

# INGHAM FAMILY

*honoured with new \$2m race at Randwick*

**SYDNEY RACING HAS A NEW \$2 MILLION THOROUGHBRED RACE WITH THE HISTORIC GROUP 2 VILLIERS STAKES RECEIVING A MASSIVE PRIZEMONEY BOOST**

WORDS: RAY THOMAS

**R**acing NSW and Australian Turf Club made a joint announcement confirming the stakes hike for the Villiers with the race to be renamed "The Ingham" in honour of one of the sport's most influential and successful racing families.

The inaugural running of the Group 2 \$2 million The Ingham (1600m) will be held at Royal Randwick on 10 December 2022.

In a further change to Sydney's premier summer raceday, the sponsorship for each of the other races on The Ingham program – which features the \$500,000 Inglis Nursery for two-year-olds – will be sold down with all proceeds raised from the day being donated to the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research, which conducts world-leading medical research.

Racing NSW chief executive, Peter V'landys AM said it is no secret the contribution and legacy Bob and Jack Ingham had in racing over decades.

"Bob was actually the first person I went to when drafting my first strategic plan in 2004 and his advice and guidance was crucial," Mr V'landys said.

"Accordingly, I couldn't think of a better way of honouring the Inghams than through renaming the time-honoured Villiers to The Ingham and increasing the prizemoney to give the race an even higher profile than it currently has."

Australian Turf Club Chairman, Matthew McGrath said the increase in prizemoney would be a further enhancement to Sydney's Summer Racing Carnival.

"The \$2 million The Ingham will provide yet another amazing opportunity for participants of our great sport in NSW to race for big prizemoney," Mr McGrath said.

"The Ingham family is synonymous with the Australian racing industry, from Jack and Bob to all the family today and we are absolutely thrilled they are getting behind this major raceday.

"To also see what will be a significant amount of money raised going to the Ingham Institute is wonderful for the wider community and the Australian Turf Club is thrilled to be involved."

The winner of The Ingham will also be exempt from the Doncaster Mile ballot, contested on Day 1 of The Star Championships in April.



John Ingham, Gai Waterhouse and Debbie Kepitis at the The Ingham Lunch at Inglis Riverside Stables in Warwick Farm. Image by David Swift



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"As a family and as an Institute we have always been proud to give back to the community," the Institute's John Ingham said at a charity luncheon for the Ingham Institute at the William Inglis Yearling Sale complex at Warwick Farm.

"It is an absolute honour that the Australian Turf Club has bestowed upon us this race name change and we can't wait to throw our full support behind the raceday and see how much can be raised for what is such a worthy and life-changing cause."

The Ingham is the 13th Sydney Thoroughbred race to boast prizemoney of at least \$2 million each year.

The others include the \$15 million The TAB Everest, the world's richest race on turf, the \$8m Golden Eagle, \$5m Golden Slipper and the \$4m Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes which was run at Royal Randwick last month.

Racing NSW distributes to owners and participants nearly \$340 million prizemoney annually – the highest return of any state in the country. In fact, NSW race prizemoney has risen more than \$190m in 10 years.

Australian racing's elite attended the Inglis luncheon with more than \$500,000 raised for the Ingham Institute. **RNSW**