



Pulse races with the nation

PASSION FOR SPORT OF KINGS

Andrew Prentice

WHEN Graham McNeice first began working at Sky Channel in 1986, it was far from glamorous.

The business was based on a temporary site at Frenchs Forest with a staff of seven.

Boxing was the sport they sold to pub owners, with pay television still many years away.

How times have changed.

Sky now has more than 200 employees on its books, and today at 3pm will broad-

cast the Melbourne Cup to millions across Australia.

McNeice, who lives and breathes the sport of kings, will be in his element.

The legendary sports broadcaster and documentary maker believes our love of a punt is the chief reason events at Flemington grabs everyone's attention.

"We are a country that loves to gamble, not just on the first Tuesday in November," the former Mona Vale resident said.

"It really is the race that stops a nation, the interest

is simply incredible. My standout memories would have to be Kingston Rule winning in 1990 and Makybe Diva's three wins (2003-2005) – they were simply unforgettable."

McNeice also believes the rich history of the Cup will ensure it always remains part of our sporting folklore.

"Racing is in our blood, more than any other country in the world," he said.

"The Cup has been staged for more than 100 years, it is a fantastic event for so

many reasons."

HOT TIP

Graham McNeice likes Mourayan ridden by Hugh Bowman (blue with white stripes)

“Racing is in our blood, more than any other country in the world

– Graham McNeice

JOIN THE PARTY

PITTWATER

- The Newport Arms, 2 Kalinya St, Newport. Details: 9997 4900
- Royal Motor Yacht Club, 46 Prince Alfred Pde, Newport. Details: 9997 5511
- Mona Vale Hotel, 2 Park St, Mona Vale. Details: 9999 4214

WARRINGAH

- Narrabeen Sands Hotel, 1260

Pittwater Rd, Narrabeen. Details: 9970 5700

- Harbord Beach Hotel, 29 Moore Rd. Details: 9905 3434

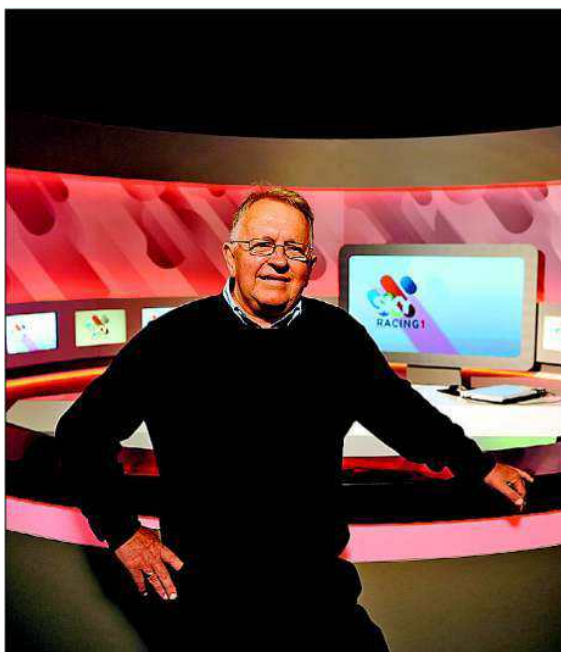
MANLY

- The Hotel Steyne, 75 The Corso. Details: 9977 497
- Manly Wharf Bar, East Esplanade. Details: 9977 1266
- Ivanhoe Hotel Manly, 27 The Corso. Details: 9976 3955

BOOKINGS STILL AVAILABLE

Where: Jonah's, 69 Bynya Rd, Whale Beach **What:** Glass of champagne on arrival, three-course lunch. Sweeps, plus prizes will be given away. **Cost:** \$115 a person. **Details:** 9974 5599

Where: Harbord Diggers, Evans St **What:** Buffet lunch, free glass of champagne, lucky door prizes, fashions in the field prizes, live entertainment. Book a table and receive a \$20 bar voucher. **Cost:** \$49 members, \$55 non-members. **Details:** 9938 1444



Graham McNeice at Sky's Frenchs Forest studios.

Picture: SIMON COCKSEGE