

# MURRUMBIDGEE TURF CLUB Melbourne Cup Day



## Race to recreate history



Murrumbidgee Turf Club CEO Scott Sanbrook surveys the track ahead of the historic Koorungal Stud Mountaineer Cup, which will be run for the first time at the club's Melbourne Cup Race Day.

THE township had a population of just over 1000 and it would be another six years before the railway line would extend to Wagga.

Racegoers, dressed in their Sunday best, arrived at the track in horse-drawn carriages for a raceday late in the springtime.

Fast forward 140 years and it's a different world.

More than 62,000 people are now living in Wagga, while the future could see the city becoming part of the high-speed rail line carrying trains at 350 kilometres an hour.

However, there will be a link

between the now and the then when the Murrumbidgee Turf Club takes a step back in time on Melbourne Cup Day.

The inaugural running of the Mountaineer Cup on November 5 will honour the horse who won the feature race on that day in 1873.

Mountaineer claimed Wagga's first ever Cup over a distance of two miles.

The MTC's Koorungal Stud Mountaineer Cup will be held over the same distance – 3200 metres in metric terms – which is the identical journey as the Melbourne Cup.

"It's been a long time since

Wagga has held a 'two-mile' race," MTC chief executive officer Scott Sanbrook said.

"With the programming of a 3200-metre race on Melbourne Cup Day, the club wanted the name to have some historical significance.

"We could not think of anything more appropriate than naming the race after the first Wagga Gold Cup winner."

The race will start from the 1000-metre chute and the field will run to the winning post and complete a lap.

Stayers will be running for \$7000 in prizemoney in the Benchmark 60 event.



Melbourne Cup Day races at Wagga

Date: Tuesday, November 5

Gates open: 10.30am

First Wagga race: approximately 1pm

Melbourne Cup: approximately 3pm

Entry: \$10 adults, \$5 concession



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THE Murrumbidgee Turf Club is on the lookout for its next Faces of the Carnival.

Each year a male and female is chosen to promote the Wagga Gold Cup Carnival.

Jack Burey and Nardia Cooper (pictured) were the "famous faces" in 2013.

Not only were their profiles raised in the community, they also won amazing prizes.

■ To find out more about the Faces of the Carnival, send an email MTC promotions manager Michelle Blacklock - at [michelle@mtc.wagga.com.au](mailto:michelle@mtc.wagga.com.au)



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A \$2000 bonanza looms for a Murrumbidgee Turf Club member on Melbourne Cup Day.

The Members Cash Draw has jackpotted after there was no winner at the Men Of League race day on October 19.

A draw will be held early in the meeting on Tuesday, November 5, with the member required to be in attendance to claim the cash.

Should the money not be claimed, another draw will be held midway through the meeting. A third draw will be scheduled after the last race if required.

In the case of no winner on the day, the money will jackpot to \$3000 for the Ted Ryder Cup meeting on December 24.

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# MURRUMBIDGEE TURF CLUB Melbourne Cup Day

## Race on for top trainer

WAGGA'S Spring Stayers Series will provide a local trainer with a \$500 windfall on Melbourne Cup Day.

Home-town trainer Tim Donnelly and Berrigan's Shilleagh Meyervale top the list with nine points apiece, but there are several others still in contention with just one race remaining.

The series kicked off with the Wagga Picnic Cup (2000m) on October 5, which was won by the Donnelly-trained Jo Jo Girl.

Meyervale's mare Pole Dancing claimed the second leg, winning the Men Of League Cup over 2500 metres on October 19.

The series culminates with the inaugural Mountaineer Cup – a 3200-metre race on



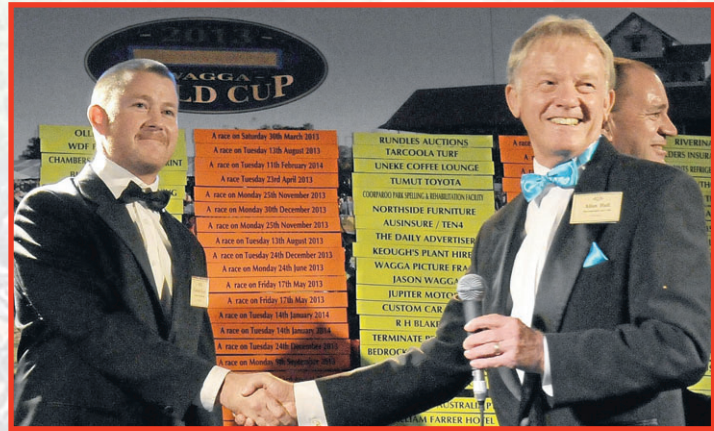
Bev Turner, leading Wagga trainer Tim Donnelly and his wife Trish.

Tuesday, November 5.

With the race carrying 12 points for the winner, there are a number of trainers with their eyes on the \$500 prize.

"This is the first time we have run the stayer series and it's generated a lot of interest," Murrumbidgee Turf Club CEO Scott Sanbrook said.

The Wagga Spring Stayers point score is: Tim Donnelly 9, Shilleagh Meyervale 9; Kerry Weir (Tumut) 7; Brad Witt (Wagga) 6, Gary Colvin (Wagga) 4, Wayne Carroll (Wagga) 4; Peter Clancy (Leeton) 3, Chris Heywood (Wagga) 3; Rob Wellington (Albury) 2; John Tyack (Wagga) 1.



Tom Feary of Thomas Feary Painting is congratulated for his business winning the naming rights by race caller Allan Hull.

## One chance in a 100 a great bet

MELBOURNE Cup Day is a prime example of the success of the Murrumbidgee Turf Club's 100 Club concept.

Each year 100 businesses go into a draw for race name sponsorship, with the winner receiving exclusive rights to the coveted Wagga Gold Cup.

Small business Thomas Feary Painting celebrated a fairytale success in 2013, claiming the Cup naming rights at the glittering 100 Club gala night in February.

Fourth prize was sponsorship of a trophy race on Melbourne Cup Day and was won by Royans Wagga.

Other 100 Club sponsors supporting the meeting on November 5 are Koorngal Stud, Loam and Stone, Allen's Coaches and Custom Car Care.

Spots are filling fast for the 100 Club in 2014.

For further information or to sign up, phone 6921 2151 or email michelle@mtcwagga.com.au



Wagga trainer Tim Donnelly is tied in first place with Berrigan's Shilleagh Meyervale.

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# MURRUMBIDGEE TURF CLUB Melbourne Cup Day

## Galloping greys will thrill with silver style

WHILE the Wagga Gold Cup is the marquee event on the Murrumbidgee Turf Club's calendar, there is a race with a silver theme which is building in momentum.

The Silver Spoon is for grey horses only and is among the highlights at Wagga on Melbourne Cup Day.

Full Beam won the inaugural running of the race last year in what was a terrific spectacle for racegoers.

"Wagga's first ever greys race proved extremely popular last year," MTC chief executive officer Scott Sanbrook said.

"I have no doubt it will again be a feature of our Melbourne Cup Day meeting."

Sponsored by Loam and Stone, the Silver Spoon has significant meaning for the Green family from Wangaratta.

The race is named in memory of James Thomas Green, who passed away peacefully at the age of 19 on October 16 last year.

James was diagnosed at a young age with Sanfillipo Syndrome, a rare genetic condition that affects one in 80,000 people.

There is no known cure for this disorder which slowly breaks down the normal function of the body and nervous system, usually giving the child a lifespan of only 12 to 13 years.

James touched the lives of thousands of people all over Australia, travelling most weekends to rodeos with his parents Russell and Jodie and his sister Casey.

"There was almost a fairytale finish to the Silver Spoon in 2012 when Green family's horse The Youngfella - named after James - finished a brave second," Sanbrook said.

"I know the Greens would love to go one better in the race this year."



Winner of the inaugural Silver Spoon at last year's MTC Melbourne Cup Day High Beam at full gallop with jockey Kayla Nisbet at another meet in Wagga last year.



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