

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - OUR FUTURE IS YOUR FUTURE



Wayne Bedggood, HTBA President

Over the past few years the Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding Industry has faced significant challenges.

Challenges such as equine influenza and the global financial crisis.

Today our most significant challenge is the growing encroachment of mining operations – both coal and coal seam gas.

“This year, more than ever, it is important for us all to stand together to support the industry that we love.”

This year the NSW Government is poised to make significant decisions that will affect our future, the future of our employees, suppliers and communities. The Government will decide where mining can and can't occur and what policies and principles underpin those decisions.

You have to ask yourself, what sensible decision maker would put at risk our world renowned industry? Who would place at risk Australia's largest producer and exporter of premium quality thoroughbreds and the people, communities and industries it supports and employs?

Over the past two years we have focussed our efforts to raise awareness of the size, nature and importance of the Hunter's Thoroughbred Breeding Industry. We have informed politicians and policy makers that Australia's Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeding industry:

- is the **largest producer, supplier and exporter** of premium quality Australian thoroughbreds;
- represents the **second largest concentration of thoroughbred breeding operations in the world** outside of Kentucky USA;
- is recognised as **one of three centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence** alongside Kentucky in the USA and Newmarket in the UK;
- **employs thousands of people** in the region and supports the jobs of hundreds of thousands of people across Australia; and
- supports a **sophisticated network of support industries** across our value chain.

We have advocated our cause at national, state and local levels. We fought hard with the community and all other stakeholders on the Bickham project. Prior to the NSW Government election we released our Ten Point Plan – much of which has been adopted by the incoming Government. But we need to do more.

In January of this year, Australian horses made a huge impact in the latest World Thoroughbred Rankings. Black Caviar, Sepoy and Atlantic Jewel all topped their respective categories. The number of Australian-bred horses recognised by the International Federation of Horse Authorities continues to grow with no less than 53 making the 2011 ranking list.

I struggle to comprehend why any person or any Government would put one of Australia's most successful industries and Australia's international thoroughbred breeding record and reputation at risk.

This year more than ever it is important for us all to stand together to support the industry that we love.

Reflecting the challenges that we still face and the ▶

depth of commitment and determination to protect our industry, we have strengthened our HTBA Board that now comprises some of Australia's most influential and historic thoroughbred breeding farms. The new HTBA Board comprises representatives from Arrowfield, Coolmore, Crowning Stone, Darley, Eire Bloodstock, Emirates Park, Riversdale Farm, Scone Equine Hospital, Vinery, Widden and Yarraman Park.

### Show your support

2012 represents a crossroads on the issue of land use as the NSW Government are set to deliver their Strategic Regional Land Use Policy. The urgency is a catalyst for HTBA to seek to broaden our support in 2012.

At this crucial time we are approaching those that share a passionate interest in the Hunter Valley industry for support under

the banner of Our Future is Your Future.

Specifically, we will be approaching industry suppliers, who will be afforded the opportunity to support us at various levels as Gold Preferred Suppliers, Silver Preferred Suppliers and Bronze Preferred

Suppliers. There will be a suite of benefits that will extend over the critical period up to 30 June 2013.

For others who share an interest, but are not currently members there will be an opportunity to show your support as a contributor at a level that suits your circumstance.



By adding your name and support behind our Association we can collectively send a strong signal of our commitment to the preservation of our industry in the Hunter Valley.

Your support is crucial. Our future is your future. Together we can and must fight to preserve it.

## SCONE CARNIVAL BUILD UP

The build up to Scone's rich two day carnival in May started in earnest in February with the first of three two-year-old races.

The races, sponsored by the HTBA carry additional prize money and bonuses and are designed to lead into the \$100,000 Inglis Two-Year-Old Challenge (1100m) on Scone Cup Day, May 18.

The meeting on Monday, February 13, featured the first of these races, a Two-Year-Old Country Plate (900m).

The bonus did not go off so will jackpot for the other two races in the series which are scheduled for March 27 and April 20.

Prize money for each of the three two-year-old races has been increased to \$15,000, the BOBS bonus goes up to \$10,000 while there is another \$10,000 bonus



from the HTBA if the winner is a graduate of the Scone Yearling Sale.

As the first HTBA bonus was not won it will now be split and becomes \$15,000 for the next two races.

If it is not won a second time it increases to \$30,000 for the final race in the series.

## INGLIS / HTBA SCONE YEARLING SALE

In conjunction with William Inglis & Son, the HTBA conducts the annual Scone Yearling Sale which will be held at the conclusion of the Scone Carnival on 20 May 2012.

Entries are now closed for the 2012 Inglis HTBA Scone Yearling Sale, which will be conducted over one select day on Sunday May 20 this year.

With the two day Scone Cup and Inglis Guineas meeting held by the Scone Race Club growing in stature each and every year, the updated single session format of the 2012 Scone Yearling Sale will allow visiting Sydney and interstate trainers the opportunity to inspect yearlings at White Park on Saturday prior to the select sale the next day.

The Inglis HTBA Scone Yearling Sale has become an integral part of the Australian yearling sales calendar, allowing Hunter Valley Breeders to market their yearlings successfully without having to travel interstate.

Buyers will have several hours to inspect Scone Yearlings on Saturday morning and for those who wish to inspect horses all day at White Park this will be



possible with vendors having staff on site to facilitate inspections all afternoon.

Always well patronised the Scone Sale is building a formidable record of producing high quality gallopers for its loyal buyers, such as Hot Danish, Small Minds, Star Of Octagonal, Welkom Gold, Torah and Macau star Happy Gladiator.

All yearlings offered at the 2012 Scone Yearling Sale and Australian Bloodstock Sale will be eligible to pay up for the \$5 million Inglis Race Series and \$100,000 Inglis Scone Challenge.

## DOYLES CREEK EXPLORATION LICENCE

Late last year, the NSW Government referred the issuing of the Doyles Creek Exploration Licence to the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The referral to ICAC was prompted by a review commissioned by the NSW Government and undertaken by Clayton Utz Lawyers into the Doyles Creek Exploration Licence Allocation Process. The findings of this review were tabled in NSW Parliament on 11 November 2011.

The Clayton Utz Review makes compelling reading. It poses serious issues and finds "a circumstantial case of wrongdoing and a breach of public trust". The Jerrys Plains community deserves serious answers to these issues. A full copy of the Clayton Utz Review can be found on our website [www.htba.com.au](http://www.htba.com.au)

The proposed Doyles Creek training mine is

underneath and abuts two of Australia's largest world scale thoroughbred breeding operations. The acquisition of the Dellworth licences (EL 6812 and EL 6594) and the proposal to acquire the Plashett Exploration Licence (EL 6705) places additional significant pressure and risks on the critical mass of thoroughbred breeding operations in the Hunter Valley. On 28 February 2012 Nucoal announced it had lodged its Project Overview and request for Director General's Requirements for the Doyles Creek Training Mine.

**We encourage the community to join our call on the NSW Government to show its support for our region and the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry by not proceeding with the Nucoal Doyles Creek Training Mine and not approving Nucoal's acquisition of the Plashett Exploration Licence.**

# AUSSIES ROCK THE WORLD RANKINGS

**Hunter Region ...Powerhouse of Thoroughbred Breeding**

## Hunter Thoroughbreds Dominate

These are only a few of the headlines that heralded the announcement in January of this year that Australian thoroughbred horses dominated the latest world racing rankings list.

53 Australian-bred horses made it to the International Federation of Horse Authorities 2011 world ranking list. 33 of those, or 63 per cent of the world's top Australian racehorses as ranked by the Federation, are all from the Hunter Valley.



**Left:** Sepoy gets home in the Group One Coolmore Stakes - Champion 3yo Sprinter  
**Right:** Atlantic Jewel with owner Tom Magnier

Three Australian horses topped their categories in the International Federation of Horse Authorities' 2011 assessment.

These included **Atlantic Jewel**, bred at Vinery Stud Scone, world champion three year old filly in the intermediate distance category.

**Sepoy**, bred at Darley, was ranked world champion three year old sprinter.

Michael Ford, Keeper of the Australian Stud Book, has rightly described the Hunter Region as a "powerhouse" of thoroughbred breeding.



There was more good news for Hunterbreds with outstanding filly **Samaready** maintaining her unbeaten record with an explosive victory in the Group One Blue Diamond Stakes at Caulfield on Saturday 25 February.

The daughter of More Than Ready made it three from three, winning the 2 Year Old Feature race by a compelling three length margin.

**Samaready** was bred by Gerry Harvey at Baramul Stud and is raced by a group of syndicates headed by Vinery Stud, managed by Peter Orton. Congratulations to all the connections!



Unbeaten super filly Samaready winning the Group One Blue Diamond Stakes for 2012. Samaready is Hunter bred and raised

# NO MORE STALLING - TIME TO PROTECT OUR INDUSTRIES

The formation of the new Liberal & National NSW Government on Saturday, 26 March 2011 dawned with great expectations for farmers, particularly those in the Hunter Valley. It was the dawn of new hope and the promise that sense would prevail to restore balance and certainty to our region.

The release of the NSW Liberals & Nationals Strategic Regional Land Use Policy in February 2011 in the lead up to the NSW State election promised great things and gave great hope to our farming community. It:

- **acknowledged** that a lack of planning by successive previous governments made regional communities unsure about their agricultural land, environment, water and their future;
- **promised** better planning so that businesses and communities can have confidence about what the future holds;
- **pledged** the preparation of strategic regional land use plans which would be used **ahead** of the granting of Exploration Licences to identify and define land use priorities for different areas of land within a region;
- **committed** to a better process that will identify the best places for agriculture, mining, coal seam gas extraction, viticulture, thoroughbred breeding, conservation, urban development and all other types of land uses in regional areas;
- **undertook** to use triple bottom line assessments of the environmental, social and economic values in regional areas in preparing strategic land use plans;
- **recognised** that strategic agricultural land and water needed to be identified and protected – and that

in some cases this will involve trade-offs between competing land uses;

- **unequivocally** stated the NSW Liberals and Nationals belief that agricultural land and other sensitive areas exist in NSW where mining and coal seam gas extraction should not occur;
- **assured** us that immediately following the election, the NSW Liberals and Nationals will introduce a period of tougher assessment, taking a precautionary approach;
- **undertook** to overhaul the planning system and thoroughly examine enhanced buffer zones and 'ring fencing' with particular reference to communities and effects on established industries;
- **promised** greater scrutiny of major projects during the assessment and approvals process including through the introduction of an Aquifer Interference Regulation, agricultural impact assessments, improved monitoring and compliance, adequate resourcing for environmental and planning agencies, reporting on cumulative impacts of mining; and the completion of at least one regional strategic plan within a year of taking office.



Andrew Wiles,  
Chairman Protect Our  
Industries Committee

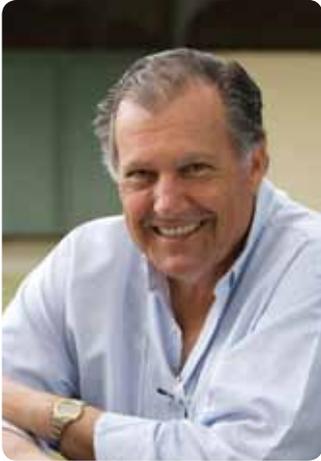
We are almost upon the NSW Government's first anniversary. There are high expectations that the Government will deliver to the letter of their election promises and "ring fence" our Thoroughbred Breeding operations in the Hunter Valley.

Anything short of that would, in our view, be a breach of the Government's election commitments to the Hunter Valley community. It is time to stop stalling. It is time to protect the Hunter Valley's critical mass of thoroughbred breeding operations before it is too late.

## THE HTBA CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

10, 11 & 12 APRIL 2012	AUSTRALIAN EASTER YEARLING SALE, NEWMARKET, SYDNEY
4 MAY TO 20 MAY 2012	SCONE HORSE FESTIVAL
17 MAY 2012	HTBA ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT
18 MAY 2012	SCONE STAND ALONE CARNIVAL → EMIRATES SCONE CUP
19 MAY 2012	SCONE STAND ALONE CARNIVAL → INGLIS GUNEAS CUP
20 MAY 2012	SCONE SELECT YEARLING SALE

## CONGRATULATIONS JOHN MESSARA, NEW CHAIRMAN RACING NSW



The HTBA congratulates Arrowfield Stud Chairman and former President of Thoroughbred Breeders Australia John Messara AM, on his four year appointment as Chairman of Racing NSW.

In December 2011, Racing Minister George Souris announced the new seven-member Racing NSW Board.

The new Racing NSW Board, comprising John Messara AM (Chairman), Naseema Sparks (Deputy Chairman), Ken Brown, Russell Balding, Tony Hodgson, Alan Brown and Kevin Greene, provides continuity, new

energy, enthusiasm and a wealth of experience in business and the racing industry.

On Racing NSW's agenda, among other things, is John's dedication to "reclaiming the Sydney autumn carnival and turning it into a world-class event". John is committed to making the NSW autumn racing carnival a destination meeting – one that attracts people from all over the world to witness our world class racing over the Easter long weekend.

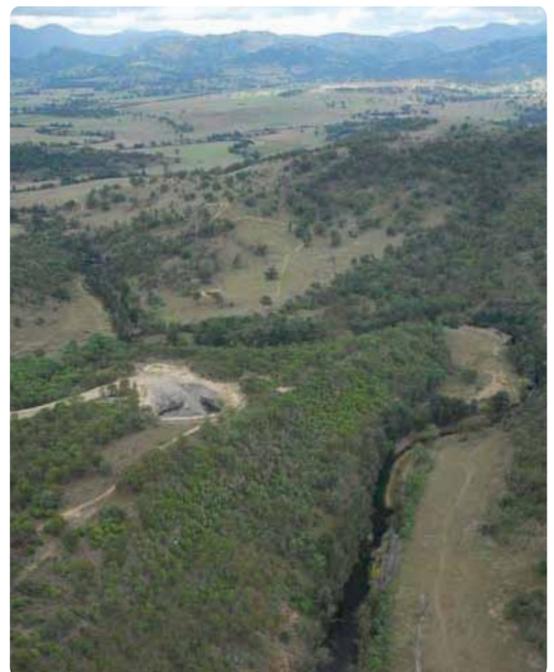
John's enthusiasm and drive underpin his commitment to NSW's world class thoroughbred breeding industry, boost the attractiveness of racing in NSW, rejuvenate Randwick racecourse and improve NSW's racing related tourism potential.

In John's own words "while I think the challenges are big, I thought the opportunities were very exciting". We agree with John and wish him every success in his new challenge.

## BLAST FROM THE PAST – BICKHAM'S BACK

In May 2010 the Independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC) recommended that the Bickham Coal Project not proceed to Part 3A Merit Assessment due to water related risks and strong evidence from the non-water related issues that the Bickham proposal "has had, and would continue to have, significant adverse effects on other industries and investments that would outweigh any advantages in proceeding to merit assessment under Part 3A." "The Commission also notes the significant bias in the economic data presented in support of the mining proposal and rejects the employment claims made by the proponent as unable to be supported by the evidence presented."

In its report to Government, the PAC was highly critical of the water related risks and the impact the mining proposal would have on the stressed water system and the community's water supply. The PAC's Report can be found on our website [www.htba.com.au](http://www.htba.com.au) ▶



(Photo courtesy of The Scone Advocate)



Water experts have confirmed that many of the water risks registered by the PAC will apply equally to underground mining. Aquifer and surface water connectivity risks remain high as do the significant water risks to the community from an already stressed water system.

After ten years of significant expense and uncertainty the Upper Hunter community applauded the decision to reject the Bickham Coal Project. Confidence and investment certainty was restored. Investment decisions proceeded. The community moved on. All of these decisions have now been placed at risk.

It is no coincidence that the Bickham Coal Company has reinvigorated its activity now – its exploration licence is due to expire on 27 May 2012. The NSW Government has an opportunity to signal its support for the protection of our water systems, our communities and the industries that that rely on them. The NSW Government has the expert, independent evidence before it now to defuse another 10 year battle, community expense, stress and uncertainty.

**We encourage all in the community who remain concerned at the prospect of underground mining at Bickham to join with us and call on the NSW Government not to extend Bickham Coal Company's Exploration Licences 5888 and 5306 and to amend the SEPP to include underground mining over the site of these licences.**

## OUT AND ABOUT



Members of New HTBA Board at Classics, Newmarket 2012  
L-R Andrew Wiles, Jon Freyer, Nick Hodges, Mike Thew, John Sunderland  
L-R Peter O'Brien, Tom Magnier, Peter Orton, Arthur Mitchell, Wayne Bedggood

### Absent from Image above



Cameron Collins



Antony Thompson



Trevor Lobb



NFF Mining and Coal Seam Gas President and Taskforce, NSW Farmers Association President and Officers of NSW FA and HTBA President and Director Policy and Public Affairs in Hunter Valley, November 2011



The Hon Simon Crean MP, Tom Magnier, Niall Ronan, the Hon Joel Fitzgibbon MP and Peter O'Brien at Coolmore Stud, August 2011

## HUNTERBREDS DOMINATE MAGIC MILLIONS

The Hunter Valley once again franked its title as Australasia's premier breeding region with all 25 of the top selling yearlings at the January Magic Millions Yearling Sale sired by Hunter Valley based stallions.

Of the \$62 million generated in sales over the four days, a large proportion of this total was attributable to Hunter Valley sires with no fewer than six of those top 25 being purchased by international interests, in particular the Hong Kong Jockey Club. Yearlings purchased by HKJC will go on to show case Australian bloodlines on the international stage in the lucrative Hong Kong and Singapore markets.

Not only have Hunter Valley stallions played a major



part in the success of the 2012 sales to date, but so have the boarding farms and studs that have raised and prepared the yearlings in the Hunter Valley. Of those top 25 lots that attracted worldwide demand in the MM sales ring, 14 of those yearlings were consigned by farms within the Hunter Valley, a testament to the magnificent breeding nursery and the natural environment the Hunter provides for these foals to flourish into sales topping yearlings.

It was a similar story at the recent Inglis Classic Sale in Sydney where the top ten priced yearlings from the sale were all bred from Hunter Valley based stallions and eight of those ten were consigned by farms based out of the Hunter Valley region. The demand for Hunter Valley bred thoroughbreds will continue from both domestic and international buyers at the Inglis Easter Sale.

## OUR PEOPLE – OUR COMMITMENT

This year the HTBA committee has awarded the 2012 Irish National Stud Course Scholarship to Heath Justin of Chatsworth Park Broodmare and Spelling Stud located in Scone.



Heath is currently completing a Bachelor of Agricultural Business Management (Equine), has completed the HTBA and HVERS Middle Management Stud Course (2010) and is a graduate of the

Scone Grammar School.

During his time at Chatsworth Park, Heath has worked on mare reproduction, walk-ons, foaling, sale preparation and general farm duties. In addition to his work duties, Heath has a strong commitment to the Hunter community, is an active member of the NSW Rural Fire Service, and is a keen athlete with a passion for rugby and rowing.

In recognition of our commitment to our people the HTBA provides an annual scholarship to the Irish National Stud Course to nurture talent and enhance professionalism in the Hunter Valley's world class thoroughbred breeding industry.

The full-time residential course in County Kildare, Ireland

gives Australian stud staff the opportunity to broaden their skills with a 'hands on' approach. The course runs from February to July.

During his time on the course, Heath will be involved in many different facets of the stud farm including working with stallions, foaling and in the laboratory.

The training Heath will receive in Kildare will help develop his potential and enable him to return to Australia with greater experience, confidence and skills. Experience which we hope will underpin a bright future in our world renowned industry be it in breeding, training, bloodstock sales, insurance or media.

We congratulate Heath and wish him a very successful scholarship.