



Pierro and Nash Rawiller power away with the ATC Sires' Produce Stakes at Royal Randwick

# FULFILLING DREAMS – RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP

GREG & DONNA KOLIVOS STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THE RIDE THEY ENJOYED LAST YEAR  
CULMINATING IN PIERRO WINNING THE PRESTIGIOUS 2YO TRIPLE CROWN

WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

**H**appy New Year to all readers – it is hard to believe isn't it, that a new year is commencing?

January marks the start of a new membership year for NSWROA as well as the start of the yearling sales which will introduce many to the ranks of ownership for the very first time.

It has long been a misconception that racehorse ownership is only for the very wealthy.

Such may have been the case in years gone by, but nothing could be further from the truth nowadays; the thrill of owning a racehorse is now readily available to all.

So what better way to encourage new owners into the industry than to tell them a success story with unabashed joy and passion for our wonderful industry?

In what can only be described as a classic understatement, 2012 has been a magnificent year for Greg and Donna Kolivos. One word says it all – Pierro!

Crowned NSW Champion 2YO of the Year at the NSWROA Racing's Night of Champions and then Australian Champion 2YO of the Year at the National awards, Pierro left us in no doubt that he was the best two-year-old we have seen for some time.

Starting his 2YO season in October 2011 with a win in the time-honoured Listed-ATC Breeders' Plate, he would salute the judge a further five times to remain unbeaten as a juvenile.

Those wins included (in order of running) the Group 2-ATC Silver Slipper Stakes, Gr 2-ATC Todman Stakes, Gr 1-ATC Golden Slipper, Gr 1-ATC Sires' Produce Stakes and the Gr 1-ATC Champagne Stakes.

He claimed the coveted 2YO Triple Crown with a dominance that has not been seen for some years – eight in fact.

Another resident at the famed Tulloch Lodge, Dance Hero, took out the Triple Crown in 2004. Other winners of this incredible feat were Baguette (1970), Luskin Star (1977), Tierce (1991) and Burst (1992).

After a well-earned rest, Pierro returned as a three-year-old with wins in the Gr 3-ATC Run to the Rose and the Gr 2-MVRC Bill Stutt Stakes, giving him the perfect record of eight wins from as many starts.

But, in my view, it was his runs in defeat in his two following starts that showcased what a true champion this horse is.



ABOVE: Greg Kolivos (left) accepts the NSW 2YO of the Year award from ATC vice-chairman, Michael Crismale, at Racing's Night of Champions  
 BELOW: Greg and Donna Kolivos on the red carpet at Racing's Night of Champions



Despite everything going against him, he did not give up in the grind to the line in the Gr 1-MRC Caulfield Guineas when he was overhauled late to another star of the track, All Too Hard.

And again in the Gr 1-MVRC W S Cox Plate despite setbacks, he came again to finish a gallant third to Ocean Park and All Too Hard showing a maturity well beyond his years.

Currently out spelling after an incredible year, I for one can't wait to see Piero grace our tracks in 2013.

Piero has faced the starter 10 times for eight wins, a second and a third placing with prizemoney earnings of \$3,554,950.

When asked the question 'What does it feel like to be a part-owner of such a good horse?' Greg Kolivos replied: "It is surreal.

"You look at the DVDs and sometimes you have to ask yourself 'did that really happen?'

"Piero represents so many of the characteristics that we can only hope to aspire to; he is quite remarkable.

**<< IT WAS AWESOME AND A HUGE THRILL TO ATTEND BOTH THE NSWROA RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS AND THE AUSTRALIAN RACEHORSE OF THE YEAR FUNCTIONS AND ACCEPT AWARDS PIERRO HAD WON.**

"The trophies have pride and place in a cabinet at home and we are very proud recipients."

So how and why did Greg decide to enter the Sport of Kings?

His introduction is similar to most that have entered the sport – via family.

His father, who worked two jobs, was an avid race follower who loved nothing better than to have a 'little flutter'.

Greg would tag along at least once a month to the races with him soaking up that intoxicating atmosphere that we all know only too well.

His love of the sport grew and together with some mates he invested in some small syndicates but had little success.

Work and family then took over but about five or six years ago, finding he had more time available, he suggested to his wife Donna that they should take some small shares in horses.

Completely off the cuff he rang Gai Waterhouse's office, however, they did not have any shares available at the time.

They recommended that he give Denise Martin at Star Thoroughbreds a call as she had shares available in some syndicates and so the partnership was formed.

Within a short period of time both Gai and Denise brought the whole racing experience to life for the Kolivos family.

**IT WASN'T TOO LONG BEFORE GREG AND DONNA HAD THEIR FIRST GROUP ONE WINNER IN HERCULIAN PRINCE (NZ) WITH THEIR CO-OWNERS AND GAI, WHO CELEBRATED HER 100TH GROUP ONE SUCCESS AT THE SAME TIME WHEN HE SCORED IN THE METROPOLITAN.**

Herculian Prince has provided his band of owners with a string of wins including four in the Black Type arena in the Gr 3-Kingston Town Stakes, Listed-JRA Plate, Listed-Neville Sellwood Handicap as well as the Gr 1-The Metropolitan.

The horse's race record stands at nine wins, four second placings and a third from 34 starts for \$604,936 in prizemoney.

Racehorse ownership for Greg and Donna is very much a hobby and an enjoyable one at that.

Greg said: "Racing gives us great pleasure as we love being in and around horses and the socialising as well.

"It is amazing to watch mature people losing complete control as they encourage their charges for that one last effort. It's great stuff and it is a hard thing to replicate in any other pastime."

So what does the future hold for the Kolivos family? Well, Greg, Donna and the family will be back at the yearling sales in 2013 looking for another budding champion whilst also eagerly awaiting the debuts of their younger horses and the return of Pierro to the track.

When asked what advice he would give to someone thinking of entering the ownership ranks, Greg said:



Herculian Prince (Nash Rawiller) takes out the ATC-The Metropolitan at Randwick

"Approach it for the right reasons. If you are in a position to do it you couldn't want for anything more – it's the stuff of dreams.

"It is a huge thrill watching your horses race but don't just wait for racedays to see them.

"Visit the stables and spelling farms as well so you can experience everything because these are the most majestic creatures around."

Racehorse ownership – there is nothing quite like it!

Racehorse owners are very special people – are you one? If not, why not give it a go!

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful sport why not become a member of NSW Racehorse Owners Association?

Membership applications are now being taken for the 2013 membership year. Simply visit our website - [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) - or phone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299. **RNSW**