



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 19 August 2010

MINISTER HULLS LAUNCHES RACEHORSE OUTPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Deputy Premier and Minister for Racing Rob Hulls officially launched the Cyberhorse Racehorse Outplacement Program today at Caulfield Racecourse.

The Program, founded by Cyberhorse and supported by Racing Victoria, is designed to provide owners and trainers with a cost effective and systematic approach for retraining and re-homing their thoroughbred racehorses upon the completion of their racing career.

The Racehorse Outplacement Program will provide viable options for owners and trainers to place their horses with an experienced outplacement service provider who will assess the horse's suitability for re-training, conduct a re-training program and match the horse with a new owner via Cyberhorse's Virtual Saleyard, Virtual Formguide and Virtual Equestrian.

Leading Victorian Group 1 trainer Mick Price and his wife Caroline attended the launch to highlight just how simple and effective this process can be.

Caroline's prize showjumper, 14-year-old Kaaponic, was formerly trained by Mick and had a moderate career on the racetrack winning four of his 24 starts. Upon his retirement, Caroline has since re-trained him to World Cup level equestrian.

Caroline briefly performed some dressage movements on Kaaponic at the launch while her next project, multiple Group race winner and crowd favourite Light Fantastic, was also on parade.

Racing Victoria's Chief Strategy Officer Paul Bittar said the Victorian thoroughbred racing industry is committed to horse welfare and proud to support this important program.

"Thoroughbreds are a highly sought after breed within a variety of equestrian sports because of their agility and intelligence, making retired racehorses the ideal candidates for a spot in the dressage arena, pony club or polo field," he said.

"The Racehorse Outplacement Program aims to bridge the communication gap between the racing industry and the wider equestrian community to ultimately provide racehorses with a successful career well beyond their days on the track."

Cyberhorse Chief Executive Bill Saunders said, "We're so pleased to have support from the Government, Racing Victoria, Horseland and our other sponsors."

“We have already recruited a number of outplacement consultants with new applications coming through on a daily basis from all over Victoria.

“We’re keen to hear from owners and trainers who have horses coming out of racing and want them to have a new career.”

For more information on the Racehorse Outplacement Program please visit www.racingvictoria.net.au/racehorseoutplacement.

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