

Veteran member of NSWROA still getting winners

SHIRLEY O'SHEA – AN AVID MEMBER OF NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION – LOVES WATCHING HER PRECIOUS HORSE, CLEAR THE BEACH, COMPETE ON RACEDAY WORDS: JANE HENNING (CEO – NSWROA)

Mrs Shirley O'Shea MBE has been a member of the NSWROA for 23 years – she earned her MBE through outstanding charity work for the Sydney community.

A keen owner with a bubbly personality, Shirley has raced horses with a variety of city trainers over the years.

She lists her best horse to-date as Little Squire, who won the 2400m Listed Stayer's Cup at Rosehill in 1989, trained by Phillip Hood and ridden by Ray Silburn.

Little Squire won 11 races and also scored victories at Warwick Farm and Canterbury, giving Shirley a great deal of pleasure at the track.

She was also an owner in Warlord, trained by Gai Waterhouse and after winning at Randwick on debut under Shane Dye, was an early favourite for the 1995 Golden Slipper.

The horse later went on to be placed twice at Randwick.

Mrs O'Shea has recently tasted some ownership success with a horse named Clear the Beach, a cleverly named gelding by Sharkbite.

Originally trained by (the late) John McNair, Clear the Beach was tentatively sold to Hong Kong for good money as a young horse, having won three trials in a row.

However, the horse didn't meet their veterinary requirements and ended up staying in Australia.

Now trained by Greg McFarlane at Gosford, Clear the Beach tasted his first city success with a win at Rosehill in 2017.

He won another Rosehill race that year and tallied a few provincial and country wins since.

Coming off two wins at Muswellbrook and Gundagai, the seven-year-old was presented at Royal Randwick on Saturday 21 December.

Mrs O'Shea was delighted that he had come back to the city, as she nowadays is less mobile.

Shirley had not been to Randwick for several years but was very keen to see her horse run at the iconic track.

After being slowly away, Clear the Beach quickly mustered speed in the 1000m sprint to hit the front before the turn.

He led until the 50m mark but was swamped from the rear and unfortunately pipped in a photo for third placing at the great each way odds of \$16.

"I had such a lovely day at the races," said Shirley. "You would have thought I'd won!"

Clear the Beach was back at Randwick on 4 January



NSWROA member, Mrs Shirley O'Shea MBE

and Shirley was on hand to cheer him on again. He led them up and was again swamped near the line, but this time he held on for third, beaten just half a neck and half a neck.

Happy to have backed him each-way at \$6.50, Shirley was delighted with his game performance.

In his latest performance, Clear the Beach was a gallant second to favourite Black Magnum at Randwick on the Kensington Track on 5 February.

Shirley was again there to watch her beloved horse go around, improving each time in the placings.

"Perhaps he may win next time!", she enthused.

"As a long-time member of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association, I love the camaraderie at the races, socialising with like-minded people for the mutual love of racing."

It is fantastic to see a dedicated owner really enjoy her horses and we wish Shirley more success in the future.

RNSW



Shirley O'Shea admires her evergreen seven-year-old Clear the Beach at Royal Randwick



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