



Flying Bandit (Jay Ford; black & lime green) defeats Bianco Vilano (Tyler Schiller) in the 2025 Wagga Gold Cup

SURF'S UP FOR WAGGA GOLD CUP CARNIVAL

MURRUMBIDGEE TURF CLUB IS EXPECTING MORE THAN 14,000 PATRONS TO FLOOD THROUGH THE GATES DURING THE TWO DAYS OF THE RICH WAGGA GOLD CUP CARNIVAL WORDS: MARK BRASSEL IMAGES: MTC

Fascinating place that Wagga. How many would realise the regional city of around 60,000 people was once voted as having the ninth best beach in Australia?

It's also NSW's largest inland city and is home to the Wagga Gold Cup Carnival – the state's biggest two-day country carnival and Riverina's major annual social event.

The Cup Carnival draws many of Australia's leading trainers and jockeys and kicks off on 30 April where a massive \$1.135 million in prizemoney will be distributed over the Thursday and Friday (1 May) racedays.

"We get up to 4,000 people attending Tooheys Town Plate Day and more than 10,000 on FSD Electrics Gold Cup Day," declared Murrumbidgee Turf Club's CEO, Jason Ferrario.

"Wagga-owned and based business FSD Electrics won the naming rights to the 2026 Wagga Gold Cup at the MTC's '100 Club' Gala Night on March 6.

"It was a black-tie event that we held in the home straight overlooking the racecourse, giving attendees the opportunity to mingle on our lush green lawns, with 320 in attendance.

"FSD Electrics was lucky enough to be the last of

the 100 businesses drawn out of the barrel.

"FSD's GM, Chris Waldron said he was beyond excited with the win after years of trying."

Wagga's Gold Cup Carnival commences with the running of the \$200,000 Tooheys Town Plate (1200m) on Thursday 30 April.

Last year the Mudgee-trained Compelling Truth won the Town Plate and franked the form the following month by winning the Listed-Hinkler Handicap at Eagle Farm.

Friday 1 May is the feature afternoon with the running of the \$200,000 FSD Electrics Wagga Gold Cup (2000m) where the winner qualifies for the \$3m Big Dance (1600m) at Royal Randwick in November.

Trainer Chris Waller was aiming for his third successive Cup win last year following victories by Wicklow (2023) and Aleas (2022), but the stable had to be content with third (Matusalem) and fourth (Medatsu).

The heavily backed favourite Flying Bandit prevailed in the Cup for trainer Kerry Parker and jockey Jay Ford, outstaying the runner-up Bianco Vilano (Tyler Schiller for Albury trainer Ron Stubbs).

"Adding to the depth of a great racing card on Gold Cup Day is MTC's first hosting of the \$200,000 Inglis 2YO Challenge," Ferrario said.

“We’re delighted to partner with Inglis and excited about the addition of such a rich race.”

Other support races on Friday are the \$80,000 JRC Electrical Services MTC Guineas (1600m) and \$75,000 Byrne Trailers Queen of the South (1400m).

“Hospitality is a major highlight with the Tanqueray Cocktail Lounge and The Golden View Marquee the premium ticket sites – just two of more than 30 marquees erected for Gold Cup Day,” Ferrario said.

“And The Kristopher Graydon Jewellers Fashions on the Field is always hotly contested with more than \$20,000 in prizes.

“The Gold Cup is one of Wagga’s hospitality industry’s biggest weeks of the year with accommodation always fully booked and some patrons settle into one of the neighbouring towns such as Junee and Gundagai.

“Local clubs, pubs and restaurants also do roaring trades during Cup week, and our local media plays an integral role in the success of the Gold Cup Carnival.

“Many visiting Wagga Gold Cup patrons make an annual pilgrimage to Wagga. Visitors from all parts of NSW, Victoria and Queensland often rebook their accommodation for the following year when checking out!”

A couple of weeks out MTC hosts Koorungal Stud Prelude Day on Sunday 19 April.

“Koorungal Stud has been a longtime Prelude Day sponsor, and we really value their support,” Ferrario added.

Last year’s Prelude Day produced some excellent form lines with the Guineas Prelude producing Dupli Kate who went on to claim the Wagga Guineas on Cup Day.

And runner-up Rose Aye was a seven-length winner at Rosehill Gardens in late February.



Hospitality is a major highlight on Wagga Gold Cup Day

Bon Holler, winner of Queen of the South Prelude, won a Highway at Kembla Grange on The Gong Day and was runner-up in the Southern Districts Country Championships qualifier getting her a ticket to the \$1m Final.

Feature races are the \$45,000 Murrumbidgee Cup (1800m), \$40,000 Town Plate Prelude (1200m), \$35,000 Guineas Prelude (1400m) and \$30,000 Queen of the South Prelude (1200m) – with a \$50,000 Super Maiden (1200m) thrown in.

WAGGA GOLD CUP HONOUR ROLL

YEAR	WINNER	JOCKEY	TRAINER(S)	RUNNER-UP
2025	FLYING BANDIT	Jay Ford	Kerry Parker	Bianco Vilano
2024	FAWKNER PARK	Tyler Schiller	Annabel Archibald	Political Debate
2023	WICKLOW	Brett Prebble	Chris Waller	Lions Roar
2022	ALEAS	Chad Schofield	Chris Waller	Dream Runner
2021	INVERLOCH	Mathew Cahill	Trent Busuttin/Natalie Young	Yonkers
2020	MAURUS	Brodie Loy	John Thompson	Master of Arts
2019	ABDON	Tommy Berry	Chris Waller	High Opinion
2018	LIFE LESS ORDINARY	Tye Angland	Chris Waller	Self Sense
2017	STAMPEDE	Rachel King	Gai Waterhouse/Adrian Bott	Life Less Ordinary
2016	MESSENE	Blake Shinn	Team Hawkes	Iggi Pop
2015	LANDLOCKED	Glen Boss	Joe Cleary	Faust
2014	TRADE COMMISSIONER	Craig Newitt	Chris Waller	Beyond Thankful
2013	SCREAM MACHINE	Tim Clark	Jason Coyle	Devised
2012	COLISEO	Jeff Penza	Norm Gardner	Devised
2011	VOICE COMMANDER	Kathy O’Hara	Nick Olive	World Wide
2010	SAINTHOOD	Glen Boss	Rick Worthington	Barlagarney

FEATURE COUNTRY CUP

TYE ANGLAND MEDAL

The annual Tye Angland Medal continues to celebrate and honour the riding career of injured jockey Tye Angland since its inception in 2019.

Tye hails from Wagga and the Medal not only highlights the leading jockey over the massive two-day country carnival but also offers a generous donation to the Tye Angland Foundation thanks to VISY Logistics and Murrumbidgee Turf Club.

Angland became a paraplegic after falling at Sha Tin Racecourse in Hong Kong during 2018.

Tye had 996 winners to his name including the 2018 Wagga Gold Cup as well as 11 Group 1 wins and was the leading Sydney apprentice in 2006/07 with 60 winners.

MTC is partnering with VISY Logistics who will be supporting the tradition of the Medal with a generous \$3000 donation to the Team Tye Foundation as well as the MTC donating an additional \$1000 to the winning jockey (usually donated back to the Team Tye Foundation).

The Team Tye Foundation assists people in racing dealing with catastrophic injury or hardship, playing importance to many jockeys and industry workers around the globe.

Ash Morgan finished with three wins last year to take out the Tye Angland Medal in just his second visit to Wagga.

MTC's CEO Jason Ferrario is looking forward to another fantastic Wagga Gold Cup Carnival.

"The Tye Angland Medal is a great opportunity to celebrate the leading jockey over both days of the Wagga Gold Cup Carnival as well as continuing the tradition of donating to the Team Tye Foundation and honouring our former local jockey, Tye.



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"The Wagga Gold Cup Carnival continues to attract fantastic local and interstate jockeys, and we look forward to celebrating the winner of this year's Tye Angland Medal."

HONOUR ROLL

2025 - Ash MORGAN
 2024 - Tyler SCHILLER
 2023 - Danny BEASLEY
 2022 - Tommy BERRY
 2021 - Nash RAWILLER
 2020 - Blaike McDOUGALL
 2019 - Blaike McDOUGALL *RNSW*



Ashley Morgan (left) receives the Medal from Tye Angland while MTC's CEO Jason Ferrario (hat) looks on