

# WINX SHINES BRIGHT AT AWARDS

**SYDNEY'S MIGHTY MARE, WINX, AND HER TRAINER CHRIS WALLER WERE THE STARS ON A GLITTERING NSW RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS AT ROYAL RANDWICK** WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)



*Connections of super mare Winx, after she was named TAB.com.au NSW Champion Horse of the Year*

In front of an adoring and packed audience and with the industry once again united in the Royal Randwick Ballroom of the Australian Turf Club, Winx was named the Tab.com.au NSW Champion Horse of the Year at the NSW Racehorse Owners Association's (NSWROA) 2016 Racing's Night of Champions last month.

This year's gala black tie event, which was televised live on Sky Thoroughbred Central, was hosted by Greg Radley and was in aid of the Prince of Wales Hospital Foundation.

Red carpet interviews which featured celebrities and stars of the racing season were conducted by Priscilla Schmidt and Gerard Middleton.

The event's co-major sponsor Racing NSW also presented their annual awards on the night which were highlighted by the coveted Bart Cummings Medal which was taken out once again by Chris Waller.

We saw the 'very best' in the racing world in contention for all the awards.

There were dual winners of the NSWROA Industry

Recognition Award with Ray Murrphy and Colin Tuck the very worthy recipients.

The crowd rose collectively to acknowledge the wonderful contributions these two gentleman have given to our industry.

The Association created this special award several years ago to honour an outstanding contribution made to the industry. This award has only been presented on four occasions previously.

The inaugural winner of the award was Brother Dan Stafford in 2008, Ian Craig received the honour in 2009, Wendy Walter accepted the award for her late husband Guy in 2014, while Ken Callander and John Tapp were the worthy recipients last year.

The award winners for the 2015/16 season are listed in the table on the opposite page.

Guests took to the dance floor with Jellybean Jam who delighted the crowd with their vast repertoire of songs. It was, as we have come to expect, a night to remember.

I would like to thank Greg Radley who was at his brilliant

Award	Winners
TAB.COM.AU NSW CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR	Winx
NSWROA INDUSTRY RECOGNITION AWARDS	Ray Murrhiy and Colin Tuck
NSW TWO-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Australian Turf Club	Capitalist
NSW THREE-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers	Press Statement
NSW SPRINTER OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by the Australian Turf Club	Chautauqua
NSW MILER OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Whitby Bloodstock	Winx
NSW MIDDLE-DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by New Zealand Bloodstock	Preferment (NZ)
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Emirates	Libran (Ire)
QUEEN OF THE AUTUMN Proudly sponsored by Inglis	Azkadellia (NZ)
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Sky Thoroughbred Central	Fell Swoop
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR Proudly sponsored by Sky Thoroughbred Central	Lucia Valentina (NZ)

## The winners of the Racing NSW annual awards were:

Award	Winners
BART CUMMINGS MEDAL	Chris Waller
T.J. SMITH AWARD	Chris Waller
GEORGE MOORE AWARD	James McDonald
THEO GREEN AWARD	Rory Hutchings
NSW RACING WRITERS' PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR	Ray Murrhiy
BOBS HORSE OF THE YEAR	A tie between Pioneering and Sir Bacchus
SYDNEY STRAPPER OF THE YEAR	Ali Iftikhar

best as guest auctioneer of the Live Monster Auction. With six 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 26 items up for grabs.

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

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, Racing NSW, Sky Thoroughbred Central, Emirates, Ambassador Travel, Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers, Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Whitby

Bloodstock, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, International Animal Health Products, Jirsch Sutherland and De Bortoli Wines.

Our thanks again to Greg Radley, our host for the night; Dave Carlson for his assistance with both the Monster and Silent Auctions; our feature entertainment Jellybean Jam and our event manager, Pauline Lamb from Infinity Event & Video Production.

I would also like to thank my fellow Racing Night of Champions Organising Committee members – Ray McDowell, Leanne Zalapa, Melissa Kumar 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 2017 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**