



## MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 5 January 2017

### Warragul Cup next in line for stars competing in Gippsland Carnival

ATTENTION will now turn to the Warragul Greyhound Racing Club (WGRC) as it gets set to host the second leg of the Gippsland Carnival, following a massive launch in Sale last month.

A high-class field of sprinters from across Victoria is expected to compete for the \$47,000 first prize in the The Endeavour Locksmiths Group 2 Warragul Cup (460m) on January 28, as kennel stars chase a share of more than \$800,000 in prizemoney across the Gippsland Carnival.

A sprint and distance series will link all four legs, including Sale, Warragul, Cranbourne & Traralgon, with a Gippsland Champion Sprinter, and Gippsland Champion Stayer, crowned at the end of the carnival.

The final field for the Cup will be determined by heats run at Warragul on January 21.

The stayers will show their strength over Warragul's 680m course on Cup night as they vie for points to earn the title of the Carnival's top stayer.

Western Bulldogs captain Bob Murphy, who was born and bred in Warragul, is the ambassador for the Carnival.

"The Carnival brings the region together for the first time with all the races linked and shines a light on Gippsland," Mr Murphy said.

"Coming from Warragul, I've been to the track many times and would encourage anyone in the area on January 28 to get along to the Cup meeting because it will be a fantastic night of greyhound racing with plenty of entertainment off the track."

Warragul's feature night will be held as a twilight meeting followed by Cranbourne taking centre stage February 11 and Traralgon wrapping up the Carnival with a grand finale on March 25.

There will be plenty happening off the track at Warragul with an alcohol-free area featuring GAP dogs to meet and pat, a special kids' zone with Turbo the mascot, family activities and entertainment, local food trucks offering the best from local operators and a Gippsland spin on Fashions on the Field.

With an underlying theme of 'flying colours', Colours on Course will give everyone a chance to win a prize for best dressed, with judges looking for the most stylish representation of the colours and patterns of all eight greyhounds worn by men and women at the tracks.

Families can also go in the draw to win a trip to Disneyland, by getting their 'passport' stamped at two of the four cups. Full details on all packages at [gippslandcarnival.com.au](http://gippslandcarnival.com.au)



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The Gippsland Carnival is a regional Australian-first, connecting four country cups from Sale, through Warragul and Cranbourne to Traralgon.

Once again, the WGRC will also host a Sporting Club Challenge of its own.

To enter, clubs must pre-purchase a package for \$150 that gives them 15 vouchers, with each voucher holder entitled to a \$5 betting voucher, hamburger voucher and a drinks voucher.

Clubs which enter the WGRC Sporting Club Challenge prior to January 21 will go into a draw for naming rights to a race on Cup night.

Greyhound racing generates about \$40 million for the Gippsland economy, employing hundreds of local people.

Across Victoria, greyhound racing makes a substantial contribution of more than \$300 million to the economy, employing more than 3000 people and generating \$1.8 billion in wagering.

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