

At The Secretary's Desk



CAPALABA

Capalaba is back from its recess but the weather Gods have not been kind. We are racing and trialing but at the time of writing we have not had a drop of rain at Capalaba in three weeks.

Our resident expert in grass growing who is greenkeeper at the local bowls club ensures us we only need a days soaking rain and the track will be back to better than it was before. However, in the meantime we are progressing slowly with the aid of manual watering. Go to our website and you can view pictures of the progress of the track in the past few weeks. A new fence has been erected at Capalaba on the outside rail of the track. This provides some separation between the straight track and the public walking path that runs adjacent the track. Once again this was possible through the generous support of some local identities who gave up their free time and worked in the appalling conditions we have been experiencing lately.

This would not have been possible without the financial support of Reg Kay and the expertise of Toddy Johnson. The volunteers affectionately known as the "usual suspects" included Peter Buxton, Wayne Gordon, Bernie Culey, Brian Bretherton, Noel Thompson, Mick Welch and John Kennedy.

We have another big year planned for Capalaba with plenty of good programs to meet the needs of all trainers and all quality of greyhound. Keep an eye on the programs

in The Journal and on our website.

For those interested in results, our website is usually updated by about 6pm every Saturday night with comprehensive results which include Finishlynx photos, prices margins, times and wind factor. If you haven't access to the Internet then results can be heard on the office recording after 6pm.

Just ring the club on 33902772. Some events planned in the near future include the Capalaba Young Guns \$2500 to winner of the final in January/February. The Reg Crawford 3rd-4th Grade will follow this with \$1000 to the winner of the final. A special day on April 25 will sponsored by a group of local trainers dubbed the Dogs Lovers and this will see a race worth approximately \$5000 as well as a couple of \$500 maidens. The final of the Young Guns will be conducted on February 8 and will coincide with the Lightning at Flemington. The same meeting was a big success last year. There will be six races which will be made up according to nominations but will include the Young Guns Final.

Prizemoney for the other races will be \$400 to winner, \$100 for second and \$50 for third. There will be the usual attractions with free rides and face painting.

The club will be running a "win your weight in Gold Stubbies" to coincide with the final of the Reg Crawford 3rd-4th Grade final.

The radio show on Bay FM 100.3 is back after a break and will go to air every Saturday morning that Capalaba race at approximately 10.30.

MACKAY

It has been a good start to the New Year, with committee members full of enthusiasm, raising money for the club and working hard on track improvements. It is good to see the younger generation becoming more involved with the running of the club. Trials have improved in numbers over the last couple of months. During the months of December and January the committee decided to give the trainers/owners an extra bonus of \$100.

A race is randomly selected on race night and the trainer/owner of the winning dog receives \$100 cash. This has been well received by trainers/owners. The club is to try a one off Friday night meeting on February 13 to see if it will make any difference to public attendance and hopefully introduce more people to greyhound racing.

Due to the showgrounds being used as a venue for the rugby league match between the Toyota Cowboys and Newcastle Knights on February 28, the club will have a couple of weeks break.

Racing will cease after our February 13 meeting and resume on March 9.

During this time the club will reconstruct their kennels in the kennel block. Eight race blocks will be converted to bottom kennels only. This has been

brought about by the demand
for bottom kennels.

The Scott family have shown
confidence in the future of the
Mackay Club, having bought a
number of acres in Sarina.

They are putting in kennel
blocks, straight track and
circle track.

The club finished off 2003 with
a 10-race program including
the Christmas Cup which was
won by the Wayne Scott
trained Cool Down.

The New Year started with
seven race program on January
5, where the New Year Stake
was won by Queen Bev owned
and trained by Brian Goodman
of Mt Morgan who also picked
up the bonus \$100.

The New Year Sprint was won
by Mr Caramalo trained by
Kevin Wisener of
Bouldercombe and owned by
Sonia Wisener.

It is very pleasing to see the
support the club is getting from
the visiting owners and trainers
from Mt Morgan,
Rockhampton and Bundaberg.