

Message from the Administrator



Over the Labour Day long weekend my wife and I attended the Stony Creek Racing Club's annual gala day and saw the running of the Stony Creek Cup.

It was a great day – great weather, great people, entertainment for all ages and an outstanding example of community spirit in action. The day attracted about 2,200 members, which was a terrific turnout.

In addition, the fact that the races are televised means that it is an opportunity for Stony Creek and South Gippsland to be showcased to a much larger audience outside our region.

The track and surrounds were immaculate, which is all the more remarkable when you consider that the club has a part-time CEO and a part-time curator. Volunteers (i.e. Committee members) make up the rest of the workforce and on race days they are supplemented with conscripts (i.e. family members).

Community involvement extends beyond the Racing Club.

Members of the Meeniyah Pony Club, Stony Creek Adult Riders, Stony Creek Football Netball Club, Korumburra City Soccer Club, Leongatha Knights Soccer Club and Foster Football Netball Club are all involved. For them the day is a major fundraiser.

On average the Racing club distributes about \$16,000 a year to these clubs.

In addition, the club has a policy of buying local. This ranges from catering for race day events through to fertiliser, soil and other maintenance items.

Consequently, three years ago when the Club had a \$70,000 upgrade project all but the \$9,000 allocated to specialised track equipment was spent locally.

Today the Club is back in the black – a long way from the situation in which it found itself a decade ago – and continues to secure five race meetings a year.

Not only is this good news story a great credit to the Meeniyah and Stony Creek communities and those who have rallied around to ensure the future of the Racing Club, it is also a demonstration of what can be achieved when communities all swim with the same tide to get results.

It is days like these that reinforce how lucky I feel to have been given the opportunity to work in and with the South Gippsland community.

Rick Brown - Administrator