

Heathcote himself came late to racing, at age 34, after being a tour operator for many years and living a nomadic existence travelling around Europe. When he came home his brother was involved in racing and gave him his start. "The second horse I put a saddle on won a \$75,000 race so it was a dream start for me, but I really applied myself, learnt my trade."

Heathcote has won the last three Brisbane Premierships and is hopeful he can win a fourth. He recently won his first Group 1



Trainer Rob Heathcote

open handicap at Caulfield, the Oakleigh Plate.

"Oh yeah it's pretty good," he beams, "but getting dressed up in the sharp suit and tie, drinking in the bar after a win, that's about two per cent of it. It's a great two per cent, but the rest is the very early starts, the hard

slog to get the horses up to scratch so they can do their best and, as a trainer, you're only as good as the horses you train," says Heathcote.

You can keep your eye on Heathcote's form in the upcoming Brisbane Carnival when Buffering will race in the BTC Cup on 12 May and in the Doomben 10,000 on 26 May, and you can catch a glimpse of Buffering's form ahead of the carnival at the Victory Stakes on 28 April. Woorim also will race in the Doomben 10,000 and in the AAMI Stradbroke on 9 June.

Channel Seven Brisbane Racing Carnival - What's On

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Saturday 12 May	Racefest featuring the Group 1 Bundaberg Distilling Co. BTC Cup	Doomben Racecourse
Saturday 19 May	Kirks Doomben Cup Day	Doomben Racecourse
Saturday 26 May	Carlton Mid Doomben 10,000 Day	Doomben Racecourse
Saturday 2 June	Treasury Casino Queensland Oaks Ladies' Day	Eagle Farm Racecourse
Tuesday 5 June	AAMI Breakfast with the Stars	Eagle Farm Racecourse
Thursday 7 June	Carnival Cocktail Party	Favelon Bar & Celebration Deck, Doomben Racecourse
Saturday 9 June	AAMI Stradbroke Day	Eagle Farm Racecourse

WHAT TO WATCH

Channel Seven will telecast the prestigious AAMI Stradbroke Day at Eagle Farm over two hours from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 9 June. Top sports broadcaster Bruce McAvaney will join the stellar commentary team which includes Pat Welsh, Bart Sinclair and Wayne Wilson, while Sofie Formica and Kimberley Busted will make sure viewers don't miss a minute of the glamour trackside with all the news on Fashions on the Field.

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