

SEVEN SPORT MEDIA RELEASE



25 October 2016

Melbourne Cup Carnival LIVE on Seven

Channel 7, 7TWO and PLUS7 Live

As the home of horse racing on free-to-air TV, Seven heads to Flemington for LIVE coverage of the iconic Melbourne Cup Carnival featuring Australia's premier thoroughbred racing, and fashion and personalities from around the world.

Seven's coverage will be hosted by **Bruce McAvaney**, **Francesca Cumani**, **Simon Marshall** and **Simon O'Donnell**.

Jason Richardson will conduct live interviews post-race with relevant winning connections to feature race winners. **Peter Donegan** will have all the latest in the mounting yard, **Pat Welsh** in the betting ring and Australia's premier race caller **Greg Miles** will call all the action on the track.

Seven News sports presenter **Mel McLaughlin** will be a roving reporter on Melbourne Cup Day and Derby Day, interviewing all of the stars from the wider sporting world.

Five-time Victoria Derby winning jockey **Damien Oliver** will also join our team to provide expert analysis this Saturday.

Throughout the Carnival, **Hamish McLachlan** will be hosting from the race stalls and pre-parade ring interviewing all the connections and reporting on horse arrivals.

Edwina Bartholomew, **Rachael Finch**, **Neil Kearney**, **Jade Robran** and **Emily Angwin** will bring all the colour, news and personalities from around the track, while **James Jordan** will deliver expert form analysis.

Seven News meteorologist **Jane Bunn** joins the coverage on Melbourne Cup Day and Oaks Day to keep race goers and punters across all the latest weather news.

Basil Zempilas will be Master of Ceremonies, while **Sam Hyland** will be on horseback with all the winning jockey interviews.

Seven will build on last year's Melbourne Cup digital offering when more than 488,000 Australians streamed the coverage on PLUS7 Live and 340,000 concurrent streams watched the race itself.

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In addition to the all-day coverage on PLUS7 Live, 7Sport will be following the action throughout the day @7HorseRacing on Facebook and Twitter. Australians will be able to follow this through @Channel 7 and @7Sport.

Seven will also create bespoke content on Melbourne Cup Day for streaming live via Facebook leading up to Seven's live coverage that day.

The Carnival jumps out of the barriers on Saturday with what many racing purists consider the best single day of thoroughbred racing in Australia. Victorian racing's premier three-year-old classic, the Victoria Derby is the feature event for stayers over 2500m. It's the only all-Group race day on the calendar and includes three other Group 1 races the Cantala Stakes, Myer Classic and Coolmore Stud Stakes.

Two days before the nation's greatest race, our experts examine all the form in our special Melbourne Cup Preview Show on Sunday morning. From the locals to the internationals, our team of experts dissect and analyse every Cup hopeful to help you back a winner.

Then it's the first Tuesday in November, which means only one thing to Australians: the Melbourne Cup. The nation's greatest race, a handicap run over 'two miles', attracts thoroughbred horses from around the globe as trainers and owners look to etch their name in racing history. Every year drama, intrigue and stories unfold around the Cup with winners coming from all walks of life.

Oaks Day and Stakes Day, on Thursday and Saturday respectively, round out arguably the best racing carnival in the world. The latest in fashion, colour and flair is celebrated on Oaks Day, with the feature race the Group 1 Oaks for three-year-olds. While families are again expected to flock to Stakes Day to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere for the VRC's premier 1600m race.

As the free-to-air home of thoroughbred horse racing, Seven broadcasts every major meeting on the Australian calendar including the Melbourne Cup Carnival, Sydney Racing Carnival including the Golden Slipper, and the Spring Racing Carnival including the Caulfield Cup and Cox Plate in Melbourne, along with the Stradbroke Handicap and the Magic Millions.

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BROADCAST TIMES

Saturday October 29

Victoria Derby Day

Sydney	11am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	11am LIVE on Channel 7
Brisbane	10am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	10.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	8am LIVE on 7TWO, 10am LIVE on Channel 7

Sunday October 30

Melbourne Cup Preview Show

Sydney	11.30am on Channel 7
Melbourne	11.30am on Channel 7
Brisbane	11.30am on Channel 7
Adelaide	11.30am on Channel 7
Perth	11.30am on Channel 7

Tuesday November 1

Melbourne Cup Day

Sydney	10am LIVE on Channel 7
Melbourne	10am LIVE on Channel 7
Brisbane	9am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	9.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	7am LIVE on 7TWO, 9am LIVE on Channel 7

Thursday November 3

Oaks Day

Sydney	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Brisbane	10.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	11am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	8.30am LIVE on 7TWO, 9am LIVE on Channel 7

Saturday November 5

Stakes Day

Sydney	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Brisbane	10.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	11am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	8.30am LIVE on 7TWO, 10am LIVE on Channel 7

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COMMENTARY TEAM

BRUCE MCAVANEY | Host

The doyen of sports broadcasting in Australia, Bruce McAvaney has hosted Seven's expanded coverage of the Spring Racing Carnival, including the Caulfield Cup Carnival, the Cox Plate and now the Melbourne Cup Carnival. Bruce began his career as a race caller, and he has called the Melbourne Cup four times and hosted Seven's Cup Carnival coverage 14 times, and throughout his decorated career he has retained an infectious enthusiasm for the so-called Sport of Kings.

FRANCESCA CUMANI | Co-Host

The daughter of English trainer Luca Cumani, Francesca joins the panel on-course throughout the Spring Racing Carnival. Francesca made her TV debut on Seven's horseracing coverage in 2009 and has impressed ever since with her thorough racing knowledge.

SIMON MARSHALL | Co-Host

Simon Marshall enjoyed a decorated career as a jockey, winning 16 Group 1 races and piloting stars including Super Impose, Naturalism, Better Loosen Up, Mahogany and Mannerism. Simon will help dissect the form for Seven. Also a regular on Seven's AFL Game Day, he brings a unique combination of racing insight and a sense of fun.

SIMON O'DONNELL | Co-Host

Simon has sporting credentials that few can match, having played cricket for Australia where he won a World Cup, as well as playing AFL at the highest level with St Kilda. Following his elite sporting career, he turned his attention to his love of racehorses, teaming up with Terry Henderson to deliver multiple Group 1 winners including Manighar, Brambles and Kibbutz.

HAMISH MCLACHLAN | Presenter

An accomplished horseman who grew up next to Lindsay Park Stud, one of Australia's most successful racing and breeding establishments, Hamish is a feature of Seven's Melbourne Cup Carnival coverage as well as being an AFL commentator and host of AFL Game Day, and a regular on Seven's Australian Open coverage.

MEL McLAUGHLIN | Presenter

Fresh from hosting Seven's Rio 2016 Olympic Games coverage, Seven News sports anchor Mel McLaughlin will be a roving reporter on Melbourne Cup Day and Derby Day interviewing all of the stars from the sporting world who descend on Flemington.

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JASON RICHARDSON | Mounting Yard reporter

Known for his energetic passion and knowledge for horse racing, and a winner of the prestigious Stawell Gift, Jason will interview all the winning connections, along with form analysis from the Mounting Yard.

PETER DONEGAN | Mounting Yard presenter

Peter is one of the most respected sports broadcasters in the country, having covered athletics, golf, AFL, horseracing and tennis among many sports for radio and TV. Pete will be in the mounting yard where he has earned the respect of jockeys, trainers, owners and stewards over a Melbourne Cup broadcasting career stretching back over two decades to 1989.

DAMIEN OLIVER | Expert analysis Derby Day

Oliver is arguably Australia's best known rider with over 100 Group 1 wins, along with the 'Grand Slam' of Australian racing including three Melbourne Cups, two Cox Plates, four Caulfield Cups and a Golden Slipper.

EDWINA BARTHOLOMEW | Presenter

Sunrise presenter Edwina Bartholomew will be a roving reporter for the racing coverage throughout the Melbourne Cup Carnival catching up with all the big names in the entertainment world.

BASIL ZEMPILAS | MC

Basil hosts and commentates AFL matches for Seven, presents sport for Seven News Perth and is an integral part of our Australian Open and Hopman Cup tennis coverage. To date he has been to six Olympic Games for Seven and was behind the microphone calling gold medals for Australia at the pool in 2016. He'll MC the race presentations again this year at Flemington.

JANE BUNN | Meteorologist

Seven News meteorologist Jane Bunn joins the coverage on Melbourne Cup Day and Oaks Day to keep race goers and punters across all the latest weather news.

RACHAEL FINCH | Presenter

A vibrant personality and a former Miss Universe Australia, Rachael is a regular TV presenter for Seven who returns to Flemington as a roving fashion reporter for the coverage of the Melbourne Cup Carnival.

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GREG MILES | Race caller

Greg Miles is widely regarded as Australia's premier race caller and will again be heard throughout the Carnival on Seven for the 13th year running, as well as his 36th call of the Melbourne Cup. Australian race fans will always remember his iconic call of Makybe Diva's third consecutive Cup win when he fittingly announced "a champion becomes a legend."

PAT WELSH | BETTING RING

Being the son of a bookmaker meant it was almost inevitable Pat Welsh would end up involved in racing and sports. The Seven News sport presenter and reporter in Brisbane with more than 30 years' experience, Pat will present viewers with all the happenings, movements and plunges from the Flemington betting ring.

NEIL KEARNEY | Reporter

A journalist for more than 35 years and over 20 years on television, Neil is one of Australia's great storytellers, plying his craft on almost every major sport there is from the Olympics and AFL, to the Australian Open tennis, the Commonwealth Games and of course, horse racing.

EMILY ANGWIN | Reporter

Seven News reporter Emily Angwin will cover all the colour and fun from Flemington over the four days of the Carnival. Emily is also a presenter and ambassador for the Carlton Football Club.

JAMES JORDAN | Form analyst

Expert form analyst James Jordan settles in for another season with Seven analysing all the form and delivering tips for the punters at home.

JADE ROBRAN | Reporter

Seven News reporter Jade Robran will be out and about throughout the Melbourne Cup Carnival capturing all the characters and entertainment from around the track.

SAM HYLAND | Horseback interviewer

After almost two decades as a jockey, Sam Hyland retired from the sport having rode a Group 1 winner in Macau and the Warrnambool Cup and Hamilton Cup twice. He announced his retirement from race-riding after suffering significant injuries in March 2009 when he fell from Looking Light in Ballarat. Since then he has made an impressive foray into the world of broadcasting making his niche in the art of horseback interviewing with all the winning jockeys.

For more information please contact Greg Smith on 0438 777 164 or grsmith@seven.com.au

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