

It's carnival time – let's socialise!

APRIL IS ALWAYS A VERY EXCITING TIME FOR THE NSW RACING INDUSTRY AND NOTHING CAN MATCH THE EXCITEMENT IN SYDNEY IT IS OUR VERY SPECIAL TIME – IT'S CARNIVAL TIME!

WORDS: **SHARON HUNT** (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

An abundance of opportunities is available to socialise, so why not join in and indulge in what will undoubtedly be a fantastic experience.

First up is the 2018 Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival which runs from 17 March to 21 April and includes the wonderful initiative that is The Championships.

It is a veritable Group One smorgasbord of 18 races including (in date order) the Coolmore Classic, Golden Slipper Stakes, George Ryder Stakes, Ranvet Stakes, The Galaxy, Rosehill Guineas, Tancred Stakes, Storm Queen Stakes, Doncaster Mile, TJ Smith Stakes, ATC Australian Derby, Sires' Produce Stakes, Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Sydney Cup, Australian Oaks, Queen of the Turf Stakes, All Aged Stakes and the Champagne Stakes.

The Championships are, of course, a standout event in themselves. Conducted over two Saturdays, 7 and 14 April, there is just over \$20 million in prizemoney on offer.

The Country Championships Final and the Provincial Championships Final are additional highlights to this wonderful series.

The Inglis Australian Easter Yearling sale, the most prestigious yearling sale in Australia, will be held at the new Riverside Stables complex at Warwick Farm from 9 to 11 April.

We expect only the best from Easter and that is certainly what we have with the 534 lots on offer this year.

Inglis, which was established in 1867 and now boasts over 150 years of selling, opened their new venue with a flourish in February with the Classic Yearling Sale and anticipation is high for what could prove to be the best Easter yearling sale ever held by Inglis.

Preceding the Easter yearling sale is the Chairman's Sale 'Racing Prospects' on 5 April while the Chairman's Sale 'Breeding Prospects' will be held on 12 April after the Easter yearling sale.

Concluding the selling at the Riverside Stables in April is the Australian Broodmare & Weanling Sale which will take place from 15 to 17 April 2018.

NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA) will also be conducting our annual Autumn carnival event in April.

The very popular NSWROA Autumn Carnival Function will take place at Royal Randwick on Saturday 21 April.

This event is one of our very favourite events with members



Dennis Pitman with Mary McKenzie, the inaugural winner of the NSWROA Jane Pitman Memorial Award

and guests enjoying fine dining while the equine elite battle it out for honours on the final day of the Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival with the Group 1 All Aged Stakes one of the race highlights on the day.

One of several competitions conducted on the day is the Best Hat/Headpiece Competition which was renamed the NSWROA Jane Pitman Memorial Award last year in honour of longstanding NSWROA Member and Autumn Carnival Function devotee Jane Pitman, who sadly passed away in February 2017.

As regular attendees of this function will know, Jane was the essence in style and was the winner of the Best Hat/Headpiece Competition on several occasions as well as various other raceday fashion competitions.



ABOVE: *Tivaci (outside) wears down Le Romain to win the 2017 All Aged Stakes at Royal Randwick*
 BELOW: *The NSWROA's Jane Pitman Memorial Award*

The winner of the inaugural NSWROA Jane Pitman Memorial Award was Mary McKenzie.

While the abovementioned autumn events are definitely too good to miss, the big one for NSWROA is 'Racing's Night of Champions', our flagship event and the NSW Racing Industry's Night of Nights, which is held in August each year.

Conducted in Australian Turf Club's Royal Randwick Ballroom, the feature equine award at this function is the TAB.com.au NSW Champion Horse of the Year whose recent honour roll includes First Seal in 2015 and Winx with back-to-back wins in 2016 and 2017.

At this stage I cannot disclose details of the extraordinary event currently being arranged for 2018, but I can say it will definitely be an event not to be missed. Stay tuned for further details.

For more information regarding NSWROA events in 2018 and in particular our Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival Function, contact the office on telephone (02) 9299-4299, email nswroa1@ozemail.com.au or visit the website www.nswroa.com.au **RNSW**

