

# Enthusiasm & passion takes you places!

**NSWROA MEMBER & FOUNDER OF INTERNATIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS (IAHP), CHRIS LAWLOR, IS A GREAT BELIEVER THAT ENTHUSIASM AND PASSION CAN DRIVE SUCCESS AND WHO CAN DOUBT HIM?** WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

**G**rowing up in country Victoria as a youngster, Chris Lawlor was interested in agriculture and science. Country life made a great impression on him, so much so, that upon seeing first-hand the death of young animals, he was determined in some way to be able to provide some sort of solution.

He quickly realised that new products were the answer and promptly set out to remedy the situation.

IAHP evolved in 1987 being the merged result of three companies Chris had acquired and the rest is history, to quote a popular saying.

IAHP has been supplying product to South East Asia and the Middle East for more than 20 years and has also developed a business arm in New Zealand although the company manufactures in Australia.

Whilst agriculture and science has been Chris's great passion, he also has great enthusiasm and allegiance for the 'Sport of Kings' with IAHP heavily involved in race sponsorship both in Australia and New Zealand.

IAHP is the sponsor of the Group 1 Livamol Classic, the most important weight-for-age race in New Zealand, with the winner exempt from ballot for the WS Cox Plate. The race is held at the picturesque Hastings Racecourse in September/October each year.

IAHP is also the sponsor of the Group 3 Livamol Gold Cup conducted by Hawkesbury Race Club at their stand-alone Saturday meeting in May each year.

This sponsorship is "extra special" as most of the horses raced by Chris and his wife Lynne are pre-trained and trained on the course.

The Association's flagship event, Racing's Night of Champions, is another event IAHP has provided sponsorship for, via the NSW Champion 3YO of the Year Award as well as the IAHP Raffle.

But let's go back to where racing started for Chris.

As aforementioned, Chris's childhood was mostly spent in country Victoria and it was at Wangaratta where he was introduced to the racing industry, living next door to Hal Hoysted.

He said there were some fantastic horses in that era with the likes of Vain and Tobin Bronze; particular favourites at the time.

Together with wife Lynne, they have owned numerous horses and "most of them have been slow" to quote Chris with notable exceptions being Ausbred King and Ausbred Blue both being trained by Wade Slinkard.

The Lawlor colours of green with a yellow map of Australia are

instantly recognisable as are the horses who race in them with their names almost always having "Ausbred" in the title.

Ausbred King (Masterclass (USA)-Stormy Zephyr) faced the starter 68 times for nine wins (including a Listed race success), 10 second placings (twice at Listed level) and 11 third placings (once at Listed level) for some \$426,260 in prizemoney.

A consistent mile/middle distance performer, Chris credits Ausbred King with providing him with his most memorable moment on a racecourse when he saluted in the Listed STC Neville Sellwood Stakes at Rosehill Gardens on Golden Slipper day in 2009.

"Finally, after three attempts at this race, Ausbred King duly saluted in the Neville Sellwood Stakes on 2009 Slipper day. His first start in the race was in 2007 when he finished third but was a disappointing 16th in the 2008 running of the race."

On the other hand, Ausbred Blue (Bluebird (USA)-Stormy Zephyr), Ausbred King's half-sibling, was a sprinter who saluted on five occasions for the Lawlors but didn't compete in the black type arena.

Currently the Lawlors have on the books: Cool Dude Ausbred, Ausbred Diamond, unraced fillies Ausbred Beauty and Ausbred Nacre, with both due to race shortly.

They also have shares in Godunov, Plagiarist, Curtis, Grey Khan (all by Dalakhani), Let It Be plus unnamed Camelot and Reliable Man colts.

When asked who had influenced him the most in the racing industry Chris said: "I am not sure any one person has.

"I respect and value the opinions of Linda and Ian Duckworth (Fairview Stud & Agnes Banks Equine), Brett Howard (Randwick Bloodstock), Gordon Pratt (Education & Pre-training at Fernhill Estate and now EverGreen Stud farm) and Emma Mayfield Smith (Pre-training)."

And Chris's advice to newcomers to the industry: "Seek advice from those with experience and integrity.

"And buy horses or shares in horses with good trainers wherever they are located like I have done with Gerald Ryan (and his son Blake), Noel Mayfield-Smith, Matthew Smith, Peter Nestor to name just a few."

So why not give it a go! Racehorse ownership has something for all.

If you are interested in participating in the wonderful world of thoroughbred racing, why not become a member of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association.

For further information visit our website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) or telephone the NSWROA office on 02 9299 4299. **RNSW**



ABOVE: Chris Lawlor: "Seek advice from those with experience and integrity."  
BELOW: Ausbred King after being sashed winner of the 2009 STC Neville Sellwood Stakes. Picture by Bradley Photographers

