



Mercedes-Benz takes up Event Partnership for Polo in the Southern Highlands

19 January 2017 Southern Highlands Polo announced today that Mercedes-Benz Macarthur will be the event partner for its inaugural polo tournament at Bong Bong Racecourse, Bowral on the 25th February 2017.

Speaking on the announcement Paul Manka, President of Southern Highlands Polo said "We are thrilled to have Mercedes-Benz Macarthur as our event partner to assist us in developing a great day for polo fans in the Highlands and beyond." He added "The Southern Highlands is an equestrian hub with polo being a logical extension and we are committed to ensuring that polo is showcased locally."

Daniel Waterfield, Dealer Principal at Mercedes-Benz Macarthur said "Our dealership has been proudly serving the Highlands and surrounds for over 30 years. Polo is one of the fastest growing spectator sports globally so we are very proud to be associated with the inaugural event in the Highlands."

The day will feature two thrilling polo matches played across the afternoon by local and Sydney teams. Paul Manka commented "The response to the event has been incredible. The Mercedes-Benz marquee is now fully subscribed, so we encourage fans to visit our website for other ticket opportunities to avoid disappointment."

A limited number of individual pagodas are still available (catering for up to 20) or entry tickets to the Polo Lounge to chill out and listen to the DJ while taking in all the polo action of the day.

Tickets are available online by visiting www.southerhighlandspolo.com.au

For further information on Mercedes-Benz Macarthur go to:

<http://www.mbmacarthur.com.au/content/australia/retail-2/mbmacarthur/en/desktop/home.html>

About Polo

Polo is arguably the oldest recorded team sport in known history, with the first matches being played in Persia over 2500 years ago. Initially thought to have been created by competing tribes of Central Asia, it was quickly taken up as a training method for the King's elite cavalry. These matches could resemble a battle with up to 100 men to a side.

As mounted armies swept back and forth across this part of the world, conquering and re-conquering, polo was adopted as the most noble of pastimes by the Kings and Emperors, Shahs and Sultans, Khans and Caliphs of the ancient Persians, Arabs, Mughals, Mongols and Chinese. It was for this reason it became known across the lands as "the game of kings".

British officers themselves re-invented the game in 1862 after seeing a horsemanship exhibition in Manipur, India. The sport was introduced into England in 1869, and seven years later sportsman James Gordon Bennett imported it to the United States. After 1886, English and American teams occasionally met for the International Polo Challenge Cup. Polo was on several Olympic games schedules, but was last an Olympic sport in 1936.

Polo continues, as it has done for so long, to represent the pinnacle of sport, and reaffirms the special bond between horse and rider. The feeling of many of its players are epitomized by a famous verse inscribed on a stone tablet next to a polo ground in Gilgit, Pakistan: "Let others play at other things. The king of games is still the game of kings."

Source: pro-polo.com

POLO FACTS

- **The Basics:** Polo is a ball sport, played on horses. Where one team attempts to score goals by a hockey-sized ball through their oppositions' goal with a mallet attached to the end of a 4 1/4 foot stick.
- **The Pitch:** The outdoor polo field is 300 yards long and 160 yards wide, the largest field in organized sport. The goal posts at each end are 24 feet apart and a minimum of 10 feet high. Penalty lines are marked at 30 yards from the goal, 40 yards, 60 yards, and at midfield.
- **Chukkas:** Each polo match is divided in to "Chukkas". A chukka is 7 1/2 minutes of active play time and is supposed to represent the amount of time a horse can reasonably exert itself before needing a rest. Polo Matches are divided into 4,5, or 6 Chukkas depending whether the level is Low, Medium, or High goal polo.
- **Players:** In outdoor polo there is four players on a team. Numbers 1 - 2 are traditionally attacking whilst 3 is the midfield playmaker and 4 is Defense. However as the sport is so fluid there are no definite positions in Polo.
- **Umpires:** Two mounted umpires, referee the game. They must agree on each foul/call made, if they disagree they refer to the "3rd Man" who would be on the edge of the pitch in line with the center mark. His decision will settle the argument.
- **The Rules:** The Rules of polo are centered almost in totality around safety. When you have 1/2 a ton of horse traveling one way in excess of 30mph, you do not want to be hit by 1/2 a ton of horse traveling in excess of 30 mph the other way. Polo is inherently dangerous, which may be part of the allure; however, the rules go a long way to negate risk.