

# ATBC Newsletter

November 2010



This publication is the official Newsletter of the

## Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Club Limited

The Club, which currently has over 200 members, was formed to assist thoroughbred breeders through the presentation of talks, seminars, stud visits and social activities as well as providing incentive schemes and a Stallion Tender Scheme. New members are always welcome and the membership can be arranged by contacting the Club Secretary. Annual membership fees are \$ 50 for a single member or \$ 70 for a joint membership, which includes families, partnerships or corporate bodies

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# ATBC

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**Production Deadline:** Please note that advertisements and articles must be received by the third Tuesday of Each month to guarantee their appearance in that month's Newsletter



## **New Members**

We welcome Claire Stone of Vineyard.

## **Future Events**

### **Racing at Hawkesbury**

Hawkesbury Race Club have three meetings during December; Thursday 2nd, Sunday 12th and Sunday 19th. Members attending should remember that they are always welcome in the Clubhouse for a bit of peace and quite and a cuppa (or perhaps something stronger following a win).

### **Thank God its Friday Night Racing**

We have secured 20 free entrance and members tickets for the meeting at Canterbury Park on 4th February from 7.00 pm onwards. This provides an excellent opportunity for Members to get together after the summer holidays. Anyone interested should contact Dianne Lanham on (02) 4579 6451 in time for her to mail them out to you.

### **Darley Training Complex**

I noticed that there were a number of ads for track riders and stablehands etc. for the new Darley Training Complex at the old Osborne Park at Agnes Banks. We would like to arrange a tour of this exciting addition early in the new year. More in the next edition.

Any other ideas for Club functions would be welcomed by the Committee. What would **you** like the Club to organise for you.

## **Peter Milling & Company Dubbo Yearling Sales**

Just a reminder that entries close on 15th December for the 2011 Dubbo Annual Yearling Sale at the Dubbo Showground on 13th February.

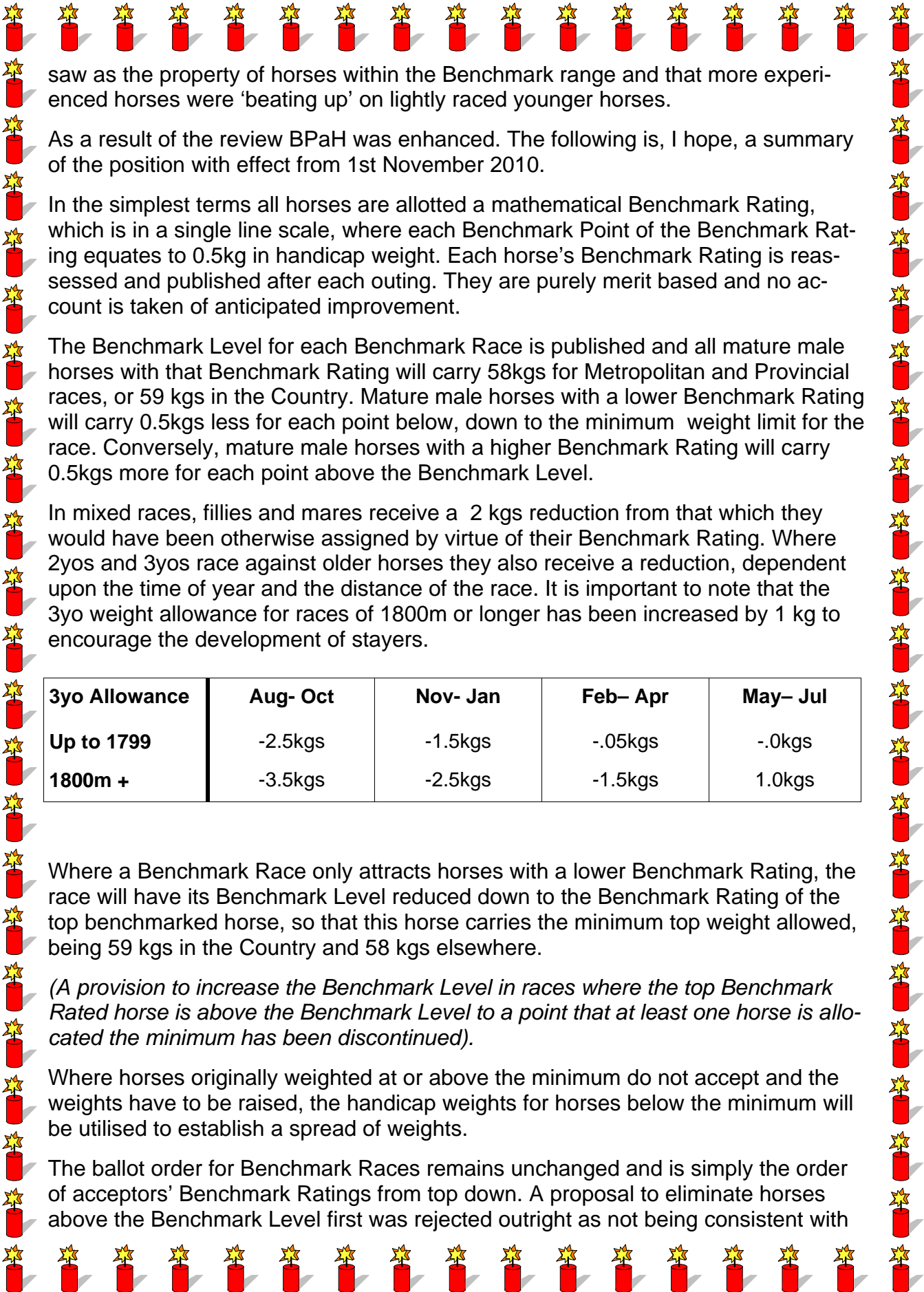
## **Benchmarking Changes**

Racing NSW Benchmark Programming and Handicapping (BPaH) was introduced in October 2009 to provide a system 'that is transparent, fair and consistent, whilst at the same time making racing competitive'.

Following a six month review and wide industry consultation Racing NSW Board released a '**Benchmark programming and Merit based handicapping review**'. The document is on the internet and is well worth a read. It contains detailed analysis of the effects of BPaH on the industry and sets out the various concerns and proposals for improvement that were put forward by the various concerned parties.

In general Metropolitan trainers were more satisfied than their country cousins. The two most common complaints from the country was that horses were getting balanced out a lot more with horses above the Benchmark winning races that some





saw as the property of horses within the Benchmark range and that more experienced horses were 'beating up' on lightly raced younger horses.

As a result of the review BPaH was enhanced. The following is, I hope, a summary of the position with effect from 1st November 2010.

In the simplest terms all horses are allotted a mathematical Benchmark Rating, which is in a single line scale, where each Benchmark Point of the Benchmark Rating equates to 0.5kg in handicap weight. Each horse's Benchmark Rating is reassessed and published after each outing. They are purely merit based and no account is taken of anticipated improvement.

The Benchmark Level for each Benchmark Race is published and all mature male horses with that Benchmark Rating will carry 58kgs for Metropolitan and Provincial races, or 59 kgs in the Country. Mature male horses with a lower Benchmark Rating will carry 0.5kgs less for each point below, down to the minimum weight limit for the race. Conversely, mature male horses with a higher Benchmark Rating will carry 0.5kgs more for each point above the Benchmark Level.

In mixed races, fillies and mares receive a 2 kgs reduction from that which they would have been otherwise assigned by virtue of their Benchmark Rating. Where 2yos and 3yos race against older horses they also receive a reduction, dependent upon the time of year and the distance of the race. It is important to note that the 3yo weight allowance for races of 1800m or longer has been increased by 1 kg to encourage the development of stayers.

3yo Allowance	Aug- Oct	Nov- Jan	Feb- Apr	May- Jul
Up to 1799	-2.5kgs	-1.5kgs	-.05kgs	-.0kgs
1800m +	-3.5kgs	-2.5kgs	-1.5kgs	1.0kgs

Where a Benchmark Race only attracts horses with a lower Benchmark Rating, the race will have its Benchmark Level reduced down to the Benchmark Rating of the top benchmarked horse, so that this horse carries the minimum top weight allowed, being 59 kgs in the Country and 58 kgs elsewhere.

*(A provision to increase the Benchmark Level in races where the top Benchmark Rated horse is above the Benchmark Level to a point that at least one horse is allocated the minimum has been discontinued).*

Where horses originally weighted at or above the minimum do not accept and the weights have to be raised, the handicap weights for horses below the minimum will be utilised to establish a spread of weights.

The ballot order for Benchmark Races remains unchanged and is simply the order of acceptors' Benchmark Ratings from top down. A proposal to eliminate horses above the Benchmark Level first was rejected outright as not being consistent with

the general policy aims of BPaH. However, there was merit seen in tightening balloting exemptions in Country and Provincial NSW to better promote the highest quality field and remove the capacity to exploit exemptions to ensure race starts (*it had been reported that in regional areas some trainers in order to secure a start in a targeted race, nominate for a similar race in the knowledge it is likely to be balloted out and receive an exemption for the targeted race*). So, while the status quo remains, the whole wider issue of balloting is being further considered in consultation between Racing NSW, NSWTA and RICG. So it's a case of watch this space.

Some basic principles apply to the new BPaH system.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, movement in Benchmark Ratings will be capped to an increase of 6 points (3kgs) or a drop of 4 points (2kgs).

Benchmark Ratings for maiden horses are now only issued after 10 starts (was 3), unless it is nominated for a Benchmark race.

For a trial period of 6 months from 1st November 2010, the handicapping panel will apply a discretionary allowance of 0-3kgs for Country performed horses nominated in the Metropolitan area.

Programming of Country races shall include Class 1, Class 2 **and Class 3** races. As a guide the minimum Benchmark for country TAB races will be 50, with lower Benchmarked horses being able to be placed in Class races. Also Country Benchmark races may be split by number of wins when appropriate to enable programming flexibility.

So we will see whether this improves the situation in the country. Views of members as to how the new regime is playing out would be welcomed.

### **The Melbourne Cup Calcutta**

Once again the Melbourne Cup Calcutta resulted in a decent turn out. It was again held on Sunday afternoon and it would be appreciated if members would indicate if they believe this to be better than the more traditional Monday evening time slot.

The committee's rationale was that Sunday afternoon was a time when many of our members were free of the daily grind associated with their four-legged charges and that it allowed people outside the Hawkesbury area to travel to participate, if they so chose.

Again we must thank the Hawkesbury Race Club for allowing the use of their splendid facilities. Also, as with every year, we note that the event would not be possible without the input of Chris Lawlor and Wayne Boyd. Also this year, Brian Bresnahan enlisted the help of his wife Flo to record, collect and distribute the money raised. It all went like clockwork.

All present had a pleasant afternoon and some a rewarding Tuesday afternoon too.

And the winners were:

Winner, Americanin:

- (a) Brian Bresnahan \$ 280
- (b) Elizabeth Morrison \$ 280
- (c) Sandy Batchelor \$ 280

Second, Maluckyday:

- (a) Ann Lanham \$ 95
- (b) Irene Tuckfield \$ 95
- (c) Robyn Holloman \$ 95

Third, So You Think:

- (a) Penny Gray \$ 50
- (b) Ron Harvey \$ 50
- (c) Tiffany Lawler \$ 50



Brian shows surprise that everything balances, while Flo knew that it always would.



Role reversal. Chris spruiks while Wayne studies the form.

### Macknuckle Again

Member bred **Macknuckle** became the first horse since 1963 to win back to back Canberra Cups. The Sydney morning Herald recorded:

'Macknucle's gutsy win sparked wild celebrations among connections, with part-owners Jan James and Lyn Barlow bursting into song moments after claiming their second Canberra Cup.

Barlow said winning her home-town cup was impossible to describe. "He's our baby," she said. "It'd be like your own child winning the 100 meters at the Olym-

pics.”

Should Macknucle’s dam and our 2008/2009 Broodmare of the Year winner, **Knucklemania** succeed this year we will expect a chorus or two as the AGM.

## Nursery News



We haven’t been bowled over with entries of little darlings, but here’s one from-  
**Dianne Lanham:**

She is by **Bel Danoro** from **Sunflowers** and is seen at 4 weeks old.

If you have anymore photos of your little darlings, please send them to me, preferable via email, but hard copy is fine too. I shall return any snaps sent in.

## Dates for ASB returns

I have been asked to reproduce a little note of important dates for returns to the Stud Book, as apparently they are sometimes (especially the Not Served Mare Return) missed, incurring significant penalties. Also a reminder that when the returns are done on line there is a discount available

What	When
Mare owners are required to obtain a <b>Contract Breeder Number (CBN)</b>	Once you have bought a mare, or bred a foal
An annual <b>Mare Return</b> , lodged by the breeder, advising of the birth of a foal, or whether the mare has no live foal	Within 30 days of the birth of a live foal, or within 12 months of the last service where there is no live foal
<b>Not Served Mare Return</b> , if the mare has been to stud in previous seasons, but has not been served in the current season	By 15th March of the season the mare was not covered
<b>Brand</b> registered with ASB?	The Club has a registered brand which is available for use by members. Otherwise contact the ASB who will issue a <b>Brand Index Card (BIC)</b>
<b>Freeze Branding</b>	Must be in sufficient time for the brands to be discernable by 31st March in the first year of life. Must be clearly visible as permanent white hair markings <b>before</b> horses are micro chipped and DNA sampled
<b>Foal Identification Kit</b>	ASB send out a testing kit, allowing a two month period for the test to be carried out. An authorised ASB vet should visit during this two month period to implant the microchip, take the DNA sample and verify the brand (the vet will need your <b>BIC</b> ).
<b>Foal Identification Card (FIC)</b>	Is issued by ASB when parentage is verified. Check the details and advise the ASB within 30 days of any discrepancies. The FIC must remain with the person in possession of the horse and must be relinquished to the Registrar of Racehorses at the time of submitting an application for naming.

### Horse Paintings to Order

Treat your owners, friends or trainer - or even yourself - to an original painting of their pride and joy!

Sizes vary:	16 x 20 inches	\$225
	18 x 23.5 inches	\$295
	29.5 x 39 inches	\$495

All I need is a good photograph, with the racing colours detail clearly visible. Allow approximately 21 days for delivery. Prices do not include P&H

Email me for a chat! [flair3@bigpond.com](mailto:flair3@bigpond.com)

tel: 08 9592 7599 or 0407 964 661

Website to visit and peruse paintings: <http://horseart4sale.webs.com>

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