

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



Saturday, 26 March 2022

BAIRNSDALE CUP CELEBRATES 160 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SPIRIT

The Bairnsdale Cup meeting is a long-standing race day that will deliver a boost to the region's economy, backed by a funding package from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Racing Martin Pakula today announced the government is allocating over \$16,000 from the *Victorian Racing Industry Fund – Raceday Attraction Program* to support the meeting, with the Bairnsdale Racing Club investing more than \$17,000 for tomorrow's event.

The meeting is part of Country Racing Victoria's *Country Racing Thanks Frontline Workers Campaign* that provides free gate entry for frontline workers at selected country race meetings across regional Victoria from February to April.

For 160 years, the Cup has been one of the most prestigious race days in the East Gippsland calendar.

Live music, children's activities, food trucks, as well as fine dining packages and marquee areas will feature on the day.

The Cup also sees the return of Fashions on the Field. With six prize categories and free registration, there's no excuse for not being in your finest Sunday outfit.

To make the most of the day, patrons are encouraged to take advantage of the complimentary shuttle bus service with stops in Lakes Entrance and Paynesville.

Since December 2014, the Labor Government has approved more than \$355,000 to support race meetings and racing infrastructure projects at Bairnsdale Racing Club.

The thoroughbred racing industry in the Latrobe-Gippsland region generates \$88.4 million for the economy and helps sustain over 750 jobs in the region.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

"We're proud to support the Bairnsdale Cup as it celebrates 160 years of racing and bringing the community together."

"Events like this bring in tourists from around the state, supporting local businesses and jobs."

Quote attributable to Bairnsdale Racing Club Chairman Greg Beadle

"We're grateful for the government's support – Bairnsdale Cup is not just a time-honoured tradition but also a crowd-pleaser for families and friends alike."