

GRANT BUCKLEY

JOINS AS RACING MATES AMBASSADOR



WELL-RESPECTED JOCKEY GRANT BUCKLEY HAS RAISED HIS HAND TO HELP OTHERS IN NEED BY JOINING THE RACING MATES TEAM AS AN AMBASSADOR

WORDS: PHILLIP O'BRIEN IMAGES: SUPPLIED

Grant Buckley has jumped at the opportunity to become part of Racing Mates and lending his ear to those in need.

"There are a lot of pressures out there for everyone in the world – even more so for young riders – and it's important that they can reach out to other people for support," Buckley said.

The Racing Mates peer support initiative was established in 2016 by Racing NSW with the objective of empowering mates to look out for mates.

New Racing Mates Ambassador Grant Buckley (left) with Pat Webster

Research has found that effective support offered from peers and colleagues can aid significantly in coping with stress and difficult situations.

Buckley joins a team of Ambassadors from all different forms of backgrounds which includes well respected racehorse trainers, jockeys owners and other identities.

The program has access to professional counselling and psychological services which continue to assist racing participants that are in need of further support.

Buckley has been point of contact for many young jockeys seeking support which made him a natural fit to become a Racing Mates Ambassador.

"For the last 6 months, particularly, a lot of young riders have been coming up to me asking for help," Buckley said. "I'm glad to be involved with these sorts of things as its quite close to my heart.

"I've seen people go through some tough times and it's a pleasure that I can help people in the industry. My message for everyone in the industry is that it's OK to talk."

Lead Ambassador Pat Webster welcomed Buckley's addition to Racing Mates.

"Grant gains a lot of respect from his fellow riders and has long been a 'go to' person for many that have needed to talk to someone," Webster said. "We are pleased to have Grant on board as a Racing Mates Ambassador."

Further information about Racing Mates and its Ambassadors can be found online at www.racingmates.com.au

NOTE: Unfortunately, Grant was injured after his horse reared over and fell on him in the mounting yard prior to Race 4 at Wyong on Thursday 13th June.

Grant was attended to by ambulance officers before being airlifted to hospital for further examination.

He was diagnosed with a fractured pelvis and required two operations to stabilise the pelvis.

That first surgery was on Friday 14th June which went well, and he was due to have more definitive surgery the following week.

We all wish Grant a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing him back on deck soon.

DUBBO HOSTS RACING MATES GET-TOGETHER

Dubbo Turf Club hosted the latest Racing Mates BBQ Get-Together on 7 June much to the delight of Western Districts Racing Association participants.

A sausage sizzle brought smiles to the faces of many that braved the cold and rainy weather with Racing Mates Ambassador Pat Webster declaring the gathering a huge success.

"It brought people together and we are very grateful to Dubbo Turf Club for hosting this BBQ for the benefit of the local racing community," Webster said.

Racing Mates is a peer support initiative established by Racing NSW, empowering mates to look out for mates.

"The whole concept of the Racing Mates program is to encourage people to stop and talk to each other – especially mates to mates, and, friends to friends," Webster said.

"Those who are suffering from anxiety or depression contact us and we put them in touch with professionals who can assist."

Racing Mates host regular BBQ get-togethers across New South Wales country regions which assists those in the grassroots racing communities.

"These gatherings provide an important outlet to strappers, trainers and other participants who feel like their voices may not be heard," Webster said.

"Our Get-Togethers are for a great cause, and we couldn't run them without the support of country race clubs."

Further information about Racing Mates and its Ambassadors can be found online at www.racingmates.com.au

SCAN QR CODE TO WATCH THE INTERVIEW WITH PAT WEBSTER



Cooking up a storm at Dubbo – Pat Webster (right) and Phillip O'Brien (Racing NSW Welfare Officer)