



MEDIA RELEASE

6 August 2026

FINALISTS UNVEILED FOR AUSTRALIAN RACEHORSE OF THE YEAR 2025/2026

Racing Australia is pleased to announce the nominees for the prestigious 2025/2026 Australian Racehorse of the Year awards.

The spectacular line up of finalists to take out the top award “Australian Racehorse of the Year” and not surprisingly, extends to last season’s outstanding performers, Half Yours, Autumn Glow, Via Sistina, Sheza Alibi, and Sir Delius.

Hosted by the NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA), in conjunction with Racing NSW, Racing’s Night of Champions will acknowledge equine, training and riding excellence not only in NSW but across Australia during the 2025/2026 Racing season.

This year’s awards will be held on Thursday, 27 August at The Winx Stand ballroom at Royal Randwick.

Racing Australia’s Chief Executive Mr Paul Eriksson added; “On behalf of Racing Australia we are delighted to be sharing the stage with Racing’s Night of Champions. The eight national equine categories including the Australian Racehorse of the Year have been very hotly contested after a phenomenal racing season and we are very much looking forward to this awards ceremony to celebrate the greats of our sport”.

The Racehorse of the Year awards acknowledge performances on Australian racecourses, as well as international performances by Australian-trained horses for the period from 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026.

Contenders for the Champion Two-Year-Old category include Golden Slipper winner Guest House, Blue Diamond winner and Golden Slipper runner-up Streisand, and Group 1 winners Campione D’Italia, Fireball and Tron Bolt - all standouts in their own right in the juveniles.

In the Champion 3YO Colt and Gelding category, Rosehill and Caulfield Guineas winner Autumn Boy is up against Tentyrus who had outstanding wins in the Lightning and Coolmore Stakes, Beiwacht, winner of the All Aged Stakes and Golden Rose, and Derby heroes Green Spaces (ATC Australian Derby) and Observer (VRC Derby).

The Three-Year-Old Filly category features an elite line up with Doncaster Mile winner Sheza Alibi who is up against Surround Stakes winner and Everest runner-up Tempted, ATC Australian Oaks winner Ohope Wins, Flight Stakes winner Apocalyptic and The Galaxy winner Marhoona.

Champion Middle Distance finalists showcase the cream of Australian Racing. The likes of world class Via Sistina, who claimed back-to-back victories in the Cox Plate, super star mare Autumn Glow, Sheza Alibi and crowd favourite Sir Delius with his wins in the Underwood

Stakes and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Autumn Glow, Tentyris and Tempted are in multiple categories with the trio among the nominations for Champion Sprinter alongside TJ Smith Stakes and Canterbury Stakes winner Joliestar, and Jigsaw, who won seven races in succession including the Group 1 Railway Stakes (New Zealand) and William Reid Stakes.

Fighting it out for the Champion Stayer will be Caulfield and Melbourne Cup winner Half Yours, Aeliana, Changingoftheguard and Royal Supremacy.

The competition is also fierce for the Champion Jumper Award. Can the Ciaran Maher trained Stern Idol claim the title or a fourth year? Hot on his heels is Instigator, with Mr Waterville and Sing For Peace also in the mix.

In addition to our equine stars, Chris Waller has clinched - for the 14th consecutive year - the title of Champion Group 1 Trainer for the season with his record-breaking 22 Group 1 wins.

Superstar jockey James McDonald's phenomenal season included a record 17 Australian Group 1 wins to ensure he takes out the title of Champion Group 1 Jockey for the sixth straight year.

The great son of Redoute's Choice, Snitzel has been crowned Champion Sire for the fifth time. Awarded posthumously, Snitzel's progeny earnt a grand total of \$25.9 million in the season with his daughters Lazzura and Marhoona standouts while he sired two Group 1-winning colts, Campione D'Italia (ATC Sires Produce Stakes) and Fireball (Champagne Stakes).

Tickets to the event can be purchased at nswroa.com.au

2025/2026 Finalists:

CHAMPION 2YO Campione D'Italia Fireball Guest House Streisand Tron Bolt	CHAMPION 3YO FILLY Apocalyptic Marhoona Ohope Wins Sheza Alibi Tempted
CHAMPION 3YO COLT/GELDING Autumn Boy Beiwacht Green Spaces Observer Tentyris	CHAMPION SPRINTER (up to 1400m) Autumn Glow Jigsaw Joliestar Tempted Tentyris
CHAMPION MIDDLE DISTANCE (1401m – 2040m) Aeliana Autumn Glow	CHAMPION STAYER (2041-3200m) Aeliana Changingoftheguard

Sheza Alibi Sir Delius Via Sistina	Dubai Honour Half Yours Royal Supremacy
CHAMPION JUMPER Highland Blaze Instigator Mr Waterville Sing For Peace Stern Idol	BART CUMMINGS AWARD – GROUP 1 TRAINER OF THE YEAR Chris Waller GROUP 1 JOCKEY OF THE YEAR AWARD James McDonald CHAMPION SIRE OF THE YEAR AWARD Snitzel

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