

# A night to remember

**SOMETIMES ONE WORD CAN APTLY DESCRIBE AN EVENT AND THAT IS NEVER TRUER THAN WHEN DESCRIBING THE 2014 RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS - WOW!**

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*The packed crowd at Racing's Night of Champions*

**Y**es, there was glitz, glamour and excitement in abundance but there was something else this year.

There was a real buzz as the industry as a whole gathered to join us in 'Celebrating the Best'.

It was truly a night to remember.

As has been the case with the flagship event of NSWROA for the past four 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 7 August returned to the spectacular Event Centre at The Star with Greg Radley and Susanne Messara our hosts for the night.

Susanne was also in charge of the microphone for the 'blue' carpet interviews which featured celebrities and 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 so to the awards ceremony and the top honour of the night, the Tab.com.au NSW Champion Horse of the Year title, went to Boban who was also successful in the NSW Miler of the Year category.

The complete list of category awards and the winners on the night is in the table on the opposite page.

Never has a crowd been more vocal in their support of winners at this function than they were this year. The cheering and crowd response to winners was incredible but this then progressed to an even higher level again when NSWROA president, Ray McDowell, announced the winner of the NSWROA Industry Recognition Award.

Several years ago the Association created this award, a special award

to honour an outstanding contribution made to the industry.

This award has only been presented on two occasions previously. The inaugural winner of the award was Brother Dan Stafford AOM in 2008 whilst Ian Craig OAM received the honour in 2009.

The NSWROA Industry Recognition Award was awarded to Guy and Wendy Walter. The large crowd rose as one to salute Wendy Walter as she accepted the award. It was one of those moments that you just never forget and I for one am so glad that I was in attendance to witness such an event.

The Chantoozies were the feature entertainment for the night and they were in fine form indeed on a night when fine form was rewarded accordingly.

From the opening strands of 'Love the One You're With' it was standing room only on the dance floor as the ladies took us down memory lane with fantastic moments from the late 1980s.

Speaking of fantastic, Greg Radley

was at his brilliant best as guest auctioneer of the Live Monster Auction. With seven 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 32 items up for grabs.

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

In an exciting addition to this year's offerings guests were given the opportunity to purchase a key for just \$50 which would open the lock to a Hyundai I20. Michael Pires from Tabcorp was the lucky winner of the car.

Speaking of 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 live monster auction and the silent auction.

The event this year was proudly sponsored by Tab.com.au, Wild Oaks, Sky Racing World, Emirates, Ambassador Travel, Gow Gates Insurance Brokers, Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Vinery Stud, Sydney Horse Transport, Inglis, The Star, Carrazzo Consulting, International Animal Health Products and De Bortoli Wines.

Our thanks also to Greg Radley and Susanne Messara, our hosts for the night; Dave Carlson for his assistance with both the Monster and Silent Auctions; our feature entertainment The Chantoozies 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, Wendy Farrow 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 2015 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](http://www.nswroa.com.au) **RNSW**



ABOVE: Matt Dominello one of the proud owners of Boban (Tab.com.au NSW Champion Horse of the Year) flanked by Craig Nugent from Tabcorp (left) and The Hon Troy Grant, MP (right)

BELOW: The Chantoozies take to the stage at 2014 Racing's Night of Champions



TAB.com.au NSW Champion Horse Of The Year	<b>Boban</b>
NSW Two-Year-Old Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Australian Turf Club</i>	<b>Earthquake</b>
NSW Three-Year-Old Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Gow Gates Insurance Brokers</i>	<b>Criterion (NZ)</b>
NSW Sprinter Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Vinery Stud</i>	<b>Cosmic Endeavour</b>
NSW Miler Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Sydney Horse Transport</i>	<b>Boban</b>
NSW Middle-Distance Horse Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By New Zealand Bloodstock</i>	<b>Fiorente (Ire)</b>
NSW Stayer Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Emirates</i>	<b>The Offer (Ire)</b>
Queen Of The Autumn <i>Proudly Sponsored By Inglis</i>	<b>Catkins</b>
NSW Country Champion Horse Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Sky Racing</i>	<b>Big Money</b>
NSW Provincial Champion Horse Of The Year <i>Proudly Sponsored By Wild Oaks</i>	<b>Famous Seamus (NZ)</b>