

### **Racing Champions declared new Ambassadors for the National Sports Museum**

The National Sports Museum at the MCG is delighted to announce racing industry greats **Greg Miles** and **Michael Rodd** as its latest Ambassadors, in recognition of their excellent contributions to the racing industry.

Known as the 'voice of Australian racing', **Greg Miles** has enjoyed a highly successful career in the media dating back to 1981 when he called the first Melbourne Cup for the ABC. Likewise, jockey **Michael Rodd** has forged an impressive riding career, the highlight being his win in the 2007 Emirates Melbourne Cup.

The National Sports Museum Ambassador program includes individuals who have made a significant impact in their chosen sport as a participant, coach, or administrator; or have made a considerable contribution in the reporting of sport through the media.

The Museum includes the *Champions - Thoroughbred Racing Gallery* which presents the collections of the Australian Racing Museum, previously housed at Melbourne's Federation Square. The appointment of two Ambassadors from Australia's world-class racing industry helps celebrate racing's place alongside many other major sports, such as cricket, netball, Australian Rules Football, and the brilliant achievements of our Olympic heroes.

**Greg Miles** has called no less than 30 Melbourne Cups, including Damien Oliver's famous ride in the 2002 Melbourne Cup following the death of his brother, and Makybe Diva's third consecutive, record-breaking win in 2005. He is the recipient of many sporting accolades including the Bert Wolfe media award for overall excellence in 1995, the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 and the Bill Collins Media Excellence award in 2006.

**Michael Rodd** has claimed over 19 Australasian Group 1 wins, including an exhilarating win on Efficient in the 2006 Victoria Derby. When he rode the horse to victory again a year later in the 2007 Emirates Melbourne Cup, it became the first Derby winner since the legendary Phar Lap to come back a year later and claim the Melbourne Cup. Michael's other victories include the 2008 Cox Plate on Maldivian, and the 2009 VRC Oaks on Faint Perfume. In 2007 and 2008 he received the Ron Hutchinson Award for the most successful jockey at the Melbourne Spring Carnival.

General Manager of the National Sports Museum, **Margaret Birtley**, said: “Our Ambassadors are people who have made a profound contribution to Australia’s rich sporting history. They have provided us with the ‘moments that made us’. Both Greg and Michael have forged formidable careers in the racing industry, creating many special moments that have reached out and touched us all. We are honoured and excited to have them as our new Ambassadors.”

Of his new appointment, **Michael Rodd** said: “It is a great honour and privilege to be announced as an Ambassador for the National Sports Museum. To follow in the footsteps of some of the greatest names in Australian sport is an exciting opportunity for me. I will give my position the attention it is deserving of. I’m thrilled.”

**Greg Miles** shares Michael’s enthusiasm for the role, and added: “I am keen to help make people aware that *Champions* has made the move to the National Sports Museum at the MCG. The new gallery gives visitors a marvellous appreciation for the world of thoroughbred racing in the context of Australia’s wider sporting history and communities.”

**Greg Miles** and **Michael Rodd** join a prestigious list of NSM ambassadors including Ron Barassi, James Hird, Liz Ellis, Shane Gould, Cathy Freeman, Shane Warne, Layne Beachly, Kevin Sheedy, Alisa Camplin and media legend Tony Charlton.

In their role as National Sports Museum Ambassadors, Greg and Michael will make special appearances at museum activities and events, and will encourage visitation to the Museum within their local and sporting communities.

-ends-

#### **Further information:**

Belinda Phillips  
Haystac  
03 8689 2274  
0411 101 804

Margaret Birtley  
National Sports Museum &  
Melbourne Cricket Club  
0418 814 957

#### **Quick links:**

Quick links:

Website:

[www.nsm.org.au](http://www.nsm.org.au)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/nationalsportsmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/nationalsportsmuseum)

Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/NSMNews](https://www.twitter.com/NSMNews)