

# nsw racehorse owners

BY **SHARON HUNT**  
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Master Chef Australia winner Julie  
Goodwin and husband Mick



## RACING'S NIGHT OF CHAMPIONS- TRULY 'A GRAND AFFAIR'

When Racing's Night of Champions was first dubbed 'A Grand Affair' it was felt by many that it was perhaps a pinnacle too hard to achieve.

That was more than enough incentive for the Racing's Night of Champions Organising Committee to 'get the bit well and truly between the teeth' and make this a night no-one would forget!

Racing awards nights don't come any bigger than the NSW Racehorse Owners Association's Racing's Night of Champions.

At this night of nights for the NSW

industry, the equine equivalent to the Academy Awards, NSWROA pays homage to the best New South Wales has to offer both in the equine and human categories.

This year's gala black tie event was held at The Grand Pavilion, Rosehill Gardens Racecourse, on 13th August 2009.

From the very beginning, guests knew that something special would be happening.

Upon arrival they were greeted by the Night of Champions Concierge, Luke, who ushered guests to the 'red carpet' entry at the Grand Pavilion for their ascent

into what would prove to be a night to remember.

There was glitz and glamour in abundance with celebrities proudly stepping out in support of NSWROA's chosen charity, Redkite.

Not only was racing royalty in attendance, but also celebrities from the small screen and stage including MasterChef Australia winner, Julie Goodwin and her husband Mick, Natarsha Belling, Tim Webster, Maria Venuti and representing Myer Fashions on the Field, Laura Dundovic, to name but a few.

**A guide never looked so good  
– Luke is ready to assist guests**



For only the second occasion, NSWROA presented an Industry Recognition Award, a special award to honour an outstanding contribution made to the industry.

The winner of the award was Mr Ian Craig and the crowd rose as one to applaud Ian, who recently retired from race calling after some 44 years service.

What could I possibly say about Ian Craig that hasn't been said before?

A legendary racecaller who was often referred to as the "voice of Sydney racing" he has certainly left his mark in this industry.

When accepting the award Ian said: "I've had some surprises in my life – but this takes the cake." Our congratulations once again to Ian.

NSWROA presented an additional seven awards on the night. The winners were:-

band, the Gotham City Horns who had everyone up on their feet and dancing.

It would be remiss of me not to mention our sponsors. The success of the Racing's Night of Champions dinner relies predominantly on sponsorship monies, the monster auction and the silent auction.

The event this year was proudly sponsored by Luxbet.com, Racing NSW, Count Charitable, Ambassador Travel, Emirates, Sydney Turf Club, Australian Jockey Club, New Zealand Bloodstock, New Zealand Thoroughbred Marketing, Gow Gates Insurance Brokers, Thoroughbred Breeders NSW, TVN, Inglis, Carrazzo Consulting, Bluebloods, Myer, BMW Sydney, Taylors Wines, Tooheys, Sydney Audio Visual and Arinex.

Our thanks also to our hosts for the

**AWARD**

NSW 2 YEAR OLD OF THE YEAR .....	Manhattan Rain
NSW 3 YEAR OLD OF THE YEAR .....	Samantha Miss
NSW SPRINTER/MILER OF THE YEAR .....	Takeover Target
NSW MIDDLE DISTANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR .....	Theseo
NSW STAYER OF THE YEAR .....	Zavite (NZ)
NSW COUNTRY CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR .....	Takeover Target
NSW PROVINCIAL CHAMPION HORSE OF THE YEAR .....	Samantha Miss

**WINNERS**

Redkite, Australia's leading cancer support charity, provides valuable assistance to children with cancer and their families. Their essential emotional, financial and educational services ensure that children with cancer and their families feel supported through the often long and difficult cancer journey.

After a spectacular visual opening the hosts, Frank Coletta and Caroline Searcy, invited NSWROA president, Ray McDowell, to the stage to officially welcome guests.

Ray in turn introduced the Minister for Gaming & Racing and Minister for Sport & Recreation, the Hon. Kevin Greene MP, who kindly assisted with the award presentations throughout the night.

The top honour of the night, the Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year title, went to the all-conquering Theseo, another Star Thoroughbreds syndication that has struck gold and who is trained by Gai Waterhouse.

The inaugural Bart Cummings Medal was taken out by Hugh Bowman making it a double celebration for him on the night as he also picked up the George Moore Award for the Sydney Premiership Jockey.

Other awards to be presented on the night included the Queen of the Autumn Award (tied award Belong To Many and Hot Danish), the NSW Broodmare of the Year (Shady Stream – dam of Takeover Target and Predatory Pricer), the T J Smith Award (Gai Waterhouse) and the Theo Green Award (Daniel Ganderton).

Yet another highlight was the keynote speeches of Peter and Clare Sayers who provided a father and mother's perspective on their daughter's fight against cancer.

The entertainment for the event was simply outstanding with Aria Award Singer/Songwriter Tim Freedman's feature performance proving to be a big hit with the audience as was the after dinner



**Ian Craig – winner of the NSWROA Industry Recognition Award**

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The delighted owners of Theseo, Luxbet.com NSW Champion Horse of the Year

night, Frank Coletta and Caroline Searcy; guest presenter, the Hon. Kevin Greene, MP Minister & Racing, Minister for Sport & Recreation; keynote speakers, Peter and Clare Sayers; auctioneer for the Monster Auction, James Keenan; and penciller for the Silent Auction, Geoff Illingworth.

Thanks must also go to Vic Lorusso for his assistance with the Silent Auction, Laura Dundovic who was our Fashionista and Red Carpet Presenter, the incredible Tim Freedman & Friends, and the best dance band in the business, the Gotham City Horns.

I would also like to thank my fellow Racing Night of Champions Organising Committee members – Darren Farnham, Max Whitby, Kelly McLean and Leanne Medeiros for their tremendous work and also Robyn Bowes, Simon Stebbins, Diana den Houdijker, Matthew Russell and Angela Barbato.

And finally in closing, my thanks to all who attended the function to support Redkite and I look forward to seeing you all at the 2010 Racing's Night of Champions.



Trainer Joe Janiak receives an award on behalf of his great sprinter, Takeover Target



Trainer Kris Lees accepts an award for his top race mare Samantha Miss