

# Night of champions – where stars align

MANY STARS OF THE NSW RACING INDUSTRY WILL BE OUT IN FORCE AT NSWROA'S HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL 'RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS' AT ROSEHILL GARDENS WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)



Luxbet's Craig Nugent (left) and Duncan Grimley (representing the owners) with the trophy for More Joyous – the 2011 Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year

NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA) is delighted to advise that our flagship event and the NSW Racing Industry's night of nights – 'Racing's Night of Champions' – will be held in The Grand Pavilion at Rosehill Gardens on Thursday, 16th August.

This prestigious event which has been themed "Where the Stars Align" pays homage to the best New South Wales racing has to offer in recognising the achievements of both horses and their humans.

This year, NSWROA is proud to be supporting the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (POWHF) as our charity of choice at Racing's Night of Champions.

POWHF is an established charitable organisation supporting and promoting research, education, health promotion and patient care for and at the Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick.

The RNOC Organising Committee has great pleasure in announcing that Damien Leith will provide our feature entertainment for the night.

Damien's career has gone from strength to strength since being crowned Australian Idol in 2006.

Leith has become one of the best-selling Australian artists of the modern era, with combined album sales

nudging the one million mark. His albums, *The Winner's Journey*, *Where We Land*, *Catch the Wind* and last year's *ROY – A Tribute to Roy Orbison* each went platinum, whilst *Remember June* went gold.

2011 also saw Damien have a national theatre sell-out Roy tour, become a finalist on 'Dancing With The Stars' and host his own TV program.

*NOW & THEN*, an album in two parts, is the latest release for Damien.

The "Now" represents a wonderful new selection of Damien's self-penned songs whilst "Then" sees Damien pick up where the *ROY* project left off, further celebrating and honouring the music of Roy Orbison, this time alongside his famous mates from the late-80s stellar outfit, the *Traveling Wilburys*.

The *Wilburys*, of course, saw Roy Orbison join forces with fellow music icons Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Jeff Lynne and Tom Petty.

As readers would be aware, the awards presented at Racing's Night of Champions are to honour the New South Wales Racing Industry.

The feature award of the night is, of course, the NSW Champion Horse of the Year which for the third year



ABOVE: Part of the big crowd during last year's 'Racing's Night of Champions'  
 LEFT: Sarah and Nash Rawiller arrive at last year's awards night RIGHT: Stephanie and Chris Waller grace the red carpet



in succession will be sponsored by Luxbet.com, the Association's exclusive wagering partner.

This esteemed award has been taken out by some extraordinary horses in recent times including Lonhro (2004), Grand Armee (2005), Takeover Target (2006), Desert War (2007), Tuesday Joy (2008), Theseo (2009), Melito (2010) and More Joyous (NZ) last year.

Other awards to be presented on the night include:-

- ◆ NSW Two-year-old of the Year
  - ◆ NSW Three-year-old of the Year
  - ◆ NSW Sprinter/Miler of the Year
  - ◆ NSW Middle-Distance Horse of the Year
  - ◆ NSW Stayer of the Year
  - ◆ Queen of the Autumn
  - ◆ NSW Country Champion Horse of the Year
  - ◆ NSW Provincial Champion Horse of the Year
- Additional awards which will be presented are the:-
- ◆ Sydney Strapper of the Year Award
  - ◆ T J Smith Award
  - ◆ George Moore Award
  - ◆ Theo Green Award; and the
  - ◆ Bart Cummings Medal

The 2012 Racing's Night of Champions Awards will

again be televised "live" to an international audience on Sky Racing World by our exclusive media partner Sky Racing, with highlights of the night also being shown on Sky Racing 1 and Sky Racing 2.

The success of this awards dinner relies predominantly on sponsorship monies, the monster auction and the silent auction.

We are indebted to our wonderful sponsors and, on behalf of Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation, we thank them for their continued support of Racing's Night of Champions.

NSWROA is very pleased to welcome back as sponsors for this year's event, Luxbet.com, Racing NSW, Patinack Farm, Sky Racing, Emirates, the Australian Turf Club, Gow Gates Insurance Brokers, New Zealand Bloodstock, Ambassador Travel Services, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, International Animal Health Products, De Bortoli Wines and Lion.

In addition, NSWROA would like to thank those companies and individuals who have kindly donated prizes to the Monster Auction and the Silent Auction.

NSWROA is also mindful of the importance of the attendees at this fantastic event – so a very big thank you

to those of you who have attended this event previously and we look forward to seeing you again this year.

To those of you interested in attending Racing's Night of Champions for the first time, book now so you do not miss out – it's an experience you will not forget.

The RNOC Committee Chairman and NSWROA President, Ray McDowell, said: "The Association is thrilled that it is almost time for our flagship event.

"There is no other night like this in our industry. With international television coverage of the awards via Sky Racing World, Racing's Night of Champions sets standards of excellence that are the envy of others."

So if you would like to see some of the best live entertainment in the land, enjoy dining at its finest whilst savouring fine wines and beverages, as well as raising much needed funds for the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation – look no further than the best value night out you can have at Racing's Night of Champions.

In order to assist guests travelling to

the function, NSWROA has arranged for a free return bus service to the event. The bus will travel between Randwick/Rosehill/Randwick and bookings for this service will be essential.

For those of you looking for accommodation close to the venue, I am pleased to advise that Rydges Parramatta (telephone (02) 8863 7600) has an accommodation event offer available to our guests.

Just quote "Racing's Night of Champions" to gain access to this Event offer. In addition, Rydges can provide transfers to Rosehill Gardens – simply mention when booking accommodation.

Sounds too good to resist – doesn't it!!

Take my tip, reserve your place now to avoid disappointment.

**For more information regarding the 2012 Racing's Night of Champions, contact the NSWROA office by telephone (02) 9299-4299, via email [nswroa1@ozemail.com.au](mailto:nswroa1@ozemail.com.au) or visit the NSWROA website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) **RNSW****

