

Finalists in Sydney's STRAPPER AWARD

NINE OUTSTANDING WORKERS IN HORSE RACING HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR THE 2020/21 'SYDNEY STRAPPER OF THE YEAR' AWARD

The final nominations for Racing NSW's 2020/201 Sydney Strapper of the Year award have been announced.

Now in its 12th year, this award endeavours to recognise the behind-the-scenes efforts by those strappers that tend to go beyond the call of duty.

The award is sponsored by Racing NSW and co-ordinated by Australian Racing Christian Chaplaincy.

The award is peer-nominated with strappers at Metropolitan race meetings being invited to nominate who they think is deserving of the award.

A selection panel of racing officials will subsequently choose the winner from the following short-list of finalists.

HONOUR ROLL

| YEAR | WINNER | STABLE |
|------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2020 | Graeme Wilson | Kris Lees |
| 2019 | Alexandra Maher | John O'Shea |
| 2018 | Lindy Wharekura | Peter & Paul Snowden |
| 2017 | Riharna Thomson | Keith Dryden/Scott Collings |
| 2016 | Iftikhar Ali | Chris Waller |
| 2015 | Vicki Szecsodi | Bjorn Baker |
| 2014 | George Tucker | Chris Waller |
| 2013 | Glenn Barnes | Chris Waller |
| 2012 | Skye Smalley | Guy Walter |
| 2011 | Michael Doolan | Peter Snowden |
| 2010 | Melissa Williams | John O'Shea |



Adam Dowling

Kylie Gavenlock stable

Horses strapped – Go For Gold, Cream Rises, Once Were Wild. It is with great pride that we nominate 'Guru' Adam Dowling. In the 23 years he has worked for us he has had but one sick day. Rain, hail or shine, he arrives on time for work willing and very able to perform any task set for him. He's a very capable and accomplished horseman, having ridden trackwork and breakers for me for many years. He's totally honest and reliable with a fantastic work ethic. Adam is a good family man and a model citizen.



Alana Lodge

Mark Newnham stable

Horses strapped – Spirit Ridge, I Am Power, Harmony Rose. Alana is a confident stablehand/strapper who is dedicated 100% to her job. Alana has been in the industry all her working life and can be called upon to do any task asked of her in the stable, without any hesitation. She is always eager to take horses to the races as she treats them all as if they were her own children. Alana's dedication to our stable and the racing industry in general is one that a lot of people could look up to.



Madelyn Adams

Terry Robinson stable

Horses strapped – Art Cadeau, Kings Trust. Maddie has a real passion for the industry as she has been around racehorses all her life with her father Brian and her grandfather Kevin Robinson. Maddie takes pride in looking after race gear and has also been responsible for transport and representation on raceday and has a great rapport with our jockeys and all our owners. Maddie is a valuable member of our team and we wish her all the best.



Amber Edmeads

John Sargent stable

Horses strapped – Four Moves Ahead, Brandenburg, House Of Cartier. Amber brings a wealth of horse experience to her role within the stable having spent time in both the UK and NZ before arriving in Australia to continue working with horses. She possesses a strong level of dedication and passion toward not only the horses in her care, but to her responsibilities and is constantly going above and beyond what is expected. Each day Amber is responsible for running the yard while the trainer is attending to the track riders in the hut – this comes with demanding responsibilities. Amber is someone that is always calm and able to prioritise and delegate as required, to ensure that the morning schedule sticks to allocated times set by the trainer. Along with her nominal duties, Amber can also be found saddling up horses for track riders, ensuring that trackwork gear is correct, washing horses, putting horses on/off walkers, and assisting staff as required. Amber also assists in the office when the Racing Secretary is away, ensuring all the back-end tasks are completed. Amber can also ride trackwork when required and is a valuable member of the team. She goes above and beyond in all that she does and always represents the stable in a very professional manner and presents the horses in great condition. Due to Amber's dedication and commitment to her role, other trainers such as Matthew Dale call upon Amber to strap their horses for them when they send them to Randwick as they know that they are in good hands. Amber embraces all the responsibilities and commitments that come with attending to racehorses and completing duties as a stablehand.

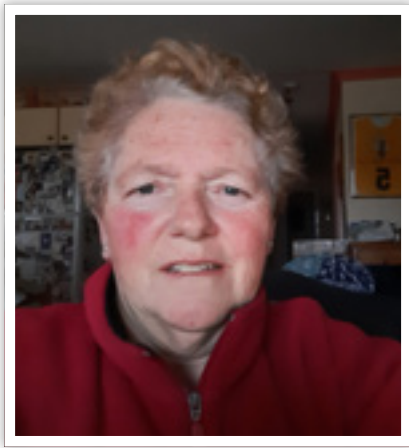


Blake Maynard

John Thompson stable

Horses strapped – Dreamforce, Xtremetime and Baranof. Blake has been a stablehand at John Thompson Racing for five years having previously worked for Peter Moody at Randwick. Blake is tireless in his work and ever-reliable – rain, hail or shine we can count on Blake! He is also eager to learn and take on extra responsibilities. Blake is friendly and jovial and gets along well with everyone he meets. Blake is highly regarded for his laid-back and casual demeanour. One of his most valuable assets is his ability to settle hard-to-handle horses. He is always given the more difficult individuals to care for at home and the races. His slow and steady approach is a great asset to our team. Blake is a deserved contender for the Sydney Strapper of the Year and we are pleased to support his nomination. Good luck Blake!

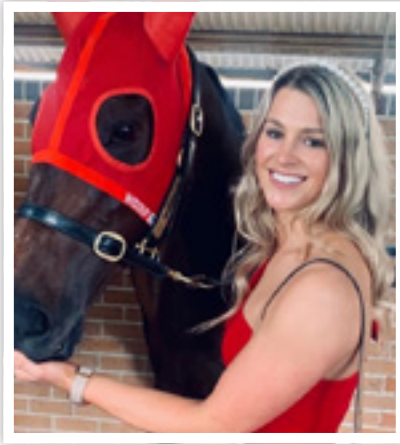
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Clare Heuston

Chris Waller stable

Horses strapped – Fiesta, Saigon, Wairere Falls. Clare has been with Chris Waller Racing for 12 years and is a foreman for a barn at the Rosehill stables where she oversees the welfare and day-to-day health and wellbeing of these horses. She also has a number of young horses in her barn and her experience and horse management ensures a smooth transition into the stable, as well as ensuring the horses continue to be well-educated. Clare is more than capable of taking any horse to the races to strap whether it be a filly, a colt, or a highly strung horse but this is often overshadowed by her foreman roles at the provincials. Not only is she one of the longer serving staff members, having been a barn foreman for a number of years, but she also has the thankless job of cleaning, ironing, sorting and ensure the right colours go to the races for each horse. This season alone in NSW had over 1000 runners and for one person to be in charge of all of those colours, is something that I really take my hat off to. Writing this I realise how tiresome this job must be and yet when Clare goes on holiday, she still drives into the stable to deliver the clean colours for raceday and collect the dirty colours to be washed. Our colours, without question are always spotless, creaseless and in impeccable order. Not only does Clare have to worry about the colours, but she also ensures that the right gear is packed into the raceday bag as well as each horse's bridle having attached the relevant gear it requires to ensure that the strapper's job is as easy as possible. She also packs a couple of bags of lollies into the colours bag for the jockeys to eat which is out of her own pocket.



Rosina Jilla

Brad Widdup stable

Horse strapped – Icebath. For the last four years I've been training Rosie has been there every step of the way. A talented rider of all the equestrian principles, Rosie lives for her horses and creates bonds that sees her earn the ultimate respect and trust between rider and horse. She is hard working and dedicated to caring for each horse within our stables, even those she does not ride. Rosie goes above and beyond to ensure our horses' requirements are met on a daily basis, attending race meetings and providing basic education to all horses she comes in contact with so if they move on from racing, they have the best chance at moving in to a different discipline if required. Rosie's commitment to our stables is unwavering, always happy to ride a couple more or come in on her day off, nothing is ever too much trouble. She is worth her weight in gold and my stables wouldn't be the same if it wasn't for Rosie's dedication to her horses. I acknowledge her contribution to horses like Icebath who she has ridden every day since a yearling.



Stephen Binsted

Gerald Ryan & Stirling Alexiou stable

Horses strapped – Peltzer, Steely, Mallory, Mr Mosaic, Never Never River. Steve is a highly reliable and highly regarded employee at our Rosehill stables, always punctual and well presented. He has great patience and dedication to the thoroughbred and although he is a man of little words around the stables, he just seems to go about his work in a very effective and efficient manner. He has a great 'eye' and 'feel' for a horse in their early education as to whether they will progress and make above average horses. All in all, he is a great asset to our stable and is highly valued by his peers and also owners who he seems to have a great rapport with.



Sushil Kumal

Matthew Smith stable

Horses strapped – Ashim, Milk Man, Flambeur, Atonement, Bentley Magic, Corncrake. Sushil is a highly valued member of our staff at Matthew C. Smith Racing. He has a very kind and gentle manner which is very calming with both the horses and his colleagues alike. His attention to detail and communication skills are second-to-none. Sushil takes great pride in his work and cares very much about each individual horse in our stable. He is excellent at treating any ailments and knows if something is not quite right with a horse. A fantastic member of our senior staff, wonderful role model for younger staff and our 'go-to' man.

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