

Dear Member,

I'd like to take this opportunity to provide a quick update on the operations of the Darwin Turf Club.

### **Ted Bailey Grandstand Closure**

The Ted Bailey Grandstand works being conducted on its air conditioning unit plus new paintwork is progressing. We anticipate the Ted Bailey Grandstand to reopen on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> of June, certainly in time before the 2024 Great Northern Darwin Cup Carnival.

### **Stable St Development**

Our stable street project has now seen the demolition tender awarded. After further consultation with builders about the project, the timeline put forward unfortunately would have seen a significant impact and interruptions placed upon industry stakeholders, especially in their preparation for this year's Darwin Cup Carnival. With that in mind, the prudent decision was taken to delay proceedings until after this year's Carnival so that both demolition and construction can be completed before Christmas this year.

### **Special General Meeting**

I'd like to also thank all members who attended the Darwin Turf Club Special General Meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February. We were pleased to see 5 of the 6 amendments being passed on some changes to the constitution.

### **Darwin Cup Carnival 2024**

Our Darwin Cup Carnival tickets are on sale and have been in market to members since January. Ticket sales remain solid but please be reminded to secure your seats quickly for our race days and events with day one of the Darwin Cup Carnival kicking off on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> and culminating with the Great Northern Darwin Cup on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of August.

### **Member Code of Conduct and Dress Standards**

And with Carnival fast approaching a timely reminder to all members to adhere to our dress standards that can be found on our website <https://darwinturfclub.org.au/about/what-to-wear/> Our Member Code of Conduct is now on our website, and I encourage all members to read and understand the DTC's expectations on the standards of conduct of Members and their guests [https://darwinturfclub.org.au/member\\_code\\_of\\_conduct/](https://darwinturfclub.org.au/member_code_of_conduct/)

### **Race Horse numbers**

Despite having had one less race meet this quarter, when compared to last year, horse numbers are positive. Pleasing to see starters per race increase 5% from 7.47 to 7.85 horses per race when compared to 2023. With many "out-of-town" at the moment, attending the Alice Springs Cup Carnival, our occupancy is set to rise, with a number of Interstate Trainers already expressing interest on their trek north for the 2024 Darwin Cup Carnival.

### **Track Maintenance**

The DTC will again undertake our bi-annual upgrade to the track surface in April. The EPA as well as Trainers have been informed of our planned application of 20,000 litres of waste oil to take place straight after our Anzac Day races on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> of April. Oil will be applied at 7am followed by the grading of the track continuing through the weekend. The intention is to reopen the track by Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May.

**AGM (Monday 13 May) and Nominations for Board Vacancies**

All Members are urged to attend the Darwin Turf Club AGM on Monday, 13 May at 6pm, Level 1 of the Public Grandstand. The Board and club management will report on last year's trading position, and present audited accounts for Silks and the Darwin Turf Club Inc. This is your opportunity to be appraised of the Club's financial position and to ask questions about performance and direction. The Annual report will be made available a week before the AGM. Advertisements will soon be placed seeking nominations for vacant Board positions. Members with relevant skill sets and an interest in contributing to the future of their Club are urged to nominate. More details on the number of Board vacancies and the nomination and election processes will be provided in the coming weeks.

**Vale John Russell**

And I'd like to acknowledge the very sad passing of John Russell. John was not only Victoria's number-one race caller for many years, but he was undoubtedly a true ambassador for Darwin and in particular the Darwin Cup Carnival. He was the pioneer of starting tours from Melbourne to the Cup dating back to his first tour in 1974 and continued this until more recent years with his Phar Lap travel agency run in conjunction with his daughter Sue. An honorary member for life and a regular visitor to the top end, John will be sadly missed and we pass on our condolences to family and friends on the loss of a true racing legend.

In closing, I'd like to wish all of our members a happy and safe easter break and I look forward to seeing you trackside very soon.

Craig Trezise

DTC Chairperson