



DEC 2004

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MORE NEW SPONSORS FOR NSWROA

The success and status of the Association's annual award's night is demonstrated by the sponsorship agreements that have been entered into for 2005. In addition to Allianz Dresdner Asset Management, we are pleased and proud to announce that Merrill Lynch and ING Australia have also joined with us as major sponsors of Racing's Night of Champions 2005.

Merrill Lynch is one of the world's leading financial management and advisory companies, with offices in 35 countries and private client assets of approximately \$1.5 trillion.

ING Australia is one of Australia's leading fund managers and life insurers with over \$38 billion in assets under management.

The support of such prestigious institutions will help us to ensure that the awards night remains the best in Australia.

We are proud at the confidence that is displayed in the

Association and in racing, and of our role in bringing these companies into a mutually beneficial relationship with the industry.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

The high level of Workers Compensation premiums in recent years has frequently been cited as a reason for higher training fees. At our joint meeting last year the ATA (NSW) and the Association agreed to press for a review of these costs.

Racing NSW have now announced that there will be a 50% reduction in Workers Compensation premiums from 1st January 2005.

This is a real boost for both owners and trainers and a great benefit to come out of Racing NSW's Strategic Plan.

The new charge per starter will be:

	<u>New</u>	<u>Current</u>
Country	\$13	\$27
Provincial	\$26	\$52
Metropolitan	\$35	\$69

We look forward to these reductions flowing through to owners training bills.

MORE STAYERS RACES

As members are aware the NSWROA has consistently advocated, in all submissions to racing authorities on race programming and strategic planning, that increased opportunities are needed for staying horses.

In reality, what we have been seeking is a restoration of the balance between sprinting and middle distance and longer racing that once existed, prior to the fascination with (and quick

returns available from) outright speed.

The matter was brought to a head recently with the announcement by the Pattern Race Committee of the downgrading of The Metropolitan from Group One to Group Two.

This year's running of the Melbourne Cup shows how close the race has come to being a three-ring circus put on for the benefit of overseas owners and trainers.

Fortunately, the tide may be starting to turn with Racing NSW's announcement of the creation of the Provincial Stayers Championship Series. This follows Racing NSW's introduction of policies to phase in an increase in the number of races run over 1600 metres and beyond.

The series, to be run between January and March, will have 18 races (class heats) over 1,850 metres+, culminating in a 2,300 metre final (at Class 4) on Newcastle Newmarket Day. Each of the heats will have prize money of \$15,000; the final of \$30,000, with a \$10,000 bonus for connections of the horse earning most points on the way to the final.

Racing NSW's CEO Peter V'Landys has said that although there may be small fields to start with, it is essential to support the new policy. This is a sensible and pragmatic approach, needed for any initiative with long-term goals.

Our submissions have had their effect. It is now up to us, the owners, to respond and ensure that staying races remain a vital and viable component of the pattern of racing in Australia.

POST-RACE INTERVIEWS

We are advised that the Sydney Turf Club is to continue the post-race interviews of winning owners by Des Hoysted.

The Association has constantly lobbied for the retention of the interview service.

GOLF DAY

A Golf Day will be held on **Tuesday, 22 February 2005**, at **Cromer Golf Club**. The format of the day will be as a racing industry challenge, for the NSWROA Trophy. Participants may enter or will be made up into, teams representing owners, jockeys, trainers, race clubs, syndicates, officials or any other group with a racing theme. Put the date in your diary now; full details in the January Newsletter and on the website shortly.

NSWROA WEBSITE ACCESS

Don't forget that members need a **username** and **password** to access the website so if you haven't already done so either call **Caroline Fara**, Executive Officer on t: **9299 4299** to obtain your username or email your password to **caroline@nswroa.com.au**.

FREE ENTRY - DEC

2 nd	Hawkesbury
4 th	Kembla Grange, Lismore, Tamworth
5 th	Canberra, Gosford
6 th	Muswellbrook
7 th	Nowra
8 th	Taree
9 th	Wyong
11 th	Broadmeadow, Moruya, Moulamein
12 th	Cowra, Grafton
13 th	Tamworth
15 th	Gosford
17 th	Canberra, Muswellbrook
18 th	Albury, Bathurst, Kembla Grange, Nowra
19 th	Hawkesbury, Taree

21 st	Tamworth
23 rd	Wyong
24 th	Lismore
26 th	Ballina, Broadmeadow, Quirindi, Sapphire Coast, Wellington
29 th	Kembla Grange
30 th	Gosford
31 st	Canberra, Scone

Yours in Racing



Rob Albon
President

STOP PRESS: RACE PROGRAMMING

As we go to print, a letter has been received from Mark Webbey, Senior Handicapper at Racing NSW setting out a revised programming policy. Adopted at the Racing NSW Board Meeting of 15 November, 2005, the new policy will come into effect on 1 February 2005. The objectives of the policy, which comes out of all the consultations over recent months are to:

- Increase opportunities and competition through the adoption of the class system in metropolitan programming;
- Increase opportunities for fillies and mares;
- Increase opportunities for stayers; and
- Reintroduce Welter Handicaps.

More details and comment will be posted on our website and in the next Newsletter.

JAMIE WALTER'S COLUMN

When the juveniles burst out of the gates on Golden Slipper day next year, little do they know what lies ahead in the ensuing fortnight. If savvy to the exhausting schedule, the smarter ones might pace themselves!!

Racing NSW and the A.J.C need to take a long hard look at the current schedule of the 2 year old Triple Crown. Three Group Ones in successive Saturdays is not asked of any Triple Crown anywhere in the world so why are we demanding such a crushing programme for our babies, many of whom will not even be two and a half by Champagne day (April 2)?

This gruelling agenda is a product of the AJC's new, condensed Easter Carnival, which even the harshest critics would have to concede was generally an overwhelming success in its freshman year. But asking 2 year olds to compete at the highest level three times in 15 days is sadistic.

Dance Hero's phenomenal effort in bagging all three so decisively after previously delivering in the Magic Millions and running a cracking race in the Breeders Plate is proof it can be done.... but at what cost?

Now he may return a top class horse in time. However it was hardly surprising to see him fold so meekly and uncharacteristically in the Spring.

The Golden Slipper has spawned some mighty gallopers many of whom have subsequently excelled as stallions. Have a gander at the Honour Roll in the race book next year... Manikato, Todman, Vain, Baguette, Luskin Star, Marscay, Sir Dapper, Rory's Jester, Canny Lad, Danzero and Flying Spur are hard to knock. Suffice it to say, the Slipper must stay.

The Sires at 1400m would represent a nice progression if held over for another week. Something therefore has to give and may I gently suggest it be the Champagne Stakes. Move it to September as a lead up to the Champion Stakes or throw the money at the Sires and press the delete key.



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