

LUKE MURRELL'S CUPS PREVIEW



Trying to piece together the ever-changing puzzle that is the Melbourne Cup?

Exclusive to *Winning Edge Investments*, Director of Australian Bloodstock and Melbourne Cup-winning owner Luke Murrell previews the 2019 edition of the 'race that stops the nation'.

Luke is always on the hunt for the next Melbourne Cup winner and has unique access to information about horses in the mix.

Want to know if a horse is qualified, likely to come to Australia, or if it's going well enough to be worth a bet? Find out below.

Luke is renowned as a highly respected and much-lauded judge of horseflesh, having selected and bought multiple Group 1 winners for himself and clients, including 2014 Melbourne Cup winner Protectionist, and recent G1 winners Brave Smash, Tosen Stardom and Master Of Design.

Luke also provides the highly-profitable 'Luke Murrell's Tips' service for Winning Edge Investments. Since inception, Luke's service has generated more than \$60,000 in profit and you can learn more about how to join the profit-making by clicking [here](#).

HORSE NAME	TAB FIXED (CAUL CUP)	TAB FIXED (MELB CUP)	MELB CUP Qualified?	Comment
CROSS COUNTER	\$15	\$15	✓	He is a super stayer, but I'll be surprised if they come. If handicapper Mr Carpenter rates him off his form, he must carry 60kg - anything else will be a gift and invite. Make no mistake though, he only won last year due to the fact everything in front of him stopped and didn't run the distance. He's a great horse and since the Cup has gone to another level, however the weight has to stop him and for that reason, I can't have him despite his class.
DEE EX BEE	N/A	\$26	✓	Rated 118 and only a Group 3 winner but currently is in the top three stayers in the world. If he comes (which I don't think he will), surely he gets too much weight. Happy to be around him until told otherwise.
FALCON EIGHT	N/A	\$26	✓	I really like this horse and tried to buy him, but the connections have told us he is NOT coming as he is too immature mentally.
ISPOLINI	N/A	\$26	✓	He only has Dubai form and that's only ever any good for Dubai only - happy to be around him.
MARMELO	N/A	\$15	✓	He has rightly campaigned in France this year simply because he is not going as good as he was and the French Stayers are the same horses and ordinary. He needs a wet track and after he couldn't get home when given all the favours last year I don't give him any hope to run top 2 in the Cup

MASTER OF REALITY	N/A	\$26	✓	He's a dour, one-batter by Frankel. The progeny of Frankel are wet trackers only so that won't suit Flemington. I don't rate him.
TORCEDOR	N/A	\$26	✓	He should be the one here as 12 months ago was rated in the top 2-3 stayers in the world. My big concern is will he be ready and fit enough? He should be in well compared to Cross Counter and is the forgotten horse, but I'd wait and see his next 1-2 runs.
DJANGO FREEMAN	\$15	\$26	✓	This will be too hard for him. The German 3yos were ordinary this year, and he has a good profile but was flattered and doesn't have the ratings.
JAPAN	N/A	\$26	✓	He's a proper horse but he won't come.
KING OF LEOGRANCE	N/A	\$26	✓	Nice progressive horse, but there is one big issue. Mr JC ROUGET trained him and I wouldn't buy Black Caviar off him for \$1, such is this guy's skill. They never ever leave his yard and improve so happy to be hard against. His run on the weekend was ok but is a Listed/Group 3 horse here only.
SPANISH MISSION	N/A	N/A	✓	Qualified but won't get enough weight & they're not interested in coming to Australia (this year at least).
STEEL PRINCE	N/A	\$26	✓	Terrific, consistent horse but his ratings are 5-6 at least off the good ones coming.
SURPRISE BABY	\$51	\$21	✓	Another really talented horse - with a gun trainer - but if it was for Australian-trained horses only then a Top 4 chance, but the internationals are just better.
VERRY ELLEEGANT	\$15	\$26	✓	I know she has a boom on her, but it's completely unjustified and I don't give her any chance in the CC or MC.
BROOME	N/A	\$51	✓	He's a proper horse but I'd say he won't come - they will try him in the Arc.
COMMUNIQUE	N/A	N/A	✓	He's a tired horse this year and not the same as last year. Given this, he's unlikely to come and if he does, he's not up to them on this year's form.
FINCH	\$26	\$26	✓	He ran 4th last year, but seriously in his whole career he just has no form to speak of. Last year was one of the weakest cups we have seen and given he hasn't raced since then, he's 1000/1.
GHOSTWATCH	N/A	\$26	✓	On ability he is the one I want to be with but given he hasn't raced since last year I'll put a line through him.
GOLD MOUNT	\$26	\$26	✓	He's a Top 4 chance but only if its wet. He's a little horse and for mine his get back style and his size is against him - nice horse though.
KEW GARDENS	N/A	\$26	✓	Good tough horse but would be surprised if he came.

LACCARIO	N/A	N/A	✓	On potential is a star, but his figures from the German Derby were average at best and he's too immature - he won't come.
A PRINCE OF ARRAN	\$26	\$26	✓	Going like a car with two flat tyres – PASS.
ASHRUN	N/A	N/A	✓	He went to a new level last start. Big money has tried to buy him and failed, but he's still very green. He has the right profile, but he won't come unless someone offers them \$3m+ (unlikely).
LATROBE	\$26	\$26	✓	Nice enough horse and might be a hope in a Caulfield Cup. He's going OK and you could include him.
MR QUICKIE	\$15	\$51	✓	He's a beauty this horse - very tough and progressive and Shamus Award is one of the best young sires in the country. It's hard to see him improving to win, but he will beat most of the locals.
MUGATOO	N/A	\$51	✗	In the paddock.
CHESTNUT COAT	\$101	\$101	✓	Japanese horse that failed last year. The Japanese stayers are ordinary at present and he's just another pack animal, so I'll pass.
WELLS FARHH GO	N/A	N/A	✓	An outstanding horse and if he came would be Top 3, however was lapped at his last start and perhaps something wasn't right. If he had another run in the next 3-4 weeks and went well I'd back him as he's a potential star.
MIRAGE DANCER	\$26	\$51	✓	He's been shopped around forever and finally someone has bought him. He's a decent horse on paper, but he's what I call a 'European horse only'. He doesn't have the right action or profile in his form to be a successful Australian horse. I give him next to no hope - even though he has talent.
NAGANO GOLD	N/A	N/A	✓	Nice enough horse but unless someone buys him, I don't think he will come.
OLD PERSIAN	\$26	\$51	✓	If he comes, I want to be with him, even though he has Dubai form! His run the other night in Germany was OK in a 'sit and sprint' but he has CLASS this horse and if he comes he can win.
RAA ATOL	N/A	\$51	✓	Nice horse but he has more problems than a new-born calf surrounded by a pack of hunger wolves. I don't think he will come but he's a tough horse and one to watch.
RAHEEN HOUSE	N/A	\$51	✓	Second favourite for the Ebor so will need a good run to get his weight up but is a genuine winning chance.
SOUTHERN FRANCE	N/A	\$51	✓	I'm told has lots of issues so he might not come but if he did he's one to include - ripper of a horse!

WAY TO PARIS	N/A	N/A	✓	Won't be coming is the latest I have heard. The owner is 90 and trainer doesn't speak a word of English.
ZABEEL PRINCE	N/A	N/A	✓	Qualified for the CC but I doubt he will come.
CALLED TO THE BAR	N/A	N/A	✓	Horse has leg issues so they won't bring him.
CRYSTAL OCEAN	N/A	N/A	✓	More chance of me playing cricket for Australia than this bloke coming to race here.
JACKFINBAR	N/A	N/A	✓	He's in and out but he just lacks the class. I would be surprised if he came.
SOUTH PACIFIC	N/A	N/A	✗	Nice horse and if he came I'd be interested, but he hasn't qualified yet, so big risk!
THOMAS HOBSON	N/A	N/A	✓	Possibly the toughest horse in training and if he comes I'll have something small on him. However, being 9yo I doubt he will come though.
TOO DARN HOT	N/A	N/A	✓	Has been retired so confident to say has NO HOPE as it did a tendon. Big shout out to the thieving bookies still taking bets though.
WEEKENDER	N/A	N/A	✓	Reckon he won't get enough weight and is another who has been shopped for two seasons, but he hasn't sold as he's limited.
DURETTO	\$51	\$51	✓	He was going to be a huge chance last year before going amiss. Now he has had that injury, happy to avoid him.
LE DON DE VIE	N/A	N/A	✗	Bought by Aussies but I don't know why. They paid big money for a horse that at best is a Listed horse here - he is a big fat NO from me.
TWILIGHT PAYMENT	\$26	N/A	✓	If you have a spare \$1.5m AUD you can buy this horse, but whilst he's a nice horse he's worth 25% of that figure only. He could be a CC hope if he came, but he won't.
BAGHDAD	N/A	N/A	✓	Won't get enough weight. Is a nice horse but he's a Frankel and they are wet trackers generally only so happy to avoid him.
DURSTON	N/A	\$101	✗	Lovely horse but he's 12 months away and I'd be surprised if he came.
COUNT OCTAVE	\$51	\$51	✓	Trialled the other day and the ambulance nearly hit him. He's a European only horse and I don't expect him to do anything in Australia.

FIRST ELEVEN	N/A	N/A	✓	Won't get enough weight. A nice horse & yet another Frankel who prefers wet track. Won't come
HOLDTHASIGREEN	N/A	\$51	✓	French horse, the French have been rubbish the past two years - he's consistent but he won't come.
MAKING MIRACLES	N/A	N/A	✗	Nice horse but not qualified and won't be.
ROCKABILL	N/A	N/A	✗	Very nice horse but won't be ready - watch for him in the Autumn.
SUPERNOVA	N/A	N/A	✗	Potential winner of the race but in typical Aussie trainer style they decided to trial him over 900m (WTF!). I'd say he will be cooked by the time the Mel Cup comes around, but if he was trained by a European trainer he would nearly be my favourite, however Hawkes can't train these imports to win the big Cups so that lessens my confidence.
RED VERDON	\$51	\$101	✓	He's a little bro to Red Cadeaux so you know he will be tough. He's really improved this season and at the price he offers some value - some chance he comes in both races, albeit lean CC.
MUSTAJEER	\$26	\$51	✓	A very sound & tough horse I have bought who will give his all. He has a wicked turn of foot and I feel the Caulfield Cup is his best hope, but I see him as a Top 5 chance in the Caulfield and Melbourne Cup.

TOP 4

WHO SHOULD YOU CONSIDER & LOOK TO BE WITH THIS FAR OUT?

- SUPERNOVA** Whilst not yet qualified and may struggle to do so, he has the class and it won't surprise me to see him end up a lot shorter than what he is at present. He is trained by trainers not really capable of training these imports (and stayers in general) which is the big warning that comes with the bet, however this bet does offer genuine value.
Caulfield Cup @ \$51
- RAHEEN HOUSE** He's a genuine, proper horse and in a good yard. The slight query is he may be just outside the weights needed to get into the race. But he is second favourite for a red-hot Ebor and a good run there should tempt Greg Carpenter to give him enough to make the race.
Melbourne Cup @ \$51
- LATROBE** Again, not sure if he is coming but he's more dour this season and the Caulfield Cup looks a winnable race for him.
Caulfield Cup @ \$31
- GOLD MOUNT** He and Raheen House are tied together, but if it happened to be wet, then a good bet for the **Melbourne Cup @ \$31**

THINGS TO CONSIDER

If you intend to back Aussie-trained horses, then you should back them in the Caulfield Cup, not the Melbourne Cup. The way the Melbourne Cup has evolved, it has turned into a Set Weights and Penalties race, which to be fair, generally suits those horses closer to the top of the weights than the bottom, so the overseas horses are dominating.

The other major issue in terms of a Melbourne Cup is unless we get a bizarre year (which has happened when Green Moon and Fiorente won), your selection must have a minimum of 10,000 race metres in their legs come MC Day.

If you think about it, the horses in Europe (even as of today) are mostly 4th or 5th run in a campaign. They have their races spaced and so are rock hard fit now - and are happy!

Compare this to the Australian horses and just 11 weeks out from the Melbourne Cup - the Aussie horses haven't even raced this preparation.

Then to make matters harder, the only races for the top-class horses are over 1400m and 1600m for the next month – it's hardly a good grounding for staying horses to get into form and confidence.

And if it's not hard enough already, just to make the race and at least to try and get them fit, they have to race at least every two weeks. So should the horse not have a great week, feel poor or go off his feed, then basically he's even further behind and almost no chance.

The other big statistical advantage in terms of the Caulfield Cup is that as we get closer you have to be positive on horses who have the recent run at 2400m prior to a Caulfield Cup.

All the best and good luck!

Luke Murrell, Director of Australian Bloodstock

Luke Murrell's Tips with Winning Edge Investments

<https://www.winningedgeinvestments.com/products/luke-murrells-tips/>