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## **BLACK CAVIAR LEADS THE WAY WITH BRAND NEW EQUINE TRAIL**

During the early hours of the morning on 18 August 2006 in Nagambie, a black leggy foal was born, and would become one of the world's greatest race horses.

This champion is none other than racehorse Black Caviar, Nagambie's proudest equine industry icon.

Known as "Nelly" around the stables, she holds the record for the most Group One wins, taking out 25 wins from 25 straight starts, including 15 Group One wins and the Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The Strathbogie Shire is known as the 'Horse capital of Victoria' and is gaining greater prominence in thoroughbred circles, fast approaching the Hunter Valley in New South Wales as being the premium location for breeding and raising thoroughbreds.

The State Government, in conjunction with Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce, has recently launched the Black Caviar Trail which aims to connect regional Victoria's equine industry with a self-guided trail that tells the stories that have shaped the thoroughbred industry.

Nagambie Lakes Tourism and Commerce executive officer Sissy Hoskin has been particularly instrumental in piloting the project to better connect regional Victoria to its city counterparts.

"The proposal was to develop a new touring route leveraging off the enormous interest created by Black Caviar and to highlight the credentials and history of the regional thoroughbred breeding and racing industry," she said.

The touring route takes in 25 designated sites of significance, commencing at the Victoria Racing Club Flemington Racecourse and terminating at Chatswood Stud near Seymour.

The journey will take participants from Flemington to Oaklands Junction, through Kilmore, Seymour, Northwood, Nagambie and Avenel.

"The trail allows for flexibility as participants are able to customise their tour by picking and choosing which of the sites they may wish to focus on, and which ones they may prefer to leave out," Sissy said.

The drive takes visitors through the picturesque countryside of regional Victoria, travelling past state of the art training and breeding facilities.

The tour also includes some of the region's most prominent wineries, cafes, restaurants, a river cruise and, of course, a visit to the iconic statue of Black Caviar, situated on the Lake Nagambie foreshore.

Sissy said the trail is a component of the Nagambie Lakes Economic Strategy blueprint, which is a five-year strategy to encourage regional visitation and investment to the region.

“There is a dynamic vision for the development of Nagambie and the surrounding district, which is being delivered through the strong working relationship between business, industry, community and local government,” she said.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said the trail is a great initiative that showcases the offerings of the Strathbogie Shire and regional Victoria.

“The Black Caviar Trail is a new and exciting tourism venture for our region, which will appeal to our locals, as well as interstate and international visitors,” Cr McClaren said.

“Our equine industry is at the heart of our communities and it is fantastic to be able to share the region’s rich history and achievements with the world.”

To find out more about the trail, visit [www.blackcaviartrail.com.au](http://www.blackcaviartrail.com.au)

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