



The Jericho Cup Pty Ltd

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29 April 2020

Finally getting around to penning my review of last year's event.

The forecast from 10 days out was that it was going to be a lousy weekend weather wise. It never changed in the lead up and on the day, it surely delivered. Throw in that the course was virtually a construction site with the million-dollar extension to the Grandstand and Matilda Room in full swing. It didn't augur well for a large crowd.

The fact that 3,500 hardy souls dutifully turned up was a great result. A big thanks to all those who braved the elements and kept the dream alive.

The Australian Light Horse Association again featured in even bigger numbers and were really the icing on the cake. Their competition on the eve of our event was this year held at the Showgrounds. The fact that they could camp on site was a big winner in bringing the whole day together.

Their event being the Jericho Cup State Challenge showcases what the Australian Lighthorse learnt, practiced and put into action in warfare, incorporating: -

Tent Pegging	Lance Run	Dummy Thrust Bullseye
Sword Run	Rescue Race	Score on the Ring
Despatch Race	Drawing the Peg	Dismounted Facing the Enemy
Dismount for Action	Hurdles	Skillet Arms

This great event will be held annually on the Saturday of the Jericho Cup weekend, along with another event on the Friday afternoon where the ALHA ride from the Showgrounds in full uniform, leaving at 3.15pm, up Liebig Street to the RSL for the salute, I would encourage as many people as possible to get down and check both events out and show your support for these great women, men and horses, it certainly is an inspiring sight! Check out the photos from 2019 up on our Facebook page and website.

Racing on the day was again very contested. This was every runner's grand final. The unique trophies were much sought after and the owner's representative's speech after the Cup was one for the ages. Rod Lyons has been involved in many great racehorses including Nature Strip, who just 3 weeks earlier had won a \$2 million group 1 race at Flemington, over the Spring Carnival.

In Honour of Australia's Greatest War Horse - Bill the Bastard, The Australian Light Horsemen and their magnificent mounts - The Walers (1914-1918)

Patrons: The Late Honourable Tim Fischer A.C. (3 May 1946 – 22 August 2019), The Honourable Brendan Nelson A.O. and Prof. Roland Perry



Talking to Racing.com after the race Rod said *"It is absolutely a thrill, we know what it means, the Jericho Cup. Set the horse for the race, half kiwi is in the horse, half Aussie is in the horse, we've come here and it's as big a thrill as I've have had in racing to come to this race, it means so much to our heritage, what these brave men and women did for us, and to be here honestly I'm, I'm beyond words, I am so thrilled to have won the race.*

We had 7 guys fly over from New Zealand for it, explained the whole race to them and reading about it, it means so much, it means so much to our heritage. We are here today drinking, kids are running around through the sacrifices that these men and women made and it brings a tear to your eye just thinking about it, it's an honour to win it, it's a pleasure and an honour to be here to win it".

Watch Rod's speech [here](#)

For me those words more than justify all the time and effort put into this event over the last 4 years!

Watch the main snippet of the race again [here](#), and please note that footage of the full race will be up on the website soon under 'News & Media'.

It is a great event and will only get bigger and better. The stand extension will be completed for this year's Cup and with a bit of improvement in the weather, I'm hoping for a bigger crowd in 2020.

One final thing is that this year's race is on Sunday 29th November. As the Jericho Cup falls on the 4th Sunday after the Melbourne Cup it will in turn be held in November for the next 3 years, then back to December for the next two.

BE SURE TO LOCK IT IN!

Till next time

Bill Gibbins

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Horsemen and their magnificent mounts - The Walers (1914-1918)

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