

# MEDIA RELEASE



THOROUGHBRED RACING SA

21 March 2011

## Surf meets turf at Penong Cup

The tiny west coast town of Penong is where the sea meets the country and on Saturday, March 26, big things will happen when surfing and farming communities unite for a worthy cause at the 2011 Far West Farmers' Penong Cup.

Since the death of young boy who was taken by a shark at nearby Port Sinclair in 1975, the Safe Swim Committee has played an integral part in Cup celebrations to raise vital funds to maintain a shark proof enclosure in his memory.

And following another recent shark attack in the notorious Bight waters, the Committee is gearing up to put on a traditional country spread to support the project and feed the 400-plus guests.

"We have a long-standing affiliation with the Safe Swim Committee, whose assistance with hospitality arrangements at the Penong Cup has helped to transform the event into a much-anticipated destination across the region," Penong Racing Club Secretary Helen Mahar said.

"This is also a great opportunity for guests to show their support for a cause committed to making our pristine beaches a safer place for locals and tourists."

In keeping with tradition, there will be plenty of social action happening on and off the track, beginning the night before on Friday, March 25, when the Penong Racing Club holds its annual Calcutta at the Penong Hotel.

And it wouldn't be a day at the races without fashions. This year's theme is 'animal print', with prizes up for the grabs in Fashions on the Field.

"The Penong Cup is a friendly bush race meeting, but it's also a great opportunity to get dressed up and celebrate the traditions of racing," Ms Mahar said.

"The event has a large footprint with people travelling from the mines and communities on the Nullarbor and from across Eyre Peninsula to attend – it's a great mix of town, surf and country and no doubt the fashions will reflect that."

In addition to the Safe Swim Committee's fundraising lunch, the Club is inviting guests to kick on for dinner at the track, where renowned local artist Flip Wright will entertain the crowds.

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With \$28000 in prize money up for grabs, the five race program includes the Penong Cup – part of the Bill Holland Eyre Peninsula Cup Series.

For those making a trek to attend, it is worthwhile staying for a hit of golf. Penong is home to the 'Windmill hole', Hole 3 at the Nullarbor Links – the world's longest golf course.

The Penong Cup is also the second to last chance for racegoers to stamp their Eyre Peninsula *Third Time Lucky* pass and enter the draw to win a \$1000 Harbourn town voucher. Those who have attended two other Eyre Peninsula race meetings this season and had their passes stamped will enter free of charge.

Gates open at 10am, with races beginning after lunch. Entry is \$10 for adults, children under 16 enter free.

**For more information and bookings phone 8625 6275 or visit [theracessa.com.au](http://theracessa.com.au)**

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