

ON TRACK



International stars shine in Australia's Best Race

The Ladbroke's Cox Plate could be heading overseas once again with two leading international contenders.

- Ben Caluzzi

Revised Spring Carnival calendar proves a hit

A move of The Valley's Group 1 sprints to an earlier slot in the spring resulted in stellar fields.

- Ben Caluzzi

MVRC partners with Myeloma Australia

Discover more about Myeloma Australia, the Cox Plate Charity Pin partner for the next three years..

- Nick Hluchaniuk





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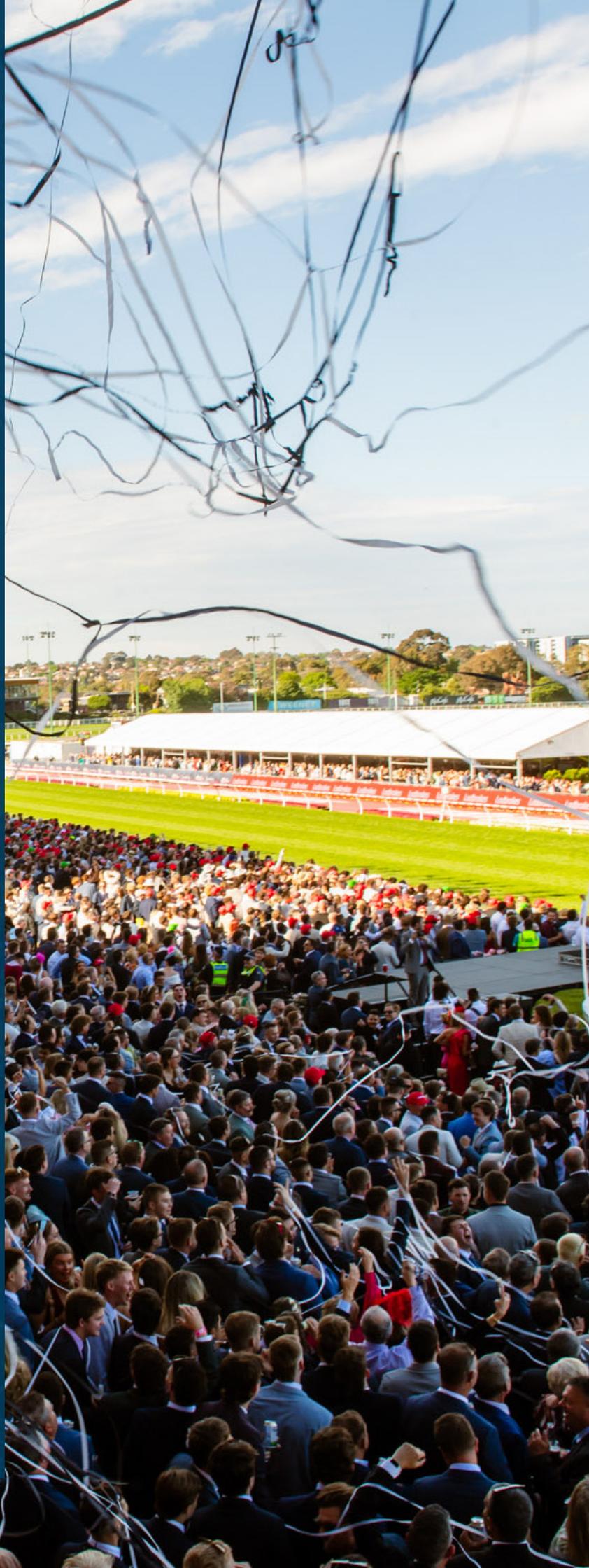
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CHAIR'S WELCOME

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE 2024 SPRING EDITION OF ON TRACK MAGAZINE.

This year's Spring Carnival featured a revamped calendar at The Valley, which enhanced the Group 1 pathway for Australia's best sprinters.

It launched on Saturday, September 7 with Group 1 racing on Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes Day.

The Club's first Group 1 of the season provided a milestone moment for Gavin Bedggood, with the Cranbourne trainer collecting the first Group 1 of his career courtesy of Mornington Glory. That victory made it three straight wins to start the season over 1000m at The Valley.

Racing under lights was launched with Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes Night. The \$2 million Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes returned to AFL Grand Final Eve for the first time since 2011. The meeting also featured the Group 2 Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes, with the race offering a golden ticket into the Ladbrokes Cox Plate.

Those on track on AFL Grand Final Eve were treated to a night that won't be forgotten. A crowd of close to 10,000 witnessed an incredible night of racing as Pride Of Jenni, who was recently crowned 2023/2024 Australian Racehorse Of The Year, held off Mr Brightside in a stirring battle in the Group 2 Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes. Southern Tycoon, meanwhile, made a late charge to upset stablemate Growing Empire in the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes, in a Group 1 quinella for Ciaran Maher.

Racegoers on the night also enjoyed access to exciting golf activations in the infield in the Fairway Beats & Eats zone, with Big Swing Golf Simulators, Lights Out Golf, and Ladbrokes Legendary Putt, followed by a

post-race concert by international DJ Topic. The golf activations will be in full swing again during the Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival for those in the Ladbrokes Lawn Party.

Attention now turns to the Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival and the 104th running of the W. S. Cox Plate. One of the leading contenders is the star Japanese horse, Prognosis. MVRCA Media & Content Executive – Racing has provided a feature on Prognosis and taken a look at the recent domination of internationals in Australia's Best Race, with three of the past five Ladbrokes Cox Plates heading overseas.

James McDonald has won the past two Ladbrokes Cox Plates, winning his first in 2022 aboard Anamoe before going back-to-back in 2023 on Hong Kong's star middle-distance galloper Romantic Warrior. It's a thrill to have the champion jockey as an ambassador for the 2024 Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival alongside Olympic gold medallists Brianna Throssell and Shayna Jack and AFL Rising Star winner and racehorse owner Ollie Dempsey.

This Spring Carnival is the first of a three-year partnership with Myeloma Australia as the Cox Plate Charity Pin partner. Myeloma is an incurable blood cancer, and currently, 22,000 Australians are diagnosed with it. We look forward to working alongside Myeloma Australia to raise awareness and funds and encourage everyone to get involved by purchasing a Cox Plate Charity Pin when visiting the course or online at thevalley.com.au.

It's such an exciting time of the year and I trust you'll have a fantastic 2024 Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival.



PROGNOSIS HAS FORM AROUND LAST YEAR'S LADBROKES COX PLATE WINNER ROMANTIC WARRIOR

Raiders SET TO MAKE THEIR MARK IN THE 2024 LADBROKES COX PLATE



By Ben Caluzzi

Media & Content Executive -
Racing

In 2014 the Aidan O'Brien-trained Adelaide became the first internationally trained horse ever to win the Ladbrokes Cox Plate. Ridden by Ryan Moore, the pair famously swooped their way to victory and paved the way for more global competition in the years to come.

Over the past decade, the Ladbrokes Cox Plate has been won by four internationals, along with another who was transferred to the Ciaran Maher & David Eustace stable but ran first up off the plane from Ireland, Sir Dragonet in 2020 – winner of Ladbrokes Cox Plate 100.

Officially, the internationally trained winners of the Ladbrokes Cox Plate include Adelaide 2014, Lys Gracieux 2019, State Of Rest 2021 and Romantic Warrior 2023.

Given the 2015-2018 Ladbrokes Cox Plates were dominated by one of the greatest

we have ever seen in Winx, the strike-rate of international horses in the Cox Plate is immense. In fact, it was another international who ran 2nd to Winx in her final Ladbrokes Cox Plate, with Godolphin's Benbatl proving a worthy challenger for the great mare as the end of an era unfolded.

This year, there will be two international horses expected to take their place in the 2024 Ladbrokes Cox Plate. They are the 120-rated Prognosis from Japan, and the 115-rated Docklands from England.

PROGNOSIS (JPN)



A/S: 6yo Horse

SIRE: Deep Impact (JPN)

DAM: Velda (GB)

CAREER: 15: 7-3-2

TRAINER: Mitsumasa Nakauchida

JOCKEY: Damian Lane

OWNER: Shadai Race Horse Co Ltd

BASE: JRA Ritto Training Center

PRIZE MONEY: AUD \$6,298,829

Although a rising six-year-old, star Japanese middle-distance horse Prognosis is still only lightly raced with just 15 career starts to his name. He made his debut on 13 March 2021 and won over 2000 metres, a distance which has proven to be his best.

Five of his seven wins have come over the Ladbrokes Cox Plate trip, and he has been unlucky not to extend that winning record even further. In Hong Kong, he was twice placed behind 2023 Ladbrokes Cox Plate champion Romantic Warrior, afforded minimal luck on both occasions.

His key drawbacks are his enigmatic behaviour and his bad habit of jumping away slowly from the starting stalls. In his latest effort in the Sapporo Kinen, Prognosis got very warm prior to the race then missed the start by three lengths, tailing off to last before flashing home with his customary big finish.

His tardy starts are going to be a job for first-time rider Damian Lane to amend while the pair go through their gears at Werribee, but Lane is a world-class rider who won the 2019 Ladbrokes Cox Plate on Lys Gracieux, handing Japan their first win in the race.

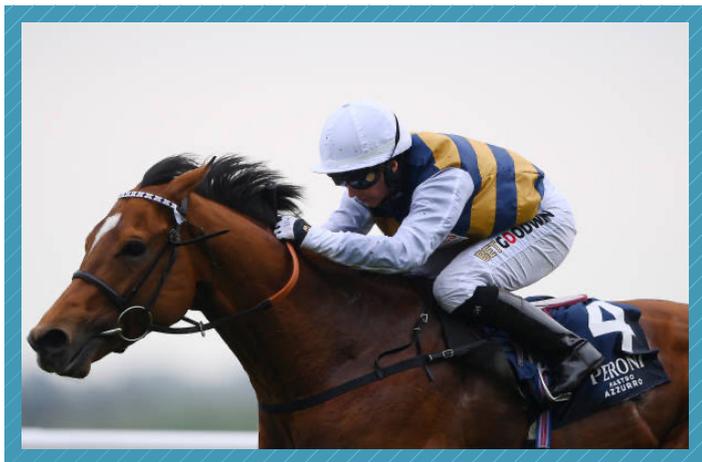
Prognosis has an elite turn of foot and a big engine, typical of the Japanese, and is a multiple Group 2 winner. He comes to Australia with international form that stands up all around the globe, and he will love the good tempo that Pride Of Jenni will set.

While yet to win at Group 1 level, Prognosis is still undoubtedly one of the best 2000 metre horses currently in Japan, and with a clean getaway from the barriers he is one of the horses to beat in the Ladbrokes Cox Plate.



PROGNOSIS ARRIVING IN AUSTRALIA FOR HIS LADBROKES COX PLATE TILT

DOCKLANDS (GB)



A/S: 4yo Horse

SIRE: Massaat (IRE)

DAM: Icky Woo (GB)

CAREER: 12: 3-6-1

TRAINER: Harry Eustace

JOCKEY: Blake Shinn

OWNER: OTI Racing

BASE: Newmarket Training Centre

PRIZE MONEY: AUD \$541,484

Docklands has slowly worked his way through the grades the last two years and has been somewhat of a quiet achiever.

All three of his career wins came as a three-year-old, including a victory in the Britannia Stakes where he won in a field of 29.

Despite not winning in 2024, he has been runner-up on three occasions at black-type level, with his 2nd placing in the Group 1 Queen Anne Stakes, Royal Ascot's premier mile event, the number one highlight of his career.

The winner of the Queen Anne, Charyn, has since produced another Group 1 win and Group 1 placing in France.

In his only exposure to 2000 metres last start in the Juddmonte International, widely renowned as one of the top races in the world, Docklands did a Prognosis and missed the start horribly before running on well for a midfield finish behind champion colt City Of Troy.

The run there had plenty of merit, and with some added polish with key booking Blake Shinn going on board, he may just get under a few analyst's guards.

He doesn't have the same reputation as Prognosis just yet, but he's still largely untapped and is trained by Harry Eustace, the brother of 2020 Ladbrokes Cox Plate-winning co-trainer David.



THE LADBROKES COX PLATE HAS BEEN A LONG RANGE TARGET FOR OTI WITH DOCKLANDS

SWEENEY



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THE VALLEY'S NEW SPRING PROGRAMMING A *Great Success*



By Ben Caluzzi

Media & Content Executive - Racing

In 2024 the Moonee Valley Racing Club conducted a thorough review around the structure of its Spring Carnival programming. In particular, the sprinting pathway and the positioning of the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes – the only local ballot exempt race into the Ladbrokes Cox Plate.

The sprinting pathway was altered to better align with the national calendar, allowing Australia's top sprinters to target the Group 1 races throughout the spring, including The Everest, which this year was positioned one week prior to Ladbrokes Cox Plate Day.

The open class black-type sprints at The Valley during spring include the Paramount Liquor Carlyon Stakes, the Mittys McEwen Stakes, the Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes and the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes, which were previously run in that order.

The Listed Paramount Liquor Carlyon Stakes, run over 1000 metres, remained in its original position on 26 August, but change was enforced on the remaining three races.

The Group 1 Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes (1000m) was brought forward to sit on Saturday 7 September, two weeks after the Carlyon, and replaced the residency of the Mittys McEwen Stakes.

The Group 1 Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes (1200m) shifted from the Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival and was brought forward to AFL Grand Final Eve on Friday 27 September, taking the place of the Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes.

Finally, the Group 2 Mittys McEwen Stakes was moved from Saturday 7 September to be run on Ladbrokes Cox Plate Day, creating a replacement

for the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes and receiving a distance alteration from 1000 metres to 1200 metres.

The sprinting program changes have been met with great support from industry participants, with one of the main beneficiaries of the new scheduling Cranbourne-based trainer Gavin Bedggood.

His rejuvenated sprinter Mornington Glory was able to win the Paramount Liquor Carlyon Stakes, before returning two weeks later and stunning his more fancied rivals in the Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes, granting Bedggood his first Group 1 win.

The 1000-metre specialist led from barrier to box in the victory, with Ethan Brown using the inside draw to his advantage and delivering a famous win for some famous connections, with the likes of AFL champions Shane Crawford and Brett Ratten in the ownership of Mornington Glory.

The Moonee Valley Racing Club have long hoped for a date change of the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes, to sit closer to the Ladbrokes Cox Plate and hold more relevance to Australia's Best Race, being the only locally run qualifier.

Previously run on Saturday 7 September, the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes was able to move to Friday 27 September, providing a Weight For Age race on AFL grand final weekend.

With both the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes and the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes now run on Grand Final Eve, a public holiday here in Victoria, the stage was set for The Valley's night of nights.

The new date change of the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes attracted Australia's best milers Pride Of Jenni and Mr Brightside to the race, while a crack field of 12 sprinters took their place in the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes.

A crowd of 10,000 patrons poured into the course on Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes Night, and many say it was the best night of racing they have ever been to.

Pride Of Jenni lit up The Valley in the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes, sparking a roar from the grandstands which is usually reserved only for the Ladbrokes Cox Plate. Striding eight lengths clear at the 800-metre mark and showing her customary bold frontrunning tactics with Declan Bates on board, she proved a shade too good for Mr Brightside, who ate into the margin late but to no avail.

It was the Ciaran Maher stable to the fore again in the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes, with Southport Tycoon and Growing Empire running one-two. Three-year-old colt Growing Empire started a warm favourite and kicked for home upon straightening, but Mark Zahra and Southport Tycoon swamped Craig Williams on the line to land the horse's second Group 1 win – repeating the deeds of Hey Doc in 2017 and winning the Australian Guineas and the Ladbrokes Manikato in the same year.

The new changes at the Valley have been a welcome rotation to the Victorian Spring Carnival, and it is hoped with time the black-type status of the Ladbrokes Feehan Stakes can be upgraded, should it produce similar ratings to this year and ongoing.



**SOUTHERN TYCOON CAUSED AN UPSET IN THE
LADBROKES MANIKATO STAKES**

IMPERATRIZ

A PERFECT SEASON AT

The Valley



By Nick Hluchaniuk
Senior Communications Advisor

Season 2023/24 at The Valley began in record-breaking style for the Mark Walker-trained Imperatriz and ended with a historic triumph before time was called on her racing career.

Rewinding to the opening of the Spring Carnival, Imperatriz made her mark in the Mittys McEwen Stakes, where she took on Clayton Douglas' Giga Kick and Robert Heathcote's Rothfire in the eagerly awaited Group 2 sprint.

What unfolded was simply stunning. As Giga Kick took off before the home turn, Michael Dee, who was entrusted with the ride on Imperatriz with regular jockey Opie Bosson unavailable, tacked on to the back of the favourite. Upon straightening up, it was a flash of tangerine as the Te Akua Racing-owned mare let down with a withering burst of speed. Within a moment she put a space on the field, winning by 2 ½ lengths and setting a new track record for 1000m.

Her next assignment was under lights on AFL Grand Final Eve for the Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes. A big crowd converged on The Valley, enjoying the public holiday festivities, and they were witness to another outstanding performance by Imperatriz. Settling towards the tail of the field, she once again displayed an incredible turn of foot to the roar of the crowd, defeating Asfoora by 1 ¼ lengths, and beating her own 1000m record she'd set just three weeks earlier.



IMPERATRIZ SPARKLED UNDER LIGHTS IN THE GROUP 1 CHARTER KECK CRAMER MOIR STAKES



Her next assignment was again at The Valley, this time on Ladbrokes Cox Plate Day in the Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes. Facing only five rivals, Imperatriz started as the odds-on favourite, but a change in tactics set this race apart from her previous two spring victories. It may not have been the pre-race plan to lead, but that's where Bosson landed on Imperatriz, and with bad luck taken out of the equation, the daughter of I Am Invincible cruised to a 3 ¼ length victory. The win meant history was created, with Imperatriz becoming the first horse to complete a sweep of The Valley's Group 1 sprints in a calendar year.

Autumn provided another significant opportunity for Imperatriz, this time the chance to complete The Valley's Group 1 sprinting Triple Crown in a season, taking up the challenge to defend her crown in the 3 Point Motors William Reid Stakes. Mark Walker's mare didn't have it all her own way, forced to race wide after jumping from the second outside barrier in the field of 10. She was simply too classy, however, holding off roughie Johnny Rocker, who raced out of his skin, by a head.

The 3 Point Motors William Reid Stakes would ultimately be Imperatriz's penultimate race start. Her final run came in the TJ Smith Stakes before Te Akau Racing made the call to retire her from the track. Imperatriz finished with a flawless record at The Valley: five starts, five wins, including four at Group 1 level. She made history and left an indelible mark, cementing her place among the elite sprinters to have graced The Valley.



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STAR JOCKEY

JMac

NAMED THE FACE OF THE 2024 LADBROKES COX PLATE CARNIVAL



By Nick Hluchaniuk
Senior Communications Advisor

The Moonee Valley Racing Club is excited to welcome champion jockey James McDonald as an ambassador for the 2024 Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival. With back-to-back wins in the past two Ladbrokes Cox Plates, McDonald's stature and success make him the perfect choice for the role.

At just 32, McDonald is well on his way to his legendary status.

Known as JMac, he is set to become the quickest Australian jockey to reach the century milestone.

He was just 16 when he won his first Group 1 race, riding Special Mission to victory in the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes.

Only five Australian jockeys have reached the milestone of 100 Group 1 wins.

Damien Oliver tops the list with 129 wins, ahead of George Moore, Hugh Bowman, and Jimmy Cassidy.

It's no wonder he's recognised as one of the world's top jockeys.

He was named Longines World's Best Jockey by the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities in 2022 and has Group 1 victories in five countries: Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Among his victories at the top level are the past two Ladbrokes Cox Plates.

McDonald said it was incredibly special to be named as an ambassador.

"The Cox Plate is a race that I've taken an interest in for as long as I can remember. To win back-to-back on two of my favourite horses, and now to be the ambassador for this year's Carnival, is very special."

"It means a lot to be involved, and I can't wait for this year's Carnival."

His first Ladbrokes Cox Plate victory came aboard Anamoe for Godolphin in 2022, providing James

Cummings with his first W. S Cox Plate victory, a race his grandfather had one five times.

"It's the one (the W. S. Cox Plate), isn't it?" McDonald said post the win.

"Level playing field, the best of the best. It takes bravery, guts, determination from all these horses and always it seems the best one wins.

"It goes back to Greg Childs and Sunline, Bossy and Makybe Diva. Those are the races you live and dream of as a kid and now I'm living it. It's incredible."

McDonald made it back-to-back in Australia's Best Race when riding Hong Kong's champion middle-distance galloper Romantic Warrior. It was a classic edition, with Romantic Warrior for Danny Shum narrowly defeating Mr Brightside. It's a horse he has an incredible association with, claiming Group 1 wins across three countries on Romantic Warrior.

McDonald has also won the past two Ladbrokes Gold Cups, the Club's oldest race and the feature on the opening night of the Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival, aboard Francesco Guardi (2022) and Cleveland (2023).

It's shaping up to be another huge Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival in 2024 for McDonald.

If he is successful in the Ladbrokes Cox Plate, he'll become the first jockey since Brent Thomson in 1979 to win three consecutive Cox Plates on three different horses.



JAMES MCDONALD CELEBRATES HIS VICTORY ABOARD ROMANTIC WARRIOR IN THE 2023 LADBROKES COX PLATE

MEET YOUR 2024 LADBROKES COX



OLYMPIC CHAMPIONS ON DECK FOR THE 2024 LADBROKES COX PLATE CARNIVAL

Two stars of the pool fresh off gold medal success at the Paris Olympic Games will be part of the 2024 Ladbrokes Cox Plate Carnival.

Shayna Jack and Brianna Throssell were part of the highly successful Dolphins swim team in Paris, which collected 18 medals, including seven golds.

It was a double delight for Jack, winning relay gold medals in the Women's 4 x 100m freestyle and as part of the 4 x 200m freestyle team.

It had been a long road to Paris for the 25-year-old.

For Jack, reaching Paris was redemption. It marked the culmination of immense effort both in and out of the pool. Beyond the physical challenges of training as a world-class swimmer, she was also fighting to clear her name after testing positive for Ligandrol. Throughout, she steadfastly maintained her innocence, and the Court of Arbitration for Sport reduced her penalty, recognising that she had not knowingly ingested the substance.

It was a fruitful Olympic Game for the Queenslander, making the finals of the Women's 50m and 100m freestyle along with her relay triumphs.

Brianna Throssell was also part of the Women's 4 x 200m freestyle gold medal team, swimming the third leg in the Final alongside Mollie O'Callaghan, Lani Pallister and Ariarne Titmus.

Having made her third Olympics team, Brianna Throssell was a veteran of the Dolphins Squad in Paris.

It was her second Olympic gold medal, having been part of the successful Women's 4 x 100 metre medley relay team in Tokyo.

The 28-year-old declared after her Paris success that it would be her last Olympic Games.

Along with her two Olympic gold and two Olympic bronze medals, Throssell has also won 18 World Championship medals, including six golds.

"This is going to be a 'yes' year for me and I want to do all I can and enjoy everything that comes my way and or that is presented to me, like being the Ladbrokes Cox Plate ambassador," Throssell said.

"I can't wait to be trackside at The Valley and experience all that the Ladbrokes Cox Plate has to offer."

"I will be cheering on my new friend the incredible Pride of Jenni, Australia's Racehorse of the Year."

PLATE CARNIVAL AMBASSADORS



RISING STAR OLLIE DEMPSEY'S GROWING LOVE FOR RACING

Geelong Cats' young star and avid racing fan Ollie Dempsey has joined as an ambassador for the 2024 Ladbroke's Cox Plate Carnival.

Dempsey had a 2024 season to remember, with the 21-year-old taking out the AFL's Rising Star Award and being a key component of his side's run deep into September. He averaged 17 possessions across 25 games in 2024 and kicked 22 goals. He went into the season with only seven games under his belt.

It has been a rapid rise for the livewire, who was selected in the 2022 rookie draft.

Dempsey also has the racing bug and has recently got involved in horse ownership.

He owns a share of OTI-owned Emilia Jane, along with teammates Mark Blicavs, Tanner Bruhn, Brad Close, Brandan Parfitt, and Jack Henry, with the Joe Pride-trained mare breaking her maiden at her second start in September.

After returning from an overseas trip, Dempsey will be back at The Valley on Ladbroke's Cox Plate Day, eager to take in the incredible atmosphere.

COX PLATE CARNIVAL *Charity Pin* TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS OF MYELOMA



This year's spring carnival marks the beginning of a three-year partnership between Moonee Valley Racing Club and Myeloma Australia as the Cox Plate Carnival Charity Pin partner, a collaboration that was proudly announced in July. Racegoers can support Myeloma Australia by purchasing a Cox Plate Carnival Charity Pin.

What is myeloma? Many in the community may not be able to answer—and those newly diagnosed often face this question. The Cox Plate Charity Pin partnership aims to raise vital funds to support those living with myeloma and enhance public awareness of this condition.

Myeloma is an incurable blood cancer arising from malignant plasma cells in the bone marrow. Health issues associated with myeloma can include a weakened immune system, bone destruction, anaemia, and reduced kidney function.

Despite awareness of myeloma being relatively low, it is a condition that is prevalent, with 22,000 people living with myeloma in Australia, and 50 people diagnosed each week. These numbers signify the importance of the Charity Pin partnership according to Myeloma Australia CEO Mark Henderson.

"We thank the Moonee Valley Racing Club for their support, and we are proud to become their charity partner. The myeloma community are gaining their voice, and this is another step in the right direction to educate more people about myeloma; a highly invasive and incurable blood cancer".

"Myeloma is a complex disease. 27% of people die within 18 months of diagnosis and rates have grown 30% in recent years. Most people at diagnosis had never heard of it. This is another chance we have to raise the community's awareness, and we thank the Moonee Valley Racing Club for their support."

The Charity Pin was officially launched on Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes Day at The Valley, with Myeloma Australia ambassadors and CEO Mark Henderson on track for the occasion. They engaged in Q&A sessions at two functions, offering attendees valuable insights into the condition and sharing heartfelt stories of their personal journeys with myeloma.

Legendary broadcaster Sandy Roberts, who has called over 1,000 VFL/AFL football games and covered countless high-profile sporting events, was a key part of the panel. His immense popularity with the sporting public was clear on the day. For Roberts, it was a shock diagnosis in 2022. Having shown no symptoms, it was a fall at home resulting in broken ribs that led to the diagnosis of myeloma. Roberts has since leveraged his public profile to raise awareness of the condition.



MYELOMA AUSTRALIA AMBASSADORS SANDY ROBERTS AND MARLO MCCARTHY

Among the ambassadors with strong ties to racing is Karen Wilde, wife of retired trainer Bill Wilde and mother of Symon who has taken over the training responsibilities at Wilde Racing. Based in Warrnambool, the Wilde's have won major races on the flat and over the jumps, including the Grand Annual and Brierly Steeplechase at their home Carnival. The family was shocked when Karen, who has always been exceptionally fit and healthy, received a myeloma diagnosis in 2012. With myeloma being incurable, Karen continues her battle, making regular trips from Warrnambool to Melbourne for treatment.

Another ambassador in attendance was Marlo McCarthy, who shared her heartbreaking story. Her husband, Tony Walshe, was diagnosed with myeloma in 2014 and sadly lost his battle in late 2015. Raising her two sons, now aged 17 and 16, Marlo was diagnosed with myeloma in 2023. It was her knowledge of the condition from her husband's battle, which led to her diagnosis. Currently in remission, Marlo is passionate about advocating for greater awareness of myeloma.

The Cox Plate Charity Pin serves as MVRC's key fundraising initiative during the Spring Racing Carnival, providing support and promoting awareness for the chosen charity partner.

All proceeds from the sale of the pins will support Myeloma Australia, in addition to various other fundraising efforts during the Spring Carnival.

Thanks to the generosity of MVRC members, racegoers, the community, and volunteers, \$113,600 was raised for charity partner Make-A-Wish Australia in 2023. This spring, the Club hopes to build on that success and make an even greater impact.

If you would like further information on Myeloma Australia and the services they provide please head to www.myeloma.org.au

Making A Difference ON FRIDAY NIGHTS

Fridays come alive at The Valley during the warmer months with the popular Ladbrokes Friday Night Lights series. A highlight of these meetings in recent seasons has been Cheering For Charity, an initiative that allows Moonee Valley Racing Club to support a nominated charity at each Friday night race, with the generous backing of the Club's Principal Partner, Ladbrokes.

For the 2023/24 season, Cheering For Charity introduced an exciting new format, inviting racing fans to get involved. At each Friday meeting, one race is selected, and the public can vote for the horse they want carrying the Cheering For Charity saddlecloth. Voting is promoted during raceweek via email and social media, offering participants a chance to win two all-inclusive tickets to the Ladbrokes Lounge at The Valley.

If the horse wearing the Cheering For Charity saddlecloth wins, Ladbrokes donates \$2,000 to the cause. Even if it doesn't win, the charity still receives \$500 from the Club—because it's all about making a difference.

The season got off to a tremendous start with star sprinter Imperatriz sporting the distinct saddlecloth in her victory in the Group 1 Charter Keck Cramer Moir Stakes. Throughout the season, \$13,500 was raised for a variety of charities. The charity partners included Make-A-Wish Australia, BCNA, Poppy Appeal, Team Taylor Foundation, Legacy, Living Legends, HeartKids and Racing Hearts.

Moonee Valley Racing Club's Commercial Stakeholder Manager Sam Swaine said the initiative to engage racing fans in selecting the Cheering For Charity

horse was a resounding success.

"It was fantastic to see so many people engage in the voting process throughout the season. The increased public involvement has not only raised awareness of the initiative but also spotlighted the charities the Club has partnered with."

"A big thank you goes to Ladbrokes for their ongoing support and generosity."

Cheering For Charity has returned for 2024/2025, starting strong once again on the opening night of Ladbrokes Friday Night Lights. With a packed crowd on hand for Group 1 Ladbrokes Manikato Stakes Night, Evaporate claimed the win in the Group 2 MGI Golf Stutt Stakes, raising \$2,000 for Myeloma Australia. Here's hoping for many more successes as the series continues!





IMPERATRIZ CARRIED THE CHEERING FOR CHARITY SADDLECLOTH TO VICTORY



CONNECTIONS OF IMPERATRIZ CELEBRATE VICTORY IN THE CHARTER KECK CRAMER MOIR STAKES





“PRIDE OF JENNI HAS RUN THEM INTO THE NIGHT”
RACECALLER MATT HILL



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