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PREVIEW

Thursday, March 2, 2017

INGLIS EASTER

Previewing the prestigious Australian yearling sale and racing carnival




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INGLIS EASTER

Delights from down under

AS WE in the breeding industry in Europe turn our attention towards breeze-up sales and the start of the Flat, our counterparts in Australia are gearing up for their big autumn racing carnivals and one of the southern hemisphere's most prestigious auctions.

The Inglis Easter Yearling Sale boasts a glittering roll of honour – including the stars showcased on the right of this column – and this year's edition boasts siblings to 39 Group 1 winners.

Such is the international nature of breeding today that industry participants cannot afford to disregard what is happening at sales in distant jurisdictions. Australia may be more than 9,000 miles from Britain but the world, in bloodstock terms at least, has shrunk.

For proof, look no further than the three Frankel colts in the Inglis Easter catalogue, plus lots by Sea The Stars, Shamardal and Tapit; there are offerings by high-profile shuttlers such as Exceed And Excel, Fastnet Rock and Medaglia D'Oro; and representation of new sires with European connections including Camelot, Dawn Approach, Declaration Of War and Epaulette.

With this supplement we aim to highlight the attractions of the racing and sales scene in Australia this Easter, and impart all the important information to make the task of following this crucial stage of the southern hemisphere season a little easier.

Martin Stevens

SALES DATES*

Chairman's Sale Session I – Elite Racing Prospects Thursday, March 30, in the evening

Inglis Easter Yearling Sale Tuesday, April 4–Thursday, April 6, all sessions start at 10.30am

Chairman's Sale Session II – Elite Breeding Prospects Friday, April 7, in the evening

*To be held at the Inglis Newmarket complex, Randwick, Sydney

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CHAUTAUQUA

Encosta De Lago-Lovely Jubly (Lion Hunter)

Chautauqua was bred by Edwina Throsby's Woodbury operation and was offered by Berkeley Park Stud at the 2012 Inglis Easter Yearling Sale. He did not reach his A\$400,000 reserve and how buyers that year must be kicking themselves now.

The gelding is a regular face in Australia's top sprints and has won the TJ Smith twice along with the Manikato Stakes and Black Caviar Lightning Stakes. He flaunted his excellence on the international stage when he won the Chairman's Sprint Prize in Hong Kong last year.

"He just does extraordinary things," co-trainer Michael Hawkes once said. "The older this horse has got the better he has got and that just doesn't happen, it's crazy really."

Dwayne Dunn goes in search of high-fives after Chautauqua's Lightning Stakes success



Wandjina (right) and Brett Prebble land the Australian Guineas at Flemington



WANDJINA

Snitzel-La Bamba (Last Tycoon)

Wandjina stood his second season at upwardly mobile operation Newgate Farm in 2016 and he must rate as one of the most exciting young stallions in Australia.

He is a son of red-hot sire Snitzel out of a Last Tycoon half-sister to Group 1-winning sprinter Masked Party, making him a half-brother to top Hong Kong sprinter Inspiration. Gai Waterhouse rated him the fastest two-year-old in her stable and at three he landed the Australian Guineas and finished second in the All Aged Stakes.

And he must have the looks too, as it took a bid of A\$1 million for agent James Harron to purchase him at Inglis Easter in 2013.



EXCEED AND EXCEL

Danehill-Patrona (Lomond)

The hardest worker in the bloodstock industry worldwide, having shuttled between Darley's stallion bases in Australia and Ireland for a consecutive 26 breeding seasons. The reason he is so in demand is a roll-call of 59 Group winners including useful sire sons Excelebration and Helmet and a sire championship in Australia that earned him the status of the first stallion to cover the exceptional Black Caviar.

It was trainer Tim Martin who first recognised the potential of Exceed And Excel, when he paid A\$375,000 to secure him for original owners Nick Moraitis and Alan Osburg at the 2002 Inglis Easter Sale. Martin trained him to win twice at Group 1 level before an abortive trip to tackle big races in Britain.



FASTNET ROCK

Danehill-Piccadilly Circus (Royal Academy)

Coolmore kept hold of their strapping son of Danehill and Group 3 winner Piccadilly Circus when the bidding did not reach his A\$300,000 reserve at the Easter Yearling Sale of 2003 and they will be thankful now that was the case.

The colt was sent to Paul Perry in the wake of his success with Royal Ascot conqueror Choisir and he proved to be a sprinter out of the top drawer, winning the Lightning Stakes and Oakleigh Plate, but travel sickness ruled him out of his own raid on the royal meeting.

Fastnet Rock has proved to be an outstanding stallion in both hemispheres for Coolmore, supplying the likes of Atlantic Jewel, Mosheen, Sea Siren and Wanted in the south and top-notchers Fascinating Rock, Qualify and Rivet in the north.

He has been responsible for a remarkable 16 million-dollar-or-more lots at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale since 2012.

ALL TOO HARD

Casino Prince-Helsing (Desert Sun)

Sale-toppers don't always turn into top-class horses, but the yearling who commanded the highest price at the Easter Yearling Sale of 2011 read the script.

All Too Hard, a son of Casino Prince, went through the ring just as his older half-sister Black Caviar was establishing herself as a sprinter for the ages. He was bought by Hawkes Racing for A\$1.025 million and went on to win the Pago Pago Stakes and finish second in the Inglis Sires Produce Stakes at two, and to win the Caulfield Guineas, Orr Stakes, Futurity Stakes and All Aged Stakes at three.

All Too Hard stands at Vinery Stud at a fee of A\$55,000.



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ABLE FRIEND

Shamardal-Ponte Piccolo (Volksraad)

A true superstar in Hong Kong, Able Friend has earned connections just shy of £5 million in prize-money after winning four internationally recognised top-level races – including the prestigious Hong Kong Mile – as well as the local Group 1 Classic Mile.

He is one of several high-class Inglis graduates by Darley kingpin sire Shamardal along with the brilliant dual Group 1 heroine Faint Perfume and Delectation, who took the scalp of Chautauqua when he scored in the Darley Classic.

The Able Friend story began at the 2011 Easter Yearling Sale, where he was bought by George Moore Bloodstock from the consignment of Turangga Farm for A\$550,000.



HAMPTON COURT

Redoute's Choice-Roses 'N' Wine (Broken Vow)

A graduate who showcases the international nature of the sale. The son of breed-shaping Arrowfield Stud sire Redoute's Choice was bought by British bloodstock agent John Warren for A\$500,000 from the 2013 edition and entered training with Gai Waterhouse.

He beat First Seal by two and a quarter lengths to win the Group 1 Spring Champion Stakes at Randwick and the relation to Melbourne Cup legend Makybe Diva now shuttles between Spendthrift Farm's bases in Victoria and Kentucky.

Hampton Court (Joshua Parr) wins the Spring Champion Stakes

WIZARDS FROM OZ

Ten Antipodean wonders who were sold at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale

SHAMUS AWARD

Snitzel-Sunset Express (Success Express)

Bought by Greg Eurell for A\$230,000 from the Easter Yearling Sale in 2012, Shamus Award lined up for the 2013 Cox Plate against top talents such as Dundee, Long John, Puissance De Lune and Melbourne Cup heroes Fiorente and Green Moon as a maiden and rank outsider, and yet he caught his rivals napping by making all the running to defeat the top-class Happy Trails by a short head.

The son of Snitzel proved that run no fluke when he took the scalp of future four-time Group 1 winner Criterion to score in the Australian Guineas two runs later.

He covered more than 290 mares in his first two seasons standing at Widden Stud, including champion Miss Andretti.

Chad Schofield celebrates Cox Plate victory on Shamus Award with the Moonee Valley crowd



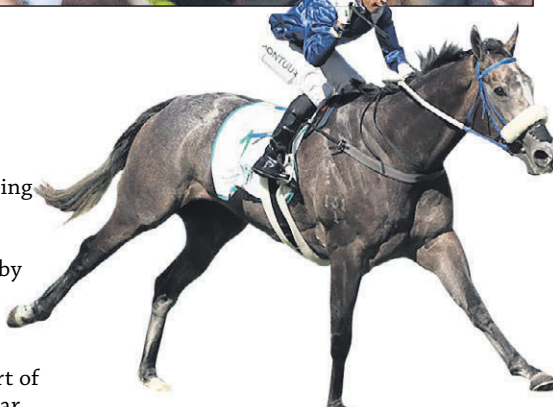
MAJMU

Redoute's Choice-Spontaneous (Hussonet)

Shadwell collared a high-class filly when shopping at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale in 2013, paying A\$300,000 for a daughter of Redoute's Choice out of Chilean Grade 1 winner Spontaneous.

Majmu (right), as the filly was named, went to South Africa to be trained by Mike de Kock and won two Group 1 races – the Cape Fillies' Guineas and L Jaffee Empress Club Stakes – by wide margins.

Another illustration of the global nature of bloodstock, the daughter of a multiple Australian champion sire out of a South American mare is now part of Shadwell's European broodmare band and was covered by Muhaarar last year.



MOSSFUN

Mossman-Eye For Fun (Snitzel)

What a steal! It took just A\$85,000 for Emirates Park Stud to purchase Mossfun from the draft of Fairview Park Stud in the second part of Inglis Easter in 2013.

The daughter of Mossman proved to be a great bargain when she graduated from victory in the Silver Slipper to take Australia's most prestigious two-year-old contest, the Golden Slipper, in 2014.

Mossfun delivered her first foal, a filly by champion sire Fastnet Rock (with Mum above), for Emirates Park last August.

INGLIS EASTER



Nancy Sexton speaks to the McKeever, Johnny and Susie, and Australian agent James Ferguson, who have teamed up for a new venture down under

THE off time between the winter European breeding-stock sales and the start of the Flat turf season is invariably utilised as an opportunity for agents to recharge their batteries.

Not so Johnny and Susie McKeever, who recently confirmed their commitment to the Australian industry by joining forces with young Australian agent James Ferguson.

Within days of the announcement, the new partnership had hit the ground running with the purchase of colts by High Chaparral, Casino Prince and Spirit Of Boom at the Inglis Classic Yearling Sale in the middle of last month. From there they made their presence felt at the Inglis Melbourne Premier Yearling Sale and now it is all systems go for next month's Inglis Easter Yearling Sale.

The McKeever, the purchasers of 18 Group 1 winners, remain based in Newmarket while Wellington-born Ferguson works out of Sydney. Thus the partnership will have a constant presence in both hemispheres. At the same time, however, each side is well versed in both markets, with the McKeever having spent ten years doing business in Australia and Ferguson launching his own agency off the back of spells with Newmarket trainer Hugo Palmer and Kentucky agent David Ingordo among others.

"McKeever Bloodstock first started doing business with Australia about ten years ago and it's slowly become an important part of our business," explains Johnny McKeever.

"We started buying mainly stayers for Gai Waterhouse after being introduced by Peter and Frances Stanley. We've had great success for Gai with the likes of Group 1 winners The Offer and Glencadam Gold and plenty of multiple Group winners in the staying ranks."

Australian interests make a regular assault on Tattersalls' Autumn Horses in Training Sale, none more so than Waterhouse, who continues to be one of the sale's heavy hitters with the assistance of the McKeever.

In 2012, McKeever silenced the Tattersalls ring by throwing in an opening bid of 200,000gns for The Offer (then named Offer). It is a shock tactic that Waterhouse occasionally employs in



Teaming up: Newmarket-based Johnny McKeever (left) and his wife Susie with James Ferguson, who set up his own Sydney-based agency this year

'The Australian racing scene is vibrant and healthy with fantastic levels of prize-money'

Australia and on this occasion it ensured the son of Montjeu was on the way to her yard in one fell swoop. In April 2014 the gelding justified the outlay when taking the Group 1 Sydney Cup.

The previous year, meanwhile, the partnership paid 135,000gns for Glencadam Gold out of Sir Henry Cecil's yard. The Refuse To Bend gelding was another to scale Group 1 heights, in his instance in The Metropolitan of 2012.

More recently, the McKeever have furthered their involvement in Australia through associations with Sam Hayes's Cornerstone Stud, for whom they sourced shuttlers Sir Prancealot and Free Eagle, and the Fung family's burgeoning Queensland operation Aquis Farm, for whom they signed for

570,000gns-worth of mares at last year's Tattersalls July Sale.

Susie McKeever is also part of the 'It's All About The Girls' syndicate that races Global Glamour, who swept the Flight Stakes and Thousand Guineas for Waterhouse and co-trainer Adrian Bott during a golden week last October.

'People here enjoy giving young people a chance. And our industry is in very good health'
James Ferguson

"For the last few years we've also started working the yearling sales for internal Australian interests including [trainers] Gai [Waterhouse], Archie Alexander, Robbie Griffiths and individual Hong Kong and Malaysian clients," adds McKeever.

"We love our involvement in the Australasian scene as it complements the quiet months in between the end of the European sales season in December and the start of the European Flat season. Recently we've started spending much of the British winter in Australia and our son Oliver spent periods working with Yarraman Park Stud, Gai and Michael Moroney."

Joining forces with Ferguson was a logical step given that he recently spent ten months assisting the agency, focusing in particular in sourcing horses

out of Europe for Australia and Hong Kong.

FERGUSON also spent six months working with Palmer in Newmarket, has shortlisted at various European auctions for Ingordo of Lane's End Bloodstock and Irish breeder James Hanly, assisted John Warren, and worked for Arrowfield Stud, Haunui Farm and Highclere Stud.

His most influential grounding, however, came through his family's own involvement as the owners of Bell River Thoroughbreds. Operated by his parents Andrew and Georgie, Bell River co-bred current star three-year-old sprinter Extreme Choice, last year's Blue Diamond Stakes winner.

Ferguson took over the

position of assistant manager at the stud aged 18 and oversaw the dispersal of its broodmare band for just over A\$3.2 million at Inglis last May.

"We met James through our purchase of a yearling filly from his parents," recalls McKeever. "Not only was the yearling, Flippant, a great success but the family subsequently bred Extreme Choice."

"James came to Newmarket last year to work for Hugo and McKeever Bloodstock. He'd previously worked for John and Carolyn Warren and I quickly agreed with John's assessment to me that James was an outstanding student."

"When James made the brave decision, along with his family, to set up a Sydney-based agency this year we were delighted to back him with our association. Increasingly, agency work is becoming a

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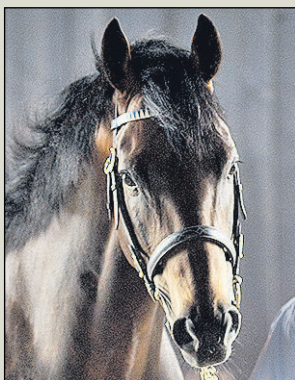
The team's tips for young sires to follow

ONE of the team's first purchases was a Spirit Of Boom colt out of Taittinger bought in association with Legends for A\$80,000 (£49,245/€58,125) during last month's Inglis Classic Yearling Sale.

The colt is from the first crop of his sire, a hardy son of Sequalo who won nine of 59 starts over five seasons on the track. As talented as he was tough, Spirit Of Boom's victories included the Group 1 Doomben Ten Thousand and Group 1 William Reid Stakes, and he stands for A\$11,000 (£6,771/€7,992) at Eureka Farm in Queensland.

"I've been very impressed with the Spirit Of Booms," says James Ferguson. "I've seen some really athletic colts by him. He's really stamped them as a sire and there's a lot of quality about them."

"I think the McAlpines [of Eureka Farm] have



Epaulette: his progeny have impressed James Ferguson

marketed him really well. They've made a lot of his yearlings BOBS and Super VOBIS eligible [incentive scheme designed to reward owners and breeders who invest in Victorian bloodstock] in the sales ring, which makes them very attractive to buyers. And they've also sent several to New Zealand.

"I've also liked the Dundeels I've seen too. It

seems breeders have used him wisely in sending him the right type of mare. And I've liked the Epaulettes."

Ferguson is also impressed with what he has seen on the track from the Fastnet Rock stallion Hinchinbrook, who stands alongside I Am Invincible for A\$38,500 (£23,700/€28,000) at Yarraman Park Stud.

"He's doing a great job at stud and is ticking along nicely with his foot right in the door," says Ferguson of the stallion, who was represented by his eighth stakes winner recently when Diamond Tathagata won the Group 2 Skyline Stakes at Randwick.

"His horses are continually performing at the top Saturday meetings and it will be only a matter of time before his breakthrough. I thought he was great value last year at stud and I'm hoping to purchase one or two sometime this year."

younger generation's concern and I know we've backed a passionate, knowledgeable and extremely hard-working young man in James."

Ferguson expects to commit to the international sales cycle and plans to attend the Tattersalls July Sale before returning for the yearling sales and again to source breeding stock. However, the idea was always to set up base in Australia in light of its vibrant industry.

"I was born and bred into the industry and from a young age I knew I wanted to be involved," he says. "When I finished school I thought the best way to broaden my horizons was to work internationally and I came to realise that bloodstock was an avenue I wanted to commit to."

"I was always going to set up in Australia. People here enjoy giving young people a chance. And our industry is in very good health. It's flying due to the backing of our government and the schemes we have in place not only for the public but for the breeders and vendors as well."

"One in 310 Australians have a share in a racehorse, which is unheard of anywhere else in the world. Also, with the government continually supporting our racing not only from the top but right through to the bottom, it allows us to have a base that has benefited breeder, vendor and owner. It's resulted in a drive right through the top."

"You can now race for a minimum of A\$20,000 in Australia, which is unheard of in Europe. And with this it's driven the market in the sales ring as all of a sudden horses who were worth A\$5,000 three years ago are now worth more than double that."

McKeever also cannot speak

highly enough of the Australian industry.

"The Australian racing scene is vibrant and healthy with fantastic levels of prize-money – weekend racing in Sydney and Melbourne typically carries A\$100,000 in added purses," says McKeever. "The syndication culture means that even a minor shareholder gets fully involved in ownership."

"Shareholder-owners are treated with full respect by trainers who report weekly on the progress of the horse whether it's in full training or just spelling. The communication levels are in a different league to anything most owners would experience in Europe."

MCKEEVER further explains: "No major entity is overly dominant in the ownership ranks, which makes racing so much more varied and interesting to the punter and general enthusiast. The frequency of 'rags-to-riches' success stories such as this year's top two-year-old She Will Reign, who cost just A\$20,000, means syndication grows ever more popular."

"Everything else about the Australian industry follows on

'Syndication culture means even a minor shareholder gets fully involved in ownership'

Johnny McKeever

from this healthy purse-money reward-to-risk ratio. Yearling sales are majorly competitive at all levels of the market and there's a demand for new broodmares."

Demand from Australian owners for broodmares has significantly buoyed the market in Europe and North America in recent years. There are several various outfits in particular, such as Newgate Farm, Rosemont Stud and Aquis Farm, which make an annual habit of purchasing stock in the northern hemisphere, for which rewards have been forthcoming.

"The interest in the European thoroughbred is probably the strongest it's ever been in Australia," says Ferguson. "With stayers, people have that Melbourne Cup dream. And I think a lot of people enjoy buying breeding stock out of Europe for the outcrosses on offer."

"A lot of European mares have worked really well with the different stallions here."

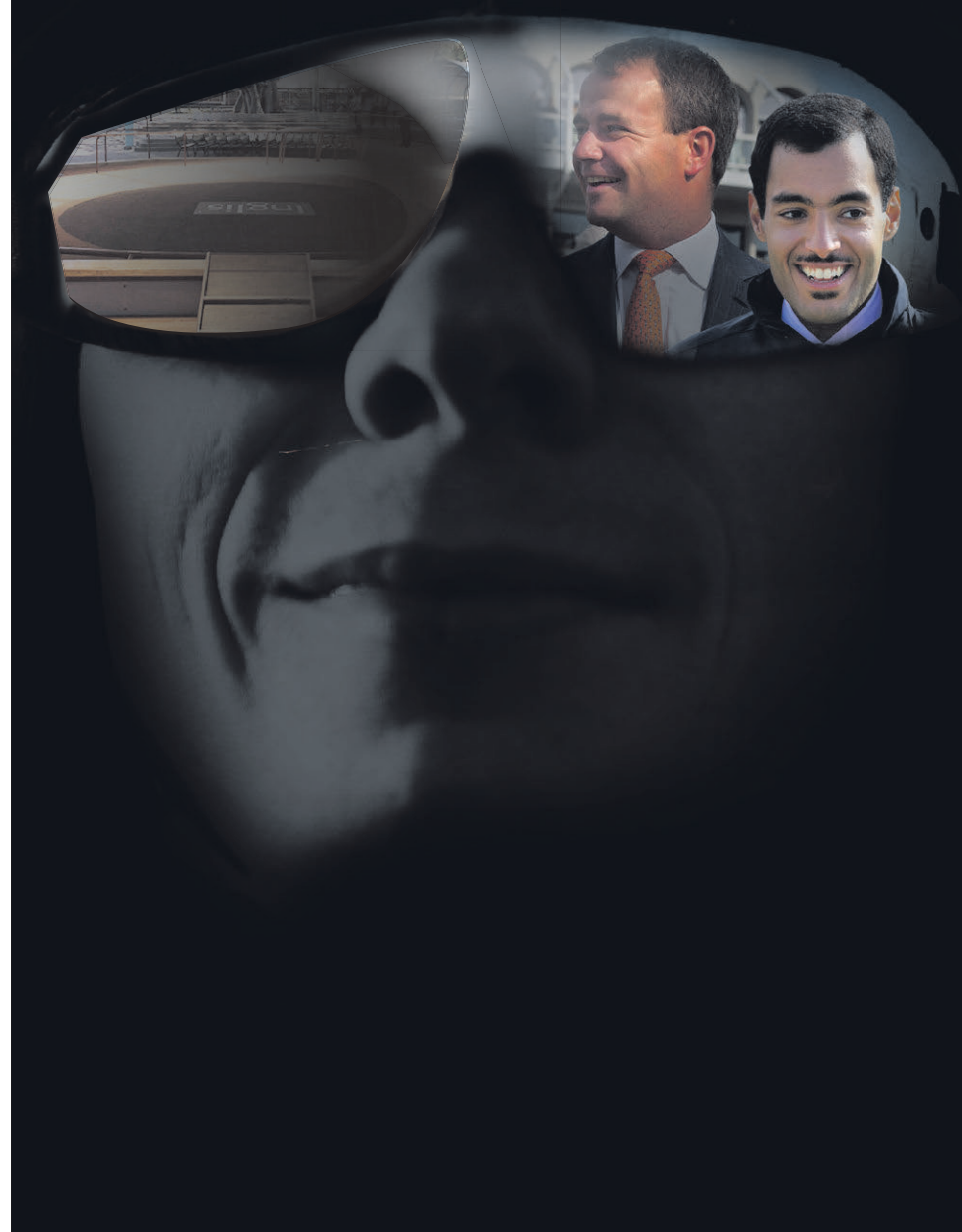
With two sales already under their belt and the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale on the horizon, the McKeever/Ferguson partnership has needed to be quick to find its feet. However, that is not to say the team has not taken the time to enjoy the delights of Australia.

"We've had an extremely busy time attending sales and touring farms and training stables," says McKeever. "But the joy of Australia and Australians is that they also know how to relax and have fun outside the industry."

"The weather is excellent, the food is outstanding and the wines are getting more and more delicious each year. What's not to love about Australia?"

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INGLIS EASTER



Martin Stevens talks to Jo Griffin, who with her husband Greg has moved their consigning operation from New Zealand to Australia

ALL studs consigning at the coming Inglis Easter Yearling Sale will be feeling the pressure of preparing for the marquee auction, but spare a thought for Lime Country Thoroughbreds, whose build-up has been made all the more stressful by the disruption caused by uprooting from New Zealand to new premises in Australia.

At the end of last year, Greg and Jo Griffin announced they would relocate their boutique breeding, boarding and sales operation to Think Big Stud in New South Wales. In an ambitious turnaround, they consigned from their former New Zealand property for the last time at Karaka last month – the highlight being a NZ\$425,000 I Am Invincible filly out of the High Chaparral mare Different To – and they will make their debut from their new premises at Inglis in just a few weeks' time.

Think Big Stud is being leased to the Griffins by nonagenarian Malaysian businessman Dato Tan Chin Nam, a close friend of the late Bart Cummings whose famous black and white checked silks with yellow sleeves have been carried to victory by superstars Allez Wonder, So You Think and Viewed.

Lime Country Thoroughbreds' first Inglis Easter draft is dominated by yearlings owned by Dato Tan, including five by So You Think and a Redoute's Choice colt out of his dual Group 1 winner Faint Perfume.

Jo Griffin was busy unpacking crates from the move and acquainting herself with the Easter

'We'd have been mad not to make the jump when it's right on our doorstep'

lots when we spoke late last month. She explains the reasons behind the upheaval.

"Early last year we made the decision to move away from our base in the Hawkes Bay of New Zealand to be closer to the hub of the industry in the Waikato," she says. "As we started looking for the right property we decided to do some blue-sky thinking and remove any barriers to where we might end up. To move once and do it right.

"New South Wales has one of the most vibrant, progressive and accessible racing and breeding environments in the world today. Exceptional prize-money, forward-thinking participants and world-class bloodstock – we'd have been mad not to make the jump when it's right on our doorstep.

"We'd previously done some work for Dato Tan Chin Nam and decided to knock on the door, so to speak, and here we are."

And what does Griffin make of her new surroundings, overseen in recent years by Dato Tan's racing manager Duncan Ramage?

"It's 300 acres of fertile horse heaven – that's how I've just described it on our new website," she says. "I think the influence of Duncan's English heritage, along with Bart Cummings' input and Dato Tan's love of doing things right, is immediately obvious to see through the hundreds of established

evergreen and deciduous trees and hedgerows.

"We're also lucky enough to have 2.4 kilometres of direct river frontage to fully irrigate the whole property, which has allowed for significant pasture improvements. It's very much like New Zealand and one of the reasons we love it so much.

"Additionally, people with good stockman skills have set it up – with a healthy budget to match!

"Developments include a 1,200-metre turf track, all-weather arena, multiple stable complexes, state-of-the-art crush, foaling facilities and a purpose-built surgery barn."

The Lime Country Thoroughbreds consignment to the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale comprises mostly Think Big Stud-bred horses this

'It's 300 acres of fertile horse heaven – that's how I've just described it on our new website'
Jo Griffin

year, and the Griffins hope to develop new Australian and international breeders, owners and trainers.

But the Griffins say they are "very privileged" to sell Dato Tan's brilliant bloodlines and the strong So You Think connection has come, serendipitously, just as the stallion career of the ten-time Group 1 winner by High Chaparral is coming to the boil.

IN RECENT weeks New Zealand 1,000 Guineas-winning daughter La Bella Diosa won the Group 2 Surround Stakes at Randwick on her first start in Australia, while the Gai Waterhouse-trained Northwest Passage has won the Hobart Guineas and Tasmanian Derby.

"At this stage of So You Think's career it's no bad thing to have five of his yearlings for sale," says Griffin. "Nearly every day he's producing a fresh winner and a good number of runners are heading to the feature races of the Autumn Carnival. Most stables have a So You Think they like and we expect our draft to be well inspected."

Although at 91 breeding is not quite so much the focus for Dato Tan, he and his family have retained around 25 broodmares. The band is headlined by the Thorn Park mare Norzita, a dual Group 1 winner in the Flight Stakes and Vinery Stud Stakes.

She produced a Fastnet Rock colt foal last year.

Faint Perfume, who was the first Group 1 winner for her sire Shamardal when she took the Crown Oaks at Flemington in November in 2009, was sold in foal to Redoute's Choice to Sun Stud for A\$700,000 as part of a reduction in Think Big Stud stock at Inglis last May.

Her second foal, the Redoute's Choice colt who Lime Country Thoroughbreds will consign to Inglis as lot 126, has the paper credentials to command a huge price.

He has the physical appeal to match, according to Griffin.

"He strikes us in the mould of other Redoute's Choice sons Not A Single Doubt or Snitzel, which can't be bad when you look at where they're at," she says, referring to the Arrowfield Stud legend's successful sire sons.

The Griffins' trans-Tasman move is not the first time they have uprooted themselves, as Jo explains.

"We both grew up with horses but away from the racing industry, in showjumping and eventing and so on, and before we were married we were involved with polo and travelling the seasons between New Zealand and Australia and Britain," she says. "While in Britain we were based at Cowdray Park in Midhurst. You can't beat an English summer day on a good pony!

"We'd invested in some mares




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Greg and Jo Griffin, who have relocated their Lime Country Thoroughbreds operation from New Zealand to Dato Tan Chin Nam's Think Big Stud in New South Wales

while travelling and after starting a family decided to settle down and head back to New Zealand to focus fully on the opportunities with the bloodstock industry.

"We've grown rapidly and gathered a quality group of clients over a nine-year period, in what for many has been a declining and tougher marketplace than it was 15 years ago.

"It's all about having good clients, respecting their investment and finding out what they need from you; then you just do a great job of delivering."

Asked what the differences between selling in New Zealand and Australia are, Griffin says she will miss the Karaka complex – "beyond question the very best sales facility in the southern hemisphere, it's big

and roomy, there's nowhere to hide any faults in a horse but the upside of that is you also get the space to show off a great-moving horse."

But, she concedes, "at the end of the day, the number of buyers on the grounds, along with the buzz and hum that big money and international players bring to the party is undoubtedly owned by the Australians at this moment. It's a very exciting place to be."

Perhaps the fact that the first Lime Country Thoroughbreds draft at Inglis is dominated by So You Think is an apt metaphor for the Griffins' future as vendors after their move. After all, the great racehorse had his roots in New Zealand before he took centre stage in Australia and captured the attention of the rest of the world.

Lime Country Thoroughbreds' Inglis Easter Yearling Sale draft

Lot 22 br c Savabeel-A Real Princess (O'Reilly)

A half-brother to Listed winner and Australian Derby and Metropolitan Handicap third Kingdoms by a dual champion sire in New Zealand.

95 br c So You Think-Dance On The Moon (Fasliyev)

A half-brother to Group 3 winner and New Zealand One Thousand Guineas third Awesome Planet, the dam of this season's Emirates Stakes winner Awesome Rock.

126 b c Redoute's Choice-Faint Perfume (Shamardal)

By Australia's most influential

living sire and the second foal out of Faint Perfume, winner of the Crown Oaks and Vinery Stud Stakes and placed in two other Group 1 races. The dam's first foal, Iron Boss, is a winner.

305 b c So You Think-Reglisie (Zabeel)

Colt's dam is by legendary New Zealand sire Zabeel, is a half-sister to Group 3 winner Valpolicella and has produced two winners from two runners.

432 b f So You Think-Keep De Fortune (Galileo)

A half-sister to a winner out of a young Galileo mare who is a sister

to Group 1 runner-up Banc De Fortune and to the dam of Faint Perfume.

436 b f So You Think-Maie Casey (Singspiel)

A daughter of a Singspiel mare who is a half-sister to Group 2 winner and VRC Oaks second Zydeco out of Thousand Guineas heroine All Time High.

458 b/br c So You Think-So Sydney (Dehere)

A half-brother to a winner out of a daughter of Listed-winning Danehill mare Very Sydney from the family of European Group 1 winners Caradak and Margot Did.



INGLIS EASTER



Tranquil beauty: the Widden Valley in New South Wales, home to leading Inglis consignor Widden Stud, which is due to send 31 yearlings to this year's Easter Sale

Widden Stud

- ▶▶ **Location** Widden Valley, New South Wales
- ▶▶ **Stallions** Nicconi, Outreach, Sebring, Shamus Award, Star Witness, Your Song, Zoustar
- ▶▶ **Size of Easter Sale draft** 31

VENDOR PROFILE

How would you summarise your Easter Yearling Sale draft this year? And can you give us one lot to look out for?

Anthony Thompson, owner of Widden Stud, replies It's a large draft of quality horses and has a big cross-section of sires represented, both proven and unproven. We have some Fastnet Rock and Redoute's Choice stock as well as some first-crop Zoustar's in there too.

My lot to look out for would be the Fastnet Rock filly out of Firemaid (**lot 138**) as she's a half-sister to a Group 1 winner in Shamal Wind and is from a very good European family everyone will know. She obviously has a lot of international pedigree and being a Fastnet Rock filly out of a Machiavellian mare, buyers from around the world should be interested in her.

What have been the highlights for your farm over the past year? Last year we were Australia's leading vendor of Group 1 winners, which was a great title to hold. Seeing Zoustar's first-crop yearlings sell so well, while we've been involved with Stratum Star and Takedown, who have had great success on the track winning Group 1s this

'Last year we were Australia's leading vendor of Group 1 winners, which was a great title to hold'

year. We're building into a nice spell of racing in the next six weeks and hopefully that run continues.

What has been your best moment at Inglis? I've been going for a long time, since I was a kid, and I guess every time you go to the sale you're pretty excited and it's a great thrill to be there selling yearlings. I don't know whether it was selling the first million-dollar yearling or just being a part of it, an amazing

complex that has been very important to us.

It will be with some sadness and excitement that we sell at Easter at Newmarket for the last time, but we're looking forward to the new complex. There's been so many memories and so many good horses sold at Newmarket over the years, but the new complex does look fantastic.

Inglis and Widden go back a long way, we share our 150th anniversary in business at the

same time, and we have a very close relationship. We've been there from day one and I'm sure it will be a big moment for everyone.

How do factors such as the hotter climate and the added length of time yearlings are shown before the sales in Australia affect the preparation of yearlings?

You need to have the yearlings quite fit because they do have a lot of parades and you can get

to some sales where it's really quite hot. You like your yearlings to have a good base of fitness and I guess it's more about having a horse with a good temperament.

Being paraded so often down there for ten days straight, you really get to understand a horse's temperament and if they don't have a sound temperament that's certainly evident at the sale. That's important down here, trainers are very mindful of

temperament and make sure they go for the right individual.

Can you explain what it is you look for in a potential champion? When we're looking at mares and stallions, the Australian sprinter is a fairly obvious type of horse with power and strength. The muscle and speed is fairly obvious, so it's not much of a secret when looking for a two-year-old sprinting type.

You do have types of yearlings you send to this sale as the buyers are very selective here and you need to send a nice type of horse who has got a bit of international flavour too.

What is your assessment of Zoustar's first crop? It was very important for us and he's come out with lovely first-crop yearlings and the buyers have really embraced them. I'm thrilled with the way they've sold and the top trainers have been chasing them.

He's got the opportunity from a stud master's point of view, as if you have a nice stallion and have nice mares and the stock sell well and go to the right trainers, all you can do from there is hope.



The Widden Stud marquee at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale last year. A Fastnet Rock filly, lot 138, is the standout this year

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Woodside Park Stud

»Location Tylden, Victoria
 »Stallions Written Tycoon, Rich Enuff, Zoustar
 »Size of broodmare band 70
 »Size of Easter Sale draft 5

VENDOR PROFILE

How would you summarise your Easter Yearling Sale draft this year? And can you give us one lot to look out for? Murray Tillett, owner of Woodside Park Stud, replies

We have five yearlings and they're what we believe to be our best horses. As this is our first time at the Easter Sale we thought there wasn't any point in coming with anything other than our best. We have two Written Tycoons, two Zoustars and a Lope De Vega.

Unfortunately, Lope De Vega never came back to stand in Australia, but our yearling by him is out of a really good European family and we really rate the colt. He'll probably be a bit of a late-maturer and is more a Classic-type horse. The dam is by Rock Of Gibraltar and is a half-sister to Glass Harmonium and Arab Spring.

The one to look out for is a Written Tycoon filly (lot 186) out of an unraced mare, Invested Capital, who we bought at Newmarket and is a half-sister to Index Linked, who has won almost A\$1,000,000 in prize-money. She's a beautiful filly, big and strong and really impressive and is clearly our best yearling of the year. She's been one of the reasons we've gone back to Europe to buy some additional mares, including four who arrived recently bought from Arqana.

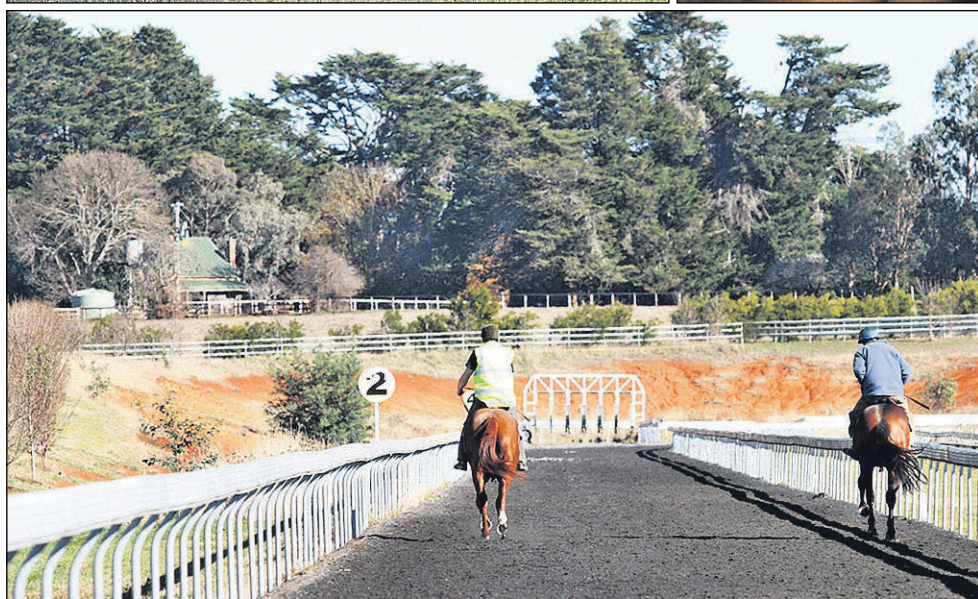
The first foals of the European mares we bought have been really good and we'll continue to go back to Europe to buy between three and half a dozen every year.

What have been the highlights for your farm over the past year? It would probably have to be Written Tycoon's emergence as one of the top two or three sires in the country. He had three Group 1 winners for the season, the champion two-year-old [Capitalist] and was champion two-year-old sire. Capitalist won the Magic Millions and then the Golden Slipper.

Written Tycoon then had one of the most exciting horses in Australia, Winning Rupert, before he unfortunately broke down.

Hopefully he'll have some more Group 1 horses in the coming weeks. His service fee is actually going to take quite a significant rise for this coming covering season.

Why have you decided to consign at the Easter Yearling Sale for the first time? We believe that as we've



Pre-training exercise at the stud; resident stallions Zoustar (above left) and Written Tycoon

'When they're feeling well they walk well and take the sale in their stride'

continued to upgrade our mares, and with the emergence of Written Tycoon and our investment in Zoustar, we now have the horses to go where we may not have had these types to go before.

There's no point going to the strongest sale in the country unless you've got the right product and we believe this year we have the right yearlings. The market will tell us that when we get there, but we're very confident we have serious yearlings the market is going to be happy with.

How do factors such as the hotter climate and the added length of time yearlings are shown before the sales in Australia affect the preparation of yearlings?

We're lucky in the fact that both Written Tycoon and Zoustar have got fantastic temperaments, which they've passed on to their yearlings. It's a very intense period down here and our horses parade for a week before the sale starts.

We've got really good-quality staff who work with the horses a lot before they get here and so the horses know them well.

How far is your stud located from the Inglis sales complex, and does this affect the preparation of the yearlings? The yearlings can lose a little bit of weight travelling and you do what you can to mitigate that. We give them a bay and a half each in the truck so they have that little bit of extra room. They also travel during the night so it's not too hot like it is during the day.

We have a lady who is a lot like a masseur who goes over them and identifies and alleviates any muscle problems they may have got on the ride. She's basically a physiotherapist for horses who manipulates them all and makes sure they're feeling good.

When they're feeling well they walk well and they'll cooperate with everyone and take the sale in their stride. We do everything we can to ensure

the horses are as good as they can be.

Can you explain what it is you look for in a potential champion? The thing we look for in a horse, from an Australian point of view, is speed as the market is designed around it. They have to be very fast, we've got the Slipper and look at last year's winner whose stud fee has just been advertised at A\$50,000, that's where the money is in Australian racing.

For example, one of Written Tycoon's best horses this year [Winning Rupert] has no pedigree but he's very, very fast and broke some track records and was immediately snapped up by one of the most progressive stud's in the country, Newgate Farm, because of his speed.

They need to look like they're precocious horses and when they show it on the track that's what we want to buy and make by way of a stallion. That's the elusive champion we're all looking for.

'My favourite is a super colt by Exceed And Excel'

VENDOR PROFILES

How would you summarise your Easter Yearling Sale draft this year? And can you give us one lot to look out for? Arthur Mitchell, Yarraman Park Stud director, replies

A few standouts, including the progeny of I Am Invincible, a filly out of Camporella (lot 69) and a colt out of Speedy Bell (366). We also have a lovely Medaglia D'Oro colt out of Hoss Amor (178), and a nice filly by Shamus Award out of Courgette (86) who is a half-sister to unbeaten Group 2-winning two-year-old She Will Reign.

What have been the highlights for your farm over the past year? The success of our young sires I Am Invincible and Hinchinbrook.

What has been your best moment at Inglis?

Selling the top three lots at the Easter Yearling Sale in 2006, and selling Virage De Fortune for A\$3,400,000 as a filly out of training to Darley a year later.

Can you explain what it is you look for in a potential champion? When looking for a stallion, we look for speed, looks and sire-line. When looking for a racehorse, like most buyers we're searching for a good walker with a nice head and a good attitude.

Yarraman Park Stud

»Location Scone, New South Wales
 »Stallions I Am Invincible, Hinchinbrook
 »Size of broodmare band 60 – boarding 120
 »Size of Easter Sale draft 15

How would you summarise your Easter Yearling Sale draft this year? And can you give us one lot to look out for? Ron Gilbert, owner of Highgrove Stud, replies

I'm consigning three colts and three fillies; all are correct, athletic, by proven sires and with proper pedigrees. My favourite is a super colt by Exceed And Excel out of Fragmentation (lot 147), primarily because we sadly lost the mare last year so this is her last foal.

What have been the highlights for your farm over the past year? Two colts from our 2015 Easter draft, Attention and Thronum, winning stakes races, and Summer Passage from last year's offering winning a stakes race on just his second start.

What has been your best

moment at Inglis? There have been many, but Bob Ingham opening the bidding at A\$1.1 million on one of our colts was memorable. It was his ploy to frighten off other bidders and it worked.

Can you explain what it is you look for in a potential champion?

Scope, balance, deep girth, long hip length and big, strong gaskins are my must-haves. The female family and whether the cross has been successful before also plays a part.

Highgrove Stud

»Location Westbrook, Darling Downs, Queensland
 »Size of broodmare band 24
 »Size of Easter Sale draft 6

How would you summarise your Easter Yearling Sale draft this year? And can you give us one lot to look out for? Catriona Murphy, Sledmere Stud owner, replies

We've decided to bring a more select group this year. Our Medaglia D'Oro colt out of Loveyamaddy (lot 211) is the first foal out of a stakes-winning half-sister to Inglis Premier sale-topper Ducimus. He's very good-looking and has plenty of power, strength and really uses himself.

What have been the highlights for your farm over the past year? We've enjoyed great success on the track, with the highlight being Group 2-winning filly Gold Fever. We've just finished selling at our third major sale for the year and have sold 50 of 55 yearlings with a top lot of A\$510,000.

What has been your best moment at Inglis? We've enjoyed many great moments at Inglis, both selling horses and sharing fun times with clients and friends.

Can you explain what it is you look for in a potential champion? We like to see yearlings with a great attitude, both in their work at home and at the sales, who are light on their feet but look powerful and have an athletic action.

Sledmere Stud

»Location Scone, New South Wales
 »Size of broodmare band 25 – client-owned 170
 »Size of Easter Sale draft 9

INGLIS EASTER

Arrowfield Stud

►► **Location** Scone, New South Wales

►► **Stallions** Animal Kingdom, Charge Forward, Dundee, Maurice, Not A Single Doubt, Olympic Glory, Panzer Division, Real Impact, Redoute's Choice, Scissor Kick, Shalaa, Smart Missile, Snitzel

►► **Size of broodmare band** 270

►► **Size of Easter Sale draft** 48

VENDOR PROFILE

How would you summarise your Easter Yearling Sale draft this year? And can you give us one lot to look out for? *Jon Freyer, bloodstock manager, replies* It's a particularly even group of quality yearlings with strong representation by champion sire Redoute's Choice and his sensational son Snitzel, as well as Animal Kingdom and the first crop of six-time Group 1 winner Dundee.

The Redoute's Choice colt out of Secluded (**lot 333**) is already attracting plenty of attention for all the right reasons. He's possibly an even better type than his two-year-old brother, Group 3 winner Pariah – who ran an excellent second in the Blue Diamond Stakes, and is a three-quarter brother to dual Group 1 winner Melito. He's bred on the outstanding Redoute's Choice-Hussonet cross that has produced five Group winners from ten foals. He's just one of those special colts, like Beneteau and Wandjina, we're excited to put through the ring.

How many of the yearlings in your draft have been bred in partnership with the Aga Khan and can you explain how the association between Arrowfield and the Aga Khan began? The Aga Khan and Arrowfield partnership is offering two fillies, a colt by Redoute's Choice and a pair of Animal Kingdom colts, from the families of Azamour, Kalanisi, Manighar, Vadawina and Zarkava. The Animal Kingdom colt (1) in particular has great substance and style about him.

Joint ventures with leading international breeders like Katsumi Yoshida, Sheikh Maktoum Al Maktoum and Robert Sangster have always played a highly successful role in Arrowfield's business strategy. [Arrowfield owner] John Messara approached the Aga Khan Studs in 2008 with a proposal to enrich and diversify our respective breeding programmes, and the timing was right, because Australian interest in the Aga Khan families was growing, and breeders were beginning to look beyond Danehill to produce a wider range of horses.

It's taken time, but this year



A drone's-eye view of Arrowfield Stud; (top left) leisurely days in the paddock; Group 3 winner Pariah, whose brother is due to sell as lot 333 next month

'Joint ventures with leading international breeders have always played a successful role in our business strategy'

has been very rewarding with our first jointly-bred Group 1 winner Whisky Baron, smart stakes-winning two-year-old Azazel, and a pair of A\$500,000 yearlings at Magic Millions.

What have been the highlights for Arrowfield over the past year?

Redoute's Choice, Snitzel and Not A Single Doubt all finished in the top ten on the 2015-16 Australian general, three-year-old and two-year-old sires' premierships, and Not A Single Doubt was the leading Australian-based sire [southern hemisphere crops only] with worldwide earnings of almost A\$15 million. Since January 1, 2016 this trio has collectively posted 51 stakes winners, six

Group 1 winners and around A\$50m in prize-money.

Snitzel equalled Without Fear's record of 30 two-year-old winners in a season – and he's already notched up 23 juvenile winners in 2016-17, while our young gun Smart Missile was Australia's 2015-16 champion first-season sire.

The launch of Dundee's first yearlings, including the A\$900,000 Miss Finland colt; the arrival of Olympic Glory's first foals; shuttling Scissor Kick to Haras d'Etreham; and securing Maurice and Shalaa for our roster.

On the track we had a tremendous thrill last season when Arrowfield homebred Stay With Me, a daughter of our champion Miss Finland,

won the Group 1 Thousand Guineas.

What has been your highlight from the previous editions of the Inglis Easter Yearling Sales? Over the past five years Arrowfield has offered six per cent of the yearlings at Inglis Easter, but ten per cent of the stakes winners and 21 per cent of the Group 1 winners out of the sale.

They include champion filly Miss Finland, Golden Slipper winners Flying Spur and Forensics, champion South African filly Majmu and most recently Oaks winner Abbey Marie, Derby winner Howard Be Thy Name and Whisky Baron in South Africa.

How do factors such as the hotter climate and the added length of time lots are shown before the sales in Australia affect the preparation of yearlings? Our sales are real tests for the yearlings because they have to settle quickly and cope with constant parading for about a week before they go through the ring. However, it can also help them transition easily and quickly into breaking-in and stable life.

Preparing them to deal with all of that involves considerable work to get them fit and minimise any anxiety they have about new places, people and experiences. Fortunately our stallions all tend to impart their own

excellent temperaments, which makes the job easier.

The extra time in the paddock and the warm summer and early autumn weather can work in favour of a yearling who has a later foaling date.

Can you explain what it is you look for in a potential champion? There are some key biomechanical features it's good to see in a yearling's physique, for example a deep girth, sloping shoulder, powerful hindquarter and a purposeful walk, and a relaxed, pressure-absorbing temperament with a confident personality is always desirable, especially in Australia's racing environment.

Yet top horses can and do come in a variety of packages, so it's wise not to be too dogmatic! Alverta is a good example, she was a tall, narrow type, yet she matured into a terrific and very professional sprinting mare, capable of footing it with Starspangledbanner and Equiano in Britain.

We enjoy learning what individual buyers look for, the types of horses they prefer to buy and what turns them off a yearling. Knowing what successful buyers like Angus Gold, John Warren, David Redvers and James Harron want helps us breed, raise and select the right yearlings for Easter and most importantly, for racing success.

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Tom Harris on a vibrant industry allowing small owners to enjoy the big time down under

ONE of the most resounding images of racehorse ownership in recent years is the Queen being congratulated by John Warren following the success of her mare Estimate in the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot in 2013. This image could not be in sharper contrast to the picture in Australia.

There the scene greeting onlookers of the winner's enclosure following Group 1s is increasingly of 50-plus syndicate members and supporters having the time of their lives and celebrating in a slightly less restrained manner. Here slogan-clad baseball caps replace silk top hats.

Racehorse ownership is much more common in Australia due in part to the thriving syndication sector. One in 310 Australians owns a share in a racehorse, while in Britain there are just 8,000 registered owners. This disparity is firstly due to racing holding a higher profile in Australian society.

This is partly thanks to the country's vast geography. A total of 367 racecourses are dispersed throughout Australia and they historically provide the mainstay of entertainment for some of Australia's most remote towns.

Also, Australia is a big punting nation and over half of its betting turnover is on thoroughbred racing. The ability to bet in most pubs through TAB (Australian Tote) machines is a large contributing factor to the statistic that 80 per cent of Australians engage



She Will Reign: the unbeaten Darby Racing-owned two-year-old filly, a A\$20,000 yearling, is favourite for the Golden Slipper

Syndicates – the irresistible force in owning a racehorse in Australia

in gambling. This is the highest rate in the world.

The second reason for increased racehorse ownership is that it is more financially viable than in Britain. The primary factor is that prize-money levels are strong, well distributed and see substantial annual increases. This is combined with the increasing residual value of bloodstock, firstly as breeding prospects and secondly as proven racehorses for the Asian market. During the 2015-16 season a total of 568 horses were exported to Singapore, Hong Kong and China.

Furthermore, owner-breeders are less prominent down under and therefore there is increased access to Australia's best racing prospects. Sixty-seven per cent of the country's 2015 Group 1 winners were offered as yearlings, while in Europe this figure was just 34 per cent.

These factors all combine to make ownership and syndications increasingly popular. One of Australia's major success stories in the syndication ranks is Darby Racing. Founded nine years ago by the charismatic Scott Darby, Darby Racing is well on its way to becoming an Australian household name.

'The general public are now having a big say in Australasian racing'

Major syndicator Scott Darby

Scott Darby embodies Australian racing. Introduced to the sport at the age of 16, he initially worked as a groom before "falling into syndication" through selling shares while working for pre-training and breaking yards.

Darby Racing is responsible for She Will Reign, a A\$20,000 Inglis Classic yearling who is the winner of her three career starts by an average of four and a half lengths. She is now 2-1 favourite for the Group 1 Golden Slipper following her latest victory in the Group 2 Silver Slipper Stakes, a build-up race for Australia's premier two-year-old contest.

She is owned by 19 individuals, around half of whom are experiencing racehorse ownership for the first time.

"Syndication really appeals to the young person," Darby explains. "I think that

[demographic] is where the big growth in ownership has been and syndication has been a major driver in that.

"Some of our best horses have been two or three grand a share, which allows the younger generation to get involved. Lots of 25- to 35-year-olds are jumping in with mates and having the time of their lives. The general public are now having a big say in Australian racing."

DARBY RACING has proved its results with She Will Reign is no fluke. It has also enjoyed success with the now-deceased dual Group 2-winning sire Time For War, Group 2-winning two-year-old Scarlett Rain plus Yankee Rose, its other major flag-bearing filly.

Last season Yankee Rose finished second in the Golden

Slipper before winning the Group 1 Inglis Sires' Produce Stakes, the second leg of the Australian two-year-old Triple Crown. She then returned as a three-year-old to win the Group 1 Moët & Chandon Spring Championship and finish third in the Cox Plate, beaten by the world's highest-rated turf horse in Winx.

She, too, was a bargain yearling, requiring a bid of just A\$10,000. She has now amassed more than A\$2 million in prize-money for her 18-strong band of owners.

The success of syndications is not limited to Darby Racing, however, with the likes of Star Thoroughbreds and Triple Crown Syndications also enjoying multiple Group 1 triumphs.

Over the past ten years the number of horses with ten or more registered owners has increased by just under two and a half times. However, Australian racing authorities have also been proactive in ensuring this upward trend in racehorse ownership continues by increasing the maximum numbers of individuals in a syndicate from 20 to 50 individuals.

This increase, which has been hugely welcomed by Darby and other industry professionals, has allowed the forming of yet another syndication success story in the all-female It's All About The Girls Syndicate. The group that comprises 40 of the industry's leading ladies own dual Group 1 winner Global Glamour, who could see a trip to Royal Ascot figure in this year's campaign.

Syndicates are breathing new life into racing in Australia. They bring welcome investment into bloodstock, especially at the middle and lower end of the market, and also give young, enthusiastic groups of friends an involvement in racing. This promotes a vibrant atmosphere at the races that can never be undervalued.

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Peter O'Brien

**Segenhoe
Stud
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Olly Tait

**Owner of
Twin Hills
Stud**



Ned Toffey

**Spendthrift
Farm
general
manager**



Who is your pick of the sires with first-crop yearlings to sell?

I was very impressed by the Zoustar yearlings I saw on the Gold Coast. We also have four very nice homebred yearlings by Epaulette who I'm a big fan of, and I also like the Dundees I saw.

Intello, by Galileo out of a Danehill mare, was a brilliant racehorse, winning six of his nine starts and going unbeaten as a juvenile. My southern hemisphere pick is Zoustar, another top performer who won all of the right races to make a stallion. He's also by a stallion who was destined to be a star before passing away prematurely in Northern Meteor.

The standout first-crop sire in Australia is Zoustar – a terrific racehorse who passes on his good looks to his stock and they have sold accordingly this year. Every single one of them have terrific actions and he has been well supported by leading breeders. Judging by their athleticism and quality, I'd be stunned if they couldn't gallop.

Camelot (*below*) won the Guineas and Derby and was second in the St Leger, almost becoming the first colt since Nijinsky to win the English Triple Crown. Both [his sire] Montjeu and his stallion sons have been a success in the southern hemisphere. Of those to race in Australia I like Dundee, a six-time Group 1 winner by High Chaparral out of a mare by the great Zabeel.

I'll go with Shanghai Bobby based on the success of sons of Harlan's Holiday like Into Mischief, and he'll have plenty of opportunities. In the southern hemisphere, the Zoustars have impressed me physically and it looks like they're getting into the right hands to be successful.



Which southern hemisphere sires with their first two-year-olds have caught your eye?

I've heard good reports of the All Too Hards – even though he hasn't had winners yet, you wouldn't expect them to be too precocious and I know the trainers like them very much. I also hear good reports of the Pierros, and we have a very nice Delago Deluxe colt to run soon.

The two who everybody rated were All Too Hard and Pierro, but it's been a slow season for first-crop sires to get off the ground. With three winners from limited runners, I'll plump for Your Song. He's a son of Fastnet Rock whose offspring are generally considered to get better as three-year-olds, so I think he's flying under the radar a little at present.

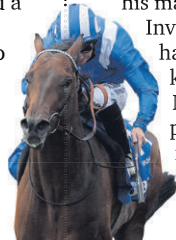
There's no real standout this year as yet, but Pierro for me is the horse with the most upside. Even though he was a brilliant juvenile, a lot of his stock look like they'll benefit with time and all the leading trainers seem to have a good one who is yet to race. He covered as good a book of mares as any stallion has ever done with his first crop.

Australian two-year-old racing is the most competitive in the world. First-season sires have to compete head on with all the Redoute's Choices, Exceed And Excels, Fastnet Rocks and Snitzels. Perhaps as a consequence none so far have singled themselves out as being the next big thing. It's still early days though.

Your Song has got off to a solid start at stud, and the few I saw were very good physicals. He's got every excuse to keep it up. The Delago Deluxes really impressed me as yearlings. They just looked classy and athletic and as a son of Encosta De Lago I wouldn't be surprised to see him have a strong year.

Which stallions who do not shuttle do you think would work in the other hemisphere?

Although I may be biased, I feel Muhaarar (*below*) would work well in Australia – he was a champion sprinter in Europe, yet we felt he'd have stayed a mile, which would suit the market down there. I'd also love to see a few more Sea The Stars in the southern hemisphere, which would help to redress the balance of too many speed-oriented stallions.



My choices are all Danzig-line horses. Oasis Dream would have been a great success, and Invincible Spirit certainly made his mark here through I Am Invincible – it would have been great if he'd kept shuttling. Muhaarar has the perfect pedigree and race record to be successful in Australia.

The obvious stallions for the northern hemisphere would be I Am Invincible and Snitzel. The former is a freak of a stallion who's already in the top three in Australia from mares off a very modest service fee. Snitzel is a champion sire by Redoute's Choice whose stock have a preference for give in the ground, which would help them immensely in Europe.

Kitten's Joy would have been interesting in Australia. He dominates US turf racing where the tracks are firm and the pace is fast. Like Medaglia D'Oro and Artie Schiller, he's by El Prado. American stallions have done well in Australia – think Street Cry, More Than Ready and Medaglia D'Oro.

I've always thought Malibu Moon would make a great shuttle sire. Even though the A.P. Indys really haven't worked in the southern hemisphere, his bottom side has such a strong turf influence and he's worked really well when bred to turf mares. Hopefully we'll get the right son to shuttle sometime soon.

Can anything more be done in Australia to encourage the breeding of stayers?

Australians have gone far too much towards breeding speed. We have a two-year-old in Australia at the moment who definitely wants at least 7f, but David Hayes tells me there aren't any races yet over that trip – to me that's madness. I admire those stud managers who are making an effort to redress the balance, although it's an industry-wide problem.

Prize-money isn't the issue as all our staying races have big money attached to them. The issue is the results achieved in the sales ring as there are a lot more yearlings sold through the ring in Australia than many other places. I don't see it as a problem though because we're the best breeders of speed in the world and you can't be good at everything!

The focus on breeding precocious speed is baffling considering the prize-money for middle-distance races in Australia. New Zealand has Tavistock, Savabeel and O'Reilly, and with farms like Arrowfield backing Dundee, Animal Kingdom and Real Impact, hopefully the pendulum will swing.

Australia breeds great sprinters and has great staying races. Things evolve naturally (and slowly) and I don't think we should get too worried about the lack of quality of Australian-bred stayers. However, I'm not sure what is achieved by shortening the distances of traditional races such as the Brisbane and Perth Cups.

I don't think it's anything we'll see change quickly. Owners and breeders love it when their horses get to the races quickly and start generating revenue, and some action, for them. Framing longer races with better purse-money seems the most likely way to move the needle, but as we've seen in the US, this may have only limited results.

Do you think Winx will travel to Royal Ascot? And if she does, is she unbeatable?



I'm not sure she'll travel to Ascot as this would have been the year to bring her, but understandably they're very keen to try to win a third Cox Plate – obviously she's an outstanding mare, but with all of the travelling involved one could never say she'd be unbeatable.

She's a freak mare with an unbelievable will to win. I don't think the course or distance will hamper her and she's the sort to handle a trip away. Quality-wise, she's the perfect animal being by Street Cry. Nothing fazes her and she has an unmatched motor, certainly in Australia. It would be a great buzz to see her travel, but only if she goes while still at her best and not as an afterthought.

I doubt whether she'd travel. The owners would like to win a third consecutive Cox Plate and I'd fully support them in that as for her to win three in a row would equal the mighty Kingston Town's record. That said, I'd dearly love for her to run in the summer of 2018 as the world should get a chance to see her perform in the flesh and realise close up what an equine superstar she is.

Unfortunately they can all get beaten. Zenyatta, also by Street Cry, won 19 straight and then got chinned in her final start in the Breeders' Cup Classic. It would be great for the profile of racing if Winx goes to Royal Ascot, but if she doesn't, or if she didn't win, she's still an absolute champion.

I have no idea. I'd love to see her run at Royal Ascot but I'll be watching wherever she runs. Unbeatable? Who knows – but I won't be betting against her!

What are your thoughts on The Everest and who do you think is the most likely winner?

Anything that brings new prize-money and interest into the business must be encouraged, although I wouldn't know a likely winner at this stage. Now Chautauqua appears to have lost a bit of his mantle, the sprinting division would be very open.

It's going to create plenty of interest and hopefully it's at the right time of year to attract some international runners. I'm not convinced it will increase a potential stallion's value, but the concept is a great marketing idea. Speith would be my shout as a leading contender at this early stage.

It's a fascinating concept and the timing is perfect, particularly for northern hemisphere sprinters. A horse like Caravaggio could run in Europe in the summer, run in The Everest and then go on to the Breeders' Cup. I think it will encourage sprinting colts to race a year longer rather than go to stud. There would be no more deserving winner than Speith and trainer Bryce Heys.

It's an interesting concept. The Pegasus World Cup in Florida is the blueprint for this type of race structure and it was seemingly a success, largely because of the interest generated by California Chrome and his rematch with Arrogate. The key to its success will be getting the starting positions filled and to do that investors as well as horses will be required.

It's a great idea. The Pegasus World Cup was a huge success here and I'm sure it will be the same in Australia. I'd probably give the nod to Chautauqua – if he can get the kinks worked out he's as good a sprinter as there is in the world.

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INGLIS EASTER

The making of a superstar in two hemispheres



James Thomas talks to *Darley's Sam Bullard* about shuttle sire sensation *Exceed And Excel*

THE successful shuttle stallion is a rare and intriguing breed. Many try, but few have the

pedigree, physique and racing performance that will appeal in both hemispheres and then produce successful progeny both north and south.

Even for a stallion who succeeds in one hemisphere – no mean feat in itself – the journey to the other can see the goalposts shift significantly, with qualities he imparts that are considered desirable in one hemisphere having the potential to be met with ambivalence or worse in the other.

You need only look as far as the likes of Galileo and Dubawi, who shuttled down under for five seasons and three seasons respectively without reaching the heights they did on their native continent, for an illustration of how tough it is for a stallion to thrive on both sides of the globe.

One shuttle stallion who has proved potent both at home and away is Exceed And Excel. He picked up the baton from his own sire, the *ne plus ultra* of shuttle stallions Danehill, when first making the 10,600-mile trip from Darley's Kelvinside stud in New South Wales to Kildangan in County Kildare in late-2004. Although he has not always commanded such a big reputation.

"I would say there was huge scepticism around him when he first arrived in the northern hemisphere," says Sam Bullard, Darley's director of stallions. "But he's done a huge amount to promote Australian stallions to the northern hemisphere market. He wasn't the reason we took Lonhro to America, but the success he'd given breeders in Europe gave Americans confidence to have a go."

At the age of 17 and in the middle of his 13th northern hemisphere covering season, Exceed And Excel has now made

the journey between hemispheres 25 times, covering somewhere in the region of 262,500 miles during his stallion career alone.

"Exceed And Excel really is quite remarkable," says Bullard. "To have done so many seasons back to back really isn't the norm. As with any equine discipline, you have to treat each horse as an individual, but all of us are amazed at how he comes back for more every time. There's never been a question of him needing a year off, and that's extraordinary."

A good temperament is a must when it comes to shuttlers, as the rigours of traversing the hemispheres can take its toll on even the most hardy of travellers. Exceed And Excel, along with Darley's other shuttlers, departs for the southern hemisphere in mid-July, but before heading overseas there is a strict pre-export quarantine period, which requires each horse to spend 14 days in a stable within a 50-metre exclusion zone.

From there, Exceed And Excel and the other Darley shuttlers head to Stansted Airport to board their own private 747 bound for Australia. Including a brief refuelling stop in Dubai, the whole journey takes approximately 21 hours. There is another 14-day period of quarantine upon arrival and, of course, the whole process is repeated in reverse shortly before Christmas to enable the stallions to have around six weeks in the northern hemisphere before the next covering season begins.

"Exceed And Excel is very laid back, he's very trouble-free and very sound," says Bullard. "He's got a great temperament and goes about his job very well. He's efficient, both in and out of the covering shed."

"I dispense of any doubts I might have had about shuttling stallions when I see the horses arrive

at Christmas-time having had a season down in the southern hemisphere. When they arrive back in the northern hemisphere they look as fit as fiddles with gleaming coats and just look in such great condition."

"The methodology of flying horses really has come on leaps and bounds in recent years."

Despite his prowess as a shuttler, Exceed And Excel made an inauspicious first visit to Britain. As a three-year-old he travelled over with the intention of taking up an engagement in the Golden Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot in 2004.

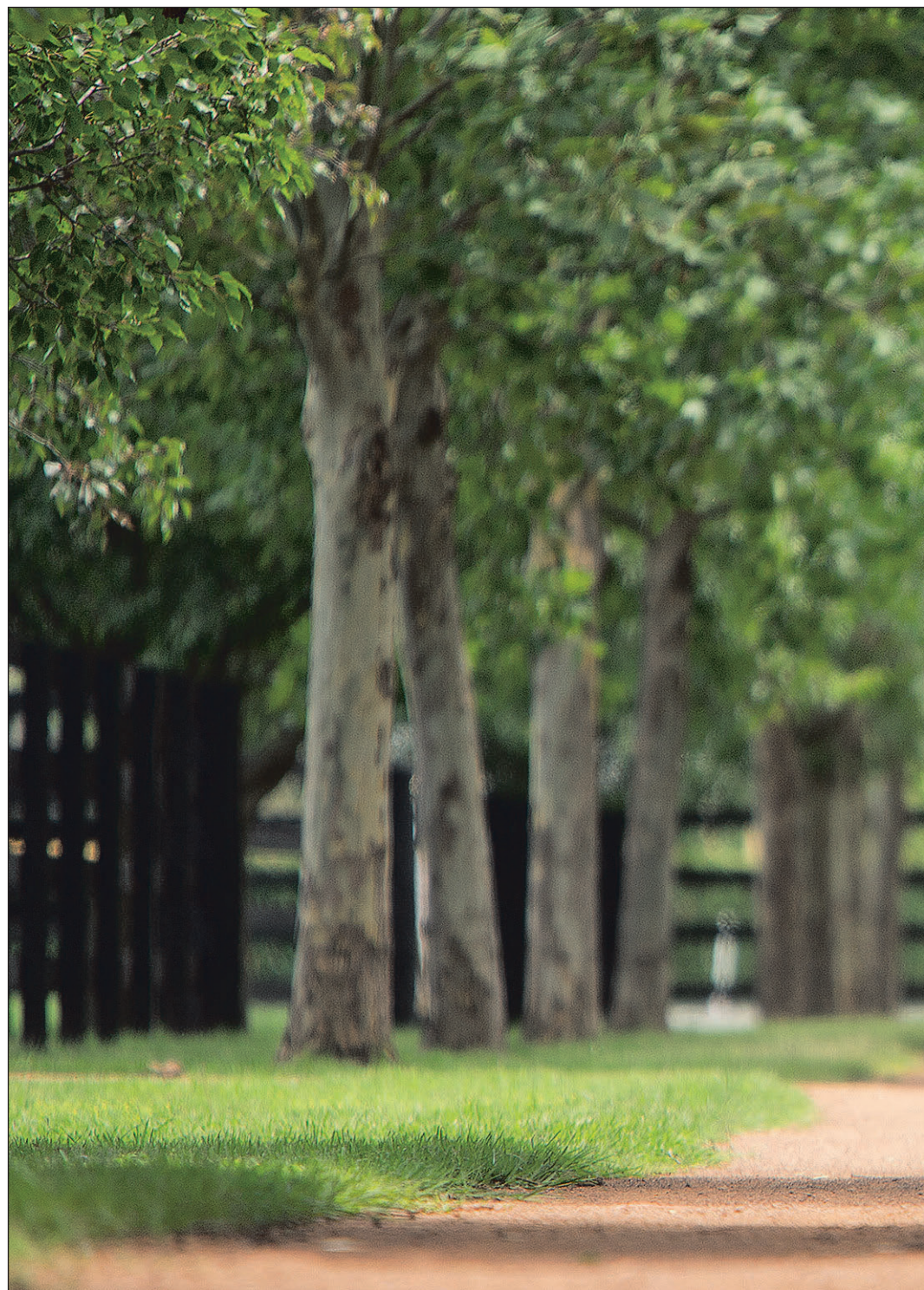
He arrived with a glowing reputation, having won a Group 2 at two and landed a brace of top-level races, the Newmarket Handicap and the Dubai Racing Club Cup, at three back in his native Australia. But things did not go to plan for Tim Martin, who guided Exceed And Excel throughout his 12-race career, as a blood abnormality caused the colt to miss the royal meeting.

When Martin managed to get him to the course in the July Cup, the signs were there that the ailment may have left more of a mark on Exceed And Excel than first thought, as he trailed home 19th of 20 and was subsequently retired from racing.

HOWEVER, since retiring to the breeding shed Exceed And Excel has never looked back as he has gone on to earn a reputation as one of the leading stallions of his generation.

In a bid to encourage breeders to take a punt on the Australian import, he was introduced at Kildangan Stud at a fee of just €10,000, and stood the following year at Dalham Hall at a mere £7,500. Now he is standing at a career-high of €50,000, a clear indication of the high regard in

'The methodology of flying horses has come on leaps and bounds in recent years'
Darley director of stallions Sam Bullard



which he is now held by British and Irish breeders.

He has supplied 128 stakes winners, including ten who have won at the highest level, and has become known as a prolific source of precocious and smart two-year-olds.

Given his reputation, it comes as little surprise that six of his Group/Grade 1 winners struck at two, with Overreach landing the prestigious Golden Slipper, both Earthquake and his first-crop son Reward For Effort landing the Blue Diamond Stakes, and Outstrip claiming the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Turf. Guelph and Helmet went even further and won twice at the top-level at two, both winning the Sires Produce Stakes and the Champagne Stakes before going on to add further Group 1 success to their respective CVs at three.

However, Exceed And Excel's other top-flight winners highlight that it is class as much as precocity he imparts.

The remainder are headed by Margot Did, who landed her

Group 1 with a gutsy display in the Nunthorpe Stakes as a three-year-old, the same age at which Excelebration landed the Prix du Moulin.

Excelebration continued to progress at four to win the Prix Jacques le Marois and run away with the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes, the latter performance earning him a Racing Post Rating of 131, the highest achieved by the progeny of Exceed And Excel.

Another of the stallion's progeny to record a Group 1 win at four was Amber Sky, who scorched the Meydan turf to land the Al Quoz Sprint. Exceed And Excel's oldest top-flight winner is Flamberge, who maintained an upward trajectory throughout his career, making his Group 1 breakthrough in the final race of his five-year-old campaign. He continued to improve at six, winning the Oakleigh Plate at Caulfield, in which he became the first horse since 1972 to shoulder 58kg (9st 2lb), and the William Reid Stakes.

Those ten runners embody

all the qualities that have made Exceed And Excel such an enduring success, showing speed, durability, and toughness in spades.

HOWEVER, reducing his roll of honour to a mere ten horses would be doing the stallion a disservice, as the consistency and frequency with which he has supplied talented and hard-knocking runners on both sides of the globe is perhaps his most noteworthy achievement as a stallion.

His northern hemisphere crops have thrown up the likes of multiple stakes winners Championship, who won a pair of Group 2s aged six; Coventry Stakes winner Buratino; Fulbright, a Listed-winning juvenile and Group 2-winning three-year-old; Best Terms, who won her first four starts at two including the Queen Mary and Lowther Stakes; the Group 1-placed Cotai Glory, who also won Group 3s at two and four; and Bungle


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Exceed And Excel is exercised at Dalham Hall Stud; Excelebration (inset) and Margot Did (bottom right), European Group 1 winners by the sire; his shuttle stallion son Helmet arriving for northern hemisphere duty



A selection of lots on offer at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale with Excel-lent credentials

THE pedigrees of the Exceed And Excel draft at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale illustrate the high esteem in which he is held by Australasian breeders. Below is just a selection of the quality on offer

Lot 113 b/br filly out of Dream Play (by Hennessy)
Consigned by Kia Ora Stud
Dam is a US Grade 2 winner and a half-sister to Grade 1 Starlet Stakes heroine Diplomat Lady, and she has already produced VRC Sires' Produce Stakes winner and

Champagne Stakes second Zululand.

147 ch c ex Fragmentation (Snippets)
Highgrove Stud
Out of a Listed winner who has excelled at stud, having produced Newmarket Handicap winner Wanted and Group 2 scorer and Group 1-placed Shrapnel – both sires.

267 b f ex Nureyev's Girl (Nureyev)
Bhima Thoroughbreds
Listed-placed dam, from a

black type-packed family, has produced five winners at paddocks including New Zealand One Thousand Guineas heroine King's Rose and Group 3-placed Hardham.

294 br f ex Prophet Jewel (Encosta De Lago)
Middlebrook Valley Lodge
A daughter of a mare who won six races and a half-sister to Caulfield Guineas winner Divine Prophet and Group 3 scorer and Group 1 second Proisir.

334 ch c ex Secret Admirer (Dubawi)
Milburn Creek

The first living foal out of the outstanding Dubawi mare Secret Admirer, winner of the Epsom Handicap and Flight Stakes and in the frame in a further eight top-flight races.

358 ch c ex Snowdrift (Polish Precedent)
Cressfield
Snowdrift's achievements are so vast this colt's page is filled almost just by her and her offspring. The mare – a

half-sister to the dam of Myboycharlie – has produced nine winners from nine runners including stakes scorers Portillo, Snippetson and Snowland, and stakes-placed Freeze and Snowden.

360 b c ex So Tempted (Jeune)
Newgate Farm
Winning dam has also produced dual South African Group 1-winning Dubawi filly Happy Archer and Listed scorer Femina Fashion, as well as three other scorers.

Inthejungle – a dual Group 3-winning two-year-old.

While in the southern hemisphere there has been the likes of Sidestep, a Group 2 winner at two and three; Headwater, a Group 2 winner at two and Listed winner at three; Kuroshio, a Group 3-winning juvenile and Group 2 winner at three; Vashka, a Group 2 winner at

five; Pearls, a Group 2 winner at three and Group 3 winner at four; and Aerobatics, a Listed winner at four and a dual Group 3 scorer at five. All have flown the flag for their sire with numerous stakes successes.

Exceed And Excel has sired a remarkable 30 Group-winning two-year-olds, finished on top of the leading sires' list in

Australia in 2012-13, as well as being the leading sire of two-year-olds in Britain and Ireland in 2009.

With Golden Slipper entrants Madeenaty and Jorda set to represent the sire in the coming months, along with Yalta, who broke the course record when landing the 2016 Molecomb Stakes, and of course his next crop of juveniles, it is unlikely

to be long before his next star emerges.

He has also begun to make his name as a sire of sires, with seven sons standing in Britain and Ireland, and 11 in the southern hemisphere. Among them is Helmet, a fellow reverse shuttler in his fifth northern hemisphere breeding season at Dalham Hall and who is very much in his sire's mould.

Having been a tough and talented racehorse, Helmet has made a big impact with his first northern hemisphere crop. He was the only northern hemisphere first-season sire to supply a European Group 1 winner in 2016, with Thunder Snow claiming the Criterium de Saint-Cloud by five lengths having shown a devastating turn of foot.

"As a horse who's had ten Group/Grade 1 winners, and who has consistently paid breeders well in the sales ring and now stands at €50,000 and continues to do breeders well, it's impossible to pick a single highlight as there are a hell of a lot of them," says Bullard when asked for his favourite Exceed And Excel memory.

BULLARD also suggests the host of promising sire sons may not be the only legacy Exceed And Excel leaves behind. Having set the bar so high, Bullard believes Exceed And Excel has changed the way the world views shuttle stallions.

"There's no point bringing a horse who is not of the highest quality," he says. "I think we'll see fewer shuttlers in the coming years, but the ratio of successful ones will rise as people just bring quality, in either direction."

Quality, in either direction. That is precisely what Exceed And Excel has delivered.

INGLIS EASTER

ROLL UP FOR AUSTRALIAN



Mark Scully gets the lowdown on the fourth year of The Championships from leading figures in the Australian racing industry

ROYAL RANDWICK plays host to the fourth edition of The Championships next month, with more than A\$20 million of prize-money up for grabs across two extraordinary days of high-class racing.

First staged in 2014, The Championships brought together a series of well-established Pattern races, as well as a number of other relocated contests, to provide a flagship “grand final of Australian racing”.

The meeting is timed to coincide with the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale and Sydney-based trainer Peter Snowden believes the two are perfect bedfellows.

“The prize-money is very good, so the event is really doing well now,” he said. “They keep bumping it up every year, so more and more people from around the world are being attracted.”

“The carnival ties in very well with the sale too and brings a bigger audience to both – people can hopefully get a nice winner on the track then go and try to buy another one!”

With the sale this year taking place on April 4-6, The Championships bookends proceedings, with day one at Randwick on Saturday, April 1 and the second day a week later on April 8.

Sydney’s champion trainer Chris Waller is another big fan of the two-day meeting and said: “It’s fantastic for racing here in Australia because everybody’s well aware of the spring carnival but our autumn can be a little forgotten.”

“The Championships, through sheer prize-money, is changing that and as a trainer it’s great to be able to have your sport promoted and be seen as providing good-quality racing for good prize-money and also giving a good social event that people want to attend.”

With the Sydney spectacular drawing ever nearer, here is everything you need to know about a bumper week for thoroughbred enthusiasts.

THE HORSES

The star name by some way is the brilliant Winx, whose autumn campaign will draw to a close in the Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes.



It is no exaggeration to say Winx is Australia’s most important horse since Black Caviar and, while the Chris Waller-trained mare may not have quite ascended to the levels of public adulation of the superstar sprinter, she is by far the biggest crowd-drawer going around.

A winner of the Doncaster Mile already at The Championships, Winx has been utterly dominant in recent times and it will be nothing short of a sensational upset if she is denied in the A\$4 million contest.

Winx’s importance to the carnival is not lost on Waller, who said: “It’s been an amazing experience to train her. I’m a racing fanatic and I’ve seen a lot of great horses but I never dreamed I’d have the chance to race one myself.”

“She keeps taking the experience to a whole new level and she’s taken my profile to a whole new level because she’s

so well received by the public. She’s on the front and back pages of every newspaper before and after she races and that helps to invigorate the sport – people want to know when she’s racing, if she’s won and how far she won by.”

Females could play a big part across the rest of the carnival with the three-year-old fillies presenting as a talented bunch, and Global Glamour is one of the better stories of the year.

Owned by a group of women

from around the world and trained by Gai Waterhouse, Global Glamour could find herself heading to Royal Ascot if the autumn goes well, but things got off to a less than ideal start after she was defeated at odds-on in the Group 2 Surround Stakes.

Waller’s Omei Sword was also left trailing by La Bella Diosa, but connections will be keen for another shot at the New Zealand raider in less muddy conditions should their

collective paths cross again – although options are plentiful.

It would not be a major Australian carnival without some top sprinters and the most potent speedballs in the land will lock horns in the TJ Smith Stakes on April 1. Things did not go to plan in the spring for Chautauqua but the “Thunder Down Under” will be looking to set the record straight, while the charismatic team of owners behind the Darley Classic winner Malaguerra will be heard all over Sydney if their charge can scoop another big prize.

Speith chased Malaguerra home at Flemington in November and notched another Group 1 runner-up finish in the Black Caviar Lightning Stakes most recently behind the evergreen Terravista. Can he finally make the

breakthrough or will it be one of the star three-year-old colts Flying Artie or Astern – the pair finished first and second in the Coolmore Stud Stakes in October?

THE RACES

April 1
The Star Doncaster Mile – 1m, \$3,000,000

Notable winners: Winx, Sacred Falls, Sunline
The most valuable handicap over the distance in the world, the Doncaster Mile pits some of Australia’s most promising, emerging talents against season older performers in what is invariably a searching test of stamina.

Gai Waterhouse says: “This race has changed dramatically in recent times. It’s now a quality handicap, as opposed to simply a handicap, which makes it harder for the rising star – the established performers are often well



Gai Waterhouse’s three to follow

I’m looking forward to seeing what my New Zealand horse **Ugo Foscolo** [last year’s New Zealand 2,000 Guineas winner now transferred to Waterhouse and Adrian Bott’s stable] can do in the Doncaster Mile.

English, a lovely Encosta De Lago mare, is getting

ready for the TJ Smith Stakes and I’m looking forward to running **Global Glamour** in the Coolmore Legacy. She’s down to come to Royal Ascot, which would be wonderful if we can get her there.



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RACING'S GRAND FINAL

Australia's sweetheart Winx is the centre of attention at Royal Randwick and (clockwise from top left) 2016 The Championships scorers Chautauqua (TJ Smith Stakes), Gallante (Schweppes Sydney Cup), Azkadellia (The Coolmore Legacy Stakes) and Lucia Valentina (Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes)



Appleby returns

One of the leading storylines throughout the Melbourne Spring Carnival was the success of Godolphin's Charlie Appleby-trained string and the Newmarket handler is targeting more Australian joy in Sydney.

A major goal of The Championships was to attract significant international interest, so the fact Appleby's two raiders are the only overseas contenders will be a big disappointment for the organisers.

That will not concern Appleby (*below*), however, and his one-time Arc fifth Penglai Pavilion will be joined by Polarisation in a bid for Sydney Cup glory. The pair will be joined at the Canterbury quarantine centre by stablemate Gold Trail, who is being aimed at the Mornington Cup in Victoria on March 25.



MAJOR RACING DATES

Saturday, March 4 Randwick, including Randwick Guineas and Canterbury Stakes

Saturday, March 11 Rosehill (Coolmore Classic)

Saturday, March 18 Rosehill (Golden Slipper, Ranvet Stakes, Rosehill Guineas, Galaxy and George Ryder Stakes)

Saturday, March 25 Rosehill (BMW and Vinery Stud Stakes)

Saturday, April 1 Randwick (Doncaster Mile, TJ Smith Stakes, Australian Derby and Inglis Sires' Produce Stakes)

Saturday, April 8 Randwick (Queen Elizabeth Stakes, Sydney Cup, Australian Oaks, Coolmore Legacy Stakes)

Saturday, April 15 Randwick (All Aged Stakes and Champagne Stakes)

weighted. You need a good mile to ten-furlong horse to win this."

Darley TJ Smith Stakes – 6f, \$2,500,000

Notable winners: Black Caviar, Takeover Target, Mahogany Won by some of the greats of the Australian turf, the TJ Smith Stakes is one of Australia's most recognised speed contests and is open to horses aged two and up.

Waterhouse says: "This is named after my famous father and it's a great sprint worth an awful lot of money. I've been fortunate enough to win it several times and it's one of Australia's great races."

BMW Australia Derby – 1m4f, \$2,000,000

Notable winners: Octagonal, Kingston Town, Phar Lap First run in 1861, the Australian Derby is the top staying test for three-year-olds and was switched to its autumn slot in 1979.

Waterhouse says: "This isn't as testing as the kind of Derby you would see at Epsom but it's a fine race nonetheless – we make do with what we have!"

Inglis Sires' Produce Stakes – 7f, \$1,000,000

Notable winners: Pierro, Tulloch, Ajax

The second leg of the two-year-old Triple Crown, the race sits between the Golden Slipper and the Champagne Stakes both chronologically and in terms of distance, stepping up from the six furlongs of the Golden Slipper.

Waterhouse says: "This is a great test of a very good colt or filly. Pierro won this en route to his Triple Crown, which is a rare achievement, and it's one of the finest two-year-old races."

April 8 Longines Queen Elizabeth Stakes – 1m2f

Notable winners: Lonhro,

Might And Power, Rough Habit Australia highest-rated race, the QEII is one of the world's most valuable turf staying contests and is set to take centre stage this year courtesy of the intended presence of equine royalty.

Waterhouse says: "Worth a phenomenal amount of money, this is a magnificent middle-distance race and everybody is looking forward to seeing Winx in it this year."

Schweppes Sydney Cup – 2m, \$2,000,000

Notable winners: Makyebe Diva, Galilee, Wakeful

Not the prestige of the Melbourne Cup, but with its prize-money significantly increased in recent years this is now one of the world's premier staying contests.

Waterhouse says: "The Melbourne Cup is a tougher two miles than this – I've always felt like this is more of a sprinting two-miler – but the

European-breds still have an advantage because of their stamina."

James Boags Australian Oaks – 1m4f, \$1,000,000

Notable winners: Royal Descent, Surround, Light Fingers One of the richest Oaks in the world and first run in 1885, this is the one every owner of a three-year-old filly with stamina wants to get their hands on.

Waterhouse says: "New Zealand horses have tended to excel over these longer distances, given they're bred to stay, and if a good one comes over they can be very hard to beat."

The Coolmore Legacy Stakes – 1m, \$1,000,000

Notable winners: More Joyous, Divine Madonna, Sorrento Better known as the Queen of the Turf Stakes and run for the majority of its history as Rosehill. The inauguration of The Championships not only

saw a change of venue but an increase in trip from 7½f.

Waterhouse says: "These races keep changing their names, which is confusing, but this remains one of my favourite races for the older mares and I'm looking forward to running some lovely horses in it this year."

THE RACECOURSE

Kerrin McEvoy was one of the stars of last year's Melbourne Spring Carnival and the jockey is eyeing more big-race success back in his hometown of Sydney.

With major autumn prizes like the Sydney Cup, Queen of the Turf Stakes and Champagne Stakes on his illustrious CV, McEvoy knows a thing or two about riding a course he describes as one of his favourites.

"It's the biggest of our tracks here and I really enjoy riding Randwick – I'd say it's the

fairest of our metropolitan tracks," said the two-time Melbourne Cup hero. "You're less dependent on a good draw because most of the starts are good starts with nice, long runs."

"Most of the races have a fair result and more often than not, compared to some of the other tracks, the best horse wins."

"Sometimes there can be a bias when there's rain around and you might even want an outside draw, rather than an inside draw, because they come quite wide off the inside rail if it's in a true position. A 'good' draw might not actually be what you're looking for in certain types of weather."

"The course can get quite wet. There's been a lot of Autumn Carnivals here that have been affected by rain – at that time of year you can get rain in Sydney – and once it's wet it stays quite damp. The days are getting cooler then too, so they're not good drying days."

INGLIS EASTER

‘He’s arguably the most eye-catching lot in the catalogue’

Chris Hill chooses his pick of the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale lots with particular European appeal

LOT 1

b c Animal Kingdom-Vadaiyma (Dansili)
One of 11 entries by shuttle stallion Animal Kingdom, winner of the 2011 Kentucky Derby and 2013 Dubai World Cup. The colt is the first living foal produced by Vadaiyma, an unraced daughter of 2005 Prix Saint-Alary heroine Vadawina, and shares his page with top-class European milers and middle-distance horses including shuttle stallion Vadamos.

LOT 2

ch f Starspangledbanner-Valkyrie Diva (Jade Robbery)
Improved fertility allowed four-time Group 1 winner Starspangledbanner to return to Coolmore’s Irish and Australian operations last year, having stood the previous three years solely at Rosemont Stud in Victoria. A half-sister to two stakes winners, this youngster boasts a smart pedigree as a daughter of a Group 3-winning half-sister to iconic Australian racemare Makybe Diva.

LOT 18

b c Lope De Vega-Zarzuela (Rock Of Gibraltar)
Another colt with an abundance of smart European horses in his pedigree, this colt hails from a family nurtured by Ballymacoll Stud to produce Classic scorers Conduit and Spectrum. The son of Group 1 sire Lope De Vega is out of an unraced half-sister to Group 1 winner Glass Harmonium and dual Group 3 victor Arab Spring.

LOT 30

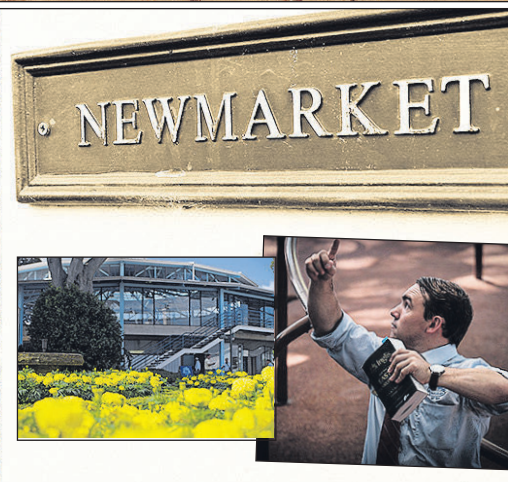
b c Dansili-Aliante (Sir Percy)
The sole offering by leading European stallion Dansili, sire of 20 individual top-level winners including Australian Group 1 scorers Foreteller and Grand Marshal. The colt is from a strong Lanwades Stud family that has yielded a number of high-class performers including Classic winners Aussie Rules and Yesterday.

LOT 45

b c Zoustar-Atotori (Haradasun)
From the first crop of champion Australian three-year-old sprinter Zoustar, this colt descends from a family that consistently posts impressive returns in the sales ring. He shares his page with dual European champion New Approach as well as Alluring Park, who has produced four foals to make seven-figure sums at Tattersalls, not least 2012 Oaks heroine Was.

LOT 52

br c Pierro-Belle Couture (Redoute’s Choice)
The son of champion Australian juvenile Pierro is arguably the most eye-catching lot in the catalogue as the first foal of Belle Couture, a winning half-sister to brilliant racemare Black Caviar who won all 25 of her racecourse starts, including the 2012 Diamond Jubilee Stakes at Royal Ascot. The A\$2.6 million sale-topper at the 2012 Easter Sale, Belle Couture is also a half-sister to champion Australian three-year-old colt and promising young sire All Too Hard.



LOT 60

b f High Chaparral-Bow And Arrow (Rock Of Gibraltar)
From the final crop of six-time Group/Grade 1 winner High Chaparral who made a big impact in Australia with his top-class progeny including So You Think and Dundee. This filly is out of an unraced half-sister to last season’s Australasian Oaks winner Abbey Marie, a A\$300,000 Easter Sale graduate in 2014.

LOT 62

ch f Dawn Approach-Brand New Choice (Redoute’s Choice)
Widden Stud offers this filly from the first southern hemisphere crop of four-time Group 1 winner and Classic hero Dawn Approach. The Darley shuttler will be represented by his first European runners later this year and his daughter here has a precocious pedigree containing renowned juvenile sire Not A Single Doubt and champion two-year-old Zizou.

LOT 102

b c Frankel-Deedra (Zabeel)
The first of three lots by Frankel to go under the hammer, this colt is offered by Strawberry Hill Stud, which last year consigned a son of the unbeaten ten-time Group 1 winner to make A\$1.6m. This colt is a three-parts brother to Vinery Stud Stakes scorer Fenway from the family of middle-distance champion More Joyous.

LOT 161

b f Fastnet Rock-Global Dance (Sadler’s Wells)
This daughter of champion Australian sire Fastnet Rock is a sister to A\$400,000 yearling Dancing Hare, who made a successful debut over 7f this season. Their pedigree is littered with classy European performers being out of a half-sister to Irish Oaks heroine Moonstone and Prix Saint-Alary winner Cerulean Sky.

Australian legend Makybe Diva features in the pedigree of lot 2, a filly by Coolmore shuttle sire Starspangledbanner

LOT 210

ch c Frankel-Lovetorn (Giant’s Causeway)
Another son of Frankel, this colt is out of the South African Listed winner Lovetorn, who was purchased by China Horse Club for A\$550,000 at the 2015 Magic Millions National Broodmare Sale while carrying this colt. He is Lovetorn’s second foal and hails from the family of sensational Breeders’ Cup Juvenile winner Arazi and Sussex Stakes hero Noverre.

LOT 221

b f Snitzel-Manhattan Mam (Dehere)
Last year’s leading vendor Arrowfield Stud consigns this filly by stud resident Snitzel, who has supplied the top lots at the last two editions of the Easter Sale. She is the first foal produced by three-time winner Manhattan Mam and shares her page with champion two-year-old filly Superstar Leo as well as last season’s Racing Post Trophy hero Rivet.

LOT 292

b c Frankel-Precious Lorraine (Encosta De Lago)
A third entry by dual world champion Frankel, who finished last year’s Easter Sale as the leading sire by average and median price. The colt is a son of Group 3 winner Precious Lorraine from the exceptional family of three-time champion Australian sire Redoute’s Choice and Spring Champion Stakes victor Platinum Scissors.

LOT 301

b f Sea The Stars-Ready To Lift (More Than Ready)
The daughter of dual Group 3 winner Ready To Lift catches the eye as she could become the first offspring of European champion Sea The Stars to change hands at Australian auction. Last season Harzand and Zelzal claimed Group 1 honours for the Giltown Stud

resident, while Oceanographer became his sire’s first Australian Group winner with success in the Lexus Hotham Stakes.

LOT 359

b f Camelot-So Divine (High Chaparral)
Another offering from Arrowfield Stud, this filly is from the first southern hemisphere crop of triple Classic hero Camelot, whose offspring closer to home have changed hands for up to 400,000gns. She is the third foal produced by the Group 3-placed mare So Divine, a sister to dual Group 1 winner Monaco Consul.

LOT 367

b c Fastnet Rock-Spirit Of South (Giant’s Causeway)
A three-parts brother to German Listed winner Duchess Lemonade, this colt hails from the brilliant Aga Khan family that has produced numerous high-class horses, among them French Classic scorers Darsi and Darjina. The colt’s pedigree received a further boost last season with Almanzor crowned European champion three-year-old colt following victories in the Champion Stakes, Irish Champion Stakes and Prix du Jockey Club.

LOT 408

b f Declaration Of War-Change Of Class (Masterclass)
Winner of the 2013 Juddmonte International and Queen Anne Stakes, Declaration Of War is responsible for one entry in this year’s Easter Sale. The Coolmore shuttler’s offspring have been well received in the southern hemisphere with a top price of A\$230,000 at Magic Millions and an exceptional clearance rate across all sales.

LOT 414

b c Epaulette-Eastern Charm (King’s High)
This colt is from the first southern hemisphere crop of Darley shuttler Epaulette, who will be represented by his first runners in Europe this season. The two-time 7f Group 1 winner has four yearlings catalogued, with this colt a half-brother to Goodwood Handicap scorer Zip Zip Array and from the family of multiple top-level winners Nicronero and Nicconi.

LOT 458

b/br c So You Think-So Sydney (Dehere)
A son of Coolmore shuttler So You Think, this colt shares a cosmopolitan trait with his sire who recorded ten Group 1 wins between Australia and Europe. A half-sister to triple winner Mega Mall, the colt’s pedigree features Nunthorpe heroine Margot Did and Prix de la Foret winner Caradak.

LOT 462

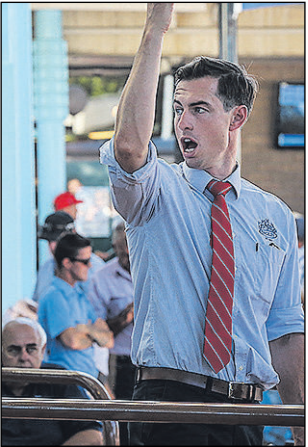
b c Fiorente-Symphony Strings (Excellent Art)
The only entry in the sale for Sun Stud resident Fiorente, winner of the Group 2 Princess of Wales’s Stakes in Britain before a successful move to Australia yielded high-profile victories in the 2013 Melbourne Cup and 2014 Australian Cup. From his sire’s first crop, the colt shares his page with champion Australian two-year-old Burst.





GROUP-WINNING GRADUATES LISTED AS SOLD SINCE 2013

Horse	Year	Price (A\$)	Buyer(s)	Vendor	Race(s)
Catchy	2016	220,000	Dorrington Farm	Coolmore Stud	Blue Diamond Prelude-G2
Formality	2016	120,000	Inglis (agent)	Coolmore Stud	Chairman's S-G3
Pariah	2016	700,000	James Harron Bloodstock	Arrowfield Stud	Canonbury S-G3
Flying Artie	2015	50,000	Paul Whelan	Goodwood Farm	Coolmore Stud S-G1 Blue Diamond Prelude-G3 Blue Sapphire S-G3
Hall Of Fame	2015	100,000	Inglis (agent)	Newgate Farm	Levin Classic-G1
Attention	2015	620,000	James Harron Bloodstock	Highgrove Stud	Sires' Produce S-G2 Schweppervescence H-G3
Ektifaa	2015	600,000	Shadwell Australia	Segenhoe Stud	Choice Carriers Championship-G2 Tony Ruffel S-G3
Mongolian Falcon	2015	150,000	Inner Mongolia Rider Horse	Coolmore Stud	Hawke's Bay Guineas-G2
Omei Sword	2015	675,000	Chris Waller Racing	Coolmore Stud	Silver Shadow S-G2
Russian Revolution	2015	320,000	China Horse Club/Michael Wallace	Vinery Stud	Roman Consul S-G2; Vain S-G3
Selenia	2015	30,000	Griffiths Training/BBA Ire/Peter Ford	Middlebrook Valley Lodge	Champagne S-G3
Swear	2015	725,000	Spendthrift Farm	Tyreel Stud	Ming Dynasty H-G3
Abbey Marie	2014	300,000	Dermot Farrington Bloodstock	Arrowfield Stud	Australasian Oaks-G1
Eagle Way	2014	200,000	George Moore Bloodstock	Segenhoe Stud	Queensland Derby-G1
Entisaar	2014	300,000	Shadwell Australia	Vinery Stud	Allan Robertson Championship-G1 South African Fillies' Nursery-G2
Vanbrugh	2014	100,000	Mick Flanagan	Widden Stud	Spring Champion S-G1 Coongy H-G3; Gloaming S-G3
Whisky Baron	2014	50,000	C Roscoe/J Ramsden	Arrowfield Stud	Sun Metropolitan H-G1 Peninsula H-G2
Headwater	2014	500,000	Hawkes Racing	Cressfield	Silver Slipper S-G2
Heatherly	2014	90,000	Inglis (Agent)	Broadwater Thoroughbreds	Rubiton S-G2
Let Us Win	2014	185,000	Dermot Farrington Bloodstock	Widden Stud	Phar Lap S-G2
Metallic Crown	2014	190,000	Ingham Racing	Luskin Park	Ming Dynasty H-G3
Muwaary	2014	525,000	Shadwell Australia	Edinglassie Stud	Graham Beck S-G3
Ready To Attack	2014	200,000	James Bester Bloodstock	Sledmere Stud	Langerman H-G3
Sacred Eye	2014	270,000	BBA Ireland	Coolmore Stud	Caulfield Classic-G3
Serene Majesty	2014	400,000	Kitchwin Hills	Segenhoe Stud	Thoroughbred Club S-G3
Sooboog	2014	1,500,000	Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum	Arrowfield Stud	Aurie's Star H-G3
SuyooF	2014	150,000	De Burgh Equine	Yarraman Park Stud	Tony Ruffel S-G3
Thurlow	2014	150,000	David Redvers Bloodstock	Widden Stud	Chairman's S-G3
Tivaci	2014	250,000	Paul Moroney Bloodstock	Princes Farm	CS Hayes S-G3 Sunshine Coast Guineas-G3
Delectation	2013	250,000	C Lai	Vinery Stud	Darley Classic-G1 Royal Sovereign S-G2
Fenway	2013	700,000	Colm Santry Bloodstock	Strawberry Hill Stud	Vinery Stud S-G1 WH Stocks S-G2
Hampton Court	2013	500,000	John Warren Bloodstock	Milburn Creek Thoroughbreds	Spring Champion S-G1
Magicool	2013	250,000	Mark Kavanagh Racing Stables	Coolmore Stud	Queensland Derby-G1
Majmu	2013	300,000	Shadwell Australia	Arrowfield Stud	Cape Fillies' Guineas-G1 Empress Club S-G1 South African Fillies' Nursery-G2 Pretty Polly S-G3
Mosssfun	2013	85,000	Emirates Park	Fairview Park Stud	Golden Slipper S-G1 Silver Slipper S-G2 Widden S-G3
Wandjina	2013	1,000,000	James Harron Bloodstock	Arrowfield Stud	Australian Guineas-G1 CS Hayes S-G3
Lumosty	2013	185,000	Flemington Bloodstock	Coolmore Stud	Caulfield Sprint H-G2 Moonee Valley Fillies' Classic-G2
Moonovermanhattan	2013	100,000	Dermot Farrington	Arrowfield Stud	Dilmah Vase-G2 National S-G3
Petrology	2013	200,000	Lindsay Park Bloodstock	Coolmore Stud	Sandown Guineas-G2
Zululand	2013	1,500,000	Tom Magnier	Kia-Ora Stud	Sires' Produce S-G2
Fitocracy	2013	15,000	P McPhee	Attunga Stud	Schweppervescence S-G3
Nancy	2013	65,000	L Kingdom	Fairview Park Stud	Godolphin Crown-G3
Nayeli	2013	260,000	Gai Waterhouse/James Harron B'stock	Corumbene Stud	Chairman's S-G3; Nivision S-G3
Nostradamus	2013	500,000	Kondouris Bloodstock	Almavale Bloodstock	Gold Coast Guineas-G3 RN Irwin S-G3 San Domenico S-G3
Panzer Division	2013	120,000	Paul Messara Racing	Lustre Lodge	Ming Dynasty H-G3
Scissor Kick	2013	200,000	Paul Messara Racing	Broadwater Thoroughbreds	Eskimo Prince S-G3 Up & Coming S-G3



TOP-PRICED COLTS 2012-16

Year	Name	Breeding	Buyer(s)	Price (A\$)
2016	—	Snitzel-Vegas Showgirl	Gai Waterhouse Racing/J Blaxland	2,300,000
2015	Shaheen	Snitzel-Admirelle	Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum	2,200,000
2014	Lighthouse Keeper	Fastnet Rock-Perfect Persuasion	John Warren Bloodstock	1,600,000
2013	Jimmy	Redoute's Choice-Helsing	BC3 Thoroughbreds	5,000,000
2012	Rodway	Street Cry-Tugela	Moody Racing/Paul Willetts	1,200,000



TOP-PRICED FILLIES 2012-16

Year	Name	Breeding	Buyer(s)	Price (A\$)
2016	—	Fastnet Rock-Hips Don't Lie	Jadeskye Racing/Nordic Breeding & Racing	1,100,000
2015	Peaceful Sea	Fastnet Rock-Candlelight	Coolmore Australia	1,750,000
2014	Maraam	Street Cry-Munhro	Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum	1,050,000
2013	Mumbai Rock	Fastnet Rock-Mani Bhavan	James Bester Bloodstock	1,550,000
2012	Belle Couture	Redoute's Choice-Helsing	BC3 Thoroughbreds	2,600,000

INGLIS AUSTRALIAN EASTER YEARLING SALE

Five-year history

Year	Offered	Sold	Clearance (%)	Aggregate (A\$)	Average (A\$)	Top lot (A\$)
2016	529	440	83	106,982,500	243,142	2,300,000
2015	544	454	83	112,477,000	247,747	2,200,000
2014	501	417	83	91,202,750	218,712	1,600,000
2013	484	371	77	91,284,000	246,049	5,000,000
2012	504	419	83	79,361,000	189,406	2,600,000

TOP TEN PURCHASERS IN 2016

By aggregate

Buyer(s)	No. horses	Average (A\$)	Total (A\$)
Shadwell Stud Australasia	19	537,632	10,215,000
Gai Waterhouse Racing/J Blaxland	17	329,559	5,602,500
Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum	11	490,455	5,395,000
Wexford Stables	5	498,000	2,490,000
James Harron Bloodstock	4	612,500	2,450,000
China Horse Club/WinStar	6	400,000	2,400,000
Anthony Cummings Thoroughbreds	10	230,500	2,305,000
Chris Waller Racing	3	700,000	2,100,000
Katsumi Yoshida	4	480,000	1,920,000
Asian Bloodstock Services	5	369,000	1,845,000

TOP TEN VENDORS IN 2016

By aggregate

Vendor	No. sold	Average (A\$)	Total (A\$)
Arrowfield Stud	21	452,857	9,510,000
Coolmore Stud	27	285,926	7,720,000
Widden Stud	29	236,897	6,870,000
Segenhoe Stud	13	491,154	6,385,000
Newgate Farm	18	340,972	6,137,500
Yarraman Park Stud	19	293,158	5,570,000
Newhaven Park	14	255,000	3,570,000
Sledmere Stud	17	197,118	3,351,000
Highgrove Stud	8	397,500	3,180,000
Milburn Creek	10	307,500	3,075,000

TOP-PRICED FILLIES 2012-16

Year	Name	Breeding	Buyer(s)	Price (A\$)
2016	—	Fastnet Rock-Hips Don't Lie	Jadeskye Racing/Nordic Breeding & Racing	1,100,000
2015	Peaceful Sea	Fastnet Rock-Candlelight	Coolmore Australia	1,750,000
2014	Maraam	Street Cry-Munhro	Sheikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Maktoum	1,050,000
2013	Mumbai Rock	Fastnet Rock-Mani Bhavan	James Bester Bloodstock	1,550,000
2012	Belle Couture	Redoute's Choice-Helsing	BC3 Thoroughbreds	2,600,000

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