



## KING ISLAND RACING CLUB INC.

P.O. Box 257, Currie, King Island TAS 7256

Website: [www.kiracing.com.au](http://www.kiracing.com.au)

Email: [kingislandracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:kingislandracingclub@gmail.com)

### President

Audrey Hamer

Mob: 0429 621 575

Email: [audreyhamer.62@gmail.com](mailto:audreyhamer.62@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Heather Archer

Mob: 0429 611 105

Email: [hgarcher@skymesh.com.au](mailto:hgarcher@skymesh.com.au)

### **Australia Day / Vortex Fly-In Day President's Speech**

Hello and welcome to our Mayor David Munday, Australia Day Ambassador Brian Ritchie, acting CEO of Tas Racing Alicia Fuller and to our King Island Community and visitors who have come along to support the presentation for the Recipients of the Australia Day Awards at our last race meeting for the 2018/19 season Vortex Fly-In Day.

On behalf of myself and our Racing Club committee we are overwhelmed and grateful to our King Island Community for voting for us to receive the Community Event of the Year Award for 2019. About 4 months ago I emailed Emma Little at the Council to ask if the Australia Day event could be held at our last race meeting as it fell on Australia Day no point in having 2 events on the same day, little did I know that we were going to receive this award so it's very fitting that the event is being held here today.

King Island Racing Club has been going since 1892 so 127 years of racing seasons right here, there has been a few upgrades since then, we probably have 1 of the best natural settings in Australia with the view of the whole race track from the hill. We are also very unique as we have both gallops and pacing on the same grass track on the same day, doesn't happen anywhere else in Australia.

Talking of upgrades a few years ago it was a safety requirement to replace the inside running rail to a new plastic break away system, the club purchased few hundred metres but not financial enough for the whole 1600mtrs so we did some fund raising via Facebook which totalled \$9,000 and applied for a government grant and received \$43,000.00 Steve Helbig KI Concrete also donated all the sand and gravel for the job and it was all replaced by our volunteers over the winter months the year before last.

After that I requested several times from the Minister for Racing which at the time was Jeremy Rockliff for more funding to upgrade some of our buildings, well when the whole Liberal Party attended our last meeting last season, they announced they were granting us \$110,000.00 I was so overwhelmed I could hardly speak. After lots of paperwork, we finally received the funds into our bank account on the 24th September 2018. So, persistence paid off in the end.

Upgrades to the MF Best stand have started this week with a ceiling being installed, it looks fantastic and sounds much quieter up there now, next is the upgrade to the video and race callers' box which will start soon, we will also be improving some of the other buildings as well, we will make sure we spend every cent as we don't want to hand any funds left over back to the government.

There are still some families racing here today that have continued on from their ancestors, there are still stories being passed on and photos to look back on, so we can only hope that the future generations will continue to support this unique racing club for the love of the sport and for the benefit of the King Island Community our economy and our tourists. The amount of horses being raced in a season fluctuates due to our population and the number of trainers, riders, drivers, stable hands and general horsey people living here which is quite low at the moment and it takes a lot of time, effort



# KING ISLAND RACING CLUB INC.

P.O. Box 257, Currie, King Island TAS 7256

Website: [www.kiracing.com.au](http://www.kiracing.com.au)

Email: [kingislandracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:kingislandracingclub@gmail.com)

## President

Audrey Hamer

Mob: 0429 621 575

Email: [audreyhamer.62@gmail.com](mailto:audreyhamer.62@gmail.com)

## Secretary/Treasurer

Heather Archer

Mob: 0429 611 105

Email: [hgarcher@skymesh.com.au](mailto:hgarcher@skymesh.com.au)

and money to get horses fit for racing and it's always been the King Island way that everyone prepares the horses for the season for the love of the sport. It's a bonus if we get a win or 2 for the season but if not we all still enjoy being part of this club, it's very rewarding to see a great crowd and to hear the roar of people cheering their horses home to be first past the post and celebrate we do, and if we don't win today there's always the next meeting. You must be in it to win it as they say.

Hopefully with the new Abattoir going ahead and the Scheelite Mine opening again will help increase our population and economy which may boost our horsey population, we need our racing club to continue as it brings so much into our local economy financially, just to mention a few things like the horse feed, horse gear, veterinary costs which we hope not to have, fuel for travelling to and fro from the stables and training of horses behind vehicles, lots of beverages for the thirsty volunteers, lots of nights dining out at our local venues, extra people flying over especially like some of our corporate sponsors, lots of celebrities the past few years just general visitors who have heard about us via Facebook, our Website and word of mouth, all our jockeys and other officials flying in for the day 1 plane from Victoria and 1 from Tassie for 7 meetings a season over our summer months all this boosts our economy way more than people realize.

There are so many people to thank that are involved in running our racing club, I will mention a few of the most involved for the running of each meeting some are paid and some volunteer, but there are so many that volunteer their time on the day and throughout the season who are very important too but way too many to mention so I will try my best.

- Thank you to all the past committees and to the present committee who are myself and I'm proud to be the first lady President for this club so far, Barry Taylor Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer Heather Archer, Public Officer Peter Chivers, Corylan Hill, Chris Conn, Shane Graves, Jim Taylor, Cody Whiteman, Beau Mullin, Graeme Keeley, Debbie Monson, Tammy Muir, Paula Mallinson. Track Committee Debbie Monson, Graeme Keely, Shane Graves, Rod McGarvie and Warren Fisher.
- Thank you to Tas Racing as we are under their Rules of Racing and they are our backbone financially with this season being \$87,000 towards our stakes and running costs.
- King Island Council for allowing us to lease the complex.

We average 45-50 sponsors/trophies donors a season which totals roughly \$75,000 without this we could not distribute the prize money trophies and rugs as we do, thank you to all our long-standing sponsors for your continued generosity and to all our new sponsors of late for your support and wanting to see this club flourish.

We average up to 150 financial members a year which is only \$40 per season but all adds up, thank you for your continued support. We have 15 life members now.

The most important people are the dedicated volunteers' trainers, track riders, drivers, stable hands, and all the owners of our beautiful horses, who get up at stupid o'clock to train etc., so they are



# KING ISLAND RACING CLUB INC.

P.O. Box 257, Currie, King Island TAS 7256

Website: [www.kiracing.com.au](http://www.kiracing.com.au)

Email: [kingislandracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:kingislandracingclub@gmail.com)

## President

Audrey Hamer

Mob: 0429 621 575

Email: [audreyhamer.62@gmail.com](mailto:audreyhamer.62@gmail.com)

## Secretary/Treasurer

Heather Archer

Mob: 0429 611 105

Email: [hgarcher@skymesh.com.au](mailto:hgarcher@skymesh.com.au)

finished in time to start their paid jobs or for those that are retired go back and have a nanna nap. The average age of most of us is well over 50, we need younger ones to step up and learn the ropes.

- Thank you to the jockeys that have been flying in from Victoria partly sponsored by King Island Airlines for the day for as long as we can remember and now we also have for the past 3 years a plane flying in from Launceston with Vortex Airlines at Tas Racing Cost to bring in Jockeys, Stewards, Race Caller, Howie our Bookie, a TOTE operator, drivers/barrier attendants for our 7 meetings a season. The meeting could not run with our these very important people.
- Thanks to the drivers of the airport transfers Corylan Hill, Val Chivers, Sue Taylor, Wayne & myself.
- Thank you to Jan & Robyn Van Rusywik who do such a professional job week in week out videoing each race and the presentations, Robyn runs a DVD down to our committee room soon after each race to Liz Clemons our Hostess with Mostess for the winners and connections to watch the replay while enjoying a champagne etc, and some nibbles. Thanks also to Trish McKenzie and my sister Heidi Weitjens for helping out in Liz's absence.
- Luke Humphries and Matt Robertson this year's race callers, Peter Gilligan past years
- Bert Crack our official photo finish judge, Shane Grave race day secretary along with Heather Archer.
- Official time keeper Renee Vellekoop & Alan Aylett.
- Corylan Hill Record keeper.
- Chris Conn Sponsor co-ordinator and printing of race book.
- Chelsea Neely on course photographer.
- Jessica Cardoso updates our web site.
- Warren Fisher and Boyd Hoare Official Race starters and barriers boys along with Pete McLean, Barry Taylor, Beau Mullin, DJ, Tim Kilgour, Adrian Collins, Tim Yole, Ray Lee tractor driver and mobile start Driver and many more barriers boys over the past years, Clerk of Course riders Jemma Summers, David Price, Sarah Hiscock.
- Local Stewards Jamie Clemons, Chris Barnett, Justin Hamer & Robbie Payne.
- Our videos girls and boys on the towers.
- Kelly Lancaster & Erica Buhck clerk of scales.
- Ambulance Volunteers.
- Local Doctor on course.
- John Cleeland our on-course vet.
- Jim Taylor on course farrier.
- Rod & Val Mcgarvie lending their tractor each week and mowing the track.
- Ray & Corylan Hill lending their 4-wheeler motor bike each week.
- Patto our barman he's almost part of the bar in the MF Best Stand, Sally Cooper and Christine Robertson bar maids in the Col Cotter Bar.
- Trish Doherty with her Devonshire Teas and goodies in the MF Best Stand.
- Cody & Alicia and staff catering in the bottom canteen.



## KING ISLAND RACING CLUB INC.

P.O. Box 257, Currie, King Island TAS 7256

Website: [www.kiracing.com.au](http://www.kiracing.com.au)

Email: [kingislandracingclub@gmail.com](mailto:kingislandracingclub@gmail.com)

### President

Audrey Hamer

Mob: 0429 621 575

Email: [audreyhamer.62@gmail.com](mailto:audreyhamer.62@gmail.com)

### Secretary/Treasurer

Heather Archer

Mob: 0429 611 105

Email: [hgarcher@skymesh.com.au](mailto:hgarcher@skymesh.com.au)

- Shannon Cooper for organising our Eat Your Beef Day and exposing our club to top Chefs and new sponsors.
- Sue & Robbie Lee organising and cleaning the MF Best Stand each week. Sue also looks after all our merchandise and has put an album together of photos from the past please have a look.
- Local TOTE operators Jarrad & Lee.
- Sno & Les Running free bus service.
- Myself as MC for the presentations but today we have Rob Gaylard who just loves coming to our unique country racing club for the day.
- Thank you to all our die-hard patrons that turn up each week.

So, it takes a lot of people time and money to put all this together, and I just must mention a few more very dedicated people who help keep our track in such great condition and the complex looking so neat and tidy.

- Shane Graves Warren Fisher for the past several years watering the track with our sprinklers and general maintenance with the help of Danny Hamer this season, setting up and packing up for each meeting.
- Jamie Clemons has been volunteering the past few months out here whipper snipping and mowing the whole complex it would be the best trimmed racing complex in Australia.
- Last of all I would like to thank my husband Wayne for all his support and help with maintenance etc.

Like I said I am very proud to be President of the very unique racing club and look forward to seeing it continue and grow with the continued help and support of our dedicated committee, members and volunteers for the enjoyment and benefit of our wonderful King Island Community and our visitors.

It's because of all these wonderful people that we have won this year's award, it makes all our hard work and dedication just that bit more special as it shows how much people appreciate our unique racing club.

Yours Sincerely,

Audrey Hamer

President

King Island Racing Club