

STARS ALIGN AT RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS

NEW SOUTH WALES RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS WAS ONCE AGAIN AN UNPARALLELED SUCCESS WITH THE AWARDS NIGHT BEING TELEVISED GLOBALLY WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

Absolutely fantastic! The 2012 NSWROA Racing's Night of Champions was themed as "Where the Stars Align" and didn't they do just that! It was truly a night to remember.

As was the case with the flagship event of NSWROA last year, Racing's Night of Champions was beamed "live to the world" via Sky Racing World by our exclusive media partner Sky Racing. Highlights of the night were also shown on Sky Racing 1 and Sky Racing 2.

This year's gala black tie event on Thursday 16 August was held in the Grand Pavilion at Rosehill Gardens.

Our hosts for the night, Greg Radley and Victoria Shaw, opened proceedings from centre stage before inviting NSWROA President Ray McDowell to the main stage to officially welcome guests.

AT THIS NIGHT OF NIGHTS FOR THE NSW INDUSTRY, THE EQUINE EQUIVALENT TO THE ACADEMY AWARDS, NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION (NSWROA) PAYS HOMAGE TO THE BEST THE STATE HAS TO OFFER BOTH IN THE EQUINE AND HUMAN CATEGORIES.

There was glitz and glamour in abundance as well as red carpet interviews conducted by Christy Johns which featured the stars of the racing season and racing royalty.

The Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (POWHF) was the charity of choice for this year's 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.

And so to the awards ceremony and the top honour of the night, the Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year title, went to Streama who was also successful in the NSW Three-Year-Old of the Year and Queen of the Autumn categories.

What a wonderful result for the Coghlan family who not only race the filly but bred her as well.

Our hearty congratulations to them and also the filly's trainer Guy Walter who said he was "over the moon with Streama winning the awards."

The complete list of category awards and the winners present on the night were:-

AWARD	WINNER
LUXBET.COM NSW CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Streama
NSW TWO-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR	Pierro
<i>Proudly sponsored by the Australian Turf Club</i>	
NSW THREE-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR	Streama
<i>Proudly sponsored by Gow Gates Insurance Brokers</i>	
NSW SPRINT/MILER OF THE YEAR	More Joyous (NZ)
<i>Proudly sponsored by Australian Turf Club</i>	
NSW MIDDLE-DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR	Manighar (Fr)
<i>Proudly sponsored by New Zealand Bloodstock</i>	
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR	Niwot
<i>Proudly sponsored by Emirates</i>	
QUEEN OF THE AUTUMN	Streama
<i>Proudly sponsored by Bloodstock.com.au</i>	
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Ortensia
<i>Proudly sponsored by Sky Racing World</i>	
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Hay List
<i>Proudly sponsored by Patinack Farm</i>	

The Bart Cummings Medal was taken out by Chris Waller making it a double celebration for him on the night as he also picked up the TJ Smith Award for the Sydney's Leading Trainer.

Other awards presented included the George Moore Award (Hugh Bowman), the Theo Green Award (Chad Schofield) and the Sydney Strapper of the Year (Skye Smalley).

Another highlight of the evening was the keynote speech of Emeritus Professor John Dwyer of the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation whose moving speech was inspirational.

After the conclusion of the awards ceremony, the immensely talented Damien Leith took to the centre stage as the feature artist for the evening.

In no time at all, he had the large crowd in the palm of his hand with his unique and masterful style. Damien's



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4

Pic 1: A crowd shot during racing's Night of Champions
 Pic 2: (L-R): Sharon Lenton, Dorcas Kemp, Kris Messara and Vassy Souris
 Pic 3: Greg Radley and Victoria Shaw – our hosts for this year's Racing's Night of Champions
 Pic 4: Suzie and Genelle Coghlan proudly hold the Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year Award won by Streama, with Luxbet's Andrew Vouris (left) and The Hon George Souris, MP

wonderful repertoire enticed guests to their feet to dance the night away.

Speaking of wonderful, Greg Radley was at his brilliant best as guest auctioneer of the Monster Auction. With eight fantastic lots up for grabs, Greg worked the room into spirited bidding contests.

The Carrazzo Consulting Silent Auction, hosted by Jimmy Smith, was also a hive of excitement with some 33 items up for grabs.

For the second year in succession, an electronic bidding system was used which allowed guests to bid from the comfort of their tables.

The International Animal Health Products Raffle, with five wonderful prizes on offer, was yet another success on the night.

And whilst on stars and success, it would be remiss of me not to mention the importance of our sponsors.

The success of Racing's Night of Champions relies predominantly on sponsorship monies, the monster auction and the silent auction.

The event this year was proudly sponsored by Luxbet.com, Racing NSW, Patinack Farm, Sky Racing World, Emirates, Ambassador Travel, Gow Gates Insurance

Brokers, the Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Bloodstock.com.au, Carrazzo Consulting, International Animal Health Products, Lion and De Bortoli Wines.

Our thanks also to Greg Radley and Victoria Shaw, our hosts for the night; Emeritus Professor John Dwyer, our keynote speaker; Jimmy Smith, for his assistance with the Silent Auction; Christy Johns, on the red carpet; our feature artist, the incredible Damien Leith; DJ Playmate of Groove Academy; our event manager, Pauline Lamb from Infinity MC and Roger Brassington and the team from Australian Turf Club.

I would also like to thank my fellow Racing Night of Champions Organising Committee members – Ray McDowell, Leanne Zalapa, Tanya Parris and Pauline Lamb for their tremendous work.

And finally in closing, my thanks to all who attended the function to support the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation. I look forward to seeing you all at the 2013 Racing's Night of Champions.

Racing's Night of Champions is the flagship event of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association. To view more information regarding this year's event, visit the NSWROA website - www.nswroa.com.au **RNSW**