

2010 SYDNEY AUTUMN RACING CARNIVAL - THE PARTY BEGINS

Monday 15 March, 2010

Premier Keneally officially launched the **2010 Sydney Autumn Carnival** – and urged people to enjoy the season – which coincides with the anniversary of 200 years of Australian racing.

Ms Keneally together with Minister for Gaming and Racing, Kevin Greene, and Minister for Major Events, Ian Macdonald, joined racing industry leaders, and event partners including Racing NSW, Tabcorp, Sydney Turf Club, Australian Jockey Club and Inglis, at Luna Park to formally launch the season.

“On the international racing calendar, it sits between the Dubai World Cup in March and the Kentucky Derby in May; Sydney owns the April period for racing,” Ms Keneally said.

The Sydney Autumn Carnival (March 20 – April 24) will feature 52 races across six Saturdays.

Events NSW estimate the Golden Slipper and Derby Day events alone will contribute more than \$5 million to the NSW economy.

“NSW is proud of its racing industry and the associated jobs. We invite people from across Australia, and the world to come and experience this fantastic carnival,” Ms Keneally said.

“We have been working hard with our racing partners to transform the Sydney Autumn Carnival into a truly global event.

“The Autumn Carnival is more than a sporting event - it’s a Sydney event, combining sport, fashion, food, wine, excitement and glamour.”

Ms Keneally said NSW leads Australia’s Racing industry:

- generating \$1.7billion in economic value;
- supporting 16,000 full-time jobs;
- boasting around 50,000 participants – the highest in Australia;
- has the most race tracks;
- conducts the most races;
- has the largest horse racing population; and
- has the highest annual wagering turnover.

The NSW Government – through Events NSW – invests in the Autumn Carnival, as one of five anchor events on the NSW Master Events Calendar, sitting alongside Vivacity Sydney, Vivid Sydney, Crave Sydney and the Australian Open Golf Championship.

“We do this because Sydney’s Autumn Carnival is exactly the kind of event that drives interstate and international visitors to Sydney – it creates jobs, it creates vitality, and helps us secure our place as Australia’s number one tourism destination,” Ms Keneally said.

“I am pleased to also note that this year Sydney will host the prestigious 33rd Asian Racing Conference making for a bumper month of horse racing.

"This year we celebrate 200 years since the beginning of horse racing in Australia -when Governor Lachlan Macquarie started it all here in Sydney in 1810 - with three days of exhilarating racing at Hyde Park in the heart of the city CBD."

Minister for Gaming and Racing, Kevin Greene, said the NSW racing industry has come together to boost this year's Sydney Autumn Carnival program.

A critical first step in enhancing this year's carnival was Racing NSW's decision to fix the dates of the Golden Slipper Stakes at Rosehill Gardens and the Australian Derby at Royal Randwick for the next three years (2010-2012).

"NSW is the centre of the Australian horse industry and in April some of the world's best thoroughbreds, jockeys and trainers will be competing in Sydney," Mr Greene said.

"The NSW Government together with the Australian Jockey Club, Sydney Turf Club, and Inglis share a vision for our Carnival to be the best thoroughbred racing and sales event in the southern hemisphere.

"The fixed April dates for the Carnival provides certainty and stability to trainers, international and interstate visitors, sponsors, partners and the tourism industry."

Minister for Major Events Ian Macdonald said the State Government was keen to throw its support behind the Carnival because it encourages people to visit our global city.

"We believe the Carnival has great potential and will do everything we can to help the industry grow in NSW including targeting more international horses and trainers to compete in our racing events."

Key Sydney Autumn Carnival dates:

- March 20 – Ladies Day (Rosehill)
- March 27 – Rosehill Guineas (Rosehill)
- April 3 – Golden Slipper (Rosehill)
- April 10 – AJC Australian Derby (Randwick)
- April 17 – Doncaster Mile (Randwick)
- April 24 Sydney Cup (Randwick)