



Newsletter

[March 2010] [Issue: 140]

"Celebrate Success with the Baroness"

Threat To Canberra Racing

The Canberra racing industry has been negotiating with the ACT Government for some time to ensure that it receives a fair share of the income generated for the Government from betting turnover. The industry does not receive any grants from the Government but does rely, as all race clubs do, on a modest share of the betting turnover tax collected by the Government to support the prizemoney made available to we owners. The ACT Government is seeking to reduce this share with the result being either a reduction in prizemoney or the number of race meetings held in Canberra, as well as impacting around 400 jobs within the industry.

In 2002, Barbara was made an Honorary Ambassador for Canberra and it was in this capacity that she wrote the following letter to the Canberra Times, which was published on 24 February 2010.

"On 17 February 265 interested people attended a meeting at Thoroughbred Park to hear a report on the progress of the racing industry's negotiations with the ACT Government concerning the distribution of betting income received from ACTTAB and the new race fields' legislation. The ACT Government declined to have someone present at the meeting but the Shadow Minister for Gaming & Racing, Mr Brendan Smyth attended.

The report indicated that the ACT Government is unwilling to provide the racing industry with the income received from the race fields' legislation after 30 June 2010 resulting in a reduction in the long-term funding for the industry. Income from similar legislation enacted in other jurisdictions is being unanimously passed onto the racing industry as royalties payable on the racing product and recognition of the role that the industry plays in the economy.

The racing industry in Canberra is one of the few genuinely local industries and assists the Government in many secondary ways, e.g. tourism, accommodation and retail. If the Government will not provide the racing industry with its rightful share of the income generated for the district, it is likely that the livelihood of around 400 people will be directly affected and potentially many more as the flow-on effect cascades through subsidiary industries.

In my role as an Ambassador for Canberra, I urge the Minister for Tourism, Sport and Recreation, Mr Andrew Barr and the Chief Minister, Mr Jon Stanhope to sit down with the representatives of the racing industry and find a satisfactory resolution. This is your chance to ensure that this vital industry remains an important part of the Canberra culture and economy".

Since the public meeting, there has been increased media attention to the issue and we hope that all interested parties will continue to make the Government aware of the importance of racing to the Canberra district. Negotiations with the Minister's Office continue but no positive outcome has been achieved as yet. Through Joseph Racing, we will keep you informed of progress and how you can support the Committee of the Canberra Racing Club.

February Winners

After the great start to the year, February was a slower month but we still scored three winners and Paul Jones had his first Canberra winner. We continue to record a good number of minor placings, three 2nds and six 3rds, which with a touch of luck could have given us a bit more success.

Our winners were:

Al Ahmar scored his Maiden win at Bathurst when he finished over the top of the field to win narrowly. He is owned by a Shelly Hancox syndicate and Shelley also provided the 3rd place getter **Red Hot Lava**.

Utopia Miss won at Queanbeyan at her first start. It was in a 900 metre scamper, and she finished well to score impressively. She is raced by a number of 'old' Joseph owners and it is great that they have a horse with some promise.



*Utopia Miss wins at Queanbeyan
(Photo courtesy of Creative Digital Solutions)*

Turf Music provided the stable with a double when he won the Benchmark 65 Handicap over

1460 metres later in the day. It was his 4th win from 19 starts and continued his liking for Queanbeyan, where he has not been unplaced in four starts.

Paul Jones also trained his first Canberra winner when **Universal Boy** swept down the outside to beat a good field over 1200 metres in the Burley Griffith Sprint. **Universal Boy** is now exempt from the ballot in the Canberra Sprint over 1400 metres on Black Opal Day.



*Joseph Racing staff celebrate after
Universal Boy's win at Canberra*

NSW Racing Owners' Association (NSWROA)

NSWROA was established to ensure that owners have a voice in racing in NSW and to improve conditions and facilities for owners.

Four of our prominent Joseph Racing owners are on the Board:

Ray McDowell
John Vouris

(President)
(Treasurer)

Michael Inglis
Narelle Anderson

(Secretary)
(Director)

Special rates apply to country members and there is a significant discount for joint membership (spouse/partner). If you would like to become a member, or wish to know more, details can be found at <http://www.nswroa.com.au/>

Update on Judy Young

Judy is convalescing at home and is a little more comfortable being in her own environment. She is still not out of the woods and must return to hospital for some more tests in early March. The result of these tests will determine her future treatment. Our best wishes continue for Judy and Neville.