



By

**Simon Quinn***President, Queensland Racehorse Owners' Association*

## New president for the QROA

This is my first report as the newly-elected president of the Queensland Racehorse Owners' Association (QROA).

It is a great privilege to be the president of the QROA, and along with vice-president Matthew Stapleton and treasurer Jeff Lever, I look forward to working with our experienced and enthusiastic committee for all our members and associate members and the wider racing community.

It is already shaping up to be a very busy and productive year. Matthew and I attended the Australian Racehorse Owners' Association meeting in Melbourne on October 30 and enjoyed the opportunity to meet representatives of owners' associations from other Australian states. We were updated on national issues during a comprehensive agenda, and a full report on proceedings will be posted on the QROA website.

Mr Des O'Keefe, the general manager of the Australian Jockeys' Association attended the ATROC meeting and we discussed the recent changes to whip rules.



*Owners' Day at the Gold Coast Turf Club was a success as can be seen by the smiles of Troy and Sarah O'Keefe*

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The important topics of industry funding and apprentices' allowances were also on the agenda. We will be furthering these discussions at QROA meetings in 2010.

In addition to local issues which affect our members, the QROA will be looking at the bigger picture of racing and equine pursuits. The QROA has renewed its membership of the Queensland Horse Council and will be working with this important association to keep our members fully informed of developments relating to horse ownership. I believe it is very important to liaise with other racing industry organisations and your committee will be focused on identifying issues of importance.

One such topic is the recently released draft paper on biosecurity of the racing industry. Queensland Racing Limited (QRL) has prepared a comprehensive policy to ensure everyone in the thoroughbred racing industry is aware of their roles and responsibilities on biosecurity matters and is appropriately prepared to deal with any dangerous situations which might arise.

I congratulate the integrity department of QRL and in particular Mr Jamie Orchard and QRL veterinarian Dr Martin Lenz on preparing this very detailed document which is now open to the industry for discussion and comment.

The QROA team of Matthew Stapleton, Helen Coughlan and myself will be consulting with racing industry stakeholders and licensees, Biosecurity Queensland and the Queensland Horse Council to develop a detailed response to this document and to assist in its refinement and practical application.

We all know the importance of our motto "No Racing Without Owners", and I wish to thank you, our members, for your support of the QROA. We always welcome new members to the QROA so we can represent racehorse owners throughout Queensland. ●