

Trainers
outed for
'cruelty'

RAY THOMAS

TRAINERS Jim Delaney and Cliff Bashford have been hit with lengthy disqualifications over animal cruelty charges.

Racing NSW stewards yesterday handed down heavy penalties to both veteran trainers after an inquiry into the treatment and care of an unnamed juvenile filly which later had to be humanely euthanised.

Delaney and Bashford both pleaded not guilty to committing and/or commissioning an act of cruelty.

Racing NSW stewards found both trainers guilty, issuing Delaney with a five-year disqualification and Bashford with a three-year ban.

The trainers also pleaded not guilty to a secondary charge of failing to provide necessary veterinary treatment to the filly. Stewards again found both guilty, giving Delaney three years and Bashford two years, with those penalties to be served concurrently.

Caviar filly
for Hayes

THE training partnership headed by David Hayes has been selected as the first to prepare the incomparable Black Caviar's progeny.

Black Caviar's owners announced last night that the partnership of Hayes, his son Ben and Tom Dabernig will train the mare's first foal, a two-year-filly named Oscietra.

Syndicate spokesman Gary Wilkie said the Hayes-Dabernig team had a world-class training facility in Euroa and added Hayes has a record of "great success with fillies".

"We believe training in a country atmosphere is a major positive," Wilkie said.

Team Hawkes was also confirmed as the trainers of Black Caviar's second foal, a yearling colt by Sebring.

RIGHT ON TRACK



Daniel Ricciardo unveils his favourite corners from F1 tracks all over the world as part of a specially created Scalextric track. Picture: Will Russell

Ricciardo in driver's seat to launch assault next season

REBECCA WILLIAMS

DANIEL Ricciardo has warned Mercedes should be looking over its shoulder in 2017, predicting he will be right in the title fight next year as he closes in on his first race win this season.

Fresh from his second place in the Singapore Grand Prix, Ricciardo said he was confident he would soon break through as Red Bull sets itself up for a serious challenge to the all-conquering Mercedes outfit next year.

Ricciardo claimed his fourth podium from his past five races after finishing just half a second behind Nico Rosberg in a dramatic finish under lights in Singapore.

He has clearly established himself as the best of the pack chasing the dominant Mercedes pair of Rosberg and Lewis Hamilton, sitting third behind them in the championship.

But with new Formula One

aerodynamic regulations set to come into play next year that are expected to enhance Red Bull's prospects, Ricciardo expects the team to close the gap again on Mercedes and be firmly in the championship mix.

"I definitely believe I will be prepared for it," Ricciardo said yesterday at the launch of his ultimate Formula One track in Perth.

"Hopefully we come into the season with the package to do it and if so I believe I can come out in Melbourne and get it done from the get-go. I think we have made a big step (this season). From where we were last year, we've probably more than halved the gap (on Mercedes), so we've found more than 50 per cent of what we've needed to.

"Probably for next year they are (looking over their shoulder). I think they are probably a bit curious, hopefully a little bit worried about what aerodynamic gains we can

make, they know our car's strong, we'll see, hopefully they are."

Ricciardo remains in pursuit of his first race win since his breakout 2014 season when he claimed victories in Canada, Hungary and Belgium. He has been on the podium five times this year already, but feels a win is not far away as the championship heads to Malaysia next week.

"I still believe we can do it, it's probably not that realistic in dry conditions - if Mercedes finish the race then they are probably going to win in those conditions," Ricciardo said. "I think Singapore was our best chance in dry conditions, but we could get a bit of rain or something."

"I feel like we deserve a win this year, I absolutely 100 per cent feel we do. I just think if we keep going about our business as we have been the last few races, we've got three seconds (places) in the last four races, we're knocking on the door."

While Ricciardo said he was

driving "the best I ever have" this season, he admitted the arrival of young Dutch star Max Verstappen had helped push him to another level.

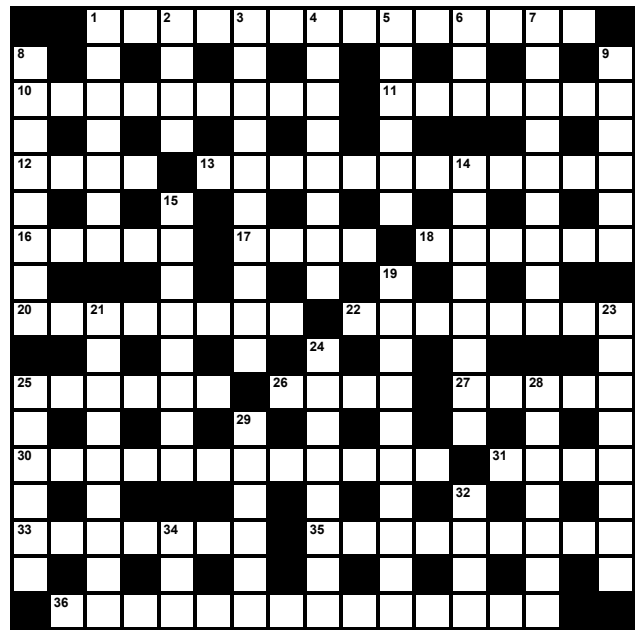
"I feel he has pushed myself and the team in a good way, so we're both feeding off each other and that's been fun," he said. "From the start of the season, I felt like I was driving really well and I think that's why the team made the changes as I was doing quite well compared to Dany (Kvyat). So they brought Max in and I felt like I was able to get even more out of myself."

But Ricciardo said he did not feel pressure to retain his status as No. 1 driver in the team.

"I think most of the pressure is on him, not pressure, just attention. He has got a lot of attention on him and obviously he is the youngest winner in F1 and all that, so for me I am just doing my thing," he said.

"I'll just do my thing then I'm sure if I get the results then it will create good attention around me."

FRIDAY SPORTSWORD No. 339



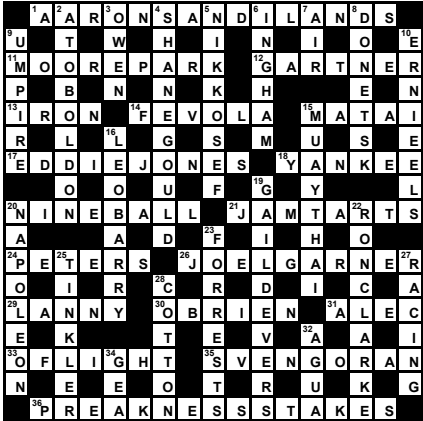
ACROSS

- 1. Mathematical formula for rain-affected ODI run targets (9-5)
- 10. Swimmer who married Grant Kenny (4,5)
- 11. Send-off in soccer (3,4)
- 12. WA pace bowler, Nathan Coulter- ... (4)
- 13. Tasmanian batsman and ex-Australian Twenty20 captain (6,6)
- 16. Ireland rugby's second-most capped player, Ronan ... (5)
- 17. 2002 US PGA champion, ... Beem (4)
- 18. 2015 Rugby World Cup final try scorer, Nehe ...-Skudder (6)
- 20. 2008 Olympic 100m freestyle runner-up and Celebrity MasterChef winner, Eamon ... (8)
- 22. '80s Wallaby five-eighth and head of NITV Sport (4,4)
- 25. 2002 Melbourne Cup winner, Media ... (6)
- 26. Stitching on a cricket ball (4)
- 27. Jockey who won three Golden Slippers, ... Mulley (5)
- 30. Wests Tigers and NSW State of Origin fullback (5,7)
- 31. Sport whose highest rank is yokozuna (4)
- 33. 1990s Raiders fullback in 183 games, Brett ... (7)

- 35. 2010-14 Commonwealth pole vault champion and daughter of Denise Robertson (5,4)
- 36. Spain's 2005-06 Formula 1 champ (8,6)

DOWN

- 1. Ex-Sri Lanka batsman and head of selectors, Aravinda ... (2,5)
- 2. Ex-Chelsea and Arsenal keeper, Petr ... (4)
- 3. Newtown's 1981 NSWRL grand final losing coach (6,4)
- 4. Parramatta's 1982 Dally M medallist (3,5)
- 5. Red Bull's team principal, Christian ... (6)
- 6. English soccer club, Preston North ... (3)
- 7. 1989-90 Australian Open tennis champion (4,5)
- 8. Makybe Diva's jockey (4,4)
- 9. Titans utility who retired in 2013, Luke ... (6)
- 14. Bolton-born boxer, 2004 Olympic lightweight runner-up (4,4)
- 15. Ex-Real Madrid and Spain goalkeeper, Iker ... (8)
- 19. Ex-Broncos, Gold Coast Suns and Qld Reds star, ... Hunt (10)
- 21. Perth's 1985 Wimbledon ladies doubles champion and TV commentator (3,6)
- 23. NZ national rugby league team (3,5)
- 24. PNG-born Panthers hooker, James ... (8)



Solution No. 338

- 25. One-day cricket's nickname, the ... game (6)
- 28. Ex-Canterbury Bulldogs forward who dated Gabrielle Richens, Solomon ... (7)
- 29. McLaren's Formula 1 driver, ... Button (6)
- 32. 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympic 100m freestyle champion, ... Fraser (4)
- 34. Oldest Chappell brother (3)