

# NSWROA committee – leaders of the pack

MEET THE EIGHT CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS OF NSW  
RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

**E**ach year many changes and developments occur in our industry and 2010 has been no different.

Throughout the year we have seen a number of issues arise but none more prominent than Race Fields Legislation and, of course, the proposed merger of the AJC and STC.

NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA) has continued to grow in stature and during the year we have also seen changes to the NSWROA Committee and in this the last issue for the year, I thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to update readers about the people who voluntarily give their time to serve on the NSWROA Committee.

## Ray McDowell – President

Ray joined the Committee in 2005 and was unanimously elected to the role of President in October 2008. He was re-elected as President in May 2009 and again in May 2010 and has worked in the strata and building management industry for over 20 years.

Ray has been a horse owner for over 36 years, but is best known for his ownership of one of our greatest middle-distance performers, Intergaze. He currently has over 10 horses in work predominantly with Rod Craig at Warwick Farm and also has a few mares that he breeds with.

Ray is actively involved in the improvement of racing and is delighted to be a member of Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG).

An ardent fan of country racing, Ray is a regular traveller to the country race cups in Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Wagga and Newcastle each year.

## John Vouris – Treasurer

John joined the NSWROA Committee in 2007 and was elected treasurer in

July 2008. John was re-elected to this position in May 2009 and again in May 2010.

John is a Chartered Accountant and partner of Lawler Partners in Sydney CBD. John has had many horses since the early 1990's but his best credentialed and prized possession has been Before Too Long. Before Too Long ran in the 2002 Golden Slipper and won the Group 2-Champagne Stakes at Moonee Valley breaking the track record.

He entered the thoroughbred ownership ranks for the enjoyment and thrill of winning and is a regular raceday attendee. He currently has four horses in work with Barbara Joseph.

## Michael Inglis – Secretary

Michael joined the NSWROA Committee in July 2009 and was elected as secretary in October 2009 and re-elected to this position in May 2010.

Michael is a prominent Barrister and Accredited Mediator and has a long association with the racing industry. He has been racing and breeding horses for over 25 years.

He is currently vice-president of Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC), having been elected to the Board of MTC in October 1998. Michael has been

instrumental in improving conditions for owners both within the MTC and in the southern region and also for the preservation of a number of meetings and race clubs in the country sector. Michael has also served as a substitute delegate for the Association at RICG.

## Narelle Anderson – Committee Member

Narelle joined the NSWROA Committee in November 2009 and is the first female to have been appointed to the Committee.

Narelle is the founder and Managing Director of Envirobank Recycling Pty Ltd and has over 10 years experience in the waste management and recycling industry.

Narelle has been an avid racegoer for as long as she can remember. She brought her first horse in 2001 in a syndicate with the late Harry Lawton. Together with partner Bryan Rutter, she now owns shares in more than 10 horses and races with both the Anthony Cummings and Barbara Joseph stables. Narelle is a regular race attendee at both city and country meetings and is passionate about the industry.

## Peter Beer – Committee Member

Peter is the newest addition to the NSWROA Committee having been appointed in July, 2010. Peter is CEO of Patinack Farm, the racing and breeding empire of Nathan Tinkler, who has invested millions of dollars to develop one of the leading commercial thoroughbred organisations in the country. He joined Patinack Farm in December 2009 after some 22 years as a financial executive in the private and public companies of the late Kerry Packer.

Peter has held a lifetime passion for the racing industry and his love of

**“ Throughout the year we have seen a number of issues arise but none more prominent than Race Fields Legislation and, of course, the proposed merger of the AJC and STC. ”**

the industry has resulted in weekly attendance at race meetings for over 30 years. This has included great racing centres like Hong Kong and Dublin, whilst serving an 8-year stint as CEO of Mr Packer's International group.

As a racehorse owner he has faced a similar plight to many owners with limited success. A win at Canberra still remains the highlight.

### **Christopher Keogh – Committee**

Christopher was appointed to the NSWROA Committee in 1998 and is also a past President of the Association. He has a "passion for racing" which has been on-going for more than 30 years and he is an active racegoer, predominantly in the metropolitan area.

Chris has owned many horses over the years, the best of which has been Merry Shade who was successful in the Listed-AJC Widden Stakes and Listed-AJC Reginald Allen Handicap. He also owned Cheeky Spy which won on all four metropolitan tracks. Chris is a businessman who owns an importing/wholesaling company that specialises in products for the hi-fi/video industry.

### **Laurie Macri – Committee Member**

Laurie was appointed to the NSWROA Committee in March 2009. He was also appointed as a Director of Sydney Turf Club in September 2010. Laurie has worked in the Finance and Stockbroking industries for 25 years and is currently an Executive Director of the Macquarie Group.

Laurie has been racing horses since 2004. What commenced as fun with friends has expanded to an enterprise with over 30 horses currently in work in four states via 10 trainers. When your first horse is the dual Group 1 winner Virage de Fortune and you have enjoyed subsequent Group success with Von Costa De Hero, Exceedingly Good and First Command, it is easy to stay passionate!

The majority of Laurie's older horses are currently trained by David Hayes and Lee Freedman. In recent times, this has been broadened to include Sydney-based trainers Gai Waterhouse, John Hawkes, John O'Shea, Anthony Cummings, Tim Martin and David Payne.

Laurie continues to actively invest in the thoroughbred industry and purchased an additional six yearlings this year (either solely or in partnership) and is a supporter of both Magic Millions and Inglis. He also continues to broaden his investment in the thoroughbred industry by retaining his ownership in mares post racing so as to develop his breeding interests.

### **Max Whitby – Committee Member**

Max was appointed to the NSWROA Committee in 1994 and is a past President and Life Member of the Association. He was appointed as a Director of the STC in September 2009 and is one of three STC Directors selected to sit on the board of the proposed new super race club, the legislation for which is currently before Parliament.

Max has raced horses for over 30 years and has enjoyed success with Group 1 winners Savabeel (won the W.S. Cox Plate in 2004) and Econsul (won the Caulfield Guineas in '04). He is involved with all aspects of the thoroughbred industry, owning shares in two stallions and has a large breeding stock both in Australia and NZ.

Max currently has 40 horses in work with seven different trainers in Australia and NZ and attends most metropolitan race meetings. He is an avid country racegoer attending the Albury, Wagga, Grafton, Coffs Harbour, Armidale and Scone Cup Carnivals every year.

Max has been in the futures and finance industry for over 35 years, working at a corporate level for an international bank and since 1991 he has owned and operated his own futures broking business. Max has various business interests.

I would also like to make specific mention of two former Directors of the

Association, Michael Kissane and Darren Farnham, who resigned during the year.

Michael Kissane served 'two terms' as a Director of the Association and his initial tenure was from February 1995 to September '03. He then rejoined the Board in '06 where he has been a most valuable addition, providing a wealth of knowledge, until his resignation in July 2010.

Michael has been a racehorse owner and interested in breeding since the early 1980's and is a keen racegoer and attends race meetings whenever possible.

Darren Farnham served as a Director of the Association from August '06 to September 2010 and also regularly attends race meetings at Randwick, Rosehill and Canterbury, as well as making the annual pilgrimage to his home town for the Wagga Wagga Gold Cup.

Darren was the driving source behind our flagship event, Racing's Night of Champions (RNOC), having undertaken the role of Dinner Chairman in '08 and '09. He relinquished the role this year, but served on the RNOC Organising Committee and continued to control the production side of the event.

On behalf of the President and Committee, I formally thank both gentlemen for all the time they have generously given to the Association over the years and wish them every success in the future.

In closing, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the President and Members of the NSWROA Committee, to wish all readers the compliments of the season and a happy healthy and prosperous 2011.

For further information regarding the NSW Racehorse Owners Association please visit the NSWROA website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299. **RNSW**

**" I would also like to make specific mention of two former Directors of the Association, Michael Kissane and Darren Farnham, who resigned during the year. "**