



VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE

MEDIA RELEASE

HISTORIC ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE VICTORIAN ATHLETIC LEAGUE

12 April 2007

The Victorian Athletic League is pleased to announce that at 10am today AEST the agreement to establish a professional athletics meeting in New Zealand was signed. The two parties were the Cooks Garden Trust Board of Wanganui, New Zealand and the Victorian Athletic League. The agreement was signed in Wanganui, New Zealand, at the athletics track in which the meeting will held. The meeting will be sanctioned by Athletics New Zealand but run under the Victorian Athletic League handicapping system.

President of the Victorian Athletic League George Flack was in Wanganui to sign the agreement. He signed the agreement with the Chairman of the Cooks Garden Trust Board Gerald McDouall. President George Flack said "this is a significant and historic day for the Victorian Athletic League as we now have an international event on our calendar"

The signing of this agreement has been a long process which all began in March 2006 during the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. A simple coffee between the Victorian Athletic League, Chief Executive Officer, Mark Howard and Stuart Dempster from Sport and Recreation Wanganui started the beginning of the relationship. They discussed the possibility of a professional running meeting to be implemented into the VAL calendar, it was then that both parties realised the idea could be feasible.

VAL directors George Flack and Wally Meechan along with Mark Howard visited Wanganui in December 2006 and were impressed with the whole Wanganui region and what it has to offer, not only with athletics but with other sports such as cycling and their magnificent rowing facilities along the river which flows right through the middle of the city.

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The meeting is scheduled for the weekend of the 2nd - 3rd February 2008. The Victorian Athletic League will be seeking sponsorship from major corporations to help with the process of flying athletes across the Tasman and to maximise the prizemoney on offer to the athletes who compete at the meeting.

New Zealand athletes have already experienced the excitement of competing in professional athletics meetings when a group of three runners visited the Bendigo International Madison Carnival in March this year.

For further information and updates on the Wanganui meeting please see the news section on the val website

END OF RELEASE

For sponsorship opportunities please contact the Victorian Athletic League office

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