

## **2017 HTBA MURRAY BAIN SERVICE TO INDUSTRY AWARD RECIPIENT – MR MIKE THEW**

10 May 2017

The Murray Bain Service to Industry Award honours the outstanding achievements of those in our industry who champion exceptional service to industry and hands-on best practice. This year's Murray Bain Service to Industry Award recipient, Mr Mike Thew has exemplified hands-on best practice and shared this passion and commitment with the many people he has worked with, trained and mentored throughout his career.

A highly respected and valued member of the Hunter's thoroughbred breeding industry and a dedicated committee member of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Mike Thew has applied his hands-on experience and knowledge to his work, teachings and committee memberships throughout his life.

From the start of his career as a stud hand at the famous Lexington Spendthrift stud farm in the late 1970's, to this time as founding manager at the late Brian Agnew's Wakefield Stud and his own very successful broodmare farm at Crownningstone, Mike has driven many firsts in thoroughbred best practice. Mike was the first stud manager in the Hunter to walk mares for cover. Under his leadership, Wakefield Stud was the first farm to have black fences and the first to slash roadways and laneways – all best practice applications from his days in Lexington Kentucky that are continued to this day.

For nearly two decades as head teacher of Agriculture and Equine Studies at the Scone TAFE Mike applied his life-long passion, knowledge and hands on experience by training and mentoring the next generation of Hunter horsemen and women. During his time with Scone TAFE Mike was instrumental in implementing the equine nursing course, farrier courses, horse management and husbandry, night watch foaling and many more agricultural and certificate courses.

Mike has been a past President of the Scone Horse Festival, President of the Scone Pony Club, Committee Member of the Scone Race Club and is a valued member of the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association Committee.

The HTBA is very pleased to honour Mr Mike Thew for his hands on service to our industry and award him the 2017 HTBA Murray Bain Service to Industry Award.

**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 worth protection.

