

# HWA

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RACING AND WAGERING  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**HARNESS WA**

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

## WA Racing Industry Hall of Fame

**THE 2019 HARNESS  
INDUCTEES**

**YOUR GUIDE TO THE  
2019 APG PERTH  
YEARLING SALES**



**CONDITIONED  
RACING SYSTEM**  
SUSTAINING THE FUTURE OF  
HARNESS RACING IN WA

# APG PERTH YEARLING SALE

## STATE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE - BRIGADOON - SUNDAY 10 MARCH

APG's STRONGEST PERTH SALE BY THE LENGTH OF THE STRAIGHT

### 2019 PERTH CATALOGUE HIGHLIGHTS

Horses Catalogued	No.	Progeny of:	Earnings	Half or Full Brothers to:	Earnings
Colts	72	Party Date	\$256,003	Handsandwheels	\$360,930
Fillies	55	Highview Ebony NZ	\$189,582	Bettor Party	\$291,539
		My Samantha Jane NZ	\$166,426	Soho Wall Street	\$283,274
Progeny by:	No.	Cool Adda	\$160,839	Truckers Ruffnut	\$249,770
Follow The Stars	25	Typhoon Tan NZ	\$141,722	Sheer Royalty	\$248,904
Mach Three CA	9	Miss Baypoint	\$138,854	Shezallapples	\$211,325
Bettors Delight USA	7	Lilianna Beauty USA	\$135,274	Our Zak Whitby	\$207,844
American Ideal USA	7	Thats The Spirit NZ	\$134,344	Tuxedo Tour	\$194,596
Art Major USA	7	Arch On Fire	\$132,927	Adda Rising Star	\$184,608
Betterthancheddar USA	7	Terrifying	\$131,200	Red Hot Roxy	\$162,550
Pet Rock USA	7	Talk About Mach	\$130,109	Rocknroll Whitby	\$151,100
Rich And Spoilt	6	Elite Angel	\$128,702	Zacs Nuggett	\$144,900
A Rocknroll Dance USA	5	So Shesachristian NZ	\$123,533	Lady Luca	\$133,198
Rock N Roll Heaven USA	4	Robyns C C NZ	\$122,578	Rock Me Over	\$125,558
Allamerican Ingot USA	3	Zerina Whitby	\$107,827	Isaiah Artois	\$117,351
Captaintreacherous (US)	3	La Roya Whitby	\$106,649	Maddy White	\$110,824
Four Starzzz Shark CA	3	Where Dreams Grow	\$103,800		
Parsons Den USA	3	Courage On Fire NZ	\$102,378	Half or Full Sisters to:	Earnings
Somebeachsomewhere USA	3	Artistic Copper	\$100,014	Shipwreck	\$279,198
Sunshine Beach USA	3	Red Hot Date	\$99,730	Erskine Range	\$255,480
Tintin In America NZ	3	Selkie NZ	\$92,831	Bettor Reward	\$199,212
Auckland Reactor NZ	2	San Sophia USA	\$91,481	New World Order	\$188,069
Changeover NZ	2	Pure Empathy NZ	\$88,025	Private Joke (US)	\$153,625
Heston Blue Chip USA	2	Casual Fling	\$82,950	Raging Bull NZ	\$115,581
P Forty Seven USA	2	Here For The Money	\$81,874	Im Living The Dream	\$103,431
Renaissance Man	2	Luck Has It	\$81,411		
Roll With Joe USA	2	Jessica Clare	\$81,285		
Sportswriter USA	2	I Am Special	\$74,744		
Warrawee Needy CA	1	Highest Royalty	\$74,010		
Alta Christiano NZ	1	Jasmin Amal	\$73,400		
Artspeak USA	1	Dontgetmeruffled	\$71,685		
Grinfromeartoeat USA	1	Generally Outspoken NZ	\$69,688		
Hes Watching USA	1	Riverboat Ning NZ	\$68,345		
Live Or Die USA	1	Secret Dragon	\$63,819		
Mr Feelgood USA	1	Bolshoi Belle	\$60,053		
The Gold Ace NZ	1	Terra Into The West NZ	\$59,750		

**SALE COMMENCES 1PM**



VIEW YEARLING PHOTOS & VIDEOS AT [WWW.APGOLD.COM.AU](http://WWW.APGOLD.COM.AU)



# HWA

## HARNES WA

EDITION 1

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### COVER

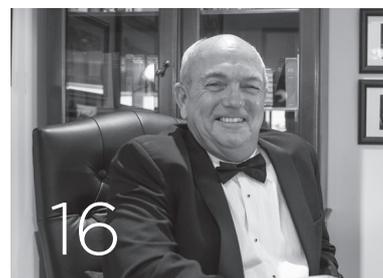
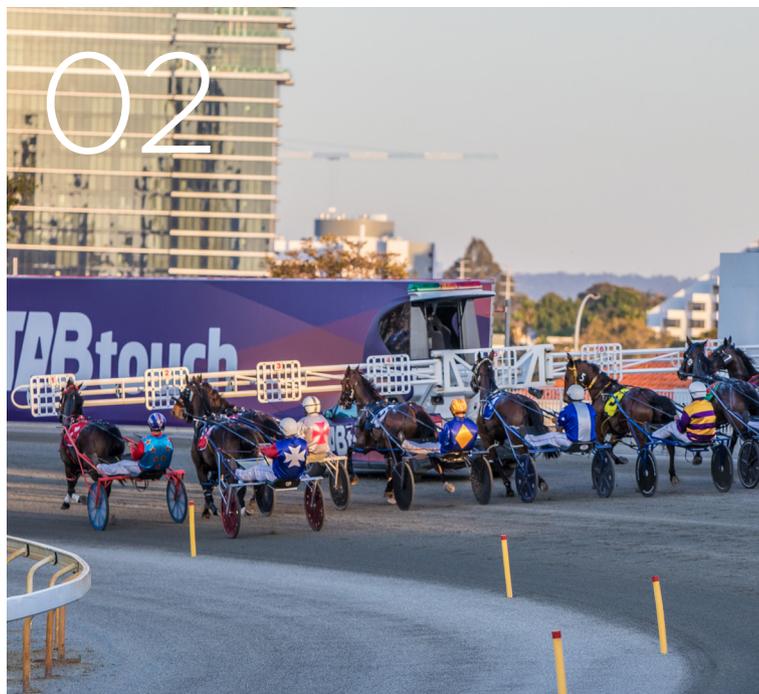
Harness Racing at Gloucester Park

FOLLOW RWWA



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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# ***CONDITIONED RACING SYSTEM*** **SUSTAINING THE FUTURE OF HARNES RACING IN WA**

LAST NOVEMBER, RACING AND WAGERING WA IMPLEMENTED A NEW BUSINESS MODEL FOR HARNES RACING IN THE STATE AS A CONDITIONED HANDICAPPING SYSTEM WITH A VIEW TOWARDS ENSURING LONG TERM SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CODE, WRITES TIM WALKER.

Last November, Racing and Wagering Western Australia implemented a new business model for Harness Racing in the state.

The business model was introduced with a view towards ensuring there would be long term sustainability in the code.

The new model, as a conditioned handicapping system, ensures horses that are successful as juveniles don't enter the open class system as maidens and they race against horses in a similar class.

While these horses that performed well at juvenile level can't drop back to maiden races, the system still allows them to slowly work their way into open class.

As a result, the new model looks to ensure competitive racing and a reduction in short price favourites.

The new model looked into race circuits, stakes tiering, meeting schedules, race programming and handicapping and internal business systems and practices.

Colin Smith, a former handicapper of the West Australian Trotting Association who also helped in the creation of the new model, said it tried to ensure an even playing field for all participants.

"We introduced the new system looking to reduce the number of short price favourites and spread more of the money around to the participants," he said.

"We wanted to increase the number of first time winners as well as the number of three and four-year-olds that win races.

"In Harness Racing, we had some horses that would be five or six classes better than other horses, but come September 1 and the new season they would become even."

According to Smith, in season 2003/04 there were 248 different thoroughbreds that recorded their first win, while there were only 101 Standardbreds that matched that feat, despite there being more than 400 additional Harness Races held.

Trainer-driver Aldo Cortopassi said juvenile horses dropping back to race in significantly easier races had been a problem for Harness Racing for some time and felt the code could learn from Thoroughbred Racing.

"In the gallops, if you win a race, or run well in a good race, you get weight on your back," he said.



*"This is a major evolving system and, like any system, it has a few glitches and some areas of it need tweaking"*  
 - Aldo Cortopassi

"In the trots, you often see good quality horses dropping back and winning maidens.

"A lot of trainers would work the system, even I did too."

Cortopassi said it was important for Harness Racing in WA to keep evolving and embrace the new model.

"I don't mind the system because I have a range of different horses," he said.

"You really have to study the nominations and work out what race is suitable for your horse.

"Harness Racing has been stuck in a holding pattern for a long time now.

"This is a major evolving system and, like any system, it has a few glitches and some areas of it need tweaking.

“For the most part, you have a lot of horses of the same calibre racing against each other.”

As well as the improved standard of racing, Cortopassi said the new model could have a positive effect on the breeding industry.

“The old system had an impact on the breeding industry,” he said.

“People would hold on to their horses for a long time and they didn’t have to buy new horses.

“They wouldn’t look interstate or to New Zealand to buy horses because they knew the horses they had in their stable would be able to drop back.”

From the perspective of up and coming trainer-driver Kyle Harper, who won the Group 1 Golden Slipper with Franco Edward last year, the transition to the new model was never going to please everyone.

“Nobody likes change, especially when it comes to business,” Harper said.

“I was against it to start with, I didn’t like it at all and the most part of that was because I didn’t understand it.

“Until you go through the motions of it, it’s pretty hard to understand.

“I’m getting a pretty good grasp of it now and I’m actually not disliking it.

“As time goes on, it’s getting better and better.”

Harper said Kaptain Kenny was one horse in his stable that had benefited from the new model.

The gelding won just five of his first 56 races, but in a prosperous period between December and February he was able to win three races in four starts.

“Under the new model, Kaptain Kenny has essentially been able to win what would under the old system be an MO race twice,” Harper said.

“He’s no world beater, but he’s been able to find the right races.”

Despite the success he’s had with Kaptain Kenny, Harper said he had faced some problems finding suitable races for his star three-year-old Franco Edward.

While Harper acknowledged it was important not to let juvenile feature race winners drop back





too far below their class, he hoped there could be room for some concessions for them in the new system.

“The biggest issue I have with a horse like Franco Edward is there’s no real penalty free two and three-year-old races,” he said.

“In a sense that is good because it stops the Derby winner dropping back.

“There still needs to be more incentive for the younger horses and a bit more opportunity for them in the new system.”

Cortopassi said he had also been involved with pacers who had started to reap the rewards of victory as a result of the new model.

“A horse I drove for Matt Henwood at Narrogin last month Baron Jujon has been an example of one who has benefited,” he said.

“We have seen a lot of hobby trainers who have been able to get their horses into races they can win without having better quality horses that can drop back.

“You have to find the races and go to them.”

Veteran Henley Brook trainer Mike Reed said he was also an advocate of the new model, despite his best horses not necessarily the ones best suited by the model.

*“Veteran Henley Brook trainer Mike Reed said he was also an advocate of the new model, despite his best horses not necessarily the ones best suited by the model”*

Reed identified turnover as the key long-term measure as to whether or not the model was working.

“If the turnover on meetings has improved, then I think the model is working,” he said.

“We need to be able to get turnover up.

“Before we changed to the new model, we couldn’t get full fields.

“The good horses are the ones that are impacted more by the new model, but they will find ways to win.”

More information on the new business model can be found on the following link: <https://www.rwwa.com.au/home/racing/industry-feedback-on-new-harness-business-model-7118.html> ■

# CONDITIONED RACE

## SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK TO

**INDUSTRY FEEDBACK:  
TOO MANY/NOT ENOUGH**



**RWWA  
REFINEMENTS**



### FILLIES & MARES

Aim of the CRS is to increase F&M winners. A two fold approach of more F&M races plus Concessions into open races will be used.

**21.7%** of races are for F&M (11% LY)

**48.85%** of races carry a F&M concession (42.78% LY)



### WESTBRED RACES

Constantly revised - balance is key.

**15.37%** of races are Westbred Only (11.68% LY)



### PREFERENTIAL DRAWS

Constantly revised – Currently used on a rotational basis in various scenarios.

**27.87%** of races are Pref Draws (51.72% LY)



### NOVICE CONCESSIONS

Balance required.

**52.59%** of races currently allow Novice concessions.



### MARES CONCESSIONS

Reapplied to the possible detriment of Novice concessions.

**48.85%** of races carry a F&M concession (42.78% LY)



### LACK OF 3YO RACES

Ongoing revisions with inadequate number in initial race programmes.

**11.64%** of races are 3YO (10.14% LY)



### LACK OF 2YO RACES

Always programmed with intent to ensure early races.

**7.33%** of races are 2YO (6.01% LY)



### GROUPS TOO WIDE

Earned HWOE come from various types of wins.

This is not a class or grade system, this is a method of grouping those with similar earnings together in a race.

**WIN MORE RACES**



**COMPETE AGAINST WIDER  
GROUPING OF HORSES**

# RACING SYSTEM (CRS)

## INDUSTRY - FEBRUARY 2019



### RWWA CLARIFICATIONS



#### **GLOUCESTER PARK**

NBM introduces minimum requirement for racing in standard HWOE races at Metro Prime = best horses competing at our prime venue.



#### **TRANSITIONING**

Transition calculation used was the only fair way. Some have come into the system fairly well off, some haven't.



#### **ALSO ELIGIBLE (DROP BACKS)**

Legitimate way of keeping horses to drop one grouping only if out of form. Clause allows horses in next group upwards to drop back to previous group if earnings in their last five starts falls under a certain threshold.



#### **3YO BEATING OLDER HORSES**

Needs to be a balance between giving owners of 3YO's a choice of:  
Racing in a 3YO race for a Westbred bonus or  
Racing in an Open Age race for no Westbred Bonus.



#### **CONDITIONED STANDING START HANDICAPS**

Designed specifically to allow horses that have a higher HWOE to get back into a race on a reasonable handicap from which they can win and revive their career.



#### **APPROPRIATELY PLACING HIGHER EARNING HORSES**

Horses are grouped to race other horses of similar earnings.  
Higher earning groups scheduled for Gloucester Park Prime.  
Falling over early due to lack of nominations - will keep monitoring and vary the available races so that every horse is afforded a choice of races.

**LEGEND:** LY = Last Year

# 2019 HARNESS CONDITIONED RACING SYSTEM GUIDE

## WHAT IS IT?

The Conditioned Racing System is part of the New Business Model for Harness, designed to retain participation levels and increase competitive racing opportunities which in turn drives wagering turnover and profitability. It is based on horses' stake earnings rather than allocating an assessment based on the class of the race won (ie. dollars won by a horse).

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

There are **two** parts to the new conditioned racing system.

The **first** part relates to the grouping together of horses based on the stakes they have earned for WINNING races with allowances made for races won as a 2 or 3 year old and limits placed on higher staked races for all ages. This part of the system is referred to as Handicap Win Only Earnings (HWOE) Racing and is explained in detail in point 2 below.

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

We are now 14 weeks (at the time of print) in to the new system and encourage the industry to be patient and open to the significant changes that have occurred. It is anticipated that it will take between 6 and 12 months for the true value and benefits of the system to be realised.

***"It is anticipated that it will take between 6 and 12 months for the true value and benefits of the system to be realised"***

The **second** part of the system relates to the grouping of horses based on the TOTAL stakes they have earned in their last 5 starts. This part of the system is known as L5\$ Conditioned Racing as is expanded upon in point 3 below.

## 1. RACE CIRCUITS, SCHEDULING AND PHILOSOPHY

The new system is a conditioned racing system which reflects the following philosophy in regards to race scheduling;

- A horse should, where possible, race against horses with similar earnings, either winning stakes in the HWOE stream or total stakes earned in their last 5 starts in the L5\$ stream
- Where possible, fillies and mares should race against fillies and mares and if pool sizes don't allow for this then concessions should apply in races open to both sexes
- Race fields should be framed to ensure competitiveness
- Trainers/Owners should have options of where to place their horses where they believe they will be the most competitive
- Juveniles should be granted some dispensation before reaching open class status
- Concessions for novice drivers should apply
- A horse should have a legitimate racing opportunity once in every 10 days
- Horses out of form need to be provided racing opportunities outside of their allocated class
- Programs need to be dynamic and reflect the current population of horses
- Stake levels should reflect the relative class of horses racing by venue and be tiered

## 2. RACE HANDICAPPING - HWOE

Part 1 of the new conditioned racing system groups horses together for the purpose of handicapping, based on the stakes they have earned for WINNING races. Put simply each time you WIN a race the dollar value paid for first is accumulated as your WOE (Win Only Earnings). Place money and payments back to last do NOT get counted in this calculation and Westbred and other Bonuses are also not included.

**"The collection of these stakes against a horse are known as the horse's HANDICAP WIN ONLY EARNINGS or HWOE"**

It is acknowledged however that two and three year olds should be treated differently to ensure that when they progress into open company that they are not overly penalised for having successful juvenile careers. That said, we do not believe that horses that win a considerable number of races, particularly group races, should enter the open class system as a maiden. Accordingly, the grouping of horses is based on Handicap Win Only Earnings or HWOE.

This calculation is similar to the WOE EXCEPT the dollar value paid for winning is normalised back to a Win Value using a formula to take into account various situations such as 2YO/3YO earnings and also Feature Stakes Wins. This is explained as follows:

The discounts for two and three year old races are:

- 2yo wins in races less than \$100,000 then 25% of win stake to be considered towards the handicap win only earnings to a maximum of \$3,750 per race
- 2yo wins in races \$100,000+ then 25% of win stake to be considered towards the handicap win only earnings to a maximum of \$7,500 per race
- 3yo wins in races less than \$100,000 then 75% of win stake to be considered towards the handicap win only earnings to a maximum of \$11,250 per race
- 3yo wins in races \$100,000+ then 75% of win stake to be considered towards the handicap win only earnings to a maximum of \$22,500 per race
- 4yo+ wins in races less than \$100,000 then 100% of win stake to be considered towards the handicap win only earnings to a maximum of \$15,000 per race
- 4yo+ wins in races \$100,000+ then 100% of win stake to be considered towards the handicap win only earnings to a maximum of \$30,000 per race

By placing these maximum limits on the races we ensure that successful horses are not overly penalised for winning Group races with large stakes and at the same time protect genuine maidens from having to meet these more successful horses as they progress.

The collection of these stakes against a horse are known as the horse's HANDICAP WIN ONLY EARNINGS or HWOE.

### Transitioning Horses

To ensure that horses were not overly penalised in the transition to the new system two calculations were made. The first was to calculate a horse's actual HWOE based on the formula above. It was acknowledged however that many horses had risen and dropped in class, sometimes numerous times, over the years with the previous "drop back" rule, and while they may have been lowly assessed at the time of transition they may have in fact won a number of races through a range of classes over the years. To use ALL their win dollars would have seen these horses unfairly transition at a much higher level than they were.

To ensure that this did not happen, a second calculation was made to simply take a horse's assessment at transition and assign it an arbitrary HWOE figure based on that classification as per Table 1 on the next page.

A horse's HWOE was then based on the LOWER of those two amounts.

Table 1: Transitioning horses

M-C	M-C	M-C	M-C	M-C	M-C	M-C	New Class - lowest maximum or H\$WOE conversion
Non winners							H\$WOE \$0
M0 - C0							H\$WOE \$12,500 maximum
M0 - C1							H\$WOE \$17,500 maximum
M0 - C2							H\$WOE \$22,500 maximum
	M1 - C1						H\$WOE \$25,000 maximum
M0 - C3							H\$WOE \$27,500 maximum
	M1 - C2						H\$WOE \$30,000 maximum
M0 - C4							H\$WOE \$32,500 maximum
	M1 - C3						H\$WOE \$35,000 maximum
M0 - C5+							H\$WOE \$37,500 maximum
	M1 - C4						H\$WOE \$40,000 maximum
	M1 - C5						H\$WOE \$45,000 maximum
	M1 - C6+						H\$WOE \$50,000 maximum
		M2 - C5					H\$WOE \$52,500 maximum
		M2 - C6+					H\$WOE \$57,500 maximum
			M3				H\$WOE \$75,000 maximum
				M4			H\$WOE \$95,000 maximum
					M5		H\$WOE \$115,000 maximum
						M6+	H\$WOE

### 3. L5\$ CONDITIONED RACING

The basic concept behind L5\$ races is to give horses who may be struggling at their HWOE Level a chance to drop into a race where they might be able to earn again and establish some form. Horses are grouped together for these races by way of their TOTAL Earnings in their past 5 starts. Winning form within these conditioned races will allow those horses to then go back into the established HWOE Grouping or UP to the next level of L5\$ Conditioned race. Consistent placings will allow horses to keep racing at the same level and importantly keep earning money. Horses unable to earn at a level are eligible to race at the next lower level. To stop horses dropping down to a lower level too quickly within this stream restrictions are enforced by way of the inclusion of Not Eligible Conditions.

This stream of racing is also a valuable tool to place horses which are progressing UP the HWOE stream.

#### Example of a L5\$ Race

Race would appear in program as:  
 L5\$ LT \$25,000 (Level 12)  
 (CONCESSIONS L5\$ < \$27,500)  
 NE Winners of Level 12+ Last 5 starts  
 Starters Level 15+ Last 5 starts

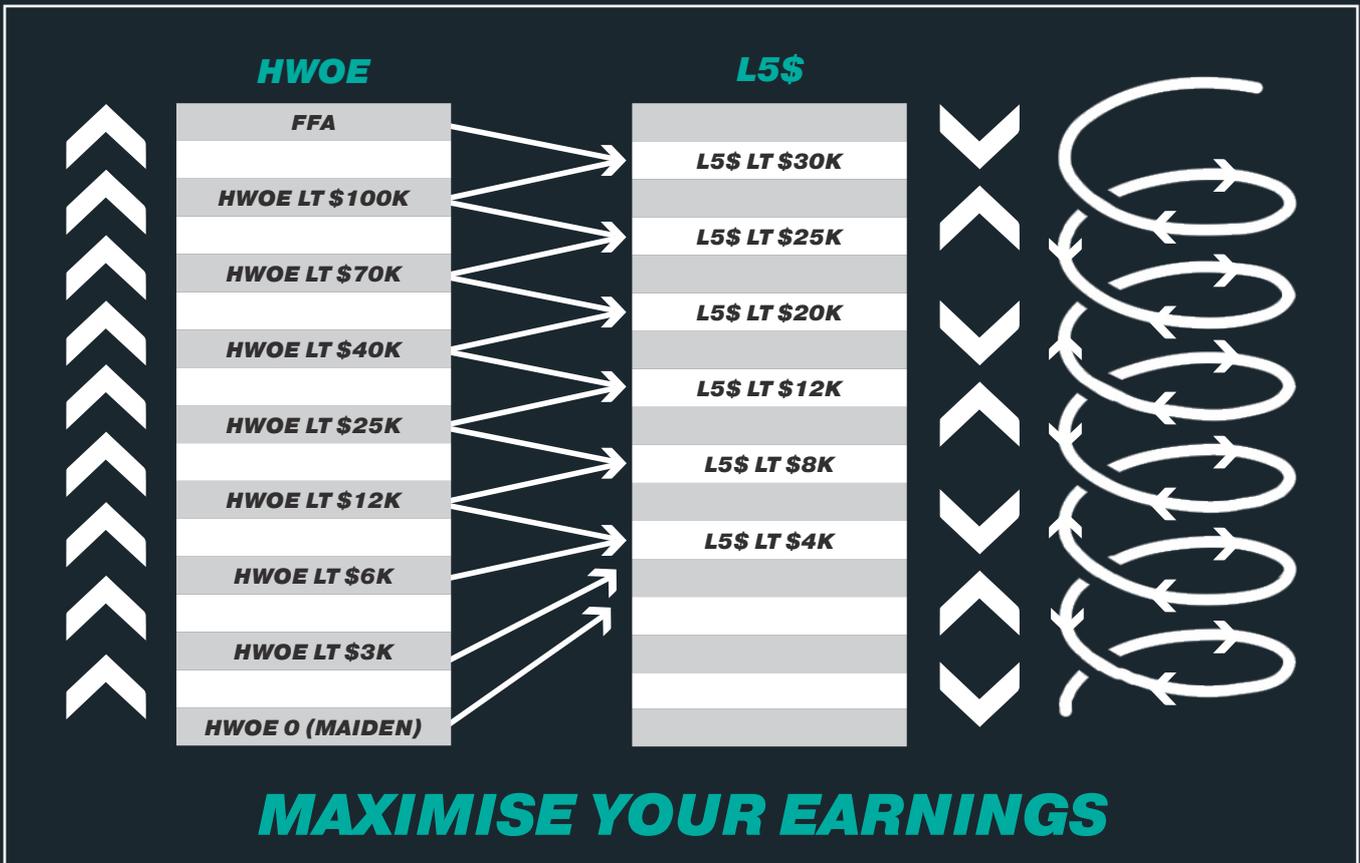
In this example the race is for Horses that have earned less than \$25,000 in their last five starts. This is total stakes not just win stakes.

***"This stream of racing is also a valuable tool to place horses which are progressing UP the HWOE stream"***

This race also allows mares or horses utilising a novice concession that have earned \$27,500 in their last 5 starts to enter. The NE clause protects eligible horses by not allowing winners of this level race or higher within their last five starts. This condition ensures a winner in this class of race in their past 5 starts goes back to the standard HWOE races for their class OR rises to the next level (L5\$ LT \$30,000) in this stream for a minimum of 5 starts.

The NE clause also prevents a horse which has raced in OPEN/FFA's (Level 15) without winning in their past 5 starts from dropping into this race even if that horse's Total earnings in their past 5 starts is less than the threshold for this race(\$25,000 or \$27,500 with a Concession).

Figure 1: L5\$ Conditioned Racing



**LEGEND:** LT = Less Than

#### 4. STANDING STARTS

Levels are assigned from the Front Mark as a Base and then to each Handicap Mark until the top Level is reached at which stage all further marks will be the same level. Standing Start Handicaps are formulated on a Conditioned basis, grouping horses in similar fashion to the mobile groups in 10 metre increments. As is the case in mobiles, the lower marks are protected from dropdowns by excluding concessions and Also Eligible Letups.

The higher marks however, allow for both concession and Also Eligible letups on their natural handicap mark. A variety of front mark standing start races are available to be programmed to allow a natural progression via a front mark handicap. In the higher front mark races it is possible to use a concession or an Also Eligible Letup to gain a front line handicap.

Nominating into a higher class in order to get a front line handicap mark is allowed but a Preference in field selection will be to horses on their true handicap mark to ensure these horses are not excluded from racing in their proper handicap group by lower assessed horses with better form points.

**"Standing Start Handicaps are formulated on a Conditioned basis, grouping horses in similar fashion to the mobile groups in 10 metre increments"**

Not Eligible Clauses will be in place at Community, Country and Provincial 2 Circuits to restrict higher classified horses dropping back into a stand on a relatively easy handicap mark.

Not Eligible Clauses will be in place at Metro Prime to restrict lower classified horses gaining the opportunity to win off a front mark excessively. Preferences will be used in higher front mark races to ensure horses in their legitimate class aren't denied a start by a horse nominating higher than its legitimate class.

## 5. STEPS FOR HARNESS WEB

- Open Harness Web and Log on as normal
- Go to MY STABLE
- There are two changes to the screen in preparation for the New Handicapping System
- The HWOE Assessment will now be shown for each horse. Displayed as H\$0.00
- A new heading ELIGIBLE RACES/VIEW RACES will display ALL the races your horse is eligible for.
- To determine what races your horse is ELIGIBLE for, click VIEW RACES. This will give you a list of races your horse is eligible for under the NEW system.
- There are drop down menu options to view race programs for the next 2, 4, 6 and 8 weeks as well as a full year's program. Please note that some race programs may change to better reflect the horse population at the time and will be sent out as part of the rolling 6 week programs.
- The base conditions for the new races will be displayed under CLASS and the level of the Race will be displayed under RACE NAME.
- Once you have selected the race you wish to nominate for you simply press the NOMINATE button which will bring up the normal Nomination Screen.

The new system is a conditioned handicapping system which groups horses together for the purpose of handicapping based on the stakes they have earned for WINNING races. The team at Racing and Wagering WA have already allocated your horse a tier based on previous earnings. There are however a number of conditions and concessions available to you which may mean you are eligible to nominate for more races than you initially realise.

When nominating for a race via the Harness Web there are icons next to the races which indicate the following;

- A little 'I' means other conditions exist so you need to click on it to see what they are. The other conditions may allow higher assessed horses into the race albeit they be out of form or with a novice driver on. You might not wish to race in that sort of race.
- A green tick means that you have a preferred runner and would get a start ahead of a non-preferred runner on the same or higher points.
- A red cross means that you have a non-preferred starter and would only get a start if there are not enough preferred starters nominated.
- A blank means there are no Preferred Starters so the field will be picked purely on form.

## 6. CONCESSIONS

Mares, Novice Drivers, Westbred and West Sired Horses may be offered a Concession on some races within a program.

The amount of the concession changes according to the conditions of each race. In general terms, for most HWOE races the concession value will be the HWOE halfway point between the race in question and the next highest HWOE group.

If for example there was a HWOE < \$70,000 race at Gloucester Park with concessions for Mares and Novice drivers then a mare or a horse utilising a novice concession with \$85,000 HWOE would be eligible for that race.

In a L5\$ Conditioned race, the concession to be applied will be applied according to the venue where

the race is to be held. For Gloucester Park Prime meetings the concession will be \$2,500 whilst at all other meetings the concession will be \$1,500.

This means that in a L5\$ LT \$25,000 race at a GP Prime meeting with concessions for Mares and Novice drivers the concession would apply to mares and horses utilising a novice concession with L5\$ LT \$27,500.

In a L5\$ LT \$4000 at a Provincial, Country or Community venue with concessions for Mares and Novice drivers the concession would apply to mares and horses utilising a novice concession with L5\$ LT \$5,500.

Only ONE concession can be used in a race.

**WE UNDERSTAND THAT SIGNIFICANT CHANGE TO ANY RACING SYSTEM CAN CAUSE CONFUSION, CHALLENGE AND FRUSTRATION. IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR QUERIES OR ARE HAVING TROUBLE NAVIGATING YOUR WAY THROUGH HARNESS WEB PLEASE RING THE HARNESS OFFICE ON [9445 5267](tel:94455267) AND WE WILL ENDEAVOUR TO ASSIST YOU.**



*Trotter 'Lifes Delight' at Pinjarra Paceway  
Image sourced from Pinjarra Paceway Facebook Page*

# RWWA JUVENILE TROTTERS TRANSITION SERIES

Racing and Wagering WA (RWWA) has announced the introduction of a combined 2YO and 3YO Juvenile Standing Start Trotter Series within the current harness racing season. Commencing in May, the Series will be hosted at Pinjarra Paceway.

The six race series, conducted on a fortnightly basis, will carry special standing start handicaps to be confirmed closer to the date, with distances being varied on a race by race basis.

Stakes for 2YO and 3YO trotters for each race in the series will be \$7,500, with Westbred Bonuses applicable.

RWWA will commit to running these races providing a minimum field size of five can be achieved. In order to ensure the success of this series, 2YO and 3YO Trotter needs to be in work and qualified to race by the end of April 2019.

Planned Race Schedule:

- May 6th Pinjarra \$7,500 Standing Start Combined 2YO/3YO Special Handicaps
- May 20th Pinjarra \$7,500 Standing Start Combined 2YO/3YO Special Handicaps
- June 3rd Pinjarra \$7,500 Standing Start Combined 2YO/3YO Special Handicaps
- June 17th Pinjarra \$7,500 Standing Start Combined 2YO/3YO Special Handicaps
- July 1st Pinjarra \$7,500 Standing Start Combined 2YO/3YO Special Handicaps
- July 15th Pinjarra \$7,500 Standing Start Combined 2YO/3YO Special Handicaps



Shockwave

**What are some of the indicators that this is a particularly strong catalogue?**

*Put simply, the dams of our 2019 Perth yearlings are better performed race mares, compared to the dams of our 2017 and 2018 Perth yearlings, and they've already proven themselves to be more successful in the breeding shed.*

*On average, our 2019 Perth dams have earned 30% more prizemoney than our previous Perth dams, and this year's Perth catalogue features the progeny of 20 dams that earned over \$100,000 on the track, which is more than the previous two years combined.*

*These sorts of statistics might seem dull to a lot of horse people, but they are actually very significant, because we've found a strong correlation between the overall racing performance of the dams and the racing performance of their progeny.*

*For example, at a national level, our 2015 crop of APG yearlings statistically hail from the best performed race mares in the history of the APG sales. It is no surprise therefore that our 2015 sales graduates have been outstanding, and already includes Australian 3yo of the*

With APG's Perth Yearling Sales set to take place at the State Equestrian Centre, Brigadoon, on Sunday, March 10, we caught up with APG's General Manager, David Boydell to discuss APG's 2019 line-up.

**This year's APG Perth Sale Catalogue looks to be particularly strong. How does it compare to previous years?**

*By any measure, this year's Perth Catalogue is exceptional. Statistically this year's catalogue stands head and shoulders above our 2017 and 2018 Perth catalogues, which is exciting, because our 2017 Perth Sales graduates have already shown themselves to be a very smart crop, led by Group One winners Its Rock And Roll and To Fast To Serious, as well as emerging stars like Shockwave and Patrickthepiranha.*

*It's actually a little bit daunting in a way, because a number of breeders have really stepped up their game, both in terms of the quality of the mares that they are breeding from, but also in terms of the stallions that they are utilising.*

*They've reached into their pockets and spent heavily to produce a better product, so now we need to be able to highlight that quality to our Perth buyers and convince them that the extra quality demands better prices.*

**YOUR GUIDE TO THE 2019 APG PERTH YEARLING SALES**



David Boydell

**"If there ever was a year to try your luck at the Perth yearling sales, this is it"**



Patrickthepiranha

*Year, Vincent, Chariots of Fire Champion, Jilliby Kung Fu, dual Breeders Crown Champion, Our Little General, Australian Mare of the Year, Carlas Pixel, along with a further five Group One winners plus an additional 16 winners of more than \$100,000.*

*Turning back to Perth, the other significant statistic is that in addition to being superior race mares, the dams of our 2019 Perth yearlings have also proven themselves in the breeding shed, having already produced 23 foals that have won over \$100,000 (compared to our 2018 Perth dams that had only produced 13 x \$100,000 winners).*

**How important is Sire Power when assessing the quality of a catalogue and how does the 2019 Perth Sale compare to prior years?**

*The “Big Five” of American Ideal, Art Major, Bettors Delight, Mach Three and Somebeachsomewhere have dominated the Group One race fields over the past decade.*

*So, with that in mind, buyers will be excited to see that the sire power in this year’s Perth sale is unsurpassed, with 36 yearlings being sired by the traditional “Big Five” stallions or the emerging super-sire, Captaintreacherous.*

*To put this in perspective, the combined 2017 and 2018 Perth Sales only featured 22 yearlings by the Big Five stallions.*

*However, following the dominance of the Big Five stallions over the best part of a decade, I think that we’re finally seeing a really strong bunch of proven and emerging sires coming through that buyers should feel confident supporting.*



*We’ve also got the first big crop of Follow The Stars coming through the sales, which is exciting, because his first small crop of two-year olds have started hitting the track, and it is encouraging that he’s already got so many to the track this early in the season.*

*Of course, Follow The Stars is only one of several Perth based sires in the sales, whose progeny are eligible for double Westbred bonuses as two and three-year olds.*

*For those buyers that perhaps don’t have the budget to chase the progeny of the Big Five stallions, these double Westbred yearlings can represent outstanding value, because double Westbred horses earn their owners over \$10,000 for their first win, and then around \$8,500 for each subsequent win in any standard 2yo or 3yo race.*

**What’s the process for potential buyers wishing to attend this year’s Perth Sale**

*The first point to note is that this year’s sale has a new venue. With developers now in at Belmont Park, and with construction at Magic Millions still ongoing, this year’s sale will be held at the State Equestrian Centre at Brigadoon.*

*Inspections will be available on the Saturday afternoon (March 9) and Sunday morning, before the sale kicks off at the usual time of 1pm.*

*All buyers need to register with APG and receive a bidder’s card prior to bidding, but this can be done on either the Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning.*

*In the meantime, buyers can do some homework, firstly by leafing through their catalogues to short-list their favourite pedigrees, and then by going through APG’s Perth Sale Online Guide, which will be available on the APG website from Wednesday, 27 February.*

*In addition to showing the latest pedigree updates, the online guide will feature photos of the majority of sale yearlings, as well as quality videos for a number of yearlings, plus relevant race vision of other horses that are close-up in the pedigree.*

**Do you have any final tips for buyers?**

*If ever there was a year to try your luck at the Perth yearling sales, this is it.*

*At the end of the day, owning a yearling is all about having fun ... and winning is fun!*

*This year’s catalogue has the potential to deliver more winners, and particularly more quality winners than any previous Perth catalogue.*

*For anyone that is keen to get into one of our quality Perth yearlings, but who doesn’t have the budget to afford outright ownership, we will be working with Pacing WA to put together some exciting partnership options, starting from as little as \$1,500.*

*If you are interested in receiving further information about our partnerships, visit our “Partnership Opportunities” section on the APG website and register your details. ■*



# Inductees

## 2019

### HARNESS RACING

Congratulations to the following five new harness inductees for the 2019 WA Racing Industry Hall of Fame. The following inductees will receive their accolades in a star-studded ceremony conducted at Crown Perth on February 28.

# Norms Daughter



## THE IMPOSSIBLE CHAMPION

In the long history of horse sports, you would have to delve deep into the most cob-webbed archives to find a more unusual success story than that of 1990s wonder mare, Norms Daughter.

Tiny and bad-tempered to a fault as a baby – and with a propensity to trot rather than pace – she was destined for the knackery until Bunbury trainer, Neil Lloyd, convinced owner, Dave Palmer, to let him try to tame the filly.

Palmer had inherited the horse who was at foot to her mother, Aeroflight, from his late father and given she was by boom sire, Northern Lights, there was cause to be patient but she had a terrible habit of throwing herself down in tantrums. A robust little bay, she quickly earned the sobriquet of "Dot", but her problems were all big.

Neill Lloyd struggled for months to get her to pace properly, but it was a very gradual process and Dave Palmer again

suggested a visit to the knackery might be in order. Lloyd sensed there was more to the filly though and pleaded for clemency yet again. He was granted six more weeks, in which time he tinkered with the horse's shoeing. Then something clicked and what followed could easily be described as the manifestation of a miracle.

The two-year-old Norms Daughter began to run very fast indeed. She was still unruly though and it would be as a three-year-old that she would make her

debut. First, however, she went around in an educational trial at Bunbury, where she rated a flat two minutes. Twenty-five years ago that was unheard of. Then, in January 1994, she ran similar time in her initial race start at Bunbury, where she sat outside the odds-on favourite, Ok Holmes and bolted in by over three lengths.

This brutal, take-no-prisoners technique would rapidly become her trademark. Aggression matched by toughness and this would never be a horse to be driven pretty. She would only ever produce her best when applying all the pressure in a race, leaving no stone unturned and "blood on the floor".

In her next few outings, Dot mixed finding a way to lose due to galloping like Mount Eden, with winning by big spaces in scintillating times.

She won the Country Derby and a WA Oaks Preview before facing her first major challenge.

The great Victorian trainer-reinsman, Ted Demmler, a polished, meticulous professional who always looked the part as well, brought the gleaming, perfectly behaved, flawless-gaited and gifted filly, My Cherie to WA for an easy kill in the Oaks. She had already won the Edgar Tatlow Stakes, Victoria Sire Stakes and Victoria Oaks in a dominant three-year-old season. Demmler, though, was to leave Perth shattered and shaking his head in disbelief.

My Cherie, favourite at odds-on, led easily while Norms Daughter galloped from the mobile before circling the field to attack and bludgeon the Victorian into abject submission in the Group One classic. It was arrogant and it was inspiring and it was accompanied by the three-year-old track record.

After a luckless fourth in the WA Derby, Norms Daughter was spelled having won six of her ten starts in her tyro season of racing.

At four, with her manners still improving, Dot won another six races including the WA Four-and-Five-Year-Old Championship.

An elite four-horse field contested this event. The runner-up was Southern Knight, soon to finish second in the WA Pacing Cup. Flashing Star, who had beaten Southern Knight into second in the previous season's Golden Nugget final, was the third horse home, while

Highfield Jewel, who'd won eleven of his twelve starts to this point, finished last of the quartet.

Norms Daughter also finished a gallant and narrow second in the 1995 Golden Nugget to Slick Vance.

Until now, Norms Daughter had been piloted by a variety of drivers but in the horse's five-year-old season, Kellie Kersley would make the drive her own.

Dot would win eight races that year, all in fast class, and she would ascend the throne to become queen of Australian harness racing.

There were many great highlights.

She defeated the new Golden Nugget champion, Beefy T in her second Four-and-Five-Year-Old Championship win. She won a WA Pacing Cup prelude and she won an Inter Dominion heat at Gloucester Park.

In that race she lowered Village Kid's 2100 metre state record mile rate to 1.56.0, sitting outside of and defeating NSW legend, Our Sir Vancelot, who would retire with three Inter Dominions and two WA Pacing Cups under his belt, amongst other majors.

Showing how much their paths had parted, My Cherie ran stone last in the same heat.

Norms Daughter also finished sixth in the WA Pacing Cup final, fifth in the Inters final, fourth in the Fremantle Cup, third in the Victoria Cup, third in the NSW Four-and-Five-Year-Old Championship and second in the Ladyship Mile to sensational mare, Sabilize.

But her greatest moment was saved for last.

After winning the Qantas Sprint at Harold Park, downing the brilliant Il Vicolo in 1.55.6, Norms Daughter led throughout on a choppy track to record the same time and beat the same horse in a stupendous annexation of the 1996 Miracle Mile.

In victory she became just the second mare to win the race after inaugural champion, Robin Dundee (1967). It was a huge night too for Kellie Kersley, who was now the first female to steer home the winner of any Grand Circuit race, never mind a Miracle Mile.

At six, Norms Daughter won the Fremantle Members Sprint first-up, earning her a second Miracle Mile invite. In that quest she won the Ladyship Mile

at her subsequent run, reversing the decision on the previous year's winner, Sabilize.

She ran fourth to Iraklis in the Miracle Mile, which was won in a blistering race record 1.54.2.

After a third, a week later, behind Our Sir Vancelot in the Treuer Memorial, Norms Daughter came back to Perth and after winning a WA Cup prelude, ran a brave second in the final, again to her great adversary, Our Sir Vancelot.

Six weeks further on Dot took out a heat of the Adelaide Inter Dominion, before pulling up sore on night two.

She never raced again, her wonderful record stalled at fifty-nine starts for twenty-four wins, eleven placings and earnings of almost \$585,000.

## PRINCIPAL WINS

### 3 Year Old

- WA Country Derby (G3)
- WA Oaks (Preview)
- WA Oaks Final (G1)

### 4 Year Old

- WA 4 & 5 YO Championship (G3)
- 1995 2nd Golden Nugget Final (G1)

### 5 Year Old

- WA Pacing Cup (Prelude)
- Inter Dominion (Heat) (G3)
- WA 4 & 5 YO Championship (G3)
- Qantas Sprint
- Miracle Mile (G1)
- 3rd Victoria Cup (G1)
- 2nd Ladyship Mile (G1)

### 6 Year Old

- Fremantle Members Sprint (G3)
- Ladyship Mile (G1)
- 3rd Treuer Memorial (G1)
- Inter Dominion (Heat) (G3)
- WA Pacing Cup (Prelude)
- 2nd WA Pacing Cup Final (G1)

# Jack Morris



## THE TRIUMPH AND THE TRAGEDY

In the story of Jack Morris lies all the joy and glory and all the grief and heartache that horse sports can manifest. It is also a story of fabled talent and fearless bravado, counterbalanced by calamity as harrowing as the light harness fraternity has ever endured.

The tale begins in the early 1990s with an ebullient, twinkle-in-his-eye, likeable, cocky, Irish-Australian horse trainer named Sean Harney. In his late thirties, Harney was a battler amongst trainer-drivers, who worked odd jobs outside the industry and had yet to get a full-time training licence.

His one claim to fame was that in 1990 he had taken a catch drive on 33/1 outsider, Tarpport Sox, in the WA Pacing Cup and won, when the odds-on front-running champion, Westburn Grant, had choked down.

Harney, however, possessed a vast hunger to learn and was fascinated by American interval training techniques and keen to apply them to the right horse in Australia. In Jack Morris he would find his muse.

Harney acquired the muscular bay gelding in New Zealand for \$30,000 on behalf of Jeans West owner, Peter Volk, whom he had talked into the purchase. Volk knew little of harness racing and even less of Sean Harney, but Harney was nothing if not a gifted salesman and he bagged an elephant in Volk.

Jack Morris had won just three of seventeen starts in the Shaky Isles, but under Harney's aegis would miraculously transform into the greatest pacer in Australasia.

It didn't commence well, however.

At his WA debut, as a four-year-old in February 1992, Jack Morris, who had been revelling under Harney's training, galloped hopelessly and ran last. On top of that, Harney was booked that night for running a red light towing his horse float.

It was a lousy day all round, not that it really mattered in the long run.

Over the next twenty months Jack Morris won twenty-five of his thirty-seven starts and never missed a place, advancing from unknown to unforgettable in the process.

It was something to behold in this period, as the explosive talent gradually gave way to a controlled, professional racehorse with an increasingly big engine. The colourful and sometimes rogueish Harney, though, having finally captured the horse of his dreams, would miss about half of the future drives due to his own run-ins with stewards, featuring an all-too-common association with suspension and disqualification.

But it was hard not to love him, for he was the most entertaining, outspoken, witty, exciting breath of fresh air in the game and for the media the best and most willing interview participant there'd ever been.

So it was the great Fred Kersley in the sulky, when, having won a dozen races and just arrived in fast class, the now five-year-old Jack Morris blitzed the field in the Fremantle Members Sprint, in November 1992. The win prompted Sean Harney to phone NSW Board chief, Peter V'landys, to demand a start in the upcoming Miracle Mile.

In those days, before Sky Channel coverage from the west, little was seen in the east of WA harness racing and V'landys, like Peter Volk before him, knew nothing of either Harney or Jack Morris. Yet he was so impressed with the trainer's gumption, if not his bluntness, he granted him his wish.

Greeted with the banner newspaper headline, "Jack Who?", when he arrived in Sydney a fortnight later, Jack Morris, with Harney now back driving, nevertheless ran a creditable third to the Victorian star, Franco Tiger.

Harney then landed a massive plunge in the Treuer Memorial, as Jack Morris exploded to a four lengths victory in an elite field and was suddenly Jack Who, no longer.

Returning to Perth, the WA Pacing Cup clash between Jack Morris and Franco Tiger proved to be a classic, but it was 66/1 shot, The Harlem Boy, that lipped them both out on the line after one of the most gruelling, incident-packed features ever run in Perth.

Soon after this race, Sean Harney pulled the wrong rein on Jack Morris in a minor race and embarked on another lengthy stint on the sidelines.

Good friend and nerveless trainer-reinsman, Rod Chambers, then took over the driving of the rising star.

A brave second in the Victoria Cup followed, before Jack was brought back to Perth to be readied for the 1993 Inter Dominion Championships, scheduled for the autumn in Brisbane.

Part of that preparation was a trial at Byford, but so newsworthy was his win in that trial, that Jack Morris firmed into pre-post favourite for the Inters series. He won the trial by three hundred and fifty metres - literally - in a full twelve-horse field, smashing the track record to smithereens in the act.

And he didn't disappoint in Queensland either.

After two wins and a second in the heats, he thrashed the field in the Inters final, despite working outside the leader, and left the likes of superstar pacers, Warrior Khan, Blossom Lady, Christopher Vance, Westburn Grant and Franco Tiger in his wake.

Following a spell, Jack Morris returned as a six-year-old and with Harney now back holding the reins was nosed out by Warrior Khan in the Queensland Pacing Championship, then in quick succession eclipsed the Australian Pacing Championship at Moonee Valley, the Moonee Valley Legends Mile and the Tasmanian Pacing Championship in Hobart by a widening three lengths and in track record time.

Now Sean Harney publicly declared that Jack Morris would not only win the Miracle Mile, coming up next in Sydney, but would do so by the biggest margin in history and in the fastest time.

As it turned out, only devastation awaited the charismatic horseman.

An odds-on favourite in a record TAB pool, Jack Morris was sensationally scratched at the barrier when the course vet spotted a trickle of blood coming from the nose of the champion. Harney tried to plead his case to the chairman of stewards in the trackside tower above him as he sat in the sulky, however in harrowing scenes that are etched in the collective memory of harness racing, he was ordered to leave the circuit.

In the aftermath, Harney claimed the horse was scoped and cleared the next day and that he had merely banged his nose in the stalls.

Whatever the truth, Jack Morris raced only a few weeks later, winning a WA Pacing Cup prelude, but that was immediately followed by a poor fifth in the next prelude and a way-under-par fourth as a short-priced favourite in the final.

All of this paled, however, against Sean Harney's announcement that he was suffering from cancer.

He had been constantly dropping a leg from the sulky in races, due to what he thought was sciatic back pain. Eventually stewards stood him down from driving pending a medical certificate clearance, which was how Sean's true condition was discovered.

Sean was not quite forty when he passed away, soon after the end of the 1993/94 season, in which he finished an amazing third in the trainers' premiership. Tragic to relate, Peter Volk would also succumb to cancer at the age of sixty-eight in 2012.

As for Jack Morris, he would not be seen again for two years due to tendon and suspensory ligament problems and when he resumed in Melbourne for his new stable was never the same and soon retired.

There is no escaping the sadness of the Jack Morris story, yet for a brief shining moment he and his enchanting friend lit up harness racing like few before.

In total, Jack Morris had 70 starts for 31 wins, 25 placings and stake earnings of \$827, 754.

## PRINCIPAL WINS

### 1992

- Treuer Memorial (G1)
- FHRC Members Sprint (G3)
- J.P. Stratton Cup (G3)
- WA Pacing Cup (Prelude)
- *3rd Miracle Mile (G1)*

### 1993

- Inter Dominion Final (G1)
- Inter Dominion Heat (G3)
- Inter Dominion Heat (G3)
- Australian Pacing Championship (G1)
- Tasmanian Pacing Championship (G1)
- Moonee Valley Legends (G2)
- James Brennan Cup (G3)
- WA Pacing Cup (Prelude)
- Victorian Cup (Prelude)
- *2nd WA Pacing Cup Final (G1)*
- *2nd Victorian Cup Final (G1)*
- *2nd Queensland Pacing Championship (G1)*

# Gary Hall Jnr



## A METEORIC RISE

If ever anyone was going to be inducted into WA Racing's Hall of Fame at just thirty-six years of age, it is Gary Hall Jnr.

Examining his record, it is scarcely believable that he could have achieved what he has in such a short career, no matter the training dominance of his father and fellow-Hall of Fame inductee, Gary Snr.

To the time of writing "Junior" is approaching 2700 wins in the sulky, which puts him behind only Chris Lewis (over 5300) and Colin Brown (over 2900). He has already passed the most famous of all trainer-drivers in West Australian history, Fred Kersley (2378).

The amazing fact is that no matter what the horse or what the betting price, historically Gary Hall Jnr wins in one of every three races he contests and runs a place almost exactly half the time. He has reined an extraordinary fifty-four Group One winners, which is second only to Lewis (sixty-eight).

When you look, however, at all the statistical leaders – Kersley, Lewis, Brown and now Hall - they all have one thing in common when driving a standardbred. Composure.

And the bigger the race the more steely their demeanour and the better they drive. It's not that they don't feel nerves before a race, it is that they simply lock the angst away during the battle, for it is the enemy of instant decision-making on the big stage and the first thing they learn to overcome.

Gary Jnr. has driven champions, but they have also benefited greatly from his skill and when you look at the films it is clearly evident that many of his best drives have come in major events.

From childhood, growing up around horses, Gary Jnr. was always a passionate and astute student. As soon as he was allowed he was applying for a licence to drive and as soon as he could drive he was winning. On the exact day he turned sixteen, July 26 1998, he was guiding his first ever race drive to victory at Pinjarra.

The horse's name was Enhancer and from that day to this Hall has always shown a champion's ability. He notched up seven wins and eleven placings in his first thirty drives and he had piloted only seventy winners when, in 2001, a horse called The Falcon Strike had his initial run for the Hall stable.

Like Enhancer and many other runners racing under the gold and blue silks of Hall at the time, the principal owners of The Falcon Strike were Michael and June van Rens.

After landing a sizeable betting plunge first-up, The Falcon Strike, a three-year-old New Zealand import, won his opening four starts in the west, before running eighth in the WA Derby, the by-product of a somewhat tortuous trip. In all those races the horse had been driven by Gary Hall Snr., but after the Derby he sacked himself and talked the owners of the horse into letting Gary Jnr. be given the opportunity. Mike van Rens was at first wary of risking his star to the guidance of a nineteen-year-old but he yielded to popular opinion. The rest is history.

Hall Jnr. would steer The Falcon Strike for the remainder of his career; a career which took him to three WA Pacing Cup successes as well as two Fremantle Cups and two Australian Pacing Championships. In all, The Falcon Strike won forty-one races and some \$1.25 million in prize money, giving Hall Jnr. the launch pad to the incredible future that awaited him.

The one disappointment for Hall in his association with The Falcon Strike was being beaten by a few millimetres in the 2004 Gloucester Park Inter Dominion. But Junior would get his chance again and sooner than he may have expected.

With The Falcon Strike only just retired, Gary Snr. landed another Kiwi in Perth who would be, astonishingly, an even better commodity. Equipped with a sprint to match any in the sport's history, Im Themightyquinn was to evolve into one of the greatest pacers ever seen in Australasia.

"Quinny" would win the Inter Dominion three times, the WA Pacing Cup three times, the Fremantle Cup three times, the Auckland Cup twice, the Cranbourne Cup, the Blacks A Fake Championship in Queensland and the McInerney Ford Four-Year-Old Classic. All these races were at Group One level and altogether Quinny won fifty-eight races and over \$4.5 million.

Some of Gary Jnr.'s drives on this horse, sweeping around the field from the rear with a blinding turn of speed, are now the stuff of folklore. Im Themightyquinn's last Inter Dominion win, at Menangle in 2013, was a classic example, with the champion coming from last at the bell in a fourteen horse field to win running away. It simply had to be seen to be believed.

Following the retirement of Im Themightyquinn, Chicago Bull arrived at the stables to provide a third champion for the Halls.

He has already won a WA Derby, McInerney Ford Four-Year-Old Classic, Fremantle Cup and WA Pacing Cup, as well as finishing runner-up in a Victoria Cup and an Inter Dominion.

There is hopefully still more to come from him.

All in all, at Grand Circuit level Gary Hall Jnr. has won nine WA Pacing Cups, eight Fremantle Cups, five Australian Pacing Championships, three Inter Dominions, two Auckland Cups, one Cranbourne Cup and one Blacks A Fake Championship.

His remaining Group One successes comprise four WA Derbies, four McInerney Ford Four-Year-Old Classics, four Sales Classics, four Pearl Classics, three Diamond Classics, two Mares Classics, two Golden Nugget Classics, two WA Oaks, one Westbred Classic and one Golden Slipper.

While Gary Hall Snr. has trained the bulk of these horses, twelve of Junior's Group One wins have nevertheless come via trainers other than his father.

## PRINCIPAL WINS

(Grand Circuit Events Only)

### WA Pacing Cup (9)

- 2002 The Falcon Strike
- 2004 The Falcon Strike
- 2005 The Falcon Strike
- 2007 Tealsby Karita
- 2011 Im Themightyquinn
- 2012 Im Themightyquinn
- 2013 Im Themightyquinn
- 2017 Chicago Bull
- 2019 Rocknroll Lincoln

### Fremantle Cup (8)

- 2002 The Falcon Strike
- 2004 The Falcon Strike
- 2009 Im Themightyquinn
- 2011 Im Themightyquinn
- 2012 Im Themightyquinn
- 2014 Im Victorious
- 2016 Beaudiene Boaz
- 2017 Chicago Bull

### Australian Pacing Championship (5)

- 2003 Bengeman
- 2004 The Falcon Strike
- 2005 The Falcon Strike
- 2008 Dartmoor
- 2009 Washakie

### Inter Dominion Championship (3)

- 2011 Im Themightyquinn
- 2012 Im Themightyquinn
- 2013 Im Themightyquinn

### Auckland Cup (2)

- 2011 Im Themightyquinn
- 2013 Im Themightyquinn

### Cranbourne Cup (1)

- 2010 Im The Mightyquinn

### Blacks A Fake Championship (1)

- 2014 Im Themightyquinn

# John Hunt



## RACING BY THE PALMS

As a young boy growing up in Perth, John Hunt, born 1957, always dreamt of being a famous tennis player. Indeed, he would become WA's top-ranked under-nineteen junior at just sixteen and travel to America and Europe the next year to gain experience for a hopeful future in the game. But it wasn't to be.

At age eighteen, a severe back injury put Hunt in a spinal brace for two years and it was during this hiatus that he launched his career in media.

From the very start he was drawn to it, embarking on a voyage of discovery that unearthed surprising passions and talents within himself that he never knew he had. He did not come from a background in racing but since childhood had loved listening to the great callers of the day and fantasized about being one of them, without ever really taking the thought seriously because in tennis lay his assumed future.

Then suddenly, with the loss of that, the hobby became his vocation.

It was 1976 and Hunt was not yet nineteen when he sought out and met leading 6IX race commentator, Trevor Jenkins, in the bookies' ring at Ascot.

Brazenly asking a man he'd secretly looked up to for years "How do you become a racecaller?" – Hunt impressed Jenkins enough with his temerity, that he let him try out in a spare broadcast box. Then the youngster convinced WATA Racing Secretary, Ray Holloway, to allow him the same access at Gloucester Park and similarly greyhound chief, Lew Dorsa, at Cannington Central.

Within six months, Trevor Jenkins had arranged for Hunt to work part-time at 6IX as assistant caller at the greyhounds and to back up Jenkins at country race meetings. The payment for this was \$20.

Then, Hunt successfully pestered iconic ABC caller, Max Simmonds, into fixing

for him to take his place at North-West non-TAB meets when Max was unavailable (for decades Simmonds revelled in covering the North-West Round in winter).

Soon after this, Channel Nine sporting head, Bruce Walker, offered Hunt the thrill of calling metropolitan races and trots for the station's new weekend replay programme and for News at Six.

In April 1977, Trevor Jenkins advised Hunt that 6PR was to become the first true racing station and that he had recommended to the new owners that the gifted teenager accompany him there. Hunt would start as the main greyhound caller and, as such, would be the youngest metropolitan commentator in Australia. On top of this, his wage would be a splendid \$9,100p.a.!

That year the great Pure Steel won his first WA Pacing Cup and owner Russell

Roberts saw Hunt's loudly screamed call on Channel 9. Roberts invited him to lunch and then to the stables and there, Hunt met and over time befriended Pure Steel. Ever since, Hunt has always credited "Steelo" and Roberts as being majorly instrumental in his ability to relate the spirit and personality of horses in his race descriptions, his writing and his film making. Hunt made it his business to develop not just the necessary skills to commentate with accuracy and knowledge, but to leave nothing behind in research - and to hone a much rarer quality - that of finding the core to a story and to be able to wax lyrical over anything from a humble maiden to a Group One champion.

And he had the voice to do it.

"Sell the sizzle, not the sausage" was an oft-heard John Hunt maxim during his career.

His terminology was expansive, constantly being added to and with many of his "Huntyisms" leaving an endearing legacy. "Racing by the palms . . ." was a signature comment that instantly identified the caller to any regular trot fan. The public lapped it up, but not just because of his commentating.

In 1978 Hunt began writing and producing the fifty-two-episode radio series, "The History of Racing". It would take three years to make and it would air for six, syndicated nationally. The vignettes would tear at the heartstrings of listeners, but Hunt would always say "If you can make people cry, then you've won them forever - and a horse story can make anybody cry, you've just got to pitch it properly".

That same year Hunt learned to do TAB studio shifts and then was granted his own show (at his suggestion) on Friday nights. Called "Friday All Sports" it would be the highest rating programme on 6PR and number one in its timeslot.

In 1981 Hunt became chief trot caller at 6PR and in 1982 won his first national Joseph Coulter (Harness Racing Australia) Award for the radio series, "Greatest Inter Dominion Winners".

Then he wrote "The San Simeon Story" and won his second.

In 1982 Hunt was invited by The Meadowlands racetrack management in New Jersey, to call the one-off World Cup of Trotting back to Australia. In so doing, he became the first Australian

to broadcast an international harness racing event back to this country. It was networked Australia-wide.

That year Hunt also began hosting "Sportstalk", a drive-time sports show which ran for two years.

In 1984 he briefly left the media, returning to join the infant Sky Channel in 1986 as its Perth racecaller and chief on-air host of the station's coverage of Perth, Brisbane and Sydney racing. While there, Hunt began to teach himself the art of documentary filmmaking and after the win of Rocket Racer in the 1987 Perth Cup, made his first film "Ascot - A Summer to Remember".

It aired on Sky Channel with excerpts on Channel Nine.

Then, Sky Channel moved to Sydney and Hunt lost his position as both host and caller. This was the low point of John Hunt's career but a new high was about to reveal itself.

It came in 1989, with the retirement of George Grljusich as ABC regional radio and Gloucester Park's on-course caller. Hunt was immediately contacted and his world shifted gear overnight.

With the support of WATA president Mick Lombardo, vice-president Chris Pye and C.E.O. Rob Bovell, Hunt was given rein to completely re-imagine and re-develop the Friday night broadcast presentation on the ABC.

He introduced harness racing history segments, news segments, quizzes and interviews and was granted an assistant to handle on-course P.A. duties with regard to dividends and other announcements. The show won national awards on more than one occasion and would go on for a decade until Racing (now TAB) Radio took over Hunt's employment and the ABC ceased to broadcast trots.

Now locked into the long-term job he'd dreamed of, John Hunt turned again to his other passions - writing and filmmaking.

In 1990 he made "Life at Full Pace"- a nostalgic history of the WA Pacing Cup which aired on Channel Nine in the lunch break of a test cricket match. It won a national H.R.A. award.

Then came "A Tribute to Willie" which dealt with Village Kid's incredible career. This video not only earned a national

award but a world-wide one, when, at the 1991 World Trotting Conference in Paris, the film was named International Racing Video of the Year.

"Carnival of Dreams" soon followed and "The Summer of Frost and Ice". Both went to air in the cricket and both won national awards.

The 1992/93 season saw Hunt produce the first of seven annual year-that-was videos, entitled "Seasons of Glory". Multiple awards adorned this series.

Hunt also won a national "Best Race Call" award for his colourful description of Village Kid's farewell time-trial (which he always thought bemusing, given it was a one-horse trial and not a race at all).

John also made two beautiful films outside harness racing - one, a nostalgic look at the history of the WA Turf Club entitled "A Triumph of Spirit" and the other, for the Darwin Turf Club, christened "The Grandstand".

He also made numerous smaller pieces for television and for owners and breeders over the years.

For the last decade of his career, John Hunt commentated Gloucester Park and Pinjarra trots on Sky Channel and became much loved nationally. He also returned to hosting his own sports show, "Sports Saturday", which ran from 1997 to 2006 on 6MM in Mandurah.

He finished runner-up in Radio Australia's national sportscasting awards in 2003. During this period he also broadcast WAFL football for one year when Peel Thunder was introduced to the competition.

John retired, officially, in December 2008, but since then has remained connected to harness racing with a variety of much-welcomed and frequent short-film productions, celebrating the champions of the sport's past, both man and beast. In 2017, John was even induced to resurrect his field glasses to commentate the Broome racing carnival, by TAB Radio Racing Manager, Wes Cameron.

For his manifold services to harness racing, John Hunt was presented with the National Meritorious Service Award in 2006 and the James Brennan Award in 2008.

Hunt is the author of two books since his retirement - "Princess, The Miss Andretti Story" and the autobiographical "The View From The Clouds".

# Mick Lombardo



## LEGENDARY OWNER/BREEDER/ADMINISTRATOR

Born in 1937, Mick Lombardo fished for crays off the WA coast with his father Vince as a young man, then moved to trawlers. At age twenty-five he took a large gamble and built his first fishing boat, but the venture was so successful it led to his starting a ship-building business at age thirty-two and for the next twenty-five years Lombardo ships became famous for their activity in the oil industry and off-shore exploration.

At their peak, Lombardo companies employed over fifteen hundred people.

In the early 1970s Lombardo purchased a large property in the Margaret River region, which was to indulge his latent passion for standardbred breeding. Notable Farms was born.

A decade later, Lombardo acquired land in Shepparton, Victoria, and established Concorde Park where his very first stud stallion was the great Northern Lights.

By the late 1990s he had nearly a hundred broodmares under his care with a policy of keeping most of the

best-bred fillies for racing and then breeding, whilst selling the colts.

This system produced results so startling it reshaped the face of Australian harness racing.

Of 1440 foals born, over two-thirds have raced and nearly half have won. In fact, between them these horses have won over 4000 races and well over \$30 million in stakes, wearing the red Maltese cross on a white background – an international symbol for the best and safest of ships.

And there have been champions, especially of the two and three-year-old divisions, although several of Lombardo's best have gone on to lengthy and amazing careers at Grand Circuit level.

The greatest of these was Tailamade Lombo, who won the 1997 Australian Pacing Gold at two and was National Two-Year-Old Filly of the Year. At three, she won the A.P.G. again and much more, including the Australian

Derby, Australian Oaks and the WA and Victorian Oaks. She was both National Three-Year-Old Filly of the Year and overall National Three-Year-Old Pacer of the Year.

As an older horse she went on to win three Grand Circuit races - the Tasmanian Pacing Championship (twice) and Queensland Pacing Championship - as well as running second in a Miracle Mile.

She also won two Ladyship Miles and two Victorian Four-And-Five-Year-Old Championships amongst a bevy of successes.

Tailamade Lombo was, quite simply, one of Australia's greatest ever female pacers. Twice named National Aged Pacing Mare of the Year after she turned four, when she retired she was also awarded a National Broodmare of the Year title. Her progeny featured numerous stakes winners, headlined by Aussie Made Lombo, who earned nearly \$580,000 in prize money.

Lombo Pocket Watch, one of the rare

colts that raced for Lombardo, was without doubt the best-performed two and three-year-old in Australian history.

The picturesque grey by Jet Laag won a record seventeen races at two (2005/2006) and other than when he failed to finish after an accident at his second start in a race, he was unbeaten in his first twenty-one appearances.

As a juvenile his victories included the Australian Pacing Gold, Australasian Breeders Crown, Vicbred Super Series, Bathurst Gold Crown and still three other classics.

Lombo Pocket Watch is the only horse in history to be named Australian Harness Horse of the Year as a two-year-old.

And he didn't slow down at three.

The APG again fell to the amazing colt, as did the Vicbred Super Series, the Victorian Sires Classic and the Australian, Tasmanian and Victorian Derbies.

He won twelve races as a three-year-old.

At four, Lombo Pocket Watch took out the Golden Nugget in Perth and in total won forty-five races and in excess of \$1.5 million in stakes.

Lombo Rapida was another multiple big race winner at two and three, with victories in the Two-Year-Old Fillies Australian Pacing Gold (1998) and a WA Oaks, Sales Classic and WA Sires Classic at three.

At four she won a Chariots of Fire in Sydney and at five the Queensland Four-And-Five-Year-Old Championship. In addition to this she was unlucky to be runner-up in successive WA Pacing Cups, at five and six years of age, firstly to Havago and then to The Falcon Strike. The margin was a nose on both occasions.

Concorde Lombo won the A.P.G. (1997) at three and a Victorian and WA Oaks, as well as the Vicbred Super Sires. Later, as a five-year-old, she won races such as the Ladyship Cup in Melbourne and an Easter Cup in Tasmania.

Ima Spicey Lombo won the 2009 Queensland Oaks and the 2011 Australian Pacing Championship.

Misty Maiden eclipsed the Australian Derby and the rich El Dorado Classic in 1992.

Lombo La Fe Fe won the 2002 Australian Gold for fillies and also the Breeders Crown at two - amongst a plethora of feature wins - and the A.P.G. again

at three, before going on to win a McInerney Ford Four-Year-Old Classic, as well as a Heat and Consolation of the 2004 Perth Inter Dominion the same season.

Mick Lombardo also won Australian Pacing Golds with Lethal Lombo (1995), Espeshlimade Lombo (at two and three, in early and late 2001), Lombo Skyrider (2001 - Colts and Geldings) and Leilani Lombo (2010).

There are still other Lombardo Group One and feature race winners not listed here, but overall his horses have won thirty Group One races and twenty-five National Horse of the Year Awards in their respective categories. These occurred over roughly a twenty-five year period from 1986 to 2011, the bulk of which took place in a single decade between 1997 and 2007.

Mick Lombardo's service to harness racing off the track is just as impressive.

A WATA committeeman for twelve years and president for three (1989-91), he subsequently spent six years on the Australian Harness Racing Council and was Chairman for two (2002-04).

He also represented Australia at the World Trotting Conference in Norway in 2009. He is both a life member of that body and of the WATA (now Gloucester Park Harness Racing).

In 2001, Mick Lombardo was honoured with a National Distinguished Service Award from the A.H.R.C. (now Harness Racing Australia) and in 2015 he became just the eighth person to be presented with Australian harness racing's elite J.P. Stratton Award.

Prior to that, in 2011, and quite uniquely, Mick Lombardo was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his remarkable and long-standing contribution to the harness racing industry as a breeder, owner and administrator.

### PRINCIPAL WINS (Major Feature Races Only)

#### TWO-YEAR-OLDS

Australian Pacing Gold (All) - 1995, 1997, 1998, 2001 (F), 2001 (C&G), 2002, 2006, 2010

WA Golden Slipper - 1988

Victoria Sires Stakes (All) - 1988, 1994, 2002, 2006

NSW Sire Stakes - 2001

Breeders Crown (All) - 1998, 2002, 2006

Bathurst Gold Crown/Tiara/ Bracelet (All) 2001, 2002, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011

Seymour Nursery Pace (F) - 1994, 2001, 2002, 2006, 2010

Edgar Tatlow Stakes (F) - 1988

WA Sales Classic (All) - 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2003

Pink Bonnet Mile - 1988, 1998, 2002, 2008

Westral/Ausdrill/Western Crown 2YO Classics (All) - 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000

Linden Huntley Memorial - 2006

#### THREE-YEAR-OLDS

Australian Derby - 1992, 1998, 2007

Victorian Derby - 2007

Tasmanian Derby - 2007

Australian Oaks - 1998

Victorian Oaks - 1997, 1998

WA Oaks - 1997, 1998, 1999, 2002

Queensland Oaks - 1998, 1999, 2009

Victorian Sires Stakes (All) - 1989, 1997, 2006

NSW Sires Stakes - 1998

WA Sires Stakes - 1999

Australian Pacing Gold (All) - 1997, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2006

Eldorado Classic (F) - 1992

WA Sales Classic (F) - 1999

#### FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Chariots Of Fire - 2000

Golden Nugget Championship - 2007

Victorian Sires Stakes (4YO M) - 1997

NSW Sires Stakes (4YO M) - 1999

McInerney Ford 4YO Classic - 2004

Victorian 4YO Grand Prix - 1999

#### AGED

Australian Pacing Championship - 2011

Queensland Pacing Championship - 2000

Tasmanian Pacing Championship - 1999, 2000

Ladyship Mile - 1999, 2000

Ladyship Cup - 1999

WA Mares Mile - 2010

Victorian 4 & 5YO Championship - 1999, 2000

Queensland 4 & 5YO Championship - 2001

Empress Stakes - 2011, 2013

Ballarat Cup - 2000

# OFF THE TRACK<sup>WA</sup>

More than a Racehorse



## REHOMING FOR SUCCESS

BY SHARON JOYCE

Traditionally, March to November is show season. These are the months equestrians enjoy riding and competing with their horses. Whether it be pony club, adult riding club, weekend trail riding, show jumping, eventing, dressage, show horse or full on competitive riding, there is always a discipline, pleasure pursuit and event available for everyone.

More recently we have noticed a slight shift in tradition. Some equestrians are enjoying their horses all year round. This is certainly the case when it comes to those who own retired racehorses. The summer months over Christmas and New Year are a great opportunity for riders to spell their regular mount and consider taking on another OTT. Whether it be to retrain and sell on, or with the intention to keep for their own purposes, there is more demand for OTT's and in particular the retired Standardbred racehorse.

Standardbreds are becoming more and more popular. We continually talk about temperament being the number one attribute of the Standardbred, but a recent crop of retired Standardbred racehorses retrained for equestrian purposes and sold to the public has highlighted a huge pool of Standardbreds also possess faultless confirmation, good looks, lovely movement and sheer 'look at me' presence.

Like most horses, but in particular retired racehorses, all they need is a patient person who will help them figure things out and give them the guidance, support and time they need to succeed off the track.

An ultimate example of this type of horse is Mosquito Buzzin. Trained & owned by Craig Abercromby 'Mozzie' as he is more affectionately referred to has the body of a young John

Travolta, Daniel Ricciardo good looks and the charm of George Clooney. All in all, a very classy horse! But on occasions Mozzie can also display the unpredictability of Bernard Tomic!

It was very clear after laying first eyes on Mozzie he had the potential to be very successful in post racing equestrian pursuits and in particular the Show Horse arena. We just had to find the right human for him!

Craig Abercromby is a very astute horse trainer who keeps his horses and stables in immaculate condition. To his credit, Craig understands each of his horses needs and goes out of his way to ensure every horse in his care who is suitable for rehoming finds a good home upon retirement from racing. Mozzie was no different, despite his sometimes quirky attitude.

***“Like most horses, but in particular retired racehorses, all they need is a patient person who will help them figure things out and give them the guidance, support and time they need to succeed off the track”***



With assistance from Off the Track Craig sent Mozzie to one of our OTT acknowledged retrainers Bayley Thomas. Bayley is renowned for her dedication to the rehoming of retired Standardbred racehorses and her ability to find them perfectly matched second owners.

Long story short (and it was a long process), Craig’s commitment to his racing animals has landed Mozzie the perfect home.

Sending retired racehorses to one of our OTT acknowledged retrainers enhances the chances of your horse finding a home and the best possible home. We urge you to consider the process. By doing this you are helping to increase the demand for retired Standardbred racehorses post racing and increasing their value in the equestrian world. This in turn assists the harness racing industry to continue to grow as a whole.

Displayed are photos of retired Standardbred racehorses which were recently sent to retrainers and are now sold to good homes. All these horses are enjoying post racing pursuits and their long term futures are very bright.

**RECENTLY REHOMED HORSES**



# RACE DATES

DATE	METROPOLITAN	METROPOLITAN MIDWEEK	PROVINCIAL 1	PROVINCIAL 2 / COUNTRY	COMMUNITY
<b>MARCH</b>					
Fri 1	GLOUCESTER PK		ALBANY		
Sat 2				NORTHAM	
Sun 3					BUNBURY
Mon 4				PINJARRA	
Tues 5	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 8	GLOUCESTER PK		NARROGIN		
Sat 9				BUNBURY	
Sun 10					COLLIE
Mon 11				PINJARRA	
Tues 12	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 15	GLOUCESTER PK				
Sat 16				NARROGIN	
Sun 17					BRIDGETOWN
Mon 18				PINJARRA	
Tues 19	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 22	GLOUCESTER PK		NORTHAM		
Sat 23				BUNBURY	
Sun 24					COLLIE
Mon 25				PINJARRA	
Tues 26	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 29	GLOUCESTER PK		WAGIN		
Sat 30				BUNBURY	
Sun 31					C WHEATBELT

DATE	METROPOLITAN	METROPOLITAN MIDWEEK	PROVINCIAL 1	PROVINCIAL 2 / COUNTRY	COMMUNITY
<b>APRIL</b>					
Mon 1				PINJARRA	
Tues 2	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 5	GLOUCESTER PK				
Sat 6				NARROGIN	
Sun 7					C WHEATBELT
Mon 8				PINJARRA	
Tues 9	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 12	GLOUCESTER PK		BUNBURY		
Sat 13				NORTHAM	
Mon 15				PINJARRA	
Tues 16	GLOUCESTER PK				
Thurs 18	GLOUCESTER PK		WAGIN		
Sat 20				BUNBURY	
Sun 21					C WHEATBELT
Mon 22				PINJARRA	
Tues 23	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 26	GLOUCESTER PK				
Sat 27				NARROGIN	
Sun 28					C WHEATBELT
Mon 29				PINJARRA	
Tues 30	GLOUCESTER PK				

DATE	METROPOLITAN	METROPOLITAN MIDWEEK	PROVINCIAL 1	PROVINCIAL 2 / COUNTRY	COMMUNITY
<b>MAY</b>					
Fri 3	GLOUCESTER PK		NORTHAM		
Sat 4				BUNBURY	
Mon 6				PINJARRA	
Tue 7	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 10	GLOUCESTER PK		WAGIN		
Sat 11				BUNBURY	
Sun 12					C WHEATBELT
Mon 13				PINJARRA	
Tue 14	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 17	GLOUCESTER PK				
Sat 18				NARROGIN	
Sun 19					C WHEATBELT
Mon 20				PINJARRA	
Tue 21	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 24	GLOUCESTER PK		NARROGIN		
Sat 25				NORTHAM	
Mon 27				PINJARRA	
Tue 28	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 31	GLOUCESTER PK		WAGIN		

DATE	METROPOLITAN	METROPOLITAN MIDWEEK	PROVINCIAL 1	PROVINCIAL 2 / COUNTRY	COMMUNITY
<b>JUNE</b>					
Sat 1				BUNBURY	
Mon 3				PINJARRA	
Tue 4	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 7	GLOUCESTER PK		NARROGIN		
Sat 8				NORTHAM	
Mon 10				PINJARRA	
Tues 11	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 14	GLOUCESTER PK		NARROGIN		
Sat 15				BUNBURY	
Mon 17				PINJARRA	
Tues 18	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 21	GLOUCESTER PK		WAGIN		
Sat 22				NORTHAM	
Mon 24				PINJARRA	
Tue 25	GLOUCESTER PK				
Fri 28	GLOUCESTER PK		NARROGIN		
Sat 29				BUNBURY	



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