BOSS TO COME OUT SWINGING

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Champion jockey Glen Boss, who has already won three Melbourne Cups after piloting Makybe Diva to a trifecta of wins, gearing up for tomorrow’s big race at Flemington. Boss will partner the Chris Waller-trained six-year-old gelding Who Shot Thebarman, who will jump from barrier 13.

Picture: COLLEEN PETCH

SHIELD CENTRE
Alice Springs to play host to Bulls, Bushrangers

By JORDAN McARDLE

RED ball cricket will come to the Red Centre this season, with TIO Traeger Park Oval to host a Sheffield Shield match in February.

The four-day encounter between Victoria Bushrangers and one-day finalists Queensland Bulls on February 24-27 will be played in Alice Springs. Alice Springs Cricket Association and NT Cricket president Bruce Walker always remained confident of the region’s hopes of making its first-class debut.

Dr Walker, who attended Cricket Australia’s AGM last week, said with the country’s major venues – Melbourne, Sydney, Perth, Hobart, Brisbane, Adelaide and Canberra – all tied up with next year’s ICC Cricket World Cup from February 14 to March 29, it opened the door for Alice Springs.

The region proved it could handle top-level matches when it hosted an England tour match against the Cricket Australia Chairman’s XI in December. It has been about five years since a domestic fixture has been played in Central Australia, with South Australia Redbacks playing Queensland in a 50-over match in 2009-10.

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