

BALLARAT

150



AUSTRALIA'S FIRST TROTTING CLUB

Celebrating 150 Years Of Trotting in Ballarat

Thomas Hiscock, an English blacksmith, was the man credited with finding the first traces of gold in the Ballarat (or Balla-arat) region in a gully near the Buninyong (or Bonan Yowing) cemetery.

A fortnight later Gold was discovered at Poverty Point (later renamed Golden Point) in 1851 by John Dunlop and James Regan who found a few ounces while panning in the Canadian Creek.

Those discoveries set in motion of chain of events that transformed a tranquil region into an outlandish thriving metropolis in just one decade – in 1852 there was a sea of humanity searching for gold, so many in fact that Ballarat was proclaimed a town that year, a municipality in 1855, a borough by 1863 and a city on 9th September 1870.

In 1853 a Cornishman named Thomas Bath was granted the first publican's licence in Ballarat after he built the first public house in Ballarat, Bath's Hotel, with timber and iron hauled along appalling roads from Geelong. After gaining the licence he duly added a second storey of stone and timber from nearby Mt Buninyong.

While the prospect of making one's fortune in the goldfields had put Ballarat on the world's radar, events of 1854 did so again for far different reasons as the famous Eureka rebellion sent shockwaves through the community and the government.

A census of Ballarat and the surrounding districts in 1854 revealed that a fascinating international community of 16,684 persons – Victoria born (1,316), other Australian colonies (723), British colonies (incl. NZ) and East Indies (347), England (7,157), Wales (329), Scotland (2,790), Ireland (2,310), France (107), Germany (360), other European countries (257), USA (342), other parts of America (9), China (340), other (297).

The sheer drudgery of gold prospecting required an outlet – “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” – sparking many sporting and music alternatives to indulge in with the Queen's Theatre, Adelphi Theatre and Theatre Royal all popular venues.

Horse racing under the auspices of the Ballarat and Creswick Turf Club (changed to Ballarat Turf Club in 1858) commenced in Dowling Forest on 8th November 1854 and the following year Cobb and Co, the legendary transport specialists established in Australia by four young American bucks, known as “the boys” (Cobb, Peck, Swanton, Lambert), set up a booking office at Bath's Hotel.

The arrival of Cobb and Co. coupled with the dramatic upgrading of major roads from Melbourne and Geelong provided a further population stimulus of both humans and horses.

When the first electric telegraph from Melbourne to Ballarat was established in 1856, businesses of all descriptions sprang up all over the newly laid out Ballarat township knowing that they could instantly communicate their trade with the outside world.

In was in this year that the first recorded “trotting match” took place in Ballarat as part of the Ballarat and Creswick Race meeting on December 16, a contest between a trotter called Blueskin (owned by Mr Cohen) and another trotter known as Mrs McNab (owned by Mr Hayne).

The race was reported in the local press and picked up by the national publication “Bell's Life in Sydney and Sporting Reviewer” thus – “the trotting match then took place between Mr Cohen's b g Blueskin, and Mr Hayne's b m Mrs McNab for six miles. Mr Cohen backed his horse for £120 against Mr Hayne's mare, who backed Mrs Macnab for £100. Blueskin was ridden by

Mr Kettle, and Mrs McNab by Mr Taylor. The horses trotted four times round the course. On passing the grand stand the first time, Blueskin was fourteen lengths ahead, but on coming round the second time. Mrs Macnab had nearly collared Blueskin. On passing the grand stand the third time, Blueskin was twenty lengths ahead, and it was evident Mrs McNab had no chance, and on going round the course for the last time, Mrs Mncnab was distanced. The match, which was for six miles, occupied 23 minutes 11 seconds.”

The performance of Blueskin caught the eye of John Murray Peck, one of the Yankee co-founders of Cobb and Co, and Peck purchased and took Blueskin to Melbourne to compete in, and win at, the 1860 American Trotting Races at Melbourne (Flemington) racecourse, the first ever trotting meeting held in the metropolitan area in Australia's history.

In 1857 Walter Craig bought Bath's Hotel and although he wanted it to be known as the Ballarat Hotel people kept referring to it as Bath's Hotel before if eventually became known as Craig's Royal Hotel, a name that it retains today.

Another trotting match over six miles under saddle took place in Ballarat on 21st May 1857 when R.B. Dent's bg Tommy defeated Mr Herring's grg Daisy in 24 minutes and 23 seconds.

Further matches, both impromptu and as part of race programs continued to be held in the ensuing years but it was another meeting at Dowling Forest on 14th April 1859 that the first official trotting race was conducted for 30 sovereigns plus a sweepstake comprising 2 sovereigns per starter.

Just three trotters lined up – Mr English's brga Tommy (12 stone), Mr Mount's blkga Jonathan Wild (10 stone) and Mr. F Wilson's rnga Little Clipper (9 stone 7 lbs) – and the Ballarat Star reported that “As almost everyone expected Tommy, though last at the start, soon took up the lead and never lost it, winning with much apparent ease.”

Later that year in December another trot, restricted to horses owned by Ballarat residents, found its way on the last day programme of the four day Ballarat Turf Club carnival. The event was for 20 sovereigns, plus a sweepstake of 2 sovereigns per starter, and was taken out in easy style by Mr Ettershank's Darkie who defeated five rivals.

The American Trotting Races at Flemington in 1860 created an immense amount of interest in trotting and residents from the Ballarat and Creswick area were among the main players with Robert Orr winning the Saddle Trot with Mazeppa and Mr Manley's Cranky Poll winning a heat of Hack Trot against Blueskin.

Another trotter that gained fame in Ballarat was Whisker who was owned by trotting enthusiast Mr Warren and was successful at Dowling Forest on 21st June 1860 in a one lap dash.

GREAT HUNDRED MILES TROTTING MATCH

Many a challenge has eventuated from discussions in a pub about the respective abilities of people's horses and one example arose out of a discussion between a Mr Warren (owner of Whisker) and a Mr. Proctor (owner of Archy). The upshot of their discussions was the famous “Great Hundred Miles Trotting Match”, the longest trotting race in Australian history.

Mr Proctor having stated two or three remarkable feats of speed and endurance on the part of Archy, and Whisker's owner, knowing his pace, and trusting in his bottom, believing that he could eclipse a performance that he fancied a rather boasted one.

The match created massive interest and just three weeks elapsed from the time the match was made until the actual match, the terms of which were £150 a side, to trot hundred miles, owners up, Archy having to carry 11st. 7lb. and Whisker 11st., but both independent of saddles. Mr Warren, moreover, gave £15 for the choice of road, which was fixed from the 46th mile-stone on the Ararat road, to the Western Hotel, Geelong, and Monday February 11th 1861 was nominated for the toilsome journey.

The papers of the day reported that “Whisker being in good stable-fed condition, and already proved one of the fastest steppers in Victoria, he



became the favourite at once at about 5 to 3; though a few confident parties invested money, at evens on the stranger, believing in the tried lasting qualities of horse and man. Mr Warren, not professing to be much of an equestrian, and being unused to long hours in the pigskin, went into active training, and felt both able and willing on the morning of the race.

Mr. Proctor, on the contrary, who is a thorough bushman, never troubled himself to make preparation for his own part of the work, and, if report be correct, his gamesome gelding was equally uncared for.”

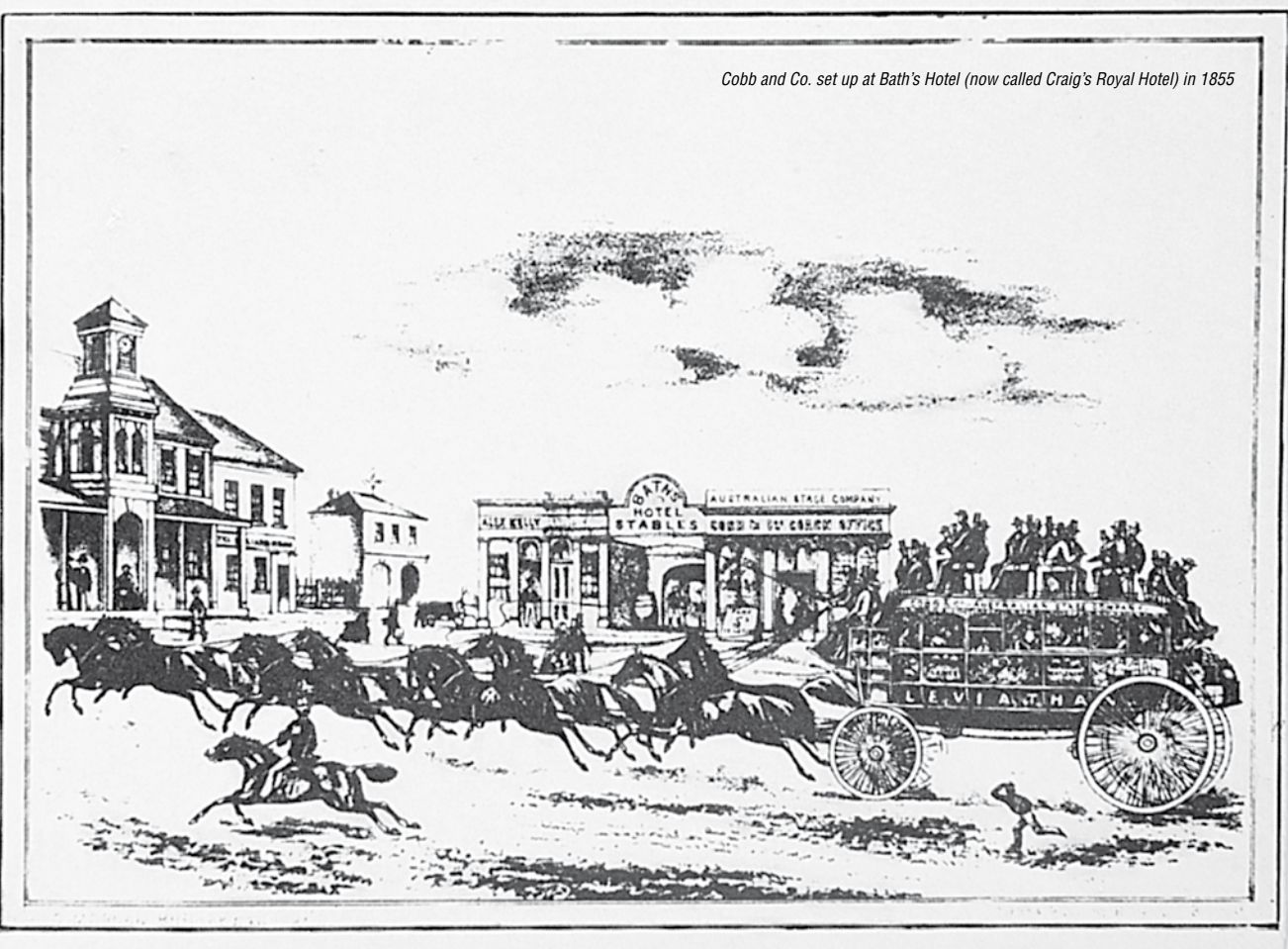
Four o'clock in the morning was the time proposed for the start, but some delay took place in consequence of an uncertainty as to McDonald's Inn being exactly 46 miles from Ballaarat, and it was therefore agreed to go a mile above it for the scratch. At length, all preliminaries having been settled, the umpire mounted, and the attendant crowd of horsemen and of Jehns having been warned to keep behind (rather unnecessary as the pace soon proved), the word was given to “go!” at exactly ten minutes to six.

Instantly the pair dashed off at a speed such as might have been expected for a ten miles match, but that seemed madness at the commencement of ten times that distance. Whisker went ahead, being the freer at getting away, but Mr Proctor crammed old Archy, and stuck close to the leader, in spite of all attempts to outpace him, and to the surprise of those who thought so little of him as a fast trotter.

Mile after mile, and half-hour after half-hour were passed over, and still, though the road was a mere crab-holy track, the “steam” was kept up, until, wonderful to record, the 34th mile-stone was reached in a bare two hours! Whisker led through Fiery Creek, Archy being close, and also into Burrumbeet, where a short spell was taken, and oatmeal and water administered. Archy was first to get away, but Whisker was only a few seconds after him, and passed him before reaching Blind Creek. On this part of the road, which is very bad, Mr Warren had the misfortune to find his horse go lame behind, and Mr Proctor thereby obtained, such an advantage that he not only left Blind Creek first, but reached Ballaarat seven minutes in advance. Forty-six miles being then completed in 3 hours and 10 minutes and Whisker rested up in Bath's stables and received all the attention that could be bestowed upon him while Proctor's horse was messed in McPhee's stables at Specimen Hill Hotel.

An exact half-an-hour later was here given his nag by each owner, for the purpose of feeding and dressing down, Archy thereby going away for the “biggest half” of the journey with a seven minutes start.

From this period of the match Mr. Proctor saw nothing more of his opponent, though rumoured to be close at Meredith, and he kept moving along at an average pace of about twelve miles an hour (stopping every seven or eight miles for ale, cold gruel or water, as he fancied best), until he reached Batesford Hill.





At this time, as the accompanying umpire informed us, Archy was still going freely, with his tail well out, head level and scarce a sweat mark upon shoulder or flank.

Batesford Hill, however, was too much for him to face, for not only is it very steep and very long, but covered with new metal, and a low going stepper as he is, and naturally leg weary, could not possibly trot up it. From this point, which is about six miles from Geelong, only an occasional shuffle and jog could be raised; and, from Bell Post Hill a dragging walk, at scarce two miles an hour, brought the victory to his weary goal. The time of arrival was twenty-six minutes after three o'clock, the 100 miles, including considerably more than an hour for stoppages, and another hour for the last six miles, being completed in the surprising time of 9 hours 36 minutes.

On reaching the Western Hotel (now known as the Bayview Hotel) in Mercer Street, where he was escorted by scores of horsemen and vehicles, but afforded only a faint cheer of welcome was as most were supporters of Whisker.

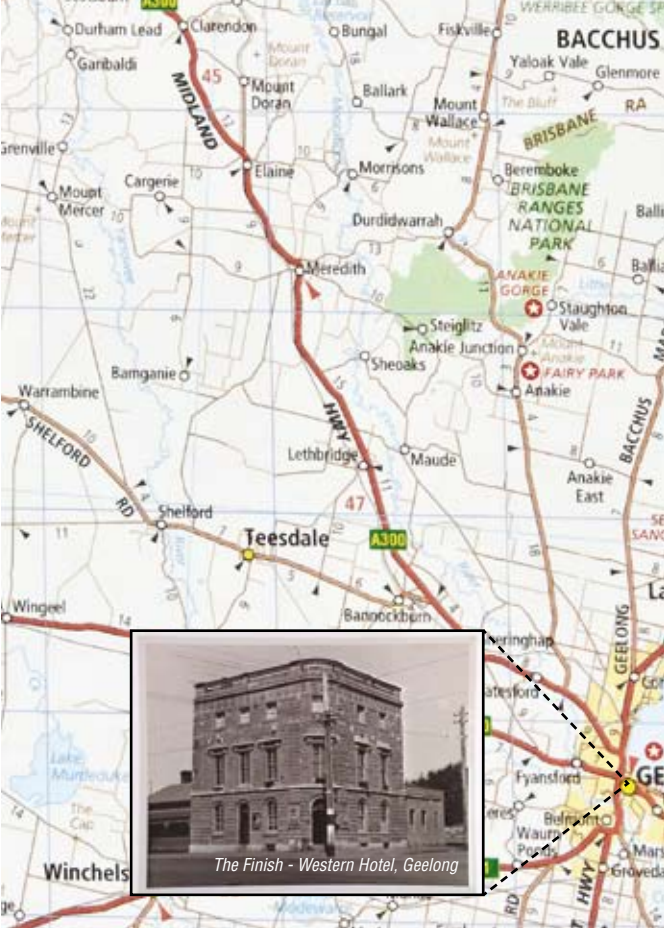
Mr Proctor was scaled at the store opposite the hotel, and it was found that, although he had started 2lb overweight, he had lost so much through exhaustion, that the steaming saddle-cloth was necessary to make up the stipulated 11st 7lb. We may mention, also, that his saddle was 17lb, and his bridge nearly 2lb, so that Archy carried very little short of 13 stone.

The winner is a dappled dark cream gelding, with black mane and tail, standing about 16 hands high, partially blind of the off eye, and showing a great deal of Arab blood. His is long, low, well ribbed, and would be rather handsome in condition, except for a coarse though lean head. He is the "same age as other peoples' horses, and nothing is known of his pedigree or history, though rumour has it that he was bred on Mr Norman Simson's station. Mr Proctor bought him cheap, eighteen months ago, out of a carrier's team, and he was ridden by his wife until his wither was so bad that fistula threatened.

Since then he has made several remarkable, and in our opinion unreasonable, journeys with him. For instance, twice he has driven him, in a spring cart, from Melbourne to Pleasant Creek, one hundred and ten miles in a day and a half; once he rode him from Yandoit to Melbourne, about seventy-four miles, in eight hours; and only three days before making the late match, he drove him a cart, containing two persons and a quantity of baggage, eighty-nine miles between sunrise and dark."

Another remarkable feature of the 100 mile trotting race was that progress reports of the event were reported via telegraph to Ballarat and Geelong, with the Portland Guardian reporting that the telegraph lines were "fairly buzzing".

With this sort of information available, a phenomenon now promoted by modern day betting agencies – "betting in the run" – was born, and there



was some tightening in the odds of Whisker when it was reported that he was gaining on Archy approaching Meredith.

The 100 mile contest received nationwide coverage and after a most successful second American Trotting Races, held on a day that was a public half day holiday in April 1861, there was a concerted push to form a trotting Club in Ballarat with an official meeting of interested persons held at Bath's Hotel on Friday 9th August 1861.

Mr Holgate was in the chair and among the gentlemen present were Messrs Hathorn, Foley, Bowes, Baker, Jones, Craig, Holgate, Anthony (Creswick), Orr (Creswick), Knowles (Creswick), Grimmatt, and Morgan.

Mr Foley was appointed as secretary just for the meeting and Walter Craig moved, and Mr Bowes seconded, "That it is desirable to establish a Club for the encouragement of the breed of Australian horses, and that the gentlemen present enrol themselves as members of a club, for this purpose, to be called the Ballarat Trotting Club." This was carried.

After much argument the annual subscription was set at two pounds and after further consideration the name of the new Club was altered to the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club.

Such was the interest and collective enthusiasm by the fourteen men in attendance for the concept of a Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club that on the evening of August 27 1861, the first officials were elected and the first Rules and Constitution drafted.

Mr Holgate was in the chair at that historic meeting that was attended by 14 foundation members that included the likes of Walter Craig (owner of Craig's Royal Hotel), Mr. Warren, the famous trotting owner Robert Orr, Alexander Kelly, D. Jones, Mr E.J. Brayton, J. Quiney (proprietor of the Racecourse Hotel) and Mr. George Hathorn.

Four men put their names forward for secretary and quaintly they had to nominate the annual salary they wished to received, the four applicants being George Russell (£50 per annum), W.T. Hall (£75 per annum), James Gaunt (£60 per annum) and D Robertson (£52 per annum). A ballot for secretary was held between the 14 foundation members with James Gaunt getting nine votes, D Robertson four votes and W.T. Hall one vote.

Persons that were nominated and accepted that evening as new members of the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club included W. Harrison (Yandoit), J. Patterson (Melbourne), Alfred Watson (Melbourne), Mr Addison (Melbourne), Mr Cumberland (Melbourne), Chas Scarrat (Melbourne), Jno Wagner (Melbourne), Mr. Clellan (Melbourne), C. Young (Melbourne), Mr Sampson (Melbourne), S. Davis, J. Tait, Mr Hopkins, Mr McKay, Alex Smith, S. Mack, J Boyd (Whim Holes), Mr. Hay, G. Wilson, G. Pegler, Mr King, L.G. Hardy, Archibald Fiskien (later to become Managing Director of the Australasian Mortgage Agency), G.E. Barton, R. Tunbridge, S. Cohen, R.B. Gibbs, P. Wayne, C. Forster, B. Birch, J. Howell, W. Potter, Mr Nott, Mr Scrase, Mr Brunig and B. Hepburn.

The final matter of business was a programme of events for the inaugural meeting and a sub-committee comprising Messrs Holgate, Orr, Warren, Hathorn and Bowes was charged with the responsibility of preparing the programme (see reproduction).

A further meeting in early October approved the programme, congratulated Mr Marsh on donating a handsome Cup worth £25 for the main race and approved some new members in Charles Goyder, Mr. D Symons and Mr Kirk (Smeaton).

The week prior to the October 25 meeting Alexander Kelly advertised an auction for the various racetrack operations – the admission gates, the upper portion of the grand stand, the saddling paddock gate, grand stand refreshments and a fruiterer and confectioner's stand.

On the evening prior to raceday a further meeting of the Trotting Club took place at Bath's Hotel to receive a financial report and to accept new members.

With Walter Craig in the chair, others in attendance were Messrs Warren, Wiggins, Smith, Sweeney, Holgate, Bowes, Jones, Foley, Kelly, Fiskien, Mallach, Kirk, Dake, Scrase, Nott, and Brunig.

The Secretary (Mr E T Foley) read a letter enclosing a donation of £2 from the proprietor of the Star and a vote of thanks passed to the donor on the motion of Mr Foley, seconded by Mr Jones.

Following that a further nomination and admission of new members took place with Messrs D. Smith, Leonard, Wm. Boss, Wildey, Stephenson, Evans, Bull, Southward, Wiggins, H. Smith, O'Farrell, Denham, Triffitt, Williamson, Kelt, Forbes, and Dr Hillas added to the burgeoning Club membership.

When quizzed about the financial standing of the Club, the Chairman Walter Craig stated that total membership receipts came to £244; the proceeds of the sale of the grand stand, gates etc had realised £50 and nomination fees amounted to £67 10s, which made in all, £361 10s. The total expenditure was £360. This left a balance of £1 10s to the credit of the club, at which several members expressed themselves well pleased.

The inaugural meeting proved a success on 25th October 1861 and the region was thereafter abuzz about future trotting meetings in the region and

BALLARAT AND CRESWICK TROTTERING CLUB RACES.
WILL BE HELD ON
FRIDAY, 25TH OCTOBER, 1861,
ON THE BALLARAT RACE COURSE.

STEWARDS:
W. Craig, Esq. A. J. Faris, Esq.
A. Fiskien, jun., Esq. B. Hepburn, Esq.
J. W. R. Pringle, Esq.

JUDGE: R. Walsh, Esq.
STARTER: H. C. Mount, Esq.

CLERK OF THE COURSE:
Mr J. Quiney.

FRIDAY, 25th OCTOBER,
To Start at Half-past Twelve o'Clock.
THE MAIDEN SADDLE TROT, of 3 sovs each,
with 25 sovs added. Once round; heats;
B. and C. Trotting Club weights. For all
horses that never won public money.
THE GRAND HARNESS TROT, of 100 sovs.
Entry 7 sovs; six miles.
THE HANDICAP SADDLE TROT, of 75 sovs.
Entry 5 sovs; four miles.
THE HARNESS TROT, of 50 sovs. Entry
3 sovs; once round; heats; the winner of
the Grand Harness Trot excluded.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:
No entry will be received for any of the
races except upon this condition, --That all
disputes, claims, and objections arising out
of the racing shall be decided by the
Stewards, or a majority of them, whose de-
cision on all points connected with the
carrying out of the above programme shall
be final.
No person will be allowed to enter or run
a horse unless the latter be qualified as the
bona fide property of a subscriber of 3 sovs
to the race fund. or of a member of the
B. & C. Trotting Club who shall subscribe
1 sov.
All entries to be sealed and addressed to
the Stewards, subscription and entrance
money enclosed with the name, age, and
pedigree (if known) of the horse, name of
the owner, and colors of the riders or
drivers.
No jockey allowed to ride or drive except
in the colors entered.
Entrances must be made at Bath's Hotel
on Tuesday, 15th October, before eight p.m.
Mares and Geldings allowed 3 lbs.
The new rules of the B. and C. Trotting
Club strictly adhered to.
J. R. GAUNT, Secretary

BALLARAT STAR

BALLARAT AND CRESWICK TROTTING CLUB - FIRST MEETING (25/10/1861)

Some six months ago a Club was started in this town under the above appellation. A committee was formed, stewards appointed, judges selected and a gentleman well up in sporting matters chosen for the post of secretary.

The rules were drawn up, revised, and finally adopted, and the annual subscription fixed at a moderate sum, that enabled any person that possessed a spark of sportsmanship in his constitution to join the club.

A club launched under such favourable circumstances could not fail to prove a great success, and as may be imagined, subscriptions poured in from several quarters.

A programme of sports was drawn up, and Friday last was fixed upon as the day when the events on the card should come off, on the course of the Ballarat Turf Club, in Dowling Forest.

Four races were advertised, for which 17 horses were entered, and on the morning of the races only one of the number was scratched; so that sixteen "good 'uns" put in an appearance.

The day was gloriously fine – in fact, real sporting weather – and soon after 10 o'clock Buninyong cars, four-horse coaches, and vehicles of every description pured their living freights into the racecourse from town and country.

Melbourne sent its contingent of "knowing ones" just to see what they could do in the way of "edging" in a trifle on the favourites at advantageous terms.

Creswick was largely represented by the admirers of Mazeppa, who not only carried off her colours unsullied, but added one more laurel to her victories, and won the race for 100 sovereigns.

Great was the jubilation of the Creswickites over the event, like the cacininations of a pullet over her first nest egg; and great was Orr, the owner of the mare with the masculine nomenclature.

There were no less than 2,000 persons on the ground, and both the members' stand and the grand stand were crowded with an aristocratic detachment of both sexes, who had every opportunity of viewing the sports and being viewed themselves.

The time of the six mile race was 18 minutes, 13 seconds, the shortest, we believe, of any race of the same distance (six miles) that has been run in the colony.

While one of the races were being run, a "young limb of the law", mounted on a prancing steed, was ambling his horse in front of the grand stand, for the delectation no doubt of the ladies, when his equestrian performances were suddenly brought to a termination by the rudeness of Mr. Quiney, the clerk of the course, who did not appear to appreciate the young gentleman's daring feats, and inexorably hauled him before the stewards who imposed a penalty of 1 on the offender, which he immediately paid.

A second offender who persisted in riding outside one of the trotting horses with a sinister motive, subsequently explained, to the stewards was mulcted in a like penalty with a notification that a second offence would be visited with a forfeiture of 5.

Of the races we may that they afforded infinite satisfaction, and the arrangements were excellent. The course was in good condition, and not a single accident of any moment occurred during the proceedings.

There were the usual number of gambling tables – "three sticks a bob", roulette, wheels of fortune, or misfortune to many, and itinerant examples of "genus homo" shouting with stentorian lungs "k'rect cards of the races, Sir, only a shilling."

The first event was won by Mr Kirk's Tommy, beating four others, the second by Mr. Orr's Mazeppa, the third by Mr. Bowe's Little John, and the last by Mr. Warren's Whisker, who ran second in the 100 sovs to Mazeppa.

The stewards were Messrs W. Craig, A.J. Faris, A. Fiskén, B. Hepburn and J.W.R. Pringle. Judge – Mr R. Walsh. Starter – Mr H Mount. Cleark of the course – Mr Quiney.

Mr Gaunt, as secretary was most assiduous in the performance of his duties of his office. The trotting was on the old race course, with the exception of the finish.

At two o'clock a rush was made for the refreshment booth and luncheon room, and in the latter place we must say that the arrangements were singularly bad. There were neither plates, knives, or forks, further than a few dozen of each, and the small quantity of provisions, which were the reverse of excellent, speedily disappeared.

In one part of the building might be seen a gentleman holding Her Majesty's commission of the peace cutting some bread and meat with his penknife; the boniface of one of the principal hotels in Creswick eat his salad out of a drinking glass, and hundreds could not procure anything beyond some radishes and cress to appease their appetites, and as may be imagined the utmost indignation was manifested at such shabby catering.

Shortly after one o'clock, the bell rang for the first event.

THE MAIDEN SADDLE TROT, of 3 sovs each, with 25 sovs added. Once round; heats; Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club weights. For all horses that have never won public money.

Mr W Kirk's bl TOMMY, aged, 10st 6lb, (McNiminy).....	3	1	1
Mr Carpenter's SPANKER, 6yrs, 11st (Wilkins).....	1	3	2
Mr Mack's FLORA, aged, 11st (Owner).....	0	0	
Mr D. Jones grm JESSIE, 10st 9lb (J. Smith).....	0	0	
Mr. W Warren's grg HAPPY JACK, aged, 10st 12lb (Trainor)..	2	2	

Mr Orr's Sir William Don was scratched for this race at half past ten o'clock in the morning.

FIRST HEAT – Happy Jack was the favourite, and was backed against the field, 10 to 3 agst Flora. The flag being lowered, Flora went off with the lead, with Spanker close at her heels, and the others well together. Flora kept her lead for some time, but was collared by Happy Jack, at the top of the hill, who went ahead, and kept first place until within a short distance of the judge's stand, when Spanker, who had passed Flora, came upon with a rush, and was close upon Jack when the rider of the latter pulled his horse across him amid loud cries of "Foul" etc. Happy Jack stopped suddenly, and stood as it were electrified, when Spanker in a few strides came in first; Jack, second. A protest was entered by the rider of Spanker against the rider of Spanker for "a cross" and the rider of the latter entered a protest against the former for dismounting to being weighed without being desired. The stewards retired to their sanctum to consider the matter, and ultimately both protests were withdrawn.

SECOND HEAT – Tommy now went away with the lead, which he kept for some time, Tommy second. Coming down the hill Happy Jack showed to advantage, passed Flora, collared Tommy, and headed him for some time. A nice race home ensued between both horses, occasionally changing positions. Tommy, however, put on a spurt when within a few yards of the winning post and won by about half a neck, caused principally by Jack throwing up his head, Spanker being third.

THIRD HEAT – Spanker and Tommy had this heat to themselves; the latter being the favourite. At the start Tommy took the lead and maintained it until half way home, when Spanker made his final effort, and just caught the favourite, but his sand had run out, and Tommy came in the winner by about 50 yards.

THE GRAND HARNESS TROT of 100 sovs; entry 7 sovs; distance 6 miles.

Mr. R Orr's chm MAZEPPA, aged (Owner)	1
Mr W Warren's WHISKER, ages (Owner).....	2
Mr. D Jones' m DINAH, aged (Owner).....	3
Mr. R Richard's g GIRAFFE, aged (Owner).....	0

Mazeppa was the favourite for this event, and was freely backed against the field, 5 to 4 against Whisker and Dinah, and 5 to 1 against Giraffe. After a capital start Mazeppa took the lead, and cut out the running, with Whisker second, Dinah third, and Giraffe behind. Up the slope, Mazeppa gained considerably, and down the hill added still further to the distance between himself and Whisker the second horse, Dinah still third, and Giraffe about a quarter of a mile behind. In this order they passed the judge's stand, and the second round did not alter the position of either of the horses with the exception of poor Giraffe, who seemed altogether at sea. Dinah now put on steam, made an effort to collar Whisker, but failed. The latter gained a little on Mazeppa; and Dinah, having broken, lost some ground getting into a trot again. Mazeppa still led, going it gallantly, with Warren neatly piloting Whisker, and urging him on, but he was unable to catch the mare, who came in the winner by about ten lengths amidst a salvo of applause from the Creswickers, Whisker being second, Dinah third, and Giraffe fully a mile and a quarter behind, dead lame. The owner, of the latter, we hear, would have scratched the animal only for a bet made against the horse that did not run which he wished to secure. Time 18 minutes, 13 seconds.

A PRIVATE RACE of 10 sovs at Catch Weight was then held between Mr O'Donnell's Minette and Mr Wright's Northumberland which was won cleverly by the former, although the mare bolted off the course and afforded the horse a good start of 300 yards before she could be brought on the course again.

THE HANDICAP SADDLE TROT of 75 sovs; entry 5 sovs; distance 4 miles.

Mr Bowes' LITTLE JOHN, aged, 10st 4lb (J Smith)...	1
Mr.J. Quiney's DINAH, aged, 10st (Lewis).....	2

Mazeppa was scratched for this, and the next engagement, but not until the very last moment. Little John was the favourite. At the lowering of the flag, John went away with the lead, which he kept round the hill, but on coming

past the stand he fell back, and the mare took first place. At the top of the hill John proved himself game, shot ahead of Dinah, and considering increased the distance between himself and his opponent coming down the slope. Dinah, however, was not to be easily conquered, and, putting on the steam, closed upon the pony, but unable to collar him. On going past the stand the second time John again showed to advantage, neatly ridden by Joe Smith, shot away from the mare, and came in an easy winner by about eight lengths. Time: 11 minutes 3 secs.

THE HARNESS TROT of 50 sovs; entry 3 sovs; once round; heats

Mr W Warren's WHISKER, aged (Owner).....	1
Mr.Bowes' LITTLE JOHN, aged (Owner).....	2
Mr W Kirk's TOMMY, aged (McNiminy).....	0

Little John was backed against the field at 20 to 10 taken. The Melbourne contingent invested heavily on him. The horse effected a capital start, when, after a few yards, Warren, who was on the extreme right, took Whisker to the front, and selected his own ground, and evidently was bent on winning. He kept the lead, closely followed by Tommy, with the little favourite last. Whisker continued to leave his competitors behind, and increased the gap between himself and them. On the rising ground at the top of the course, Tommy well behind, and Little John took second place. Whisker came down the slope, his colours in front, was never caught, and won easily, distancing the other two horses, who were thrown out of the next heat, Little John being second. Time: 5 minutes, 12 seconds. Whisker had a walkover for the next heat.

This concluded the day's programme, and a general rush was made for cars and vehicles of all descriptions. We should have mentioned that Mr. Sub-Inspector Downing and a body of horse police were on the ground during the day, but in no instance did we see their services brought into requisition. Thus ended the first day's sport of the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club. **HRI**



Famous Ballarat sportsman Robert Orr



Dowling Forest racecourse

the prospects of local horses at the upcoming 1862 American Trotting Races in March.

Just prior to that, however, the thirst for sporting entertainment by the community, and in particular the miners working in the Great Extended, Albion, Koh-I-Noor and Cosmopolitan mines, created a race meeting on property between the mine pits on 28th February 1862.

Known as the Albion and Great Extended Races the ground selected – later dubbed the Miners’ Common - was admirably adapted for the sport and was a convenient distance from the town for either pedestrians, equestrians, or the lovers’ of a cheap ride on a Buninyong car. A few pounds sterling were sufficient to place it in good running order, by the removal of some stumps and the fencing in the straight running and the erection of a stand were only of secondary consideration, and were completed without any difficulty whatever.

There was one event for trotters on the programme – heats, best two out of three - and Ballarat Star reported that “a tolerably large amount of money was dropped on this event” which was won by Mr Rankin’s Tommy (250 yds) from Mr W. Warren’s brga Whisker (scr) and Mr G. Hathorn’s brg5 Rocket (125 yds). Whisker won the first heat and Tommy won the second and third heats.

On March 12th at Flemington, the third annual American Trotting Races were held and such was the popularity of the occasion that a Form Guide, the first ever produced for a trotting meeting, was published in the daily press.

The Form Guide acknowledged the strength of the trotting horses in Ballarat and neighbouring Creswick tipping Robert Orr’s trotter Mazeppa in the Champion Harness Trot, placing a big watch on Rocket in the Maiden and an alert for the future on Cranky Poll.

Mazeppa duly proved the tipster correct by winning and subsequently she was acclaimed as the “Champion of the Colonies” a title disputed by one of Cobb and Co’s crack coach drivers, American Henry Hoyt.

Hoyt’s mare Dozy, with William Trainor either driving or riding, had won the Maiden Trot in straight heats, the Saddle Trot in straight heats and then won the Handicap Trot over three miles and a distance defeating his own mare Lucy Escott, Rocket, Whisker and Blueskin.

It didn’t take long for the argument to escalate and a match, comprising three one mile heats at Dowling Forest, Ballarat on Friday May 16, was consummated for the incredible sum of £1,100, that made it the richest race ever contested in the country. As a comparison the 1861 Melbourne Cup was worth considerably less - 710 sovereigns.

Known as the “Ballarat Champion Trotting Match” the upcoming contest created a huge amount of interest and with the Melbourne to Ballarat rail line opening in 1862 a special train was arranged for Melbournians to witness the race. The train left Spencer Street at 6 a.m. (arriving at 10 a.m.) and returned at 7 p.m. (rriving back at Spencer Street at 11 p.m.)

Sadly the much anticipated clash never happened as The Mercury (Hobart) reported – “Great, however, as was the mortification to all persons interested, there seems to be no doubt but that the mishap was purely the result of accident, and that no person was more astonished to find the affair off than was the owner of Dozy on his arrival yesterday morning at Ballarat. As soon as the match was made the mares went to work, Mazeppa going through the mill over the Ballarat course, while Dozy was put through her facings round the Emerald Hill course, at the Royal Park and elsewhere. On Thursday, by the midday train from Spencer Street, Dozy was sent to Ballarat arriving at 4 p.m.

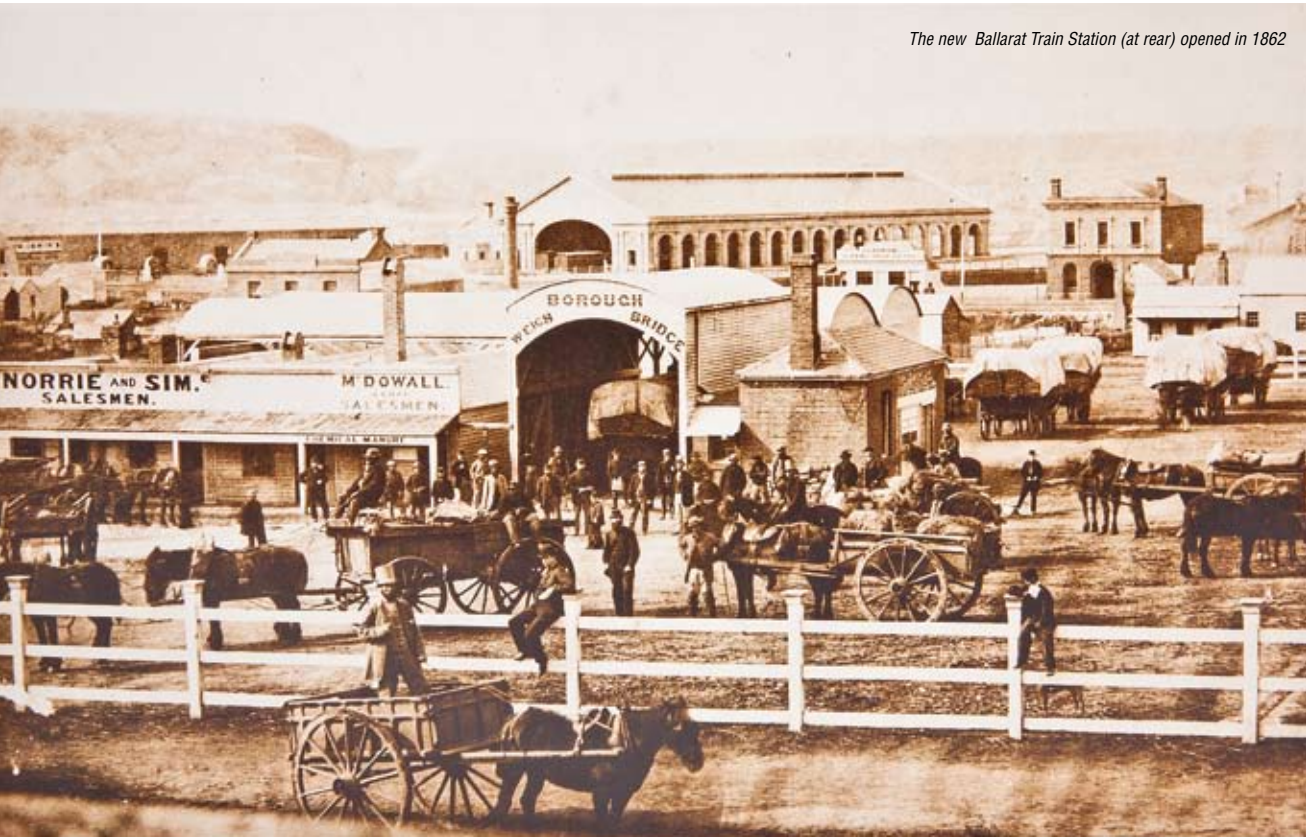
On going into the stable at about eight o’clock the groom found the mare lying down in her box, and perceiving that she was lame passed on the news to the mare’s trainer/driver William Trainor at Bath’s Hotel.

A council of war was then held with stable followers and it was decided to not make the final stake payment and thus the match was forfeited.

When Mr. Hoyt arrived in Ballarat on the day of the match he had the mare examined by a veterinary surgeon, Mr. Forbes, who certified “That he had examined the bay mare, Dozy, and found her lame in the near hind fetlock from a sprain of the suspensory ligament.”

Mazeppa walked around the course to show the public that she was “there” and was cheered in hearty style when she returned to the saddling paddock.

The second meeting of the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club on 10th April 1863 was a showcase for the cream of the Ballarat trotters and pacers with locally owned and trained horses making a clean sweep.



The new Ballarat Train Station (at rear) opened in 1862

Robert Orr – Champion Owner Of Champion Horses

Robert Orr was described by the papers of his day as a “true Gentleman” and a “champion bloke” and anyone who had the pleasure of researching his deeds in horse racing, whether it be trotting, jumping and flat racing, would surely have added “owner of champions”.

Robert was a native of Scotland, being born at Johnstone (near Glasgow) in 1836 and worked in the butchery of his fathers until he was sixteen years old when he left his home to find his fortune in the “land across the seas”.

As soon as he landed in Melbourne he immediately joined thousands of other fortune seekers in heading directly to the goldfields and set up at Creswick Creek (now known as simply Creswick).

At Creswick he purchased Creswick’s first butchery - run by the Clarrie the Swede - before moving to Mount Rowan and then in 1873 he pulled up stumps once again and moved to Ballarat proper where he purchased a butchery in Bridge Street owned by James Patterson.

He later make a substantive profit by onselling the business for over 1,000 pounds to a Mr. Heinz. That sale, however, was not the real strength of his financial position for that lay in his astute investments in various gold companies of the time such as Lone Hand, Madame Berry and Ristori.

From early times Robert was an avid lover of horse racing and was one of the driving forces behind the creation of Australia’s first trotting club, the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club.

His first champion was the trotting mare Mazeppa, who was known as the “Champion of the Colonies” winning at the inaugural American Trotting Races at the Melbourne Racecourse (Flemington) in 1860, then the Grand Harness Trot at Ballarat’s inaugural meeting in 1861, the Champion Trot at the 1862 American Trotting Races before winning the first 1,000 pound trotting race ever in the country at Ballarat in 1862.

As good as Mazeppa was, she was not in the same class as Sir William Don who was quite a celebrity of his time for being a pacer, but as the years went by the celebrity status was solely because of his greatness.

His racetrack deeds are now legendary and are detailed in full elsewhere in this booklet but suffice to say he was the greatest pacer Australasia produced in the nineteenth century and when you compare his ranking against the world’s best, his record in this part of the world is without peer.

If there was a good horse around Robert Orr put in a bid for it and delighted in driving them around town and indeed in races. The desire to own the best has had historians comparing him to Robert Bonner (USA).

His three major acquisitions were Mazeppa, Sir William Don and another renowned trotter of the day Whisker. Whisker featured in the 100 mile trotting race in 1861 and after he finished second to Mazeppa in the Grand Harness and Champion Trots, Orr bought him and the trotter was part of Orr’s domination of the second, and as fate would have it, last meeting of the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club in 1863.

It was that domination coupled with the VRC coming into being in 1864 that put paid to the fledging trotting club. The VRC was paranoid about trotting and was determined not to allow it to gain a foothold in Victoria and because of its powerful hold over country clubs they almost succeeded.

As mentioned earlier Robert Orr was interested in the jumping side of horse racing, specifically steeplechasing, and not only as an owner either for he was often seen sitting in the pigskin on his steeds, competing as an amateur.

One of his favourite companions of the time was another great follower of steeplechasing in Adam Lindsay Gordon and the pair indulged in many a spirited gallop across the open plains.

Ingleside was his champion jumper winning the Grand National Steeplechase at Ballarat in 1867 while another Clansman won the Melbourne Hunt Club steeplechase in 1870.



(From left): James Scobie, Bobby Lewis, Robert Orr

Orr accumulated so much wealth that at the time of his death he was the registered owner of Craig’s Royal Hotel, an establishment that has played an integral role in the history of trotting in the Ballarat region.

His best thoroughbred, however, was Maltster who was trained by his famous son-in-law James Scobie, a legendary trainer in the annals of the Melbourne Cup. Maltster won the 1900 AJC Derby and at the 1900 Melbourne Cup Carnival he won the VRC Derby on the Saturday, was runner-up in the Melbourne Cup on the Tuesday, won the VRC Flying over six furlongs on Oaks Day and won the mile and a half C.B. Fisher Plate on the final day. Maltster was later to become a wonderful sire and was Australia’s premier sire on five occasions.

Orr passed away in 1906 at his Wendouree Parade home and was remembered for the sage advice he always gave to others starting out in the racing game - “it was no good buying a bad horse, because a bad horse eats as much as a good one.” [HRI](#)



Victoria Derby winner and leading sire Maltster

BALLARAT STAR

BALLARAT & CRESWICK TROTTING CLUB – SECOND MEETING (19/4/1863)

The trotting club races which are now looked upon as an annual event, second only in importance to the Turf Club's periodical meetings, were held on Friday, on the Dowling Forest course, and were much more successful than any former event of the kind, owing to the legitimate manner in which the various tests were conducted.

This is the more pleasing, especially when it is remembered that various prognostications had been indulged in, several days previously, as to the certainty of what is technically known as a "sell".

This, however, did not take place, so that for once, the seers were out in their calculations as the races passed off in the way that seemed to meet everyone's desire, and the members of the Club can conscientiously lay claim to the "flattering auction" of having bought their annual meet to a happy determination despite the many drawbacks they had to contend with.

The stewards, however, were somewhat faulty in their arrangements on the course. A little more attention, on their part, to the weighting of riders of the horses would have been desirable, whilst the placing of one of the honorary functionaries at the distance post during the maiden trot would have prevented the few words of discontent that were uttered, when Mr Orr had to start again for the race, after distancing all competitors.

Some of these gentleman, however, were new to the post, and doubtless will do better another time. At all events there is plenty of room for improvement.

A little civility on the part of some of the persons who kept the saddling paddock gates, shown towards strangers from a distance, would have been desirable when carried so far as to threaten to put the respected starter of the course out of the paddock.

We have drawn attention to these points in the hope that on future occasions steps will be taken to prevent a repetition, as we hold that publicity in these matters is the proper mode of obtaining remedy for such grievances.

The day was exceedingly fine, and, as may be imagined, the road to the course presented a very lively appearance. We have no wish to indulge in pencillings by the way, but cannot forbear mentioning that a sporting trio with horse and buggy came to grief when on the way out, near the Belfast Hotel, in consequence of one of wheels going to pieces.

Much to the chagrin of the disconsolate individuals, they were forced to humble themselves by riding on a low back car the rest of the way.

On the way home a much more unfortunate accident happened near the Swamp to a gentleman who was driving a four-wheeled phaeton with some ladies therein. The conveyance, though neat and showy, it appears was not made for hard work, and went to pieces, causing the female portion of the occupants considerable alarm.

They were, however, rescued from their perilous position none the worse for the occurrence, beyond the shock to their nervous system.

As a matter of course, there was horse racing and coach racing, both in and out, and our public drivers showed considerable skill in steering clear of ugly stumps and other impediments.

The swiftness with which some of them sped past the toll gates, defied the powers of the keeper to extract the customary fee.

About one thousand persons were on the ground, while the grand stand and members stand were fairly patronized.

Mr Cherry catered for the creature comforts of those who patronised the sports. Himself and a dozen assistants were as busily engaged as they well could be during the day attending to the wants of the public.

The luncheon, though got up in a very short time, was excellent in its way. Prices were exceedingly moderate and the venture, as a whole, appeared to be a remunerative one. Mr Boyd occupied the upper portion of the grand stand.

Very little betting was indulged in during the day, and the bump of caution seemed in the ascendant; and a few sweeps, however, were indulged in as the most legitimate route of investment.

About two dozen of the Melbourne sporting fraternity put in an appearance and at one time had confident hopes of Dozy appropriating the Champion Trot Race of 80sovs.

The mare, however, as will be seen from the sorry figure she cut in this and another event, doomed her admirers to dire disappointment.

Her performance in Melbourne some two years ago caused her to be looked upon as the crack trotting mare of the colony, after which she was backed against Mr Orr's Mazeppa for 500 pounds, but went wrong on the morning of the race.

Her trials in Melbourne recently, we understand, were looked upon as of a very encouraging nature, but all who witnessed her performance on Friday naturally enough came to the conclusion that she is a wreck of her former self, or else that her capabilities have been overrated.

Possessed of a large head and barrel, with heavy feet, she appeared more of the cart horse than the trotting mare; to add to these drawbacks she seemed sadly out of fettle, troubled with bad "pins" and a tendency to sweat considerably.

Mr Orr's Whisker, formerly belong to Mr Warren, proved the champion of the day, and appropriated the Grand Saddle Trot and the Champion Trot; while Sir William Don, another horse belonging to Mr Orr, carried off the maiden of 40sovs.

Both horses, in fact, walked away from their competitors with the greatest possible ease.

Mr Cleeland's Cranky Poll won the Grand Harness Trot, running the best three out of five heats, while Mr Jones' pony Little John came in second each time.

The selling Hack Trot fell to the lot of Joe Smith's Happy Jack, beating two others.

Mr Orr's winnings on the day's sports alone amounted to the very respectable sum of 160 pounds.

When running in the Maiden Trot, Mr Cutter, who was driving Modesty came to grief at the top of the course. It appears that the animal is hard in the mouth and could not be kept on the course; the result was that the sulky came in contact with one of the posts that mark out the course and was upset.

Mr Cutter escaped uninjured, but not so the sulky, which was rendered useless for the present at all events.

As is usual at all such gatherings, there was a large number of gamblers on the course, who followed their nefarious practices with impunity, as the few policemen on the course were quite incompetent to restrain them from pursuing their vocation.

Mr Meyers, arrayed in a scarlet coat, breeches, sporting velvet cap, boots, and spurs, made not only a creditable but a really efficient clerk of the course.

Mr St George Caulfield, as secretary, discharged the duties of his office with satisfaction to himself, and doubtless to the public also.

The first race was announced to come off at half past twelve o'clock, but it was a quarter to two before the horses got under way, and the result was a prolongation of the sports until an unusually late hour.

Having thus summarized the incidents of the day, we shall proceed to give a detailed account of the events on the card.

MAIDEN TROT of 40sovs. One mile and a half. Entry 3 sovs. Optional saddle or harness. Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club weights;not less than 10 stone 5lb.

Mr Orr's bga SIR WILLIAM DON (owner)	1	1
Mr Cleeland's bma CRANKY POLL (W Bowes)	2	2
Mr H Bartlett's bma MODESTY (Mr Cutter)	0	0
Mr Hathorn's bma VERMONT GIRL (owner)	0	0
Mr H Hoyt's gram LADY DON (Mr Wilson)	0	0

FIRST HEAT – All the horses started in sulkies. Miss King did not put in an appearance. Sir William Don was favourite for this race. After a capital start Sir William Don went to the front, and soon left his competitors a long way behind. On going up to the stockyard, he was 100 yards, at least, in front of Cranky Poll who was second.

Coming down the slope the baronet sailed along gallantly, and increased the distance between himself and his competitors at every stride, and came in first some 200 yards in advance of Cranky Poll, who was second, amid tumultuous applause.

Time: 4min 2sec.

In consequence of the stewards neglecting to place one of their number at the 70 yards distance post, it was decided that all horses should race the next heat, although they were doubly distanced.

This gave rise to considerable discussion, and after some persuasion Mr Orr was induced to submit to the arrangement.

SECOND HEAT – Sir William Don went away again with the lead, closely followed by Lady Don, the latter, however, soon gave place to Cranky Poll, and Vermont Girl fell way behind. Sir William Don sailed along smoothly round the top of the course some 50 yards in advance of Cranky Poll. On coming down the slope he increased the gap, and came in an easy winner by 80 or 100 yards hard held.

Time: 4m 12sec

CHAMPION TROT of 80sovs. Entry 5sovs. Six miles. Weight 10st 5lb

Mr Orr's bga WHISKER (owner)	1
Mr H Hoyt's bma DOZY (Mr Wilson)	2

Little John was scratched from this event, and Dozy carried 10lbs overweight. Whisker was raced in sulky and Dozy in a saddle.

Whisker took the lead at the start, but was collared by Dozy on going to the Stock Yard. Both raced together around the top of the course, when Dozy went to the front coming down the slope and left Whisker three lengths behind. Dozy then broke and Whisker went to the front. On going past the grand stand the first time, Whisker was 50 yards ahead of the mare. The latter had now evidently had had enough of it for she became restive, and broke repeatedly. In going to the stockyard the second time, the horse was 100 yards in advance of the Melbourne favourite, sailing smoothly along, neatly piloted by Orr.

Dozy now cried enough and sedately crept into a sort of a walk, amid shouts of laughter from the spectators in the stand. After some delay Wilson got her underway again, but Whisker by this time had reached the old water jump, steering away at a rattling pace, and a smoothly as possible, without breaking. Dozy now having been pumped out, was pulled up, when she had gone half of the distance.

Whisker now leisurely trotted the remainder of the distance, and was hailed the winner by a burst of applause from the Creswickites. The three miles over which the race was contested was run in 9min 6s

GRAND HARNESS TROT Of 40sovs Entry 3 sovs. Mile heats. Best three in five. To be run without dismounting. Weights 10st 5lb

Mr Cleeland's bma CRANKY POLL (W Bowes)	1	1	1
Mr Jones' gga LITTLE JOHN (Mr orr)	2	2	2
Mr Hathorn's bma VERMONT GIRL (owner)	3	3	3
Mr Rankin's bga BLACK TOMMY (owner)	0	0	0

Whisker, Magic and Lady Don were scratched for this race.

FIRST HEAT – The horses started at the opposite side of the course. Cranky Poll took the lead at the start. On coming down the slope, however, Little John went to the front, but broke shortly after, and allowed Cranky Poll to slip past him. He again overhauled the mare, but broke in the straight running near the winning post when leading, when Cranky Poll went to the front and came in first. Little John being second and Vermont Girl third. Time 3min 1s

SECOND HEAT – Cranky Poll again took the lead, with Little John second. The former lead the whole way to the straight running where she broke and afforded Little John an opportunity of going to the front when he, in turn, broke, Cranky Poll slipping past, a capital race home ended in favour of Cranky Poll by about a neck. Time: 3m 1s

THIRD HEAT – Cranky Poll again took the lead at the start, with Little John close at her heels. Coming down the slope both raced neck and neck together with Vermont Girl third. Cranky Poll, however, went to the front, was never caught, and came in the winner of three heats, Little John being second each time and Vermont Girl third. Time: 2m 57.5s

THE GRAND SADDLE TROT of 40sovs Entry 3sovs. Four miles. Ballarat & Creswick TC weights

Mr Orr's bga WHISKER (owner) 10st 5lb	1
Mr Cleeland's bma CRANKY POLL (Mr S Waldock) 10st 12lb	2
Mr H Hoyt's bma DOZY (Mr Wilson) 11st	3

Whisker carried 2lbs overweight and Dozy 12lbs. Little John was scratched. The horses started on the opposite side of the course from the stand. Whisker went away with the lead, with Dozy second. Going down the slope Cranky Poll took second place, and Dozy fell behind. Whisker still in the van, and in going past the stand the first time he was 130 yards at least in advance of Cranky Poll who was second, and Dozy some 50 yards behind the latter. Dozy, after going past the stand, broke into a canter, and it was some time before she could be got into a trot again. Whisker continued to improve his position.

On going past the stand the second time he was 200 yards in front of Cranky Poll and taking it quite easy. It was bellows to mend now for Dozy, and she appeared no more in the race, having being pulled up. Whisker still sailed along and won easily. Cranky Poll being 300 yards at least behind. The race was not timed.

SELLING HACK TROT of 15sovs. Winner to be sold for 20 pounds. Entry 1sov. Three miles. Post entry

Mr J Smith's HAPPY JACK (owner)	1
Mr Hathorn's VERMONT GIRL (owner)	2
Mr Taylor's MISS KING (owner)	3

After the start Happy Jack and Vermont Girl raced together very evenly. But rounding the hill the latter shook off her opponent and went to the front. Coming down the slope Happy Jack put on steam and went to the front. Going past the stand Happy Jack broke, and Vermont Girl went to the front. He soon got underway again and collared the mare when they raced side by side round the top of the hill.

Miss King, who now lay some distance behind put on a spurt, and seemed inclined to go to the front. Happy Jack, however, took that position and came in first by about three lengths, Vermont Girl being second. The winner was put up for auction and knocked down to the owner for 20 pounds.

This concluded the day's sports, and as night was approaching, each person seemed to view in getting off the course as quickly as possible. **HRI**

The day opened with an Australasian race record to the budding superstar pacer Sir William Don who had been purchased by Robert Orr earlier in the year, another recent Orr purchase Whisker won the Champion Trot over six miles and the Grand Saddle Trot over four miles while Jas Cleeland's speedy mare Cranky Poll became Australasia's first sub 3:00 trotter. A full report on the meeting is shown in this booklet.

The domination by Robert Orr and his rapacious desire to own the best trotters proved not to be a positive when it came to planning a third meeting of the fledgling Club.

There were also moves afoot by thoroughbred officials to take away the opportunity of trotting enthusiasts to conduct all trotting meetings at major racing centres and in 1863 the organizers of the American Trotting Races were refused permission to run what would have been their fourth edition at Flemington and instead the meeting was transferred to Emerald Hill (now known as South Melbourne).

In 1864 a different band of organizers successfully lobbied thoroughbred officials to allow a Grand Revival of Metropolitan Trotting meeting at Flemington on April 16h and the star of the day was the pacer Sir William Don who won the Albion Cup in three straight one mile heats over a young trotter called Magic, as well as taking out the three mile handicap.

On May 12th Sir William Don was at Ballarat on the Annual Steeplechase program and defeating Magic once again over six miles, prompting yet another rich Match Race (worth £400) at Flemington nine days later between Sir William Don and Magic over six miles.

The match race was part of the inaugural meeting of the Victoria Racing Club and Sir William Don was successful, however, an after race furore that had both horses weighing in light soured the occasion.

Thereafter the VRC refused to allow any trotting on the Flemington racecourse save for the 1908 Fleet Cup won by the American trotter Dixie Alto.

Furthermore the VRC placed significant pressure on country race clubs, who were now under their direct control, not to allow all trotting meetings on their tracks, although there were a number of single races on raceday programmes.

The result was that the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club disbanded and there were no trotting Clubs in Victoria at all from 1864 until 1906 when the Victorian Breeders and Owners Association was charged with the responsibility of overseeing trotting in Victoria.

The best Ballarat residents could hope for almost fifty years was at most two trotting races in the environs of Ballarat annually and for many years the major race was the All Saints Handicap Trot and in 1874 Australia's best trotter pre 1880, Wanderer, was successful off a 700 yard backmark.

Another opportunity for an annual trot was created when the Miners Turf Club (racing at Redan) was revived on April 22 1887 and some 14 trotters, including colonial distance champion Brown Hawk, competed in the trot at the revival meeting.

The game breaker came in 1912 when a large number of sporting men interested in trotting attended at the Commercial Hotel on 1st October for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a trotting club in Ballarat.

It was unanimously decided that a trotting club be formed and on Monday December 9th 1912 at Davey's Commercial Hotel, with the President Jas Davey in the chair the Ballarat and District Trotting Club came into being.

The inaugural committeemen were Messrs J Farmer, J Folland, Jas Lyons, Bert Orr, Val Purdue, J Rogerson, Vic Sharp, Alf Silbereisen, Dr. W.A. Spring, J Sterritt, J Taylor and C Walker while Lez Malin was the secretary.

The date of the first meeting was fixed for 18th January 1913 at the Buninyong racecourse and thereafter meetings of the Ballarat and District Trotting Club, save for one meeting at the Ballarat North Speedway (March 29 1930), were conducted at the Miners Turf Club course at Redan, the site of the current 1,000 metre Ballarat circuit.

In all 133 meetings were held from 1913 until 1936 when the Club was forced into recess – 1913 (5), 1914 (6), 1915 (7), 1916 (6), 1917 (4), 1918 (5), 1919 (5), 1920 (5), 1921 (5), 1922 (7), 1923 (5), 1924 (8), 1925 (6), 1926 (5), 1927 (5), 1928 (6), 1929 (6), 1930 (7), 1931 (7), 1932 (5), 1933 (3), 1934 (3), 1935 (1) and 1936 (1).

Complete results of these meetings detailing all events, the names of all starters, the owners and drivers/riders of all placegetters, as well as margins and times have been presented to the Ballarat and District Harness Racing Club administration and will be made accessible to the general public.

As mentioned earlier the opening meeting of the newly formed Ballarat and District Trotting Club was held for the first and only time on the Buninyong course.

The Ballarat Star reported, "The day was a very suitable one and there was a fairly good attendance but the club will scarcely do more than clear expenses. Fields, except in two events, were good and would have been better only for two disqualifications.

The Club nearly achieved a record in the Pony Trot. Out of the ten nominated, nine went to the post and the tenth would have started only the rider, who was a couple of stone short of the required weight could not find enough lead to make up the deficiency.

With such decent fields in the majority of the events it was a pity that the sport was not more exciting. The absence of anything like a close finish could be accounted for in two ways. The majority of the horses trotting were not used to track work, and many of them were inclined to break if pushed, and in the second place, the handicapper could not be expected or properly gauge the capabilities of so many maiden performers, and runaway victories were consequently took place, the meeting marked by one sensational incident.

In the Two Miles Open trot the only starters were Ribbonwood's Pride, driven by J Folland, and Huon's Pride, ridden by S Folland. The former who was favourite, won by a few yards but stewards were not satisfied. They disqualified both horses and riders for three months and declared it a no race, all bets being cancelled. Both the Follands gave notice of appeal against the decision."

The first meeting provided a satisfactory balance sheet for the Club although the actual fare served up to spectators was rather amateurish (the Cabman's contest), non competitive and highlighted by the only starters in the main race being disqualified, along with the connections.

The riot act was read and a new racing programme formulated for the second meeting on March 15th at the Miners' Racecourse with the result that the public and the media hailed the second meeting as a success and noteworthy for the "absence of non-triers".

The second meeting was also noteworthy for the appearance of the surname Cochran as the owner of Dixie's Land, in this case it was William, father of Eric Cochran, the latter becoming one of driving forces behind the revival of the Ballarat and District Trotting Club after World War Two.

An acknowledgement of the transformation that the Club had instigated was that when the third meeting came around on May 24th the Ballarat Star engaged a tipster called "Doncaster" to supply prognostications for the meeting. Unfortunately he failed to find a single winner.

James Folland who was disqualified for two years for Lady Medlow after the mare was beaten at 1/5 in a two horse race after winning earlier in the day and again successfully appealed.

That, however, was the straw that broke the camel's back for the studmaster and horsetrader Folland who migrated to Perth to a property called Redcliffe Park at Belmont and continued his horsetrading supplying many city winners for WATA President James Brennan.

A glowing report of the fifth meeting in October provides a good indicator that the Club was in good hands – "The weather was glorious, and this coupled with the fact that properly managed trotting is growing in favour with the public, accounting for the attendance, which was the best yet recorded by the Club."

The next meeting on 23rd May was described as "the most successful held by the Club and that those Saturday afternoon fixtures are becoming very popular with the public" and was notable for the rare occurrence of a 2YO not only starting but also winning.

Belmont Chimes beat the older trotters in the opening event and then the following month won the Victoria Sires Produce 2YO trot at Richmond and in 1915 won the second Victoria Trotters Derby.

Another first occurred at the Ballarat Christmas meeting on 30th December 1914 with the first recorded appearance of a lady rider in a trotting race in Victoria, namely Miss E Atkinson who rode the pacer Valaze.

World War One had an increasingly debilitating effect on racing of all codes with meeting numbers slashed and controlled by a Government War Council that decreed that most meetings must donate profits to a patriotic cause.

For Ballarat that meant supporting the following entities - Belgian Fund and the Ballarat orphanage, Worn-out Miners Fund, Comforts Fund of the 15th Brigade, 39th (Ballarat) Battalion Comforts Fund and Australian Wounded Soldiers Fund. All officials would act in an honorary capacity and all members and officers would pay at the gates.

With the war over the Ballarat and District Trotting Club worked very hard to attract the public back to the races and one of the more outrageous ploys

was the promotion of a trotter versus aeroplane clash at their January 31 1920 meeting.

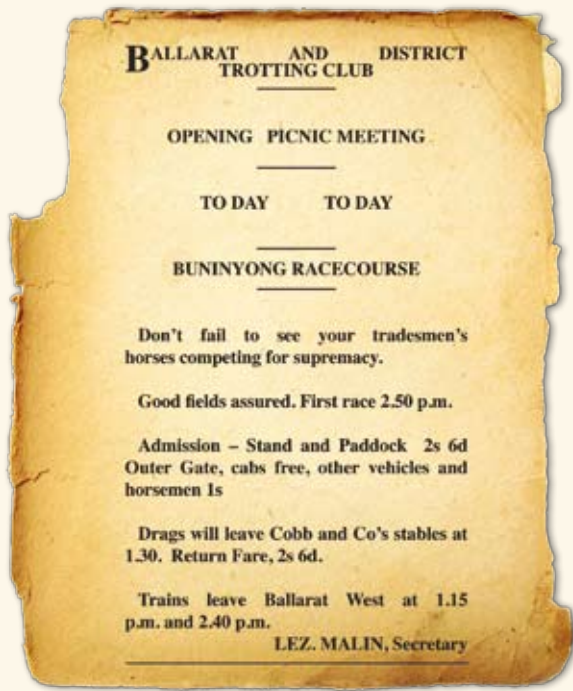
The papers of the day reported as follows:- "The race between the aeroplane and the trotting horse Malto at the Miners Racecourse last Saturday afternoon created a great deal of attention. Public opinion favoured the horse's chances, and judged correctly, as Mr Magill had gone only 3 1/2 laps to the horse's one when the race ended, out of the four he was assayed to accomplish.

A number of passengers were taken up during the afternoon among them Messrs EG Crocker, Stanley Douglas, WH Holden, & EH Praetz. They were delighted by the experience and Mr Praetz's first flight was unusually full of sensations. He was in the machine during the race and afterwards agreed to part in electrifying the spectators in the famous "looping the loop"

One year on and the public had been won over and when the famous Pearl Kelly won at the January 1921



BALLARAT & DISTRICT TROTting CLUB FIRST MEETING - SATURDAY JAN 18 1913 (BUNINYONG)



TRIAL TROT Trophy of 5g. One mile and a half

Jas Glover's bm **PHYLLIS DARE** (Osprey) scr (E Murdoch)

J Sterritt's bh Dashaway, 190yds (N Sterritt)

J Young's bm Maidstone, 70yds (J Folland)

Others: Judge H (scr – J Kerr), Pedesta (50yds – J Shirley)

Betting: Evens Maidstone 2/1 Dashaway 4/1 Phyllis Dare 10/1 others

Margins: 30y X 30y **Time:** 4m 8.2s

OPEN TROT Trophy 7g Two miles

JS Folland's brh **RIBBONWOODS PRIDE** (Ribbonwood) 150ys (owner)

JS Folland's bm Huon's Pride. 160yds (S Folland)

Betting: 1/3 Ribbonwoods Pride 2/1 Huons Pride

Margins: 2y **Time:** 5m55

DISTRICT TRADESMANS TROT Trophy of 5g. One and a half miles

SL Smyth's gg **REMEMBRANCE** (Osterley) 50yds (F Grace)

L Malin's bm Nell Gwynne, scr (owner)

JR Jopling's chm Nellie Stewart, 20yds (owner)

Others: Sweet Sall (20yds – N Chisholm), Advance (20yds – J Kerr), Pontiac (20yds – L Wilson), Billy Penn (50yds – W Gibson)

Betting: 2/1 Advance 3/1 Remembrance & Billy Penn 4/1 Nell Gwynne 10/1 others

Margins: 150yds.

Time: 4m35s

CABMENS WALK, TROT & GALLOP Trophy of 5g. One Mile

Gorman's **MYRTLE** (R Willis)

Collins' Big Ben (owner)

Gorman's Dolly (owner)

Others: Flash Jack, Muggins, Rough Up

Betting: 2/1 Dan 3/1 Myrie & Muggins 5/1 Flash Jack 12/1 others

*Flash Jack finished first but was disqualified.

DISTRICT PONY TROT Trophy of 5g. One mile and a half

L Malin's bm **NELL GWYNNE** (Wonbobbie) (10yds (owner)

CA Bromley's gg Jack B, 10yds (FH Grace)

A Silbereisins blkg Amacker, scr (owner)

Others: Toby (2yds – L Sullivan), Easter Gift (20yds – L Williams), Negress (20yds – J Mitchell), George (30yds - J Shirley), My Dolly (30yds – H Penney), Dolly H (40yds – D Sweeney)

Betting: 6/4 Nell Gwynne 2/1 Toby 4/1 George 5/1 Jack B 10/1 others

Margins: won easily.

Time: 5m10s

FLYING TROT Trophy of 7g. One Mile

E Gordon's bg **MARKO** (Pedigree unknown) 20yds (E Gordon)

J Newton's Boomerang, 110yds (J Kerr)

Betting: 4/7 Marko 5/4 Boomerang

Margins: won by 200y

Time: 3m 00.8s

BALLARAT TROTTING CUP (1920 – 1933)

1920 BALLARAT CUP Of 50sovs. One mile and a half
J Troup's bga **ALTO CHIMES** (Abbey Bells) 175yds (A Porteous)
G Butcher's chga Prince of Wales, 50yds (G Butcher)
H Penney's bma Myra Huon,scr (E Cornish)
Other: Eclipse, (scr - C Williams)
Betting: 1/5 Alto Chimes, 5/1 Prince of Wales, 10/1 Eclipse & Myra Huon
Margins: 12y X 15y **Rate:** 2:26.8

1921 – Not run

1922 BALLARAT CUP Of £100 One mile and a quarter
Mr Prendergast's bm6 **PRINCESS BELLS** (Prince Maurice) 35yds (Maher)
T Allan's Chha Straightaway 35yds (J Lynch)
F Burgoyne's Bm6 A La Mode, 75yds (H Toomer)
Others: Red Bells (scr - F Grabsch), Sunraysed (scr – “D George”), Mauriano (scr – Silas Beebe), Caprice (10yds – W Kelly), Glenalmont (15yds – W Vines), Corryong (15yds – M Coffey), Lady Dillon (15yds – J Ryan), Harry Whips (20yds – R Pitts), Nightwatch (35yds – W Fortington), Welcome Abbey (40yds – J Button), Park Rose (40yds – M Burns), Brown Direct (45yds – H Bambridge), County Antrim (50yds – T McCrow), Stockwood (60yds – C Lock), Kola Mauritius (80yds – G Kelly), The Card (85yds – O Marshall), Ashville Lad (85yds – W Riedell), Sprightly (90yds – P Shipp), Lady Evelyn (110yds – D Walsh)
Betting: 2/1 Princess Bells 5/1 Caprice & Ashville Lad 7/1 Park Rose & A La Mode 10/1 Straightaway 10/1 to 20/1 Others
Margins: 6y X 12y **Rate:** 2:23 3/4s

1923 BALLARAT (MAGILL) CUP Of £130 One mile and a quarter
SD Stratton's Blkm5 **LADY CASSANDRA** (First Voyage) 5yds (SD Stratton)
S Beebe's Brh5 Dagmar Style, 5yds (S Beebe)
FW Grabsch's Bh5 Major Ribbonwood, 55yds (D Walsh)
Others: Reisorel (scr – J Parish), Tearaway (scr - S Allen), Betty Shire (scr – WA McKenzie) Myra Huon (scr – O Marshall), Huon Wilkes (5yds – E Cornish), County Antrim (15yds – T McCrow), Wild Bee (15yds – Mr Crawley) Aberdeen (20yds – A Porteous), The Brumby (20yds – T Skehill), The Plumber (30yds – Dick Henry), Count Bingen (35yds – MG Parker), Lady Bronte (45yds – W Vines), Nellie Chimes (50yds – H Shinn), Princess Bells (60yds – M Maher), Slipalong (80yds – D Kelly), Delavan (90yds – M McMurtie), A La Mode (100yds – A Toomer)
Betting: 9/2 Nellie Chimes 6/1 Aberdeen, Princess Bells 7/1 Lady Cassandra 10/1 Tearaway, The Brumby, The Plumber, Delavan & A La Mode 15/1 Dagmar Style 20/1 Reisorel, Myra Huon, Betty Shire, Wild Bee, Count Bingen, Major Ribbonwood & Slipalong 33/1 Others
Margins: 2y X 1y **Rate:** 2:23.0

1924 BALLARAT (KENNEDY) CUP Of £200 One mile and a quarter
Mr H Keith's Brg6 **BELL BRONTE** (Bronte) 15yds (A Porteous)
Moore & Edney's chga Alrema, 40yds (RS Henry)
FW Grabsch's bga Major Ribbonwood, 110yds (D Walsh)
Others: Epic Alladin (scr – H Howe), Flash Direct (scr – J Button), Whiskaway (scr – J Robertson), Dummy (scr – W Fortington), Lochinvar (scr – S Thomas), Fulham Bells (scr – JH Gannon), Lee Roy (5yds – E Wynne), Maiden Bells (10yds – FW Cornish), Sergeant Belmont (10yds – JM Cromie), Honest Sam (15yds – FW Grabsch), Lue Ribbons (10yds – N Sterretti), Honest Grattan (10yds – J Swindells), Bazil Meath (25yds – G Porteous), Lady Bronte (30yds – W Vines), Principal Jack (35yds

– G Girling), Moyne (50yds – G Ratcliff), Cole King (50yds – P Shipp), Lady Lorraine (60yds – H Daniel), Dagmar Style (60yds – S Beebe), Gay Crusader (70yds – O Marshall), Princess Bells (70yds – M Maher), Don Abbey (85yds – M McMurtrie), Park Rose (105yds – M Burns)
Betting: 2/1 Bell Bronte 6/1 Dummy, Bazil Meath, Princess Bells, 7/1 Lady Lorraine 8/1 Blue Chimes 10/1 Maiden Bells, Honest Grattan, Lady Bronte, Principal Jack & Major Ribbonwood 12/1 Alrema 20/1 to 25/1 Others
Margins: 2y X 2y **Rate:** 2:28 3/4

1925 BALLARAT (KENNEDY) CUP Of £200 One mile and a quarter
G Sneed's blk6 **RAGG MAURITIUS** (Direct Mauritius) 18yds (H Jenkins)
F Lawrence's bg3 Young Siam, 12yds (J Kelly)
Mrs P Kelly's bma Briar Rose, scr (Mrs P Kelly)
Others: Silver Lining (scr – DS Walsh), Direct Kola (30yds – J Wilson), The Plumber (30yds – RS Henry), Purple Rose (30yds – LS McRae), Lue Ribbons (36yds – N Sterritt), Shyann (36yds – T Skehill), Principal jack (36yds – G Girling), Charles Dixie (42yds – J Lynch), Basil Patch (42yds – W Kenna), Lavender Huon (42yds – E Clifford), Kola Mauritius (60yds – A Porteous), Count Bingen (78yds – G Burton), Gay Crusader (84yds – E Cornish), Princess Bells (84yds – M Maher), Black Grattan (96yds – T Butler), Happy Voyage (132yds – O Marshall)
Betting: 4/1 Ragg Mauritius & Young Siam 6/1 The Plumber 7/1 Purple Rose & Black Mauritius 8/1 Briar Rose & Shyann 10/1 Silver Lining, Direct Kola, Basil Patch, Decorum & Happy Voyage 12/1 Lue Ribbons 15/1 Kola Mauritius 20/1 Others
Margins: Head X 9y **Rate:** 2:23.6
**The Plumber finished second but RS “Dick” Henry weighed in 1.5lb light so was excluded from placings

1926 BALLARAT (GREENFIELD) CUP Of £200 One mile and a quarter
Mrs RS Henry's Bga **ROYAL CLEVE** (Royal Sovereign) 6yds (E Leonard)
G Girling:s bga Sarilla, 54yds (G Girling)
G Girling's blkga Principal Jack, scr (J Girling)
E Clifford's brm6 Lavender Huon, scr (E Clifford)
Others: Aberville (scr – C Chisholm), Derbyshire (scr – V Meredith), Princess Emu (scr – J McKenzie), Annam (scr – T Skehill), Happy Boy (scr – F Shillito), Princess Mauritius (12yds – D Walsh), Direct Abdullah (24yds – J Lynch), Peverley Mauritius (30yds – O Marshall), Straightly (36yds – W Kelly), Blue Chimes (66yds – F Donaldson), Princess Bells (72yds – M Maher), Little Edna (84yds – J Lancaster), Cole King (84yds – P Shipp), Fulham Bells (96yds – J Gannon)
Betting: 2/1 Royal Cleve 6/1 Annam, Princess Mauritius, Peverley Mauritius 7/1 Happy Boy 8/1 Aberville, Direct Abdullah, 10/1 Derbyshire & Straightly 12/1 Little Edna & Fulham Bells 15/1 Princess Bells & Cole King 16/1 Principal Jack, Princess Emu & Sarilla 20/1 Lavender Huon & Blue Chimes **Margins:** 15y X 6y **Rate:** 2:24.5

1927 BALLARAT (GREENFIELD) CUP Of £200 One mile and a quarter
FW Shillito's bga **HAPPY BOY** (Happy Voyage) scr (F Shillito)
D Lawson's bg6 Le Wilkes, 12yds (L Parish)
J Glover's chg5 Fleet Admiral, 6yds (W Kelly)
W Delahunty Jnr's bga Alvie Chimes, 12yds (F Woods)
Others: Lavender Huon (scr – E Clifford), Princess Malacca (scr – A Duxson), Young Siam (scr – J Kelly), Abbey Leigh (scr – M Maher), David Direct (scr – P Shipp), Grattan Kendall (scr – J Gannon), Rita Marvin (scr – T Reid), Decorum (12yds – A Porteous), May Huon (12yds – JA

Devlan), Princess Mauritius (12yds – D Walsh) Dexter Wood (18yds – G Taafe), Boy Marble (18yds – J Johnson), Emmett (24yds – H Terry) , Tuxedo Rock (24yds – WH Hueston) Rock Marvin (24yds – R Sinclair), Dummy (36yds – WC Fortington), Black Wattle (36yds – J Pretty), Murray Chimes (42yds – F Lancaster), Burnealto (48yds – C Caldwell), Cloyne Style (48yds – H Burt), General King (54yds – S Foster), Comely Bells (54yds – O Marshall), John Direct (66yds – O Durrant), Direct Abdullah (66yds – J Lynch)
Betting: 2/1 Princess Mauritius 6/1 Rita Marvin 7/1 Happy Boy, Rock Marvin, Decorum, Black Wattle, Cloyne Style 8/1 Le Wilkes, Fleet Admiral, Boy Marble, Tuxedo Rock 10/1 David Direct, Grattan Kendall, Alvie Chimes, Direct Abdullah 12/1 Princess Malacca, May Huon, Emmett, Murray Chimes 15/1 John Direct, Burnealto 20/1 General King, Lavender Huon & Comely Bells 25/1 Abbey Leigh **Margins:** 1y X 1y **Rate:** 2:22.4

1928 BALLARAT (HAYMES) CUP Of £300. One mile and a quarter
T John's Bm6 **ROSIENCE** (Le Rosier) scr (E Langley)
W Hueston's bga Bazil Huon, scr (W Hueston)
A Simpson's bga Snowshoe, 12yds (A Simpson)
PG Weaver's bma Direct Home, 30yds (W McKay)
Others: Highlight (scr – J Brock), Diana Wood (scr – “D George”), White Blaze (scr - JE Bennis), Count Abbey (scr – W Gercovitch), Blythe Girl (scr – W Lowe) Ben Huon (6yds – J Hanley), Hamil Voyage (6yds – D Hughes), Silver Lining (12yds – E Avery), Edna Wilkes (12yds – O Marshall), Landburn (12yds – T Kendall), Lady Wonga (12yds – P McEntee), Vasco (18yds – H Terry), Master Delavan (18yds – T Barry), Princess Malacca (18yds – V Duxon), Rita Marvin (24yds – L Reid) Sailor Voyage (30yds – F Gannon), Enice Direct (30yds – J Burton), Princess Bells (30yds – W Maher) Fleet Admiral (42yds – M Millett) Direct Abdallah (54yds – Dick Henry), Cloyne Style (54yds – D Maher) John Direct (60yds – Mr. Baker)
Betting: 4/1 Direct Home 6/1 Edna Wilkes 7/1 Basil Huon, Rita Marvin & Ben Huon 8/1 Diana Wood, Direct Abdallah & Princess Bells 10/1 Rosience, Lady Wonga, Eunice Direct, Fleet Admiral, Blythe Girl 12/1 Cloyne Style 15/1 Highlight, Count Abbey, Master Delavan, John Direct 20/1 Snowshoe 25/1 Hamil Voyage, Princess Malacca 50/1 Silver Lining & Vasco.
Margins: 3y X 5y **Rate:** 2:19.8

1929 BALLARAT (HAYMES) CUP Of £300. One mile and a quarter
Miss E Caldwell's chh **BURNEALTO**** (Harry Alto) 48yds (C Caldwell)
P Anderson's bha Donnybrook, 6yds (G Gath)
D Walsh's bga Coonie's Pride, 30yds (D Walsh)
H Lidgett's brga Gay Marvin, 12yds (H Bambridge)
Others: Direct Velvet (scr – WJ Crawley), Amy McKinney (scr – W Rinaldi), Plain Grattan (6yds – A McLeod), Diana Wood (12yds – “D George”), Master Delavan (12yds – J Swindells), Model Siam (12yds – G Mauritz), Bettyshire (12yds – A Porteous), Surprise Journey (24yds – W Balloch), Charles Wilkes (24yds – J Seibel), Wonga Dale (T Fox), Aberville (36yds – H Terry), Princess Bells (42yds – L Gordon), Lady Wonga (42yds – D McEntee), First Cast (42yds – O Marshall), Count Bingen (42yds – Mrs P Kelly) Landstar (54yds – W Vines)
Betting: 4/1 Diana Wood 5/ Coonies Pride 6/1 Burnealto & Direct Vekvet 7/1 First Cast 8/1 Lady Wonga 10/1 Donnybrook, Amy Kinney, Wonga Dale, Princess Bells & Landstar 15/1 – 20/1 others
Margins: 5y X 15y
Rate: 2:20.2
** The winner Burnealto was a top class performer of his time also winning four open class Richmond Handicaps.
To avoid a name duplication the Australian Trotting Stud Book committee insisted that his name be changed to “Harcourt”.

1930 BALLARAT (PURDUE) CUP Of £200 Onend a quarter miles
A McPherson's bga **LE WILKES** (Le Rosier) scr (A McPherson)
W Lea's blkm6 Enice Direct, 36yds (W Lea)
A Russell's brma Cissie Voyage, scr (B Gray)
J Cockbill's bc3 Lord Mavista, scr, (H Bambridge)
Others: Royal Irish (scr – N Minchin), Direct Velvet (scr – W Crawley), Meadow Lark (scr – R Shadbolt), Aberville (scr – C Chisholm), Bronze Abbey (scr – E Cornish), Bazil Huon (scr – W Hueston), Derbys Last (scr – W Jamieson) Don Redo (12yds – E McDonald), Burnealto (12yds – A Caldwell), First Cast (12yds – O Marshall), Fairy Speed (36yds – R Fryar), Morose (60yds – J McCabe), Grand Clare (72yds – NT Reilly)
Betting: 2/1 Burnealto 6/1 Le Wilkes & Cissie Voyage 8/1 Royal Irish & Bronze Abbey 10/1 Lord Mavista, Direct Velvet, Aberville, Derbys Last & First Cast 12/1 Don Redo & Meadow Lark 15/1 Enice Direct & others
Margins: 5y X 10y **Rate:** 2:20.0

1931 BALLARAT (PURDUE) CUP Of £100. One mile and a quarter (2:25or better)
A McPherson's bga **LE WILKES** (Le Rosier) scr (A McPherson)
LJ King's blk4 New Derby, scr (J Robertson)
J Forsyth's blkga Periana, scr (G Gath)
CV Chisholm's bga Aberville, 12yds (owner)
Others: Princess Bells (scr – A Porteous), Dixie Pearl (scr – D Wilson), Tonys Luck (scr – V Hughes), Main Bazil (scr – W Hueston), Plain Grattan (scr – Mrs AA Laidlaw), Captain Alto (12yds – N Boyack), Altway (24yds – W Lowe), Coonies Pride (24yds – E Walsh) Alredo (36yds – R Males), Dixies Pride (36yds – C Caldwell) Calm Bazil (48yds – G Buckland), Princss Mauritius (48yds – J Hogan) Black Betel (60yds – H Shinn)
Betting: 6/4 New Derby 4/1 Tonys Luck 6/1 Le Wilkes 7/1 Periana & Captain Alto 8/1 Dixie Pearl 10/1Calm Bazil 15/1 Main Bazil, Aberville & Altway 20/1 to 33/1 others
Margins: 1y X 2y **Rate:** 2:22.0

1932 BALLARAT (PENNEY) CUP Of £75 One and a quarter miles
H Shinn's blkg **BLACK BETEL** (Betel Nut) 12yds (H Shinn)
H Lidgett's bg5 Picador, 36yds (G Gath)
RJ Craig's blk6 Lonely Wilkes, scr (G Gray)
Others: High Bells (scr–J Brock), Aberville (scr–C Chisholm), Morose (scr – S Kilfoyle), Altway (scr-W Lowe), Boxwood (scr-S Bowring), Shy Derby (scr-S Richards), Siams Picture (scr – T Calnin), Captain Alto (12yds – N Boyack), First Caste (12yds – A Porteous), Percy Direct (36yds – “D George”)
Betting: 6/4 Black Betel, 4/1 Captain Alto & Percy Direct 6/1 Lonely Wilkes 8/1 Boxwood 10/1 Picador, High Bells, Aberville, Shy Derby, Siams Picture & First Caste 12/1 Altway 15/1 Morose
Margins: 5y X 1y **Rate:** 2:21.6

1933 BALLARAT (HUNDRED) CUP £100. One and a quarter miles
T Elder's brga **YULE TIME** (Timely Direct) scr (R Shadbolt)
E O'Callaghan's blkga Abdullah Bells, 12yds (E McDonald)
E Brownlie's brga Straight On, 24yds (E Glasheen)
Others: Gloalto (scr – S Richards), Timothy Chimes (scr – J Button), Derby Child (scr – C Robinson), Norman (scr – J McMillan), Footlight (scr – A Cook), Wilrock (12yds – B Fahey), Boy Mac (12yds – M Boland), Wantio (24yds – H Cockayne), High Bells (36yds – J Brock), Lulu Gold (36yds – H Shinn), Dalla Derby (48yds – F Shillito)
Betting: 4/1 Abdullah Bells & Derby Child 5/1 Yule Time & Boy Mac 6/1 Wantio 7/1 Dalla Derby & Wilrock 8/1 Gloalto & Footlight 10/1 Straight On, Timothy Chimes, Norman & High Bells 20/1 Lulu Gold
Margins: 1y X 6y **Rate:** 2:18.8 **HRI**

meeting of the Club it was reported that she did so in front of the largest crowd ever seen at Miners course.

Around this time Trotting Clubs bobbed up everywhere and some of the more exotic places were Wycheproof, Elmore, Korong Vale, Ruthergen, Minyip, Koondrook, Tungamah, Rushworth, Kopke, Goornong, Rutherglen, and Inglewood, but Ballarat had by 1924 been acclaimed as the premier provincial Club overtaking Terang.

In 1928 long time secretary Harry McGoldrick died in his 213 Lydiard St home after a lingering illness. Harry was regarded as one of the best known and most capable racing officials in the State handling duties for not only the Ballarat Trotting Club but also the Burrumbeet Race Club, Ballarat Turf Club, Buninyong Turf Club, Ballarat Miners TC and Creswick Turf Club.

Later that year there was much excitement about the construction of the Northern Oval on the Creswick Road entrance to the city that would serve a myriad of sports including football, cycling and athletics.

THREE AMAZING SIBLINGS

Champion broodmares enrich the lives of their owners over many decades and one such mare was Rose Alto, a 1905 mare of fully imported blood being by Dixie Alto USA from Diana Rose.

Purchased by James Troup of Coghills Creek for just 100 guineas at the “Ranch” Stud dispersal sale in 1907, Rose Alto’s first three foals – Alto Bells (1910 filly), Alto Chimes (1911 gelding), Aberdeen (1912 entire) - all by the American importation Abbey Bells, won 23 races at Ballarat and District Trotting Club meetings.

The undoubtedly star of the trio so far as the Ballarat trotting fans were concerned was undoubtedly the only trotter of the trio, Aberdeen, who first raced at a Ballarat meeting on the 20th May 1916 and closed out his career in Ballarat on 21st December 1929.

During that period he won ten races at Ballarat,

One victory was dubbed “Aberdeen’s spectacular win” with the Ballarat Star reporting thus – “So apparently hopeless was his chances two furlongs from home that any odds could have been obtained about him. Nearing the home turn Maiden Bells was 40 yards in front – straightening up still 30yds behind. Aberdeen finished at cyclonic speed. Both horse and driver were enthusiastically cheered for their brilliant achievement.”

Aberdeen won four feature Richmond Handicaps in Melbourne as well as many races at tracks such as Bungaree, Lal Lal, Buninyong and in 1929 was adjudged the champion stallion at the Ballarat Show.

He sired a number of foals while racing and after Aberdeen retired from the racetrack he undertook full time stud duties at Hopetoun.

One of his daughters Molly Deen (1933) became the ancestress of a bevy of black type trotters including Bold Apepa (MV Autumn Trotters Cup), Intangible Command (NSW Easter & Summer Trotters Cups), Our Noble (Victoria Derby), Top Command (NSW Derby), Nobles Report, Melanie Joy (McNamara Memorial), Leo Miss (McNamara Memorial) and Miss Universe (\$163,305).

Alto Chimes was a brilliant pacer and three years after winning the Terang Cup he won the first ever edition of the Ballarat Cup and in the same year won the £500 Richmond Cup.

He also won an Epping Handicap at Harold Park and campaigned in New Zealand where he won the NZ National Cup and Easter Cup at Addington and the Prince Of Wales Cup at Alexandra Park.

For her part Alto Bells, like her brother Aberdeen, won ten races at Ballarat and District Trotting Club meetings at the Miners racetrack in Redan and later she became the dam of Gloato (sired just one foal namely Victoria Derby winner Connie Glo) and ancestress of Raimeno (Daniel Boon Cup) and Another Dusty (Qld 3YO Triad).

In just three months an uneven 12 acre paddock was converted into an up-to-date football oval with a cinders track outside that was 48 feet wide and slightly over three laps to the mile with a straight of 60yards on each side.

There was a huge meeting held there for cyclists and pedestrians on December 29th 1928 with FS Spurrell winning the Ballarat Gift and in the weeks following some fifty trotting trainers indicated that they were desirous of training on the track they had both helped fund and to build.

On April 13th 1929 there were four unofficial races held on Speedway that created further interest in trotting due to the close and competitive racing - Cull Marsh & Lady Allieen dead-heated in first race, Amy Style won the next by a nose, Altway won the main event by a neck from the dead-heaters Patsie Direct & First Cast while Drum Nett won the Trot and Pace Handicap by 12 yards.

Looking after the meeting was the renowned Val Purdue, Clerk of the Course for the Ballarat region for over 25 years, treasurer of the Ballarat and District Trotting Club for 20 years and President for 1931/32 season.

ABERDEEN

30/12/1916	Trotters Handicap	2:45.4 (150 yards)	16 furlongs
07/04/1917	Trotters Handicap	2:41.8 (200 yards)	16 furlongs
01/06/1918	Trot and Pace Hcp	2:52.3 (195 yards)	12 furlongs
23/11/1918	Trot and Pace Hcp	2:41.3 (120 yards)	12 furlongs
19/03/1919	Trot and Pace Hcp	2:40.2 (195 yards)	12 furlongs
19/03/1919	Open Handicap	2:38.3 (160 yards)	12 furlongs
24/05/1919	Trot and Pace Hcp	2:41.0 (215 yards)	12 furlongs
03/01/1921	Open Handicap	2:25 3/4 (70 yards)	10 furlongs
27/01/1923	Open Handicap	2:44.2 (50 yards)	10 furlongs
31/12/1925	Trotters Handicap	2:37.5 (195 yards)	12 furlongs

ALTO BELLS

25/09/1914	Local Handicap	3:03.5 (scratch)	12 furlongs
29/12/1915	Committee Race	2:41.9 (170 yards)	10 furlongs
22/04/1916	Committee Race	2:39.4 (550 yards)	10 furlongs
30/12/1916	Open Handicap	2:54.2 (55 yards)	12 furlongs
30/03/1918	Flying Handicap	2:19.4 (55 yards)	9 furlongs
01/01/1918	Flying Handicap	2:31.8 (60 yards)	9 furlongs
31/01/1920	Open Handicap	2:28.5 (75 yards)	10 furlongs
03/04/1920	Flying Handicap	2:23.7 (70 yards)	9 furlongs
14/05/1921	Ladies Bracelet	2:22.0 (105 yards)	9 furlongs
14/05/1921	Open Handicap	2:22.3 (75 yards)	10 furlongs

ALTO CHIMES

03/04/1920	Ballarat Trotting Cup	2:23.7 (70 yards)	9 furlongs
22/05/1920	Open Handicap	2:33.5 (195 yards)	12 furlongs
23/10/1920	Open Handicap	2:25.9 (145 yards)	10 furlongs



There was to be one official meeting on the Speedway (Northern Sports Ground) and that took place on Saturday March 29th 1930 with a view to raise funds for the improvement of the oval.

Bookmakers were there to handle bets for the local events as well as for the Melbourne thoroughbred races and the winners of the five 10 trotting and pacing events held in front of an exceptionally good crowd were R McCartney’s brg6 Elector, S McCartney’s brga Bronze Culloden, W. Rinaldi’s bm5 Ruby Fenton, H Birkett’s bga Happy West and Fred Shillito’s bm5 Dixie Abbey.

The Ballarat Club took a crazy brave approach in tough economic times by promoting the richest ever meeting held outside the metropolitan area since World War One (see brochure) and were rewarded with an astonishing 267 entries, a figure that some say has never been bettered since.

The Club was assisted by the Trotting League of Victoria, who at the time was making an unsuccessful bid to control Victorian trotting by organizing a boycott of the Richmond Thousand meeting and the rich Ballarat meeting was the consolation for their members.

The best pacer in the land (Auburn Lad- Bill McKay) and the best trotter in the land (Paddy McKinney – George Gath) were starters in the £400 Open and the finish (see below) was befitting such a grand event.

Flushed with the success of that meeting the Club quickly organized a follow-up on December 6 1930 and George Gath (Huan Voyage) failed by a mere foot to catch Abdullah Bells and thereby win both of the rich Open Handicaps. Patrons on course were gifted, however, to see a rising superstar win a supporting event, namely the black speedster New Derby with Charlie Robertson handling the reins.

At the 1931 Annual Meeting it was reported that the club had £800 on fixed deposit but hereafter the Great Depression began to devastate people’s livelihoods and as a consequence businesses and sporting organizations crumbled.

A mere twelve months later the club had an overdraft of £537/18/3 with just £257 in fixed deposits after a disastrous 1931/32 season that saw them lose money on every meeting and the Club’s main event, the Cup had been reduced in stakes to an embarrassing £75.

By Easter 1934 matters were desperate as the Australian Trotting Record reported that although the Easter meeting did not have a Cup race and although the Club had “had perfect weather, large fields and keen racing” and wagering keen with 20 bookies the Ballarat Club is likely to die away. Great pity.”

The Club stemmed the flow of money thanks to the involvement of guarantors and conducted a successful Victorian Centenary meeting on December 28 1935 thanks to Government support and the first appearance of the totalisator in Ballarat. Gold Centenary medals were presented to the winning reinsmen – Bill Hawkes, Orme Marshall, Greg Kelly, Bill Shinn & George McNamara.

There were just two more meetings of the Ballarat and District Trotting Club – Saturday, December 28 1935 (1937 Inter Dominion champion Dan’s

£850 in STAKES. including Open £400 & handsome Trophy

BALLARAT’S BIG MEETING
will make Trotting History on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Just Read this Liberal Programme:

REDAN HANDICAP, of £100. Second horse £20; third horse £10. 2.28 and better. 11 miles. Nomination 20/-, Acceptance 20/-.

PROGRESSIVE HANDICAP, of £100. Second £20; Third £10. Trotters and Pacers (unhopped). 2.35 and better. 11 miles. Nom. 20/-, Accept. 20/-.

DISTRICT HANDICAP, of £25. Second £5; Third £2. For 2.40 and no better than 2.35. Horses must be owned and trained for three months within a radius of 30 miles of Ballarat. Open to riders or drivers who have never won or received a stake of over £25, and must reside within a 30 miles radius of Ballarat. 9 furlongs. Nom. 10/-, Accept. 5/-.

OPEN TROT, of £400 & Trophy
(TROPHY GIFT OF F. T. DAVIES, Esq., Baker, Eureka St., Ballarat)
Second Horse £70; Third Horse £20; Fourth Horse £10 out of stake. 11 Miles. 2.23 and better. Nom. 40/-, Accept. 60/-.

TROTTERS AND PACERS’ HANDICAP, of £100. Second £20; Third £10. Unhopped. 11 miles. 2.32 and better. Nom. 20/-, Accept. 20/-.

LADIES’ BRACELET, of £100. Second £20; Third £10. 2.26 and better. 9 furlongs. Nom. 20/-, Accept. 20/-.

DISTRICT HANDICAP, of £25. Second £5; Third £2. 2.35 and no better than 2.34. Horses must be owned or trained for three months within a radius of 30 miles of Ballarat. Riders and drivers must reside within a radius of 30 miles of Ballarat. 9 furlongs. Nom. 10/-, Accept. 5/-.

ENTRIES FOR ALL EVENTS CLOSE at 5 p.m. on **SATURDAY 1st NOV.**, with the Secretary, 24 Larier St., Ballarat East, or A. J. Gray, Clarke’s Buildings, Bourke Street, Melbourne. Send for Nomination Form.

Automatic Handicapping. JOHN M. ELLIOTT, Secretary, 24 Larier St., Ballarat East.

Owners! Support the Club that is giving the Money
Bring along your Friends! Make this Meeting a Success!!
Special Trains will be chartered on this Day of Days

Son won the Christmas Handicap) and on Easter Saturday, April 11 1936 – before the club went into racing recess.

There were great hopes of a revival following an enthusiastic public meeting in January 1938 with a meeting planned for March 7th, but that race meeting had to be abandoned and the Club fell into permanent recess as World War Two approached.

The only recourse trotting owners and trainers had thereafter was the annual Ballarat Show, a reduced number of meetings in Melbourne (Ascot) and occasional trotting races on galloping programmes.

Ballarat was not only the only Club to suffer and in one season during the Second World War there was no Melbourne metropolitan racing at all and less than twelve meetings in the country for the entire season.



The first spark of interest so far at the general trotting fraternity was concerned was generated by a letter to the Australian Trotting Record on June 25 1947 from Les Philips, 1635 Sturt Street, Ballarat West.

Les wrote, “Though the Night Trotting Bill has been passed, and the control of trotting changed, so far there seems no move to revive trotting in most country districts.

I am a resident of Ballarat, and an owner of horses, and in this important centre we have not even a training track. I would suggest that the Ballarat Club be brought into immediate being, and make the district the important trotting centre it was in the years gone by. Time is going on, and the sooner all clubs meet and work with one another the better for the sport.”

Two weeks later renowned Ballarat breeder and former Ballarat and District Trotting Club committeeman Fred Shillito of “Cariney Hill” in Yendon, replied thus, “Regarding trotting in Ballarat, I can assure Mr. Philips and readers that everything in being done to get trotting in a position to function once more.

There is only one place in Ballarat where we can obtain a licence (outside of the Miners Racecourse) and that is on the Ballarat and District Showgrounds. The Ballarat and District Show Society officials had to be got interested in the proposition, and that took time, but I can assure readers they will see progress now.



Eric Cochran

Before a licence to race can be issued for the showgrounds, proper sanitation facilities must be available, therefore the sewerage must be installed, such work to begin shortly. Also, to obtain a licence there must be a suitable track and that means extra filling is required. That job will begin immediately, and when completed the bigger track to be laid down will meet the approval of all.

Ultimately we hope to see in Ballarat one of the best night trotting rinks outside the metropolitan area.

As regards training facilities for trotting horses in Ballarat, the six furlong cinder track on the Miners’ racecourse, is still available, and put down about 25 years ago was paid for by the Ballarat Trotting Club. When completed the showgrounds track will serve the northern part of the city.

I understand a half-mile track will be laid down on the western side shortly, and probably an area on the eastern side and with the co-operation of all a suitable track laid down there that will meet the needs of residents of the eastern and southern parts.”

Craig’s Royal Hotel, ironically the same site where the old Ballarat Club was created in 1861, was the venue for a big meeting of trotting enthusiasts on Monday, August 25th and the Ballarat and District Trotting Club, which had not functioned for many years, was reformed.

The Ballarat Courier reported saying, “Mr Eric Cochran, an executive member of the Metropolitan and Country Trotting Association of Victoria,

as well as a well known breeder, is the President. Messrs Howard Penney and Fred Shillito are vice-presidents, Mr Frank Matthews treasurer and Mr Maurice Calnin secretary.

Committee members were Messrs A Prendergast, G Rowse, B Hall, A Aldrich, M Matthews, C Pope, L Forbes, S McCartney and J Kilfoyle.

In the times gone by Ballarat conducted some very good meetings, and there is no doubt that the enthusiasm now engendered will result in a successful revival when the new track opens.”

The Club had not been allocated any dates for the 1947/48 season so the date for the Revival Meeting was scheduled as Tuesday, 4th January at the Miners Racecourse at Redan which had an excellent grass track just a little over a mile in circumference. Three hundred pounds had been allocated for stakemoney.

All three of the Club’s meetings in the 1948/49 season were held at the Miners’ racecourse but it wasn’t long before the club was once again in search of a new home, this time one which would enable them to realise their dream of holding night racemeetings which was a great spectacle for patrons.

The club therefore decided to shift its headquarters to the Ballarat Showgrounds for the 1949/50 season with the new track being 45 feet wide and having a circumference of 670 yards comprising two equal length straights of 135 yards and two semi circular turns of 200 yards.

In the second Annual Report of the Club, the President Eric Cochran wrote, “Although the bulk of the work was carried out by local contractors, Messrs Saltmarsh & Richards who have done a capital job, working bees by members were most helpful and we feel that special mention should be made of the wonderful assistance given by executive members Fred Shillito and Andy Prendergast for making available their respective transport and goodselves, in cartying hundreds of yards of top dressing for the arena. The cost of the construction of the new track at the Showgrounds is being borne by your Club and the Agricultural Society on a 50/50 basis.”

Watched by a crowd of 5,000 people the winners at the first meeting on the new Showgrounds track held in daytime on January 3rd 1950 were:- 3YO Northern Rose (F. Richardson), 3YO Purple Sage (A. Hickey), the trotter Deck Boy (R. Rothacker), 3YO Purple Sage again, Derby Doll (G. Gath), Glimpse (G. Gath).

There was potential to erect light towers for night race meetings at the Showgrounds and on Easter Monday in 1952 that potential was fully realized, with the feature race of the evening being the Louis Monod Cup. Monod had been a long time secretary of the Royal Agricultural Society and a member of the inaugural Trotting Control Board.

In 1954 two years after that historic meeting a man destined to become a legend of the Ballarat Club, Keith Bray, was elected to the committee and the following year he became treasurer and in 1956 he was seconded to the Trotting Control Board.

In 1959 he replaced Eric Cochran as President and stayed in that office for fourteen years that were proved pivotal to the modern day status of the Club as Australia’s premier country club.

Cochran’s legacy would never be forgotten though and even in his final years as President he, or rather his champion trotter Carlotta’s Pride, did more to attract patrons to Ballarat trotting meetings than any entity.

Keith Bray, along with others, Cochran included, felt that future development of the Club would be limited if they stayed at the Showgrounds and seized upon an opportunity that presented itself when the Miner’s Turf Club decided to move out of Redan and share the racetrack at Dowling Forest with the Ballarat Turf Club.

That was 1963 and immediately the Ballarat and District Trotting Club began negotiations to head back to its old stomping ground and one year later the lease had been signed and construction on the site commenced.

The new track was then considered by many as the best country track in Australia with its features being a four furlong track which was 50 feet wide

REVIVAL MEETING – JANUARY 4, 1949

Held at Miners Racecourse, Redan.

STATE BRED HANDICAP Of 45. 9 furlongs

LB Bland’s bg5 **SIL0** (Assure Derby) scr (L Bland) 5/1

A Pitman’s bm5 May’s Choice, scr (J Barron Jnr) 7/1
DW Johnstone’s blkga Silver Hill, scr (C Johnstone) 10/1

Others (in order): Morning Wood, scr (W Smith), Grand Siam, scr (B Meagher), Gentle Dalla, scr (C Caldwell), Midnight Direct, scr (K Hall), Flying Count, scr (V Rothacker), 2/1 fav. Miracle Lass, scr (B Coram snr), Vins Double, scr (D Hughes), Tennessee’s Pride, scr (C Stewart), Pearl Shoe, scr (L Forbes), Hec’s Dalla, scr (H Nelson), Loran Direct, scr (J Ohlin), Ruby’s Son, scr (R Palmer), Watch Alto, scr (G Davies), Bezique, scr (M Daniels), Lightning Royal, scr (J Jones), Encourage, scr (J Madigan) PU, Ben Louis, scr (L Forbes) PU.

Margins: 20yds X 3 yds **Rate:** 2:23.1

TROTTERS HANDICAP Of 45. 12 furlongs

C Garrard’s blkh6 **YARRAWALLA** (Walla Walla) scr (J Kenny) 5/2ef
JP Moore’s bma Complete, 72yds (JP Moore) 5/2ef
FW Hanlon’s bma New Grey, 72yds (F Hanlon) 6/1
Others (in order): Teddy Mac, 36yds (V Rothacker), Master Redmond (C Robertson), Wanica, scr (A Jamieson), Master Somerset, 36yds (A Simons), Walla Cole, 48yds (G Frost).

Margins: 8yds X 3yds **Rate:** 2:33.3

REDAN HANDICAP Of 45. 10 furlongs

CTG Morris’ bma **TAWNY PORT** (Cascade) scr (J Ohlin) 1/1fav
JP Moore’s bf3 Evasive, scr (JP Moore) 7/1
CG Burgess & EG Tatchell’s blkga Ernest Direct, scr (D Ritchie) 6/1
Others (in order): Sleepy Lu, scr (L Vagg), Solo Queen, scr (L O’Connell), Silver Hill, scr (C Johnstone), Lingle Lea, 36yds (W Robinson), Morning Wood, scr (W Smith), Miracle Lass, scr (B Coram snr), Great Gift, scr

(C Long), Lady Cascade, scr (L Welsh), Benton’s Echo, scr (G Davies), Straight Louis, scr (C Robertson).

Margins: 15yds X 5yds **Rate:** 2:22.4

BALLARAT HANDICAP Of 70 + trophy. 10 furlongs

G Dalrymble’s bh4 **TENNESSEE VIN** (Dark Vin) scr (W Richmond) 10/1
S Brown’s bh6 Hatteras, 48yds (R Viles) 6/4fav
A Simons’bma Nancy Dalla, scr (A Simons) 7/1
Others (in order): Evacious, scr (L Welsh), Royal Clay, scr (A Gath), Gabys Derby, 48yds (T Taylor), Watervale, 12yds (L O’Connell), Ideal Louis, scr (W Smith), Great Dalla, 48yds (C Long), Red Raider, scr (B Coram snr), Lord Tennessee, 60yds (W Kelly), Jingle Jingle, scr (M Mahar), Redvern, scr (C Caldwell).

Margins: 3yds X 7yds **Rate:** 2:16.8

BUNGAREE HANDICAP Of 45. 9 furlongs

H Allender’s bga **HILL VIEW** (Wirra Walla), scr (E Patten) 7/2
C Long’s brg6 Colin Vin, scr (C Long) 10/1
Smooth Action, chga Smooth Action (V Rothacker) 10/1
Others (in order): Derbon Lad, 60yds (W Robinson), Harry Belmont, scr (E Rothacker), 1/3fav Leather, scr (L Keys).

Margins: 15yds X 3yds **Rate:** 2:20.4

WENDOUREE HANDICAP Of 50. 10 furlongs

W Richmond’s bh4 **VIN PRONTO** (Dark Vin) scr (W Richmond) 4/6fav
Mrs RH taylor’s bh4 Chain Lightning, scr (R Taylor) 2/1
T Taylor’s grha Barellan Boy, scr (T Taylor) 12/1
Others (in order): Joe Dalla, scr (F Hanlon), Starwyn’s Choice, 24yds (C Caldwell), Prudent Vin, scr (R Wilkinson snr), Louisilda, 36yds (K Hall), Ideal Louis, 60yds (W Smith).

Margins: 4yds X 12yds

Rate: 2:19.6

THE FIRST NIGHT MEETING HELD IN BALLARAT



HONOUR ROLL FOR LOUIS MONOD EASTER CUP

1949	A.W. Butcher’s blkg4 MAIN SPRING (12yds – Alf Butcher) Tennessee Vin (scr) – 2nd; Cheery Bay (scr) – 3rd. Margins: half head X 5 yards. Rate: 2:15.2
1950	R.W. Stewart’s brha NEAT RAIDER (scr – Don Guy) 1st. Swift Minton (scr) 2nd; Toora’s Best (scr) – 3rd. Margins: 5 yards X one yard. Rate: 2:20.4
1951	G Gath’s bh6 PARLAH (12yds – George Gath) 1st. Dainty Flossie (scr) – 2nd; Purple Sage (24yds) – 3rd. Margins: Half Head X one yard. Rate: 2:19.2
1952	E Harpley’s brh6 DON’S AYR (scr – Roy Harpley) 1st. Dainty Rose (scr) – 2nd; Odd Look (12yds) – 3rd. Margins: 30 yards X 15 yards. Rate: 2:13.1
1953	Not Run
1954	R.J. Shaw’s bg4 FIREBALL (scr – Bob Shaw) 1st. Pamboli (scr) – 2nd; Annex (12 yards) 3rd. Margins: 5 yards X head. Rate: 2:14.8
1955	L Welsh’s brg5 COLINVALE (scr – Lou Welsh) 1st. Popatai (scr) – 2nd; Shire’s Shadow (scr) – 3rd. Margins: one yard X neck. Rate: 2:15.4
1956	H.R. Boyd’s bh4 PAY LOAD (scr – Phonse Hickey) 1st. Cahirciveen (scr) – 2nd; Gambling Raid (scr) – 3rd. Margins: half neck X half head. Rate: 2:16.2



Original Bray Raceway



Keith Bray

FIRST MEETING AT BRAY RACEWAY (27–10-1966)

INAUGURATION HANDICAP (1) (2:26 or better) 8f182y

9/4 **AACHEN PRINCESS** (12yds – N Gath)

6/1 Hanover's Pride (scr – B Clarke)

10/1 Desert Rock (scr – S Walsh)

Others: Evens fav Lecture (12yds), 10/1 Special Derby (scr) , 40/1 Man Fred (scr) 66/1 Queen Ling 12yds) 20/1 Jubilee Express (scr) 50/1 Malta Star (scr) 66/1 Top Miracle (scr), 50/1 Dancing Lassie (36yds) 66/1 Wendy Helen (scr)

Margins: short half head X 10yds **Rate:** 2:08.2

KEITH TURNBULL HANDICAP (2:25 or better) 10f182y

4/1 **CLASSIC WAY** (scr – P Mahar)

12/1 Aranic (scr – B Brennan)

40/1 King's Crown (scr – G Kelly)

Others: 33/1 Brigadier Bob (scr), 7/2 Noir Fille (24yds), 40/1 Doctor Casey (12yds), 3/1fav Welshman (scr), 66/1 Medora Gift (scr), 4/1 Timothy Scott (scr), 33/1 Spring Chief (scr), 40/1 Trackman (12yds), 10/1 Dibando (scr)

Margins: 6y X 2y **Rate:** 2:10.4

INAUGURATION HANDICAP (2) (2:26 or better) 8f182y

7/4 **JEAN PIERRE** (scr – G Rothacker)

33/1 Strath Gay (scr – T Jardine)

100/1 Alaskin Prince (scr – R Rothacker)

Others: 6/1 Renny Glenfern (scr), 4/5fav Robert Eden (scr), 50/1 Lockin's Gift (scr), 100/1 Counterplay (scr), 25/1 Double Score (scr), 8/1 Meadow Lawn (PU)

Margins: 1y X 1y **Rate:** 2:09.8

CHARLES DICKSON HANDICAP (2:21 or better) 10f 182y

4/9fav **RINGO** (24yds – V Frost)

40/1 Murray Craze (scr – L Dalton)

10/1 Craig Hall (scr – H Taylor)

Others: 5/1 Shep (scr), 33/1 Radiant Deed (scr), 8/1 Lynmont (12yds), 12/1 Percy Stanton (12yds), 40/1 Colleen Rose (12yds), 100/1 Favourite Way (scr), 50/1 Sir Calidore (scr), 100/1 Takeover (scr), 100/1 Sydney Song (scr)

Margins: 25y X 30y **Rate:** 2:05.0

BEGONIA CITY HANDICAP (2:24 or better)10 f 182y

4/6fav **FUTURE INTANGIBLE** (scr – W Davies)

12/1 San Marco (12yds – K Raw)

33/1 Jewel Watch (scr – J Shelley)

Others: 25/1 Dariss Deed (scr), 50/1 Moni Mactavish (12yds), 50/1 Bernie's Pick (12yds), 6/1 Twin Track (12yds), 10/1 Needawin (scr), 25/1 Ercil Gold (scr), 50/1 The Count (12yds), 4/1 Don Adios (scr), 33/1 Landscore (scr)

Margins: 5y X 3y **Rate:** 2:09.4

BALLARAT TROTTING CLUB HANDICAP (2:19 country–2:21 metropolitan)

Discretionary Handicap. 10f 182y

9/2 **FUTURE MONARCH** (scr – W Davies)

50/1 Tudor Court (scr – H Hodgson)

10/1 Glenbervie (24yds – A Simons)

Others: 25/1 Demon Hal (scr), 12/1 Lady Chesty (scr), 5/4fav Kiwi Hanover (scr), 15/1 Optical (24yds), 80/1 Donald Doon (12yds), 50/1 Arduous Chief (scr), 8/1 Playalong (scr), 50/1 Pliable (12yds), 4/1 Fountain (24yds)

Margins: 10y X 2y **Rate:** 2:08.8

HAROLD BARTLETT HANDICAP 8f 182y

2/1 **DUNNIKIER** (scr – N Gath)

16/1 Tardy Glenfern (12yds – W McDowall)

4/6fav Richmond Lass (12yds – JP Moore)

Others: 16/1 Tara Valley (scr), 33/1 Logan Proof (scr), 100/1 Victory Gift (scr), 5/1 Meadow Lad (scr), 40/1 Verna Margaret (12yds), 25/1 Style Beaux (scr), 50/1 Earl Vance (scr), 66/1 Spring Chimes (scr), 40/1 Banooka Bill (12yds) (PU)

Margins: 8y X 6y **Rate:** 2:10.4

R T WHITE TROTTERS HANDICAP 12f 182yds

16/1 **PANHANDLE** (scr – J Carter)

20/1 Wondondah (12yds – H Jardine)

100/1 Scrap Iron (scr – R Pooles)

Others: 15/1 Lara General (scr), 9/10fav Tinmine (24yds), 4/1 Frosty (scr), 10/1 Free Star (scr), 3/1 Silken Gown (24yds)

Margins: 5y X neck

Rate: 2:12.6

having 1 and 1/8 furlong bends and 7/8ths furlong straights. The surface of the track was made up of granitic sand forming the top layer and crushed rock, which formed the base.

The venue, like the one at the Showgrounds, could also be used for night harness racing with the erection of Quartz Iodine lighting.

It was a far-sighted project and it had to be said a courageous one financially but Bray was confident that the Club could service the debt and he was proved correct with the growth in TAB dividends, gate receipts jumping 50% in the first season accompanied by a 36% rise in memberships.

On 27th October 1966 an estimated 14,000 people witnessed the new venue being opened by Sir Henry Bolte, the then Premier of Victoria, with the racetrack being named "Bray Raceway".

The honour of winning the first race went to Norman Gath (Aachen Princess), overall driving honours for the evening went to Bill Davies (Future Intangible and Future Monarch) while the New South Wales visitors Vic Frost and his brilliant pacer Ringo took speed honours with a 2:05.0 performance. Jack Carter caused an upset in the final event, a field of high class trotters, with Panhandle.

When it came to speed, Bray Raceway was given the ultimate compliment on Boxing Night 1969 when George Gath sent Tara Meadow around the track, paced by Danderloo, in a one mile time trial stopping the clock at 1:59.6, the first time any pacer or trotter had recorded a two minute performance in Victoria. The previous best was Avian Derby's 2:01.0 time trial at the Melbourne Showgrounds in 1953.

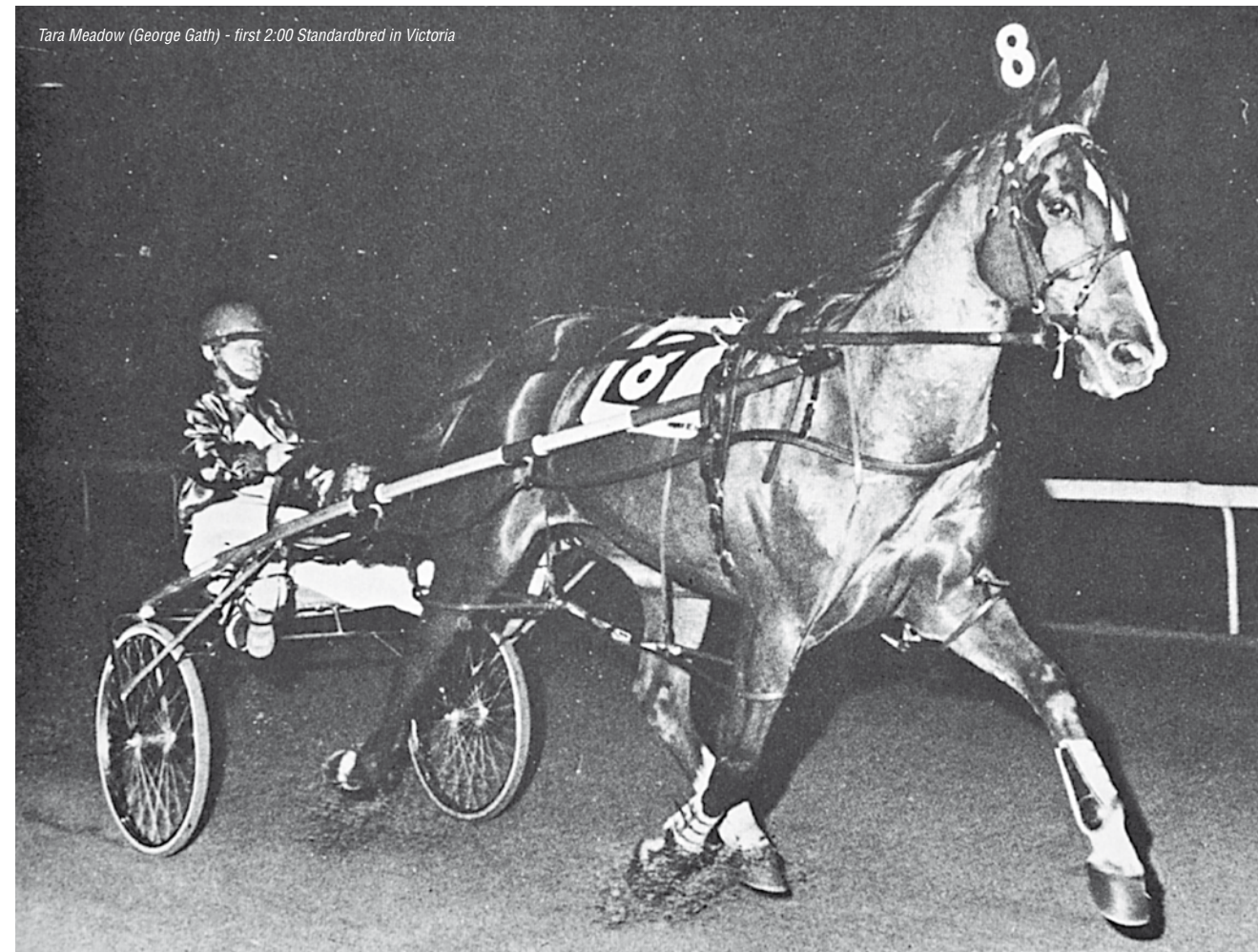
The Ballarat Pacing Cup was inaugurated on January 27th 1971 and was won by Son Of Nancy (Neville Welsh) and forty years later the Cup sits in a prominent position on the Australasian Grand Circuit as the only Country Club event on the schedule.



Sir Henry Bolte opens Bray Raceway

On January 18th 1984 the Club inaugurated the Andy Prendergast Ballarat Oaks Trial for three-year-old fillies, the event being won by the champion Jasmarilla and since that first running the event has grown in stature every year and now sits on the racing schedule for every high class 3YO filly.

Later that year another speed standard was achieved. Brian Gath, son of George Gath, claimed another first for the family by being in the sulky when



Tara Meadow (George Gath) - first 2:00 Standardbred in Victoria

the first sub 2:00 performance in a race was posted at Bray Raceway – Once More who rated 1:59.7 over 1,750 metres on 13th October 1984.

The following month a major infrastructure upgrade was officially opened at Bray Raceway in the form of a spectacular multi purpose dining room built onto the back of the grandstand, thereby providing an elevated view of the track with all the comforts of home.

The \$400,000 facility allowed patrons to wine, dine and watch the racing inside the centrally heated area free from the cool and icy weather than can strike the Ballarat environs.

Having provided the most modern facilities possible for patrons the Club administration moved their focus to the horses, drivers and the racing product and decided to commission acclaimed Sydney track designer Bede Ireland to revamp the 26 year old circuit. Ireland had earlier transformed Albion Park into the “Speed Pacing Capital of Australia.”

The stated objectives of the move were – (1) to produce a more attractive Harness Racing product to patrons and to on and off course punters by constructing a 1,000 metre circumference and 18.5 metre wide racetrack.

- (2) To produce a competitive, less interference and safer racing product
- (3) To significantly improve the safety factor for both drivers and horses by constructing flexible posts in lieu of an inside running rail
- (4) To upgrade the existing sub-standard quartz iodide lighting system to a metal halide system to a level that is expected by on course patrons and for high quality television broadcasting.

All objectives were achieved and it has to be said that objective (3) was controversial and required the utmost determination and persuasion by secretary/manager Colin Holloway to sway senior Harness Racing Board racing officials.

It was a first, and a visionary move as today there is hardly a Harness Racing circuit in Australia that has a running rail.

On 10th April 1992 racing commenced on the new circuit and appropriately one of the most successful trainers in Ballarat history, Bob Conroy, trained the first winner Times A Marching, driven by his daughter Anne Maree.

Other winners on opening night were – Crystal Wrist (T: Brian Owens. D: John Caldwell), Reformist (trained and driven by Ross Conway), Breakdance (T: Graeme Lang. D: Gavin Lang), the trotter Moments Like These (trained and driven by Danny Norris), a track record of 1:56.3 was posted by Defoe (trained and driven by Ted Demmler), Franco Surpass (trained and driven by Ray Matthews) and Shendi (T: CF Barns. D: Ross Serhan).

The quality of the circuit was franked by the champion trotter Wagon Apollo who set a new Australasian trotting stallion mile record of 1:57.1 on 15th November 1996.



A massive \$2 million redevelopment was officially opened on 3rd October 1997 by the then Minister for Sport, Recreation and Racing, Mr Tom Reynolds MP, further entrenching Ballarat as Australia’s prime regional Harness Racing venue.

A new listed event for trotters was inaugurated on 24th April 1999 when the John Slack Memorial Trotters Cup replaced the old Cup race that had been run since 1984 and was taken out by Russell Thomson’s Eric Booth.

Later that year the world came to Ballarat on 14th November 1999 when the Club was chosen to host a leg of the World Driving Championship comprising five races, three for trotters and two for pacers.

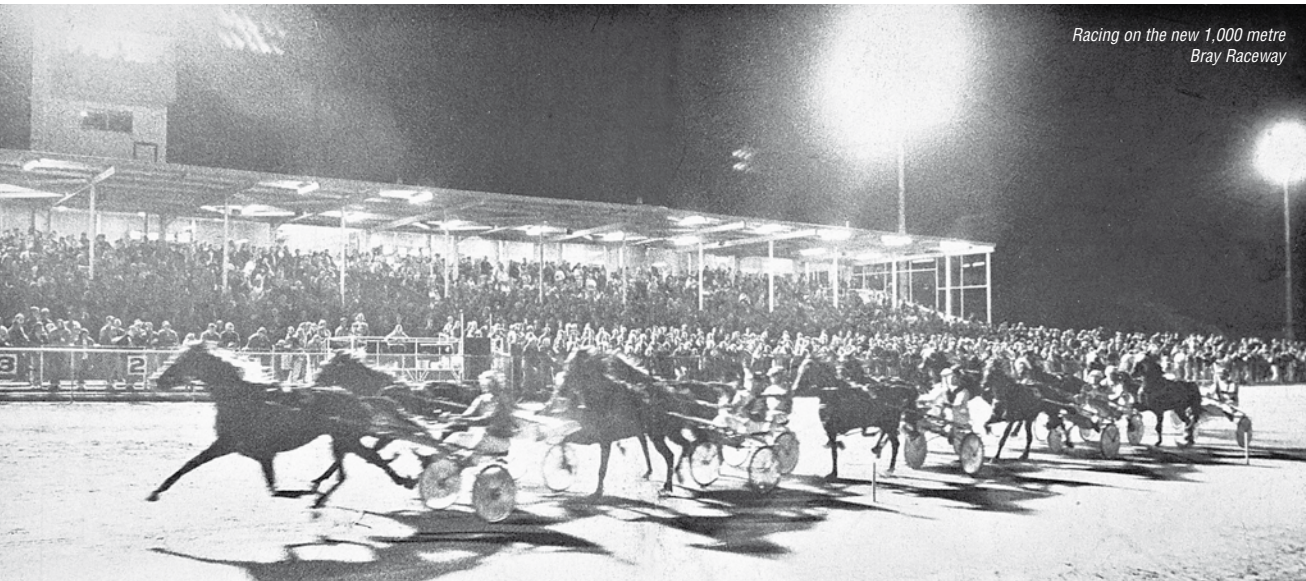
Sylvain Filion (Canada) shared the honours with Englishman Alan Haythornthwaite, both men scoring a double, while the remaining event was taken out by Enzedder Ken Barron.

With the two minute barrier no longer being a novelty on the 1,000 metre track, the objective of posting a 1:55.0 performance became a real possibility and a special \$26,000 Time Trial series sponsored by Thames Water (Ballarat) on 11th March 2001 provided not one, but three – Black Duke (1:53.7), Colbruce (1:54.0) and Persistency (1:55.0).

The following year (19th January 2002) Johnny Wizzard, with Anthony Butt driving, created a sensation by registering the first sub 1:55 race win at Bray Raceway rating 1:54.9 for 1,710 metres.

An important cog in the financial success of the Ballarat and District Trotting Club is the Flying Horse Bistro that is both a dining, poker machine and entertainment complex and the full ownership of the catering facet has been a significant positive.

The Australasian Breeders Crown was awarded to Ballarat in 2006 and it proved a magic day with a fairytale finish as the cult figure of the steely grey



champion 2YO Lombo Pocket Watch came from a hopeless position to win the \$284,000 final, the then richest race ever run on a country track.

When the Gordon Rothacker Medal was inaugurated the Ballarat and District Trotting Club won the first six Club of the Year Awards and in 2011 is the once again the reigning Victorian Club of the Year.

In 2011 the Ballarat Club received a \$300,000 modern facelift, co-funded by the Victorian Government, Harness Racing Victoria and the Ballarat Club, that provides a contemporary styled foyer entrance for events, improved ticket booths for race days and concealed public amenities and service yards.

New Ballarat & District Trotting Club President Greg Moy was grateful for the monies provided from outside the Club and stated, “This has allowed the club to rejuvenate its race meeting and function entrance re-affirming its position as the premier country Harness Racing venue in Australia.

“The facelift will allow the club to further market the venue to groups within the Ballarat area who are looking to book an attractive venue. Importantly, the revenue gained from our catering department allows the Club to continually improve its facilities, as well as provide a funding source for the above average stake money contributions.”

That the Ballarat and District Trotting Club is now the premier regional Harness Racing venue in Australia, and indeed, Australasia, has not been an accident and is the product of an exceptional collective effort by hundreds of people, men and women, over 150 years.



Many have continued to hold the faith when there seemed little hope due to dreadful economic circumstances compounded by Australia’s involvement in military global conflicts.

What those people have contributed though are significant, albeit varying, measures of vision, mental strength, administrative skills, ingenuity, physical attributes plus generosity of time, assets and spirit. **HRI**



Ballarat Hall Of Famer – Sir William Don

Greatest ever arguments are fascinating but ultimately remain without a conclusion for there are so many criteria for greatness – speed, toughness, wins, prizemoney, sprinting ability, prowess as a stayer, popularity and cult status, Group One victories, juvenile performances, time records and overseas success.

With every decade so different to that prior or hence in respect of stakemoney, tracks and competition, it is perhaps best to acknowledge greatness within different eras and leave it at that.

There are two emphatic performances, one on the track and one off the track, that underline his greatness. On the track he paced a mile in 2:25.0 in 1867 which made him the thirteenth fastest pacer in the world, a feat that no Australian or NZ pacer has ever approached.

Off the track he won over the turf journalists of the day who were overtly antagonist towards trotting, so much so that when he died in harness at Randwick in 1873, sporting pages in Sydney and Melbourne led with the headline “The King Of Trotters Is Dead.”

Sir William Don was born in 1856 at the property of William McKenzie, mine host at the Wanderer Inn at Deniliquin (NSW) and was intensely inbred being by the imported English thoroughbred stallion Mozart and of a mare named Wallaby, who was also by Mozart.

As a free-legged natural pacer Sir William Don was an absolute rarity for the times as there are no verified reports of any other pacers racing in Australia until the 1880s.

Sold as a two-year-old for 8 to a Victorian in Mr Dickens, Sir William Don thereafter passed into the ownership of Mr Dicken’s employer Mr Capel before being acquired by Creswick sportsman Robert Orr. Orr nominated Sir William Don for the first ever country trotting Club meeting in Australasia at Dowling Forest in October 1861 but scratched him on the morning of the race.

Orr then leased Sir William Don for twelve months to one of Melbourne’s social elite George Davenport who delighted in showing off Sir William Don’s speed on the roads around St Kilda and Brighton.

Davenport was not a horseman a fact confirmed by him nominating Sir William Don to make his debut in a six mile Champion FFA at the third of the famous American Trotting Race meetings at Flemington against the trotter Mazeppa, the then Champion of the Colonies, who was owned by Robert Orr.

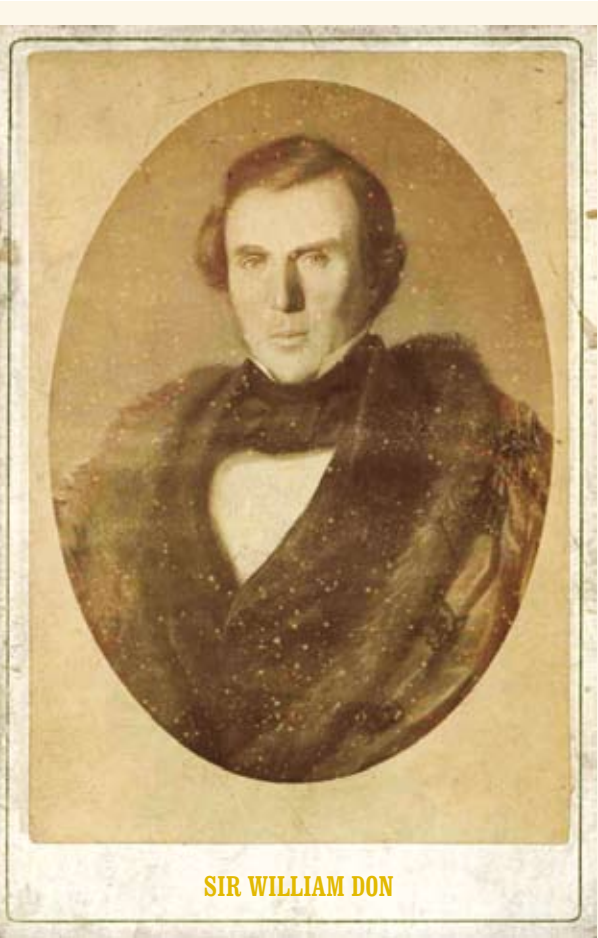
Although he was making his debut Sir William Don’s speed around town had already made an impression on the turf scribes of the day being described in the newspaper form guide – the first trotting form guide ever published in Australia – thus, “Sir William Don is a pacer, and very quick on his shuffling legs; but I doubt he being very close up at the finish.”

The scribe was proven correct as the debutant Sir William Don tired over the final mile –“wobbled around the course” according to the paper - and was duly distanced, however, Robert Orr had seen enough potential during the event when he matched Mazeppa against Sir William Don for sheer speed and in the weeks after the Flemington race he was most anxious for the one year lease to Davenport to expire.

Robert Orr was not only a champion sportsman but also a high calibre horseman who regularly competed in steeplechases, so he was well aware that Sir William Don’s next racetrack engagement should be over a much shorter distance than what his debut had been.

The second, and as fate would have it the last, meeting of the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club at Dowling Forest in April 1863 was the appointed place for Sir William Don’s first run for Orr and the pacer lined up in a Maiden Trot which would be decided in 12 furlong heats, best two out of three.

The Ballarat Star picks up the story:-
“FIRST HEAT – All the horses started in sulkies. Sir William Don was favourite for this race. After a capital start Sir William Don went to the front,



The original Sir William Don, for whom Australia’s first champion pacer was named for, was an eccentric English baronet, and really clever actor who died in Hobart Town in 1862. Sir William Don was described as being “ a fellow of infinite jest,” and was not only quick at repartee, but prompt at parrying and retorting a practical joke. When in Scotland, he was a frequent traveller on a line of railway, on which he was accustomed to ride third class. The directors observing this, and wishing to break him of the habit, hired some sweeps to get into the same “cattle pen” with himself. Sir William saw through it all, and next day, when the sooty gentlemen presented themselves on the platform to accompany him, he took first class tickets for themselves and himself, and they had a merry time of it on the journey; for he kept his sombre fellow travellers in a roar of laughter from beginning to end. But we need scarcely add that, after this, the directors did not attempt to interfere with Sir William Don’s penchant for a third class carriage.

and soon left his competitors a long way behind. On going up to the stockyard, he was 100 yards, at least, in front of Cranky Poll who was second.

Coming down the slope the baronet sailed along gallantly, and increased the distance between himself and his competitors at every stride, and came in first some 200 yards in advance of Cranky Poll, who was second, amid tumultuous applause. Time: 4min 2sec. In consequence of the stewards neglecting to place one of their number at the 70 yards distance post, it was decided that all horses should race the next heat, although they were doubly distanced. This gave rise to considerable discussion, and after some persuasion Mr Orr was induced to submit to the arrangement.

SECOND HEAT – Sir William Don went away again with the lead, closely followed by Lady Don, the latter, however, soon gave place to Cranky Poll, and Vermont Girl fell way behind. Sir William Don sailed along smoothly round the top of the course some 50 yards in advance of Cranky Poll. On coming down the slope he increased the gap, and came in an easy winner by 80 or 100 yards hard held. Time: 4m 12sec.”

Sir William Don’s rate for the mile and half in the first heat was 2:40.6, the first time the three minute barrier had been bettered in Australia or New Zealand in a race and it is worth taking into account that Cranky Poll was no slouch either because she came out later the same day and set an Australian mile record for trotters of 2:57.5 that was to stand for nineteen years.

That year the American Trotting Races meeting was moved from Flemington to Emerald Hill (South Melbourne), however, in 1864 trotting enthusiasts convinced the Victoria Racing Club authorities to allow another full scale trotting meeting there that was called the Grand Metropolitan Trotting Races.

Not even a dreadful morning weather wise and a heavy track could dim the star of the show Sir William Don who won the Selling Trot and the feature 100 guinea Albion Cup, best three of five mile heats.

Bell’s Life reported on the Selling Trot thus – “only two opposed Sir William Don and they might as well saved themselves the trouble, for he passed them with ease as soon as thought proper, one enthusiastic member of the Ballarat division laying 100/1 on him as soon as he got to the front. There is no mistake about Sir William Don being able to get over the ground at a great pace.”

In the Albion Cup the highly promising young trotter Magic was afforded some chance of knocking off Sir William Don although the latter did go out as an odds-on chance. In each of the three heats Robert Orr adopted the same tactics of allowing Magic to make his own pace before swinging out at the distance (70 yard mark), challenging and sprinting past Magic – akin to a modern day Markovina or Koala King. The times and margins on the heavy track were six lengths (2:59), half neck (2:53) and six lengths (2:59).

The closeness of the second heat led to many an animated discussion and eventually the gauntlet was thrown down for a return clash the following month, with Dowling Forest, Ballarat the appointed track and the distance agreed to be a marathon six miles.

Magic had won the Grand Metropolitan Trot (six miles) at the Grand Metropolitan Trotting Meeting and connections were extremely confident that they could topple Sir William Don from his throne as the nation’s best.

The Ballarat Star reported on the highly anticipated clash:- “Sir William Don and Magic both driven, Whisker was ridden and Magic was favourite at 3 to 2 against. A splendid start was effected, Magic having the inside place. He kept it bit for a short distance when SWD passed him and took the lead about a length ahead. Whisker was in the rear and he gradually fell further behind until there was a distance of about 200 yards between him and the other two. The first round of the course was completed in 4m 39s and by Magic in three seconds more. The next round was run considerably faster but without much alteration in the position of the horses. Sir William Don still kept the lead though hard held and on completing the second round was about twelve

lengths ahead. The next round was completed in about the same speed but Magic was still further in the rear and breaking occasionally. The speed of both horses then appeared to be slightly increased but Sir William Don still held his ground and never offered to break. At the distance post his speed was really splendid and on passing the winning post he was fully ten lengths in advance of Magic and hard held. The race, six miles and a distance, was completed in 18m 1s.”

Undeterred, Magic’s supporters pressed for a two horse match race worth 400 over six miles just nine days later on the second day of the first ever meeting hosted by the Victoria Racing Club, the product of a merger between the Victoria Turf Club and the Victoria Jockey Club.

The Ballarat and Creswickites on track that day were supremely confident offering almost any odds for those who wanted to back Magic and there was some concern at one stage whether the grey Magic would turn up at all. He did though with just minutes to spare.

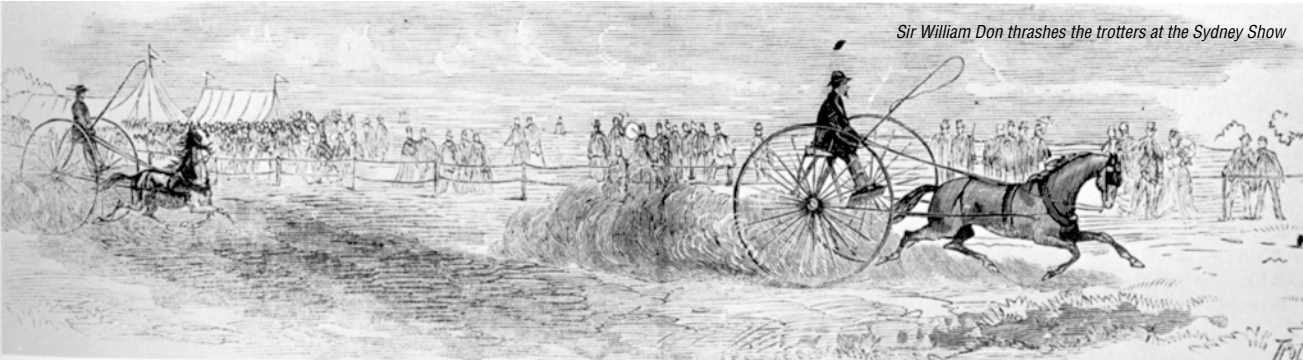
Press reports recorded the match race thus: - “At the start the grey went away with the lead until the first turn, when Mr Orr ’s horse made an effort and ran past his opponent, keeping it until the heavy ground was reached when Magic again passed him, keeping the lead until the grand stand was reached when passed again ahead in splendid style. Each round, until the fourth and last, was of the same character, it being evident that Mr Orr’s horse could run away from his opponent whenever his driver chose to ask him. Both horses trotted fairly, and superior as the Don was, it was admitted that Magic was not to be despised.”

There was a sensation after the race when both drivers, without their respective bridles, weighed in light, no doubt due to the exertions of the marathon event and the fact they weighed out with the bridles. Quite a kerfuffle played out on the day and in the weeks following with the VRC eventually having to pay out the Magic side of the purse and trotting subsequently paid the price for the embarrassment caused to the thoroughbred officials – only one other event was ever conducted there subsequently , the 1908 Fleet Cup won by the American trotter Dixie Alto.

With Metropolitan trotting gone for ever at Flemington and having demonstrated his dominance over his rivals Sir William Don proved impossible to place during the 1864/5 season due to handicaps allotted to him and as a subsequence he did not race at all.

After eighteen months off the scene it was hoped that the handicapper may be a tad more lenient on the nine-year-old and so it proved when handicaps were released for a 60 sovereign trot over four miles at Geelong in January 1866, with Sir William Don placed on a backmark of 250 yards against three newcomers in newly arrived 5YO American import Black Hawk Belle, Tom Moore (winner of a three mile trot at Prahran in December 1865) and Jemmy, the conqueror of Robert Orr’s Whisker at the 1865 Ballarat Autumn Steeplechase meeting.

Jemmy, who got 150 yards start on Sir William Don, was successful as the latter failed to handle the Geelong surface and galloped several times, but soon put matters right when the pair met three months later at the Ballarat Grand National Steeplechase meeting as the Ballarat Star scribes duly reported:-



“The race created a great deal of speculation and the horses had each a large circle of admirers. Jemmy from his performance at Geelong and elsewhere was very well thought of and the chances of success were considered all the greater from the bare probability that SWD might break during the race.

Those who entertained that opinion were greatly disappointed as he never once broke throughout the race, whilst Jemmy broke twice. Both horses appeared in capital fettle and Jimmy exhibited less of the “draught” appearance which so characterized his frame on his last victory on the Ballarat course. He seemed in very good training, and so did the Don. Betting was plentiful on the result and 2/1 was freely offered on the Don – the favourite – and by many was freely accepted.

The start was made at the back of the course, exactly one mile from the winning post, and the course being one and a half miles round, the horses had to pass the stand three times. The Don was driven in a sulky, by the owner, and Jimmy was ridden. The weight for each horse was set at 11 stone, but Jimmy carried 7lb extra. The horses got away well at an easy pace which was however shortly afterwards increased. The Don speedily gained on Jimmy and passed the stand, completing the first mile about three lengths ahead of Jimmy – time for that distance about two minutes and three quarters. The Don trotted splendidly and appeared to be held on passing the stand. On reaching the back of the course Jimmy broke for the first time and thereby lost about a length and a half. The Don still kept the lead and passed the stand, for the second time, about six lengths in advance. On going towards the back of the course on the last round, Jimmy broke again nearly on the same place as before and lost another length or two. The game then evidently up for the Don having then settled down to his work slightly increased his pace and on coming round to the straight running the steam was put on and he passed the post, the winner by about eight horse lengths.” The time represented a new Australian record for four miles for a pacer or trotter.

Off to Bendigo in June, Sir William Don comprehensively defeating the opposition over four miles after coming off a backmark of 450 yards and with the nearest horse to him in the handicaps, the eventual runner-up Archimedes, being 325 yards away.

Orr must have had a few sleepless nights pondering what sort of handicaps would receive in the following season and he was pleasantly surprised when a brash Sydney enthusiast, Mr Hogan, challenged Orr to race Sir William Don against his steed named The Fool on New Year’s Day at Randwick.

The press in Melbourne and Sydney had a ball with the arrangement reporting it as “Trotting Match For Eighteen Hundred Pounds” thus:- “A trotting match has been arranged to come off on New Year’s Day next, three miles over Randwick course, between a New South Wales horse and the famous crack of Victoria, Sir William Don, optional as to whether they travel in saddle or harness. The backers of Sir William Don have laid one thousand pounds on their horse, against eight hundred for the New South Wales horse. Four hundred and fifty pounds were deposited on Thursday night when the match was made, and similar sums are to be put down on the 20th of October, 17th of November, and the night before the race respectively. Either party failing to put in an appearance on these dates forfeits whatever amounts are in the stakeholders’ hands. This match no doubt will cause the greatest excitement, and will bring as large a concourse of people to Randwick as have ever met there.” To put the amount of £1,800 into perspective, the 1866 Melbourne Cup would be run for £1,094.

On December 15th the Maitland Mercury announced that a local, John Patrick, would be driving The Fool in the great sporting event and that the “celebrated trotting horse Sir William Don” arrived by the steamer City of Melbourne at half past 2 o’clock. He was later transported to stables at Waverley.

The massively promoted clash was set down as race eight at five o’clock on the AJC meeting programme and Robert Orr obliged the thoroughbred officials in every way he could publicity-wise before the appointed day and that included training sessions open to the public.

It was at one of these sessions that Hogan received a rude awakening when Sir William Don reeled off successive mile sectionals of 2:38.0, 2:33.0 and 2:32 in a three mile training run and it was not unexpected that at the appointed time of five o’clock on New Year’s Day that there was no sign of Hogan or his appropriately named horse The Fool, especially as Hogan had not lodged his final payment on race eve.

Sir William Don did appear and trotted the three miles in fine style in 8 minutes and 58 seconds, and was enthusiastically cheered both before and after the race by the horse lovers in attendance.

Hogan spat the dummy big time and took the matter to court claiming the match race was not legal and after nine months of legal arguments, adjournments and postponements the Supreme Court ruled that the match race was indeed a legal contract and not one made under the statutes of fraud and that Hogan had to pay the outstanding monies.

He refused but several Sydney sportsman clubbed together the funds required because as the Sydney press described, “in order that the character of the colony of NSW should not suffer.”

By the time the court decision was handed down in September 1867 quite a lot had occurred in the life story of Sir William Don, on and off the racetrack.

Sir William Don accepted for an event at Ballarat at their Annual Steeplechase meeting and his owner Robert Orr won the Grand National Steeplechase with his star jumper Ingleside on the Friday then drove Sir William Don in a four mile handicap race for which Sir William Don had been given a 750 yard handicap.

The event was a disaster with a false start being declared but all horses were forced to complete a full lap of the circuit before the restart and mid-contest Robert Orr pulled Sir William Don out of the race as the long start given had made a successful chase futile.

Five weeks later Sir William Don traveled to Bendigo for a 50 sovereign Trot where he was asked to give his rivals 600 yards over three miles and he subsequently turned in one of the greatest pacing performances ever seen.

Sir William Don flew through the first mile in a sensational 2:25, the next mile in 2:37 and over the last mile reached the lead and went on to win by fifty yards and amid the jubilant scenes and enthusiasm by the crowd and officials alike, no time was taken for the final mile.

Nevertheless the first mile of 2:25 was just 6.5 seconds outside the World Pacers Record held by the American Standardbred Pet and promoted Sir William Don to being the 13th fastest pacer in the world and additionally his time for two miles was not bettered by any pacer or trotter in Australia for 26 years. No mile in Australia by a pacer has ever approached Sir William Don’s performance the next best being Mount Eden’s 1:56.7 time trial which made him the 26th swiftest pacer in the world. And don’t forget it was done from a standing start.

Orr realized that this was the end of any racetrack career and he sold him to another Ballarat horse enthusiast E.J. Brayton, a regular steward at Ballarat Turf Club meetings and one of the original members of the Ballarat and Creswick Trotting Club.

Brayton was obviously a dreamer and duly entered the rising 11-year-old for the 1867 Melbourne Cup and when weights were released in June he was shocked to see that the VRC handicapper had allocated Sir William Don the astonishing weight of eight stone and three pounds.

Astonishing because he was the twelfth highest weighted horse in the race and his allocated weight was one stone, three pounds more than 1865 Cup winner Toryboy and seven pounds more that 1866 Cup runner-up Exile.

One month later at Craig’s Royal Hotel, the annual Melbourne Cup sweep was conducted for members of the Ballarat Turf Club and 65 members paid over £10 each into the pool and then one by one drew a horse from a barrel containing the names of the 65 horses weighted. To the amusement of all, Brayton drew his own horse Sir William Don.

In the months and weeks leading up to the 1867 Melbourne Cup, the turf journalists continued to lampoon Sir William Don’s place among the

Melbourne Cup contenders but undeterred Brayton made every payment including the final acceptance despite not having started Sir William Don in an official thoroughbred event.

When the VRC committee selected the 1867 Melbourne Cup field the name of Sir William Don was not there despite him being the fifth highest weighted horse remaining, a decision probably made because of embarrassment, be it for how badly he would perform or perhaps because he may beat home some of the blue blood thoroughbreds. Others simply mused that the events of that infamous match race at the inaugural VRC meeting in 1864 had not been forgotten.

While Sir William Don was no favourite of Melbourne thoroughbred officials he was a great favourite in Sydney and in December 1867 he appeared at Randwick decked out in race day splendour for his new leviathan punter-owner Joe Thompson and trainer James Wilson, a pair that caused a sensation six years later when the mysterious Don Juan won the 1873 Melbourne Cup.

Press reports at the time stated that His Excellency Sir Hercules Robinson, Governor of Hong Kong, who was a regular visitor to Flemington and Randwick offered 300 guineas to purchase Sir William Don for himself.

It was not until April 1871, or almost two years after his previous start at Geelong in April 1869, that Sir William Don again saw the racetrack contesting a a modest 20 sovereign handicap over four miles at Ballarat. The handicapper was unforgiving making the now 14-year-old start from a handicap of 950 yards and Sir William Don showed that he had retained his ability by finishing second, just fifty yards from the frontmarker Princess.

Two months later at the Melbourne suburban track of Croxton Park, Sir William Don came off a 700 yard backmark with the nearest trotter to him in the handicaps being Archimedes (350 yards) who was sent out an even money favourite, with 3/1 being freely offered about Sir William Don.

Even the thoroughbred biased press jubilantly reported on what was to be the champion’s last ever victory – “The trotting race although the thing we most dislike on the racecourse for once in a way proved the most exciting race of the day. A quarter of a mile from the line the pair got together and the “It’s all over” was shouted from the stand, but Archimedes stuck to the champion all the way up the straight, with Archimedes breaking near the line.”

The actual race report was, “The distance was a little over three times round and at the end of the second Archimedes had succeeded in getting a strong lead, Sir William Don being still 200 yards behind, nothing near except Polly who was passed by Sir William Don at the back where he put on the pace “tremendous” and getting up on terms with Archimedes in the last quarter of a mile, a splendid drive home ensued, ending in favour of the Baronet, by about a dozen yards.”

A month later at Geelong Archimedes was given a fifty yard lift compared to the Croxton Park race and turned the tables on Sir William Don over four miles, winning by a mere two lengths with press reports saying, “Sir William Don lost a lot of ground in both rounds by trying to run off the course after passing the straight running and had he run truly all of the way he would have won.”

The final season for Sir William Don was the 1871/72 season when he was a 15-year-old and he had but two starts at Croxton Park that were at opposite ends of the spectrum so far as success was concerned. In addition a proposed £500 a side match with Jemmy failed to eventuate.

At Croxton Patk on Boxing Day in 1871 Sir William Don had to race from a 800 yard handicap over three miles and was making significant headway when the axle on his sulky broke causing the subsequent demolition of the sulky and forced retirement from the contest for the Don.

Sir William Don’s final racetrack appearance may have not been a winning one but some regarded it as his greatest ever performance as was beaten by the potential champion trotter Wanderer by thirty yards after conceding him 700 yards at the handicaps and he rated 2:22.0 for the three miles, a time that had he won would have been a world race record for a pacer or trotter.

CAREER RECORD OF SIR WILLIAM DON

1861/62 (5YO)

12 Apr	4th (scr)	Flemington	100sovs	FFA	6m	--
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1862/63 (6YO)

10 Apr	WON (scr)	Ballarat	40sovs	Heat	12f	2:40.6
10 Apr	WON (scr)	Ballarat	40sovs	Heat	12f	2:48.0

1863/64 (7YO)

16 Apr	WON (scr)	Flemington	30g	Hcp	3m	2:59.3
16 Apr	WON (scr)	Flemington	50g	Cup (ht)	Mile	2:59.0
16 Apr	WON (scr)	Flemington	50g	Cup (ht)	Mile	2:53.0
16 Apr	WON (scr)	Flemington	50g	Cup (ht)	Mile	2:59.0
12 May	WON (scr)	Ballarat	£65	Hcp	6m	3:00.2
21 May	WON (scr)	Flemington	£400	Match	6m	NTT

1864/65 (8YO) - Unraced

1865/66 (9YO)

Jan 19	2nd (250y)	Geelong	60sovs	Hcp	4m	--
Apr 2	WON (50y)	Ballarat	£60	Hcp	4m	2:43.3
Jun 22	WON (450y)	Bendigo	60sovs	Hcp	4m	2:51.0

1866/67 (10YO)

Jan 1	WON (scr)	Randwick	1800sovs	Match	3m	2:59.5
Apr 13	PU (750y)	Ballarat	60 sovs	Hcp	4m	--
May 24	WON (600y)	Bendigo	50 sovs	Hcp	3m	2:25.0*

*Time for the first mile

1867/68 (11YO) - Unraced

1868/69 (12YO)

Mar 4	5th (850y)	Geelong	25sovs	Hcp	4m	--
May 14	4th (850y)	Ballarat	30sovs	Hcp	4m	--

1869/70 (13YO) - Unraced

1870/71 (14YO)

Apr 14	2nd (950y)	Ballarat	20sovs	Hcp	4m	--
Jun 17	WON (700y)	Croxton Park	£20	Hcp	4m	NTT
Jul 28	2nd (750y)	Geelong	20sovs	Hcp	4m	--

1871/72 (15YO)

Dec 26	PU (800y)	Croxton Park	10sovs	Hcp	3m	--
Jan 26	2nd (700y)	Croxton Park	15sovs	Hcp	3m	--

A measure of Sir William Don’s greatness can be gleaned from the fact that at Wanderer’s very next start it was placed on a 900 yard backmark and won setting an Australian record for the longest handicap ever won from.

As mentioned earlier Sir William Don was a favourite of Sydneysiders and he was invited back there, as a 16-year-old for a special Handicap Trot over four miles at the inaugural meeting of the Sydney Hunt Club at Randwick scheduled for April 26.

At the beginning of April Joe Thompson shipped his champion to Sydney and entrusted his training to the famous horseman WP Bowes for the event, however, while being driven on April 13 by Bowes along the roads to Randwick for trackwork, Sir William Don dropped dead – he truly “died in harness.”

Obituaries and eulogies followed and were published in many States of Australia, most simply headed – “The King of Trotters is Dead.” [HRI](#)

Ballarat Hall Of Famer – Happy Voyage

International success is the hallmark of greatness and the years immediately after World War One Australian pacers such as Blue Mountain King, Man o'War and Adelaide Direct dominated their Kiwi rivals in New Zealand.

Another superstar Australian pacer during that time that conquered New Zealand was the Ballarat owned Happy Voyage, who actually commenced his career as a talented trotter.

Happy Voyage was a grandson of Moonee Valley trotting winner Our Nell and was born in the Gippsland district of Victoria at William Bassett's "Aucterhill" farm in Neerim South. He was always impressive and when five months of age he was seen by one of Victoria's leading trainers described him as a having a "beautiful long neck and with short cannon bones".

In 1914 Ballarat and District Trotting Club committeeman and studmaster James Folland was commissioned to acquire some pacers and trotters to uplift the standard of fields in Perth by WATA President James Brennan and the then unnamed Happy Voyage was one of eleven that he acquired.

However, when it came time to ship them to Perth only ten berths were available and as fate would have it the one that was cut from the Brennan consignment was the unnamed Direct Voyage – Honest Meg trotter that was returned to Ballarat with Folland.

Local grocer George Millett Gilbert subsequently saw the youngster around the streets of Ballarat and he convinced Folland to sell it to him for a mere 20 pounds with Gilbert naming the trotting colt Happy Voyage and entrusting local horseman John Shirley senior with its early education and racing career.

Not surprisingly the young trotter commenced his career at the Ballarat Miners course in Redan and in fact all of his three starts as a three-year-old were on that grass circuit in twelve furlong events, opening up with a fifth and following that with placings off 165 yard and 90 hard handicaps.

Given a freshen up Happy Voyage made his debut as a four-year-old on 25th August a winning one winning by twenty yards and rating a slow 2:54 for the mile and a half on a heavy, water sodden track.

That was the first of four successive wins as a trotter for Happy Voyage, the others also being recorded at Ballarat in November, and on successive days in December, the last one being on December 29 when he posted a PB of 2:32 3/4 from a 66 yard handicap.

The decision was then made to take on the city slickers at Richmond and two thirds, with John Shirley driving in February and March preceded a challenge for the 1916 Richmond Cup on Anzac Day.

Handicapped off 25 yards Happy Voyage was strongly fancied at 6/1, however, he found that a heavy cinders track is a far different assignment than the grass tracks he had been racing on and after a gallop he finished stone motherless last.

Slipping back home to Ballarat Happy Voyage was next produced in May for an attempt to duplicate his effort the previous December in winning at a Ballarat Miners Turf Club meeting and a Ballarat and District Trotting Club meeting in successive days.

On the Friday Happy Voyage finished a lacklustre fifth off a handicap of 165 yards at odds of 10/1 beaten more than 20 yards in a race where the winner Tiega from 15 yards rated 2:35 3/4, however, on the following day in front of a record crowd for the Ballarat Club, Happy Voyage was simply stunning.

Heavily backed into even money despite a backmark of 170 yards over the mile and a half, Happy Voyage was described thus in the Australian Trotting Record:-

"The limit horse, King Osterley, and the backmarker, Happy Voyage, dominated monopolised attention in the race. King Osterley started off at a fair gait, and Happy Voyage jumped into his stride immediately after flag-fall and gradually, by a magnificent exhibition of trotting cut down the field and went into pursuit of King Osterley. After going a mile Happy Voyage had got to within 30 yards of the leader. At the four furlong post Happy Voyage was holding King Osterley safely and nearing the turn they were together. King Osterley then broke and the race was over. Lady Myee put in a brilliant finish and was ten yards behind Happy Voyage, King Osterley being four yards away third. Time: 3m 56 secs. Mile rate: 2 min 27 3/4 secs.

Stewards launched an inquiry into the contrasting performances of Happy Voyage and to the surprise of no-one the Victorian Trotting Association announced that "G. M. Gilbert (owner) and horse Happy Voyage, for 12 months, dating from 19th May, 1916, for inconsistent form at the Ballarat Miners Turf Club meeting on 19th May and the Ballarat and District Trotting Club's meeting on 20th May." Strangely the trainer/driver John Shirley escaped punishment.

Not impressed with the outcome Gilbert thereafter transferred the horse to Arthur Porteous, who like all trainers tinkered with the horse's shoeing to see if he could inspire better performances.

He quickly realized that Happy Voyage had had been heavily weighted to make him a trotter with 16oz shoes plus toe weights in front and 6 oz behind – a total of 22oz – and despite that still displayed a desire to swing over to a pace.

Up to the time he entered Porteous' stable Happy Voyage had never been hopped or ridden in saddle and Porteous knowing him to have an inclination to pace decided to experiment by having Happy Voyage shod him 5oz in front and 6oz behind.

He then put on the pacing hopples on Happy Voyage and alternatively rode, and drove him in a jinker, him through countless long miles of work for six weeks.

Confidence of both horse and trainer rose week by week and it was decided to target the Holy Grail of Victorian trotting, the Richmond Thousand.

Nominations were progressively published from early September as due to World War One the date for the running of the Richmond Thousand was not fixed – it was scheduled to be held sometime before the Melbourne Cup for thoroughbreds - and at the mercy of the Federal Government who had assumed control of racing.

Eventually a date was set – Monday, 29th October and a field of 23 (including interstate entries from South Australia, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland) would face the starter and in a comprehensive preview in the Australian Trotting Record the chances of Happy Voyage were dismissed thus – "Neither Mountain Palm or Happy Voyage on ten yards appeal to the writer."

What the writer was unaware of, however, were two private trials – a 2:11 effort over the mile at Ballarat and a 2:16 rate over the mile and half trip on the Thursday previous to the race.

It was one of, if not the strongest, edition of the Thousand with competitors such as 1914 Richmond Thousand winner Blue Eyes, 1923 Auckland Cup winner (Blue) Mountain King, 1920 and 1921 Auckland Cup winner Man o'War, 1916 and 1918 Richmond Thousand winner Eminent plus 1914 WA Pacing Cup winner Maori Speed lining up.

The Australian Trotting Record, the bible of the sport, was on hand as usual to record proceedings with Happy Voyage and his rider Arthur Porteous in his Gold, Blue Sash and Cap silks going to the post as a 10/1 chance:-

"All the trotters behaved well at their sectional barriers and a good start was effected. After moving away smartly the favourite Rosebud collided

with Bonnie Doon who had a few yards ahead and spoilt their chances. Wonga also had to be steadied to avoid the ruck before one hundred yards had been covered. The four frontmarkers went off at a great pace and as they passed the grandstand for the first time Man o'War was showing the way to Maori Speed, Dick Alto and Culloden, whilst Wonga and Wilkes

Child were in close attendance thus early in the long race.

Eminent, last year's winner was a bad last. Racing along the back stretch the second time Maori Speed and Man o'War were disputing the lead with Happy Voyage fast overhauling the pair, then coming Culloden, G.C., Dick Alto, Wilkes Cloud and Wonga, the rear being brought up by Eminent and Merran.

Entering the straight the second time Happy Voyage cut down the leaders and established ahead of several lengths was never afterwards approached winning hard held by 50 yards from G.C. (Bill Tomkinson) who was a length ahead of Culloden. Mountain King was a close fourth, Blue Eyes fifth, Proud Cleve sixth, Maori Speed next whilst the last to finish was Horseshoe, Eminent and Merran. Winner's rate: 2:23.0"

Five weeks later Gilbert, who resided at 32 Skipton Street in Ballarat, placed an advertisement offering Happy Voyage as a stallion at a fee of eight guineas, however, little patronage ensued.

It would be seven months before Happy Voyage raced again tackling a Flying Handicap over nine furlongs on Monday May 13 at Richmond and bookmakers were hammered by the Ballarat followers of the champion who knocked off the early odds of 3/1 and continued to support him until post time when he was an even money favourite.

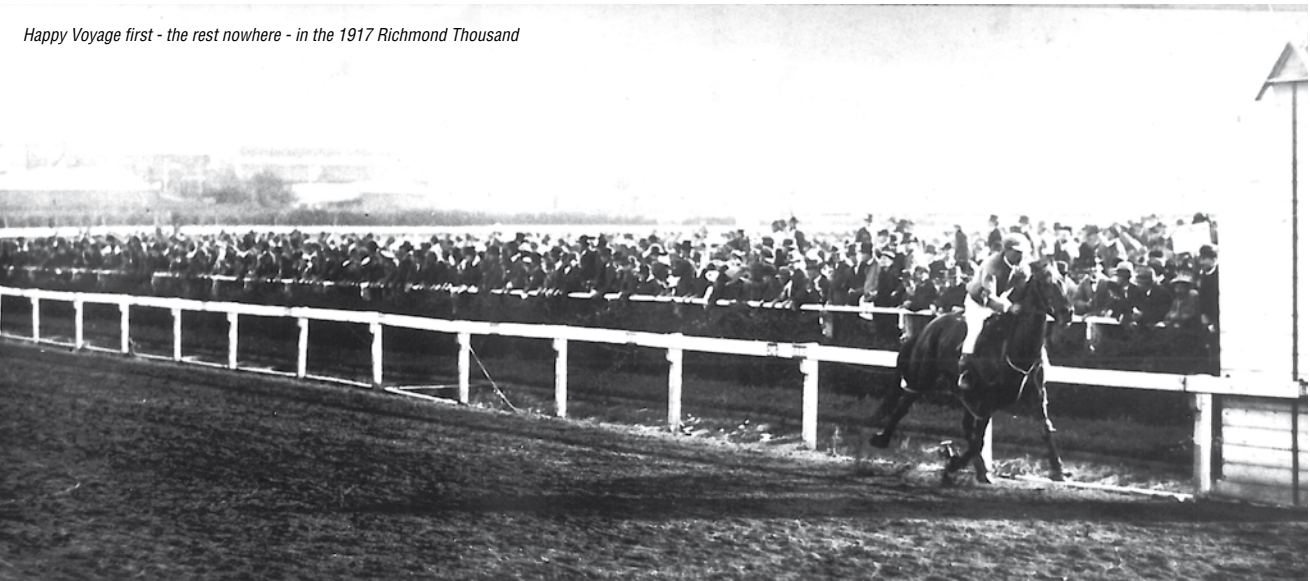
Happy Voyage, driven in a sulky, came off a 65 yard handicap and was camped on the leaders coming off the back straight the last time and sprinted past the opposition to win by nine yards from Dan Bells, lowering his lifetime record to 2:19 1/4.

Stakemoney in Australia was at a low ebb during World War One and George Gilbert always had an eye towards the richest event on the Calendar, the Richmond Thousand.

Happy Voyage was nominated for the 1918 edition and was allocated the 100 yard backmark with the 1916 winner Eminent given 85 yards, a massive



Happy Voyage first - the rest nowhere - in the 1917 Richmond Thousand



Happy Voyage fails to catch outsider Asheville Lad in the 1918 Richmond Thousand



turnaround from the previous year's event when the handicaps were 10 yards and 160 yards respectively.

Eminent duly won by a neck from Man o'War but Happy Voyage was not there to defend his crown with trainer Porteous scratching him due the horse suffering an influenza attack.

Influenza not only troubled Happy Voyage for months but also the State of Victoria resulting in many meetings being cancelled from the paltry allocation of four metropolitan and fourteen country meetings that the Federal Defence department had allocated. As a consequence Happy Voyage did not race in the 1918/19 season.

Enter Billy Tomkinson, one of the greatest horsemen that Australia has produced. He was the leading trainer in Melbourne during World War One and regularly raided the Sydney scene, specifically Epping and Victoria Park, and even set up a small satellite stable at Mascot, within walking distance of Victoria Park.

A measure of Tomkinson's ability was that after he sent up permanent stables in New Zealand he won the New Zealand drivers premiership in 1924/25 and 1928/29 as well as being the Dominion's top trainer in 1924/25, 1927/28 and 1928/29. Interestingly he spent most of the winters in Sydney as he could not abide the bitterly cold winters in the South Island.

Tomkinson wanted the best horses and obtained a lease to race Happy Voyage thereby giving him the honour and pleasure of having the two best pacers in Australia, Globe Derby and Happy Voyage in his stable.

Although both champions were listed as owned by Tomkinson the actual silent owner/lessee was Alex Hunter, the man who would become the first Chairman of the Victorian Trotting Control Board.

Tomkinson had been a long time admirer of Happy Voyage ever since the pacer had thrashed him and his horse G.C. in the 1917 Richmond Thousand.

Happy Voyage's first run under the Tomkinson banner was in a Flying Handicap on September 29th, an event which was to serve as a pipe-opener for the 1919 Richmond Thousand, a race that attracted 45 nominations and a 95 yard backmark for Happy Voyage.

Happy Voyage, a 2/1 favourite, was on top of his game winning the nine furlong scamper by two yards and once again further lowered his lifetime time mark to 2:16 3/4.

Happy Voyage was installed favourite in the Thousand at 9/2, the seemingly generous quote offered in deference to the high number of opposition starters – twenty four – that Tomkinson would have to steer Happy Voyage through and around.

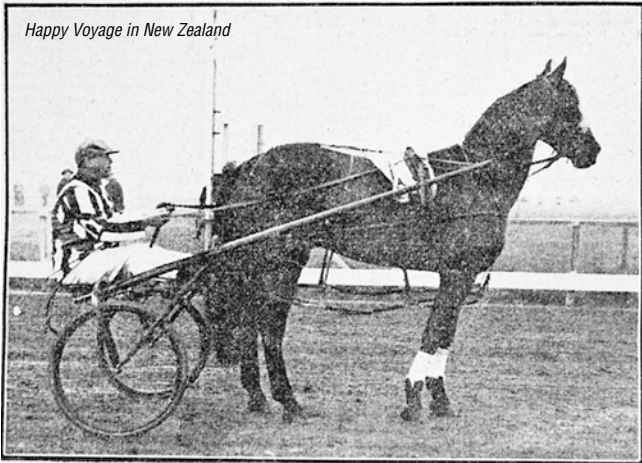
He was beaten a half length by 33/1 outsider and frontmarker Asheville Lad, however, the Australian Trotting Record scribe noted that “Although Happy Voyage was beaten in the Thousand on Monday, it may fairly be said that the honours of the race were with the son of Direct Voyage and Honest Meg.”

The first assignment in the 1920 calendar year was the Sydney Thousand and again the handicapper confirmed Happy Voyage as the best horse in the nation by allocating him the 100 yard backmark for the mile and half feature.

The prepost favourite was the maiden Realm but a strong move in the betting ring for Delavan Bill sent that horse out favourite at 3/1 ahead of Realm (9/2) and Happy Voyage (5/1).

Happy Voyage raced right up to his best but a future star in Man o'War (off 70 yards) bettered the Australian mile and a half record by winning in 3:22.0 (2:14 2/3 mile rate), winning by three quarters of a length from Medway with Happy Voyage a length and a quarter off third. Needless to say Happy Voyage obliterated the Australian record but as he was placed he was not credited with the record.

Next up at Epping (Harold Park) in a division of a nine furlong Flying Handicap as co-backmarker on 6 seconds with Sparkling Bells, Happy Voyage defeated former Victoria Derby winner Lucap by a length with three lengths back to Sparkling Bells. The winning rate of 2:11.1 represented a new Australian race record.



Five days later in a mile feature at the larger Victoria Park circuit Happy Voyage smashed the Australian mile race record when he came off 75 yards over the sprint trip to down Ravenswood the best pacer from Queensland with Globe Derby (50 yards) unplaced. Handicaps thereafter meant that Happy Voyage had to pace an Australian record in every race he contested to win and quite often even to place. At Victoria Park on 30th August the great grudge match took place between Happy Voyage and Globe Derby with the handicapper giving the latter a 20 yard lighter handicap, 60 yards as against 80 yards, for the mile. His mile rate was 2:09.0

Happy Voyage was in front with a furlong to go and was actually “eased up” according to the scribes of the day and posted a time of 2:11 5, which was met with cheers for both horse and driver.

Into 1921 and at Victoria Park, Australasia's fastest track, Happy Voyage bettered the Australasian mile a half record twice in three weeks, the first was not recognised as he only finished third but on 21st February his 3:19.0 (mile rate 2:12 2/3) winning time went into the record books.

During the week following his Australasian record breaking effort Happy Voyage was badly injured. While being led to a sand roll he rushed at a horse standing nearby attached to a cart. The horse in the cart threw his head to one side and Happy Voyage ran onto the shaft skewering his shoulder. The word from stable insiders was that the wound was very deep and that Happy Voyage would not race for quite a while.

Fortunately some expert veterinary care had Happy Voyage back in work and nominated for the upcoming Sydney Thousand where he was backmarker on 130 yards and his stablemate Globe Derby was on 80 yards.

In a lead up race the week prior to the Thousand he struck a sulky during running and was pulled up to a walk and Tomkinson subsequently scratched Happy Voyage from the Thousand citing soreness.

As it turned out Happy Voyage had not fully recovered from the horrific spearing and was sent for a spell.

The rest of the year became ridiculous as Happy Voyage was copping handicaps that made it nigh on impossible to place, let alone win and in September 1921 he would have had to better 2:08 from a 135 yard handicap in a mile race to win and the following week he was beaten a neck, rating a sensational 2:09.9 over 12 furlongs and 120 yards at Harold Park.

Taken back down to Melbourne for the Royal Melbourne Show Speed trials Happy Voyage did not disappoint pacing a record 2:10 3/4 around the tight three furlong circuit and subsequently George Gilbert received an offer of 2,000 pounds by Bert Rae (acting for who many believed to be Alex Hunter) to buy the star outright but he knocked it back by declaring he wanted 3,000 pounds.

The week after the Show mile record Gilbert advertised Happy Voyage at stud again at an increased fee of 15 guineas and doubted whether he would race his champion again due to handicaps his horse was getting and would continue to cop.

After persistent pleas from Tomkinson, Gilbert only relented when Tomkinson told him he was intending to campaign a team in New Zealand in the 1922/23 season due to the higher stakemoney on offer over there.

Gilbert granted an extension on the lease for two years and Happy Voyage was shipped across to tackle the NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club's August Carnival first up with the rich New Zealand the ultimate aim in November.

If Gilbert thought the Australian handicappers were tough then he had to be shocked when their NZ counterparts were even tougher by making him the automatic backmarker in every race he contested and in one race was asked to give up to 36 yards start to 1919 NZ Cup winner Trix Pointer.

He won at Addington over 10 furlongs from a 60 yard handicap and paced 2:45.0 (mile rate 2:12.0) and after the New Zealand Cup carnival won at New Brighton on the grass over the same distance, this time off 84 yards behind the scratch markers rating 2:10.6 and in February 1923 he went even faster at Addington over the same distance winning from a 96 yard handicap rating 2:09.3.

That time from a stand was just one fifth outside the Australasian record of Our Thorpe and Author Dillon that had been put up with the aid of moving starts.

What happened to the NZ Cup? Happy Voyage didn't qualify because of an absurd situation created by NZ administrators. On arriving in New Zealand Happy Voyage was classified as a 4.27 horse for two miles, the distance of the New Zealand Cup. No horse in the country had a faster rating.

To qualify for a run in the New Zealand Cup a horse had to run a place in five specified lead up races over two miles and the NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club insisted that all races had to have a 4:38 front to help the lesser known horses gain a start.

The only problem was that Happy Voyage would had to give his rivals 132 yards start in every one of those races and in the only event that Tomkinson put Happy Voyage in, the champion finished fourth to Grand Denver (off the front). His time was five seconds faster than any other horse recorded in any of the five races but because he wasn't placed he didn't get a start. Amazing.

Even the New Zealand Press was outraged and the situation was the subject of a front page editorial that said in part, “The New Zealand Cup has always been recognised as a race for the champion of champions and should be kept so. But by compelling horses such as Happy Voyage to remain in his loose box is not in accordance with the popular idea of the race.”

After an exhausting effort clocking 2:08.0 off a 96 yard handicap over one mile Tomkinson decided to race the clock instead of breaking Happy Voyage's heart off such handicaps.

First cab off the rank was a time trial on the grass track at New Brighton with two assisting galloping pacemakers, one in saddle (Olwyn ridden by J Clarke) and one with sulky (War Bond driven by A Chapman).

The existing record Australasian record was 2:06.2 set by Our Thorpe and there was never any doubt that Happy Voyage would better that – first furlong in 16 1/2 seconds, first two furlongs in 32 seconds, three furlongs in 47 1/2 seconds, half in 63 seconds, three-quarters in 1:34 and a final quarter in 30.2 gave Happy Voyage a final time of 2:04.2. The time was an Australasian record and a world record on grass.

There was a little controversy after the trial with some claiming that one of the pacemakers headed Happy Voyage, so Tomkinson time trialled again at Alexandra Park a fortnight later on a track described as “holding” and posted the same time to silence the nay sayers. The sectionals were 30.6 – 40.8 – 1:02.4 – 1:33.8 and 2:04.2.

A New Zealand journalist described Happy Voyage as “the closest thing to a flying machine in horsedom.”

At the 1923 NZMTC August carnival Happy Voyage competed three times in a week off handicaps of 96 yards (over one mile), 96 yards (10 furlongs) and 108 yards (10 furlongs) so in frustration Gilbert agreed to lease Happy Voyage to Albert Hendrickson for a season at stud.

For New Zealand bloodlines that was one of the greatest happenstances in history because one of the foals he sired that year was subsequent Dunedin Cup winner Regal Voyage who later became the dam of New Zealand's first ever 2:00 Standardbred Haughty (two NZ Cups) and the ancestress of Shakamaker, NZ 2YO mile record holder Franco Hatrick and sub 1:50 pacers Wherethemoneywent and Royal Cee Cee.

Happy Voyage's stud season was interrupted by the New Zealand Cup carnival where he competed twice on a brief preparation, with a third in a FFA his best effort.

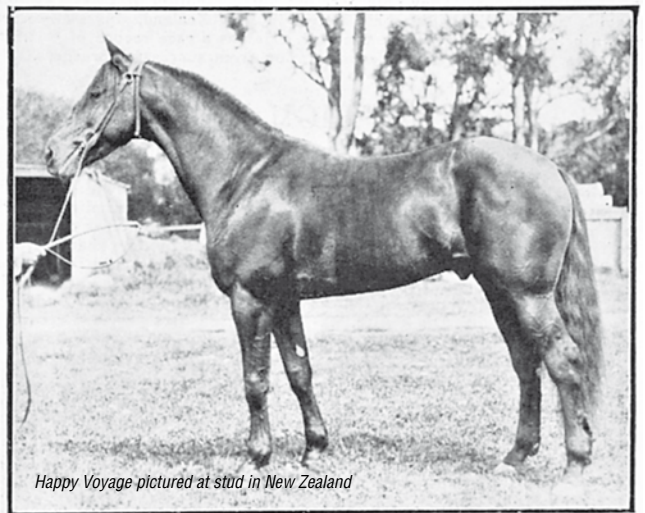
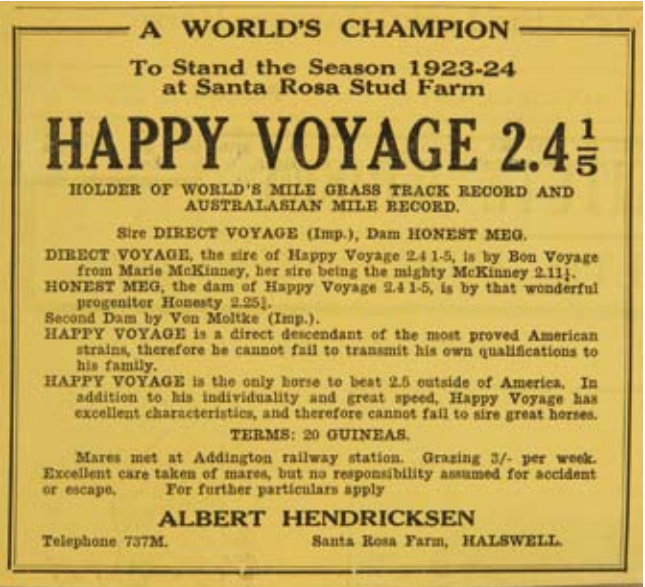
After that it was back to stud for another two months before leaving for Australia arriving back in Victoria where he would stand at stud again, his race career seemingly over.

Not so, for after a very disappointing response from broodmare owners, Happy Voyage was put up for sale on November 5 at the Victorian Horse Bazaar but failed to sell, so it was decided to lease Happy Voyage in January to Harry Burkett of Wendouree.

Burkett immediately contacted one of Ballarat's best horseman Orme Marshall who agreed to train Happy Voyage for another racing campaign noting that he still retained his easy swinging pacing gait.

Within six weeks Happy Voyage was back at Richmond racing and had six starts for the season being placed three times.

The following season Happy Voyage was kept for racing and raced the entire season as a 14-year-old winning three races at the Ballarat Miners



Course and on the same programme as his last win, one of his Australian born progeny Happy Boy also was victorious.

In April Happy Voyage went back to Arthur Porteous who tried his hand once again at training and found that the old fellow only wanted to trot and he actually entered him as a trotter at Richmond on May 31 1926 but scratched him.

Thereafter Porteous put the hobbles back on and managed to get Happy Voyage for two more starts in a Flying Handicaps at Richmond on July 12 and 26, closing out his career with a fifth off 24 yards.

Mrs Gilbert then asked Porteous to dispose of the horse to best advantage as her husband had recently died and he duly did so selling him to Arthur Quick in Adelaide.

Quick once again placed Happy Voyage back into training, but one day the veteran became frightened and bolted with John Shirley Jnr who was then employed by Quick. The result was that the horse injured his hip and his racing days were over for good.

Quick then sold him to Johnny Connors of Laity Street, Richmond, who bought him on behalf of NZ owners who used him solely for stud purposes where he stood for a fee of 20 guineas.

It a Ripley’s “believe it or not” episode Happy Voyage was put back into work once again in late December 1926 and was nominated for the Final Handicap at the Canterbury Park Trotting Club meeting in January 1927. When the owners saw that the handicapper allocated a crushing 84 yard handicap,

they were allowed to scratch without penalty and immediately cancelled any plans to race Happy Voyage again.

That was not the end for Happy Voyage’s fame in New Zealand though as he went on to be a creditable sire producing Dusky Sound (Timaru Cup, National Cup), Regal Voyage (Dunedin Cup) and the 3YO trotting classic winner Manhattan (NZ Sires Produce).

His daughters produced, apart from the first 2:00 mare in the Southern Hemisphere Haughty, juvenile sensation British Machine, Happy Man (NZ FFA) and the trotter Barrier Reef (Dominion Handicap).

Of more importance to New Zealand is that the Happy Voyage mare Foreign Mission (1929) was the grandam of Rosehaven (dam of Black Watch), and some of the stars that have emerged from her dynasty are the millionaires Il Vicolo, Stunin Cullen and Gotta Go Cullen.

Another daughter of Happy Voyage that has embellished New Zealand bloodlines is Rocks Ahead, the ancestress of Inter Dominion winners Smooth Satin and Rondel. She is also the ancestress, ironically, of the fastest ever pacer around Bray Raceway in Black Duke TT1:53.7.

Happy Voyage passed away in New Zealand in 1936 and although there were many subsequent eulogies it was perhaps the words of Bill Tomkinson contained in a 1923 letter to Mrs Gilbert that summed it up best when Tomkinson wrote that in his opinion “Happy Voyage was the greatest pacer that ever lived.” **HRI**

CAREER RECORD OF HAPPY VOYAGE

3YO (1914/15 - Trotter):					Sep 12 1921	3RD (14sec)	Harold Park	12f120y	--
Apr 3 1915	4TH (105yds)	Ballarat	12fur	--	Sep 24 1921	Time Trial	Melb. Show	8fur	2:10 3/4
May 1 1915	3RD (165yds)	Ballarat	12fur	--					
May 15 1915	2ND (90yds)	Ballarat	12fur	--					
4YO (1915/16 - Trotter):					11YO (1922/23 - Pacer)				
Sep 25 1915	WON (30yds)	Ballarat	12fur	2:54.0	Aug 5 1922	Unp (60yds)	Addington	8fur	--
Nov 20 1915	WON (20yds)	Ballarat	12fur	2:42.8	Aug 9 1922	WON (60yds)	Addington	10fur	2:12.0
Dec 28 1915	WON (scr)	B-Miners	12fur	2:37 3/4	Aug 11 1922	Unp (132y)	Addington	16fur	--
Dec 29 1915	WON (60yds)	Ballarat	12fur	2:32 3/4	Dec 16 1922	WON (84yds)	New Brighton	10fur	2:10.6
Feb 14 1916	3RD (150yds)	Richmond	10fur	--	Jan 1 1923	Unp (96yds)	Addington	16fur	--
Mar 15 1916	3RD (145yds)	Richmond	10fur	--	Jan 1 1923	Unp (84yds)	Addington	10fur	--
Mar 24 1916	2ND (180yds)	B-Miners	12fur	--	Feb 10 1923	WON (96yds)	Addington	10fur	2:09.3
Apr 25 1916	Unp (25yds)	Richmond	12fur	--	Mar 31 1923	2ND (96yds)	Addington	8fur	--
May 19 1916	Unp (165yds)	B-Miners	12fur	--	Apr 4 1923	Unp (108yds)	Addington	10fur	--
May 20 1916	WON (170yds)	Ballarat	12fur	2:27.8	Apr 14 1923	Time Trial	New Brighton	8fur	TT2:04.2
					May 7 1923	Time Trial	Addington	8fur	TT2:04.2
					Jun 2 1923	3RD (108yds)	Addington	10fur	---
5YO (1916/17):					12YO (1923/24 - Pacer)				
Did not race					Aug 11 1923	3RD (96yds)	Addington	8fur	---
6YO (1917/18 - Pacer):					Aug 15 1923	Unp (96yds)	Addington	10fur	--
Oct 29 1917	WON (10yds)	Richmond	9fur	2:23.0	Aug 17 1923	Unp (108yds)	Addington	10fur	--
May 13 1918	WON (65yds)	Richmond	9fur	2:19 1/4	Nov 8 1923	3RD (scr)	Addington	8fur	--
					Nov 9 1923	Unp (72yds)	Addington	8fur	--
7YO (1918/19 - Pacer):					13YO (1924/25 - Pacer)				
Did not race					Feb 23 1925	Unp (42yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
8YO (1919/20 - Pacer):					Mar 23 1925	4TH (42yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
Sep 29 1919	WON (60yds)	Richmond	9fur	2:16 3/4	Apr 6 1925	4TH (42yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
Nov 4 1919	2ND (95yds)	Richmond	12fur	--	Apr 11 1925	Unp (132yds)	Ballarat	10fur	--
Apr 8 1920	3RD (100yds)	Victoria Park	12fur	--	Apr 27 1925	2ND (48yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
Apr 26 1920	WON (6sec)	Harold Park	9fur	2:11.1	Jul 1531925	2ND (54yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
May 1 1920	WON (75yds)	Victoria Park	8fur	2:09.0					
9YO (1920/21 - Pacer)					14YO (1925/26 - Pacer)				
Aug 30 1920	WON (80yds)	Victoria Park	8fur	2:11.5	Aug 17 1925	4TH (56yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
Dec 10 1920	3RD (120yds)	Victoria Park	8fur	--	Oct 26 1925	4TH (30yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
Jan 17 1921	3RD (10sec)	Harold Park	9fur	--	Oct 26 1925	Unp (66yds)	Richmond	10fur	--
Feb 21 1921	WON (185yds)	Victoria Park	12fur	2:12.6	Nov 2 1925	4TH (30yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
Mar 19 1921	PU (120yds)	Victoria Park	8fur	--	Nov 7 1925	WON (96yds)	Ballarat	9fur	2:21.0
May 1 1921	4TH (10sec)	Harold Park	9fur	--	Nov 7 1925	2ND (102yds)	Ballarat	10fur	--
Jun 28 1921	Unp (9sec)	Harold Park	9fur	--	Nov 28 1925	Unp (108yds)	Ballarat	9fur	--
Jul 15 1921	Unp (7sec)	Harold Park	9fur	--	Dec 24 1925	WON (102yds)	Ballarat	9fur	2:35.1
					Dec 31 1925	WON (102yds)	Ballarat	9fur	2:19.5
10YO (1921/22 - Pacer)					Mar 27 1926	Unp (108yds)	Ballarat	9fur	--
Sep 5 1921	Unp (135yds)	Victoria Park	8fur	--	Jul 12 1926	Unp (30yds)	Richmond	8fur	--
					Jul 26 1926	5TH (24yds)	Richmond	8fur	--

Ballarat Hall Of Famer – Carlotta’s Pride

The spectacle of racing under lights attracted fans like a moth to a flame as the Ballarat and District Trotting Club attempted to re-establish itself after the Second World War, however, there was one special element missing, a hometown equine hero.

That equine hero gap was filled by the trotting mare Carlotta’s Pride, bred and owned by the man who was the major driving force behind the revival of the Club in 1947 after many years in recess, Eric Cochran.

The genesis of the Carlotta’s Pride story goes back to 1931 when Roy Redmond, an unraced imported trotter from North America served his first book of mares at Robert Simpson’s stud farm in Armidale, New South Wales. Such was the depressed nature of the economy and the lack of opportunities for the trotter that Roy Redmond served just ten mares that season.

One of those mares was one of Simpson’s imports Carlotta The Great, a pure bred trotter that took a pacing record on the racetrack which is why Simpson was able to purchase her significantly cheaper than expected.

Her dam Mary Dillon was a half sister to Inferlotta T2:04 3/4, one of the first 100 2:05 performers in USA and Carlotta The Great’s half sister Queen Volo is, according to Classic Families (www.classicfamilies.net), the ancestress of Italian trotting legend Tornese (winner of 129 races), Echo dei Veltri (2004 Italian Derby) and sub 2:00 Australian trotter Brarnie Lulu Tr.TT1:59.8.

The resultant mating of Roy Redmond and Carlotta The Great was named Carlotta Redmond and the filly was purchased by Eric Cochran who had befriended Simpson and later became a business associate standing several of Simpson’s stallions including Roy Redmond and Louis Direct, the latter being the fastest ever pacing stallion imported to Australia.

The purchase proved to be an inspired one because only months after the transaction, Carlotta Redmond’s younger sibling Carl (by Wilbur Lou) won the 1933 Victoria Trotters Derby as Ascot.

Carlotta Redmond was a trotter and actually made her debut on the old Miners Racetrack at Redan at a Miners’ Turf Club meeting and later on she was to win for George Gath at Ascot (Melbourne) and at Wayville in Adelaide, retiring with a mark of 2:23.3.

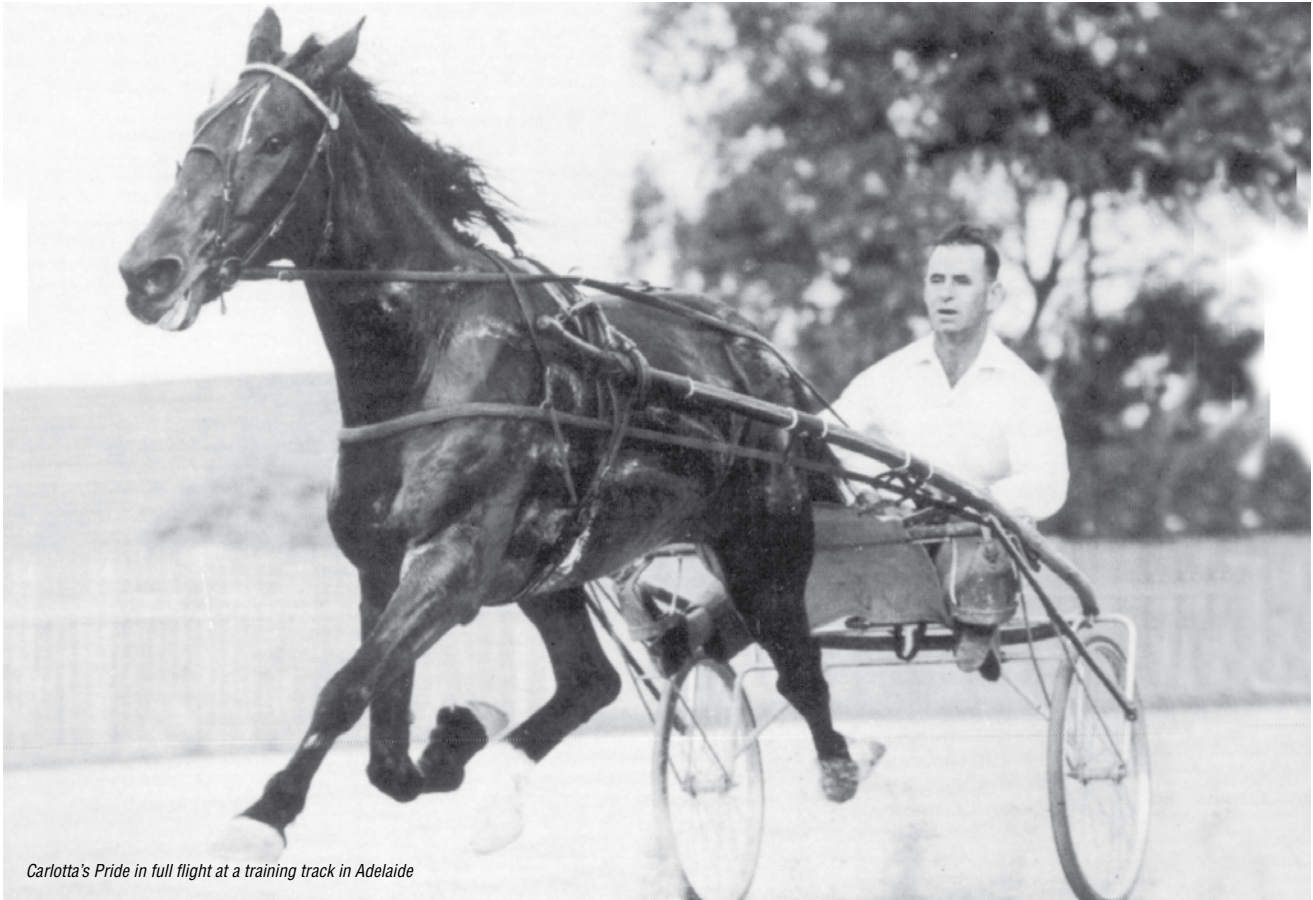
When it came time to breed Carlotta Redmond in 1944, Eric Cochran had no hesitation in going to Edgar Tatlow’s champion dual gaited import Raider with Carl Raider being the result. Although Carl Raider did not race he played an important role in trotting pedigrees in the 1960s and 1970s and was Australia’s leading broodmare sire of trotters in 1974/75.

In 1947 Cochran selected a different consort for Carlotta Redmond in the unraced NZ bred trotting stallion, Peter McElwyn (Gallant Knight USA – Dolores USA) who was standing at Quambatook and had made an immediate impact by siring Greta McElwyn (1945 SA Trotters Derby) and Dot McElwyn (1946 SA Trotters Derby).

Carlotta’s Pride was the resultant foal and although Cochran would have loved a Victoria Trotters Derby trophy, circumstances conspired to delay her racetrack debut until the very last meeting of the Victorian 1954/55 season, when she finished an inglorious eleventh in a maiden trot at Geelong on July 3rd.

Trained by legendary trainer George Gath and raced on lease by George’s wife Gladys, Carlotta’s Pride turned her career around in no uncertain manner the following season as a 6YO winning nine races, five at Ballarat including two track records and enabled George to win the Victorian Trainer’s premiership by a single victory from Bob Parker. Her nine wins was the most by any trotter that year and just a single victory behind the winningest pacer Efficiency.

Carlotta’s Pride won four in succession from 10th December until the 14th January when she came off a 60 yard handicap at Ballarat with Norman Gath in the cart to win by four yards and create a new track record for 12 furlongs and 120 yards.



Carlotta’s Pride in full flight at a training track in Adelaide

After three defeats she kicked off another victorious spree of five successive wins at Ballarat off 24 yards on March 11th, followed by a wins at Ballarat (off 84 yards), Shepparton (off 36 yards), Ballarat off 60 yards in track record time for 14 furlongs and 10 yards), Shepparton again and finally a Free-For-All at Terang defeating New Louis owned by Eric Cochran’s brother Ron.

New Louis in fact ended Carlotta’s Pride’s winning streak by beating her into second place at Warragul after having a 24 yard advantage at the handicaps, 72 yards to 96 yards.

Carlotta’s Pride closed out the season at the last meeting of the Victorian season once again by finishing third, carrying number 20A, off the huge handicap of 120 yards to Harry Holmfield’s class trotter Way Yonder, trained and driven by Gordon Rothacker.

Next season Carlotta’s Pride continued to thrill the patrons at Ballarat with a victory off 120 yards (at odds of 6/4 on) on December 14th 1955 and then a comfortable defeat of the pacers in February.

It was clear to George that he had a trotter capable of taking on the best in Australia and with Harold Park administrators in their wisdom creating three Cups for the trotters – Spring, Summer and Easter – the obvious place to test his confidence was at Harold Park and Carlotta’s Pride made a successful debut there in March 1956.

Returning to Victoria Carlotta’s Pride only won one more event that season, a pacer’s event at Terang, finding Novel Count too strong in the feature Hambletonian at the same track and in a Warragul Free-For-All.

Trotting was an integral part of the entertainment at the Royal Melbourne Show back in those times and the best pacers and trotters all made a beeline for the Melbourne Showgrounds as the metropolitan season in Melbourne never started until after Show Week had concluded.

Carlotta’s Pride made her first appearance at the Show in 1956 winning twice for trainer/driver George Gath, once in a Free-For-All and once from an imposing handicap mark of 108 yards.

The 1956/57 season was a breakout year for Carlotta’s Pride in the silk department winning the only two Free-For-Alls at Ballarat, one honouring the late Frank Matthews in track record time, four races at Harold Park including the Easter Trotters Cup, the Victoria Trotters Cup (now known as the V.L. Dullard Cup) and the Autumn Trotters Cup at Shepparton off 72 yards in track record time.

One of the features of the Royal Melbourne Show since the 19th century were the annual mile record attempts by pacers and trotters and at the 1957 Show, Carlotta’s Pride established a new Show and Victorian mile record for trotters by time trialling in 2:07.2 to better Black Moth’s record of 2:07.8.

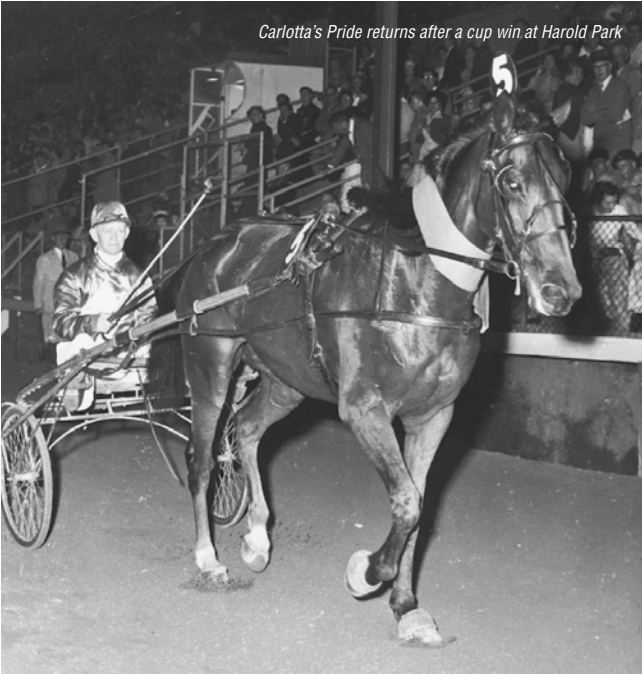
Off to Harold Park George and Carlotta’s Pride triumphed in the Spring Trotters Cup by three lengths rating 2:14.0 from her 36 yard handicap and then won her second successive Victoria Trotters Cup at the Melbourne Showgrounds off 48 yards.

During the season enroute to Melbourne after finishing second the HP Easter Cup off 72 yards on Easter Thursday night, Neville Gath and Carlotta’s Pride stopped off at leeton on the Saturday night and time trialled around the 3 1/2 furlong circuit in 2:05. She then won in Melbourne a week later.

Her last win of the 1957/58 season was a victory in a Free-For-All around the Wayville (SA) 550 yard in circumference saucer and the fact that she was able to win seven races in succession at that track speaks volumes for her trotting gait.

At the 1958 Royal Melbourne Show, Apepa broke the record of Carlotta’s Pride by trotting in 2:07.0 but less than a hour later Carlotta’s Pride had the record back when she recorded 2:06.4. She also was successful for the young Neville Gath in a trotters FFA defeating arch enemy Don’t Enquire (Alf Simons).

That season she captured her second Cup at Harold Park by overcoming a 72 yard handicap to win her second Easter Trotters Cup and won five races at Wayville including the SA Trotters Cup and the Tuxedo Trotters FFA and was



duly invited to compete in the famous Roosevelt International in New York. To his everlasting regret Eric Cochran declined the invitation.

Handicaps made life very difficult for Carlotta’s Pride thereafter and in her last two seasons of racing of her five wins, four were in free-for-alls, two and the Melbourne Showgrounds and two at Wayville including a second Tuxedo Trophy.

After her win in the Tuxedo Trophy Carlotta’s time trialled around the small Wayville circuit and smashed the Lord Daley’s long standing State record, reducing it from 2:10.9 to 2:06.7.

Three weeks later in a farewell appearance on 17th June 1961 Carlotta’s Pride (George Gath), with pacemaker Meadow Royal (with teenager Brian Gath) acting as pacemaker lowered her own Victorian record to 2:05.6.

In that trial she wore no toe-weights, no boots, no headcheck and only three shoes (she cast one in the warm up) and the three timekeepers including Ballarat’s very own Andy Prendergast clocked the following sectionals: - 15.0s – 30.5s – 1:02.2 – 1:33 ¾ - 2:05.6

Knowing she was inside the record right up to the seven furlong mark the crowd barracked her right down the stretch and when the time was broadcast, they burst into delighted applause.

Sir Henry Bolte, the then Premier of Victoria presented trophies to Eric Cochran & George Gath and in responding Eric Cochran said that he was very proud of the fact that, “a member of the Gath family had driven Carlotta in every one of her wins.”

Her greatness was confirmed in an official poll of media and administrators from all States of Australia that was published in the 1960/61 Year Book - 1960/61 Best Trotter 4YO & over – Carlottas Pride (60.87%) Jenny (26.09%) Gay Vivienne (13.04%)

While that Victorian record time trial at the Melbourne Showgrounds was her last official start, Carlotta’s Pride did compete against the pacers at the 1961 Royal Melbourne Show (September 23rd) finishing third in a Free-For-All to the pacers First Division (Inter Dominion heat winner) and Lucky Western.

Carlotta’s Pride did not race in the 1961/62 season as she was diagnosed with ringbone on her foreleg joints and was retired to stud in November going to the recently arrived North American imported stallion Bank Note but failed to conceive.

She left but one named foal, a filly named Carlotta, who sadly for owner Graeme Cochran never left a filly to carry on the line. Nevertheless Carlotta’s Pride remains one of the Queens of Australian Totting. **HRI**

CAREER WINS FOR CARLOTTA'S PRIDE

1954/55 (6YO)

WON (scr – George Gath)	10/12/1954	Ballarat	2:41 Handicap	12f 120y	2:22.4	Won by 15 yards
WON (24yds – George Gath)	17/12/1954	Bendigo	2:41 Handicap	13 fur.	2:17.8	Won by 7 yards
WON (48yds – George Gath)	29/12/1954	Bendigo	2:41 Handicap	15 fur.	2:20.6	Won by 8yards
WON (60yds – Norman Gath)	14/01/1955	Ballarat	2:41 Handicap	12f 120y	2:17.0	Won by 4 yards (Track record)
WON (24yds – George Gath)	11/03/1955	Ballarat	2:37 Handicap	14f 10y	2:19.6	Won by 6 yards
WON (84yds – George Gath)	25/03/1955	Ballarat	2:41 Handicap	12f 120y	2:18.4	Won by one yard
WON (36yds – George Gath)	01/04/1955	Shepparton	2:37 Handicap	12 fur.	2:17.0	Won by 8 yards
WON (60yds – George Gath)	07/04/1955	Ballarat	2:37 Handicap	14f 10y	2:15.2	Won by 16 yards (Track record)
WON (scr – Darkie Gath)	09/04/1955	Terang	Free-for-all	12 1/2fur.	2:16.0	Won by 15 yards

1955/56 (7YO)

WON (120yds – George Gath)	14/12/1955	Ballarat	2:41 Handicap	14f 10y	2:21.4	Won by 2 yards
WON (scr – George Gath)	22/02/1956	Ballarat	2:30 Pacers Hcp	11fur.	2:15.4	Won by 6 yards
WON (scr – George Gath)	12/03/1956	Harold Park (NSW)	2:30 Handicap	13 1/2fur.	2:20.4	Won by one length
WON (scr – George Gath)	21/04/1956	Terang	2:28 Pacers Hcp	10 12/fur.	2:17.2	Won by 5 yards

1956/57 (8YO)

WON (24yds – George Gath)	09/11/1956	Harold Park (NSW)	2:30 Handicap	13 1/2fur.	2:15.8	Won by 1 1/4len
WON (scr – George Gath)	27/11/1956	Ballarat	Free-for-all	14f 10y	2:20.8	Won by 3 yards
WON (12yds – Norman Gath)	14/12/1956	Harold Park (NSW)	2:28 Handicap	13 1/2fur.	2:15.6	Won by 5 lengths
WON (scr – George Gath)	29/12/1956	Melb. Showgrounds	Victoria Trotters Cup	14 fur.	2:13.6	Won by 10 yards
WON (scr – George Gath)	08/03/1957	Ballarat	Matthews Memorial FFA	14f 10y	2:15.0	Won by 30 yards (Track record)
WON (72yds – George Gath)	22/03/1967	Shepparton	Autumn Trotters Cup	14f 22y	2:12.8	Won by 6 yards (Track record)
WON (24yds – George Gath)	13/04/1957	Harold Park (NSW)	Easter Trotters Cup	15 1/2fur.	2:14.4	Won by 2 lengths
WON (24yds – George Gath)	26/04/1957	Harold Park (NSW)	2:26 Handicap	13 1/2fur.	2:13.0	Won by 1/2 length

1957/58 (9YO)

WON (George Gath)	21/09/1957	Melb. Showgrounds	Time Trial	One Mile	TT2:07.2 (Victorian record)	
WON (36 yards – George Gath)	12/10/1957	Harold Park (NSW)	Spring Trotters Cup	15 1/2fur.	2:14.0	Won by 3 lengths
WON (48yds – George Gath)	04/01/1958	Melb. Showgrounds	Victoria Trotters Cup	15 1/2fur.	2:13.8	Won by one yard
WON (Neville Gath)	05/04/1958	Leeton (NSW)	Time Trial	One Mile	TT2:05.0	
WON (scr – George Gath)	19/04/1958	Melb. Showgrounds	2:27 Handicap	15 1/2fur.	2:14.2	Won by 6 yards
WON (scr-Norman Gath)	03/06/1958	Wayville (SA)	Palos Free-for-all	15f 84y	2:16.4	Won by one yard

1958/59 (10YO)

WON (George Gath)	25/09/1958	Melb. Showgrounds	Time Tria	One Mile	TT2:06.8 (Victorian record)	
WON (scr – Norman Gath)	27/12/1958	Wayville (SA)	Dring Free-for-all	15f 84y	2:18.0	Won by 3 yards
WON (scr – George Gath)	31/12/1958	Melb. Showgrounds	Northwood Free-for-all	14fur.	2:15.8	Won by 6 yards
WON (scr – Norman Gath)	31/01/1959	Wayville (SA)	Harvey Free-for-all	15f 84y	2:17.2	Won by 2 yards
WON (72yds – Neville Gath)	03/04/1959	Harold Park (NSW)	Easter Trotters Cup	15f 92y	2:15.6	Won by half neck
WON (scr – George Gath)	22/04/1959	Shepparton	Free-for-all	14f 22y	2:14.4	Won by 15 yards
WON (scr – Norman Gath)	16/05/1959	Wayville (SA)	Hollier Free-for-all	15f 84y	2:16.6	Won by 6 yards
WON (96yds – Norman Gath)	30/05/1959	Wayville (SA)	SA Trotters Cup	15f 84y	2:15.9	Won by one yard
WON (scr – Norman Gath)	02/06/1959	Wayville (SA)	Tuxedo Trophy FFA	12f 206y	2:17.0	Won by 15 yards

1959/60 (11YO)

WON (scr – Norman Gath)	26/12/1959	Wayville (SA)	Ratsch Free-for-all	12f 206y	2:17.9	Won by 10 yards
WON (60yds – George Gath)	16/04/1960	Melb. Showgrounds	Easter Handicap	14fur.	2:13.8	Won by 4 yards

1960/61 (12YO)

WON (scr – George Gath)	19/11/1960	Melb. Showgrounds	Free-for-all	14fur.	2:13.6	Won by 6 yards
WON (scr – George Gath)	29/04/1961	Melb. Showgrounds	Free-for-all	12 1/2fur.	2:13.0	Won by one yard
WON (scr – George Gath)	20/05/1961	Wayville (SA)	Tuxedo Trophy FFA	12f 206y	2:15.2	Won by 10 yards
WON (George Gath)	27/05/1961	Wayville (SA)	Time Trial	One Mile	TT2:06.7 (SA record)	
WON (George Gath)	17/06/1961	Melb. Showgrounds	Time Trial	One Mile	TT2:05.6 (Victorian record)	



HONOUR ROLL FOR JOHN SLACK MEMORIAL (BALLARAT TROTTERS CUP 1984-1998)

1984	\$3,000	CASINO LYN (fr – Philip Gath) 1; Bigrow (10m) 2; Sunracus (10m) 3.	2585m (SS)	2:15.8
1985	\$3,000	TRINKET (fr – Stuart Rothacker) 1; Gipsys Yodel (fr) 2; Downsouth Clare (20m) 3.	2585m (SS)	2:08.9
1986	\$2,500	LESLIE ORMOND (fr – Alex Thompson) 1; True Roman (fr) 2; Mount Alm (fr) 3.	2555m (MS)	2:08.1
1987	\$3,000	MINNESOTA FATS (fr – Glenn Conroy) 1; Great Assassin (fr) 2; Blackwood Mac (fr) 3.	2555m (MS)	2:09.2
1988	\$3,500	HISTORIC FLIGHT (fr – Barry Foster) 1; Hot and Dry (fr); Fords Folly (fr) 3.	2555m (MS)	2:09.7
1989	\$4,000	LADY THOR (20m – Ginger Gleeson) 1; Bye Lass (fr) 2; Campbell King (20m) 3.	2985m (SS)	2:13.1
1990	\$4,000	LADY THOR (fr – Gary Leech) 1; Amelia Hanover (10m) 2; Joseph Boppard (20m) 3.	2585m (SS)	2:14.5
1991	\$4,000	BEAU BRADIE (fr – John Dewhirst) 1; Spikealite (fr) 2; Hope Reins Supreme (fr) 3.	2585m (SS)	2:11.0
1992	\$3,500	MOMENTS LIKE THESE (fr – Danny Norris) 1; Happy Tom (20m) 2; Calcutta Three (fr) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:07.2
1993	\$3,500	SOUTHERN LAND (fr – Joe Attard) 1; Hope Reins Supreme (30m) 2; Classy Strike (fr) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:09.5
1994	\$3,500	FIONAS FLAIR (15m – Barry Alford) 1; The Godfather (20m) 2; Belle Maree (fr) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:06.6
1995	\$6,000	ROOKIES BOY (20m – Graham Lee) 1; Ratz (10m) 2; Dashing Chief (30m) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:08.1
1996	\$6,100	MARESSER (10m – Darren Redwood) 1; Speeding Fine (20m) 2; Carol Rose (10m) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:09.5
1997	\$6,000	ROYDON SPEED (20m – Noel Shinn) 1; Rockey (fr) 2; Maoris Dream (20m) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:07.8
1998	\$8,000	UNCANNY (fr – Ted Manton) 1; Homer Hawk (40m) 2; Rockey (10m) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:07.6
1999	\$15,000	ERIC BOOTH (fr – Russell Thomson) 1; Miss Universe (fr) 2; Lauries Legacy (fr) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:06.1
2000	\$12,000	MISS UNIVERSE (35m – Anne Maree Conroy) 1; Gate Keeper (35m) 2; Riegler Boy (25m) 3.	2610m (SS)	2:06.8
2001	\$11,000	STIRLING KIWI (45m – Douglas Hamilton) 1; Vander Plas (25m) 2; Opulence (fr) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:05.8
2002	\$15,000	SON OF FLAIR (20m – Russell Thomson) 1; Twebby Trotter (10m) 2; Oh Yes Indeed (10m) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:08.3
2003	\$16,000	TRAPPERS SALUTE (fr – Jodi Quinlan) 1; Our First Jewel (20m) 2; Young Pointer (10m) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:07.5
2004	\$14,000	KYVALLEY ROAD (fr – Chris Lang) 1; Kano Ned (10m) 2; Sir Gondola (10m) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:07.2
2005	\$15,000	RAINBOW MAID (fr – Brian Gath) 1; Broke As Usual (fr) 2; Action After Dark (10m) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:06.9
2006	\$20,000	WHATSUNDERMYKILT (10m – Mark Peace) 1; Glenbogle (20m) 2; Illawong Ian (10m) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:03.1
2007	\$20,000	VIVA LA FEVER (10m – Ross Graham) 1; Frosty Vee Bee (fr) 2; Le Petit Corporal (fr) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:06.4
2008	\$14,000	JAURIOL (fr – Chris Lang) 1; Viva La Fever (40m) 2; Jacques La Mer (fr) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:05.7
2009	\$15,001	JOE BRO (10m – Grant Campbell) 1; False Gem (fr) 2; Sunset Truscott (fr) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:06.7
2010	\$15,000	GENTLEMANS HONOUR (fr – Greg Sugars) 1; Shiraz Cabernet (fr) 2; Heza Hero (fr) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:06.4
2011	\$15,000	SASSY PINEVALE (10m – Daryl Douglas) 1; Gentle Image (fr) 2; Earl Of Mot (10m) 3.	2710m (SS)	2:08.1

HONOUR ROLL FOR A.J. PRENDERGAST MEMORIAL OAKS TRIAL

1984	\$2,000	JASMARILLA (fr – Tom Mahar) 1; Craig's Pride (fr) 2; Kotare Lass (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:06.5
1985	\$2,000	KAMS JOY (fr – Gaita Pullicino) 1; Motorlite (fr) 2; Scarlet Pimpernelle (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:07.9
1986	\$3,000	EL CADEAU (fr – Vin Knight) 1; Polka Lass (fr) 2; Artlimond (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:03.3
1987	\$3,200	MONIQUE MORLEY (fr – David O'Donoghue) 1; Merlyn Pet (fr) 2; Make Mine Brandy (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:06.3
1988	\$3,500	JODIES BABE (fr – Rita Burnett) 1; Scantilly Clad (fr) 2; Rich Lady (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:02.6
1989	\$4,000	SHANNA GOLDEN (fr – David Murphy) 1; Lisdon Beauty (fr) 2; Mystic Wonder (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:04.9
1990	\$5,000	DIAMOND DEBUTANTE (fr – Kerry Clarke) 1; Ideal Adroit (fr) 2; Denver Jane (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:03.5
1991	\$6,000	QUISQUILLAS (fr – D'Arne Bellman) 1; Royal Ann (fr) 2; Urunpungee Lass (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:02.4
1992	\$4,000	TANGELLO (fr – Chris Alford) 1; Empower (fr) 2; What Bonus (fr) 3.	2150m (MS)	2:06.2
1993	\$4,000	PRICELESS FRANCO (fr – Joe Pace) 1; Kate Lobell (fr) 2; Lady Levity (fr) 3.	2100m (MS)	2:04.5
1994	\$3,500	EVARESTIS (fr – David Murphy) 1; Gayamber Girl (fr) 2; Enchantresse (fr) 3.	1680m (MS)	2:01.4
1995	\$5,000	MADAM STEWARD (fr – Robbie Byrnes) 1; Sassy Gina (fr) 2; Maree Carmella (fr) 3.	2170m (MS)	2:04.8
1996	\$6,100	THE SYSTEM (fr – Brian Gath) 1; Atlantic Rainbow (fr) 2; Gild The Lily (fr) 3.	2170m (MS)	2:08.2
1997	\$6,000	INNOCENT FRANCO (fr – Ted Demmler) 1; Sheza Mona (fr) 2; Pelagic Miss (fr) 3.	2170m (MS)	2:02.7
1998	\$8,000	POSH JACCKA (fr – Max Wishart) 1; Computerise (fr) 2; Jassy (fr) 3.	2170m (MS)	2:03.0
1999	\$15,000	REVAIS (fr – Jodi Quinlan) 1; Mother Courage (fr) 2; Universal First (fr) 3.	2170m (MS)	2:02.0
2000	\$10,000	TUPELO ROSE (fr – Ted Demmler) 1; Atlantique (fr) 2; Tosca Lombo (fr) 3	2170m (MS)	1:59.7
2001	\$11,000	LOMBO MONDOLUCE (fr – Natalee Emery) 1; Jensue Lass (fr) 2; Jilliby Palace (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:05.7
2002	\$15,000	LYNSEY LOMBO (fr – David Gath) 1; Indyanna Lombo (fr) 2; Whataboutme (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:00.5
2003	\$16,000	ASHLEES BABE (fr – Peter Morris) 1; Stihletto (fr) 2; Jules Equity (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:01.8
2004	\$8,000	MOMENT IN TIME (fr – Amy Tubbs) 1; Lucky Bonus (fr) 2; Our Serena (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:04.3
2005	\$15,000	INDIANNA ROSE (fr – Kevin Brough) 1; Shannons Legacy (fr) 2; Emdomic (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:05.1
2006	\$20,000	JADAH ROSE (fr – John Ryan) 1; Spirit of Navajo (fr) 2; Princess Niffe (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:00.8
2007	\$20,000	AMONGST ROYALTY (fr – Chris Alford) 1; Twirling (fr) 2; Second Dollar (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	1:58.7
2008	\$14,000	GILT BROMAC (fr – Tanya Dyer) 1; Lahaini (fr) 2; Too Smart For You (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:00.6
2009	\$15,001	KEPPEL BAY (fr – Chris Alford) 1; Queen of Fire (fr) 2; Dreams of Heaven (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:01.7
2010	\$15,000	HILTON BROMAC (fr – Nigel Milne) 1; Revivalist (fr) 2; Morgan Abby (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:01.9
2011	\$15,000	BELLAS DELIGHT (fr – Kerry Manning) 1; Its Dutch Courage (fr) 2; Passions Promise (fr) 3.	2200m (MS)	2:01.0

HONOUR ROLL FOR BALLARAT PACING CUP

1971	\$4,000	SON OF NANCY (12y – Neville Welsh) 1; Bar Adios (12yds) 2; Reichman (scr) 3.	12f182yd(SS)	2:07.0
1972	\$4,000	MONARA (12yds – Don Dove) 1; Stormy Day (scr) 2; Chamfer Pool (scr) 3.	12f182yd(SS)	2:06.6
1973	\$5,000	MY GALE SAL (12yds - John Walters) 1; Reichman (24yds) 2; Verona (scr) 3.	12f182yd(SS)	2:06.8
1974	\$5,000	GALLAGHER (10m - Gordon Rothacker) 1; Spike (fr) 2; Bold Jason (fr) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:07.5
1975	\$6,000	SPORTING SON (Fr - Kerry Clarke) 1; Sunny Hanover (fr) 2; Glenburn Guy (fr) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:07.9
1976	\$6,500	ROYAL GAZE (30m - Ken Pocock) 1; Thoron (fr) 2; Alpalite (10m) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:03.9
1977	\$7,000	GRANDO BOY (Fr - Brian Morse) 1; James Armagh (fr) 2; Jack Be Nimble (10m) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:06.7
1978	\$8,000	ABIDAIR (Fr - Stephen Shinn) 1; Markovina (25yds) 2; Dillon Titian (10m) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:07.0
1979	\$10,000	BON TITIAN (Fr - Max Wishart) 1; Hanna's Boy (fr) 2; Watbro Del (fr) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:08.3
1980	\$12,000	KAMWOOD LAD (Fr - Graeme Lang) 1; Flips Son (fr) 2; Achamar Chief (12yds) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:06.0
1981	\$12,500	KOTARE KNIGHT (Fr - Vin Knight) 1; Single Again (fr) 2; High Moore (10m) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:07.0
1982	\$13,500	DOUBTER (Fr - Brian Gath) 1; Popular Alm (25yds) 2; William Boyd (fr) 3.	2585m(SS)	2:04.6
1983	\$15,000	POPULAR ALM (Fr - Vin Knight) 1; Lobellent (fr) 2; Doubter (fr) 3.	2585m(MS)	2:03.1
1984	\$16,500	THOR LOBELL (Fr - Stephen Dove) 1; Kallawarra King (fr) 2; Lobellent (fr) 3.	2585m(MS)	2:02.3
1985	\$16,500	GAMMALITE (Ft - Bruce Clarke) 1; Cross Time (fr) 2; Crystal Glenmar (fr) 3.	2585m(MS)	2:03.1
1986	\$16,500	IMATHREAT (Fr - Graeme Lang) 1; Vanderport (fr) 2; Bag Limit (fr) 3.	2585m(MS)	2:08.7
1987	\$20,000	MY LIGHTNING BLUE (Fr - Jim O'Sullivan) 1; Brad Marlin (fr) 2; Gosh (fr) 3.	2555m(MS)	2:03.1
1988	\$25,000	BAG LIMIT (Fr - Vin Knight) 1; My Lightning Blue (fr); Brad Marlin (fr) 3.	2555m(MS)	2:01.7
1989	\$30,000	SIR REILLY (Fr - Vin Knight) 1; My Lightning Blue (fr) 2; Empire Fella (fr) 3.	2555m(MS)	2:02.7
1990	\$35,000	QUITE FAMOUS (Fr - Jim O'Sullivan) 1; Empire Fella (fr); Rufus Young Blood (fr) 3.	2555m(MS)	2:03.1
1991	\$40,000	SINBAD BAY (Fr - Vin Knight) 1; Witch Melody (fr) 2; Vans A Gent (fr) 3.	2555m(MS)	2:03.9
1992	\$24,000	NO IDENTITY (Fr - Brian Gath) 1; Dark Paul (fr) 2; Kams Revenge (fr) 3.	2555m(MS)	2:01.2



No Identity wins the last Ballarat Cup oN the 805 metre Bray Raceway

1993	\$24,000	THE UNICORN (Fr - Stephen Dove) 1; Nicholas Branach (fr) 2; Bowral Boy (fr) 3.	2610m(MS)	1:59.8
1994	\$15,000	DARK PAUL (Fr - Mark Peace) 1; Remo Gold (fr) 2. Cougar (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	2:05.0
1995	\$20,000	YOU WISH (Ft - Gaita Pullicino) 1; Liberty Jay Jay (fr); Exceptionally Smooth (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	2:02.4
1996	\$25,100	SINBAD BAY (Fr - Stephen Dove) 1; Ricky Dean (fr) 2; Twilight Warrior (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	2:01.6
1997	\$23,000	WHALE OF A TALE (Fr - Brian Gath) 1; Ryans Day (fr) 2; Southern Salute (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	2:01.9
1998	\$30,000	HARLEY HANOVER (Fr - Matthew Gath) 1: Low Bronze (fr) 2; Rainbow Knight (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	2:00.3
1999*	\$50,000	OUR SIR VANCELOT (Fr - Brian Hancock) 1; Skipper Trust (fr) 2; Tailamade Lombo (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	2:04.1
2000	\$40,000	LOMBO RAPIDA (Fr - Kerry Manning) 1; Breenys Fella (fr) 2; Tailamade Lombo (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	1:59.4
2001	\$40,000	YULESTAR (Fr - Tony Shaw) 1; Lombo Rapida (fr) 2; Ouch (fr) 3.	2680m(MS)	1:59.1
2002	\$50,000	SHAKAMAKER (Fr - John Justice) 1; Smooth Satin (fr) 2; Yulestar (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:59.7
2003	\$75,000	JOFESS (Fr - Darren Hancock) 1; Double Identity (fr) 2; Mont Denver Gold (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:59.9
2004	\$75,000	JUST AN EXCUSE (Fr - Todd Mitchell) 1; Sokyola (fr) 2; Double Identity (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	2:02.5
2005	\$105,000	FLASHING RED (Fr - Ian McMahon) 1; Mister D G (fr) 2; Te Kanarama (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	2:00.3
2006	\$125,000	ROBIN HOOD (Fr - Gavin Lang) 1; Howard Bromac (fr) 2; About To Rock (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:58.7
2007	\$125,000	STING LIKA BEE (Fr - Daryl Douglas) 1; Flashing Red (fr) 2; Foreal (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:59.8
2008	\$125,000	SAFARI (Fr - Brian Gath) 1; Blacks A Fake (fr) 2; Good Lookin Girl (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:58.3
2009	\$125,000	MISTER SWINGER (Fr - Geoff Webster) 1; Mr Feelgood (fr) 2; Fleur de Lil (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	2:00.1
2010	\$125,000	CINCINNATI KID (Fr - Mark Peace) 1; Mr Feelgood (fr) 2; Karloo Mick (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:59.8
2011	\$125,000	STUNIN CULLEN (Fr – Anthony Butt) 1; Power Of Tara (fr) 2; Village of Dreams (fr) 3.	2710m(MS)	1:57.3

* Actually run on December 26 1998

BALLARAT LEADING OFFICIALS AND PERFORMERS

PRESIDENT

1912/13	James DAVEY	1933/34	Thomas GEDDES
1913/14	Alf SILBEREISEN	1939/40 – 1946/47	Club in recess
1914/15	William CARTHEW	1947/48	Frank MATTHEWS
1916/17	Alexander MAGILL	1955/56	Keith BRAY
1922/23	Charles KENNEDY	1958/59	Phil FAVALARO
1925/26	Angus GREENFIELD	1965/66	Bill LORENSENE
1927/28	William HAYMES	1966/67	Phil FAVALARO
1931/32	Val PURDUE	1969/70	Bill LORENSENE
1932/33	Howard PENNEY	1975/76	Ron NEWTON
1936/37	Fred HAYMES	1981/82	Dennis FOLEY
1939/40 – 1946/7	Club in recess		
1947/48	Eric COCHRAN		
1959/60	Keith BRAY		
1973/74	Bob FREEMAN		
1979/80	Peter DOW		
1981/82	Brian FRAWLEY		
1986/87	Frank BRITT		
1992/93	Pat PRENDERGAST		
2000/01	Paul JAMES		
2010/11	Greg MOY		

LIFE MEMBERS

SECRETARY/MANAGER/CEO

1912/13	Les MALIN		
1913/14	Harry McGOLDRICK		
1928/29	Alex McGOLDRICK		
1931/32	Jack ELLIOTT		
1934/35	Alex McGOLDRICK		
1939/40 – 1946/47	Club in recess		
1947/48	Maurice CALNIN		
1950/51	Malcolm MATTHEWS		
1954/55	Keith TRAVERS		
1961/62	Clive JAMES		
1975/76	Doug BOWERS		
1976/77	Colin HOLLOWAY		
2006/07	Stuart GRUBB		
2006/07	Paul ROWSE		

LEADING TRAINER

TREASURER

1912/13	James DAVEY		
1913/14	Val PURDUE		

1974/75	Bob CONROY	1965/66	Jack MOORE
1975/76	Dick BENDER	1966/67	Jack MOORE
1976/77	Dick BENDER	1967/68	Neville GATH
1977/78	Rex HOCKING	1968/69	Neville GATH
1978/79	Rex HOCKING & Eric DOVE (equal)	1969/70	Dick BENDER
1979/80	Graeme LANG	1970/71	Dick BENDER
1980/81	Graeme LANG	1971/72	Gordon ROTHACKER
1981/82	Graeme LANG	1972/73	Dick BENDER
1982/83	Graeme LANG	1973/74	John DEWHIRST
1983/84	Bob CONROY	1974/75	Ted DEMMLER
1984/85	Bob CONROY	1975/76	Dick BENDER
1985/86	Bob CONROY	1976/77	Dick BENDER
1986/87	Bob CONROY	1977/78	Graeme LANG
1987/88	Merv WHITE	1978/79	Tom MAHAR
1988/89	Merv WHITE	1979/80	Tom MAHAR
1989/90	Merv WHITE	1980/81	Graeme LANG
1990/91	Bob CONROY	1981/82	Graeme LANG
1991/92	Graeme LANG	1982/83	Graeme LANG
1992/93	Glen TIPPET	1983/84	Phillip GATH
1993/94	Joe BORG	1984/85	Gavin LANG
1994/95	Vin MAHAR	1985/86	Gavin LANG
1995/96	Graeme JOHANNESSEN	1986/87	Bryan ROGERS
1996/97	Bob CONROY	1987/88	Merv WHITE
1997/98	Alan TUBBS	1988/89	Gavin LANG
1998/99	Peter MANNING	1989/90	Gavin LANG
1999/00	Peter MANNING	1990/91	Gavin LANG
2000/01	Peter MANNING	1991/92	Gavin LANG
2001/02	Andy GATH	1992/93	Brian GATH
2002/03	Peter MANNING	1993/94	David MURPHY
2003/04	Andy GATH	1994/95	David MURPHY
2004/05	Peter MANNING	1995/96	Gavin LANG
2005/06	David MURPHY	1996/97	Gavin LANG
2006/07	David MURPHY	1997/98	John CALDOW
2007/08	Peter MANNING	1998/99	John CALDOW
2008/09	David MURPHY	1999/00	Kerryn MANNING
2009/10	Kerryn MANNING	2000/01	Kerryn MANNING
2010/11	Emma STEWART	2001/02	Kerryn MANNING
		2002/03	Kerryn MANNING
		2003/04	Kerryn MANNING
		2004/05	Kerryn MANNING
		2005/06	Kerryn MANNING
		2006/07	Daryl DOUGLAS
		2007/08	Daryl DOUGLAS
		2008/09	Chris ALFORD
		2009/10	Daryl DOUGLAS
		2010/11	Daryl DOUGLAS

LEADING DRIVER

1949/50	Alf SIMONS
1950/51	George GATH
1951/52	Gordon ROTHACKER & George GATH (equal)
1952/53	George GATH
1953/54	Alf SIMONS
1954/55	Howard TAYLOR
1955/56	Tom MAHAR
1956/57	Dal FITZPATRICK
1957/58	Jack MOORE
1958/59	Jack MOORE
1959/60	Jack MOORE
1960/61	Neville GATH
1961/62	Hughie JARDINE
1962/63	George GATH
1963/64	Jack MOORE
1964/65	George GATH

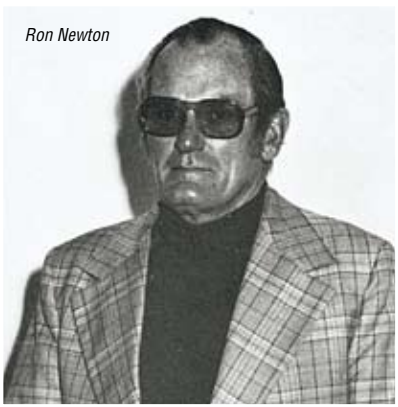
This historical booklet has been researched and written by John Peck, editor of the Harness Racing International magazine; designed by Phillips Hentri and printed by Ellikon Certified Green Printing, 384 George Street, Fitzroy, 3065.



Life Members (from left): Brian Frawley, Keith Bray, Alan Aldrich and Eric Berlund

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (not including President, Secretary, Treasurer)

ALDRICH A.	1947/48; 1951/52-1973/74	HAYMES W.	1916/17-1926/27; 1932/33-1934/35	MILLS A.E.	1960/61-1976/77
BALLINGER J.K.	1996/97-2010/11	HENDERSON J.	1954/55-1957/58	MILNE H.R.	1957/58-1959/60
BATH A.G.	1984/85-1990/91	HENDERSON P.	1954/55-1959/60	MORRIS H.A.	1956/57-1959/60
BEESTON A.	1952/53-1965/66	HINES R.E.	1989/90-2000/01	MOY G.J.	2003/04-2009/10
BEGGS A.R.	1950/51-1953/54	HOCKING R.K.	1976/77-1980/81	NEWTON R.K.	1963/64-1998/99
BELL J.S.	1924/25-1928/29	ILLMAN G.J.	1913/14-1919/20	NIMON A.	1931/32
BENNETT G.	1936/37-1938/39; 1949/50-1951/52	JAMES C.R.	1960/61	O'HALLORAN W.	1925/26
BERLUND E.	1959/60-1983/84	JAMES R.P.	1982/83-1999/00; 2010/11	ORR B.	1912/13
BIRKETT H.	1924/25-1926/27	JOBE A.M.	1999/00-2010/11	ORR J.A.	1913/14-1918/19
BRADBY J.	1913/14-1920/21; 1923/24-1924/25	KENNEDY C.H.	1913/14-1929/30; 1936/37-1938/39	PENNEY H.	1915/16-1919/20; 1927/28-1931/32; 1936/37-1938/39; 1947/48-1952/53
BRAY E.K.	1954/55; 1958/59; 1973/74-1989/90	KENNEDY H.G.	1922/23-1923/24; 1933/34-1938/39; 1948/49-1954/55	POPE C.	1947/48; 1951/52-1955/56
BRAZENOR J.A.	1914/15-1918/19		1926/27-1929/30	PRENDERGAST A.J.	1947/48-1982/83
BREHAUT D.P.	2001/02-2010/11	KENNEDY J.	1926/27-1929/30	PRENDERGAST P.	1981/82-1991/92; 2000/01-2007/08
BRIANT C.	1914/15-1922/23	KERR R.J.	2001/02-2010/11	PURDUE V.	1912/13
BRITT E.F.	1976/77-1985/86; 1992/93-1999/00	KILFOYLE S.J.	1947/48-1954/55	RALPH R.	1914/15
BURKE T.	1935/36-1938/39	LAUDER G.	1913/14-1916/17	RANSOME F.J.	1966/67-1974/75
CADDEN C.D.	1913/14-1914/15			RICKARD J.	1924/25-1938/39
CALIGARI P	1976/77-1980/81; 1982/83-1983/84			ROBERTSON J.	1920/21
CARTHEW W.J.	1913/14			ROGERSON J.	1912/13
CHISHOLM C.	1954/55			ROWSE G.	1947/48; 1949/50-1953/54
CHISHOLM C.V.	1916/17-1923/24; 1926/27-1931/32			ROWSE K.J.	1977/78-2006/07
COCHRAN E.B.	1928/29-1932/33; 1936/37-1938/39; 1959/60			RYAN M.J.	1936/37-1938/39
COLLINS E.	1932/33-1935/36			SELWYN SCOTT F.E.	1949/50-1954/55
CONROY D.	1996/97-1998/99			SHARP V.	1912/13
COOMBES A.E.	1932/33-1935/36			SHERRITT R.W.	1960/61
DAVID H.	1935/36			SHILLITO F.W.	1930/31-1938/39; 1947/48-1953/54
DAVIS S.	1925/26			SIDEBOTTOM B.G.	1988/89-2007/08
DELIMA J.	1935/36-1938/39	LEONARD E.	1929/30	SILBEREISEN A.	1912/13; 1914/15-1915/16
DICKINSON T.	1915/16	LORENSENE J.	1930/31-1932/33; 1934/35-1938/39	SIEMERING O.	1953/54-1957/58
DOW P.P.	1975/76-1978/79			SIMMONDS E.J.	1921/22
EASON G.	1919/20-1927/28	LORENSENE W.	1962/63-1969/70	SIMPSON D.	1994/95-1996/97
ELSTON A.V.	1919/20-1920/21; 1936/37-1938/39	LYONS J.	1912/13	SLACK J.T.	1976/77-1998/99
FARMER J.	1912/13	LYONS W.	1920/21-1924/25	SMALL A.	1920/21
FAVALARO F.J.	1955/56-1957/58	MAGILL A.	1915/16; 1924/25-1930/31	SPRING Dr W.A.	1912/13
FISKEN A.C.	1949/50-1952/53			STERRITT J.	1912/13
FOLEY K.	1974/75-1980/81	MAHAR M.	1948/49-1959/60	STEVENS N.C.	1989/90-1996/97
FOLLAND J.	1912/13	MAHAR T.	1983/84-1988/89; 1991/92-2002/03	TAYLOR J.	1912/13
FORBES L.	1947/48-1975/76			TILLET N.G.	1993/94-2001/02
FORREST W.D.	1983/84-1993/94	MALIN L.	1913/14-1914/15	TIMMINS B.E.	1973/74-1978/79
FRAWLEY B.J.	1965/66-1980/81; 1986/87-2001/02	MARTIN A.C.	1961/62-1962/63	WALKER C.	1912/13
FREEMAN R.W.	1957/58-1972/73; 1979/80-1984/85	MASON A.D.	1962/63-1964/65	WALKER S.	1949/50-1950/51
FRYAR M.P.	2005/06-2010/11	MATTHEWS E.H.	1919/20-1926/27; 1930/31-1938/39	WALL N.L.	1982/83-2009/10
FULTON L.J.	1969/70-1988/89	MATTHEWS M.H.	1947/48-1948/49; 1950/51; 1954/55-1956/57	WHITE E.C.	1980/81-1994/95
GREENFIELD A.M.	1914/15-1924/25; 1927/28-1931/32			WHITE R.	1931/32; 1936/37-1938/39
GRIFFEY L.J.	1979/80-1981/82	McBAIN J.H.	1948/49-1972/73	WHITE R.T.	1955/56-1959/60
HALL B.	1947/48-1948/49	McCARTHY G.	1935/36	WHYKES H.L.	1955/56-1957/58
HALL J.H.	1935/36-1938/39; 1949/50-1950/51	McCARTNEY S.	1933/34-1938/39; 1947/48	WILSON A.B.	1917/18-1919/20
HALLIWELL T.	1932/33-1934/35	McLEOD A.	1935/36	WILSON W.B.	1913/14-1914/15
HAYMES F.	1929/30-1935/36	McNEIL D.J.	1913/14-1918/19	WINDSOR E.J.	1917/18-1919/20
		MEIKLEJOHN F.	1934/35-1938/39; 1955/56-1956/57	WISE G.R.	1955/56-1975/76
				WISE J.H.	1928/29
				WISE M.	1927/28
				WOOLCOCK W.	1913/14-1919/20
				YOUNG D.J.	2001/02-2010/11



Where It All Began

In 1861 fourteen trotting enthusiasts met in Bath's Hotel (now known as Craig's Royal Hotel) with a view to forming Australia's first Trotting Club.

Among those enthusiasts were three people that were at one time owners of Ballarat's premier Hotel in Walter Craig, the Club's first Chairman, George Hathorn and Robert Orr, the legendary Ballarat sportsman.

Robert Orr owned the "Champion of the Colonies" trotter Mazeppa and Australia's greatest pacer of the nineteenth century, Sir William Don.

No surprise then that when in 1947 Eric Cochran, Howard Penney and Fred Shillito held a public meeting to revive the Ballarat and District Trotting Club after nine years in recess, that none other than Craig's Royal Hotel was chosen as the venue.

The revival proved to be spectacularly successful and in 2011, the 150th anniversary of Australia's first country trotting club meeting, the Ballarat and District Trotting Club stands alone as the premier provincial Club in Australia.

