



Jo Madsen, Leith Mulligan, Trish Egan and Carole Molyneux-Richards

## Under the influence

**A**t first glance, the guests gathered at Hotel Primus could have been part of any networking group as they chatted and laughed over breakfast.

But sitting face-to-face were some of the most influential people in Sydney's racing and fashion scene and at the end of the table was the trophy for the world's richest race on turf, The TAB Everest.

They had been brought together by TAB's trailblazing presenter, Jaimee Rogers, and Sky Racing's media guru, Nadia Benussi, who had recognised the immense talent around them.

"We were talking about the people, particularly women, with varied expertise who had made an impact on the racing industry and decided it would be nice to connect and celebrate them," Benussi said.

"When we flagged the idea with Tabcorp's Head of Media and Communications, Adam Hamilton, he gave it the green light without even batting an eyelid, and with the

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PICTURES: SKY RACING

support of Sky Racing's On-Air Talent Manager, Leith Mulligan, the event came together."

Among the guests were leaders including Racing NSW Board Member, Carole Molyneux-Richards, Australian Turf Club Director, Trish Egan, and Tabcorp's Commercial Development General Manager, Jo Madsen.

Trendsetters who have influenced racewear and style were there including milliner Nerida Winter, fashion mogul, Wassim Gazal, and designers Rebecca Vallance and Jonathan Ward.

As were key members of Sky's on and off-air talent team including Lizzie Jelfs, Chantelle Buckley, Libby Hopwood, Kristen Fahd and Hayleigh Attard, who was the first female steward in NSW.

"We unashamedly have a focus on female talent into our coverage as they bring another level of knowledge, experience and passion to our viewers," Hamilton said.

"In particular, we strive to employ former jockeys like Chantelle and Libby as they transition to the next phase of their career in racing."

The guest list for the breakfast was kept exclusive to ensure everyone had a chance to meet each other. They were also able to get a close look at the \$330,000 The TAB Everest trophy in all its sparkling glory.

"It was highly satisfying to see people we respect and admire getting to know each other and their achievements," Benussi said.

"There are others we are yet to celebrate and we look forward to doing that in the future." **RNSW**





Admiring the trophy for the TAB Everest were (L-R): Kristen Fahd, Chantelle Buckley, Libby Hopwood, Hayleigh Attard, Jaimee Rogers, Rebecca Vallance and Lizzie Jelfs



Wassim Gazal, Libby Hopwood and Jonathan Ward



Rebecca Vallance and Nerida Winter