

OAKBANK RACING CLUB

EST. 1876



Dear Members,

We wanted you to be the first to know that due to Coronavirus (COVID-19), Oakbank Racing Clubs April events will now be no-spectator events following a decision by Thoroughbred Racing SA in consultation with our team at Oakbank Racing Club.

As racing fans and Oakbank faithfuls, you are invited to host online viewing parties from home via our industry partner racing.com or at your favourite venue on April 5,8 & 11 to celebrate Easter 2020 in spirit, then we would love you to transfer or book your tickets to be trackside to celebrate Christmas with us this December.

This hard decision follows the Australian Government's advice that all non-essential organised mass gatherings of more than 500 should be cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 situation.

As the Club Chairperson, I wanted to write to you personally to advise that it was a difficult decision to make, but the right one in the circumstances for the safety of everyone.

As ticket holders you can organise refunds via Eventbrite or contact us at the club to take up the option to defer your booking to our Oakbank Christmas Twilight Races in December.

We're obviously disappointed, not only for you our members amongst the 30,000 people who would be coming to the carnival but also because of the flow on effects it will have on businesses that support the event.

Additionally, we need to advise that the carnival's companion events (our golf day and winery tour) have also been cancelled and refunds to those booked in will be issued via Eventbrite.

Ticket holders are able to organise refunds via Eventbrite or we can offer you the option to defer your booking to our Oakbank Christmas Twilight Races in December – so you can celebrate Christmas instead of Easter with us at Oakbank.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and membership of the Oakbank Racing Club.

If you have any queries, please contact the club via events@oakbankracingclub.com.au – we really appreciate your patience at this time as we will be handling a lot of enquiries – please be assured your needs are important to us and we will be in touch as soon as possible. In the meantime, please see page 2 of this letter for answers to key questions you may have.

You are the reason we have such a strong and proud tradition, and I look forward to welcoming you back on course as soon as possible – we are all in this #ForTheLoveOfOakbank.

Take care.

Best Regards,

Arabella Branson
Chair, Oakbank Racing Club

Oakbank Racecourse
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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Answered

Will you be offering refunds?

Ticket holders to organise full refunds via our ticketing partner Eventbrite or to offer them the option to transfer their booking to the Oakbank Christmas Twilight Races in December (23/12/2020).

We are excited about our Christmas Twilight race meeting as we know there will be a lot of people who will be itching to get their fix of Oakbank in 2020. We think it will be the biggest Christmas party the Adelaide Hills have ever seen.

What about members? Will they get their money back?

There are a lot of reasons people support their club, whether it be a football, community or racing club. We're hopeful our members will continue to stick with us as they have done over the past 144 years, but we also certainly respect their right to request a refund and we are happy to honour that. Oakbank Racing Club has been advised that due to the unprecedented volume of event cancellations refunds via Eventbrite will take between 7 and 21 days and appreciate your patience.

How much money will you lose/how much will this impact the club's viability?

The financial impact will be significant as the income from our April race meetings would have paid for ongoing maintenance and operations of the club and its future events.

This income reduction is something that is facing almost every racing club across South Australia and that's why TRSA is keeping the Racing Minister informed about the impacts being felt.

Are you saying you will seek government support?

Now we're just focused on putting on our events. The big picture is something that is being handled by TRSA in consultation with us and the relevant authorities.

Could this accelerate the end of jumps racing?

Not at all. In fact, our new format has generated increased interest from trainers in SA as well as Victoria and New Zealand. It's a shame the crowds won't be there to see it, but we look forward to hosting everyone to celebrate Christmas with us at Oakbank Racecourse this year and then Easter in 2021.

Will people still be able to camp?

Generations of campers set up in Rotten Row and enjoy our carnival each Easter so we will work with these loyal Oakbank enthusiasts to ensure they can either transfer their plans to December and if not possible that we celebrate Easter with them in some way this year.

The club will not be able to open the Dam Paddock and the Triangle paddock in April 2020 for safety reasons due to COVID-19. Rotten Row is privately owned so we can't comment on plans for that area.



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