

WILLIAMS Weekly Update 20/02/2026

Just 5 Victorian meetings (and 1 NSW) remain before we run at Stawell. The season seems to fly by fast! Racing this week at the picturesque Castlemaine Recreation Reserve, with some great prizemoney on offer, and where the circle races particularly always seem to produce wonderful finishes.

Some news and updates:

Stawell Gift

As you will have seen, entries are now open. They will close in just 4 weeks' time, so please don't leave it until the last day to enter. There is a strict no late entry policy being adhered to this season, and Stawell will be no exception. So it is really important to check that you are successfully entered into your chosen event BEFORE entries close. If you do not receive an email confirmation for your entry, please check the 'View My Nominations' under the 'Athletes' tab on the website. If nothing is showing, please email val@val.org.au with a copy of your payment transaction receipt, as soon as possible.

Please note that a 4 meeting trial membership does not allow you to enter Stawell. Only full memberships allow entry to Stawell. If you need to upgrade your membership, please email us at val@val.org.au to request an upgrade; we will invoice you and once paid, you will be able to enter your chosen events at Stawell. So please do not leave this until the last minute!

Performance History

A further reminder that the onus rests with athletes to ensure that all performances outside the VAL, SAAL or NSWAL are entered into the athlete's performance history, via the 'View Past Results & Enter New Results' under the 'Athletes' tab. This is particularly important if the performance is a personal best, as failure to declare these performances will likely result in a fine or disqualification, and/or leaves the athlete subject to handicap alterations on race day.

Please also be aware that Stewards wish to advise that any significant improvements at Stawell from form displayed throughout the season will come under scrutiny and may result in fines, re-handicapping or disqualification.

Ringwood Gift

Please note that this event will be a non-penalty event. The Stawell Bonus and Stawell Retention incentives do not apply. However, performances under ceiling time will affect any Stawell handicaps, as will athletes who record a win in an event where they had previously qualified for a handicap retention.

Prize money

Athletes need to be aware that each individual club are paying their prize money this season, and athletes need to visit the pay table at each event to record their bank details or collect their cash.