HIS RETIREMENT

The Australian Turf Club and Sydney racing bid farewell to an ornament of our sport with the retirement of Chief Steward Ray Murrphy in June.

Ray has been the Chairman of Stewards in NSW for almost 25 years, during a stellar 46-year career that has seen him gain the widespread respect of all involved in racing, most notably the participants.

Integrity will forever be the cornerstone of horse racing and in Ray Murrphy we have been privileged to have such a leader in this area.

The ATC Board was delighted to be able to make Ray Murrphy a life Member of the Club following his retirement, in recognition of his distinguished service to racing.

We also welcome the appointment of Marc Van Gestel as the New Chairman of Stewards, and the ATC Executive and racing department look forward to continuing a strong working relationship with Mark and his panel.

KENSINGTON TRACK TO UNDERGO FULL REBUILD

The ATC Board has resolved to undertake a full rebuild of the Kensington track to ensure the surface can be used throughout the racing season, and to take some of the workload off our four tracks.

We are in the process of putting the track's reconstruction out to tender, and we are continuing to undertake soil testing to determine final specifications.

One of the main design principals of the new track will be an amplified drainage system, similar to that at Canterbury Park, which has stood the test of time over many years and is regularly praised for its ability to race during poor weather.

We will continue to work closely with Racing NSW to ensure the new Kensington track is built to the required standards for all new tracks in NSW.

Our aim will be to start laying the new turf toward the end of this year to take full advantage of favourable growing conditions through the Summer months.

It is hoped that we may be able to start racing on the new surface toward the end of 2017.



CANTERBURY PARK ORGANIC FOODIES MARKET OPENS TO RAVE REVIEWS

We were delighted to host the opening of the Canterbury Park Organic Foodies Market, behind the main grandstand on Sunday 26 June, which was attended by about 3000 people.

The markets will be held at the racecourse every Sunday, from 9am to 2pm, and we have reached an agreement with the organisers for an initial 12-month stint.

The markets feature a wide variety of fresh food, meat and fish stalls, along with a variety of goods and collectables for sale.

There are pony and car rides for the children, along with a jumping castle and other attractions.

We see the markets as an important part of our engagement with the Canterbury Park local community to use and share our facility beyond race days.

Canterbury Park has benefited from upgrades to many facilities, and we have extended our night racing season to nine meetings, starting later this year.

MOUNTED SECURITY TEAM ARE MODEL EMPLOYEES

Our Mounted Security team continues not only its important work in patrolling Royal Randwick and venues on race days and outside racing, but is also “earning their keep” by starring in photo shoots and TV episodes.

Parts of episodes for the upcoming series of Australia’s Next Top Model featured three of our horses, Jabba Star, Lachlan Place and new security horse Cabriole, greet guest star Elle McPherson.

Twelve models from the show were tutored and photographed with our ATC Mounted Security Horses as part of a “challenge” to be aired on the show.

Jabba Star has also been featured in newspaper and website articles in the past month.

The Mounted Security team is also looking at some new recruits which we hope to announce soon.

ATC’s FIRST WESTERN SYDNEY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

As part of our strong and ongoing commitment to community partnerships and creating shared value, the Club has awarded its first scholarship at Western Sydney University.

Kristel Senat, who lives at Yagoona with her family and is studying a Bachelor of Business, will receive \$7,500 per year for the duration of her degree.

Kristel, 18, met several criteria, including full-time enrolment in the Bachelor of Business or Bachelor of Tourism Management course, at Western Sydney University, and contributing to local community involvement and volunteering.

We look forward to awarding more scholarships with our university partner over coming years.

Congratulations to our Executive General Manager of Human Resources Jennifer Schembri and our Community Engagement Manager Amarjot Kaur who were on the selection panel.



ATC RAISES \$17,000 FOR CHARITY FROM SYDNEY AUTUMN CARNIVAL

Our Club was this year proud to establish an official charity partner, and we were able to present a first cheque to Dress For Success Sydney following the Sydney Autumn Carnival.

A total of \$12,637 was raised for Dress For Success Sydney through the sale of Longines Golden Slipper pins at our racecourses, as well as from an auction of the saddle cloths used for this year's Longines Golden Slipper.

Dress for Success Sydney helps women who experience varying degrees of poverty, hardship, abuse or disadvantage as they look for work.

The sale of the pins was the first initiative by the Australian Turf Club for its official charity partner for 2016, and ATC staff will continue to help with clothing drives and other volunteer work throughout the year, as well as more fundraising opportunities.

A further \$4353 was raised for the National Jockeys Trust as part of the proceeds from the saddlecloth auction.

ATC DIGITAL TEAM OFFERS MORE FOR MEMBERS AND PATRONS

A new social media tool was used for the first time across Sydney Autumn Carnival which allowed us to communicate with Members and patrons on a race day when they used our social handles, or #theraces.

More than 12,000 posts to customer accounts were recorded across the Sydney Autumn Carnival, where people shared their race day experiences.

When you share your day at the track with us by using #theraces it allows us to better understand what you most like about a race day.

In addition, the Clipp App has been a favourite of patrons, allowing a bar tab to be operated from your mobile phone.

Our website has continued to evolve based on feedback and user habits and we will continue to make adjustments and roll out some subtle changes to the home page before the Sydney Spring Carnival.

It was pleasing to see we were approached by other race clubs around the country who sought our advice on their digital direction.

We will also launch two new websites in coming months. Our Non Race Day Corporate Functions and Events Business will have a standalone website and we will be introducing a social and lifestyle website.