

# FAREWELL TO 2017

**INCREDIBLY, THE END TO ANOTHER YEAR IS FAST APPROACHING – AND AS WE USUALLY DO – WE QUESTION WHERE THE YEAR HAS GONE!** WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

**W**ell, our industry has had some memorable events during 2017. It doesn't seem all that long ago that the Golden Slipper was run and we saw those wonderful sights when She Will Reign saluted for her vast array of ecstatic owners.

The Championships once again highlighted the best the autumn had to offer and then there was Winx!

Simply incredible, culminating in her third straight Cox Plate success. I, like most, am in awe of this Champion of the Turf.

And finally, the "new kid on the block", The Everest, put our Victorian neighbours on notice that the Spring Carnival takes place in Sydney as well as Melbourne.

Speaking of new, the NSWROA Committee has also had some 'new arrivals' during the year and I am very pleased to introduce Mr Mitchell Stone, Mr Blake Matthews and Mrs Shirley McGrath to the readership.

## MITCHELL STONE – TREASURER

**M**itchell (Mitch) Stone was appointed a Director in March 2017 and Treasurer in September 2017.

Mitch has had a love of racing from a young age; hailing from a racing family in Orange he has attended country, city and international race meetings for much of his life.

He was previously on the board and later became Chairman of the AJC Young Members Advisory Committee.

Mitch is a Chartered Accountant who has worked in Business Advisory Service, Corporate Finance and Tax for the last 14 years. He currently specialises in the pub and hospitality industry.



travel and events.

Originally trained as a singer and later as an accountant, Shirley worked in Australia and internationally as a cabaret performer, in the theatre, and for luxury cruise lines including within the senior management at sea.

After retiring from that in 2008, she joined The Gordon Frost Organisation (GFO), Australia's largest producer of music theatre.

Shirley heads up the Finance and Corporate area and is responsible (apart from the accounting) for matters including show merchandising, rights licensing, venue agreements, and investors in all the major GFO musicals and the co-productions with Opera Australia.

Additionally, Shirley oversees the GFO investments in overseas productions and all compliance and taxation matters in Australia and internationally.

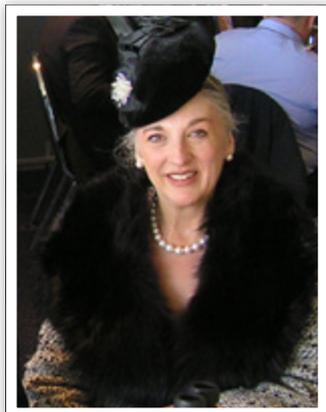


## SHIRLEY MCGRATH

**S**hirley McGrath was appointed a Director in September 2017.

She is a member of both the ATC (previously the STC since the early 1990s) and VRC.

Shirley has had a varied career across many aspects of entertainment, luxury



## BLAKE MATTHEWS

**B**lake Matthews was appointed a Director in September 2017.

Blake has been a long-time horse racing enthusiast, and a frequent attendee at City and many

Interstate meetings.

He is a member of the Australian Turf Club and has earlier this year begun his journey through horse ownership, which he hopes to see many other young people do.

Blake is an Accountant who works in Business Advisory and Tax, with a focus on Small-Medium business.

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***Our new Committee members join Ray McDowell (President), Tom O'Callaghan (Vice President), Michael Inglis (Secretary) and Antony Surace in voluntarily giving their time to serve on a vibrant NSWROA Committee who are gearing up in anticipation of another year.***

I would like to encourage those owners who are not yet members of NSWROA to be more than an owner – be a member and join the Association in 2018. Applications will

be opening soon for the 2018 membership year.

By way of background I advise that for over 50 years NSWROA has both served and promoted the interests of all racehorse owners in New South Wales.

Under the Thoroughbred Racing Act, NSWROA is determined to be 'the eligible industry body' under Clause 31 (2) of the Act representing racehorse owners at regulatory level and associated industry consultation groups.

The Association represents owners at industry stakeholder level both at state level via the Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG) (consultant to Racing NSW) and at the national level at the Australian Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Council (ATROC) as well as in other circumstances where owners' interests need to be represented.

NSWROA works to have a more influential voice in the racing industry, on behalf of all owners, and seeks to improve every aspect of the ownership experience.

For further information visit our website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au)

As this is the last issue of Racing NSW Magazine for the year, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the President and NSWROA Committee, to wish all readers the compliments of the season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2018. **RNSW**