



MAGNIFIQUE

GCA NATIONALS 2026
SANDOWN PARK

Melbourne | 25-30 August



ON BEHALF OF Greyhound Clubs Australia, I warmly invite you to join us for the GCA Nationals 2026, proudly hosted by our friends at the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club.

Since its inception in 1965, the Nationals has stood as a pillar of excellence in our sport. Six decades on, these time-honoured traditions remain as strong as ever continuing to unite our industry in celebration of performance, people, and passion.

Victoria is proudly known as the Home of Sport, and it is a fitting stage for this year's Nationals. Over the course of the week, we will travel across this great state, from the CBD and Southbank to Healesville, Lang Lang and Sandown Park, and we are especially proud to showcase the freshly renewed Cranbourne track, my home track.

At GCA, we are proud custodians of this event and are committed to its ongoing evolution, ensuring it remains a cornerstone of the greyhound racing calendar. Importantly, no single state owns greyhound racing; it is



Andrew Fennell

a truly national sport, strengthened through collaboration, collegiality, and shared purpose.

It is vital that we continue to work together, to collaborate, to learn, to share ideas, and to enjoy the journey as an industry united.

This year also marks an exciting milestone, with increased prizemoney levels reflecting the prestige and significance of the Nationals, while the broader Nationals Week program continues to expand bringing together

flagship industry events and celebrations that set it apart from anything else in the industry.

These include the Australian Greyhound of the Year Gala, National Greyhound Symposium, and conferences for Stewards, Track Curators, and GAP — all designed to deliver meaningful value to the industry.

I am honoured and very excited to be part of what promises to be a historic and memorable celebration of our sport. I encourage all GCA member clubs and industry participants to be part of what will truly be a fantastic week.

Andrew Fennell

Chairman, Greyhound Clubs Australia

THE NATIONALS represent the epitome of our sport's rich and proud history, first run in 1965 when the Sprint Final was claimed by Best Sun.

From those early days, Sandown has been at the forefront of the sport, a position we are proud to still hold today.

Sandown Park first hosted the Nationals in 1968, when Princess Kerry delivered a memorable hometown victory for Victoria. Just two years later, Sargood repeated the feat for the Big V in the Distance Final. This August, the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club will proudly conduct its ninth Sprint Championship and fifth Distance Championship, continuing a legacy that spans generations.

While the Nationals were once defined by the great finals alone, today they have evolved into something far greater. The week now offers a dynamic program of business and social events creating opportunities to connect with like-minded people, share experiences, challenge our thinking, and continue to learn and grow as an industry.

Over the past 18 months, the team at Sandown has worked tirelessly to deliver a program that is both exciting and innovative. Our aim is simple, that every



Neil Brown

attendee leaves with an increased sense of pride in our sport, new insights to take forward, and friendships both formed and strengthened. There truly is something for everyone.

A personal highlight for me, outside of the thrill of Finals Night at Sandown Park, is the Gala Dinner, where we celebrate excellence and announce the 2025/26 Australian Greyhound of the Year. It is a special occasion

where our industry's finest are recognised. It will be my privilege to assist in the induction of three new members into the Greyhound Clubs Australia Hall of Fame, the highest honour in our sport.

On behalf of everyone at Sandown Greyhound Racing Club, we look forward to welcoming you. We do so with a genuine commitment that, during your time with us, our home will be your home. We also extend our sincere thanks to our valued partners Greyhound Racing Victoria, Greyhound Clubs Australia, Greyhounds Australasia and Greyhound Clubs Victoria for their ongoing support. We look forward to sharing this special week with you — à très bientôt.

Neil Brown

Chairman, Sandown Greyhound Racing Club



ON BEHALF OF the Board of Greyhound Racing Victoria and the Victorian greyhound racing community, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Victoria for the GCA Nationals 2026.

We are delighted to host participants, officials and supporters from across Australia for what is always a standout event on our calendar, bringing together the very best of our sport, both on and off the track. The Nationals are not only a celebration of elite competition, but also an opportunity to connect, share ideas and strengthen the bonds and dedication to the greyhound that underpin our industry.

This year's gathering comes at a time when the importance of leadership, unity, collaboration and a shared commitment to the future of our sport could not be more paramount. When we present a clear, factual account of the social, economic and community contributions our industry delivers, and the significant strides we have already made, and continue to make, in animal welfare — we can, and do, make an impact.



Tom Salom

Across our jurisdictions, there is a growing recognition of the progress achieved in welfare standards, integrity and transparency. Coupled with the meaningful role the industry plays in regional communities, this provides a strong foundation for our ongoing advocacy and engagement with governments and stakeholders across the spectrum.

Events like The Nationals are an important demonstration of our sport at its very best – competitive, professional and united. They showcase not only the quality of our racing, but also the people, partnerships and shared values that drive us forward.

I encourage you to make the most of your time in Victoria whether through the Symposium and interest group meetings, the racing, or the opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends from across the industry.

Thank you for being here, and I wish you an enjoyable and successful Nationals. Up the mighty Vics!

Tom Salom

Chairman, Greyhound Racing Victoria



ON BEHALF OF the Victorian Government, I'm honoured to extend a warm welcome to you all to Melbourne and Victoria for the Greyhound Clubs Australia Nationals 2026.

Our Government is enormously proud of the Victorian greyhound racing industry and the contribution it makes to our State.

Greyhound Racing Victoria has done an extraordinary job during my time as the Minister to ensure the sport remains vibrant and relevant, and that it continues to contribute to the economy and communities right around Victoria.

Here in Victoria, we've seen very significant progress in implementing world-leading standards of welfare and integrity, and I know that GRV understands the importance of having systems and processes that are beyond reproach.

The Nationals are a great opportunity to ensure that jurisdictions are not confronting the challenges that face our sport in isolation.

While there will be plenty of amazing racing action on the track, there will also be opportunities to connect with colleagues and competitors from other jurisdictions to understand the challenges you're all facing and to tackle



Anthony Carbines

them in a co-ordinated and unified way. I encourage you all to make the most of that opportunity.

As the self-proclaimed 'sporting capital' of the nation it is of course a great honour to be playing host to this event.

I thank the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club and GRV and all the other participating clubs and governing bodies, and I welcome participants from around the country and wish you all the best.

I know you have a busy program away from the track and a lot of important work to do, but I'd also encourage you to take the time to enjoy meeting and socialising with people from all around the country who share your passion for greyhound racing, and of course enjoy the amazing hospitality that Victoria has to offer.

Hon. Anthony Carbines MP

State Member for Ivanhoe, Minister for Racing

RÉSERVEZ MAINTENANT DON'T MISS OUT!

Join us for a week of elegance, excitement, and unforgettable memories. Reconnect, celebrate, and immerse yourself in a truly *magnifique* experience.

Greyhound Clubs Australia Nationals 2026

Where passion meets performance... with a French twist.

A spectacular celebration of *le lévrier*, where Parisian café charm meets Moulin Rouge glamour. Join guests from across Australasia for a week of racing, connection, learning, and unforgettable *joie de vivre*.

Can Can Can! Yes ... you absolutely can!

THE EXPERIENCE C'EST MAGNIFIQUE!

From thrilling state vs state National Finals to vibrant social soirées and engaging business sessions, the Nationals deliver *un peu de tout*:

- ♥ Elite greyhound racing featuring the National Straight Track, Sprint and Distance Finals
- ♥ Networking & industry connection
- ♥ Learning & innovation
- ♥ Social events with Parisian flair
- ♥ Friendly rivalry and celebration
- ♥ Fun and friendship with fellow greyhound racing lovers

And for those wanting more ... extend your stay and experience the excitement of coursing with the prestigious NCA Waterloo Cup at the unique Lang Lang course.

LE LUXE AWAITS THE LANGHAM, MELBOURNE

Indulge in timeless elegance at The Langham, Melbourne, your luxurious home throughout Nationals week, set along the banks of the Yarra River in Southbank:

- ♥ 5-star impeccable hospitality
- ♥ Beautiful rooms & premium comfort
- ♥ Grand European palace-hotel feel oozing elegance, warmth, and indulgence
- ♥ A breathtaking custom-made Waterford crystal chandelier on arrival

Perfectly positioned in Melbourne's cultural heart

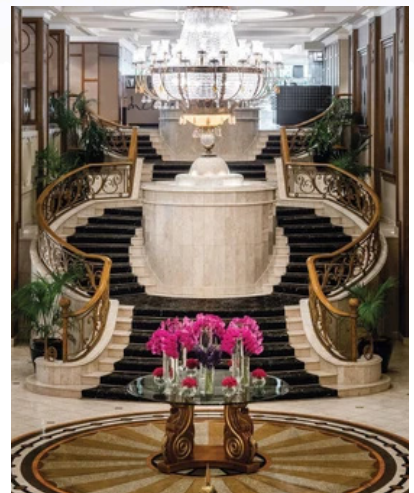
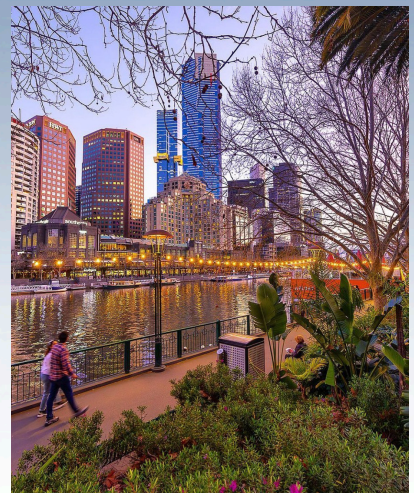
- ♥ 8-minute stroll to Crown Casino
- ♥ Emporium Melbourne & Chapel Street nearby
- ♥ NGV and arts precinct at your doorstep
- ♥ Arbory Afloat & Siglo Bar for chic Parisian-inspired experiences

A return to elegance

The 2018 Nationals were hosted here and so memorable, we simply had to return.

- ♥ Most meetings (including the National Symposium) held here
- ♥ Event transport departs and returns from the hotel
- ♥ **EXCLUSIVE RATE** see sandowngreyhounds.com.au
- ♥ Book via Sandown Greyhound Racing Club

Stay where the action is... vive le luxe!



The Langham

LES AFFAIRES COMMENCE

➤ TUESDAY 25 AUGUST

VETS AND ANALYSTS GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA SUB-COMMITTEE (VAC) *Invite Only*

Location: Greyhound Racing Victoria, Boardroom
Event times: 10am – 4pm
Organiser: Dr Steven Karamatic

➤ WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST

Connection & Collaboration

NATIONAL STEWARDS' CONFERENCE (NSC) *Invite Only*

Location: The Langham, Flinders Room
Event times: 9am – 1pm
What's included: Morning Tea & Lunch
Organiser: Paul Searle

GREYHOUNDS AS PETS ADOPTION MEETING (GAP)

Location: The Langham, Collins Room
Event times: 9:30am – 4:30pm
What's included: Full catering
Organiser: Sean Stanton

GREYHOUNDS AUSTRALASIA BOARD MEETING *Invite Only*

Location: The Langham, Swanston Room
Event times: 10am – 2pm
What's included: Full catering
Organiser: Michelle Bartolo Grima

GREYHOUND CLUBS AUSTRALIA AGM

Location: The Langham, Flinders Room
Event times: 2pm – 4:30pm
What's included: Lunch from 1pm & Afternoon Tea
Organiser: Troy Iwanyk

➤ THURSDAY 27 AUGUST

SOCIAL PARTNERS' HIGH TEA

Location: The Langham, Aria Restaurant

Event times: 1pm – 3pm

World-famous afternoon tea served in exquisite surrounds—très élégant.



High Tea at The Langham

NATIONAL TRACK CURATORS (NTC)

Location: Cranbourne Racing Complex

Event times: 7:30am – 3.45pm

Transport: ex The Langham

What's included: Catering provided

Organisers: Ron Matthews and Glenn Fish

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM 2026

Making Connections

Location: The Langham/MCG

Event times: 9am – 3.30pm

Free: Registration required

Organiser: David Simonette



national 2026
SYMPOSIUM
Making Connections

A refreshed and revitalised Symposium format—shorter, sharper, and more engaging than ever: a perfect blend of sport, culture, and connection.

Morning Session

- Hear from leading

figures Dr Denis Napthine AO and Brian Cook AM

- Explore greyhound-specific and broader learning opportunities
- Network across owners, breeders, trainers, vets, media & administrators

Lunch

Afternoon Session

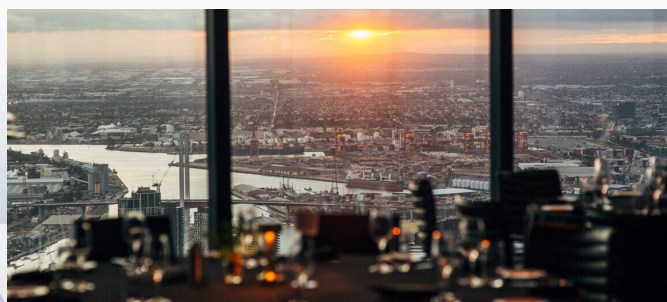
- Guided MCG tour
- Afternoon Tea
- Guest speaker Titus O'Reily, podcast host and author of 'A Thoroughly Unhelpful History of Australian Sport'.

WELCOME COCKTAILS – A TASTE OF FRANCE

Location: Eureka 89, Level 89/ 7 Riverside Quay, Southbank

Event times: 6pm – 9pm

- Uninterrupted 360° breathtaking views of Melbourne
- Premium wines, cocktails & substantial canapés
- Live Music
- Relaxed Parisian café atmosphere — perfect for reconnecting with friends



➤ FRIDAY 28 AUGUST

NATIONAL STRAIGHT TRACK FINAL (G3)

Location:	Healesville Greyhounds
Event times:	9.30am – 3pm
What's included:	Food & beverages
Transport:	Return to and from The Langham
Punters Club:	VIC, NSW, QLD & SA battle it out for state pride

GALA DINNER – CAN CAN CAN? OF COURSE YOU CAN!

Location:	Hawthorn Arts Centre
Event times:	5.30pm – 11.30pm
Transport:	Return to and from The Langham

• A whirlwind of feathers, sequins, rhinestones ... and other glittery stuff, hosted in a majestic heritage-listed venue (est. 1888) with a three-course dinner, drinks & dazzling entertainment from Melbourne's finest performers.

• **Dress Code: Arrive like a Parisian star.** *Ladies* – channel your inner diva, cocktail dresses or evening gowns in deep reds or rich jewel tones. *Gentlemen* – Suave, sophisticated, sharp and polished.

Awards presented:

• Fernando Bale Sire of the Year, Paul Wheeler Dam of the Year, Denise Fysh Award, Greyhounds Australasia Run of the Year, Australian Leading Trainer and Australian GCA Greyhound of the Year 2025/26. Plus induction of three new members into the coveted GCA Hall of Fame.

➤ SATURDAY 29 AUGUST

MEMSIE STAKES DAY – ELITE GROUP RACING SPECTACLE

Location:	Caulfield Racecourse
Event times:	10.30am – 3.45pm
Transport:	Return to and from The Langham
What's included:	General Admission ticket

GCA NATIONALS NIGHT – NATIONAL SPRINT & DISTANCE FINALS (G1)

Location:	Sandown Park
Event times:	5.30pm – 11pm
Transport:	Return to and from The Langham
What's included:	Racebook plus three-course sit-down dinner & beverages

➤ SUNDAY 30 AUGUST *Au Revoir*

NCA WATERLOO CUP – WEEK TWO ACTION

Location:	Lang Lang
Event times:	8.30am – 3pm
What's included:	Lunch and Transport provided

SANDOWN HISTORY



One of my fondest memories of the Nationals was as a 15-year-old boy in attendance at Sandown's first running of the Sprint Championship won by Warrnambool star Princess Kerry, pictured.

Held over 555 yards on 3 October 1968, Princess Kerry was a strikingly beautifully marked predominantly white bitch with fawn patches. Raced by "Hoppy" Skipworth and trained by "Digger" Skeyhill, I recall her beginning quickly from Box 8 and leading throughout to defeat fellow Victorian sprint star Palatinus and outstanding New South Wales finalist Second Stage in 30.2/16s.

The Club was obviously delighted when the Skipworth family of Warrnambool donated the Trophy and photos to be placed on display in the Club's Museum.

Opened in August 2023 the Museum was a long time in the making. Matt Corby (former SGRC, CEO) and I would regularly discuss the possibility of a national museum, and we collected quite a few artefacts in the initial stages. Frustratingly, the project stalled for around 10 years due to State parochialism. However, the idea of the museum being located at Sandown Park was reignited by Adrian Scott, current SGRC CEO. It was in no small part due to his enthusiasm and vision, combined with Bernie Dillon's energy and astute eye for the design that has resulted in the classy exhibition we have today.

There is no more fitting place for the Museum than at one of the premier greyhound complexes in the world, Sandown Park – a club of great history. Legendary administrator Roy Maidment organised the Sandown Greyhound Racing and Coursing Club with a committee connected to the National Coursing Association of Victoria. The Club Secretary was Jack McKenna, who had successfully organised coursing at Tatura. Jack and Roy decided to establish the Sandown Company in 1933 to promote both Plumpton and Speed coursing behind the pacemaker. Together with a group from the National Coursing Association of Victoria stalwarts they set up a proprietary partnership named the Sandown Park Coursing Club.

The affiliation leased the old Sandown racecourse, where metropolitan horse racing is now conducted by the Melbourne Racing Club, for £150 (\$11,000) a year. A Speed coursing racetrack and a Plumpton coursing field were constructed in 1935, with Speed coursing commencing in September 1935 followed by Plumpton coursing one year later.

Daylight Speed coursing continued at the Sandown



The Skipworth family donated Princess Kerry's 1968 trophy to the Neil Brown Museum at Sandown Park.

track until April 1942 when the ground was taken over by the US army; not resuming until 1944. In 1947, the Club rejected an offer to purchase the 169-acre property for £40,000 (\$1.5m). The Sandown Park Coursing Club then bought the current 19-acre site on the other side of the railway line in Lightwood Road for £9,100 (\$372,000). Permission to race was only granted on the condition that a straight track be installed to placate coursing interests. The straight track cost £6,000 (\$232,000) but was only used once.

The new club was financed by more than 100 subscribers, combining to contribute £55,000 to the Debenture Issue. One licence to conduct speed coursing was issued to the National Coursing Association of Victoria and the other to the Greyhound Owners Trainers and Breeders Association (GOTBA),

With conversion complete, both city licences were able to commence the long-awaited mechanical racing at Sandown Park in September 1956. Under Chairman Jack Kelly, the true Plumpton men set about the task of sending greyhound racing into a new era at Sandown Park.

The club has successfully conducted Greyhound Racing ever since, graced by the best greyhounds in history to compete at the highest level. A community club, always with the Owners and Trainers' best interests at the forefront.

On National Sprint and Distance Finals evening, please take time out to enjoy all the memories captured and carefully curated for perpetuity. I am sure you will be delighted and impressed at what you find.

And just perhaps there will be another young boy or girl witnessing their first Nationals, inspiring a life-long love of this great sport. Wouldn't that be fantastic.

Neil Brown

Chairman, Sandown Greyhound Racing Club

FROM ADRIAN

On behalf of the Sandown Greyhound Racing Club, we cannot wait to welcome you to the Magnifique Nationals 2026.

Planning commenced almost two years ago, and securing The Langham was high on our agenda from day one. The accommodation at The Langham is luxurious and guests returning from the 2018 Nationals will remember what a truly wonderful place it is. The venue will be the headquarters for activities including the National Greyhound Symposium and many of the business meetings. It will also be the meet and drop-off location for coach transportation throughout the week.

The Nationals team have stayed true to tradition with the overall format of the week. There are a few little tweaks to keep things fresh and interesting including a revamped Symposium that will include a visit to the home of sport, the MCG. With the Symposium costs underwritten by GCA, GA, GRV and SGRC, the day is free to attend. However, only those that have registered in advance will be allowed admittance.

Later that night the Welcome Cocktails will be held at Eureka 89, with a hint of French flavour. It's an easy stroll over the road from your hotel and offers a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends and make a few new ones as well.

The traditional Friday business meetings schedule has



Adrian Scott

moved to Wednesday freeing up our guests to come out to picturesque Healesville for the Group 3 National Straight Track Final.

The change also makes the Wednesday night a “free evening” for National guests to do their own thing. There are plenty of great restaurants and bars within the Southbank precinct and, of course, there is the Crown Casino within a 10-minute stroll of our hotel.

Everyone will be back after Healesville in plenty of time to don their finest for GCA's gala awards that includes the announcement of the GCA Australian Greyhound of the Year 2025/26. This occasion will be spectacular, to be held at the heritage-listed Hawthorn Arts Centre. We aren't prepared to give away too many secrets other than guests should be prepared for a night of Parisienne splendour with a generous splash of *Moulin Rouge*. Dress to Impress as you know you CAN, CAN, CAN!

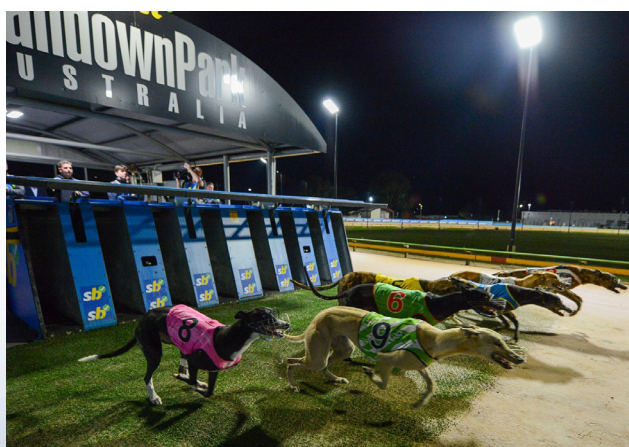
The weekend is reserved for racing with an enticing mix of premium thoroughbred and greyhound racing on Saturday will be followed by grassroots coursing of Week 2 of the Waterloo Cup on Sunday. It really is the best of all worlds. The crowning glory are the Group 1 National Sprint and Distance Championship Finals because these races are what this week is genuinely all about.

At Sandown Park we are proud of all we do to ensure the finest standard of racing and customer experience. It's a promise we will deliver on.

National attendees are asked to book with the Sandown Club as early as is practicable as this will assist the Nationals organising team with final event numbers for catering, transport etc. Should you need assistance with any booking information don't hesitate to get in touch with the club on (03) 9546 9511 or www.sandowngreyhounds.com.au

Adrian Scott

*Chief Executive Officer,
Sandown Greyhound Racing Club*



SANDOWN PARK NATIONALS 2026

MAGNIFIQUE

COST SCHEDULE

ACCOMMODATION

The Langham Melbourne see sandowngreyhounds.com.au

TUESDAY 25 AUGUST	10-4	VAC MEETING @ GRV HEAD OFFICE Vets and Analysts Greyhounds Australasia Sub-Committee	Invite only
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST	9-1	NATIONAL STEWARDS' CONFERENCE @ The Langham	\$125 Invite only
	2-4.30	GCA AGM @ THE LANGHAM Greyhound Clubs Australia Annual General Meeting	FREE To affiliated clubs
	9.30-4.30	GAP MEETING @ THE LANGHAM National Greyhound Adoption/As Pets	\$125 Invite only
	10-2	GA BOARD MEETING @ THE LANGHAM Greyhound Australasia Directors	Invite only
THURSDAY 27 AUGUST	7.30-3.45	NATIONAL TRACK CURATORS' @ CRANBOURNE	\$125
	9-3.30	NATIONAL GREYHOUND SYMPOSIUM @ THE LANGHAM / MCG Strictly with prior registration	FREE
	1-3	SOCIAL PARTNERS' HIGH TEA @ THE LANGHAM (ARIA)	\$100
	6-9	WELCOME COCKTAILS @ EUREKA 89	\$150
FRIDAY 28 AUGUST	9.30-3	GCA NATIONAL STRAIGHT TRACK FINAL @ HEALESVILLE	\$100
	5.30-11.30	GCA GALA DINNER @ HAWTHORN ARTS CENTRE	\$180
SATURDAY 29 AUGUST	10.30-3.45	LET'S GO HORSE RACING @ CAULFIELD	\$100
	5.30-11	GCA NATIONAL SPRINT & DISTANCE FINALS @ SANDOWN PARK	\$125
SUNDAY 30 AUGUST	8.30-3.30	NCAV 2026 WATERLOO CUP @ LANG LANG	FREE To all attendees

Registration via website sandowngreyhounds.com.au
Or contacting Alba Gomez email agomez@grv.org.au or Sandown Office telephone (03) 9546 9511

➤ **Close of Registration is Monday 10 August** ◀

Merci Beaucoup

➤ WITH THANKS ◀

The GCA Nationals 2026 are
proudly supported by:



SandownPark

But above all...
This event thrives because of YOU.