



## 2009/10 VICTORIAN OWNERS & BREEDERS AWARDS



# MEDIA RELEASE

## BIG SPIRIT CROWNED SUPER VOBIS HORSE OF THE YEAR

**Embargoed until 2pm Saturday, 14 August 2010**

Rick Hore-Lacy trained mare Big Spirit has been crowned the Super VOBIS Horse of the Year for the 2009/10 season at the Stable Financial Victorian Owners & Breeders Awards Day at Caulfield racecourse today.

Big Spirit collected \$88,600 in Super VOBIS bonuses during the season, which included \$21,580 in Nominator Bonuses thanks to the initial \$660 investment in the scheme by her breeder and part-owner Lorraine Morrissey.

Over 180 guests were in attendance as Super VOBIS and Thoroughbred Breeders Victoria joined forces to acknowledge the industry's outstanding achievements throughout the season.

It was the second year that leading Accounting & Taxation firm Stable Financial sponsored the event.

"Stable Financial understands the need to support breeders, many of whom are our clients, and we are delighted to be the major sponsor honouring outstanding achievements in breeding and racing in Victoria," said Stable Financial Director Adam Tims.

When addressing the audience Tims noted the importance of a successful Super VOBIS scheme for Victorian racing and breeding participants, in particular highlighting the scheme's ability to return prize money to grassroots owners and breeders, whom he recognized as the backbone of the industry.

This statement was particularly evident when presenting the Super VOBIS Horse of the Year award to Lorraine Morrissey, who nominated Big Spirit to Super VOBIS as well as owning a third of the horse with Peter Barnett and trainer Rick Hore-Lacy.

The Sirecam Champion Victorian Stallion was won by Eliza Park resident Bel Esprit for the third successive year, joining the likes of Encosta de Lago and Jugah as the only stallions to complete the three-peat in the past 30 years. It is an amazing achievement given he has only four crops racing.

Bel Esprit had a season to remember with Black Caviar showing she is in elite company and one of the best fillies we have seen in Victoria since Alinghi. In total he had 208 runners for 93 winners and 154 wins and 5 individual stakes winners with progeny earnings of \$3,593,953. His 21 overseas starters took him up to 104 winners of 168 races and \$4,734,634.

A full list of winners from the day can be found below.

**ENDS**

**Media Contact:** Richard Andrews – Manager Owners & Breeders  
M: 0412 319 866 P: (03)9258 4233 E: [r.andrews@racingvictoria.net.au](mailto:r.andrews@racingvictoria.net.au)

## **Super VOBIS Award Winners**

1. Country Horse of the Year – Rue Maple
2. Leading Country Trainer – Darren Weir
3. Leading Trainer – Peter Moody
4. Leading Owner & Nominator – Contract Racing P/L
5. Horse of the Year – Big Spirit

## **TBV Award Winners**

1. LEADING SMALL BREEDER – Larry Bartle breeder of Heart of Dreams
2. LEADING BREEDER - Contract Racing P/L breeder of Crystal Lily
3. CHAMPION BROODMARE – Crystal Snip dam of Crystal Lily
4. CHAMPION BROODMARE SIRE – Last Tycoon (Blue Gum Farm)
5. CHAMPION FRESHMAN STALLION – Keep the Faith (Swettenham Stud)
6. CHAMPION STALLION – Bel Esprit (Eliza Park)
7. OUSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN BREEDING – Makybe Racing & Breeding (Starspangledbanner)
8. INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTION AWARD & TBV LIFE MEMBERSHIP – Mike Becker