



Make up my mind about The Melbourne Cup



**THINKKIND
AUSTRALIA**

HUMANE EDUCATION RESOURCES



Hi, I'm Rosalind!

(But most people call me Rosie)

Every year my family celebrates the Melbourne Cup. My dad loves betting on the winning horse, and sometimes he wins a lot of money! My mum likes to wear a pretty hat and dress on the day. I watch the race on TV with my family every year.

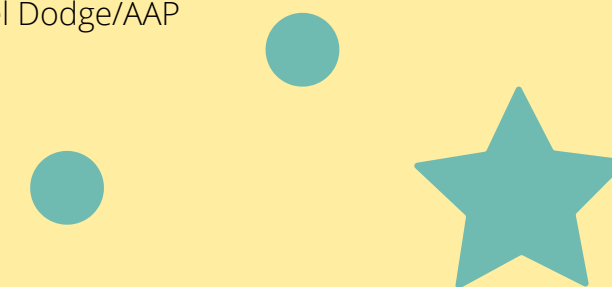


MELBOURNE CUP PROTESTS

But recently I read a news article about people protesting the Melbourne Cup. They had signs saying the industry was cruel and that horses were being mistreated. It made me unsure about celebrating the event this year.



Photograph: Michael Dodge/AAP



About the Melbourne Cup



Souri Sengdara, Fabulous Femme

The Melbourne Cup is often called the 'race that stops the nation'. It is a public holiday in Melbourne but not in other states. The first race was held in 1861.

In 2019, 1.9 million people watched the race on TV and around 80,000 attended Flemington Racecourse (the lowest crowd since 1995).

People like to dress up for Melbourne Cup events and parties.

RACE PROTESTS

2019 saw the lowest race attendance in 24 years.

In 2019 the race was overshadowed by news about animal cruelty and the pulling out of big celebrities like singer Taylor Swift.

People protested against the event because of the mistreatment of horses in the Australian racing industry. The 'Nup to the Cup' protests garnered a lot of media coverage.



'Wastage'

Around 13,000 thoroughbred foals are bred each year in Australia.

But only 300 out of every 1,000 foals will ever race. The rest are known as 'wastage'.

Wastage also includes thoroughbreds who leave the racetrack once their racing career has ended. Each year thousands of thoroughbreds end up slaughtered for meat.

The main reason for withdrawing a horse from racing is poor performance. Others include illness, injury or behavioural issues. Most horses will race for only 2-3 years, yet their life expectancy is 25-30 years.



CPR's Proposal

The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses developed a rehoming proposal for racehorses in 2014.

The lobby group called for a 1% levy on all betting to raise \$143 million annually. These funds would go towards a retirement plan to rehome ex-racehorses.

The plan also called for a reduction in breeding to ensure less wastage in the racing industry, as well as a rehoming incentive scheme to encourage current owners and trainers to rehome their horses.

This plan was rejected by the Racing Industry.



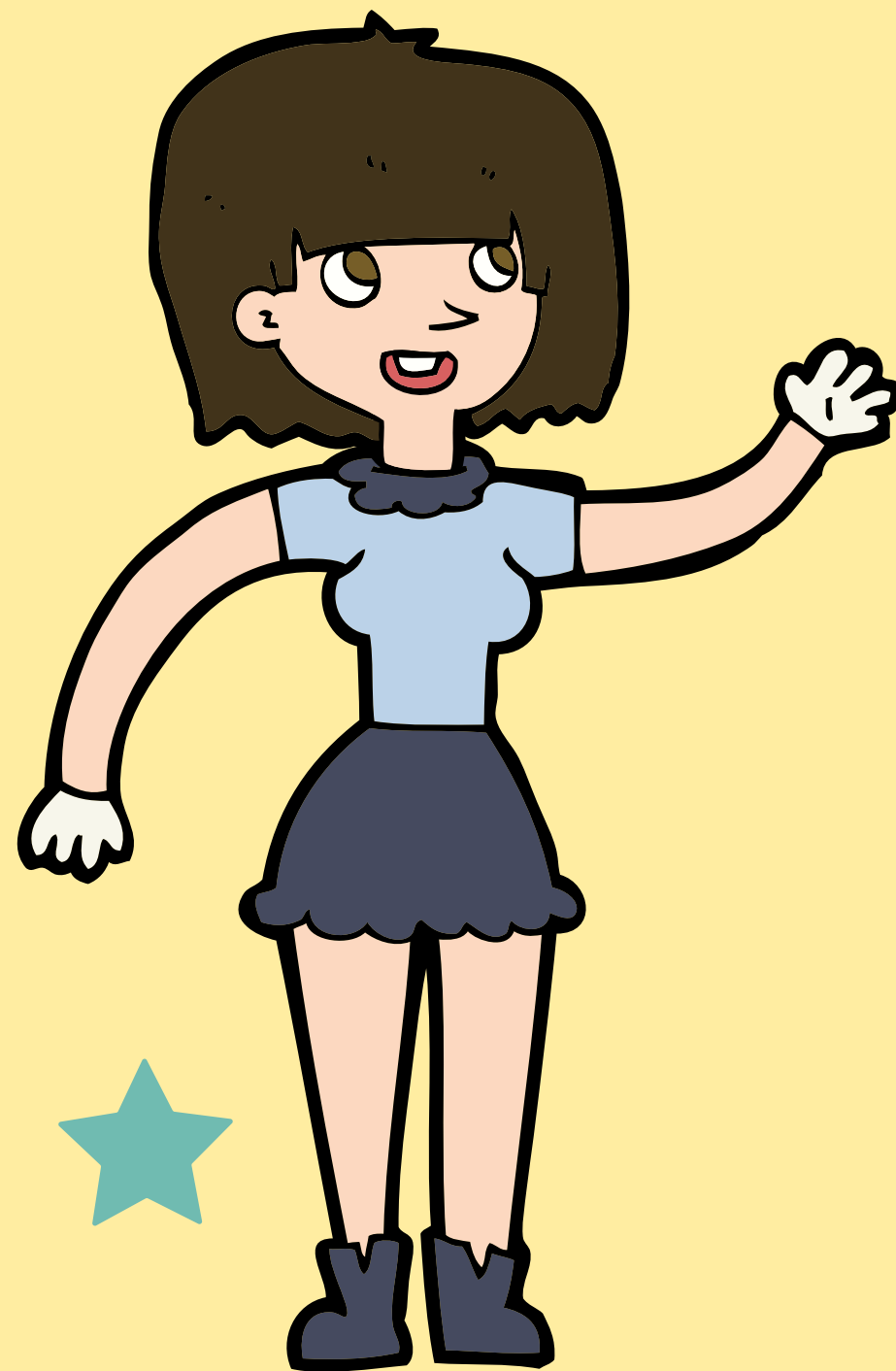
Other Issues

Whips, injuries and doping

- **Whips** are used on horses to improve racing performance. These can inflict pain and injury. Other painful devices include tongue ties and spurs.
- Racehorses are at **risk of injury** during racing and training. These mostly involve muscle, bones, tendons and ligaments. Serious injuries include fractures and ruptured ligaments or tendons. Horses are usually euthanised after serious injury.
- Some trainers and owners use **illegal drugs** to enhance racing performance. This is called 'doping' and can cause blood thickening, heart and nerve problems.



LET'S MAKE UP OUR MINDS!



Many Australians refuse to make bets or take part in Melbourne Cup celebrations. Others organise rallies in public places. These are all forms of **protest**.

Should Rosie celebrate Melbourne Cup this year?
What would *you* do?