

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP

Minister for Industry Support and Recovery

Minister for Trade

Minister for Business Precincts

Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events

Minister for Racing



Friday, 26 November 2021

SALUTING THE BEST AND BRAVEST AT WARRNAMBOOL'S JERICHO CUP

Warrnambool Racing Club hosts its popular Jericho Cup meeting on Sunday, honouring Australia's famous Light Horsemen and their horses and supported by a funding package from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Racing Martin Pakula today announced the Government is allocating more than \$18,000 from the *Victorian Racing Industry Fund – Raceday Attraction Program* to support the special day for veterans, while the club is investing more than \$42,000 for the event and Country Racing Victoria, \$8,000.

The \$304,000 Jericho Cup honours the service and sacrifices of the Light Horsemen and their horses in the Middle East during World War I.

The Cup was first run in Warrnambool in 2018 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the original Jericho Cup – the feature race of a desert meeting organised by the Light Horsemen to distract the enemy ahead of a major campaign.

All veterans can enter the course free of charge on Jericho Cup Day if they show their Veteran's card at the gate.

The Jericho Cup meeting will feature a strong line-up of racing and a great selection of food and drinks while the Warrnambool City Band will provide entertainment. There will be a free shuttle bus service from Koroit and Port Fairy.

The meeting will be held in COVIDSafe settings consistent with Victoria's roadmap, with all on course required to be double vaccinated unless a medical exemption applies.

Since December 2014, the Labor Government has provided more than \$1.4 million to support thoroughbred racing events and infrastructure projects in Warrnambool.

The racing industry in Warrnambool and the south west generates almost \$110 million for the economy each year and helps sustain more than 900 jobs.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

"The Jericho Cup has quickly become a must-see event for racing fans and a significant day to honour veterans and their sacrifices."

"We're proud to be helping racing clubs like Warrnambool welcome back crowds on course."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Gayle Tierney

"Sunday's meeting will bring many visitors to Warrnambool and we encourage everyone to get out and sample the delights of the region during their trip."

Quote attributable to Warrnambool Racing Club Chair Steven Waterhouse

"We're grateful for the Government's support, and can't wait to welcome patrons for a great day of racing and a celebration of our magnificent Light Horsemen and their horses."