



MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 6 January 2012

AUSTRALIA DAY AT HANGING ROCK TRANSFERRED TO KYNETON

Racing Victoria (RV) and the Kyneton and Hanging Rock Racing Club advise that the meeting scheduled for Hanging Rock on Thursday, 26 January (Australia Day) has been transferred to NMIT Kyneton Park.

As a gesture of goodwill from the club, entry to Kyneton on Australia Day will be a gold coin donation with 50% of the money raised to be donated to the National Jockeys Trust and 50% to be donated to the Jane McGrath Foundation.

Hanging Rock's New Years Day meeting was abandoned after race 1 following the discovery of a cavity under the track surface at the 150m mark that on investigation was found to be caused by a split drainage pipe.

On 5th & 6th of January, a remote controlled camera was used to inspect the entire drainage system and the resultant findings indicate that the integrity of the drainage system at other points of the track may be compromised requiring further investigation.

"With the safety of all horses and jockeys being of the highest importance, Racing Victoria and the Club felt the only decision available is to transfer the meeting," RV CEO Rob Hines said.

"The infrastructure team at Racing Victoria will now work closely with Country Racing Victoria and the Kyneton and Hanging Rock Racing Club to fully understand the extent of the problem and the available options for reinstating the track. A recommendation will then be prepared for consideration by the joint infrastructure committee of Country Racing Victoria and Racing Victoria.

"Racing Victoria is mindful of the important role Hanging Rock has played over the last 126 years in exposing Thoroughbred Racing to a wide range of people and the important role it plays in the community.

"We are very hopeful that these issues can be resolved in time to return to racing at Hanging Rock on New Years Day in 2013," Hines added.

Club Manager Mark Graham said "The Club respects the need to transfer the meeting and we are now looking forward to what promises to be a great days racing at Kyneton which is only a 10 minute drive from Hanging Rock."

"The Club will run free shuttle buses on a loop between the Kyneton Train Station and the racecourse and all the sponsors and patrons who booked packages at Hanging Rock will be contacted over the coming days," Graham added.

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