

Media Release

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Attorney-General
Minister for Racing



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Making Things Fair.

Wednesday, 28 March, 2018

RACEGOERS HOP INTO EASTER AT WARRACKNABEAL CUP

The 2018 Warracknabeal Cup has received a major funding boost, thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

The Labor Government is providing more than \$24,000 to support the Cup this Easter Saturday and a further \$33,000 for upgrades to the racecourse function centre, through the Victorian Racing Industry Fund.

Racegoers heading to the track will be entertained by live music, a Fashions on the Field competition with \$4,000 in prizes up for grabs, and racing identity Rob Gaylard as the MC host.

There will be a range of free children's activities including a drawing station, TV corner, sporting activities and an Easter egg hunt.

The race day coincides with Warracknabeal's annual Easter celebration, the Y Fest, being held from 30 March to 2 April, which includes a street parade, art show, vintage machinery display and golf tournament.

The function centre refurbishment will upgrade the existing kitchen facilities, increase the venue capacity from 50 to 120 people, and improve disability access in addition to new floor coverings and an extra veranda. The works are expected to be completed next month.

The Warracknabeal Racing Club is contributing more than \$38,000 towards the race meeting and upgrades, and Country Racing Victoria is providing \$36,000.

The Yarriambiack Shire Council is also contributing \$1,650 towards the renovation, while generous locals are donating \$6,500 in prizes and in-kind support for the race day.

Since 2014, the Labor Government has contributed more than \$320,000 to support eight infrastructure projects and five thoroughbred race meetings at Warracknabeal racecourse.

The racing industry in the Wimmera region alone generates more than \$37 million for the Victorian economy annually and helps sustain more than 360 full-time jobs locally.

Quote attributable to Minister for Racing Martin Pakula

"Country racing clubs play a crucial role in providing facilities and social events for regional communities, so we're thrilled to be able to contribute to ongoing improvements at the racecourse."

Quote attributable to Member for Western Victoria Jaala Pulford

"The Warracknabeal Cup has become a major draw card for locals and holiday makers visiting over Easter, and we're proud to support this event which brings even more people to our Wimmera region."

Quote attributable to Country Racing Victoria CEO Scott Whiteman

"Thanks to the Victorian Government's support, our 2018 Warracknabeal Cup is tipped to be our best yet and we encourage everyone to head to the Warracknabeal racecourse for a fantastic day of country racing during the Easter long weekend."

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