



MEDIA ALERT

Wednesday 13 September 2023

2023 AUSTRALIAN RACING HALL OF FAME GAI WATERHOUSE AO INDUCTED AS HALL OF FAME LEGEND

Australia's first lady of the turf, **Gai Waterhouse AO** is set to make history as she joins her late father, the great Tommy Smith in receiving the highest possible accolade being elevated to Legend Status at the Australian Racing Hall of Fame ceremony.

Originally inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame in 2007, Gai has amassed an astounding 154 Group 1 Winners, the last 20 in partnership with Adrian Bott.

As one of only four trainers to have reached 150-plus winners at Group 1 level, Gai joins elite company alongside her legendary father, Tommy (TJ) Smith, Bart Cummings and Chris Waller.

Gai became the first Australian female trainer, and the second female trainer to officially win the Melbourne Cup with Fiorente in 2013.

In her stellar career, Gai has reached incredible heights with three NSW Training Premierships, seven Sydney Trainer's Premierships and multiple industry awards. In September 2000, Gai was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for "outstanding contribution to thoroughbred racing" and in October 2018, inducted into the Sport Australia Hall of Fame.

In 2021 Gai was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) and is one of only three racing entities across the nation to be awarded this distinguished title. Gai also topped the poll of nominations in the year of her recognition as a National Living Treasure by the National Trust of Australia.

With seven Golden Slipper victories, seven Doncasters, seven Epsoms and a Melbourne Cup among her huge tally of victories, Gai continues to thrill and delight racegoers on a national and international level.

“On behalf of Racing Australia, we congratulate Gai on her elevation to Legend Status in the Australian Racing Hall of Fame. Her extraordinary training achievements, her promotion of racing and her effervescence have transcended the sport and we are looking forward to celebrating this great accolade on racing’s night of nights” (Racing Australia Chief Executive Paul Eriksson)

The star-studded event will be hosted by Racing and Wagering Western Australia (RWVA) and will take place on Thursday evening, 23rd November 2023 at Optus Stadium in Perth.

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