



NSW
Racehorse
Owners
Association

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Member

Welcome to our first newsletter of the calendar year.

NSWROA has successfully migrated to a new membership platform, which encompasses memberships, newsletters and events under one integrated system. When it comes to renewal next year, the process put in place now will make it much easier to seamlessly continue your membership. The 'auto-renew' option is another bonus for those who like to set and forget!

It's great to see some of our Silver (free) members upgrading to Gold to take advantage of the additional benefits, which we will continue to build on this year.

I am very pleased to welcome two new faces to the NSWROA Board who joined the Board this year - **Julianne Horsman** and **Darcy Lawler**. In addition to **Darren McConnell** who joined in November, we have a fresh and invigorated group of directors ready for the season ahead. Please make yourself acquainted with the NSWROA Board by going to our website www.nswroa.com.au.



Darren McConnell



Julianne Horsman



Darcy Lawler

Best regards

Tony Mitevski

PAST EVENTS

Trackwork Morning, Breakfast at The Inglis and a Tour of the Yearling Sales

A renewal of a similar morning held in November, this tour to go up to the Trainer's Tower in the middle of the course is restricted to a maximum of 10 people. Bookings filled very quickly and as before, Gary Portelli and his foreman James were very informative and afterwards joined the group for a buffet breakfast in the Inglis Hotel's lovely Newmarket Room.



Gary Portelli and our guests on the track work tour.

The event was held on Saturday 11 February, the last day of inspections for the Inglis Classic Yearling Sale.



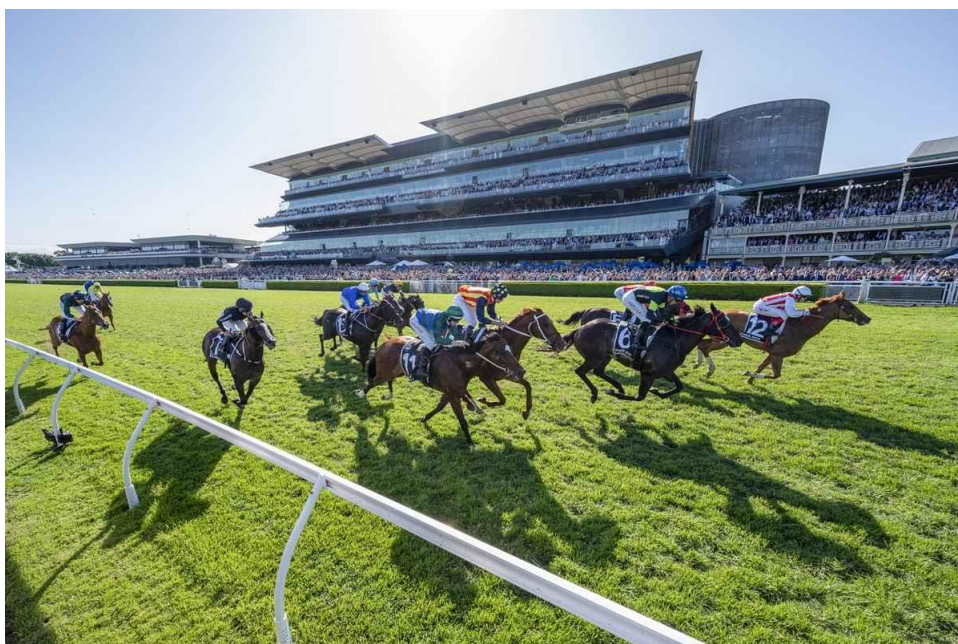
After breakfast, Inglis' Ziva Mullins gave us a full tour of the Inglis Sales complex, which was also very interesting to the uninitiated, particularly her views on what to look for when buying a yearling.



Further trackwork tours will be held during the year, so if you are interested, please let us know!

COMING EVENTS

Owners' Luncheon on All Aged Stakes Day, 15 April



Headlined by the Group 1 Schweppes All Aged Stakes and the Group 1 Moët & Chandon Champagne Stakes, this meeting is the final meeting of the Sydney Autumn Racing Carnival.

Join the NSWROA and the ATC's owners for a fabulous luncheon in the Ballroom Suite overlooking the track.

Mark your calendar - tickets and more details available closer to the day!



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HISTORICAL ARTICLE

She was a Yesteryear Phenomenon!

By Graham Caves

(NSWROA member and volunteer at the ATC Heritage Centre)

In the “golden years” of the Australian Turf, which I argue were the 1920s/1930s, it was a very different racing world. The majority of racehorses were bred to stay. The good ones often sprinted too but the best sprinters were mainly accidentally bred.

Today, of course, the reverse applies, any stayers we might breed we do so accidentally. So we now go off around the world buying horses for our staying races from countries where they are more appreciated. Times have changed.

To make my point about the 1920s/1930s era and its champions, I ask you to consider the following – Gloaming, Poitrel, Eurythmic, Windbag, Chatham, Manfred, Heroic, Limerick, Amounis, Phar Lap, Peter Pan, Rogilla and Ajax. Point made, I say!

In 1925 racing saw a rare phenomenon in the shape of the “flying machine” Valicare. She burst on the scene as an unraced November three-year-old and proceeded to win her first seven starts, including the Doncaster. We might see a run of successive wins like that today in a precocious two-year-old but it was extraordinary at the time for a three-year-old filly.

Valicare was owned by AJC Committeeman Pat Osborne, trained by Bayly Payten and usually ridden by Jim Munro. Her first race was a four lengths win in a Warwick Farm restricted race and was followed a month later by a 2½ length victory in an open Flying Handicap of six furlongs. She then won the six furlongs Tattersall’s Carrington Stakes by two lengths. The racing world sat up to take notice.

Against her own age in January 1926 in the Adrian Knox Stakes of a mile, a race which evolved into the Australian Oaks in years to follow, her nearest opponent was five lengths away second but the awe really started when she next won the Rawson (now Ranvet) Stakes at Rosehill beating a star of the day in Windbag by eight lengths.

Could she carry on and win the Doncaster? The bookies thought so and she was a 4/5 on favourite. With a heavy weight for a three-year-old filly of 8st.10 lbs (55.5 kgs) Valicare beat the other seventeen runners comfortably by 1½ lengths.

To extend the sequence to seven wins she came out four days later and won the All-Aged Stakes of a mile by a length from the top-class imported horses Top Gallant and The Night Patrol.





It would have been the stuff of legend if this vein of form were to continue but it did not. A spell till the spring racing followed and first-up in a great battle she succumbed to Windbag by a neck in the Warwick (now Winx) Stakes of seven furlongs.

It had been a mercurial sequence of wins that was broken and next time out when Valicare won the Hill Stakes at a mile from the old NZ champion The Hawk by four lengths supporters hoped she might be back to her best but, in fact, her best was good enough to win only once more in nine starts. That was in the C M Lloyd Stakes at Flemington in March 1927 where she again beat Top Gallant and the quality miler Fujisan.

Consider though the worth of some of her defeats – third in the Craven Plate in a blanket finish to Windbag and Limerick – second in the Linlithgow Stakes to Amounis – second by a long head in the Futurity Stakes to Waranton when she carried 64 kgs. Unplaced in the Newmarket, third in the Rawson Stakes to Limerick and Windbag and finishing her career with three further unplaced runs in weight-for-age races won by Amounis, Fujisan and Limerick.

Valicare was essentially a miler but she had extended her winning range to nine furlongs. In that era, that was not regarded as a stayer. Today it would be. Times have changed.

Pictorially from the ATC Heritage Collection is a photograph of Valicare being led by her trainer Bayly Payten and ridden by Jim Munro and also a newspaper supplement of Valicare in Pat Osborne's all green colours from The Referee of April 1926.



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MELBOURNE CUP TOUR TENDERS NOW OPEN!



Register your town to have the opportunity of winning AU\$50,000 to go towards a community initiative as part of the LMCT National Sweep. T&C's apply.

To gain full details and expectations of the event, download the Submission Guidelines document at www.MelbourneCupTour.com.au.

If you are interested and have any queries about the process or how your submission could work best, contact Joe McGrath, Lexus Melbourne Cup Tour Manager, at j.mcgrath@vrc.net.au.

MEMBERS' STAKES WINNERS HONOUR ROLL

Due to the burgeoning number of owners in large syndicates, it is no longer feasible to research and produce an accurate rolling list of members' stakes winners.

Instead, individual members' major wins will be highlighted from time to time.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

NSW Racehorse Owners Association Membership now renews on **1 March** every year.

Please see the renewal form enclosed! We appreciate your ongoing support.

NSW Racehorse Owners' Association

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