



## KIDS FOUNDATION AND VICTORIAN JOCKEYS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE LIFE SAVING PARTNERSHIP

Empowering Victorian Jockeys and Their Families Through the JOCKEYS ARE FAMILY FUND

The KIDS Foundation and the Victorian Jockeys Association (VJA) are thrilled to announce a significant new partnership dedicated to supporting jockeys and their families. This collaboration will establish the JOCKEYS ARE FAMILY FUND - VJA, launched at this year's Tour d'Horse event, the major fundraising initiative for the KIDS Foundation.

This fund will provide essential support for injured jockeys and their families, aiding in their recovery and enhancing their quality of life. The initiative aims to foster autonomy, happiness, and social connections for those affected.

For over three decades, the KIDS Foundation has been dedicated to supporting injured and traumatised individuals, creating a lasting impact on their lives. Their programs include camps, workshops, community activities, education, career opportunities, and the promotion of mental health and wellbeing. This new partnership will extend these efforts to the jockey community, offering comprehensive support to those in need.

The Victorian Jockeys Association is committed to the welfare of jockeys, ensuring safe and sustainable careers while providing high-level professional support. This partnership marks a milestone in their mission to advocate for jockeys both on and off the track.

KIDS Foundation CEO Dr. Susie O'Neill OAM expressed her excitement about the partnership.

"We are delighted to join forces with the VJA for the Tour d'Horse. This collaboration allows us to extend our support to jockeys and their families, helping them recover and improve their quality of life. Together, we aim to build a foundation for autonomy, happiness, and social connections."

VJA CEO Matthew Hyland shared his enthusiasm.

"The VJA is proud to partner with the KIDS Foundation and participate in this year's Tour d'Horse with our team, including champion jockeys Jamie Melham and Ben Melham, to officially launch the JOCKEYS ARE FAMILY FUND - VJA.

"The establishment of the JOCKEYS ARE FAMILY FUND – VJA and the partnership of with the KIDS Foundation is a significant step in our commitment to providing robust support for injured jockeys and their families."

Established in 1993, the KIDS Foundation supports traumatised and injured individuals left differently abled due to burns, accidents, violent crimes, abuse, and disease. Its recovery and education programs reach up to 400,000 Australian children each year.

Tour d'Horse, the Foundation's annual fundraiser, was inspired by a family tragedy after Dr. Susie O'Neill OAM's granddaughter passed away in 2021. The event, a 200km ride over six days in the Hunter Valley, incorporates equine therapy into recovery and education programs.

This year, the Tour d'Horse event coincides with the Scone Horse Festival and will be represented by some of the racing industry's biggest names including, Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott, Peter Snowden, Michael Freedman, Annabel Neasham and Rob Archibald, Anthony and Sam Freedman and Richard and Will Freedman. Magic Millions, Inglis, Coolmore Australia, Godolphin, Yulong, Twin Hills Stud, Newgate Stud, Makybe Diva Stables, Bennett Racing, James Harron Bloodstock and the Melbourne Racing Club Foundation have also shown their support for the KIDS Foundation by partnering with this year's Tour d'Horse.

Other partners include RB Sellers, Petstock Foundation, AON/Affinity Equine Insurance, John Grant and film director, Simon Wincer.

Tour d'Horse runs from 11 – 18 May in Scone. The horses involved are all retired racehorses, retrained by Anthony "Anto" White OAM and Alec White of Belltrees, including Magic Millions hero Eleven Eleven.

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