

## 2017 HTBA EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARDS – ADMINISTRATION AND HORSEMANSHIP

10 May 2017

“Employees are an industry’s greatest asset. In the Hunter’s Thoroughbred Breeding Industry they’re our competitive advantage and critical to our success and our long-term future. The HTBA is committed to attracting, training and retaining the best and providing our employees with an environment that values and recognises talent, loyalty and exceptional endeavour.” Dr Cameron Collins, HTBA President said.

**The HTBA Employee of the Year (Administration) Award** recognises an individual staff member who works in administration in or for the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeding Industry who has demonstrated exceptional skills, loyalty or achievement that has added value to their employer’s business and directly or indirectly to the Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeding Industry.

**The HTBA Employee of the Year (Horsemanship) Award** recognises an individual staff member who has shown talent for horsemanship, consistency and reliability, an affinity with horses and who gives priority to animal welfare. Nominees must demonstrate a degree of success within the Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeding Industry that has been borne out of their particular skill set.

**The 2017 HTBA Employee of the Year (Administration) Award** winner is **Ms Michelle Nichols**, Stud Office Manager, Arrowfield. Highly regarded and respected by her colleagues Michelle’s long and loyal service, high integrity, impeccable accuracy, diligence and corporate knowledge earned her the reputation of being “the walking encyclopedia” at Arrowfield. For the past two decades, through her exceptional skills, dedication and loyalty, Michelle has demonstrated complete commitment to, and involvement in, the Arrowfield business.

**The 2017 HTBA Employee of the Year (Horsemanship) Award** winner is **Mr Daniel Krzanic** (Stallions, Yearlings & Transport) Coolmore Australia. Daniel has been part of the Coolmore team since Coolmore’s inception in Australia over 20 years ago. Totally loyal and dedicated, Daniel is considered one of the “unsung heroes” of the Coolmore team. His horsemanship and affinity with horses is exceptional. Daniel’s appreciation of caring for elite athletes ensures outstanding performance year in year out. His professionalism, reliability, work ethic, positive attitude, and passion for horsemanship not only epitomizes the many roles he performs, it is an essential part of the presentation of yearlings at all major sales and a shining example to younger staff, many of whom he mentors. Daniel is an outstanding team member of the Coolmore stud farm and is a very deserving winner of this year’s award.

“Once again the HTBA received many worthy nominations of employees who have exceptional skills and dedication and are essential to the success of their employer’s business and our industry. We congratulate this year’s winners who will be nominated as HTBA candidates for similar award categories in future Australian Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards” Dr Cameron Collins, said.

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**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 worth protection.