

# NSW Horse Of The Year Awards

**DASHING SPINTER NATURE STRIP HAS TAKEN OUT THE TOP AWARD AT NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION'S RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS AT ROYAL RANDWICK** WORDS: JANE HENNING (Chief Executive Officer – NSWROA)



Connections of Nature Strip who was Gow-Gates Champion Horse of the Year

Marking back prior to COVID restrictions, the atmosphere in the Royal Randwick Ballroom on the evening of Thursday 25 August was very upbeat.

The room was brimming with racing enthusiasts and industry participants for the New South Wales Racehorse Owners Association's Racing's Night of Champions. We were very proud to also host Racing NSW's annual awards.

Guests strolled and sashayed down the red carpet and were entertained during pre-dinner drinks with the sophisticated sounds of the Stringsplace quartet.

Interviews with key players were conducted by Chantelle Buckley and Ally Mosley for SKY Thoroughbred Central, who recorded the evening's

proceedings to be shown on their network.

While international performances were not taken into consideration for the points tallying, the list of finalists included recent Royal Ascot performers Home Affairs and Nature Strip, the latter taking out Champion Sprinter and Horse of the Year.

In addition, Champion Middle Distance Horse and Champion Provincial Horse winner Think It Over is a son of past Royal Ascot victor, So You Think while Champion Miler and Champion Stayer winner Verry Elleegant (NZ) is currently being trained in France.

It is strong proof that Australia and particularly NSW, is a source of world class racehorses.

The Champion Two-Year-Old win of Laurel Oak's Fireburn was a popular announcement, with a

happy group of owners facing the cameras.

Exciting colt Anamoe was crowned Champion Three-Year-Old for Godolphin.

Tough campaigner Shelby Sixtysix took out Champion Country Horse, while his trainer, Danny Williams, was presented with the Caryl Williamson NSW Racing Writers' Personality of the Year Award.

Hinged took out Queen of the Autumn for her win in the Surround Stakes and her placings in the Coolmore Classic and Vinery Stud Stakes – all races restricted to the fairer sex.

As mentioned, Champion Horse of the Year – sponsored by the NSW Racehorse Owners Association's great partners, Gow-Gates Insurance – went to Nature Strip.