Association's changing of the guard

NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION RECENTLY ANNOUNCED THAT THEIR PRESIDENT OF NEARLY 12 YEARS, RAY MCDOWELL, HAD FORMALLY RETIRED FROM THE BOARD

WORDS: **JANE HENNING** (CEO – NSWROA)

NSWROA's new president Tony Mitevski (holding trophy) celebrates Mustajeer's Parramatta Cup win in February.
Picture by Bradley Photographers

During Ray Mcdowell's tenure, the NSW Racehorse Owners' Association was formally recognised by the Government as the official body representing owners in New South Wales.

Mr Mcdowell, who has been granted Life Membership for his services to the NSWROA, has been succeeded as president by Tony Mitevski, a long-time racehorse owner and passionate racing enthusiast.

Further changes to the Board see Tom O'Callaghan step down as vice-president and retain the position of secretary.

Mr O'Callaghan has been appointed Chair of the Racing Industry Consultative Group, representing the NSW Racehorse Owners' Association.

Directors Peter Quirk and Shirley McGrath will share the role of vice-president.

ABOUT TONY MITEVSKI

Tony has been a keen racegoer since the early nineties, becoming a member of both Sydney Turf Club and Australian Jockey Club and attending most major race meetings. His 'day job' is in construction labour hire.

"In about 2006 I became interested in ownership and fronted up at Tulloch Lodge stables and asked to speak to Gai," Tony explained

"We had a chat and then she took me into the office to meet Denise Martin. Needless to say, I got into a couple of young horses.

"No beginner's luck for me though – both were under-achievers and I retired from ownership for a while to lick my wounds."

Tony bumped into Gai again at a yearling sale and was back in the game, investing in a Fastnet Rock colt ultimately named Charing Cross.

"That was a much-improved experience, the horse handing me my first Provincial and city wins and my first Group runner. From then on I was hooked!"

Tony decided that young horses were too risky and started to buy into proven imported horses.

"I had such a great introduction to this that I'm still going down that path," he explained.

"At one stage, I had Glencadam Gold and Julienas running on alternating weeks and winning Group races – it was such an

exciting time!"

Apart from Glencadam Gold and Julienas, Tony was lucky enough to be in the ownership of Melbourne Cup winner Fiorente. This he says has been his greatest thrill in racing to date.

Since then, Tony branched out and got involved with syndicators ATB and had success with horses like Seismos, winning a Group 3 race in the UK, and Heartbreak City which ran second in a Melbourne Cup to Almandin.

Tony has also had great luck with Australian Bloodstock. Some of the horses in which he is part-owner include Danceteria who won a Group 1 in Germany last year, and Mustajeer who won The Ebor in the UK and ran a creditable second in the Tancred Stakes this year.

Tony also has shares in several current horses including recent Gr 2 Chairman's Handicap winner and Gr 1 Sydney Cup placegetter Raheen House; Gr 2 winner Red Cardinal and Gr 2 Crystal Mile winner, Chief Ironside.

"I've met some fantastic people through racing and have made lifelong friends. I love the social aspect as well as the competitive side of the sport," enthused Tony.

Until recently when prevented by COVID-19 protocols, Tony was a regular attendee at race meetings in Sydney, interstate and overseas.

While he has stepped into the role of president of the NSW Racehorse Owners' Association at a very difficult time, Tony is positive about the future.

"I welcome this role with enthusiasm and excitement. I'm passionate about the sport of horse racing and will take this opportunity to work towards great success and growth for the Association and to represent its members competently, with the backing of a strong Board.

"One of my main missions is to increase our membership so we can develop a stronger voice for owners in the NSW racing industry. We welcome new owners with open arms."

NSW Racehorse Owners Association can be contacted at owners@nswroa.co.au or by phoning Jane Henning on 0421 353 871. *RNSW*

Blaike McDougall with his Tye Angland Medal. Picture by Kylie Shaw (Trackpix Photography)

McDougall claims Tye Angland Medal

BLAIKE MCDOUGALL HAS RIDDEN FOUR WINNERS ACROSS THE WAGGA GOLD CUP CARNIVAL TO WIN HIS SECOND STRAIGHT TYE ANGLAND MEDAL WORDS: **JEFF HANSON**

Blaike McDougall was all smiles after winning his second straight Tye Angland Medal during Murrumbidgee Turf Club's two-day Wagga Gold Cup Carnival.

Finishing on 16 points, McDougall finished three points clear of Shaun Guymer, a result that was sealed after the talented hoop steered Foxborough to victory in the Murrumbidgee Turf Club Guineas.

"It was a big honour to win it for the second year in a row," McDougall said.

"Tye (Angland) was always a good bloke and was really good to all of us apprentices in Sydney.

"He always took time to chat with us and it is a privilege to win the award."

McDougall initially went into the carnival as favourite to win the second running of the Medal, but with wet weather forcing six of his mounts to be scratched over the two days, he started having doubts on whether he could win it again.

"I had full books on both days and was really confident but then I had three scratchings so I was little doubtful as to whether I would be able to win it."

On the Thursday, McDougall rode home Express Courier to win for Keith Dryden and Bell's Innocent to win for Stephen Aldridge.

The Albury jockey backed up with two wins on Friday, steering Upper House to victory for Norm Gardner before winning the MTC Guineas on Foxborough.

"I was just on the right horses; my manager did a really good job picking out the horses over the two days," McDougall said. *RNSW*