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Michelle Payne will be available for interview from mid-April.

For more information please contact:

**Monica Svarc** at MUP  
on 0413 697 664  
or email [monica.svarc@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:monica.svarc@unimelb.edu.au)

## LIFE AS I KNOW IT

By Michelle Payne with John Harms

*'There are great people in life who give you inspiration to keep going and get through the hard times. I have been blessed to have such role models in my life. It would be a privilege if achieving my dream could inspire the next generation.'*—MICHELLE PAYNE

In *Life As I Know It*, Michelle Payne tells her deeply moving story. It will lift your spirits, stir your heart and give you courage.

Michelle was six months old, the youngest of eleven children, when the family was hit with the tragic death of their mother, Mary. Their father, Paddy, a renowned horseman, raised his children alone. As a family, they all took on the daily demands of racehorses and a dairy farm as well as school and work. Family meant everything.

Michelle was put on a horse aged four. At five years old her dream was to win the Melbourne Cup. At thirty she rode into history as the first female jockey to win the Cup. Her strapper was her brother, Stevie. So when she declared that anyone who said women couldn't compete with men in the racing industry could 'get stuffed', the nation stood up and cheered.

It was a moment that inspired everyone who dreams of beating the odds.

**Michelle Payne** entered racing aged 15, winning her first race in Ballarat on a horse trained by her father. Michelle won her first Group One race, the Toorak Handicap at Caulfield Racecourse aboard *Allez Wonder* on 10 October 2009 and trainer Bart Cummings offered her the ride at the Caulfield Cup the following week. Michelle was only the third female jockey to ride in the Caulfield Cup, one of Australia's most prestigious horse races. This also led her to a ride in the 2009 Melbourne Cup, once again riding Cummings' *Allez Wonder*. In 2010 Payne rode *Yosei* to victory in the Thousand Guineas at Caulfield.

**John Harms** is a Melbourne-based writer, historian, and broadcaster. His books include *Confessions of a Thirteenth Man*, *Memoirs of a Mug Punter*, *Loose Men Everywhere*, *The Pearl*, and nine editions of *The Footy Almanac* annual. He appears on ABCTV's *Offsiders*. He is the editor of the popular sports writing site [www.footyalmanac.com.au](http://www.footyalmanac.com.au)

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