

MEDIA RELEASE

Berriwillock holds Civic Reception for Darren Weir

Making good on his promise, 2015 Melbourne Cup winning trainer Darren Weir brought the Cup home to Berriwillock on Wednesday. A Civic Reception was held in his honour at the Berriwillock Community Centre and a crowd of close to 1,000 showed their pride.

The throng enjoyed a barbeque lunch and relived their tales of Cup Day and the feeling they got when “Weiry” mentioned Berri every chance he got in the post-race euphoria.

When he began training horses, Darren Weir dreamed of winning the Cups that mattered to him. Raised in Berriwillock in the Mallee he coveted his local cup at Swan Hill. Then as his working life took him to different regional centres he added the Stawell and Ballarat Cups to the wish list and all the while he coveted the Melbourne Cup. He checked the first three off the list a while ago and last week he realised his dream.

The horse responsible for delivering him first Melbourne Cup, Prince of Penzance, entertained some 300 school children from across the district with a parade before the formal proceeding commenced. The replay of the big race was played on Country Racing Victoria’s big screen to rapturous applause as Michelle Payne guided Prince of Penzance home, again!



Chair of the Berriwillock Community Development Group, Mr Gary Summerhayes, then lead proceedings off by painting a picture of Berriwillock before handing over to Buloke Shire Council Mayor, Cr Reid Mather to officially welcome everyone. Local and close friend of Darren, Max Nunn, spoke about growing up in Berri with “Weiry”. From shearing on scorching summer days to “near misses” whilst riding a runaway horse bareback as it fast approached the Calder Highway.

The unassuming Weir then spoke brilliantly to his home town crowd.

“When I said I wanted to come home with the Cup I thought I’d just sit the Cup on the bar at the Golden Crown Hotel and have a drink”, Weir quipped.

He regaled his team’s tremendous run of luck from the Moonee Valley Cup second placing onward. The horse pulled up well and galloped strongly at Terang on the Friday prior to the Cup despite his hard run. Strapper Stevie Payne declared he would draw barrier one in the barrier draw and did! Then he told of how he saw the race unfold and the luck jockey Michelle Payne had and the right options she took.

Berriwillock is a proud hard working community. Today they catered for close to a thousand people with minimum fuss. Nobody went hungry and everybody had a drink when it was time for the Mayor to toast the guest of honour. Hard work leads to success, which seems to be the Berriwillock way.

Weir himself summed up his feelings of the day and the events of last week that lead to it perfectly.

“To all the terrific school kids here today, every now and then, dreams come true. Follow them”.



End release

For further information contact Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520