

TERESA TRANSFORMS CHINESE NEW YEAR



Teresa Poon is the Chairperson of the Australian Chinese Jockey Club (ACJC) and has been a major part of the success of the Chinese New Year race meeting concept.

We had a chat with her this week to discuss her life in the thoroughbred industry.

Where did your passion for horse racing begin?

I am a migrant from Hong Kong (in 1991) – in racing, when you mention Hong Kong, you can probably gauge where the passion comes from – I am a member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, my life in Hong Kong then was catching up with friends at the races on Wednesday night at Happy Valley and Saturday or Sunday at Sha Tin. Back in those days, my passion was purely punting, having a lot of fun playing exotic combinations, trying to win big with little bet. It was only when I arrived in Melbourne that I learn about bloodline and breeding, which is so much more interesting, though, when applied in my punting, doesn't necessarily improve my odds in winning.

Why did you form the Australian Chinese Jockey Club (ACJC)?

Our breeding hobby/business brought me to all major yearling sales around the country. I noticed, there has been an increase in the number of Asian presence everywhere. That brought me this idea of starting a social club to engage all the Asian who are living in Australian into all aspects of horse racing. There are enough business networking groups meeting for lunches, seminars, but none so far using horse racing as a platform for the Asian community to connect to the local Australian.

Your favourite racehorse of all time?

It sound a bit of a cliché - there are so many outstanding ones since I arrived in Melbourne, but none can surpass seeing all four of Winx's Cox Plate wins – one has to pinch oneself for the luck, really a case of being at the right place at the right time.

Tell us about Musk Creek farm?

Musk Creek Farm is a passionate hobby for David Kobritz and myself, which, over time, has become a serious side business. The concept behind it is a boutique broodmare farm raising, hopefully, quality progeny that we are proud of, by giving our horses the luxury of good pastures and space.

What do you love most about The Valley?

The Valley is a place where everyone know everyone as friends and family – the track is always prepared well, and above all, they are ready to embrace new concepts, ACJC Chinese New Year Race Night is a perfect example. When I first went to The Valley with this vision of hosting the biggest Chinese New Year Celebration on a racetrack in Australia, they embrace it bravely and generously gave us the Friday night race meeting. Look, over the last 3 ½ years, together, we have created a very unique product worthy enough for Alinta to come along and sponsor it for the next three years.

If you could change one thing in racing what would it be?

With everything, there are always room for improvement. I honestly believe racing in Victoria is looking good – we have the right person with the right heart running it, from the State Government, Racing Victoria to all the committee boards in all racing clubs. As passionate as I am in racing, I have a lot of personal opinion, but I think we should give our administrator the support, faith and space for them to perform.

What are you most looking forward to this evening?

I am really looking forward to the opportunity to showcase this wonderful sport of horse racing to the "outsiders" through a night of entertainment and activities, hopefully to convince them that after all, racing is an entertainment where everyone can meet and have a good time.

How excited are you for Chinese New Year?

Like all New Year for everyone, it signifies a time of moving forward with hope – for us Chinese around the world, it is a time to celebrate new energy and hope.