



4/1/2012

STATEMENT

Re – News Years Day Races at Hanging Rock

We would like to start by thanking the those people who have provided so much vocal support of the New Years Day Races at Hanging Rock and we hope that you still had an enjoyable day even though the local races were abandoned after the completion of race one.

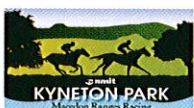
As you would have seen and can appreciate Racing at the Rock and racing in general can be challenging at times as we are conducting an outdoor event which can be impacted from time to time by a range of scenarios such as, track conditions, storms, hail, heavy rain, floods, lightening, wild life and people, to name a few. Unfortunately on this occasion the New Years Day races had to be abandoned after the first race due to a cavity appearing in the track.

Until Racing Victoria has completed their investigations we are unable to categorically confirm what created this deep cavity under the track. However initial inspections of the cavity by club staff and Racing Victoria suggests the cavity which had an opening of around 100mm diameter may have been caused by a broken agricultural drain located approximately 1mt under the racing surface. What then occurred was the horse leading front hoof landed right on top of the surface above the cavity (which was approximately 100mm to 150mm thick) and the force of this broke the surface exposing a cavity below.

We have already started the process of checking the entire 7000mt of drainage at Hanging Rock and once we have confirmed the extent of the issue, best practice measures will be implemented in partnership with Racing Victoria to minimise the chances of such an event ever occurring again.

We can assure you, industry best practice was exercised in the preparation of the track to have the track in the best possible order for race day. The track is maintained on a year around basis even though we only race at the rock twice a year and in the last 3 months the following works were undertaken to prepare the track for racing.

- Poison of weeds
- Regular Mowing
- Fertilising Machinery
- Aerating Machinery
- Approximately 25 horses undertook grass gallops on the 22nd December 2011
- Liaison with trainers and riders following the grass gallops



- Extensive visual inspections (walking) of the track undertaken by Club Staff, including one undertaken by the Club Manager and Track Manager on Saturday.
- Standard inspection of surface on New Years Day by Racing Victoria Stewards and the Club prior to the first race
- Surface was prepared to a dead 5 due to hot weather expected

Even though we could have filled this cavity on the day, we could not be assured that there were no additional cavities under the tracks surface and the highest priority to the Club and Racing Victoria is the safety and well being of the Jockeys and Horses and therefore there was no choice for stewards but to abandon the meeting.

The Club maintains a policy that reflects the policy of the majority of Country Racing Clubs in Victoria in that "No Refund" applies if a race has been run as the Club will continue to conduct a phantom meeting which is what occurred on News Years Day. The Club Policy clearly state's -

A) If the cancellation takes place after a race has been run for any reason, no refund of any type will be made. In continuing the running of a phantom meeting which is defined as, a meeting where there are no local races, however the course and its facilities remain open and operating for the day.

The Club maintained the following services and activities such as, but not limited to the following.

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| - Big Screens (showing live races from around the country) | - Bookmakers |
| - Portable Totes | - Entertainment |
| - Portable Toilets | - Free Shuttle Buses |
| - Camp Australia Activities | - Food & Beverages |
| - Security Staff | - Cleaning Staff |
| - PA System | - Race Day Staff |
| - Police | - Other |

Please be assured no one is more disappointed that the local races were abandoned after race one than the Committee and Staff on the Kyneton & Hanging Rock Racing Club. We are a not for profit operation and are involved in racing due to our love of the sport and our commitment to the ongoing development and delivery of thoroughbred racing within Macedon Ranges and in particular the long history and unique history of racing at Hanging Rock.

Please note that running of the NMIT Hanging Rock Cup run on Australia Day will definitely take place, however we will not be able to confirm until late this week whether the race meeting will proceed at its traditional home at Hanging Rock or moved 10min up the road to the beautiful NMIT Kyneton Park.

Once again we thank you for your support of the Kyneton & Hanging Rock Racing Club.

Yours Sincerely

Anthony Quigley
Chairman

Yours Sincerely

Mark Graham
Club Manager

The Kyneton & Hanging Rock Racing Club is a "not for profit organisation" with any revenues generated from time to time is spent on Venue Maintenance, Capital Improvements, Salaries & Wages, Operational Costs, Horse Training Subsidy's and the like.