



EASTERN GASCOYNE RACE CLUB

History and Background

It's Landor time again! October 3rd, 4th and 5th 2015.

The Landor Races are the Eastern Gascoyne Race Club's traditional bush race meeting. The meeting is held annually in the third term school holidays (October) at the racecourse near Landor Station.

The meeting has a colourful history and truly outback flavour. In 1921 at a combined mustering camp, which was the custom in those days, a number of stockmen from stations in the area from Milgun, Mt Augustus, Mt Seabrook, Erravilla and Landor were having a day off. These men were resting and doing their washing when they started to argue about who had the fastest horse. Following discussions with interested parties from the surrounding stations, the EGRC was formed and the Landor tradition was born.

The event has now been run annually almost continuously since 1921, except for several years during the World War 2 and has been run on the same principles since the early days – that it is held in the spirit of a strictly amateur race meeting with local station horses and riders. In this modern age this means that although all horses must be registered thoroughbreds, there is a special category of races for horses born in the district: "nor west bred", and other races for horses declared as 'district qualified' which effectively means they haven't raced anywhere else 6 months prior to the meet. There are no starting gates at Landor – all races are "walk up starts".

A unique feature of Landor in keeping with the amateur spirit was that when seasons were good, a "Grass Fed" meeting was declared and trainers could not feed or handle their horses until six weeks before the meeting. In dry or drought years, a "Corn Fed" meeting was declared and there was no restriction on the length of time a horse can be yarded and fed. At the 2007 AGM it was agreed that because trainers & horses now come from a widespread area every meeting will effectively be a 'corn fed' meeting.

A 28 member committee comprised mostly of local pastoralists conducts the event and meets twice a year on stations throughout the district. A comprehensive EGRC Club Constitution determines the operation of the event with races under the rules and regulations of RWWA. The race meeting is open to RWWA registered horses that are classified as North West Bred (i.e. horses bred above the 28th parallel), District Qualified (i.e. must not have raced or trialed anywhere in the six months prior to Landor) or Corn Fed Horses (horses that have not won a race on a Metropolitan track). Jockeys must be licensed track riders and must have the approval of the Steward to ride.

Nowadays, the Landor weekend begins with a race day on Saturday- the Ladies Bracelet is the feature event. Sunday is the traditional Gymkhana day. The action starts in the morning with the kid's "lead on" events and finishes with the adult's competition in the afternoon. This is followed by the fun events of the "Tug of War" and foot races for everyone.

Monday is the big race day, with the main event being the Landor Cup.

Race days are tremendous fun in the outback, with fashions ranging from colts in their moleskins and Akubras to the fillies in frocks and hats of course. Evening entertainment can be found at the Two-up table or in the hall dancing or just standing around the bar catching up with old friends. A 'calcutta' is held on Friday night for the Ladies Bracelet and again on Sunday night for the Cup. It's great entertainment to check out which horses are attracting the money & who has hopes for a big win. Saturday night is now Landor Ball night, but there is always some action in the hall for those with energy left at the end of the day.

LANDOR RACES 2015 **3RD, 4TH & 5TH OCTOBER**

FACILITIES AVAILABLE AND HOW TO GET THERE

Location: Landor homestead is 236 km northwest of Meekatharra, the racecourse is a further 22kms north of Landor homestead on the Mt Augustus road.

Duration: Most visitors will arrive this year on Friday 2nd October and depart Tuesday 6th Oct. **Please note: there is no running water or other facilities prior to Thursday night. The majority of the committee & Landor organisers do not arrive until late Thursday or Friday.**

Facilities: The club has built extensive permanent facilities over the years such as horse stables, water supply, electricity supply, numerous shower and toilet blocks, covered grandstands, bar and betting ring, dance hall and dining room.

Public campsites are provided adjacent to the racecourse complete with showers and toilets. Firewood may be provided to the campsites. **Please note: all the campsites along the creek are traditional established sites (often occupied by the same station for 80 years or more) and if you set up camp there you will be asked to move on.**

Police from the Burrengurrah community are based at the racecourse for the weekend. A doctor will attend over the weekend in case of emergencies. In addition, St John's Ambulance Meekatharra provides an ambulance service for all races. The Royal Flying Doctor Service can provide emergency evacuation from the racecourse if required.

An airstrip constructed to RFDS standard is situated at the racecourse.

Accommodation:

Most visitors to Landor come prepared to camp, mostly in tents, but an increasing number of caravans are making the trip. Ample good quality water is available from the club's own bores. You will need to provide your own power and lighting.

Landor is happy to have Carl and Lisa at Lisa's Kitchen providing great food over the weekend. Be sure to pay them a visit.

Bar facilities open, beginning Friday night.

Fuel and Ice will be available and some catering is provided throughout the weekend at the racecourse kitchen, although visitors should aim to be self sufficient.

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