

# MEDIA RELEASE



November 12 2008

## V8 SUPERCAR DRIVERS HIT NQ FOR SUNDAY'S OFFICIAL TICKET LAUNCH

NORTH Queensland residents will have the chance to meet their V8 Supercar heroes when five drivers – including Series leader **Jamie Whincup** – touch down in Townsville for the official Townsville 400 ticket launch at Jupiters Casino this Sunday.

Series young guns **Whincup, James Courtney, Rick** and **Todd Kelly** and **Fabian Coulthard** will meet and greet fans who head down to Jupiter's Townsville on Sunday to take advantage of the exclusive presale ticket offer.

V8 Supercars Australia is giving all North Queenslanders an opportunity to secure the best seats for July's race during an exclusive three-day ticket release starting at 9am this Sunday (November 16) through Ticketek.

The official ticket launch at Jupiter's Townsville is the place to be from 9am-2pm on Sunday, where eight Ticketek sales booths will be set up.

A free limited edition lanyard and ticket holder will be given with the first 5,000 tickets sold\* at the official launch and there will be free face painting and balloons for the kids, a sausage sizzle and official merchandise.

Whincup, who has secured victories in this year's Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000, the Coffee Club V8 Supercar Challenge on the Gold Coast and at last weekend's Gulf Air Desert 400 in Bahrain, is looking forward to his visit to Townsville.

"This is my second trip to Townsville this year and there's no doubt that people are right behind the event," Whincup said.

"I love the place and I love the track. I can't wait to see the finished product with the full track, the pit complex, grandstand and corporate areas all in place.

"My view is that this event can really rival something like we have in Adelaide. There are just as many people in North Queensland when you take into account the whole region and we know people will travel a long way for a big event.

"Look at what happened in New Zealand earlier this year. Although that wasn't a great event for me personally when I crashed in qualifying they had to close the gates, it was that big. I think Townsville will be the same with tickets like gold."

V8 Supercars Townsville 400 Project Manager Kim Faithfull said: "The high calibre of drivers coming to Townsville on Sunday is a great sign of how excited the Series drivers are about having a V8 Supercar event in North Queensland.

"Next July's race will be the biggest event ever staged in the region and we are celebrating this with our exclusive ticket release offer for North Queensland residents only.

"North Queenslanders are at the top of the queue to secure the best seats for the inaugural race and I urge everyone to take advantage of this exciting opportunity from Sunday.

"Based on phone enquiries, we expect the Premium Grandstand seats to go fast."

The exclusive ticket offer for North Queenslanders runs from 9am AEST on Sunday November 16 until 5pm on Tuesday November 18 through Ticketek. Tickets will go on sale to the rest of Australia at 9am AEST on Wednesday November 19.

During the three-day offer, tickets can be purchased from Ticketek call centres on 132 849 (tickets must be mailed to an NQ address), at Ticketek outlets in Townsville and Cairns, and at the official ticket launch at Jupiter's Townsville. Proof of ID is required.

It is the first time in Australia that tickets to a V8 Supercar event have been released solely to local residents.

Ticket prices start at \$27 for Friday General Admission, with kids aged 12 and under free when accompanied by an adult.

The three-day presale offer is open to residents from Rockhampton north, and west to Mount Isa including Longreach, Barcaldine, Emerald and Blackwater.

For more information about the V8 Supercars Townsville 400, visit [www.v8supercarevents.com.au](http://www.v8supercarevents.com.au).

\* Maximum 10 lanyards with any one sale

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

The five V8 Supercar drivers who will be in Townsville on Sunday are young guns of the series.

- Series leader **Jamie Whincup** scored a clean sweep victory at the Gulf Air Desert 400 in Bahrain last weekend (November 8-9). Whincup has an impressive Championship lead over Mark Winterbottom and Garth Tander and has now won seven races in a row (one short of the record). Whincup races in Team Vodafone with Craig Lowndes. Together they have won the last three Supercheap Auto Bathurst 1000 titles. Whincup finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 2007 Championship.
- **James Courtney** – also of TV show *Dancing With The Stars* fame – is running seventh in this year's Series and races with Stone Brothers Racing.
- **Rick Kelly**, the younger of the Kelly brothers, was the 2006 V8 Supercar Champion, two-time Bathurst Champion and is the lead driver in the HSV Dealer Team.
- **Todd Kelly** is a former Bathurst winner (2005) and is a member of Jack Daniel's Racing having switched this year from the Holden Racing Team.
- **Fabian Coulthard** is running 13<sup>th</sup> in this year's Series, racing with Glenfords Racing. He has impressive results in his full rookie season.

#### **For Further Information:**

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