

Goat Racing Nominations Open

Nominations for Australia's richest and most prestigious goat races to be held in conjunction with Barcaldine's Tree of Knowledge Festival over the May Day weekend are now open.

Event organisers are expecting the event to be bigger and better with a greater field of both local and goats from away.

"The goat races are always a big draw card for the Festival and this year will be no exception as we've already fielded a lot of enquiries," said the newly formed Barcaldine Goat Racing Committee President, Mr Tom Lockie.

The races will be conducted in much the same way as they have in previous years with three open races, a led 50m Billy Goat rumble for the kids and the highly competitive John deGroot Cup carrying prize money of \$2000 finishing up the day.

The most significant change to the programme is that goats competing in the Billy Goat Rumble will now require two leaders.

"We've got it right over the past two years and the few changes we've made to the programme have been done so to ensure a continued high degree of safety and the efficient and entertaining staging of the event," said Mr Lockie.

Mr Lockie urges all potential goat races to carefully consider the rules and regulations, available on the Festival website, regarding the racing of goats to ensure that competitors comply.

"We have a huge reputation, our races have always been very run well in every way and we are determined to see this continue," said Mr Lockie.

Even though the winner of last year's John deGroot Cup, Tom Lockie's Mighty Morefaster has passed away, Mr Lockie is confident there will be plenty of new talent taking to the track.

"Each year the goats just seem to get better trained and faster and that makes for exciting goat racing."

"In our local area alone we are expecting at least 20 nominations, goat racing is something our local community has really taken on board and enjoy," said Mr Lockie.

Interested goat racers are warned that nominations close electronically on Friday April 22.

For nomination forms visit the Festival website www.treeofknowledge or contact Tom Lockie 0429465122 of tom@artesiancountrytours.com.au