



A group of enthusiastic Winx fans got into the spirit of the day



LEFT: NSWROA's President Ray McDowell interviews Winx's part-owners, Debbie Kepitis and Peter Tighe



RIGHT: Guests all wearing a touch of blue for the occasion



Owner Louis Mihalyka (left) and guests enjoyed the afternoon's racing

APOLLO STAKES Cocktail Party

NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION SCORED AN EMPHATIC FIRST-UP WIN WITH THE APOLLO STAKES COCKTAIL PARTY KICKING OFF THE ANNUAL SOCIAL CALENDAR WORDS: JANE HENNING (CEO - NSWROA)

NSWROA's Apollo Stakes day at Royal Randwick also heralded the 2019 debut of the inimitable Winx, and the party subsequently attracted a full house and plenty of atmosphere.

From a private room on Level 2 overlooking the finish line, guests were treated to first class racing, a full glass and a Winx flag in one hand and a canape in the other.

We are very lucky to have two of Winx's owners, Debbie Kepitis and Peter Tighe, as members of the Association and they gave time out of their busy and nerve-racking day to give an exclusive interview with NSWROA's President, Ray McDowell.

The informal chat, which was conducted about an hour before Winx raced, was met by a hushed audience and received heartfelt applause at its conclusion.

While Debbie and Peter would have to be rated as possibly the luckiest racehorse owners in the world right now, they both related that – like most other owners – they have raced their share of the far less talented versions.

As both are currently racing more than 30 horses each, they continue to invest money back into the sport we all love.

Winx herself didn't disappoint on the day and everyone in the room was very happy for her down-to-earth owners on Winx scoring her 30th straight win.

With the raceday being The Star Chinese Festival of Racing, guests were also entertained by a private performance by the Chinese Dragon Dancers.

Already being talked about is our next function, the popular Autumn Luncheon at Royal Randwick on All

Aged Stakes Day, Saturday 20th April. While an appearance of Winx is highly unlikely to be a feature of the meeting, a great day's racing and socialising is a sure bet.

Hoofnote: The Winx owners' interview can be watched on NSW Racehorse Owners' YouTube channel and Facebook page. **RNSW**

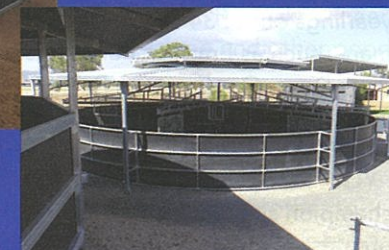
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