



MEDIA RELEASE

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AUTUMN GLOW CROWNED AUSTRALIAN RACEHORSE OF THE YEAR 2025/2026

Supermare Autumn Glow continued her ascendency to greatness last night as she was officially crowned Australian Racehorse of the Year.

After an exhilarating season where she notched emphatic victories in three Group 1 races plus the Golden Eagle, her superstar status was celebrated as she claimed the top honour in one of the most hotly contested Horse of the Year titles in recent memory.

In esteemed company, Autumn Glow claimed the coveted honour with 110 votes from Half Yours (69 votes), Sheza Alibi (67 votes), Via Sistina (66 votes) and Sir Delius (65 votes).

Hosted by the NSW Racehorse Owners Association (NSWROA), in conjunction with Racing NSW, the Australian Racehorse of the Year awards were held at the Winx Stand at Royal Randwick and featured outstanding candidates in every category.

Racing's Night of Champions clearly belonged to Chris Waller and his team as stable stars Autumn Boy took out the Australian Champion 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding for the season with Joliestar claiming the Champion Sprinter title.

To rousing applause, Autumn Glow also took out the coveted Champion Middle Distance Category which was no surprise after James McDonald rode her into the history pages with wins in the George Ryder Stakes, Verry Elleegant Stakes and Golden Eagle.

Masterfully trained by Chris Waller, who also clinched his 14th straight Champion Group 1 Trainer Award, Autumn Glow was a standout with 114 votes over nearest rivals Via Sistina on 101 votes, and Sir Delius on 97 votes in the Middle Distance Category.

Golden Slipper winner, Guest House garnered huge support with 191 votes to take out Champion 2-Year-Old for the season edging out Streisand who has established her own impressive fan base on 98 votes. Campione D'Italia by the late Snitzel, was third in the juveniles on a tally of 65 votes.

Sheza Alibi's stunning wins in the Randwick Guineas and Doncaster Mile ensured she was awarded Champion 3-Year-Old Filly title with 197 votes over Tempted on 118 votes.

Autumn Boy's consistency over the season saw him clinch the Champion 3-Year-Old Colt/Gelding award (136 votes) over Tentyris (130 votes) by only 6 votes with dominant wins in the Caulfield and Rosehill Guineas, the latter giving James McDonald his history making 130th Group 1 winner.

Drawing from a very large and talented field of contenders in the Champion Sprint Category, it was none other than Joliestar whose extraordinary feats in the TJ Smith, the Canterbury Stakes and The Shorts made her a resounding winner on 142 votes over her nearest rival Tempted on 65 votes, with Tentyris on 52 votes.

The incredibly popular Half Yours, winner of the Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup, successfully claimed his Champion Stayer title who blitzed his competition with a landslide outcome in the voting amassing 195 votes over Aeliana on an impressive 122 votes.

In the Champion Jumps horse (Victorian voters only), Stern Idol's connections were called to the stage for a third time in four years, a fitting end to his remarkable career, the judges awarded Stern Idol a commanding 45 votes over Instigator on 18 votes and Mr Waterville on 10 votes.

In addition to our equine stars, Chris Waller's incredible season scaled to elite heights breaking his own record of 22 Group 1's making way for his 14th straight Award for Champion Group 1 Trainer. The Waller stable's highlight reel showcased champions like Autumn Glow, Via Sistina, Beiwacht, Joliestar, Autumn Boy and Aeliana.

The audience applauded Australia's greatest jockey James McDonald who, once again made headlines in the season with 17 Group 1's in an unforgettable season, taking out Champion Group 1 Jockey for the sixth straight year.

Champion Sire of the Year was awarded to the late Snitzel who's progeny's stakes earnings totalled \$26,030,662 AUD for the 2025/2026 Season.

Snitzel had six individual Group 1 winners last season with Fireball, Campione D'Italia, Lazzura, Marhoona, Transatlantic and Baraqiel, eclipsing his previous best of four in what was the most successful Group 1 season in terms of individual winners by the one sire since Redoute's Choice in 2005/06.

The Australian 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. The Judging panel is comprised of Racing Media, Handicappers and form analysts from around Australia.

2025/2026 – Winners by Category

CHAMPION 2YO Guest House	CHAMPION 3YO FILLY Sheza Alibi
CHAMPION 3YO COLT/GELDING Autumn Boy	CHAMPION SPRINTER Joliestar

CHAMPION MIDDLE DISTANCE Autumn Glow	CHAMPION STAYER Half Yours
CHAMPION JUMPER 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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