



**2024 HTBA PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
DR CATHERINE CHICKEN BVSc (Hons) PhD MANZCVS Dip VCS**

15 May 2024

This year's winner of the 2024 HTBA President's Award for Lifetime Achievement has devoted her life to the pursuit of excellence from tending to the care of high-performance equine athletes, furthering research and understanding of equine pathology and microbiology, fighting to protect our industry and a sustainable future, forging connections with researchers and innovators, mentoring future generations, and giving back to her profession and community. She has a formidable intellect with an unstoppable drive yet is unassuming and shies from the limelight. This year's HTBA President's Award is presented to the much respected, multi-talented, multi-award winner, Dr Catherine Chicken.

Born and bred in New Zealand, her love of country life and horses started from a young age as did her ambition to become a vet. Raised in Australia, she graduated from the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science (Honours). Following her graduation, and with a few years' experience in mixed practice in rural NSW under her belt, she set forth to Newmarket UK, to ply her trade.

On her return from Newmarket, as a sister Centre of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence, Scone and its community became the ultimate beneficiaries of her talents and devotion.

In the early 1990's, a ground-breaking time for both the Scone Veterinary Hospital and its professionally qualified staff, this bright, young, and talented veterinarian took charge of the Scone Equine Hospital's Clovelly Intensive Care Unit. The first of its kind, caring for foals and an increasing number of sick horses. Through her dedication and care Catherine led the unit and with her team provided invaluable care for sick foals and adult horses. Now the Intensive Care Unit at Clovelly Stables is world renowned for the 24 hour care it provides for ill neonates, adults and post-operative patients.

With a growing practice and two small children, Catherine turned her mind to her attention, energy and intellect to her next labour of love. A Doctorate at the University of Melbourne, on bacterial infection - *Rhondococcus equi*, commonly known as "rattles", causing bacterial pneumonia in foals and young horses. An undertaking not for the fainthearted and one in which she excelled forging invaluable connections between professionals on the equine frontline and in research to come together, and through research and innovation, get things done.

Catherine applied her considerable talents to serve on the Australian Equine Veterinary Association in many capacities, including State representative, Member of the Equine Education sub-committee, and as Editor of the Australian Equine Veterinarian (1997-2020). The Australian Veterinary Association recognised her many achievements by awarding her the Meritorious Service Award in 2020 and the Lifetime Service to the Horse Industry in 2022.

Catherine has an indefatigable ability to apply her scientific credentials, energy and drive in pursuit of excellence and a sustainable future. She represented the HTBA on the Upper Hunter



Air Quality Monitoring network for over a decade, (is/was) a member of the Upper Hunter Shire Sustainability Committee, and represented Thoroughbred Breeders Australia on the Agrifutures Australia Thoroughbred Horse Research Program Board. She was elected chair of this Panel in 2022 – a position she holds today.

Catherine's ability to give back knows no bounds. If she is not working away to further the interests of the thoroughbred community, she is working to further the interests of her own community here in Scone. She is a respected mentor of young vet graduates, through the Australian Veterinary Association Graduate Mentoring Program. She is a keen contributor to the Upper Hunter Where There's a Will Wellbeing Superspreaders initiative and a committed member of the Scone Literary Festival. She is a firm believer that "you get a lot more from giving than from taking".

To a self proclaimed life long learner, a fierce intellect with an even more fierce drive, an equine and community dynamo, a respected mentor, a dedicated and indefatigable community advocate, a loving wife and proud mother of two, the HTBA is very proud to award Catherine Chicken the 2024 President's Award for Lifetime Achievement.

2024 HTBA HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

Dr CAMERON COLLINS BVSc MANZCVS MRCVS GAICD

15 May 2024

This year, for the first time, the HTBA honours a man who has selflessly devoted his considerable talents and time to leading our organisation for over a decade with an Honorary Life Membership.

Dr Cameron Collins has been president of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association through one of the most challenging periods in our industry's history.

Through droughts, fires and floods, a global pandemic and unceasing encroachment of mining that threatened our future, under his leadership we united to tackle any and all obstacles that came our way.

Cameron led with grace, calm, science, logic and respect. He worked tirelessly, sympathetically and doggedly to promote, protect and preserve our industry, our jobs, our champions and our historical place here in the Hunter Valley.

Cameron's leadership and legacy has helped secure our future for growth and prosperity.

It is with very deep appreciation for his dedication, services and invaluable contribution that the HTBA inducts Dr Cameron Collins tonight as our inaugural Honourary Life Member.

Media Contact: Hellen Georgopoulos 0419 850 224

BACKGROUND: The Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding industry contributes over \$5 billion annually to the national economy and \$2.6 billion annually to the NSW economy. It supports over 230,000 jobs throughout Australia. It is one of three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world – alongside Newmarket in the UK and Kentucky in the USA. It is Australia's largest producer and exporter of premium thoroughbreds. It is an iconic part of Australia's sporting history and an industry worthy of protection.

**2023 HTBA MURRAY BAIN AWARD FOR SERVICE TO INDUSTRY
AWARD RECIPIENT – MR TONY SCOTT**

15 MAY 2024

The Murray Bain Service to Industry Award honours the outstanding achievements of those in our industry who champion exceptional service to industry with hands-on practice and not at a safe distance.

This year's Murray Bain Award winner is the personification of this award. He is a genuine horseman, who throughout his career has worked up close and personal with our equine athletes, a racing enthusiast, a man of international experience, outstanding horsemanship, an exceptional breeding operator and a highly respected mentor and colleague, Mr Tony Scott.

Born, bred and education in England, Tony followed his passion for racing as soon as he left school in 1978. For nearly 50 years, he has followed his passion for horses working in racing stables in France, stallion farms in Kentucky and here in the Hunter Valley, Australia's Centre of Thoroughbred Breeding excellence.

His first job in Australia at the end of the 1980's was for Sir Tristan Antico at Barramul Stud in the Widden Valley. Tony went on to work for William Inglis and Sons in Sydney then as Broodmare Manager and later Stud Manager for the historic Segenhoe Stud (now Vinery) - witnessing and contributing first hand to the evolution of the Segenhoe Stud into Vinery under the leadership of Tony Bott, George Hoffmeister, Tommy Simon and Peter Orton. During this time he worked with admired stallions such as Red Ransom and More Than Ready and successful racehorses such as Exceed and Excel, Bell Du Jour, Typhoon Tracy and Russian Revolution.

Following a nearly two decade stellar career at Viney, Tony was recruited by Aquis to manage their new stud operations in the Hunter during a time of enormous expansion. Tony has remained at the farm following Emirate Park's resumption of its operations, managing and preparing weanlings and yearlings, including Manaal a star of this current racing season.

Tony is renowned for his exceptional horsemanship, team management capabilities and his unfailing calmness under pressure. He is highly respected throughout the industry for his wisdom and experience, his mentoring and his friendship.

The HTBA is very proud to present Mr Tony Scott with the 2024 HTBA Murray Bain Service to Industry Award.

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**HUNTER THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION
2024 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

15 MAY 2024

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders' Association is very proud to pay tribute to three exceptional employees, in the fields of administration, horsemanship and leadership.

**HTBA Employee of the Year (Administration) Award, Sponsored by Select Events
Winner Ms Emma Parkinson**

This year's HTBA Employee of the Year (Administration) Award goes to a lady who has an instinctive passion for horses, a wide spanning career within the industry, outstanding operational and administrative skills, a "go-to person" and mentor to many and a devotion to rehoming retired race horses, Ms Emma Parkinson.

Having grown up with stockhorses and thoroughbreds and worked at Coolmore, Widden, Amarina, Bloodstock Transport and for the past 14 years at Vinery, Ms Parkinson is a well known and highly capable and respected member of our thoroughbred community.

Emma's industry-wide knowledge, (from breeding to racing and large animal veterinary care) outstanding operational skills, passion for horses, and commitment to education, training and mentoring, equips her not only with the exceptional skills to facilitate the smooth operation of any farm but also to inspire future generations of thoroughbred participants.

Emma's love of thoroughbreds is well known. She played a key part in Exceedance's career from his purchase as a yearling in 2018 to his pre-training, his Group 1 wins and those of his progeny.

Whether she is teaming with the HTBA to establish a connection with the Thoroughly Schooled program, or finding homes for retired racing thoroughbreds Emma's devotion to the horse and our people is exemplary.

Renown for her loyalty, passion and professionalism the HTBA is very proud to recognise and congratulate this year's Employee of the Year (Administration) Award winner, Ms Emma Parkinson.

**HTBA Employee of the Year (Horsemanship) Award, Sponsored by The Hunter Media Co.
Winner – Mr Matt Lawler**

This year's HTBA Employee of the Year (Horsemanship) Award is presented to a man of many talents, exceptional knowledge and skills and an invaluable asset to many, Mr Matt Lawler.

Known for his exceptional dedication, expertise and skill, great work ethic and confident yet gentle and patient approach to foal handling, Matt treats the horses under his care with respect, attention and individuality.

Starting his career in 2008 as Stallion Manager at Yarraman Park, Matt looked after illustrious stallions such as Hinchinbrook, Magic Albert and I Am Invincible for over a decade. Through his attentive care and expert management, Matt played an instrumental role in nurturing and

supporting many yearlings and stallions, particularly I Am Invincible's rise to prominence and success.

Following opportunities abroad, Matt returned to Yarraman Park in 2020 along with a wealth of experience and expertise. In his current role, Matt plays a pivotal role in handling over 150 yearlings annually at Yarraman, as well as Kitchwin Hills, North and Cressfield.

Matt's horsemanship skills and unwavering reliability has earned him the utmost respect among his peers, and are instrumental to the success of the Yarraman team, to others across the industry and to those he mentors.

The HTBA is proud to recognise Mr Matt Lawler for his remarkable horsemanship skills and many achievements by awarding him the 2024 HTBA Employee of the Year (Horsemanship) Award.

HTBA Employee of the Year (Leadership) Award, Sponsored by Morgan + English | Thoroughbred Recoveries and Safe Industries Australia Winner – Mr Jackson Biers

A country boy at heart, a thoroughbred devotee, a man of international breeding and racing experience, and a mentor to many, this year's HTBA Employee of the Year (Leadership) Award is presented to Mr Jackson Biers.

Jackson began his career in the industry prepping yearlings for Senga Bisset. He honed his skills working with some of the best in our industry including Darley Australia and Darley Kentucky, for Peter Snowden at Crown Lodge, as bloodstock and stud manager with one of Australia's leading breeder of stayers, Trevor and Terrie Delroy, and again with Peter and Paul Snowden at their new operations in Randwick and as Assistant Stud Manager with Newgate. As racing manager for the Snowdens, Jackson worked with great thoroughbreds such as Redzel, Pride of Dubai, Tycoon Tara, Shooting to Win, Miracles of Life, Capitalist and Russian Revolution.

Throughout his career Jackson has demonstrated his exemplary leadership qualities, his strong business acumen, dedication to best practice team management, attention to detail, health work and safety, commitment to staff mentoring and his exceptional client relations to profoundly impact Newgate's success and the success of all organisations with which he has been associated.

To a man who fosters the best in people, has exceptional interpersonal skills, a consummate understanding of client needs, a cultivator of strong lasting relationships with colleagues and clients alike, and a trusted and loyal team member whose contributions underpin an organisation's success and reputation, the HTBA recognises Mr Jackson Biers outstanding leadership and contribution to the industry by awarding him the 2024 HTBA Employee of the Year (Leadership) Award.

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HUNTERBREDS HONORED AT 2024 HTBA ANNUAL AWARDS

This year's **2024 HTBA Champion 2-year-old Racehorse** award winner is **LADY OF CAMELOT**, filly by Written Tycoon out of Miss Debutante. **LADY OF CAMELOT**, a Group 1 winner of ATC Golden Slipper, 1st in the Group 3 ATC Widden Stakes, 2nd in the Group 1 MRC Blue Diamond Stakes and 2nd ATC Group 2 Percy Sykes Stakes. **MISS CAMELOT** was born at Newgate and bred by Go Bloodstock. The 2024 HTBA 2-year-old racehorse award was sponsored by International Animal Health.

The **2024 HTBA Champion 3-year-old Racehorse** was awarded to **RIFF ROCKET**. Son of American Pharoah (USA) out of the mare Missile Coda. Multiple Group 1 winning gelding of the ATC Australian Derby, the Group 1 VRC Victorian Derby and the Group 1 ATC Rosehill Guineas. Winning the Group 3 VRC CS Hayes Stakes and the listed VRC Super Impose Stakes and notable 2nd placing in Group 3 MRC Caulfield Classic and 3rd in the Group 1 VRC Australian Guineas. **RIFF ROCKET** was bred at Coolmore and is owned by Woppitt Bloodstock. The 2024 HTBA 3-year-old racehorse award was sponsored by Zoetis.

The **2024 HTBA Champion Racehorse** was awarded to **IMPERATRIZ**. Daughter of I Am Invincible out of the mare Berimbau (Shamardal). Born at Bhima, **IMPERATRIZ** is a multiple Group 1 winning filly of the VRC Sprint Classic, the VRC Lightning Stakes, the MVRC Moir Stakes, the MRVC Mankato Stakes, the MVRC William Reid Stakes and Group 3 Ian McEwan Stakes and placed 2nd in the Group 1 VRC Newmarket Handicap. The 2024 HTBA Champion Racehorse award was sponsored by Scone Race Club.

The **2024 HTBA Champion Broodmare Award** was presented to **MISS DEBUTANTE** owned by GO Bloodstock and resident mare of Newgate. The dam multiple stakes winners including the 2024 Group 1 ATC Golden Slipper winner Lady of Camelot and the 2023 Group 3 VRC Furphy Sprint winner in Queen of the Ball. The 2024 Champion Broodmare award was sponsored by Scone Equine Hospital.

TOO DARN HOT (GB) was awarded **2024 HTBA Champion First Season Sire**. Standing at Darley Kelvinside, the son of Dubawi (IRE) out of the mare Do Re Mi (GB). **TOO DARN HOT'S** first crop of 2-year-olds include winners such as Broadsiding and Fallen Angel (GB). His first season progeny giving him a black-type premierships points rating of 43 to take home this year's title. The 2024 HTBA Champion First Season Sire award, sponsored by Kentucky Equine Research | Barastoc Ridley Partnership.

The **2024 HTBA Champion Sire** was awarded to **I AM INVINCIBLE**. Winner of the same category in 2021, & 2023, **I AM INVINCIBLE**, a brilliant sprinter and champion racehorse. His black-type progeny for the season including stakes winning progeny including Imperatriz, King's Gambit, King of Sparta, Move to Strike and many more raked up 461 points on the black-type premierships leader board. The 2024 HTBA Champion Sire, proudly presented by long time HTBA Champion Sire Award Sponsors, Inglis.

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