

ABC AMATEUR RACE
CLUB

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Got an artistic side? **SCULPTURE COMP**
- Station tours
- Facebook
- Sponsorship opportunities
- Be part of the 100th, volunteers wanted
- Book your tickets now!

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Around the Flats

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 2009

Calling all artists! SCULPTURE COMP!

What better way to commemorate 100 years of out-back racing than by erecting a sculpture made from station scrap!

Are you handy with a welder? Have artistic flare, or just a creative side? Here is an opportunity for you to create a sculpture that will be displayed for everyone to appreciate.

The ABC Amateur Race Club is holding a Scrap Heap Sculpture Competition. The winning sculpture will be erected to commemorate the Club's 100 years of racing.

The creator of the winning sculpture will be awarded \$1000!

The sculpture must be a minimum of 1.6m and a maximum of 2.6m in height, and should depict the heritage of bush horse

racing on the Barkly.

Download the flier with all the Terms & Conditions from the website and get welding!

The winning sculpture will be erected on a podium with a commemorative plaque at the ABC Amateur Race Club. Non winning sculptures will be displayed in a purpose built area on the grounds.

This is a great opportunity to

leave your mark for generations to come to enjoy. Imagine your grand children or great grand children visiting the site for the 200th anniversary (!) and being able to see something that you built, enduring the test of time.

This project is proudly supported by Barkly Arts,.

See the website www.abcraces.com.au for details, or contact Linda on 08 8972 1770.



Circle B (proud sponsor) enjoying a busy day of trade at the 2009 Races

BRUNETTE DOWNS TOURS

Would you like the chance to tour your old stomping ground?

Guided tours of the Brunette Downs Station complex will be offered on the Thursday, Friday and Sunday of the event between 10am and 12pm.

This is a great opportunity for past employees and others with

past association with the station to see what has changed and what hasn't.

Those interested should gather at the station, following the signs to the parking zone. A guide will welcome you and take you on a walking tour of the complex.

Out of respect for those currently working and living at the station, and due to safety issues, management request that visitors refrain from coming at other times and self guiding.

Further details will be available from the Information station.

Book material deadline approaching! 28 Feb 2010

Reflections of Races Past!

Check out this photo of the Bar area, circa 1962! How far we have come. From a bough



shed with no refrigeration to a corrugated iron shed, with a cement floor and a cool room.

Thanks to Bob Freer for sending this photo in. Bob says of the bar "Rum or warm beer available. Bore

water available for mixing with rum for the faint-hearted! The combination of hot rum and hot sun for ringers off dry stations was not always a pretty sight." Oh the luxuries we enjoy today!

Remember we are still seeking contributions of photos for the book, so if you have any send them through to 100thcoordinator@abcraces.com.au or phone Linda on 08 8972 1770

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Great Sponsorship Opportunities available!

Are you interested in being a sponsor of the 2010 ABC Races? Time is running out to commit to being a Sponsor for this year's ABC Race Club events.

We encourage prospective Sponsors to confirm your position nice and early to maximize the ability of the Club to promote your business as a supporter and spon-

sor of the 2010 ABC Amateur Race Meet.

The ABC Amateur Race Club would like to thank our ongoing supporters over the years; your support has enabled us to reach a magnificent milestone in 2010 – the 100th Anniversary of the ABC Amateur Race Club.

2010 marks this anniversary, we believe we are the Territory's longest standing bush racing meeting and we would

like to invite you to not only help celebrate this momentous occasion, but to become a sponsor of this important milestone. To discuss sponsorship options, email spon-



Suzie Kearins riding a winner at the 2007 ABC Races



"Australian Stockmans Hall of Fame - Proud sponsor of the 2010 Bronco Branding Competition"

Competitors of all sizes have a run at Brunette!



In moving with the times and embracing new technology,

We're on FACEBOOK!

the ABC Amateur Race Club is on FACEBOOK! Why not join up too!

Simply go into FACEBOOK "Search" and type in "Brunette Downs Races 2010 Reunion".

There are currently 299 members with more people joining up all the time.

You can share old photos, catch up with old friends, plan your big trip to the 2010 ABC Amateur Race Meet, and be the first to hear the latest information about the big event.

Big thanks to Tracey Goble for her dedication in coordinating the FACEBOOK page.

Bits & Spurs



Bernadette Burke (Brunette Downs) and Felicity Fulcher (Walhollow) enjoy the racing.

Tickets for 2010

On Sale Now! **SELLING FAST!**
Go to www.abcraces.com.au to download a Order Form. Pre-booking is really appreciated by

the Committee due to the isolated location of the event. A 4 day pass is \$55 and includes access to all events (excluding the Presentation Dinner), free camping and access to the Club facilities and ablutions. Day passes are also available.

Tent City - Book early

Tent City are taking bookings for the accommodation tents available at the 100th celebrations. These are already proving very popular, so get in early to make sure you don't miss out.

These tents sleep two and are the

height of camping luxury! They come complete with 2 x single stretchers, carpet and lighting. Simply BYO linen and chairs.

5 night tent package deal—\$500 or \$120/tent/night. Two night minimum applies to bookings for Saturday night.

www.tentcityhire.com.au or phone 07 5482 6788.

Volunteers needed

The 100th is going to be huge, so if you would like to help with marshalling, penciling, manning the information station, etc. please let us know.

“Accommodation package deal— Five nights (for two) in the Tent City for \$500! Have you booked yet?”

FEEDING UP

At this years races the traditional Ladies “bring a plate” Luncheon will be replaced with a catered luncheon served in the marquee.

Ladies are asked to bring along any stallions on the course that maybe roaming around loose to join them for a cold buffet lunch and glass of bubbly.

To assist with catering purposes we would appreciate numbers being booked on line or at the information counter at the race-track by 6.00p.m. Friday.

Cost of the luncheon will be advertised closer to the date.

On Saturday night a dinner will be held to celebrate the milestone this unique race club has made in reaching its 100 years. Presentations to the major winners of the event will be held in the marquee, commencing with drinks at 7.00p.m. Guest speakers will entertain the crowd with stories of race meetings from the days past, and a guest artist will

perform during the dinner.

To assist with catering purposes we would appreciate numbers being booked on line for this dinner.

As anyone who has ever been to the ABC races before will appreciate the forward planning that has to go into feeding crowds at this venue, it will be very helpful to the planning committee if we can get some approximate numbers for the luncheon and dinner.

FACILITIES

While time and technology have moved along, something's are still much the same as always!

The hall at the ABC Amateur Race Club is still corrugated iron, the floor of the members area is still rocky enough to challenge the unwary high heel wearer!

Power is still provided to the Club facilities by generator (although

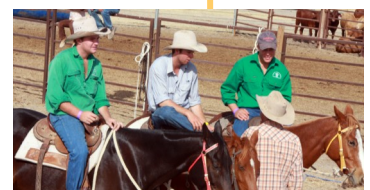
these days it is 240v not 32v!), and unpowered camp sites abound. This year there will be a limited number of powered sites available for campers, it will be strictly first in, first served.

There is bore water available for showers and such, but it is recommended patrons bring potable water to meet their own drinking & cooking requirements. Bringing

a personal generator is also recommended.

The grounds have showers and toilets, but due to the crowd expected, additional abluion blocks will be brought in just for 2010.

Fuel is only available at the Barkly Homestead (130km) or Cape Crawford (260km), so please come prepared.



Charlie Graham, Max Vowell and Will Luff (all Brunette Downs) wait for their runs.



ABC Amateur Race Club

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100 years on and still going strong!

The ABC Amateur Race Club was formed in 1910 by three cattle stations located on the Barkly Tableland, Northern Territory. Alexandria, Brunette Downs and Creswell Downs each lent the Club the first letter of their name, and so the "ABC Amateur Race Club" was born. Alexandria and Brunette Downs still operate as stations in their own right, while Creswell Downs is now part of Walhollow.

The Club now hosts two events a year at their grounds which are located on Brunette Downs. In June each year the four day race meet known as the "Brunette Races" is held. Two days of bush racing are interspersed with campdraft, bronco branding, rodeo and gymkhana. In September a three day campdraft including rodeo and gymkhana. Check the website for details.



Can you help us?

The Club is putting together a book to commemorate and record the history and events of the past 100 years.

Can you help? Do you have old photos, diary entries, memories from family and friends? All contributions are welcome. Electronic submissions are preferred (so as not to endanger precious memories!).

The book will be structured into Chapters relating to blocks of 10 years—so 1910 to 1919, the 1920's, 1930's etc. Each Chapter will begin with the history of the Club itself in that era, but the focus of the book is on the people—the Club is nothing without the people who have contributed, competed and attended over the years.

So we hope to feature photos from each era with the story behind the photo - so maybe a photo of a

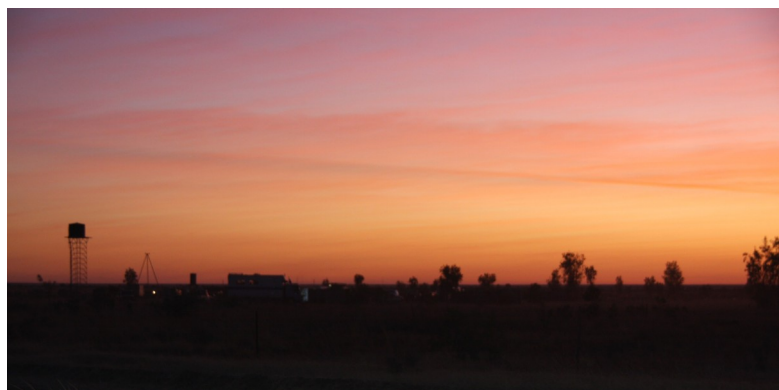
young man riding a bull in the 1970 might have the story of who he was/is, where he was working, what brought him to the Barkly, did he stay on in the area, where is he now etc.

Each person's story is different, and this is a great opportunity to share

your story, your parents story, your grandparents story. We want to hear them all.

So if you would like to contribute to the book, please email your contributions to

100thcoordinator@abcraces.com.au or phone 08 8972 1770 to discuss.



Another day ends at the ABC Amateur Race track.