

Winx's fitting finale at Racing's Night of Champions



ABOVE: Part of the huge crowd at NSWROA's Racing's Night of Champions
BELOW: Team Winx collects the TAB NSW Champion Horse of the Year



WHILE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINX AS LAST SEASON'S CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR WAS NO SURPRISE, THE LARGE CROWD IN THE ROYAL RANDWICK BALLROOM ROSE TO THEIR FEET TO CELEBRATE THIS TRUE CHAMPION

WORDS: JANE HENNING (CEO – NSWROA) PICTURES: HIGH IMPACT HEADSHOTS

We saw the 'very best' in the racing world in contention for all the awards at this gala event held in the Royal Randwick Ballroom, which was televised live on Sky Thoroughbred Central.

The NSWROA Award Winners for the 2018/19 season are:

AWARD	WINNER
NSW TWO-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Australian Turf Club</i>	KIAMICHI
NSW THREE-YEAR-OLD OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Inglis</i>	THE AUTUMN SUN
NSW SPRINTER OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Australian Turf Club</i>	OSBORNE BULLS
NSW MILER OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Wild Oaks</i>	WINX
NSW MIDDLE-DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by New Zealand Bloodstock</i>	WINX
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Coolmore Australia</i>	SHRAAOH (IRE)
QUEEN OF THE AUTUMN <i>Proudly sponsored by City Tattersalls Club</i>	DIXIE BLOSSOMS
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Sky Thoroughbred Central</i>	ECKSTEIN
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by Sky Thoroughbred Central</i>	ANGEL OF TRUTH
NSW CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR <i>Proudly sponsored by TAB</i>	WINX

NSW Racing Writers' Personality of the Year was awarded to the much-admired Nini Vascotto, who delivered a heartfelt and touching speech. Enduring Stage 4 cancer and leaving hospital to attend for a few hours on the night, her courage touched the room.

Co-major sponsor, Racing NSW, also presented their annual awards on the night, with Chris Waller taking out the coveted Bart Cummings Medal for the ninth straight time.

Chris quipped that, "If Nini managed to hold back the tears, I better as well."

Chris Waller also picked up the TJ Smith Award for the Sydney Premiership Trainer.

Other awards presented included the George Moore Award (James McDonald), the Theo Green Award (Robbie Dolan), BOBS Horse of the Year (River Bird) and the Sydney Strapper of the Year (Alexandra Maher from the John O'Shea yard).

An auction conducted by Greg Radley in aid of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia opened with an on-stage interview with Tye England, a client of SCIA, and his close friend Grant Buckley.

The top auction item, a service to Vancouver donated by Tommy Berry and Coolmore Australia, was clinched by Australian Bloodstock for \$40,000 plus GST, with the underbidder being Evergreen Farm, Hong Kong.

The event this year was proudly sponsored by TAB, Racing NSW, Sky Thoroughbred Central, City Tattersalls Club, Australian Turf Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, Wild Oaks, Coolmore Australia, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, Hall Chadwick, International Animal Health Products and De Bortoli Wines.

NSWROA President, Mr Ray McDowell, said, "On behalf of Spinal Cord Injuries Australia and NSWROA, I would like to thank everyone for helping us celebrate the best of the NSW Thoroughbred Racing Industry.

"My thanks again to our wonderful sponsors, donors and successful bidders. And most importantly, congratulations to all racing's winners and we look forward to seeing you all again next year." *RNSW*



(L-R): Chantelle Buckley, Tye England, Erin England and Grant Buckley