

JANUARY 2019

WELCOME TO

2019

#howgoodisjumpsracing

Welcome to 2019 and the fast approaching start of the jumps season.

2019 is looking to be a bumper year for us all – lots of new initiatives planned for the year which we are looking forward to sharing with you.

OUR PROGRAMME:

We have been engaged with RVL and TRSA on the 2019 Programme. The Victorian Programme is attached and when the South Australian programme is available, we will combine the

two and give you a final Australian Jumping Programme.

IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

Our Annual Report to members is following and a treat of what is to come with an article on **Wells**. For those of you who missed it there was a fabulous clip on Wells on racing.com in the last week.

Looking forward to the season ahead and seeing you at the races.



PHOTO of the YEAR 2018
Zataglio and Martin Kelly at Casterton

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INSIDE
THIS MONTH

REPORT TO MEMBERS & BOARD 2018

WELLS! WELLS! WELLS!

2018 VICTORIAN JUMPS PROGRAMME

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REPORT

to members and board
2018



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INTRODUCTION

AJRA now presents its report for Jumps racing for 2018 season.

It has been compiled to give the Board, AJRA members, trainers, owners and jockeys an overview of 2018 season and visibility of what will improve the sport in 2019.

Jumps racing is an integral component of Victorian country racing and Victorian Staying racing. Jumping horses provide fields for many staying races and staying fields provide many horses for jumps racing. If one is weakened the other will invariably be also weakened.

The report seeks to make appropriate points regarding continuous improvement of both areas of racing in the state.

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Crowds

Warrnambool continued to drive record crowds to its 3 day carnival which is the benchmark and best attended Country Carnival in Australia.

| Year | Carnival | % Increase (Carnival) |
|------|----------|-----------------------|
| 2016 | 30.165 | 20.30% |
| 2017 | 30.514 | 1.10% |
| 2018 | 31.696 | 3.90% |

● Carnival ● % Increase (Carnival)

A rare 1.25m Federal government grant was received to build a new state of the art dining precinct at the course for use by the entire community. Yield per patron will increase from this project cementing long term profitability for the club.

Ballarat Grand National Day was a sellout and crowd is now restricted by the size and age of its facilities.

Casterton crowds were excellent again.

Sandown crowd was better in 2018 and the AJRA has pencilled in a Jockey reunion for 2019 at the club.

Pakenham has agreed to run the Mosstrooper from 2019 with a view to improving this meeting.

All other participating clubs including Coleraine, Sale, Hamilton and Terang are thanked for their support.

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Logistics

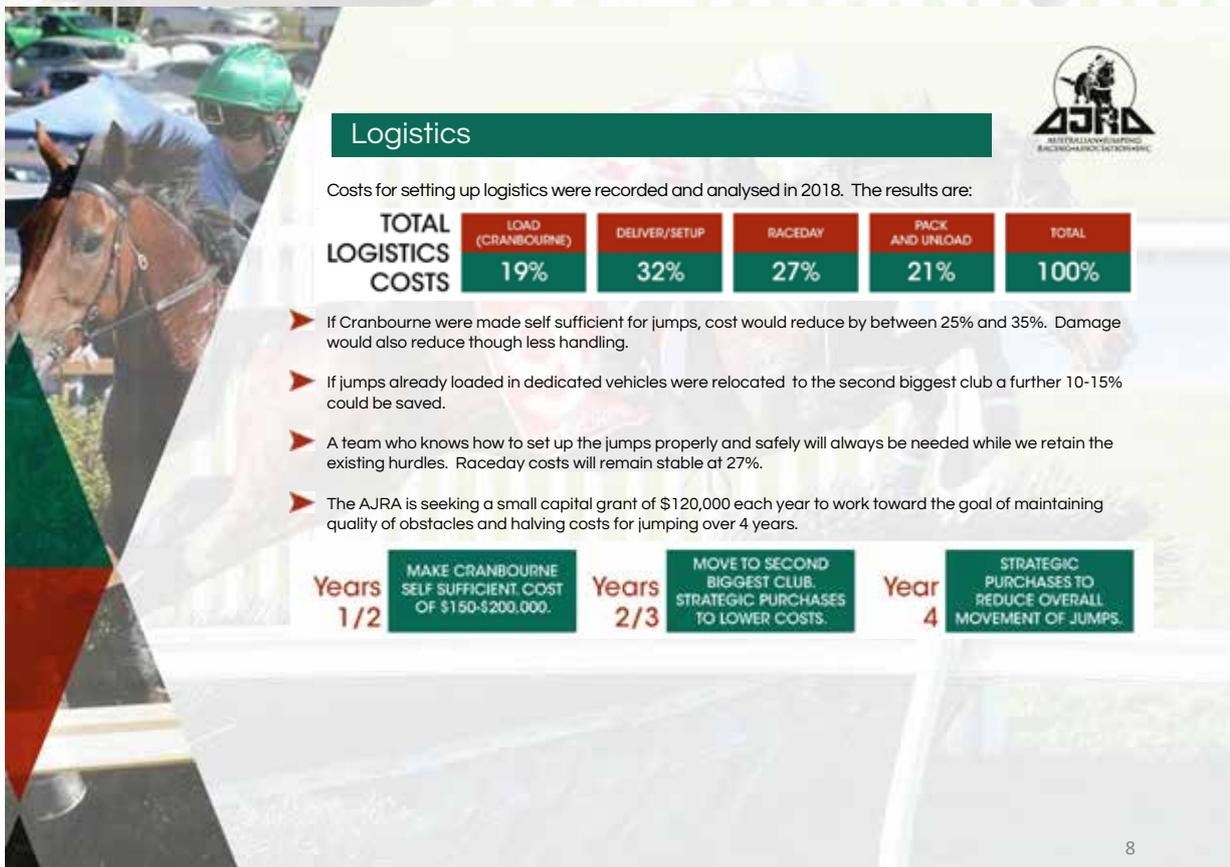
Logistics has been improved by:

- ▶ Support vehicles and equipment has been donated or sourced to do the job. Over \$100,000 of equipment was donated by QLS Group for this task to improve convenience.
- ▶ Using Easyfix steeplechase jumps for Steeplechase races.
- ▶ Easyfix steeplechase jumps are OHS compliant and significantly easier to assemble (70% easier).
- ▶ Easyfix are a global product used in France, America, Denmark, Ireland, Scandinavia, England and many other jumping jurisdictions.

Due to late arrival of Easyfix jumps a proper assessment of these jumps can only be made after 2019.




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Logistics

Costs for setting up logistics were recorded and analysed in 2018. The results are:

| TOTAL LOGISTICS COSTS | LOAD (CRANBOURNE) | DELIVER/SETUP | RACEDAY | PACK AND UNLOAD | TOTAL |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|-------|
| | 19% | 32% | 27% | 21% | 100% |

- ▶ If Cranbourne were made self sufficient for jumps, cost would reduce by between 25% and 35%. Damage would also reduce though less handling.
- ▶ If jumps already loaded in dedicated vehicles were relocated to the second biggest club a further 10-15% could be saved.
- ▶ A team who knows how to set up the jumps properly and safely will always be needed while we retain the existing hurdles. Raceday costs will remain stable at 27%.
- ▶ The AJRA is seeking a small capital grant of \$120,000 each year to work toward the goal of maintaining quality of obstacles and halving costs for jumping over 4 years.

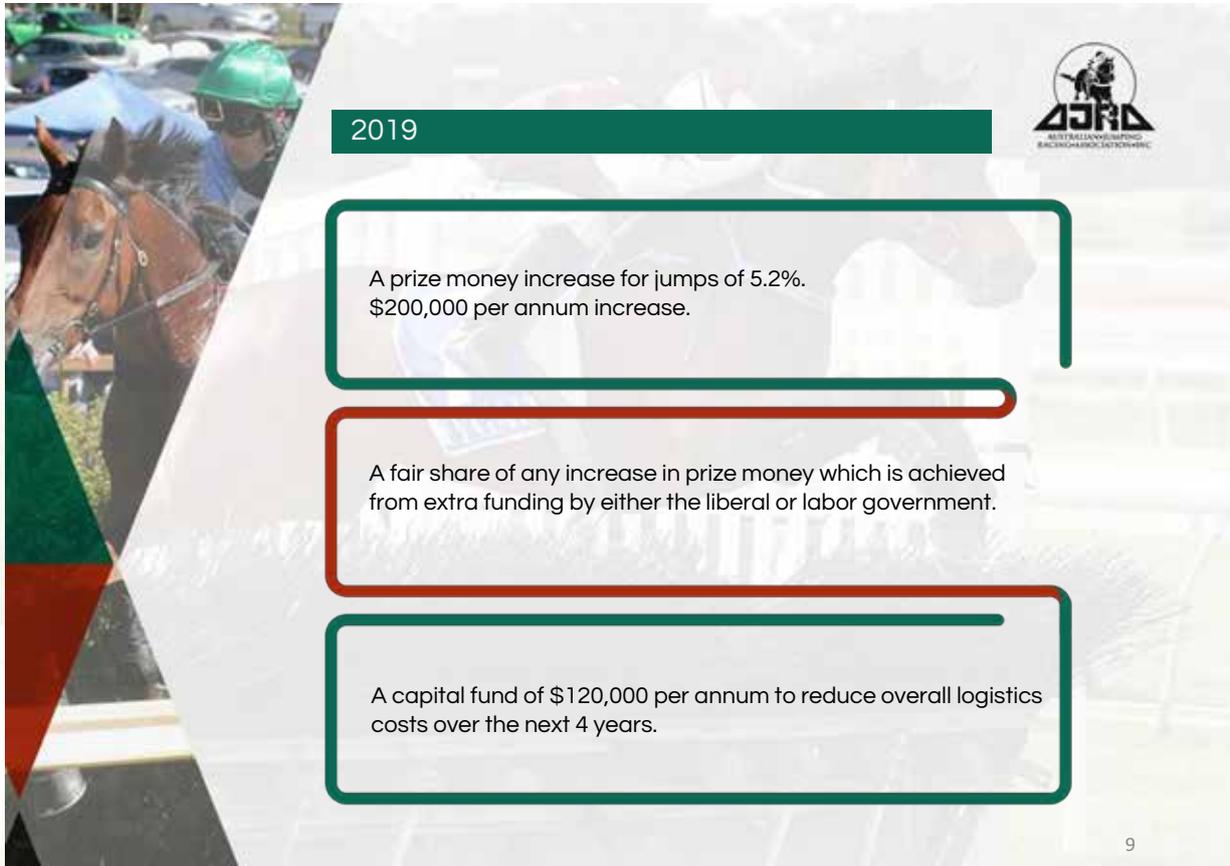
Years 1/2
 MAKE CRANBOURNE SELF SUFFICIENT. COST OF \$150-\$200,000.

Years 2/3
 MOVE TO SECOND BIGGEST CLUB. STRATEGIC PURCHASES TO LOWER COSTS.

Year 4
 STRATEGIC PURCHASES TO REDUCE OVERALL MOVEMENT OF JUMPS.

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2019

A prize money increase for jumps of 5.2%.
\$200,000 per annum increase.

A fair share of any increase in prize money which is achieved from extra funding by either the liberal or labor government.

A capital fund of \$120,000 per annum to reduce overall logistics costs over the next 4 years.

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CONCLUSION

The AJRA would like to thank all contributors and participants in 2018.

The sport has faced and does face many challenges not least the need to increase the supply of owners and dual purpose horses back into the sport. Horses create fields and fields create entertainment and wagering this is the basis for improvement for the sport.

In 2019 and beyond the focus for the AJRA is increased participation of owners, more exciting racing and a significant improvement in the convenience and attractiveness of conducting jumps racing for clubs.

The focus for the AJRA is on horses and competitive racing. It is for dedicated racing purists and needs to provide the entertainment and interest this type of participant expects and which has been lost in many other areas of racing.

Accompanied is the 2019 program as agreed and we look forward to a successful season.

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WELLS! WELLS! WELLS!

For many people and probably most in the Racing Industry, there is a moment or happening that changes the course of their career and life in general. For some the moment and impact is immediate and for others who may invest in a young horse for instance it evolves over a period of time.

In the case of **Kath** and **Craig Durden** and their Champion **Wells** it is pretty clear that it is the latter.

Approached at the races by current Australian Jumping Racing Chairman **Sandy McGregor** to find him a horse to jump, Craig with wife Kath attended a **Lloyd Williams** surplus sale and after a very thorough inspection of what was on offer settled for a big strong Gelding by **Galileo** from the handy mare **Embraceable You** who contested the South Australian Oaks of her three year old year for \$40,000.

His first win for his new stable came in a 2054m Maiden at Warrnambool after two very nice runs over 1400m and 1600m. He was up and away prompting his rider that day **Steve Pateman** to say on dismounting

"What a cracker he's going to make a great jumper!"

Pretty close to the mark I'd say!

After one more run he went to the paddock for a well earned 189 day spell.

Although Kath and Craig where of the opinion that he would ultimately turn to Steeplechasing, on returning to the stable he was eased into his jumping career following a traditional path of suitable flat races and a couple of hurdle trials. His jumping debut came in a 3200m Maiden Hurdle at Bendigo on July 22 2012. when he put them away by six lengths after which he returned to the paddock for 133 days. This was

followed by another break after a run at Flemington in December 2012.

His next hurdle start was a win in a BM 120 followed by a very unlucky run in The Brendan Dreschler Hurdle behind the very smart **Gotta Take Care**. Fourteen days later he was to turn the tables in the Lafferty at Warrnambool. The dream had begun!

In his next preparation he was placed in the Brendan Dreschler, The Lafferty and the 2014 Grand National Hurdle before he finally reached the race that he had been aimed at from day one The Grand National Steeplechase. He handled the bigger fences like a veteran and went on to win and became the first horse to win the National Steeple at his first start over the bigger fences since **Outstride** in 1994.

As we all know in this Racing game that we love heartache is only one triumph away. The following Thursday Craig sensed all was not well when he took the horses feed in. On summoning the Vet he was diagnosed with an infection and operated on that day. This time it was to be a 600 day let off.

Recovery from the surgery proved to be successful but slow. But back in his familiar environment he began to pick up and it was decided to have a go at the Grand National Steeple again later in the season providing everything went to plan. This was not the case however and it was decided that it was probably too risky for the horses future and he needed more time which ultimately proved to be the correct decision as the horse seemed to mature and he has stayed sound ever since. Was the best still to come?



2016 Grand National Steeplechase with Richard Cully

Photo by Colleen Patch



2017 E-Cycle Solutions Grand National Steeple at Sportsbet-Ballarat Photo Alice Laidlaw

WELLS! WELLS! WELLS!

He came back from his extended break bigger and better and the Durdens were confident that they had made the right call.

After running second in The Australian Steeple and third in the Mosstrooper he was ready for another crack at the Grand National Steeple and under now regular Jockey **Richard Cully** put paid to a strong field by 10 lengths with 69 Kgs.

After another freshen up he came back to take out The Mosstrooper chasing down the brilliant **Zed Em**. In The Crisp where he accounted for **Over The Yardarm** after conceding 6 Kgs and a 15 lengths start and repeated the dose in the National after being headed in the straight by Over The Yardarm a very smart horse in his own right. Three \$350,000 Grand National Steeples on the trot 2014, 2015 and 2017. Had the dream finally come true?

After considerable consultation a fourth attempt at the National was agreed upon. In the lead up he picked up a Steeple at Bendigo and was right on track for the race. It is history now that he took a tumble around the back of the course and was out of the race.

For all of us Jumps lovers. The Champ will be back next year for a crack at the . GO WELLS!!!!

These are some quotes from those who have been with the horse from the first time they spotted him in Lloyd William's paddock way back in the Winter of 2011.

KATH DURDEN TRAINER

"He's a lean, mean, fighting machine"

CRAIG DURDEN ASSISTANT TRAINER

AND FORMER CHAMPION JUMPS JOCKEY WHO HAS ADMITTED TO WELLS BEING HIS FAVOURITE, AND WHO CAN BLAME HIM! WHEN ASKED FOR THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE HIM REPLIED

"Honest, Tenacious and to be fair he's probably a Champion"

JOCKEY RICHARD CULLY

AFTER HIS 2016 GRAND NATIONAL WINNING RIDE

"Unbelievably tough, unbelievably sound, fantastic training job, he just keeps on coming up, he's a proper champion!"

Mark Angus— Deputy Chairman, South Australian Jumps Racing

2014 Grand National Steeplechase with John Allen

2018 Mosstrooper Steeplechase at Bendigo with Richard Cully

2018 Mosstrooper Steeplechase



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2019 Victorian Jumps Racing Program

Racing Victoria (RV) has today released the program for the 2019 jumps racing season which will end for the first time with the nation's only all-jumps meeting, Grand National Steeplechase Day, at Sportsbet-Ballarat.

Jumps races traditionally programmed at Coleraine and Casterton in September have been moved into August to provide four consecutive Sundays of jumping culminating with the season finale on 25 August.

The six-race season-ending meeting at Sportsbet-Ballarat will again be headlined by the Grand National Steeplechase and JJ Houlahan Hurdle and will offer a record \$630,000 in prizemoney with increases announced for the three restricted races.

Other notable changes and highlights of the 2019 jumps racing program include:

A mutual agreement between RV and the Bendigo Jockey Club to cease jumps racing at Bendigo due to the suitability of the track owing to its layout;

The move of the \$100,000 Mosstrooper Steeplechase and \$100,000 Open Hurdle from Bendigo to Racing.com Park (Pakenham) on Sunday, 21 July. This has been facilitated with a switch of meetings between the two Clubs on Sundays, 21 and 28 July;

The programming of Racing.com Park's two jumps meetings – the other on Sunday, 14 April – as hybrid meetings with each hosting four jumps races on turf and four flat races on the synthetic track;

The upgrade of two feature country races with Casterton's steeplechase on Cup Day (Sunday, 19 May) rising from \$40,000 to \$75,000 and the Eulong Steeplechase at Hamilton on Monday, 1 April up from \$30,000 to \$50,000; and

An increase in minimum prizemoney at five country premium meetings to \$35,000 per race and at two metropolitan midweek meetings to \$50,000 per race in line with statewide increases that took effect from 1 January 2019.

"To achieve our ambition of a true pinnacle to end the season, we've condensed it slightly to ensure that Grand National Steeplechase Day at Ballarat, a meeting that is firmly entrenched in the calendar as our only all-jumps day, is now the season-ending showdown," RV General Manager - International and Racing Operations, Paul Bloodworth, said.

"Pleasingly for the local communities at Coleraine and Casterton we've retained their well-established September meetings by programming an additional meeting at Coleraine in August and moving one at Casterton from July to August to facilitate an exciting month of jumps to conclude the season.

"The other noteworthy change relates to Bendigo who will no longer conduct their annual jumps meeting. Upon review of the season, RV and the Bendigo Jockey Club were of the collective view that the track is not optimally designed for jumps racing."

The 2019 jumps racing season will begin at Warrnambool on Thursday, 14 March with a total of 61 jumps races – 39 hurdles and 22 steeplechases – programmed across autumn and winter.

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2018 Jumps Racing Program - Victoria (With Trials)

| Date | Meeting Details | Maiden Hurdle | Restricted Hurdle | Open Hurdle | Restricted Steeplechase | Open Steeplechase | Prize |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| Fri 22 Feb 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Fri 1 Mar 2019 | Warrambool Trials | | | | | | |
| Fri 8 Mar 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Thur 14 Mar 2019 | Warrambool | 3200 | | 3200 Open Hurdle | BM125 3450 | | \$30,000 |
| Mon 18 Mar 2019 | Warrambool Trials | | | | | | |
| Fri 22 Mar 2019 | Terang | 3200 @ | BM120 3200 | | | | |
| Mon 1 April 2019 | Hamilton | 3200 | BM120 3200 | | | 3200m Eulong Steeplechase | \$50,000 |
| Fri 5 April 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | 3200 MJ Bourke Hurdle Qty Hcp | | | |
| Sun 14 April 2019 | Pakenham | 3200 | 1JW 3200 | | | | |
| Tue 23 April 2019 | Warrambool Trials | | | | | | |
| Tues 30 April 2019 | Warrambool | 3200 | | | | | |
| Wed 1 May 2019 | Warrambool | | | 3200 Galleywood Hurdle SW&P N/C | | | \$150,000 |
| Thurs 2 May 2019 | Warrambool | | | 3200 Champion Novice Hurdle S/C | BM120 3450 | | \$50,000 |
| Fri 10 May 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Thu 16 May 2019 | Hamilton | 3200 | BM120 3200 | | Maiden Chase 3200m | | \$25,000 |
| Sun 19 May 2019 | Casterton | 3480 @ | \$25,000 | 3480 Open Hurdle | | 3800 Open Chase | \$75,000 |
| Wed 22 May 2019 | Warrambool Trials | | | | | | |
| Sun 26 May 2019 | Ladbrokes Park Sandown | | BM120 3400 | 3900 Australian Hurdle N/C | | 3900 Australian Steeplechase N/ | \$125,000 |
| Tues 4 Jun 2019 | Warrambool | 3200 | 1JW 3200 | | BM120 3450 | 3450 Open Chase | \$30,000 |
| Fri 7 Jun 2019 | Ballarat Trials | | | | | | |
| Tues 18 Jun 2019 | Sportsbet Ballarat | 3200 | \$25,000 | 3200 Open Hurdle | Maiden Chase 3200m | | \$25,000 |
| Fri 21 Jun 2019 | Warrambool Trials | | | | | | |
| Sat 29 Jun 2019 | Casterton | 3480 @ | \$25,000 | | | 3800 Open Chase | \$30,000 |
| Wed 3 Jul 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Sun 7 Jul 2019 | Warrambool | 3200 | 1JW 3200 | 3200 Kevin Lafferty Qty Hcp N/C | Maiden Chase 3450 | 3450 Thackeray Qty Hcp N/C | \$100,000 |
| Fri 12 Jul 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Sun 21 Jul 2019 | Pakenham | | BM120 3200 | 3500 Hurdle SW&P N/C | BM120 3200 | 3500 Moss Trooper SW&P N/C | \$100,000 |
| Fri 26 Jul 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Fri 2 Aug 2019 | Warrambool Trials | | | | | | |
| Sun 4 Aug 2019 | Ladbrokes Park Sandown | | BM120 3400 | 4200 Grand National N/C | | 4200 Crisp SW&P N/C | \$125,000 |
| Sun 11 Aug 2019 | Casterton | 3400 @ | \$25,000 | 3480 Casterton Hurdle | \$30,000 | 3800 Casterton Chase | \$40,000 |
| Fri 16 Aug 2019 | Cranbourne Trials | | | | | | |
| Sun 18 Aug 2019 | Coleraine | 3300 | \$25,000 | 3300 Coleraine Hurdle | \$30,000 | 3600 Great Western Chase | \$40,000 |
| Sun 25 Aug 2019 | Sportsbet Ballarat | 3400 @ | \$35,000 | 4000 Gotla Take Care Hurdle | \$50,000 | 4500 Grand National N/C | \$350,000 |
| | | 3200 | \$35,000 | 3200 JJ Houlihan SW&P N/C | \$125,000 | | |

@ = Maiden hurdle restricted to horses with a flat rating of 68 or below

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For Your Diary – upcoming Social Events

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS OF EVENTS:

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--|
| April | – Saturday 13 | Oakbank Races |
| April | – Friday 19 | Oakbank Calcutta PM "Haus" Hahndorf |
| April | – Saturday 20 | Oakbank Racing Carnival |
| April | – Monday 22 | Oakbank Carnival |
| April | – Monday 29 | Welcome to Warrnambool Cocktail Party |
| April | – Tuesday 30 | Warrnambool May Carnival Day 1 |
| May | – Wednesday 1 | Warrnambool May Carnival Day 2 |
| May | – Thursday 2 | Warrnambool May Carnival Day 3 |
| September | – Saturday 14 | Mosstrooper Celebration of the 2019 Season |

MISSED A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER?

Past copies of the newsletter are available on request.

Useful Links

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Find us at www.racing.com > Racing > Jumps Racing

If you hover over Racing, a menu will drop down and you can click on Jumps Racing.

| | |
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| Irish Thoroughbred Marketing | http://www.itm.ie |
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| Horse & Country | http://www.horseandcountry.com.au |
| AJRA Promo | http://vimeo.com/120989768 |
| The Irish Field | http://www.theirishfield.ie |



SPECIAL OFFER

Sovereign Resort, Cooktown Queensland, is kindly offering 10% discount to AJRA Members and 15% discount to AJRA Mosstrooper Members.

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