

Sport



Blake's over
in the corner
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Jockey Lilli Barr on Waikato ahead of race 3.



Rural Doctors Association president Marg Moss with her partner Brad Cooper.



Adele Rice at the races in support of the Rural Doctors Foundation.

Yabbies crab the dollars

By Lorraine Sathicq

Hibernian Race Day at the Beaudesert race-track saw punters turn up in droves to support the major fundraiser for the Queensland Rural Doctors Foundation.

The event featured all the country race day favourites including the popular yabbie races as well as a jumping castle and face painting for the children, live entertainment from Boonah songstress Laura Frank and her partner Nick Morrissey and a VIP luncheon prepared from local produce by Lana Bissett and her team from Flutterby Gourmet Creations.

Local trainers included Greg Cornish, Matthew Dunn, Ross Howard, Ron Drysdale and Brooke Ainsworth.

The Hibernian Cup, sponsored by Beaudesert Medical Centre was won by Jetpack Verdi out of Eagle Farm with jockey Anthony Allen and trainer Tony Gollan.

Rural Doctors Foundation Chair and Beaudesert GP Dr Michael Rice said Beaudesert Hibernian Race Day 2023 represented another success for the health charity.

"This is the second time that Rural Doctors Foundation has been the charity beneficiary of Beaudesert Hibernian Race Day," Dr Rice said.

"We had a cracker of a day with a catered luncheon featuring local ingredients and a local wine list, entertained by Laura Frank and Susie Reiser, and of course a full race card on the track"

"A highlight once again were the racing yabbies from local breeder Australian Sweetwater Crays, and auctioned off by Foundation's sponsors Monique and Erin from Q State Property Sales. There were a couple of delicious and ultra-fresh dinners had on Saturday night, I bet!"

"I especially congratulate Jetpack Verdi, jockey Anthony Allen and connections for their win in the Hibernian Cup, sponsored by Beaudesert Medical Centre.

"Foundation staff worked incredibly hard to deliver this event," Dr Rice said, "and we thank the Beaudesert Hibernians for granting us this opportunity to raise our profile and raise some funds to support our work"

Dr Rice said the Rural Doctors Foundation existed to support rural and remote doctors to provide top-quality care for their communities.

"We began with modest but timely grants to Queensland and, later, northern NSW practices, affected by floods," he said. "We provided Australian-designed and manufactured COVID isolation hoods into communities where hospitals didn't have isolation wards; and we have worked with Sandpiper Australia to provide emergency response bags to equip trained rural doctors to save lives in emergencies, before ambulances and hospitals come into play."



Punters contest the yabbie race.

Pictures: LARRAINE SATHICQ



Beaudesert Medical Centre's Dr Jaime Hurley and her daughter Addison, 4.



Terry and Colleen Moloney of Gleneagle dressed to impress on race day.



Race 3 at Hibernian Cup Race Day.



David Hennessy, Caroline Rice, Dr Michael Rice, Andree Rice and Justin Coleman.

Dr Rice said the charity had provided grants to a range of community-led projects. "Our next big ambition is to deliver inde-

pendent, confidential care to rural health providers living and working in the smallest and most isolated communities," he said.

"This will mean they don't have to leave town, sometimes for days, to get looked after themselves to the standard they deserve."