

Committee awaits new year of challenges

NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION HAS CONTINUED TO GROW IN STATURE AND EAGERLY AWAITS A NEW YEAR OF CHALLENGES IN 2014

WORDS: SHARON HUNT (EXECUTIVE OFFICER – NSWROA)

With an energetic Committee 'champing at the bit' NSWROA looks forward to continuing its mission of furthering and protecting the rights of racehorse owners in this State.

So it is with great pleasure that in 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, was unanimously elected to the role of President in October 2008 and has been re-elected to this role each year since. He has been a horse owner for over 37 years and is best known for his ownership of one of our greatest middle-distance performers, Intergaze. He currently has several horses in work with Was Meant to Be and Ultimate Gaze showing promise. Ray is actively involved in the improvement of racing and is delighted to be a member of the Racing Industry Consultation Group (RICG) as the NSWROA delegate. A passionate supporter of country racing, Ray regularly travels to the country race cups in Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Wagga and Newcastle each year.

John Vouris – Vice President & Treasurer

John is a Chartered Accountant and partner of Lawler Partners in Sydney CBD who joined the Committee in February 2007. He was elected as Treasurer in July 2008 and Vice President in March 2011 and continues

to serve in both roles. John has had many horses since the early 1990s but his prized possession was Before Too Long which ran in the 2002 Golden Slipper and won the Group 2-Champagne Stakes at Moonee Valley breaking the track record. His current horses are Ultimate Gaze, Was Meant to Be and a Snitzel colt, all trained by Michael Costa at Warwick Farm. John is a member of the ATC and VRC and his vision is that all participants work together for the betterment of racing not only in NSW but Australia.

Michael Inglis – Secretary

Michael Inglis joined the Committee in July 2009, was elected Secretary in October 2009 and continues to serve in this role. Michael is a prominent Lawyer and Accredited Mediator and has a long association with the racing industry. He has been racing and breeding horses for over 27 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 the NSWROA delegate and the Chairman of Australian Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Council (ATROC), Vice Chairman and Southern Districts Racing Association representative of the Racing NSW Country Board and has served as a substitute delegate for NSWROA on RICG.

Peter Beer – Committee Member

Peter Beer was appointed to the Committee in July 2010. Peter was previously an executive in the private

and public companies of Kerry Packer for 22 years and Chief Executive Officer of Patinack Farm for three years. Peter has held a lifetime passion for the racing industry and is a member of the ATC, VRC, MRC and MTC (Wagga Wagga). Peter's love of the industry has resulted in weekly attendance at race meetings for over 30 years and this has included some of the great racing centres of the world like Hong Kong and Dublin, whilst serving an eight year stint as CEO of Mr Packer's International group.

Francis Cook – Committee Member

Francis Cook is the newest addition to the Committee having been elected at the AGM in May 2013. A lifetime love of racing led to success at his first ownership experience when Warning Siren, a \$5000 purchase, won the Gimcrack Stakes at her first start in 1993. Attendance at many sales led to involvement with numerous horses and trainers currently including Chris Waller, Joe Pride and Matthew Smith. An involvement in Chris Waller's imports culminated with Kelinni's fourth in the 2012 Melbourne Cup which was a huge thrill. Francis is also a breeder through his Mystery Downs business and as with many breeders, while the majority are sold, some shares are retained for racing. As the ones putting on the show, he sees the rights of owners as paramount. Francis is a member of the ATC and VRC, a keen and regular racegoer and enjoys golf as a member at Oatlands and Captain of Club 19.

The Hon. Wayne Haylen QC – Committee Member

Joining the Committee in July 2012, The

Hon. Wayne Haylen QC was a Judge of the Industrial Court of NSW, Deputy President of the Industrial Commission of NSW and Divisional Head, Legal Services Division of the Administrative Decisions Tribunal of NSW until October 2013. He has subsequently been appointed Divisional Head of the Occupational and Regulatory Division of the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Deputy President of that Tribunal in October 2013. He was an original member and de facto Deputy Chair of the Racing Appeal Panel and was a member and then Chairman of the Racing Appeals Tribunal. He held the position of Trustee of Randwick Racecourse. He has also served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor of the Australian Consumers' Association (Publishers of Choice Magazine) for more than 20 years and as a Member of the State Consumer Advisory Committee, the Privacy Committee and other Policy Committees. An avid racehorse owner and race attendee for over 26 years, he currently has an interest in six horses.

Louis Mihalyka – Committee Member

Louis Mihalyka was appointed to the Committee in March 2011. He is a Principal of Laurel Oak Bloodstock and has been involved in racehorse ownership for 28 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 multiple Black Type winner Rebel Dane, Ancient Song, Into The Night, Be Positive, Soul Diva, Fist Of Fury, and many other multiple-winning horses. Louis is also a Director of the Federation of Bloodstock Agents of Australia and is a member of the ATC as well as ACT Race Club and Moonee Valley Race Club.

Tom O'Callaghan – Committee Member

Tom O'Callaghan was also appointed to the Committee in March 2011. He has been involved in horse racing for more than four decades. He is a regular attendee at Saturday morning trackwork, at city race meetings and at the 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. He has also served as the NSWROA Delegate on the Committee to Review Financial Arrangements between Owners and Trainers and on the working party for the Personal Properties Security Act.

Julia Ritchie – Committee Member

Julia Ritchie was elected as a Director

of the NSWROA in May 2011. Originally trained and practised as an architect, she then spent the next 22 years working in freelance film production and media on both local and international productions. Julia's involvement in racing and breeding 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 with diverse trainers from Gai Waterhouse, Anthony Cummings and Bart Cummings, John O'Shea, Peter Moody and David Pfeiffer. She has enjoyed success with Outback Prince, Hotel Grand, Red Lord, Fiveandahalfstar and Drago and hopefully many more in the future. Julia has been a member of both the former AJC and STC for over 30 years (and foundation member of ATC) as well a member of NSWROA for over 20 years and also TBNSW. She was a Board member for 11 years of the former AJC and was also the first female to serve on their Board. In 2013 Julia served as the NSWROA Dinner Chairperson for our flagship event, Racing's Night of Champions.

I would also like to make specific mention of a former Director of the Association, Bruce Cowell, who resigned during 2013. On behalf of the President and Committee, I formally thank Bruce for all the time he generously gave to the Association and wish him every success in the future.

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