



2018 Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards

Recognising and rewarding the hard work and dedication of all stud and stable staff across Australia

Newcomers to share in 2018 Stud and Stable Staff Awards

A new and highly rewarding category has been added to the 2018 Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards, in their fourth year of honouring and acknowledging participants across Australia's thoroughbred industry.

Along with the six categories available previously, the Newcomer Award will highlight outstanding stud and stable staff members who have been in the industry for a maximum of three years.

The Newcomer Award will draw special attention to nominees who have shown a willingness to improve, to advance their skills and display special enthusiasm and motivation.

The Newcomer Award, announced at the GSSSA 2018 launch on the Gold Coast on January 9, is one of seven awards now available to all industry staff from stablehands to work riders, to horse breakers, to office staff and participants in horse welfare.

The Awards, conducted by Thoroughbred Breeders Australia and Racing Australia, also offer an overall Thoroughbred Excellence prize, which has, so far, launched a young trainer's new career, has recognised the vital role of those who spend each night during the foaling season monitoring pregnant mares and acknowledged the ever-more-demanding role of the racing manager.

In 2017 the Thoroughbred Excellence Award went to Jeremy Rogers, the man who keeps the "backstage" areas of Australia's biggest stable functioning.

As racing manager for Victorian trainer Darren Weir, Rogers handles everything from nominations, acceptances and jockey bookings to owner liaison and the racing programs of hundreds of horses.

"In truth, I was staggered to be nominated," said Rogers, who was also successful in the Dedication to Racing category.

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“You get into this business because you love it, and with a bit of luck you get to love it more and more. You don’t expect to be patted on the back, you just get on with it.

“It was a huge result just to be nominated, then to be a finalist and then to be recognised as the overall winner was unbelievable. For Godolphin to care enough to sponsor these awards is one of the greatest things I’ve known in racing.”

Jenny Watson won the Excellence Award in 2016 for her work as foaling supervisor at Armidale Stud where she has been helping mares and foals get through the most delicate stage of their lives for 35 years.

And in 2015 the Excellence prize went to Mark Newnham for his exemplary service as stable foreman for Gai Waterhouse.

By the time he received his Award, Newnham had set up his own stable and is now a successful trainer.

Since their inception, the Awards have acknowledged outstanding talent, contribution and dedication, not only among the winners, but all who have entered.

Diana Cooper, Godolphin’s global charities advisor says of the Awards, “The Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards are a powerful example of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed’s commitment to, and passion for thoroughbred horse racing and breeding worldwide, and we are excited to sponsor the 2018 Awards once again in Australia.”

“To reward excellence in all areas of the racing and breeding industry, particularly amongst those who aren’t necessarily in the front line, is something Godolphin sees as an important component of what we do on a global scale.

Racing Australia CEO Barry O’Farrell said: “We hope to achieve a record number of nominations in 2018 from both regional and metropolitan areas across all states and territories. Trainers, owners, stud managers and racing and breeding colleagues are all keen to recognise the outstanding dedication and hard work of their staff.”

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“We all know that the hard work and commitment of staff is the cornerstone of our industry – without that there is no Spring Carnival, no Championships, no major sales. These awards celebrate that dedication and we are proud to continue to support them.”

Tom Reilly, Thoroughbred Breeders Australia CEO said, “I encourage all breeders, trainers, owners and administrators to nominate their unsung heroes and thank the Australian breeding and racing industries in advance for supporting the 2018 Australian Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards.”

“We look forward to this event continuing to establish itself as the pinnacle of staff awards in Australian racing and breeding.”

Awards are offered in the categories of Dedication to Racing, Dedication to Breeding, Leadership, Horsemanship, Thoroughbred Care and Welfare, Administration and Ancillary Services and, for the first time, the Newcomer category

The winner of each of the established GSSSA categories receives \$10,000 with \$1000 going to the runners-up and \$3000 to be shared among each winner’s work colleagues with the Thoroughbred Excellence Award carrying an additional \$5000 prize. In addition, a donation is made to Award winner's stud or stable, to facilitate a celebration for their staff, in order that all those around the Award winner can enjoy and celebrate the success.

The Newcomer Award offers a return trip to Dubai and an extensive program including visits to Godolphin’s winter base at Marmoom Stables and a tour of Zabeel Stables, one of the original racing stables established in Dubai. The winner will also tour the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Centre for Cultural Understanding, a personal initiative of Godolphin’s founder and ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed.

The 2018 Award winners will be chosen by a selection panel chaired by Chairman of Stewards, South Australia, Johan Petzer and comprised of individuals representing TBA, TRSA, Racing Victoria, Sky Racing Channel and Racing.com in addition to trainers Ron Quinton, Mark Newnham and Troy Corstens.

Nominations are open until **midnight AEST Monday 19 February, 2018** and can be made by anyone within the racing and breeding industry.

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Trainers, owners, managers and colleagues are encouraged to nominate their employees.

For further information please go to studandstablestaffawards.com.au.

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For further information please contact:

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About Racing Australia:

Racing Australia is the national industry body representing Thoroughbred racing in Australia.

Commencing operations on the 13th of April 2015, Racing Australia merged the functions and assets of the Australian Racing Board (ARB), Racing Information Services Australia (RISA) and the Australian Stud Book (ASB) into one entity.

Importantly, Racing Australia commercialises the industry's racing materials on a national basis, through the sale of a variety of products and services such as Fields, Form and Results to a diverse range of print and digital publishers domestically and internationally.

Racing Australia continues to develop and expand the number of integrated products and services available to Principal Racing Authorities, race clubs, owners, breeders, trainers, jockeys, punters and racing enthusiasts.

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About Thoroughbred Breeders Australia:

Thoroughbred Breeders Australia TBA is the parent company of the six State breeders' associations and has an associate membership base of 3,780 individual breeders and industry participants. TBA is a non-profit industry body established for the benefit of the Thoroughbred breeding industry. TBA is comprised of a Board of 14 directors constituted by two representative members from each of the 6 state breeders' associations and Aushorse Ltd.

TBA takes a leadership role on issues of national and international importance such as quarantine, biosecurity, animal welfare, taxation, immigration and other government and regulatory issues. It represents the interests of breeders in dealing with the Stud Book, The Australian Racing Board and race clubs in addition to other stakeholder organizations.

About Godolphin:

Godolphin was founded in 1992 by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. Named in honour of the Godolphin Arabian, one of the three founding stallions of the modern thoroughbred born in the Arabian Gulf, what started with a handful of horses in the desert has evolved into the foremost international horseracing stable.

Sponsored by Emirates Airline and racing in the famous Royal Blue silks, Godolphin strives for excellence, winning many of the world's major races along the way. To date, Godolphin has won over 250 Group One races in 12 different countries, across four continents. For further information, please visit: www.godolphin.com.

Members of the Judging Panel:

- Johan Petzer (Chair), Chief of Stewards TRSA (SA)
- Basil Nolan, President of TBA and stud owner (QLD)
- Melissa Weatherly, Racing Victoria (VIC)
- Caroline Searcy, Sky Racing Channel (NSW)
- Chris Watson, Director TBA and stud owner (SA)
- Ron Quinton, Thoroughbred Trainer (NSW)
- Mark Newnham, Thoroughbred Trainer (NSW) and 2015 Thoroughbred Excellence Winner
- Troy Corstens, Thoroughbred Trainer (VIC)

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- Shane Anderson, GM Product and Delivery Racing.com (VIC)
- Jenny Watson, 2016 Thoroughbred Excellence Winner (TAS)
- Jeremy Rogers, 2017 Thoroughbred Excellence Award Winner (VIC)

Categories of Awards and Prize money:

1. Leadership Award (Stud or Stable)

An award to an individual staff member in a managerial or supervisory role in a stud or stable who has displayed leadership qualities – in particular in terms of quality people management, mentoring and support of staff, attention to workplace health and safety, commitment to continuous improvement and displaying good business acumen.

Prize: Trophy and \$10,000 to winner with \$3,000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1,000 to the runner-up.

2. Horsemanship Award (Stud or Stable)

An award to an individual staff member who has shown talent for horsemanship, consistency and reliability in or out of the saddle. Must include an affinity with horses and gives a priority to animal welfare. Must demonstrate a degree of success with the thoroughbred, whether it be in breeding or racing or both, that has been borne out of their particular skill set.

Prize: Trophy and \$10,000 to winner with \$3,000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1,000 to the runner-up.

3. Dedication to Breeding Award

An award to an individual staff member who has shown talent in thoroughbred breeding horsemanship, consistency and reliability in a stud role. Must have at least 5 years service in the breeding industry and must have been pivotal in his or her employer's success.

Prize: Trophy and \$10,000 to winner with \$3,000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1,000 to the runner-up.

4. Dedication to Racing Award

An award to an individual staff member who has shown talent for horsemanship in the racing field, consistency and reliability in racing role. Must have at least 5 years service in the racing industry and must have been pivotal in his or her employer's success.

Prize: Trophy and \$10,000 to winner with \$3,000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1,000 to the runner-up.

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5. Administrative and Ancillary Services Award (Stud or Stable)

An award to an individual staff member who works in an administration role in a stud or racing yard or services ancillary to racing or breeding (such as Race Club administrators and staff, stud or stable administration staff, farm, garden and maintenance staff). Must demonstrate exceptional skills, loyalty or some achievement that has added value to their employer's business, and directly or indirectly to industry standards.

Prize: Trophy and \$10,000 to winner with \$3,000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1,000 to the runner-up.

6. Thoroughbred Care and Welfare Award

An award to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the care and welfare of thoroughbreds who are not actively racing, and/or created a greater awareness, passion and care for the thoroughbred horse in its second/ alternate career (breeding, breaking, pre and post racing career, re-homing, retraining, providing a comfortable retirement etc.). These may be, for example, a quite achiever/ paid or volunteer in retraining or re-homing of the thoroughbred. (This winner will not be eligible for the Thoroughbred Excellence Award).

Prize: Trophy and \$10,000 to winner with \$3,000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1,000 to the runner-up.

7. Newcomer Award (Stud or Stable)

An award to an individual who has worked in the industry, in any capacity, for less than 3 years. Winner will display passion for, pride in and an excellent contribution to, the thoroughbred industry. The winner will stand out from other newcomers and will be identified as a future and significant valuable member of this industry. (This winner will not be eligible for the Thoroughbred Excellence Award)

Prize: Trophy, \$5,000 and trip to Dubai* to winner with \$3000 to employer to share amongst staff. \$1000 to the runner-up.

8. Thoroughbred Excellence Award - Overall Award (Stud or Stable Only)

Winner to be selected from one of the five categories (i.e. excludes Thoroughbred Care and Welfare Award). Must have made a significant, exceptional contribution to the industry.

Prize: Trophy and an additional \$5,000 to the winner with an additional \$2,000 to the winner's yard/stud to be divided amongst stable/stud employees.

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