

A new year of challenges

THE 2012 BOARD OF NSWROA HAS BEEN FORMED WITH SOME NEW FACES JOINING A GROUP OF EXPERIENCED COMMITTEEMEN WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

Firstly, Happy New Year to all readers! The NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA) has continued to grow in stature during 2011 and eagerly awaits a new year of challenges in 2012.

With a vibrant and energetic Committee aboard, the Association looks forward to continuing its mission of furthering and protecting the rights of racehorse owners in NSW.

So it is with great pleasure that in this the first issue of Racing NSW Magazine for the year, I take this opportunity to update readers about the people who voluntarily give their time to serve on the NSWROA Committee.

Ray McDowell – President

Ray joined the Committee in 2005 and was unanimously elected to the role of President in October 2008. Such is his great standing within the Committee that he has been re-elected as President each year since then. Ray has been a horse owner for over 37 years and readers may recall his ownership of one of our greatest middle-distance performers, Intergaze. He currently has several horses in work, two of which, Was Meant To Be and Ultimate Gaze are showing promise at present. Ray is actively involved in the improvement of racing and is delighted to be a member of the Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG). An ardent fan of country racing, Ray is a regular traveller to the country race cups in Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Wagga and Newcastle each year.

John Vouris – Vice President & Treasurer

John joined the NSWROA Committee in 2007 and was elected Treasurer in July 2008 and has been re-elected to this position each year since. He was also elected Vice President in March 2011. John is a Chartered Accountant and partner of Lawler Partners in

Sydney CBD. John has had many horses since the early 1990's but his best credentialed and prized possession has been Before Too Long. Before Too Long ran in the 2002 Golden Slipper Stakes and won the Group 2-Champagne Stakes at Moonee Valley breaking the track record. He entered the thoroughbred ownership ranks for the enjoyment and thrill of winning and is a regular raceday attendee. He currently has four horses in work with Barbara Joseph and eagerly awaits the return of the very promising Bella Ballerina to the track.

Michael Inglis – Secretary

Michael joined the NSWROA Committee in July 2009. He was elected as Secretary in October 2009 and re-elected to this position in both 2010 and 2011. Michael is a prominent Barrister and Accredited Mediator and has a long association with the racing industry. He has been racing and breeding horses for over 25 years. He is currently Vice President of Murrumbidgee Turf Club (MTC), having been elected to the Board of the MTC in October 1998. Michael has been instrumental in improving conditions for owners within the Southern Region. Michael is also a member of the Racing NSW Country Board, is the NSWROA delegate on the Australian Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Council (ATROC) and has served as a substitute delegate for NSWROA at the Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG).

Peter Beer – Committee Member

Peter was appointed to the NSWROA Committee in July, 2010. Peter is Chief Executive Officer of Patinack Farm, the racing and breeding empire of Nathan Tinkler. He joined Patinack Farm in December 2009 after some 22 years as a financial executive in the private and public companies of Kerry Packer. Peter has held a lifetime passion for the racing industry and his love of the industry has resulted in weekly attendance at race meetings for over 30 years. This has included great racing centres like Hong Kong and Dublin, whilst serving an 8-year stint as CEO of Mr Packer's International group. As a racehorse owner he has faced a similar plight to many owners with limited success. A win at Canberra still remains the highlight.

Louis Mihalyka – Committee Member

Louis was appointed to the NSWROA Committee in March 2011. He is a Principal of Laurel Oak Bloodstock Pty Limited, and has been involved in racehorse ownership for 26 years. Louis purchases an average of eight to 12 yearlings a year to race across the eastern seaboard of Australia, although, as Louis is based in Sydney, the majority of the horses

are NSW-owned and trained. He normally manages around 30 racing syndicates for owners. Best horses raced are Group One-winner Ancient Song, Group 2 winner and Hong Kong International Race invitee Into The Night, Group 3 winner Be Positive, Group 2-placed and multiple city-winner Soul Diva, Group 1-placed Fist Of Fury, and many other multiple-winning horses. As Laurel Oak races horses in both metropolitan and country NSW, Louis is in an ideal position to represent the interests of NSW-based owners to improve the racing experience for all owners from both the racing and social points of view. Louis is also a Director of the Federation of Bloodstock Agents of Australia.

Tom O'Callaghan – Committee Member

Tom was also appointed to the NSWROA Committee in March 2011. He has been involved in horse racing for more than four decades and is a regular attendee at Saturday morning trackwork, at city race meetings and at Albury, Grafton, Wagga and Warrnambool carnivals. Tom has owned shares in a number of horses over that time, with family and friends, the best performed being Square the Circle and Brilliant Light. He has been a practising lawyer for 38 years, specialising in banking and insurance law. He is General Counsel to a leading national law firm, a director of a major international life insurance company, and a director, and immediate past chairman, of a major Sydney hospital foundation. Tom is passionate about the advancement of the industry in the hope that future generations may share in the pleasures that this great sport has afforded Australians over the years.

Julia Ritchie – Committee Member

Julia is the newest addition to the NSWROA Committee having been elected at the Annual General Meeting in May 2011. Although originally trained and practised as an architect, Julia spent the next 22 years working in freelance film production and media on both local and international productions.

Julia's involvement in the thoroughbred industry started with her father Bill Ritchie and Bangaloe Stud over 40 years ago and continues today with over 14 horses in work at any time. She has enjoyed success with Outback Prince, Hotel Grand, Pegembak, Red Lord and hopefully many more in the future. Julia was a Board member of the former Australian Jockey Club for 11 years and was also the first female to serve on their Board.

I would also like to make specific mention of four former Directors of the Association, Narelle Anderson, Chris Keogh, Laurie Macri and Max Whitby, who resigned during the year.

Narelle Anderson, the first female to be appointed to the Committee, has just resigned after two years service. Notwithstanding her passion for the industry, unfortunately her current work load and travel commitments as Managing Director of Envirobank Recycling Pty Ltd together with her family commitments are such that she can no longer continue serving on the Committee.

Chris Keogh has only recently resigned from the Association after some 13 years on the NSWROA Committee. A past President of the Association, Chris has a "passion for racing" which has been on-going for more than 30 years. Fortunately for Chris but unfortunately for the Association, his work commitments are such that there are now not enough hours in the day to do both so with great reluctance he has relinquished his position on the Committee.

The Association's loss was the industry's gain when **Laurie Macri** resigned his post with the Association after his appointment as a Director of Sydney Turf Club in late 2010 after some 18 months on the Committee. His wonderful negotiation skills together with his vast experience in the finance sector proved invaluable to the Association in the various projects he undertook. Laurie is now serving on the Board of the Australian Turf Club.

It was a huge blow to the Association when **Max Whitby** resigned after 17 years on the NSWROA Committee. Max was also a past President and is a Life Member of the Association. A former Director of Sydney Turf Club, Max was one of three former STC Directors selected to sit on the board of the Australian Turf Club. There aren't enough words to effectively explain what Max accomplished during his tenure with NSWROA. Suffice to say that the Association would surely not have reached the position it now enjoys without the 'hard yards' put in by Max.

On behalf of the President and Committee, I formally thank Narelle, Chris, Laurie and Max for all the time they have generously given to the Association over the years and wish them every success in the future.

For further information regarding NSW Racehorse Owners Association please visit the NSWROA website - www.nswroa.com.au - or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299. **RNSW**