



Melbourne Cup Carnival LIVE on Seven

LIVE and FREE on Channel 7, 7TWO and streamed to your mobile via the PLUS7 App

(26 October 2015) Seven heads to Flemington for LIVE coverage of the iconic Melbourne Cup Carnival featuring Australia's premier thoroughbred racing, and fashion and celebrities from around the world.

Seven will launch its 24/7 live streaming with coverage of the Melbourne Cup for the first time on mobile, giving Australians access to the carnival anywhere, anytime on any device. This will build on the success of Seven's ground-breaking live, free and exclusive coverage of the Australian Open tennis across broadcast television, mobile, hybrid and online, as well as Royal Ascot, Wimbledon and the World Swimming Championships.

The Carnival jumps out of the barriers on Saturday with what many racing purists consider the best single day of thoroughbred racing in Australia. Victorian racing's premier three-year-old classic, the Victoria Derby is the feature event for stayers over 2500m. It's the only all-Group race day on the calendar and includes three other Group 1 races the Mackinnon Stakes, Myer Classic and Coolmore Stud Stakes.

Two days before the nation's greatest race, our experts examine all the form in our special Melbourne Cup Preview Show on Sunday morning. From the locals to the internationals, our team of experts hosted by **Bruce McAvaney** dissect and analyse every Cup hopeful to help you back a winner.

Melbourne viewers will also see the annual Melbourne Cup Parade on Monday. Tens of thousands of fans will line Swanston St for this highly anticipated parade of thoroughbreds, jockeys, trainers and celebrity guests, hosted by Seven News Melbourne presenter **Peter Mitchell** with experts **Simon O'Donnell** and **Michael Felgate**.

After that it's the first Tuesday in November, which means only one thing to Australians: the Melbourne Cup. The nation's greatest race, a handicap run over 'two miles', attracts thoroughbred horses from around the globe as trainers and owners look to etch their name in racing history. Every year drama, intrigue and stories unfold around the Cup with winners coming from all walks of life.

Oaks Day and Stakes Day, on Thursday and Saturday respectively, round out arguably the best racing carnival in the world. The latest in fashion, colour and flair is celebrated on

Oaks Day, with the feature race the Group 1 Oaks for three-year-olds. While families are again expected to flock to Stakes Day to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere for the VRC's premier 1600m race.

Seven's coverage will be hosted by **Bruce McAvaney, Francesca Cumani, Simon Marshall** and **Simon O'Donnell**.

Peter Donegan will have all the latest in the mounting yard, **Pat Welsh** in the betting ring and Australia's premier race caller **Greg Miles** will call all the action on the track.

Joh Griggs, Edwina Bartholomew, Bec Maddern, Hamish McLachlan, Rachael Finch, Jason Richardson, Michael Felgate and **Neil Kearney** will bring all the colour, news and personalities from around the track.

Sam Hyland will have all the interviews with the winning jockeys. **Basil Zempilas** will be Master of Ceremonies.

As the free-to-air home of thoroughbred horse racing, Seven broadcasts every major meeting on the Australian calendar including the Melbourne Cup Carnival, Sydney Racing Carnival including the Golden Slipper, and the Spring Racing Carnival including the Caulfield Cup and Cox Plate in Melbourne, along with the Stradbroke Handicap and the Magic Millions.

BROADCAST TIMES

Saturday October 31

Victoria Derby Day

Sydney	11am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	11am LIVE on Channel 7, 6pm LIVE on 7TWO
Brisbane	10am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	10.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	8am LIVE on 7TWO, 9am LIVE on Channel 7

Tuesday November 3

Melbourne Cup Day

Sydney	10am LIVE on Channel 7
Melbourne	10am LIVE on Channel 7
Brisbane	9am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	9.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	7am LIVE on 7TWO, 9am LIVE on Channel 7

Thursday November 4

Oaks Day

Sydney	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Melbourne	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Brisbane	10.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	11am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	8.30am LIVE on 7TWO, 9am LIVE on Channel 7

Saturday November 6

Stakes Day

Sydney	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Brisbane	10.30am LIVE on Channel 7
Adelaide	11am LIVE on Channel 7
Perth	8.30am LIVE on 7TWO, 9am LIVE on Channel 7

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 13 times, and throughout his decorated career he has retained an infectious enthusiasm for the so-called Sport of Kings.

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.

SIMON MARSHALL | Co-Host

Simon Marshall enjoyed a decorated career as a jockey, winning 16 Group 1 races and piloting stars including Super Impose, Naturalism, Better Loosen Up, Mahogany and Mannerism. Simon will help dissect the form for Seven. Also a regular on Seven's AFL Game Day, he brings a unique combination of racing insight and a sense of fun.

SIMON O'DONNELL | Co-Host

Simon has sporting credentials that few can match, having played cricket for Australia where he won a World Cup, as well as playing AFL at the highest level with St Kilda. Following his elite sporting career, he turned his attention to his love of racehorses, teaming up with Terry Henderson to create OTI Racing where they have delivered multiple Group 1 winners including Manighar, Brambles and Kibbutz.

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.

JOH 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 reality renovation show House Rules. Joh will again work on the Melbourne Cup Carnival, catching up with all the celebrities in the Emirates Marquee.

EDWINA BARTHOLOMEW | Presenter

In a packed schedule, Edwina presents weather for Sunrise and co-hosts Dancing with the Stars. She will be a roving reporter for the racing coverage throughout the spring.

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.

BEC 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.

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.

RACHAEL FINCH | Presenter

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 Melbourne Cup Carnival.

GREG MILES | Race caller

Greg Miles is widely regarded as Australia's premier race caller and will again be heard throughout the Carnival on Seven for the 12th year running, as well as his 35th call of the Melbourne Cup. Australian race fans will always remember his iconic call of Makybe Diva's third consecutive Cup win when he fittingly announced "a champion becomes a legend."

PAT WELSH | BETTING RING

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.

BASIL ZEMPILAS | MC

Basil hosts and commentates AFL matches for Seven, presents sport for Seven News Perth and is an integral part of our Australian Open and Hopman Cup tennis coverage. To date he has been to five Olympic Games for Seven and was behind the microphone for Steven Bradbury's historic win in the 1000m speed skating, Australia's first Winter Olympic Gold medal. He'll MC the race presentations at Flemington for the first time in 2014.

MICHAEL FELGATE | Reporter

Award-winning racing and sports reporter Michael Felgate has a passion for racing that has seen him win several racing media awards, drink champagne from the Melbourne Cup and own a city race winner at Sandown.

SAM HYLAND | Horseback interviewer

After almost two decades as a jockey, Sam Hyland retired from the sport having rode a Group 1 winner in Macau and the Warrnambool Cup and Hamilton Cup twice. He announced his retirement from race-riding after suffering significant injuries in March 2009 when he fell from Looking Light in Ballarat. Since then he has made an impressive foray into the world of broadcasting making his niche in the art of horseback interviewing with all the winning jockeys.

Seven delivers leadership in sports

Seven is focused on delivering the biggest sports events to all Australians.

Seven's long-term partnerships confirm the company's leadership in sports television with the network continuing to dramatically expand its coverage of major sports across its three digital broadcast television channels and accelerate coverage across online, IPTV, HbbTV (Hybrid TV), mobile and other emerging forms of content delivery.

Seven's commitment to an expanding presence in sports builds on the network's unprecedented new agreement with the International Olympic Committee encompassing the Games of the XXXI Olympiad in Rio de Janeiro in 2016, the XXIII Olympic Winter Games in PyeongChang in 2018 and the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo in 2020. Seven will also broadcast the 2016 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lillehammer and the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires. Underlining this new partnership is an option which, if exercised, extends the rights to include the XXIV Olympic Winter Games in 2022 and the XXXIII Olympic Games in 2024.

Seven is also the network of the Paralympic Games in Rio in 2016 and the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in 2018. Seven is also the network of the first European Games in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Seven's agreements for the Olympic Games, Paralympic Games, European Games and Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast, and the World Swimming Championships builds on the company's long-term commitment to the National Football League, including the Super Bowl, The US Masters, Royal Ascot and Wimbledon as major international sports franchises for Seven.

Seven also has all-encompassing agreements for coverage of the Australian Football League Premiership Season, Finals Series, the Grand Final and Brownlow Medal, and the local Australian Rules Football competitions the West Australian Football League, the Victorian Football League and the South Australian National Football League, the Tottenham and Chelsea football matches in Sydney, the Bathurst 12 Hour Endurance Race, all major horse racing events including the Sydney Easter Carnival, the Melbourne Spring Carnival and the Melbourne Cup Carnival, the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race, all major Australian golf tournaments, the Stawell Gift, the Cadel Evans Great Ocean Road Race, the New South Wales Shute Shield in Rugby, all major iron man and triathlon events, the Gold Coast Marathon and all major tennis tournaments in Australia including The Australian Open and The Davis Cup.

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Further information contact Greg Smith on 0438 777 164