

SEVEN SPORT MEDIA RELEASE



31 October 2017

Seven races to Flemington for Melbourne Cup Carnival

Channel 7, 7TWO and 7Live app

As the home of horse racing on free-to-air TV, Seven heads to Flemington for LIVE coverage of the iconic Melbourne Cup Carnival featuring Australia's premier thoroughbred racing, fashion and personalities from around the world.

Seven's coverage will be hosted by **Bruce McAvaney**, **Francesca Cumani** and **Richard Freedman**.

Melbourne Cup-winning jockey **Michelle Payne** will also be joining the coverage throughout the Carnival to provide her expert insight and opinion.

Jason Richardson will conduct live interviews post-race with winning connections and form analysis from the mounting yard, along with analyst **James Jordan**.

Seven News sports presenter **Mel McLaughlin** will be a roving reporter on Melbourne Cup Day, interviewing all of the stars from the wider sporting world.

Seven's flagship lifestyle show **BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS** has created a new garden showpiece on the grounds of Flemington Racecourse at this year's Carnival, bringing racegoers the most inspirational garden design of the year.

Built across more than 100m² of lawn, Better Homes' multi-award winning landscaper **Jason Hodges**, has designed the grand garden to take in the colours and festivities of the carnival.

The garden features a raised lawn with seating pads, a deck with bench seating, ramped walkway and double formal columns topped with feature plants. Eye catching flowers will be changed daily, corresponding to the flowers specific to each race day.

During the coverage, **Hamish McLachlan** and **Ross Stevenson** will be giving Melbourne Cup Carnival viewers their unique *That's Racing* take on everything at Flemington, as they go beyond the odds to talk about the fun and offbeat side of racing. Hamish will also be hosting from the race stalls and pre-parade ring interviewing all the connections and reporting on horse arrivals.

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Edwina Bartholomew, Rachael Finch, Emily Angwin, Neil Kearney, and Emma Davenport will bring all the colour, news and personalities from around the track.

Seven News meteorologist **Jane Bunn** joins the coverage on Melbourne Cup Day and Oaks Day to keep race goers and punters across all the latest weather news.

Basil Zempilas will be Master of Ceremonies, while **Chris Symons** will be reporting with energy, fun and insight from the jockeys' room.

Racing Victoria's new voice of Melbourne racing, **Matthew Hill** will be heard throughout Seven's Melbourne Cup Carnival coverage for the first time. Hill has an extensive resume as a race caller and sports broadcaster including five Golden Slipper's and Australian Derbies.

Seven will build on last year's Melbourne Cup online offering which achieved over 575,000 live race day streams, with this year's coverage streamed on the free '7Live' app and via Twitter.

Race fans will follow the action throughout the day via the social media accounts of @7HorseRacing @Channel7 and @7Sport.

Bespoke race day content for streaming live via Facebook and Twitter leading up to Seven's coverage will also feature.

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. The Myer Classic, Kennedy Mile, and Coolmore Stud Stakes round out an exceptional day of Group 1 racing, along with five other Group races.

Then 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-old fillies. Families are again expected to flock to Stakes Day to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere for the \$2 million Group 1 Emirates Stakes, where fingers will be crossed that wonder mare Winx will take to the track.

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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 November 4

Victoria Derby Day

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

Tuesday November 7

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 9

Oaks Day

Sydney	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
Melbourne	11.30am LIVE on Channel 7, 5.30pm LIVE on 7TWO
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 11

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, 10am LIVE on Channel 7

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COMMENTARY TEAM

BRUCE MCAVANEY | Host

The doyen of sports broadcasting in Australia, Bruce McAvaney has hosted Seven's expanded coverage of the Spring Racing Carnival, including the Caulfield Cup Carnival, the Cox Plate and now 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 15 times, and throughout his decorated career he has retained an infectious enthusiasm for the so-called Sport of Kings.

FRANCESCA CUMANI | Co-Host

Francesca joins the panel on-course throughout the Melbourne Cup Carnival. Francesca made her TV debut on Seven's horseracing coverage in 2009 and has impressed ever since with her thorough racing knowledge.

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 and Francesca Cumani 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.

MICHELLE PAYNE | Expert analyst

Melbourne Cup-winning jockey Michelle Payne joined Seven's racing coverage earlier in the spring providing a current insight into the world of racing from both a jockey's and now trainer's perspective.

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.

MEL McLAUGHLIN | Presenter

Fresh from hosting Seven's Rio 2016 Olympic Games coverage, Seven News sports anchor Mel McLaughlin will be a roving reporter on Melbourne Cup Day and Derby Day interviewing all of the stars from the sporting world who descend on Flemington.

JASON RICHARDSON | Mounting Yard reporter

Known for his energetic passion and knowledge for horse racing, and a winner of the prestigious Stawell Gift, Jason will interview all the winning connections, along with form analysis from the Mounting Yard.

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EDWINA BARTHOLOMEW | Presenter

Sunrise presenter Edwina Bartholomew will be a roving reporter for the racing coverage throughout the Melbourne Cup Carnival catching up with all the big names in the entertainment world.

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 six Olympic Games for Seven and was behind the microphone calling gold medals for Australia at the pool in 2016. He'll MC the race presentations again this year at Flemington.

JANE BUNN | Meteorologist

Seven News meteorologist Jane Bunn joins the coverage on Melbourne Cup Day and Oaks Day to keep race goers and punters across all the latest weather news.

ROSS STEVENSON | That's Racing

Melbourne's 3AW breakfast radio king Ross Stevenson, along with Hamish McLachlan will be giving Melbourne Cup Carnival viewers their unique *That's Racing* take on everything at Flemington, as they go beyond the odds to talk about the fun and offbeat side of 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.

MATTHEW HILL | Race caller

Racing Victoria's new voice of Melbourne racing, Matthew Hill will be heard throughout Seven's Melbourne Cup Carnival coverage for the first time. Hill has an extensive resume as a race caller including five Golden Slipper's and Australian Derbies.

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.

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.

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EMILY ANGWIN | Reporter

Seven News reporter Emily Angwin will cover all the colour and fun from Flemington over the four days of the Carnival.

CHRIS SYMONS | Reporter

Victorian jockey Chris brings a great sense of fun, irreverence and energy to his reporting from the jockeys' room and beyond through the Carnival.

JAMES JORDAN | Form analyst

Expert form analyst James Jordan settles in for another season with Seven analysing all the form and delivering tips for the punters at home.

EMMA DAVENPORT | Reporter

Emma has become a regular presenter on Seven's horse racing coverage in 2017 reporting on all the colour, characters and special guests from around the track.

For more information please contact Greg Smith on 0438 777 164 or grsmith@seven.com.au

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