Melbourne Cup Rides into Town

Territorians today had a once-in-a-lifetime chance to be photographed with the main attraction in the race that stops a nation.

The Racing Minister Chris Burns welcomed the Melbourne Cup to Parliament House as part of a 26-city tour of Australia and New Zealand.

“The Melbourne Cup race has a rich and illustrious history spanning 147 years. I’m very proud that Darwin was chosen as one of the 26 host locations for such an iconic sporting symbol,” Dr Burns said.

Darwin is the 15th stop on the Emirates Melbourne Cup Tour, which is in its sixth year.

The tour has travelled more than 125,000km and visited more than 120 different towns and cities since 2003.

“The first Melbourne Cup in 1861 was an eventful affair with a horse bolting before the start, and three of the 17 starters falling during the race – two later died,” Dr Burns said.

“Australian thoroughbred trainer Etienne De Mestre’s stallion Archer went on to win easily from Mormon and Prince.

“With that win, the Melbourne Cup legacy was born, and the first Tuesday in November continues to hold significance for many Australians.

“The Northern Territory Government is a proud supporter of racing in the NT and across Australia.”

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