




Speech By
Hon. Grace Grace

MEMBER FOR MCCONNEL

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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Premier's Anzac Prize; Summer Racing Carnival

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.07 am): I join the Premier in welcoming the recipients of the 2024 Premier's Anzac Prize who are visiting state parliament today. I wish Eloise Brown, Jacqueline Loh and Bronte Fleming all the very best on their well-earned visit to Europe next year, along with other prize recipients from around the state. Well done.

I am pleased to advise that the Queensland Summer Racing Carnival has arrived. The summer carnival, which kicked off on 18 November with the Mooloolaba Cup in the electorate of Caloundra, will showcase our world-class industry across nine incredible weeks of racing, as Australia's best gallopers descend on Queensland to chase a record \$25 million in prize money. The carnival will also feature plenty of off-the-track fashion, food and entertainment options to draw tourists to the Sunshine Coast.

While there will be plenty of action at Eagle Farm and Doomben, the Gold Coast Magic Millions Raceday will once again be the jewel in the crown of the carnival. This year, it will be the only race day in the Southern Hemisphere to stage eight races worth over a million dollars on the one card. The Magic Millions will be raced on a newly revamped racecourse, thanks to our game-changing Gold Coast track and lights upgrade. It will reach new heights, with a major prize money boost to its two blue-chip features: the 2YO Classic and the 3YO Guineas.

The carnival will see the Country Cup's Challenge, which brings together the best of our country and regional gallopers, hold its final at Doomben on 2 December. The challenge not only highlights the best of country racing—indeed, one of its qualifying races was the Gordonvale Cup in your electorate, Speaker; it also supports fundraising for the iconic Royal Flying Doctor Service and the crucial role it plays in regional and remote communities throughout Queensland.

The \$750,000 King of the Mountain race at the Toowoomba Turf Club will return on New Year's Day 2024. The King of the Mountain is a great initiative supporting local industry participants, because it is only open to Queensland bred and Queensland trained horses.

I am pleased to report that Australasia's premier harness-racing event, the Inter Dominion Championship, kicks off tomorrow at Albion Park ahead of the final on 16 December, with Queensland hosting the event for the first time since 2009. With record prize money, a pipeline of major infrastructure projects underway across the state and a summer carnival set to reach new heights, racing is going from strength to strength in Queensland thanks to the Palaszczuk government. I encourage all members to get out to the track for what is set to be another stellar summer of racing.

Mr Stevens: Okay.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Mermaid Beach needs no convincing.