

RACING for our LIVES

A FAIR GO FOR INJURED JOCKEYS



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NATIONAL
JOCKEYS TRUST



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THE MOST DANGEROUS JOB



Paul Innes
 CEO *Australian Jockeys' Association*
 and Chairman *National Jockeys Trust*
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Horse racing is an exciting industry. But behind the glamour, our industry has a hidden side.

For the jockeys who hit the tracks each day to keep the industry pumping, it's a dangerous line of work.

In fact no other workplace on land presents the dangers to its workforce as racetracks do to jockeys.

In 200 years of organised racing, 308 jockeys have died in racing incidents that we know about. Over the next decade we can expect another 12 to 15 to die on the job. Many more will suffer horrific accidents resulting in permanent disability, like quadriplegia or brain injury.

Injured Australian jockeys need support.

While some high profile jockeys earn big dollars, most jockeys earn a very modest income.

Insecure and poorly paid work, interspersed with regular time recuperating from injury, is the reality for most.

Many can't afford to pay for their own medical and care needs in the case of a career-ending accident.

The National Jockeys Trust (NJT) is an Australian Jockeys' Association (AJA) initiative to assist jockeys and their families facing hardship due to death, injury and illness.

Demand for assistance from the NJT is growing.

It's time for governments to step up and recognise their responsibility to the jockeys at the heart of our great racing industry.

We need proper funding, so that we can continue to help injured Australian jockeys.

OUR TARGET: \$5 million

Whenever a jockey is killed or permanently disabled a family is left in hardship – physically, emotionally and financially.

The NJT is a charitable trust to help jockeys and their families in need.

Having received no support from state or federal governments, the NJT faces a real challenge in raising the funds required to provide meaningful assistance.

The NJT has to date made 68 grants to jockeys and their families.

While gratefully welcomed by recipients, the amount we are able to give barely scratches the surface of the financial needs of some of our members, like those requiring around-the-clock care.

The money we raise through functions and sponsorships is just not enough.

With requests for our help growing, we need \$5 million to become self-sustaining and give injured jockeys the support they need.

State economies and state governments across Australia benefit significantly from the racing industry.

Given the enormous value of this industry – and its direct contribution to state revenue – it's time state governments took some responsibility for the plight of jockeys who take such enormous personal risk to keep the industry functioning.

We are asking for one-off grants to the NJT from state governments to supplement donations from industry and the race-going public to give injured jockeys the care and support they deserve.

AUSTRALIAN JOCKEYS: A snapshot

There are 840 professional jockeys in Australia, including apprentices.

- 40% have had a fall in the last 12 months that has prevented them from riding
- 63% believe improving safety is the top priority for the industry
- Only 45% rate the standard of the tracks they ride at as 'good'
- 69% have struggled to pay for food and bills during their racing career
- 22% have no superannuation
- 41% have no private health insurance
- 27% travelled more than 50,000 km to race last year, with another 46% travelling between 20,000 and 50,000 km.

Source 2010 AJA member survey

AUSTRALIAN RACING: A snapshot

- Racing generates more than \$5 billion in economic activity to the national economy
- \$1.76 billion of that \$5 billion comes from Victoria and \$1.7 billion from New South Wales, delivering more than 68% of the total economic impact
- The racing industry generates more than \$610 million in taxes paid to state governments and more than \$560 million in taxes paid to the Federal Government
- State Government taxes raised by racing:
 - NSW \$231 million
 - VIC \$184 million
 - WA \$57 million
 - NT \$6.6 million
 - QLD \$97 million
 - SA \$27 million
 - ACT \$5 million
 - TAS \$8.7 million

Source *Economic Impact of Australian Racing*, IER Pty Ltd, August 2007.

CUSTOMISED CHAIR DRIVES DARRYL'S MOVE INTO TRAINING



Darryl Johnston is philosophical about the realities jockeys face.

"When you are on a horse going 60km/h with five others around, you just need one thing to go wrong and you're on the ground."

Something went very wrong for Darryl, 26, during a race in December 2007.

He was sitting behind the leader on the track at Rockhampton when the horse in front of him collapsed and died of a heart attack. Darryl's horse crashed into the horse in front and Darryl was thrown off, hitting a fence pole. His back, pelvis and wrist were broken.

"I knew straight away I had broken my back," says Darryl. "I had no feeling from my chest down. I couldn't move."

After enduring months of treatment in hospital, Darryl figured that while he couldn't walk or move his lower body, he could still stay in the racing industry as a trainer.

It hasn't been easy. There are many challenges to training horses from a wheelchair. With his basic, non-motorised wheelchair Darryl had trouble getting across the terrain at the racetrack and couldn't get out to see the horses work.

Money has also been extremely tight for Darryl, who lives with his jockey girlfriend.

To support Darryl's ambitions to become a trainer, the National Jockeys Trust sourced and purchased the 'Extreme' – an \$18,000 4-wheel-drive wheelchair customised to Darryl's needs.

▲ Darryl Johnston

Jockey, quadriplegic following a race fall

Photo: Scott Burrage www.scottburrage.com.au

"The new wheelchair is a lot better," says Darryl. "It's higher off the ground and I can get across any sort of terrain on it. It means I can get out to see the horses work every day. It's really improved my ability to train horses."

The future is still uncertain but he's hopeful more owners will give him a go and he'll be able to make a long-term career out of training.

One of the horses he trains is Fea Dynasty, the last winner he ever rode.

"We've won two Country Cups, so we've had a bit of luck with him," says Darryl.

With the run he's had Darryl can use all the luck – and all the support – he can get.

WE'VE ALSO RECENTLY HELPED:

1. A jockey who sustained a serious heart condition due to a fall. This injury was career ending as the jockey was unable to obtain medical clearance to ride again.
2. A jockey who sustained permanent brain injury in a fall at Wagga, now cared for by elderly parents.
3. Paid funeral expenses for a jockey who died as a result of severe head injuries sustained in a race fall in Adelaide.

But there are many more injured jockeys who need help – our list of applications for assistance is growing by the week.

There is a high incidence of suicide among jockeys. Injured jockeys struggle to find alternative employment, as they usually leave school at a young age. When injured, they are left with physical and/or mental disabilities and no other job skills.

The NJT would like to be able to increase the quantum of financial support it offers injured jockeys and expand the range of services it offers to include:

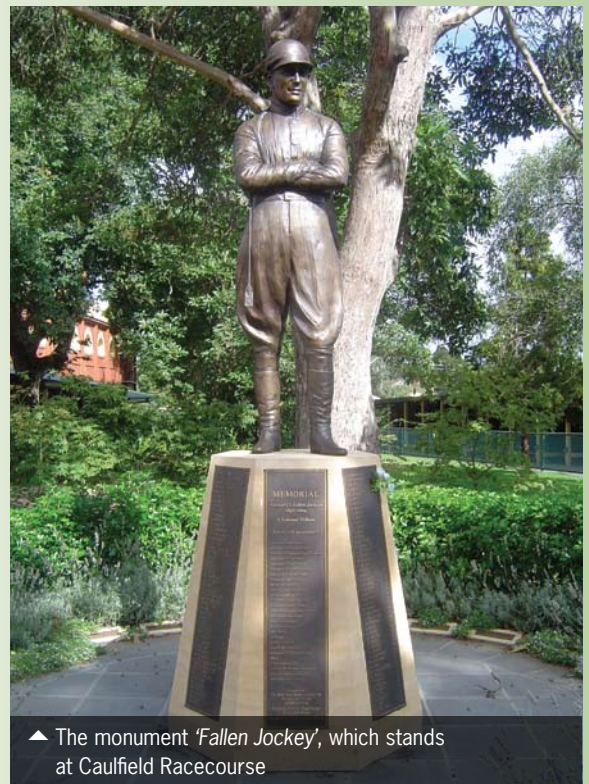
- rehabilitation
- counselling
- family support
- retraining and vocational support.



HELP US REACH OUR \$5 MILLION TARGET

Go to www.njt.org.au and...

- 1 Email the Racing Minister in your state – ask them to fund the National Jockeys Trust to support injured jockeys.
- 2 Make a donation, it's tax deductible.
- 3 On Melbourne Cup Day, give 5% of your winnings or office sweepstake to injured jockeys.



▲ The monument 'Fallen Jockey', which stands at Caulfield Racecourse



NATIONAL JOCKEYS TRUST

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