



Group 1 - 515 metres

Heats – Saturday 21 November 2026

**Sportsbet Melbourne Cup Final Saturday 28th
November 2026**

WINNER \$500,000

Second \$150,000

Third \$75,000

Fourth \$37,500

**FOR COMPLETE DETAILS, SEE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS OF
ENTRY OR CONTACT SANDOWN GREYHOUND RACING CLUB
(SGRC)**

Phone: (03) 9546 9511

Email Ron Matthews: r.matthews@grv.org.au

The 2026 Group 1 Sportsbet Melbourne Cup

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Nominations for all greyhounds (including exempted runners) must be received by Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) by 10:30am on **WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2026**.

Nominations can **ONLY** be accepted by GRV by phone ((03) 8329 1100) or online at fasttrack.grv.org.au.

The Nominator must advise GRV that their nomination is for the Melbourne Cup.

INTERSTATE ENTRIES PLEASE NOTE: GRV recommends that all interstate greyhounds that are racing in Victoria for the first time are nominated early. This is to ensure that there is enough time to validate trainer and owner details prior to the close of nominations.

The greyhounds that win the following races **OR** compete in The Shootout at Sandown Park on Friday 13 November 2026 will gain exemption into the **Eight Heats** of the Melbourne Cup to be held on **Saturday 21 November 2026**, provided a nomination is submitted.

Group 1 Melbourne Cup (2025) – Canya Mayhem
Group 1 Hobart Thousand (2025) – Slick Badger
Group 1 Silver Chief (2025) – Traumatise
Group 1 The Phoenix (2025) – Deadly Avenger
Group 1 Paul Wheeler Simply The Best (2025) – Sooty Keeping
Group 1 Gold Bullion (2026) – Canya Mayhem
Group 1 Temlee (2026) – Mepunga Reward
Group 1 Australian Cup (2026) – Dramatical
Group 1 Perth Cup (2026) – Aston Rayner
Group 1 Golden Easter Egg (2026) – Off The Chart
Group 1 The Sandgroper (2026) – Canya Excite Me
Group 1 Sapphire Crown (2026) – Secret Bandit
Group 1 Harrison-Dawson (2026) – Dewana Star
Group 1 Flying Amy (2026) – Consigliere
Group 1 Peter Mosman Opal (2026) – Ritza Sophie
Group 1 Vic Peters (2026) – Grant Keeping
Group 1 Brisbane Cup (2026) – Consigliere
Group 1 Maturity Classic (2026) – Indy Melman
Group 1 National Sprint Championship (2026) – Wrongly Accused (formerly Organised Crime)
Group 1 Adelaide Cup (2026) –
Group 1 Topgun (2026) –
Group 2 Warragul Cup (2026) – Dramatical
Group 2 Shepparton Cup (2026) – Off The Chart
Group 2 Horsham Cup (2026) – Wrongly Accused (formerly Organised Crime)
Group 2 Geelong Cup (2026) – Paw Matic
Group 2 Warrnambool Cup (2026) – Dewana Star
Group 2 Ballarat Cup (2026) – Off The Chart
Group 2 Bendigo Cup (2026) –
Group 2 Cranbourne Cup (2026) –
Group 2 Laurels Classic (2026) –
Group 3 Launching Pad (2026) – Repeat The Same
Group 3 Shootout (2026) All Runners
(2026) Million Dollar Chase –
ALL 2026 Melbourne Cup Prelude Winners

Any nominated greyhound that is not exempted under these conditions will **ONLY** be eligible for any remaining positions in the eight heats (plus reserves) by having competed (regardless of finishing position) in at least ONE Melbourne Cup Prelude Series during 2026. These remaining positions will be allocated based on the greyhounds ranking from lowest to highest.

Order of entry:

1. Exempt race winners
2. Prelude 2nd placed runners sorted by ranking
3. Remaining Prelude runners sorted by ranking

GRV Local Rule 50.2 Graders discretion shall also apply.

Melbourne Cup Preludes series

1. 1st Prelude Thursday 15th October 2026
2. 2nd Prelude Thursday 29th October 2026
3. 3rd Prelude/Laurels Final Friday 13th November 2026

The 2026 Laurels Classic Final will be classified as being part of Series 3 of the Melbourne Cup Prelude Series. All greyhounds competing in the Laurels Final will be deemed to have competed in a set of preludes, with the winner exempt for The Melbourne Cup Heats.

Greyhounds may compete in any number of Preludes to enhance selection chances.

Composition of the heats will be subject to the top 25% of nominated greyhounds being seeded and distributed evenly amongst the heats, with the remaining 75% of greyhounds being drawn randomly into the heats. Guarding of owners and trainers in heats will apply where possible.

In the event of a dead heat in a Melbourne Cup heat, GRV Local Rule 44.2 shall apply.

The connections agree to the use of their greyhound's name and photograph for promotional and/or advertising purposes by SGRC, or any firm, business or organisation approved by SGRC, arising from it competing in the 2026 Melbourne Cup series.

SGRC and GRV reserves the right to alter and/or add to these conditions. The final field for the 2026 Sportsbet Melbourne Cup final shall be determined in accordance with the GRV Rules and the Greyhounds Australasia Rules.

SandownPark