



Entering the 'new era of racing' with anticipation

ABOVE: Last year's Hats & High Tea function (L-R): Shirley McGrath, Rosemary Mula and Christine Mathers
A capacity crowd at NSWROA's Racing's Night of Champions function



SINCE BEING RECOGNISED AS OFFICIAL BODY REPRESENTING OWNERS IN THIS STATE, NSWROA HAS GONE FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA) eagerly awaits entering the 'New Era of Racing' this year, particularly after the great successes the Association has had the last two years.

The run of success started in July 2008 when the Association was confirmed by the then Minister for Gaming & Racing, the Hon. Graham West MP, as the official body representing owners in New South Wales.

The announcement was a very just reward for the Association as it had, for many years, been striving to achieve this recognition following a challenge of a 'breakaway group'.

The announcement also resulted in the Association creating and subsequently establishing a great working relationship with the following Minister for Gaming and Racing, the Hon. Kevin Greene, MP, a relationship which continues to grow and is greatly valued.

It was also as a result of the announcement that the Association gained representation onto the Appointments Panel to select the Board for Racing NSW.

Another success for the Association came following extensive lobbying, when Racing NSW agreed to pay compensation to owners for disruption to their horses training schedules during World Youth Day. This was a result of the move from Randwick to other training tracks and then back again.

As the Association is a not-for-profit organisation, funding was also a matter of concern. So it was with great pleasure that the Association entered into a partnership agreement with Luxbet.com

This enabled Luxbet.com to not only be the Exclusive Wagering Partner for the Association, but also the sponsor of the principal award at our flagship event, Racing's Night of Champions the 'Luxbet.com NSW Racehorse of the Year'.

This prestigious award has been taken out by some incredible horses in recent years including Lonhro (2004), Grand Armee (2005), Takeover Target (2006), Desert War (2007), Tuesday Joy (2008), Theseo (2009) and Melito last year.

Speaking of Racing's Night of Champions (RNOC), this event has been our crowning jewel for some time.

When it comes to awards nights – they don't come any better than this event which

showcases the NSW thoroughbred industry at its very best.

Thanks to former RNOC Dinner Chairman and NSWROA Director, Darren Farnham, this event has evolved into an entertainment extravaganza featuring Human Nature, Tim Freedman and David Campbell as feature artists the last three years.

The event, which is held in early August every year, continues to grow in size and stature and we look forward to welcoming everyone to the function again this year.

Yet another success in recent times for the Association has been our ability to turn 'Board Room Ideas' into realisation. Several items instantly come to mind regarding this but BOBS Extra would probably be the best example.

The concept of the extension of the BOBS Scheme has been on the agenda for the Association for quite a while.

The NSWROA Committee was unanimous of the view that owners should have encouragement to keep their horses going and show patience with slow-maturing horses.

This in turn would, hopefully, retain middle-distance and staying racehorses in NSW as well as reinvigorating middle-distance and staying races in the state.

To date there has been a good response by owners to the BOBS Extra Scheme. Since BOBS Extra commenced in August 2010 and until the time of writing, bonuses to the value of \$378,750 have been paid out – a fantastic result for owners.

The Association, via various Directors, also

represent owners at the Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG) and Racing NSW Country as well as the new super race club.

Indeed in recent times we have seen the progression of former directors into higher positions with the industry.

Other successful ventures for the Association have been the social events which are conducted throughout the year.

The majority of the functions which range from cocktail functions, sit down lunches, night racing functions and formal dinners, have, for the last two years, been sold out well in advance of the function taking place.

Whilst all are very popular functions, it would be remiss of me not to mention two specifically.

Firstly, the Golden Slipper Hats and Tea; one of the glamour events leading into the Sydney Carnival held in conjunction with Sharon Lenton Events.

This year will mark the third occasion this event has been held with both previous functions being sold out.

The event, which will have a dazzling display of millinery inspired from Europe, moves to the new location of Dockside at Cockle Bay on Sunday, 20 March 2011 – so book now to avoid disappointment (*see page 70 advertisement for Hats and High Tea).

The second function which also sells out well in advance is the Sydney Cup Day Luncheon.

The combination of fine wine and dining and the best of the best of the equine world draw members and guests to this event every year.

This event will take place on Saturday, 23 April 2011 – the last day of the Sydney Carnival.

Other functions on the NSWROA program this year include Night Racing Functions, the BMW Barrier Draw Luncheon and of course Racing's Night of Champions.

After celebrating 200 Years of Racing in New South Wales last year, the Association looks forward to leaving it's mark on the New Era of Racing we are now commencing.

For more information regarding NSW Racehorse Owners Association, contact the NSWROA office via telephone (02) 9299-4299 or visit the NSWROA website – www.nswroa.com.au **RNSW**

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NSWROA's Sydney Cup Lunch (L-R): Elisha Toole, Brooke Chicktong and Kate Whitby