



**WELLINGTON
RACING CLUB**

UPDATE FROM THE WELLINGTON RACING CLUB COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST

As we look ahead to the 2026–27 racing season, I want to reassure all members that it is very much business as usual at Trentham.

The Wellington Racing Club has been allocated 14 race meetings for the new season, commencing on Saturday, 19 September, and we are looking forward to another exciting year of racing. While recent discussion has understandably focused on the future of Trentham, our immediate priority remains delivering a successful season for our members, owners, trainers, jockeys, punters, and the wider racing community.

PROJECT STAMINA – ONE WEEK ON

It has now been a week since New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing released Project Stamina. The report generated significant media attention and, in some quarters, created the impression that Trentham's future had already been decided.

That is simply not the case.

While the report recommends that racing cease at Trentham, no final decisions have been made. NZTR has confirmed it will meet with the Wellington Racing Club before determining any final outcome, providing us with the opportunity to present our case and ensure Trentham's position is fully considered. The release of the report marks the beginning of that process, not the end.

Over the past week we have been overwhelmed by the support shown by members, participants, and the wider community. Thank you to everyone who has contacted the Club and members of the committee with messages of encouragement and offers of assistance. Your support has reinforced just how important Trentham is to so many people.

While much of our work is happening behind the scenes, we wanted to share some of the progress being made.

The committee has begun work on commissioning an independent assessment of the assumptions and recommendations relating to Trentham contained within the Project Stamina report. This work will help ensure our response to NZTR is robust, objective, and evidence-based. Subject to the outcome of that assessment, the next stage will be the preparation of a comprehensive business case demonstrating how Trentham can continue to play a vital role within New Zealand's future racing infrastructure.

At the same time, we continue to invest in Trentham's future.

Plans are progressing for the new infield shed, with the building consent application now lodged. Work is also continuing on improved participant facilities, including the development of a new tie-up area to complement the existing facilities and the creation of a new float parking area in the southern car park following the sale of the former stabling area. During August we expect these projects to be confirmed and the way forward locked in, ensuring Trentham continues to provide quality facilities for trainers, owners and participants.

These investments demonstrate our continued commitment to the future of the Wellington Racing Club and Trentham.

THE NUMBERS COUNT

One of the strongest arguments for retaining racing at Trentham is one that is difficult to ignore, the numbers.

According to NZTR's 2024-25 Annual Report (last season's will not be available until closer to the AGM), the Wellington Racing Club's average turnover demonstrates how Trentham became known as the Champagne turf!

Club	Meetings	Average NZ Turnover	Average Australian Turnover
Wellington Racing Club	9	\$2.7 million	\$4.3 million
Auckland Thoroughbred Racing	31	\$2.6 million	\$3.6 million
Canterbury Jockey Club	30	\$1.7 million	\$2.8 million
Waikato	31	\$1.6 million	\$2.3 million
Whangārei	7	\$1.6 million	\$2.2 million
Tauranga	13	\$1.6 million	\$2.1 million
Taranaki	14	\$1.2 million	\$1.9 million
Ōtaki-Māori Racing Club	8	\$1.2 million	\$1.7 million

These figures speak for themselves.

Trentham consistently generates exceptional wagering returns. Quite simply, punters enjoy betting on racing at Trentham. In an industry where wagering revenue underpins the sustainability of racing, that is a significant measure of our value to New Zealand racing.

Our case extends well beyond wagering performance. Trentham serves the country's capital region, supporting a significant community, has repeatedly demonstrated its importance when other North Island venues have faced operational challenges, and remains one of New Zealand's premier racing venues. We are confident these factors will help present a compelling case for Trentham's future.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Many of you will recently have received your membership renewal reminder for the new season. If you have not yet renewed, we encourage you to do so.

There has never been a more important time to stand behind your Club. A strong membership sends a clear message that the Wellington Racing Club has a committed community that values racing at Trentham and wants to see it continue to thrive.

If you have family, friends, or colleagues who enjoy racing or who simply want to support the future of Trentham, please encourage them to become members as well. Every membership strengthens our voice as we work through this process with NZTR.

Finally, thank you again for your continued loyalty and support. We look forward to welcoming you back to Trentham on Saturday, 19 September as we begin another exciting season of racing together.

Members wishing to read the Project Stamina report and supporting information can do so here: **[Project Stamina – NZTR](#)**

MEMBER EXCLUSIVE HOSPITALITY PRESALE



Members now have exclusive early access to hospitality packages for the TAB Mufhasa Classic on Saturday 5 December 2026 and Wellington Cup Day on Saturday 30 January 2027.

Explore the available hospitality options and secure your preferred experience before tickets go on sale to the general public on Monday 10 August 2026. Simply use the code EARLYBIRD26 and enter your membership number at checkout to access the member exclusive presale.

[Presale Access Here](#)