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Media Release

Racing NSW and ATC announce The Championships

Racing NSW and Australian Turf Club have today announced a momentous change to the Sydney autumn racing program, heralding a grand finale event towards the end of the Southern Hemisphere Thoroughbred racing season.

The Championships is an initiative of Racing NSW, to be hosted annually by the Australian Turf Club at Royal Randwick. The Championships, through the support of the NSW Government, is expected to attract horses, trainers and connections from across Australia and the world, providing a significant boost to the NSW economy.

The Championships will comprise ten 'Championship' races across two consecutive Saturdays beginning on Saturday April 12 and culminating on Easter Saturday, April 19. The program is a combination of well established, traditional races plus relocated races from other dates in the wider autumn carnival period. In total there are eight Group One events highlighting the spectacular card of world class racing.

Over \$18 million in prizemoney will be won over the two headline days of autumn making The Championships one of the richest racing carnivals in the world. On the first Saturday, The Star Doncaster Mile (1600m) will be worth \$3 million, while the Darley TJ Smith Stakes (1200m) is now \$2.5 million and the BMW Australian Derby (2400m) offers \$2 million in prizemoney.

The Group One Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2000m) becomes a \$4 million race on the second day with three \$1 million and two \$500,000 Championship races.

Minister for Racing, George Souris said this is a truly exciting time to be involved in Thoroughbred Racing in New South Wales.

"The NSW Government is pleased to have contributed \$10 million to the event," said Mr Souris.

"The Championships will generate more than \$41 million to the economy of NSW, increasing further as the event gains momentum. We have chosen this path to help ensure funds accumulated from race fields fees are preserved for use in country and provincial areas.

"We have selected three iconic races and enhanced them to make them the richest of their type in the world, these are the Star Doncaster Mile, the world's richest mile race now worth \$3 million, the Darley TJ Smith Stakes, the world's richest open sprint race at \$2.5 million and on day two the Queen Elizabeth Stakes, at \$4 million becoming the world's richest 2000 metre turf race," said Mr Souris.

MORE



“Sydney is our global city and offers a stunning backdrop to any sporting event. There’s no better place to stage The Championships.”

Racing NSW Chairman Mr John Messara believes that The Championships will become one of the most competitive carnivals in the world for local, national and international participants.

“We have identified ten Championship races across various age and distance ranges which are the highlight of these two days. Some of these races become the richest of their category in Australia and the world,” said Mr Messara.

“Eight of those races are already Group One events and with the injection of almost \$10 million, this program will lure the finest horses from Australia and New Zealand and from other countries across the globe. Our goal is for this to become the greatest event for racing in the Southern Hemisphere.”

Chairman of ATC, Mr John Cornish said Royal Randwick was already being rated a world-class venue with its new grandstand and surrounding redevelopment and was ready to host one of the biggest racing carnivals on the international stage.

“What an exciting trifecta, The Championships, Royal Randwick and Sydney being showcased to the world,” said Mr Cornish.

The Championships CEO, Mr Ian Mackay said Racing NSW and ATC were looking forward to putting on an event that is as memorable and exciting as other great sporting occasions in Australia.

“Royal Randwick is one of the world’s great racecourses and it now has an event worthy of its status,” Mr Mackay added.

In addition to the almost \$10 million increase across the two Saturdays of The Championships, a further \$2.3 million has been added to key lead up events.

Adding to the eight races at the most elite level, the Royal Sovereign Stakes and the Princess Stakes (previously Keith Mackay) join the list to make the ten Championship events.

The Rosehill Gardens component of the carnival also receives a boost, with the George Ryder Stakes moving a week earlier to Rosehill Guineas Day and gaining a \$600,000 increase in prizemoney to \$1 million. The world’s richest race for two-year-old horses, the iconic \$3.5 million Tooheys New Golden Slipper will take place on Saturday April 5 and will continue to foster the future champions of Thoroughbred racing.

For more information, please contact The Championships CEO Ian Mackay on + 612 9551 7592 or imackay@thechampionships.com.au

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THE CHAMPIONSHIPS RACE PROGRAM

Race Program - Day 1, BMW Derby Day, Saturday April 12, 2014		
Race Name	Prizemoney (\$A)	Conditions
The Star Doncaster Mile (GR1)	\$3,000,000	1600m. Open Hcp. 3YO & Upwards.
Darley TJ Smith Stakes (GR1)	\$2,500,000	1200m. SWFA.
BMW Australian Derby (GR1)	\$2,000,000	2400m. Set weights. 3YO.
Sires' Produce Stakes (GR1)	\$1,000,000	1400m. Set weights. 2YO.
Schweppes Chairman's Quality (GR2)	\$300,000	2600m. Quality Hcp. 3YO & Upwards.
TAB Adrian Knox Stakes (GR3)	\$200,000	2000m. Quality Hcp. 3YO Fillies.
Ticketek Kindergarten Stakes (GR3)	\$200,000	1100m. Set weights. 2YO.
PJ Bell Stakes (GR3)	\$200,000	1200m. Set weights + pen. 3YO Fillies.
Bacardi Together Carbine Club Stakes (GR3)	\$200,000	1600m. Set weights + pen. 3YO.
TOTAL	\$9,600,000	

Race Program - Day 2, Schweppes Sydney Cup Day, Saturday April 19, 2014		
Race Name	Prizemoney (\$A)	Conditions
Queen Elizabeth Stakes (GR1)	\$4,000,000	2000m. SWFA. 3YO & Upwards.
Schweppes Sydney Cup (GR1)	\$1,000,000	3200m. Open Hcp. 3YO & Upwards.
Australian Oaks (GR1)	\$1,000,000	2400m. Set weights. 3YO Fillies.
Queen of the Turf Stakes (GR1)	\$1,000,000	1600m. SWFA. 3YO & Upwards F&M.
Royal Sovereign Stakes (GR2)	\$500,000	1200m. Set weights. 3YO.
Princess Stakes (GR3)	\$500,000	1200m. Set weights + pen. 2YO Fillies.
Drummond Golf Sapphire Stakes (GR2)	\$300,000	1200m. Set weights + pen. 3YO & Upwards F&M.
South Pacific Classic (LR)	\$150,000	1400m. Quality Hcp. 3YO.
Toga Fernhill Handicap (LR)	\$150,000	1600m. Handicap. 2YO.
TOTAL	\$8,600,000	

*Races in gold shaded area indicate Championship Events

A DAZZLING ARRAY

Every great racing city needs a great racing event that brings together the best of the best. The Championships, an initiative of Racing NSW, to be hosted by the Australian Turf Club, gives Sydney that event. The two days feature a dazzling array of time honoured races. It is the ultimate collection of ten Championship races that will draw together the best horses from each age and distance category.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS – DAY 1

1. **The Star Doncaster Mile – \$3m**

The world's richest mile race and long acknowledged as Australia's mile championship. In 2014 total prizemoney will be \$A3 million plus a perpetual trophy from 1858 donated by the Packer family.

2. **The Darley TJ Smith Stakes – \$2.5m**

This race has quickly established itself as the sprinting championship of Australia. In 2014 the prizemoney increases to \$A2.5 million, making it the world's richest open sprint race. Black Caviar won the race twice, first in 2011 in what many regard as her greatest victory and then in 2013, her 25th and final victory.

3. **The BMW Australian Derby – \$2m**

Australia's premier race for staying 3YOs. First run in 1861, it has been run in the autumn since 1979. With \$2 million in prizemoney in 2014 it is Australia's richest Derby.

4. **The Sires' Produce Stakes – \$1m**

Forms the second leg of the 2YO triple crown. It is Royal Randwick's 2YO championship race, won most recently by Guelph in 2013 and Pierro in 2012.

THE CHAMPIONSHIPS – DAY 2

1. **The Queen Elizabeth Stakes – \$4m**

A race steeped in history, the increase in prizemoney to \$A4 million makes the Queen Elizabeth the world's richest 2000m turf race.

2. **The Schweppes Sydney Cup – \$1m**

An increase in prizemoney to \$A1 million sees the Sydney Cup become the autumn championship in the 2 mile handicap category.

3. **The Australian Oaks – \$1m**

The premier staying test for 3YO Fillies in Australia. Run since 1885 it now becomes one of the world's richest Oaks.

4. **The Queen of the Turf Stakes – \$1m**

The fillies & mares mile championship. Run at 1500m since 1972 at Rosehill, the race moves to Royal Randwick over 1600m in 2014 with \$A1 million on offer.

5. **The Royal Sovereign Stakes – \$500k**

Moved from February, the race becomes the autumn sprint championship for 3YOs.

6. **Princess Stakes – \$500k**

Originally named the Keith Mackay Stakes, the boost in prizemoney makes the race the Australian championship for 2YO fillies.