

“Hats Off” to the Golden Slipper Hats and High Tea

By Sharon Hunt, Executive Officer, NSWROA

SOLD OUT! No two words can bring a greater smile to any event organiser. It is a status akin to winning a black type race for a racehorse owner. It is something every event organiser dreams of but does not always receive and particularly in today’s economic climate, an incredible result.

So how fantastic was it for event organisers, Catherine Kelly and Sharon Lenton that the inaugural Golden Slipper Hats and High Tea function on 22 March 2009, presented by Sir Stamford at Circular Quay in association with the NSW Racehorse Owners Association and Moët & Chandon, achieved “*sold out*” status well before the event was held.



(Photo: Event Organisers – Catherine Kelly and Sharon Lenton)

In another “*coup*” for an inaugural event, “*wait-listing*” only was available in the last weeks leading up to the event. It doesn’t get much better than that – does it?

Let’s set the scene.

The Sir Stamford at Circular Quay, with its excellent location on historic Macquarie Street, is just a short walk to some of Sydney's greatest tourist attractions namely, the Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens and Sydney Harbour.

The Sir Stamford features 18th Century Louis XV and Georgian antiques and houses one of Australia's largest private collections of fine art and has regularly been awarded for its outstanding service and facilities.

The Elizabeth Room, which features hand made crystal chandeliers and antique paintings, provides the classical elegance essential for a function of this type.

A truly inspired venue choice!

The guests at the function included not only racing participants but also the "who's who" of the Sydney millinery world.



(Photo: Judith Foley, Caroline Searcy and Rosemary Mula – some of the racing guests)

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by Sonia Lipski, Miss World Australia Runner-Up 2008 as they entered the grand foyer of the hotel. A trio of musicians serenaded them whilst they sipped away on Moët & Chandon champagne amongst our guest of honour, Jean Carroll's collection of beautiful theatre hats.



(Photo: Jean Carroll's theatre hats)

Once inside the lovely Elizabeth Room, Master of Ceremonies Richard Davey, did a brilliant job hosting the event. He even encouraged Caroline Searcy from TVN to take the stage and give the guests an insight to the field of the 2009 Golden Slipper Stakes.

The talented couture milliners headwear creations were paraded by a team of beautiful models with a finale of hats by Sydney celebrity milliner Neil Grigg. Entertainment was provided by the extremely talented Kathrine Taliana.



(Photo: Models with some of the featured headwear)

One of the highlights of the afternoon was the competition for “Best Dressed” which was enormously difficult for Guest Judge, Warren Turner of Anthea Crawford, as the level of immaculately dressed women was extremely high.

Warren chose Lisa Wellings as the winner for the day with close runners up being Judith Foley and Sarah Elliott.



(Photo: Best Dressed – Lisa Wellings with Neil Grigg)

The award for Best Hat went to Anna Furlong.



(Photo: Best Hat – Anna Furlong with MC Richard Davey)

The objectives of the function were:-

- * to acknowledge the STC Autumn Carnival, particularly the Group 1 Golden Slipper Stakes;
- * create a platform to provide exposure for the millinery industry; and
- * to raise funds for the chosen charity of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association, Redkite, supporting children through cancer.

I am very pleased to advise that all objectives were achieved.

A big thank you for the contribution of Sydney Couture Milliners, comprising:

- Lindsay Clare
- Embellish Atelier (Catherine Kelly)
- Jennifer Kelly
- Suzanne O'Brien
- Di van Ooi
- Papillion Hats by Margaret Keeble
- Lin Teo Designs
- Rebecca Willis Millinery
- Petra Wollerman
- Certificate 4 Students from TAFE

for the wonderful array of millinery on parade.

Thanks also to Sonia Lipski, Miss World Australia Runner-Up 2008 for her assistance, Richard Davey our Master of Ceremonies, Neil Grigg our celebrity milliner, Warren Turner our guest judge, Kathrine Taliana for providing the entertainment and our guest of honour, the incredible Jean Carroll.



(Photo: Guest of Honour, Jean Carroll flanked by Sharon Lenton (left) and Catherine Kelly (right)).

A very special thank you to the Sir Stamford at Circular Quay and in particular to Samantha Storry for all her assistance, Moët & Chandon and to the Sydney Turf Club for their endorsement and support of the event.

I must also offer our congratulations to Sharon Lenton and Catherine Kelly, Event Organisers, for such an outstandingly successful event. As stated earlier, to have any event sell out is a fantastic accomplishment but to do so in the current economic climate is wonderful.

For those who unfortunately missed out or were unable to attend the event, I am very pleased to advise that a Spring millinery function will be held – so make sure you book in early to avoid disappointment.

Stay tuned to the NSWROA website www.nswroa.com.au for further details.

At the time of writing the next event on the NSWROA calendar is our annual Sydney Cup Day Luncheon which will take place prior to this article being published, on 25 April 2009.

Our flagship event and the NSW Racing Industry's Night of Nights, the Racing's Night of Champions, is next up for NSWROA. The function will be staged this year at The Grand Pavilion, the spectacular event centre, at Rosehill Gardens on 13 August 2009.

For more information regarding the 2009 Racing's Night of Champions or if you are interested in becoming a member of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association, simply contact the NSWROA office by telephone (02) 9299-4299, by email nswroa1@ozemail.com.au or visit the NSWROA website www.nswroa.com.au.

nsw racehorse owners

BY SHARON HUNT
Executive Officer – NSWROA

'HATS OFF' TO THE GOLDEN



Event Organisers, Catherine Kelly (left) and Sharon Lenton

(L-R): Judith Foley, Caroline Searcy and Rosemary Mula, just some of the racing guests attending

SOLD OUT!

No two words can bring a greater smile to any event organiser. It is a status akin to winning a Black Type race for a racehorse owner.

It is something every event organiser dreams of but does not always receive and particularly in today's economic climate; an incredible result.

So how fantastic was it for event organisers, Catherine Kelly and Sharon Lenton, that the inaugural Golden Slipper Hats and High Tea function in March, presented by Sir Stamford at Circular Quay in association with the NSW Racehorse Owners Association and Moët & Chandon, achieved "sold out" status well before the event was held.

In another 'coup' for an inaugural event,

a 'wait-listing' only was available in the last weeks leading up to the event. It doesn't get much better than that – does it?

Let's set the scene.

The Sir Stamford at Circular Quay, with its excellent location on historic Macquarie Street, is just a short walk to some of Sydney's greatest tourist attractions namely, the Opera House, Royal Botanic Gardens and Sydney Harbour.

The Sir Stamford features 18th Century Louis XV and Georgian antiques and houses one of Australia's largest private collections of fine art and has regularly been awarded for its outstanding service and facilities.

The Elizabeth Room, which features hand made crystal chandeliers and antique paintings, provides the classical

elegance essential for a function of this type.

A truly inspired venue choice!

The guests at the function included not only racing participants but also the 'who's who' of the Sydney millinery world.

Upon arrival, guests were greeted by Sonia Lipski, Miss World Australia Runner-Up 2008, as they entered the grand foyer of the hotel. A trio of musicians serenaded them whilst they sipped away on Moët & Chandon champagne amongst our guest of honour, Jean Carroll's collection of beautiful theatre hats.

Once inside the lovely Elizabeth Room, Master of Ceremonies Richard Davey, did a brilliant job hosting the event. He even encouraged Caroline Searcy from TVN to take the stage and give the guests

SLIPPER HATS & HIGH TEA



an insight to the field of the 2009 Golden Slipper.

The talented couture milliners' headwear creations were paraded by a team of beautiful models with a finale of hats by Sydney celebrity milliner Neil Grigg. Entertainment was provided by the extremely talented Kathrine Taliana.

One of the highlights was the competition for 'Best Dressed' which was enormously difficult for guest judge, Warren Turner of Anthea Crawford, as the level of immaculately dressed women was extremely high.

Warren chose Lisa Wellings as the winner for the day with close runners up being Judith Foley and Sarah Elliott. The award for Best Hat went to Anna Furlong.

The objectives of the function were:-

- to acknowledge the STC Autumn Carnival, particularly the Group 1-AAMI Golden Slipper;
- create a platform to provide exposure for the millinery industry; and
- to raise funds for the chosen charity of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association, Redkite, supporting children through cancer.

I am very pleased to advise that all objectives were achieved.



MC Richard Davey with Best Hat winner, Anna Furlong



Celebrity milliner, Neil Grigg, with Best Dressed winner, Lisa Wellings