



ATIEA NOMINATION GUIDE

LEADERSHIP

This category is for a member of a team with the role of manager or supervisor in a racing stable or a stud farm. This person must have demonstrated leadership qualities with the people under their responsibility and strong mentoring qualities from which their team has benefited.

Qualities

How the nominee has progressed in their career, their qualities as a leader, mentor, self-discipline and ambition.

Examples

- Demonstrate how the nominee shares their experience with the younger team members. "Sally is always the first to take new team members under her wing. Many former colleagues were lucky to learn from her."
- Illustrate how the nominee has contributed to the expansion and development of the stable or stud since their arrival. "When Sally first arrived, we had just bought our stud, with only two mares. Now we have 15 that belong to us and 15 that belong to our clients. Sally has been a key element in the evolution of our business."
- Integrate key character traits that make them good leaders and role models. "Sally always has time for everyone, she listens but commands respect from the team through her impeccable work ethic. She is always smiling and positive."
- Highlight an action or a way to manage a crisis/big change within the stable/stud which makes them someone particularly worthy of winning this Award. "During the season we had a crisis/change and Sally showed remarkable courage and real leadership qualities to manage this situation."

DEDICATION TO RACING

An Award to an individual staff member who has shown talent for horsemanship in the racing field, consistency, and reliability in a racing role. Must have at least five years' service in the racing industry and must have been pivotal in their employer's success.

Qualities

Longevity, perseverance, passion, loyalty, and commitment.

Examples

- Demonstrate why the nominee is an exceptional member of the team. "Michael's attention to detail when it comes to the welfare of horses is impeccable. His concern and love for these animals is a real source of inspiration."
- Show the contribution made by the nominee within the racing stable since their arrival. "People like Michael are very hard to find, he is never late and has taken care of several very good horses, but what is most impressive is the fact that he takes the same care of all horses, whether they are champions or not."
- Highlight how they share their experience with the younger members of the team. "Michael arrives early every morning to feed the horses and explains to the younger ones how the process works."
- Include a key moment that illustrates that the candidate deserves to win this Award. "During the summer we had problems with the water supply to the stables and Michael came in every evening to check the water level of each horse. His dedication helped us get through a long and harsh summer."



DEDICATION TO BREEDING

An Award to an individual staff member who has shown talent in thoroughbred breeding horsemanship, consistency and reliability in a stud role. Must have at least five years' service in the breeding industry and must have been pivotal in his or her employer's success.

Qualities

Determination, reliability, hard work within the team, care for the horses, passion and adaptability.

Examples

- Demonstrate how the nominee contributes to the performance of the team. "Marie's results at work are unmatched. She runs the agistment farm impeccably and the owners are very grateful for her level of expertise caring for their horses. The owners often praise her for her high-quality work."
- Include the strengths of the nominee as a team member and their knowledge of mare and foal care. "Marie took part in all duties looking after the mares including feeding, farrier work, vet work, vaccinations, foaling and was on call around the clock for any problems that may have arisen."
- Highlight a particular event that makes the nominee even more deserving of winning this Award. "Marie saved a valuable foal while on nightwatch by sitting with the mare and foal all night and keeping the vet informed of her progress, alerting the vet to a potential loss of life."

ADMINISTRATIVE AND ANCILLARY STAFF

An Award to an individual who works in any administrative or other support service role within the thoroughbred racing and breeding sectors. This includes, but is not limited to, administration/corporate roles, sales positions, auctioneers, gardeners, veterinary practices, farriers, barrier attendants, horse transport, grounds staff in sales companies, breeding farms or racecourses, horse dentists and physiotherapists.

Qualities

Expertise, approachability and accuracy.

Examples

- Include a description of the role the nominee plays within the organisation. "Paul is pivotal in the operations of the transport team; he is an essential link between the studs, stables and the racecourses ensuring the horses are moved in a timely manner"
- Demonstrate his key assets that make him such an essential team member in the transport office. "Efficiency is the key word; Paul ensures all the drivers are on time and the horses are expertly cared for on their journey."
- Highlight a particular moment and an action taken that make the nominee a particularly qualified candidate to receive this Award. "Paul is very considerate to the staff and has been known to run a shift for an unwell colleague."

NEWCOMER

An Award to an individual who has worked in the industry, in any capacity, for less than five years. The winner will display passion for, pride in and an excellent contribution to the thoroughbred industry. The winner will stand out from other newcomers and will be identified as a future and significant valuable member of this industry.

Qualities

Enthusiasm, motivation and passion to learn.

Examples

- Give examples of how the nominee has developed their qualities and their experience since joining the stable or stud. "John joined us two years ago for school holiday work. When he left school, he contacted us to see if there was a possibility of being employed full-time and we were delighted to hire him. He learned very quickly, he did not hesitate to ask us questions and he shows a real desire to learn. "He spent his weekends following our vet and progressed from team member to assistant to the yearling manager."



- Show the contribution to the stable or to the stud that the nominee has made since their arrival. "John quickly became an indispensable member of the team. He is greatly appreciated by his colleagues. He was involved in the preparation of our best yearling this year."
- Highlight a particular horse, race or moment in the stable or stud that makes your nominee someone particularly deserving of this Award. "John has helped us prepare our entire draft for this year's sales, including our horses for the Magic Millions yearling sale, in particular a full brother to Winx who was the top price at the sales. We are very pleased to be able to give him this responsibility."

HORSEMANSHIP

An Award to an individual staff member who has shown talent for horsemanship, consistency and reliability in or out of the saddle. Must include an affinity with horses and gives a priority to animal welfare. Must demonstrate a degree of success with the thoroughbred, whether it be in breeding or racing or both, that has been born out of their skill set.

Qualities

Skilled horse person and dedication to horse welfare.

Examples

- Include a description of the role the nominee plays within the stud farm. "Roger takes care of our 10 stallions as our stallion manager. His care for the horses is impeccable. Roger manages the stallion grooms with great regard, which shows in the respect they show to him."
- Demonstrate the key assets that make the nominee such an essential member of the team "Roger is dedicated to the horses, extremely hardworking. He always goes beyond his role, helping out in the spelling area in the off season."
- Highlight a particular moment during the breeding season or a remarkable event that makes the nominee a particularly qualified candidate to receive this Award. "Roger stayed with one of our stallions all night who was showing signs of colic. Without his observations we may have lost him."

THOROUGHBRED CARE AND WELFARE

An Award to an individual who has demonstrated a commitment to the care and welfare of thoroughbreds who have left the industry (racing and breeding). They may have supported horses as they transition to a second career via rehoming/retraining, worked with the people/riders who interact with them or actively participated in activities that showcased the horses' versatility. For example, a nominee may be a member or coach from organisations such as Riding for the Disabled Association of Australia or Pony Club Australia, a stud/stable employee, or someone who demonstrates an active passion for thoroughbred care and welfare. (The winner will not be eligible for the Thoroughbred Excellence Award.)

Qualities

Passion for the welfare of horses.

Examples

- Demonstrate the level of commitment to the thoroughbred. "Susan devotes all her spare time assisting trainers and owners to rehome their retired racehorses. She holds a full-time day job so works very long hours before and after work caring for her horses."
- Show the contribution to the rehoming of thoroughbreds. "Susan will go to the horse sales in her state to purchase thoroughbreds to take them home, care for them, retrain them and rehome them all at her own cost."
- Highlight a particular moment or significant event. "Susan was able to rehome a thoroughbred to a young girl with autism. The pair are inseparable and come to visit her regularly."



ATIEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This category recognises an individual who has made an outstanding long-term contribution to the Australian thoroughbred industry. The nominee may work, or have worked, in any role across breeding, racing or industry support services, including but not limited to stud farms, racing stables, administration, media, broadcast, transport or sales. This person must have demonstrated sustained commitment to the welfare of thoroughbreds and to the people who work with them, and their contribution must have had a positive and lasting impact over many years.

Qualities:

Longevity, dedication, professionalism, influence, consistency, and a genuine commitment to the thoroughbred industry and its people.

Examples:

- Demonstrate long-term service and loyalty to one operation or region.

“Maria has spent more than 30 years working on the same stud, seeing it grow from a small family farm into a major employer in the region. Her commitment has been constant through good seasons and difficult ones.”

- Show how the nominee has helped shape standards and culture.

“Maria set the tone for how horses and people are treated on the property. Her calm approach, high standards and respect for animal welfare have influenced generations of staff.”

- Demonstrate the level of commitment to the thoroughbred over many years.

“John has worked in the thoroughbred industry for more than 45 years and has rarely taken time away from the horses. Even after stepping back from full-time work, he still comes in several days a week to help with feeding and general maintenance jobs.”

- Show how their experience has benefited many people across the industry.

“Over the years, countless staff, apprentices and young trainers have learned their skills from John. Many still contact him for advice, and several credit him as the person who taught them how to truly understand horses.”

- Demonstrate long-term contribution in an industry support role (e.g. media or broadcast).

“Chris has worked as a racing cameraman for more than 25 years, covering meetings in all conditions and travelling constantly to ensure the sport is shared with the public. His reliability and professionalism have made him a trusted part of race day operations.”

- Show how their work has supported and promoted the industry over time.

“Chris is known for capturing important moments in the careers of horses and people, and many participants credit his work with helping tell the story of their success and the broader industry.”



REMEMBER:

Nominations close on Monday 16 February 2026

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