

OSCAR

Hospitality

Melbourne Cup facts & figures

This year marks the 158th running of the Melbourne Cup.

The Melbourne Cup is renowned for being the **race that stops a nation** and the honour roll features the names of some of Australia's greatest racehorses.

The Melbourne Cup is a two-mile (3200m) premier handicap contest held each November at Flemington Racecourse and it plays out in front of a capacity crowd of over 110,000 people.

The Melbourne Cup is steeped in tradition and folklore, with the names Phar Lap, Tulloch and Makybe Diva as recognisable as any in the annals of Australia's sporting history.

The Melbourne Cup is the country's most prestigious thoroughbred race and also the richest two-mile contest in the global racing calendar. This year the prize money on offer has shot up to a handsome **\$7.3 million**. The prestige of the event & prize money draw an all-star field of leading stayers from around the world.



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Melbourne Cup history

First run in 1861, the Melbourne Cup was a cup in name only, with prizes including a gold watch and cash purse. The first two Melbourne Cups were won by Archer in 1861 & 1862.

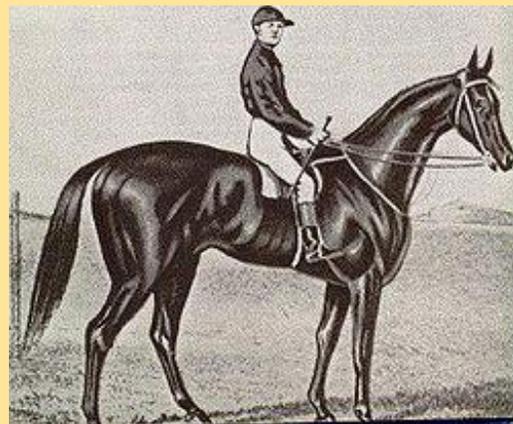
The first official trophy cup was awarded in 1865.



Some of the very best winners of the race:

Archer (1861-1862)

The inaugural Melbourne Cup was won by Archer in front of approximately 4,000 Flemington racegoers in 1861. Legend has it that the **inaugural winner** walked all the way to Flemington from his stable in Nowra, New South Wales (approximately 800km). Archer returned to claim back-to-back victories in 1862 for his trainer Etienne de Mestre, who would go on to train five Melbourne Cup winners



Phar Lap (1930)

Phar Lap's success in the 1930 running of the Melbourne Cup was one of historic proportions. Labelled as the people's champion, Phar Lap shouldered **9st 12lbs** to win. Days prior to the 1930 Melbourne Cup, Phar Lap was subject to a targeted attack from gangsters who shot bullets at him whilst he engaged in a racecourse gallop. However, they failed in their pursuit to stop Phar Lap as he later sauntered to a memorable success.



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Kiwi (1983)

At a cost of just \$1000, Kiwi and his 1983 Melbourne Cup triumph is one many view as amongst the greatest ever. Held up at the back of the field by a confident 20-year old jockey in Jim Cassidy, Kiwi produced a jaw-dropping home straight charge to come from last to first and win inside the final few yards. Purchased with a view to working on a farm, Kiwi represents one of the Melbourne Cup's finest stories as a horse that cost so little developed into champion status.



Vintage Crop (1993)

Vintage Crop's victory in the 1993 Melbourne Cup cemented its place in the race's history books. Over the 133 years of Melbourne Cup tradition, there had never been an overseas winner. That is until Irish racing maestro Dermot Weld sent Vintage Crop to Flemington in 1993. Ridden by jockey Mick Kinane, Vintage Crop became the first horse-trained outside of Australia to win the contest. It was a victory of notable importance as it later opened the floodgates for further international challengers each vying to crack the unique test that is the Melbourne Cup.



Makybe Diva (2003–2005)

Makybe Diva is the most famous name on the Melbourne Cup honour roll having won the race a record three times when claiming a hat-trick between 2003–2005. She won the first in 2003 when weaving a passage through the field and became the first mare to win two Cups the following year, doing so in driving rain. Her immortal status came in 2005 when an unprecedented hat-trick was completed as the phenomenal mare created history.



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Prince Of Penzance (2015)

The 2015 Melbourne Cup produced the race's very **first female winning rider** in Michelle Payne. Priced at 100/1, Prince Of Penzance travelled beautifully throughout the race before showcasing a good turn of speed inside the final furlong to win by half-a-length. Payne's win was testament to the increase in female riders throughout the 21st century and the shift in power from male-domination to now an equal playing field.



5 ways to Celebrate Melbourne Cup with the elderly people in your care:

1. Hold a Melbourne Cup luncheon, with racing décor. Ask everyone to wear their finest clothes & a hat!
2. Hold a [Melbourne Cup trivia quiz](#).
3. Watch [videos of past Melbourne Cup winners](#).
4. Make Melbourne Cup headwear: [decorate haircombs and headbands](#) with artificial flowers and feathers.
5. Enjoy the race!



Resources:

<https://www.punters.com.au/melbourne-cup/>

<https://www.racingbase.com.au/category/group-1-races/melbourne-cup-winners-20160706-0003/>