

Showcasing NSW racing talent

OH WHAT A NIGHT! NSWROA'S RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS WAS THEMED 'CELEBRATING THE BEST' AND IT LIVED UP TO THAT WITH A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER - NSWROA)

As has been the case with the flagship event of NSWROA for the past three years, 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 8 August was held at an exciting new venue, the Event Centre at The Star with Greg Radley and Christy Johns hosts for the night.

At this night of nights for the NSW Racing Industry, the equine equivalent to the Academy awards, NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA) paid homage to the best NSW had to offer both in the equine and human categories.

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

The Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation (POWHF) was once again the charity of choice for Racing's Night of Champions.

The 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 to the awards ceremony and top honour of the night, the Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year title, went to It's A Dundee (NZ) who was also successful in the NSW Three-Year-Old of the Year category.

Racing NSW's Bart Cummings Medal was again 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 winning the Sydney Premiership.



Proud owners of It's a Dundee – winner of the Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year Award – flanked by Andrew Vouris from Luxbet.com (left) and The Hon George Souris, MP (right)

Other awards included the George Moore Award (Nash Rawiller), Theo Green Award (Sam Clipperton) and the Sydney Strapper of the Year (Glenn Barnes).

At the conclusion of the awards ceremony, the incredible Tom Burlinson took to the stage and in a short space of time had the large crowd in the palm of his hand and onto the dance floor.

From the very first bars of his opening number "Luck Be A Lady" guests were enthralled as he took us down memory lane with his wonderful renditions of Frank Sinatra classics and other songs from the golden age of swing.

Speaking of wonderful, Greg Radley was at his brilliant best as guest auctioneer of the Live Monster Auction. With seven fantastic lots up for grabs, Greg worked the room into spirited bidding contests with the assistance of colleague Dave Carlson.

Another hive of excitement was the

Carrazzo Consulting Silent Auction which was hosted by Dave Carlson, with some 31 items up for grabs. For the third 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.

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 live monster auction and the silent auction.

The event this year was proudly sponsored by Luxbet.com, Racing NSW, Gooree Park Stud, Sky Racing World, Emirates, Ambassador Travel, Gow Gates Insurance Brokers, Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Vinery Stud, Randwick



Tom Burlinson performs to the crowd at Racing's Night of Champions

Equine Centre, Inglis, The Star, Carrazzo Consulting, International Animal Health Products and De Bortoli Wines.

Our thanks also to Greg Radley and Christy Johns; Dave Carlson for his assistance with the Monster and Silent Auction; Christy Johns on the red carpet; our feature artist Tom Burlinson and our event manager, Pauline Lamb from Infinity MC.

I would also like to thank my fellow Racing Night of Champions Organising Committee members – Julia Ritchie, 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 2014 Racing's Night of Champions.

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

AWARD	WINNER
LUXBET.COM NSW CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	It's A Dundee! (NZ)
NSW 2YO OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by the Australian Turf Club</i>	Guelph
NSW 3YO OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Gow Gates Insurance Brokers</i>	It's A Dundee! (NZ)
NSW SPRINTER OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Vinery Stud</i>	All Too Hard
NSW MILER OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Randwick Equine Centre</i>	Appearance
NSW MIDDLE DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by New Zealand Bloodstock</i>	Foreteller (GB)
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Emirates</i>	Glencadam Gold (Ire)
QUEEN OF THE AUTUMN <i>Proudly sponsored by Inglis</i>	Red Tracer
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Sky Racing World</i>	Ortensia
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Gooree Park Stud</i>	Rolling Pin