
MEDIA RELEASE



It was an early morning start for students from local secondary colleges, staff at the Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN and David Forbes from Rural Skills Australia. The first "Equine Goals & Dreams" day program for the region was launched, with students who are currently undertaking a VET in schools Equine course.

Nicole Skinner from the Baw Baw Latrobe LLEN explained "The day showed the students the skills and attributes required to work in the Racing industry. We were so fortunate to have the support of local trainers and the Moe Racing Club who were willing to give up their time to show the students behind the scenes of the industry".

Meeting at 6.30am the day started off at the Moe Race Course with prominent Moe Trainers Peter and Manny Gelagotis. The group was shown a typical mornings "track work", where four horses were in training. Both Manny and Peter spoke about their pathway into training, what skills they look for in employees and gave students some tips about getting into the industry. "It's great to speak to young people who have a genuine interest in the industry, it's important for us to give something back and help young people get involved" Peter commented.

Mick Templeton's stables were the next stop. Mick chatted to the group about his training style, what a typical day's work is for him and gave a tour of his stables. Mick demonstrated one of his horses being swum and explained the theory of using swimming as a training aid. "The benefits of training in Gippsland are being noticed by many Melbourne owners, there's a lot of career opportunities both here, in Melbourne and around the world" Mick said.

The next stop was at the Gippsland Harness Racing Training Centre where Des Hughes and his team put on a mock race. Students from the centre spoke to the group about their experiences and the training course they are undertaking.

Finally the group landed back at the Moe Race Course where they enjoyed a complimentary lunch, (thanks to the Moe Racing Club) overlooking the track and a talk from Racing Victoria's Workplace Trainer & Assessor John Didham. John is an ex-champion jockey who now oversees all Apprentice Jockey training conducted at Racing Victoria.

Students were lucky enough to get an inside scoop from one of the Jockey's in race 2, he told the group of the instructions given by the trainer. Students were able to watch the ride then have a chat to the Jockey after race to assess how it went.

Peter and Manny Gelagotis made the group “unofficial owners” of one of their horses, the group got to go to the stalls and see what preparation takes place prior to a race.

Jamie, a local student said “the day was very informative, it gave me some options of what I could do when I finish school and I found it inspiring”.

“The Racing Industry generates \$10 billion annually & creates around 92,000 full-time equivalent jobs, almost half of which is in non-metropolitan areas. Racing has a diverse range of career opportunities for people of any age and background. Being able to show students the Industry at a local level is very beneficial” David Forbes said.