



The 2013 Spring Racing Carnival on Seven and 7TWO

As the home of horse racing on free-to-air TV, Seven will broadcast the Caulfield Cup Carnival and the Cox Plate as well as the Melbourne Cup Carnival LIVE on Seven and 7TWO.

Channel Seven has long been the TV home of the iconic Melbourne Cup Carnival at Flemington and the race that stops the nation.

But this year, under a new broadcast partnership with TVN and the racing industry, Seven's coverage has been expanded to encompass every major race-day on the Australian racing calendar – including the celebrated Spring Racing Carnival.

So for the first time all the iconic horseraces can be seen in one place, LIVE and FREE on Seven and 7TWO around Australia – from the Caulfield Guineas and Caulfield Cup to the Cox Plate as well as the Victoria Derby, Crown Oaks, Emirates Stakes and, of course, the 153rd running of the Melbourne Cup.

From this Saturday, when Guineas Day heralds the opening of festivities at Caulfield Racecourse, Seven's coverage will be hosted by the venerated Bruce McAvaney alongside Francesca Cumani, Richard Freedman and Simon Marshall.

Giaan Rooney and Neil Kearney will keep viewers up to date with all the news and festivities from around the track while Seven's horseback interviewer John Letts saddles up with Banjo again, including for the 20th anniversary of their first Melbourne Cup together, when Vintage Crop was the first foreign raider to win the Cup in 1993.

Throughout the Spring they will be joined by an unrivaled line-up of horseracing experts and TV presenters including Hamish McLachlan, Peter Donegan, Pat Welsh, Rebecca Maddern, Joh Griggs, Edwina Bartholomew, Rachael Finch, Melanie Vallejo and Scherri-Lee Biggs.

TVN's Richie Callander and Jason Richardson will also join the coverage as guest experts at times throughout the carnival.

They are the public faces of what is a huge production unit, involving hundreds of personnel and up to 50 cameras – around the courses, in tracking vehicles, in the air, in the jockeys' and stewards' rooms and also at times mounted on a jockey's helmet to drop viewers into the saddle during the race itself.

Seven is the free-to-air leader in sports television with a portfolio of major events that includes AFL, the Australian Open and Wimbledon tennis, the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race, the Australian Masters, Australian Open and Perth International golf, V8 Supercars and Bathurst 1000 and the Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival – not to mention special events like the A-League football games featuring Manchester United and Liverpool.



Broadcast schedule

Saturday October 12

Caulfield Guineas Day

Sydney	12pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	12pm LIVE on 7TWO
Brisbane	11am LIVE on 7TWO
Adelaide	11.30am LIVE on 7TWO
Perth	9am LIVE on 7TWO

Saturday October 19

Caulfield Cup Day

Sydney	12pm LIVE on Ch7
Melbourne	12pm LIVE on Ch7
Brisbane	11am LIVE on Ch7
Adelaide	11.30am LIVE on Ch7
Perth	9am LIVE on Ch7

Saturday October 26

Cox Plate Day

Sydney	12pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	12pm LIVE on Ch7
Brisbane	11am LIVE on 7TWO
Adelaide	11.30am LIVE on 7TWO
Perth	9am LIVE on 7TWO

Saturday November 2

Victoria Derby Day

Sydney	11am LIVE on Ch7
Melbourne	11am LIVE on Ch7
Brisbane	10am LIVE on Ch7
Adelaide	10.30am LIVE on Ch7
Perth	8am LIVE on Ch7

Tuesday November 5

Melbourne Cup Day

Sydney	10am LIVE on Ch7
Melbourne	10am LIVE on Ch7
Brisbane	9am LIVE on Ch7
Adelaide	9.30am LIVE on Ch7
Perth	7am LIVE on Ch7

Thursday November 7

Crown Oaks Day

Sydney	12pm LIVE on Ch7
Melbourne	12pm LIVE on Ch7
Brisbane	11am LIVE on Ch7
Adelaide	11.30am LIVE on Ch7
Perth	9am LIVE on Ch7

Saturday November 9

Emirates Stakes Day

Sydney	11am LIVE on Ch7
Melbourne	11am LIVE on Ch7
Brisbane	10am LIVE on Ch7
Adelaide	10.30am LIVE on Ch7
Perth	8am LIVE on Ch7

Saturday November 16

Sandown Classic

Sydney	2pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	2pm LIVE on 7TWO
Brisbane	1pm LIVE on 7TWO
Adelaide	1.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Perth	11am LIVE on 7TWO

Commentary team

Bruce McAvaney

Host

The doyen of sports broadcasting in Australia, Bruce McAvaney will host Seven's expanded coverage of the Spring Racing Carnival, including the Caulfield Cup Carnival, the Cox Plate and 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 12 times, and throughout his decorated career he has retained an infectious enthusiasm for the so-called Sport of Kings.

Simon Marshall

Co-Host

Simon Marshall enjoyed a decorated career as a jockey, winning 15 Group one races and piloting superstars including Super Impose, Naturalism, Better Loosen Up, Mahogany and Mannerism. A sales and industry liaison manager with BC3 Thoroughbreds, Simon saddles up with Seven to help dissect the form. Also a regular on Seven's AFL Game Day, Simon brings a unique combination of racing insight and a sense of fun.

John Letts

Horseback Interviewer

Dual Melbourne Cup winning jockey John Letts saddles up again on Banjo to interview the winning hoops on course. Having ridden more than 2500 winners throughout his stellar 30-year career, John is more than familiar with the emotions of the jockeys after passing the winning post.

Giaan Rooney

Presenter

Olympic gold medalist Giaan Rooney joined Seven in 2012 to present the weather for Seven News Melbourne, as well as joining the commentary team on major sporting events. Giaan will be reporting on all the action and colour trackside at Caulfield, Moonee Valley and Flemington throughout the Spring.

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 now also hosts CNN's Winning Post program and covers some of the biggest races in the world including the Kentucky Derby, Royal Ascot and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. The Cumani stable is this year pinning its Melbourne Cup hopes on Mount Athos, which finished 5th last year.

Richard Freedman

Co-Host

The name Freedman is synonymous with racing success in this country and once again Richard Freedman will work alongside Bruce McAvaney, Francesca Cumani and Simon Marshall on the trackside panel. The Freedman brothers boast five Melbourne Cup winners, along with four Caulfield Cups, four consecutive Golden Slippers and two Cox Plates.

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.

Rebecca Maddern

Presenter

Seven News presenter and journalist Rebecca Maddern is also an experienced race-goer and a regular on Seven's racing coverage who has co-hosted the Melbourne Cup Carnival Myer Fashions on the Field. Born and bred in Geelong, Bec is also an avid fan of AFL football and the Cats' number one female ticket holder.

Edwina Bartholomew

Presenter

Edwina's star is shining brightly in 2013. A journalist for Sunrise, Eddy took over presenting the weather for Sunrise this year before earning the role of co-host on the new season of Dancing with the Stars. She will be a roving reporter for the racing coverage on Cox Plate Day as well as throughout the Melbourne Cup Carnival.

Pat Welsh

Betting Ring Presenter

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.

Johanna Griggs

Presenter

After a career as a world-class swimmer, Joh Griggs has developed an outstanding resume in TV with Seven, hosting Better Homes and Gardens as well as Seven's hit new reality renovation show House Rules. Joh will again work on the Melbourne Cup Carnival, catching up with all the celebrities in the Emirates Marquee.

Rachael Finch

Roving fashion reporter

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 2013 Melbourne Cup Carnival.

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.

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 to 1989.

Melanie Vallejo

Celebrity tips / interviews

The star of Seven's drama Winners and Losers, Melanie has co-hosted the red carpet fashion special for the 2013 Brownlow Medal, as well as reporting on all the colour from around the MCG on AFL Grand Final day. She joins the racing broadcast for the first time.

Scherri-Lee Biggs

Presenter

A presenter with Coxy's Big Break and a former Miss Universe Australia, Scherri-Lee debuted on the racing coverage last year and returns to report on all the fun and frivolity on course during the carnival.

For more information:

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