

## MEDIA RELEASE

### CELEBRATING CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR REGIONAL COMMUNITY

At a special Round Table Dinner being held for over 125 members and guests at the Ballarat Turf Club, the Committee for Ballarat tonight will celebrate the social and economic contribution made by the Equine and Thoroughbred racing industry, together with recognising the outstanding achievements in racing by the Payne family.

Committee for Ballarat CEO, John Kilgour, stated “a report into the size and scope of the Victorian Racing Industry commissioned by the State Government in February 2013, identified that the thoroughbred racing industry generates in excess of \$59m of value added impact each year and engages over 2,100 people either as employees, volunteers, or participants within the Central Highlands Region”.

Kilgour said, with up to \$3.2m spent annually on courses, and these racegoers spending a further \$3.4m on transport, tourism, accommodation and hospitality; whichever way you look at it, the thoroughbred racing industry makes a significant economic contribution to this region”.

With racing identity, Rob Gaylard as MC, Michelle, Therese, Stephen Patrick Jnr, Andrew and patriarch Patrick Payne Snr will provide a powerful and motivating insight into their personal journey in racing. Kilgour further added, “the Payne’s are a great Ballarat success story and their contribution to the racing industry in this country cannot be understated”.



*Michelle & Stevie Payne with local Ballarat trained horse, Platelet.  
Picture courtesy of The Age*

**ENDS:**

**MEDIA RELEASE:** Round Table Dinner will be conducted from 6pm at the Ballarat Turf Club

**INTERVIEWS:** On site, from around 6.15pm

For further information, please contact: John Kilgour, CEO - Committee for Ballarat,  
ph: 5332 1240 / mobile 0421 342 398.