



NEWSLETTER

Vol 310 March 2024

2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES



2YO	17 May \$35,000 2YO Fillies Gold Bracelet
	24 May \$50,000 2YO Champagne Classic
3YO	5 April APG 3YO Gold Bullions
	26 April \$50,000 Caduceus Club Classic
	7 May Heats of the 3YO Diamond Classic, 14 May Heats of the 3YO Pearl Classic
Mares	5 April the \$35,000 Race For Roses
	12 April the \$100,000 Westbred 4YO Mares Classic
	19 April \$75,000 Empress Stakes
	22 April \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge Westbred Mares at Pinjarra
Westbred	12 April the \$100,000 Westbred 4YO Entires and Geldings Classic

Yearling Sale Wrap

Averages can sometimes be misleading but it was pleasing to see the average for fillies sold at the WA APG Sale, including post-sale, was over \$31,000, with a high of \$110,000 for the Sweet Lou USA full sister to Double Espresso (half sister to Shockwave) consigned by KTC Bloodstock and Kevin and Annette Charles. A little remembered fact is that the dam of the filly is by Westsired stallion Rich And Spoilt, who was first past the post in the 2000 WA Derby but lost on protest to Talladega. Rich And Spoilt was also second in the Australian Derby and Golden Nugget.

For the colts the average was \$33,800, with a high of \$160,000 for an American Ideal USA colt, purchased by Justin Prentice, who also purchased the second highest priced colt, another American Ideal USA, at \$130,000 from the family of Auckland Reactor NZ, both consigned by Karnup Racing P/L.



Top priced colt out of Anna Faye



Top priced filly out of Here For The Money

Only yearlings purchased from the WA Sale are eligible, if sustained, for the 2025 \$125,000 2YO Finals and 2026 \$100,000 3YO Finals. Passed in lots are still eligible for the Sales Classics, if fully sustained so check the APG website if you are still looking for a yearling as most vendors will be prepared to sell for the right price.

In Melbourne, including a \$210,000 Bettors Delight colt closely related to Leap To Fame and For A Reason, the published average price of colts at the APG Sale was marginally above the WA result but the overall average was well down. In Sydney the overall published average was just below Perth. The Gold Coast Sale was also lower than Perth. Perth maintained the highest clearance of all the APG Sales, and in fact, all 2024 sales.

The Nutrien Sydney Sale produced higher averages than all other sales (overall average \$41,000) with the top priced colt and filly being \$250,000 and \$240,000 respectively. The Bathurst, Tasmanian and Queensland Sales were all lower returns for vendors. The Nutrien Melbourne Sale on 14 April is the last remaining major sale.

Best wishes to all purchasers with their yearlings. Sales companies and administrators have a role to play in ensuring fillies and colts can sell and race viably and to make any necessary changes to ensure this happens.

The WASBA Breeding Awards and APG night 1 March

A great night was had – its all about rewarding success and endeavour by WA breeders and their Westbreds.

Kevin and Annette Charles took out the top accolade for the WA Breeder of the Year for the second consecutive year, and overall 6 breeders recorded over \$600,000 in progeny earnings for the 2023 season, including a number of Group wins. Kevin and Annette bred brilliant Westsired mare **Wonderful To Fly (Fly Like An Eagle)** who was awarded WA Bred Mare of the Year with over \$320,000 in earnings from 9 wins including the \$125,000 4YO Classic, \$50,000 Kerry Clarke, \$50,000 4YO APG Final, 5 Fillies and Mares FFAs along with seconds in the \$100,000 Norms Daughter and \$150,000 Mares Classic. Horses bred by the couple earned \$1.5 million on top of other earnings where Kevin was managing breeder.

The Harry Capararo bred 3yo filly **August Moon (Captaintreacherous USA)** was named WA Bred 3YO Filly of the Year, after her efforts in winning over \$250,000 for the season from 9 wins including the \$150,000 Group 1 WA Oaks, \$100,000 Group 2 3YO Fillies Westbred Classic, \$30,000 3YO Pinjarra Daintys Daughter Classic and the \$50,000 3YO Fillies Sales Classic.

In a split decision prominent owner breeders Liam O'Connor and Jim Currie were awarded the WA Bred 2YO Filly of the Year with their home bred filly **Xceptional Arma (American Ideal USA)**, earning the award with \$258,000 in earnings from 10 wins including the Group 1 \$215,000 2YO Fillies Westbred Classic and the \$50,000 2YO Fillies Gold Bullion. Xceptional Arma just nosed out the exciting KTC Bloodstock filly Water Lou (Sweet Lou USA) for the award.



Adding to the award for Xceptional Arma, Jim Currie was presented with the Award for **Arma Xpress (Artiscap USA)** who earned the title of Broodmare of the Year for her progeny that included 4 starters for 3 winners of 14 races and over \$372,000.

Top breeders Trevor and Colleen Lindsay of Karnup Racing also won several prestigious awards, having bred 5yo gelding **Mighty Ronaldo (Alta Christiano NZ)** who was named the WA Bred Horse/Gelding of the Year. Mighty Ronaldo won the Group 1 \$300,000 Fremantle Cup, along with the Group 3 August Cup, to reach over \$320,000 in season earnings and add to his previous 2YO and 3YO WA Bred Colt/Gelding of the Year awards.

Karnup Racing also bred the 2YO WA Bred Colt/Gelding of the Year **Menemsha (Sunshine Beach USA)**, whose 3 wins included the Group 1 \$215,000 2YO Westbred Classic for colts and geldings, as well as the \$100,000 Pearl Classic - earning his connections almost \$180,000 for the Year. With just over a million in earnings for horses bred by the Lindsays they also received the 2023 Breeding for Excellence Award.

Steve Johnson received the award for 3YO WA Bred Colt/Gelding of the Year **Never Ending (Sweet Lou USA)** who previously won WA Bred 2YO Colt/Gelding of the Year and Australian 2YO Pacing Colt/Gelding of the Year.

At the RWWA Awards held a fortnight later, there was only one change to recipients of the aged awards, with WA Pacing Cup winner Magnificent Storm NZ (American Ideal USA) winning the WA Harness Horse of the Year title for 2023.

WASBA also provided a trophy and breeding vouchers to breeders of Open Group 1 winners, with Steve Johnson (breeder of Golden Nugget winner **Tricky Miki** by **Always B Miki USA**), Peter Capararo (on behalf of Harry Capararo as breeder of the WA Oaks winner August Moon) and Trevor and Colleen Lindsay (as breeders of the Fremantle Cup winner Mighty Ronaldo).

Recognising the importance of smaller breeders to the industry, the WASBA 2023 award for Breeding for Excellence – Special Mention was accepted by Sarah and Chris Wall who have taken on breeding, owning, racing and training from their small pool of mares and their locally bred stallion Wesley (Sportswriter USA).

The major awards are based on a number of criteria including allocated points for the level of win, and stakes earned.

Also presented on the night were the WASBA Breeder of the Month Awards for the 2023 season.

APG WA Sales Classics

The 3yo colts were first up and **Ten To The Dozen (Art Major USA)** led from go to whoa from barrier 1, holding out the RWWA and WASBA 2YO Colt/Gelding of 2023 Menemsha (Sunshine Beach USA) to win narrowly. Ten To The Dozen was bred by Solid Gold Standardbreds (The late John Lohman) and sold for \$65,000 at the 2022 Sale. He is out of **Nolessthanperfect NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** and his half sister sold for \$80,000 at this year's APG Sale. His current stakes tally is \$125,000 plus \$34,000 in Bonuses. His family includes the WA raced **Waltzing With Cullen NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1:51.7 \$235,031 and Group 1 winner **Franco Indie NZ (Always B Miki USA)** 1:51.9 \$233,110.

It was a double for **Water Lou (Sweet Lou USA)** an impressive winner of last years 2YO Sales Classic and looking even more impressive in winning this years 3YO Sales Classic after starting outside the back line and breezing to beat longshot The Swindler (Control The Moment USA) and RWWA and WASBA 2023 2YO Filly of the Year Xceptional Arma (American Ideal USA). At \$65,000 and bred by KTC Bloodstock and Kevin and Annette Charles, Water Lou has been a bargain buy, currently with 12 wins including the \$100,000 2YO Fillies Diamond. From just 16 starts her stakes tally is \$237,000 plus \$30,000 Westbred Bonuses.

Water Lou was the 8th foal and 7th winner from her non winning dam **Living Hei (Live Or Die USA)** with other



Shannon Suvaljko and owner Jim Giumelli

winners including **Erskine Range (Four Starzz Shark USA)** 1:54 \$255,480 and **Im Living The Dream (Art Major USA)** 1:57.4 \$103,431. Other locally raced horses from the family include **Courage Tells NZ (Courage Under Fire NZ)** 1:54.1 \$433,861 and **Pocketful Of Opals (Foreclosure NZ)** 1:58.4 \$77,484.

The excitement building with the connections of last year's purchases, and it was time for the 2yos.

Heat winners for the boys 10 days earlier were **Louie Vee (Stay Hungry USA)**, **Hold The Ammo (Sweet Lou USA)** and **Mysta Moon Walker (Foreclosure NZ)**, who started favourite in the Final. Fortune favours the brave and no matter where your horse finishes in the heats, remember to nominate for the Final. Unfortunately Hold The Ammo could not start in the Final and his place was taken by 4th placegetter **The Bettor Side (Downbytheseaside USA)** who started on the 4th line of betting, surrendered the lead early and finished powerfully to hold out a late charge from Louie Vee who had started in 6. The Bettor Side was bred by Karnup Racing P/L from one of their race mares **Bettor Boa (Bettors Delight USA)** who won 10 races and \$120,000 in stakes. The Bettor Side was a \$70,000 purchase and now has \$75,000 from just 3 starts, plus Bonuses. He is a half brother to the good winner **Halle Hunter (Huntsville USA)** who was impressive in winning 3 from 3 in December 2023 to start her career, and it's the family of one of the top priced colts of the 2024 Sale.

Heat winners for the fillies were **Bull Shark Betty (Sportswriter USA)**, **Copper Head Lady (Sweet Lou USA)** and **Ruby Lou (Sweet Lou USA)**. Starting inside the back line, eventual winner Copper Head Lady, bred by Mike Howie, was able to manoeuvre off the pegs on the turn to go three wide, steady up, and run down her stablemate **Bettagetonpip (Betting Line USA)** in the last 50m, with the other Heat winners in 3rd and 4th. A \$40,000 purchase and with \$80,000 in the bank from 2 starts 2 wins, Copper Head Lady is out of **Artistic Copper (Artistic Fella USA)** winner of both the 2YO and 3YO Sales Classics and \$100,000 in stakes. Following up on their win with Copper Head Lady, Albert and Julie Walmsley purchased the first foal of the half sister to Copper Head Lady at the 2024 APG WA Sale.



Winning owners Albert and Julie, trainer Ryan Bell and Copper Head Lady

Not every yearling is ready to race at this time of year, but it's a credit to owners and trainers that 53 of the 101 yearlings sold at the 2023 Sale were acceptors in the Heats. Next year, the 3YO Classics will have a \$50,000 increase, so if your 2yo wasn't ready to go this year, get your trainer to draw up a plan for next season.

Snippets from the USA and Canada..

☑ The Borgata Series (for older horses and geldings) is underway at Yonkers (Lockinvar Art competed last year) and Australian **Rockroll Runa (Rock N Roll Heaven)** is one of two runners to have won both their divisions so far. The Canadian 2021 Horse of the Year **Desperate Man (Shadow Play)** is the other, and became a millionaire with his win. Australian bred **Naturally Gifted (Sweet Lou)** is also competing in the series, having won twice since his US debut in February. The girls equivalent, the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series, has seen wins by Bettors Delight mare **Delightful Catherine NZ** (renamed **Delitfulcatherine N**) and Australian mare **Dougs Babe (Western Terror)**, who won three divisions last year. The Borgata and Blue Chip Finals are on 22 April. Good to see they make room for the older players.

☑ **Lis Mara (Cambest)** passed away from colic in Ireland at the age of 22. While not well regarded in Australia, he was a phenomenal race horse, winning over a million dollars in each of his 4yo and 5yo season, wins that included the Breeders Crown and the Canadian Pacing Derby (twice). His 2006 world record Breeders Crown win (1:47.3) was the fastest mile in it's history at the time. His racing owners contributed a portion of Lis Mara's earnings to homeless people in Haiti. Deo Volente Farms CEO noted that Lis Mara was one of the four

'founding horses' instrumental in building Deo Volente Farms as well as building over 20 houses and a school in Haiti, and he was heartbroken by his death.

☑ Also passing was US and Canadian Hall of Fame mare **Eternal Camnation (Cam Fella)** 1:49.2 the age of 27 at her owner trainer's property. She was the winner of \$4.1 million and won 47 of her 101 starts. Her wins included three Breeders Crowns, three Milton Stakes, two Roses Are Red Stakes, a Fan Hanover Stakes and a Juliette, all but two of these victories in Canada. She won six O'Brien Awards, including Horse of the Year in 2003, and earned four Dan Patch Awards. While she did not excel as a broodmare, she did produce one winner of over half a million. It's wonderful to hear the older stars are being looked after for life.

☑ In a pilot program, the Meadowlands will pay all starters in overnight races, with 3% going to each of the runners finishing from 5th to last. Controversial, with winners stakes reduced considerably but with views on the other side that running 1:47 unplaced against the top horses was not viable.

☑ The USTA media team conducted 17 social media campaigns, resulting in 13.2 million impressions, over 752,000 engagements with a rate of 5.6% and a cost of \$0.75 per thousand, well below the (US) all-industry average of \$5. Wouldn't we love to know how our media campaigns are going, assuming we have some.

And elsewhere...

☑ All the runners are now on the board for the \$1 million Race by Grins to be run on April 12, with **South Coast Arden NZ** (Somebeachsomewhere USA) joining **Merlin NZ** (Art Major USA), **Mach Shard NZ** (Mach Three CA), **Don't Stop Dreaming NZ**, **Old Town Road NZ**, **Self Assured NZ** and **Sooner The Bettor NZ** (all Bettors Delight USA), **Rock N Roll Doo NZ** (Rock N Roll Heaven USA), with Australian bred **Speak the Truth** (Bettors Delight USA) and **Better Eclipse** (Betterthancheddar USA). Merlin defeated Better Eclipse, Rock N Roll Doo and South Coast Arden in his last Australian start in March, Don't Stop Dreaming finished second to Leap To Fame in the 2024 Hunter Cup, Self Assured won the inaugural Race By Grins, Old Town Road finished 3rd in last years Hunter Cup, Speak The Truth finished 3rd in the 2024 Miracle Mile behind Leap To Fame and Sooner The Bettor. Mach Shard's best recent effort was a win against Self Assured and a place behind Merlin and Self Assured in February this year.

☑ New Zealand's 13yo **Take After Me (Holmes Hanover)** won his 17th trotting race from 236 starts to go with his 4 earlier wins as a pacer from 124 starts. Not that anyone cares, but the winning mile rate was 2:15.9. Under Harness Racing New Zealand rules there is no upper age limit for horses racing in New Zealand and in the US in New Jersey, horses are permitted to race beyond the age of 14 in Fair or amateur races. Food for thought.

☑ Greg Sugars and Jess Tubbs are taking two to New Zealand for the Slot races, with **Just Believe (Orlando Vici)** heading for the \$575,000 TAB Trot, accompanying Better Eclipse on the trip. Also in the TAB Trot is Australian raced **Queen Elida NZ (Love You FRA)** who, as the only mare in the race, will have the barrier draw preference. Australian bred **Arcee Phoenix (Trixton USA)** and Australian owned European import **Callmethe breeze FRA (Trixton USA)** are also starters in the inaugural \$NZ575,000 TAB Trot. Other confirmed starters in the TAB Trot are **Oscar Bonavena NZ (Majestic Son CA)**, **Muscle Mountain NZ (Muscle Hill USA)**, **Midnight Dash (Muscle Hill)** and lastly **Mystic Max (Village Mystic)**. Arcee Phoenix defeated Just Believe in his last Australian start before the TAB Trot.



☑ Keeping with the family tradition, Ladyship Stakes winner **All You Need Is Me NZ (Captaintreacherous USA)** won the Group 1 Northern Oaks, repeating the efforts of her dam **Adore Me (Bettors Delight USA)** in 2013 and granddam **Scuse Me (B Gs Bunny USA)** in 1997. On the same card, **Cold Chisel (Always B Miki USA)** won the Group 1 Northern Derby. Cold Chisel is the 6th and best performed progeny of his dam, and he is a half brother to the WA raced Rockaball NZ. The flying Australian filly **Jasmarella** belongs to the family, as does **Soho Tribeca**, and the family traces to **Bonnie Averil**, dam of NZ Cup winner **True Averil**.

☑ Current HRV Board Member Adam Kilgour will take over Chair of HRV following the resignation of Dale Monteith, who has been Chair for 8 years, with an initial 6 month stint. According to Monteith "Important racing

initiatives included the change from the annual racing season to a calendar year and the adoption of a National Ratings system, which replaced the previous class system that had contributed to declining wagering and limited racing opportunities. HRV drove these changes at a national level'..

☑ Three cheers for initiative – the \$355,000 Group 1 The Rising Sun in Queensland on July 13 is attracting a stellar field, with Group 1 winners **The Lost Storm (Captaintreacherous USA)**, **Merlin NZ**, Chariots Of Fire winner **Frankie Ferocious (Captaintreacherous USA)** and Group 1 placed **Sooner The Bettor** (second in both the Group 1 Miracle Mile and Chariots Of Fire at his last two starts) all confirmed to start, barring injury. Queensland has reinvigorated their racing with some smart promotions.

☑ **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)** completed an unofficial triple crown by winning the \$1 million Miracle Mile at Menangle, having previously won the A G Hunter Cup and (Queensland) Inter Dominion. The previous horse to complete this task was Preux Chevalier 39 years ago. His victories were at Harold Park (Miracle Mile and Moonee Valley. A grossly underrated stallion, Preux Chevalier won 40 of his 53 starts for \$791,000, at a time when the Miracle Mile was worth \$100,000.

☑ **Swayzee (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** has been named the 2023 NSW Horse of the Year. Transferred to the Grimson stable in May 2023, he won 10 consecutive races including the New Zealand Cup and Queensland's Blacks A Fake Championship. He is of course the older brother of Leap To Fame, both out of incredible mare **Lettucereason (Art Major USA)** who carries on the phenomenal bloodline of her dam **Left For Me (Fake Left USA)**.

☑ Very early days so not a lot of point looking at the detail, but first crop sires on the winners list are **Captain Crunch USA** (Captaintreacherous USA), **McWicked** (McArdle USA), **Poster Boy** (Somebeachsomewhere USA), **Soho Tribeca** (American Ideal USA), **Stay Hungry USA** (Somebeachsomewhere USA), **The Storm Inside** (Rocknroll Hanover USA) and **Wesley** (Sportswriter USA).

☑ Good trio of country race wins with Magnus Victor (Sweet Lou USA) winning the Bridgetown Cup, Pocketful of Opals (Foreclosure NZ) winning the Williams Cup and The Wildcard (Fly Like An Eagle) winning the Wagin Cup. Owners love to win a Cup!

☑ Girls adapt better – WA driver Maddy Young scored a win at her first drive in the US, on the start of a working holiday. With a batch of excellent female drivers in WA, they appear to be able to win on any track, adapting to the track conditions regardless of track size.

☑ Barriers count, regardless of track size. A good win by **Im Ready Jet (Quaker Jet FRA)** in the Group 1 \$75,000 Sumthingaboutmaori Mares FFA. With **Queen Elida NZ** starting outside the back row and Im Ready Jet in 1, it was a great front running drive to land the win, with Queen Elida unable to make up the ground in the sprint home and finishing third. Im Ready Jet won the race in 2022 and has four Group 1 wins amongst 24 wins and \$630,000 in stakes. A wonder that Im Ready Jet is not yet in the TAB Trot.

☑ Joining **Spirit Of St Louis NZ (Sweet Lou USA)** 1:48.2 \$1,342,326 for the \$1.25 million Nullarbor Slot race on 19 April at Gloucester Park is Miracle Mile winner **Catch A Wave (Captaintreacherous USA)** who rounded out his prep with a solid win in the Tiger Tara FFA, last qtr 26 flat. Also confirmed is Australian 2yo of the Year, now 4yo **Never Ending (Sweet Lou USA)** who replaces Magnificent Storm (American Ideal USA) for the Ladbrokes/Entain Slot after that gelding's injury. Other confirmed runners are **Hot And Treacherous NZ**



(Captaintreacherous USA) now trained by Jason Grimson and the winner of his last 2 starts at Menangle, **Swingband (Alta Christiano NZ)** and **Lavra Joe (Roll With Joe USA)**.

☑ Unless you have been living under a mushroom, you will know that **Bettors Delight USA** will remain in NZ to see out his service career and life. A great decision by connections, taking into account what is in the best interests of the horse. Worth noting that Australia and the US have the same rules about services from deceased stallions, but no such thing for New Zealand where frozen semen can be used until it runs out.

☞ Vale a great lady, the unraced **Sundonna (Sundon)**, died peacefully at the age of 25. Sundonna produced 12 foals including Group 1 winners **Maori Time (Pegasus Spur USA)** and **Maori Law (Lawman USA)**. Maori Time won 5 Group 1s and established an Australasian mile record for trotters of 1:51.5, a record that still stands. Maori Law won the Group 1 Inter Dominion Trotting Grand Final in 2021 and the Group 1 Australasian Trotters Championship. Sundonna was out of Maori Acacia (Smooth Fella USA) the dam of 9 winners, from Maori Trump (Overtrick USA), dam of 11 winners, from the dual-gaited mare **Maori Miss (Grand Monarch)**, whose 8 winners included the mighty **Maori's Idol (?)**, arguably the greatest trotter ever produced in Australia. Maori Miss won the Winona Award for Australian Broodmare of the Year in 1977, 1978 and 1979, while Maori Trump won the title in 1996. What also stands out here is the successful mixing of trotting and pacing blood.

RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ The Sales Classics. Really all the excitement as they line up in the Heats, with most of the connections on course. Its one of the best nights, along with the Pearl and Diamond Heats
- ♣ You have got to hand it to Kevin Seymour – the horse comes first.
- ♣ Brilliant call by Rob Tomlinson to grab Catch A Wave, and a timely win.



BREEDER OF THE MONTH – February 2024

The Breeder of the Month award goes to a different WA bred horse each month. Previous (horse) winners are not eligible for later WA Breeder of the Month awards. You must be a WASBA member to win a Breeder of the Month Award. All other breeding awards are open to all WA breeders.

With class in abundance its difficult to pick a winner, but one of the critical things about Yearlings Sales (and breeding) is that every foal born should be given a chance to succeed.

Our breeder of the month this month took home a yearling filly last year when her sale was cancelled. Trained by Luke Edwards, her first start was a 3rd behind two of the finalists in the 2YO Fillies Sales Classic including 2nd placed Bettagetopip. Then she looked super in her Heat of the Classic, leading by a considerable margin at one point before fading over the final 400m after overracing. Obviously talented, she stepped out 6 days later to win at Pinjarra by 13m after regular reinsman Ryan Warwick allowed her to settle early in a blistering lead, taking off with 800 to go with a swoop to the lead at the 600m and go on to an easing win in the 2YO maiden.

Congratulations to Allwood Stud Farm, our **Breeder of the Month** for **February 2024**, as the breeder of 2yo filly **Diamondsareforever (Fly Like An Eagle)** out of She Said Diamonds by **Well Said USA**.

This is the family of **Star Fromthepalace (Follow The Stars)** 1:56.6 \$113,365, Northam Cup winner **Troopingofthecolor (Follow The Stars)** 1:55.8 \$114,700 and **Machnificent (Mach Three CA)** 1:52.4 \$257,674. The maternal line is that of the recently deceased **Changerr NZ (Vance Hanover USA)**, dam of 6 times Group 1 winner **Changeover NZ (In The Pocket USA)** \$2.4 million and the full sister to 9 times Group 1 winner **Chokin** 1:56.2 \$1.8 million and half sister to **Pretty Smooth NZ (Smooth Fella USA)**, the dam of **Anvil Vance (Vance Hanover USA)** 1:57.8 \$450,729 and **Three Eagles NZ (Falcon Seelster USA)**, the dam of the filly's sire, multiple Group 1 winner **Fly Like An Eagle (Mach Three CA)** 1:53.9 \$699,419.

Congratulations to Bob and Marilyn and of course **Diamondsareforever**.

WINNERS - WA BASED SIRES FEBRUARY 2024

The second month of the season saw 26 Westsired winners of 27 races, with **Fly Like An Eagle** following his good January results with 9 winners of 10 races in February. Leading 2023 3yo Sire and Open Sire in Follow The Stars again did well with 6 winners of 6 races for the month.

The dual winner in the month was **Fly Like An Eagle** gelding **Flying Rumour**, who won two metropolitan races.

There were 6 first time starters collecting their \$500 first start Bonus including five by Fly Like An Eagle, and two each by My Hard Copy NZ and Wesley. There were 8 first time winners collecting the First Win Bonus – 2yos **Diamondsareforever** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **Iseeubaby** (Wesley), 3yos **Bay Rock Boy** and **State My Case** (Rock N Roll World USA). The older first time winners were 4yo **Dilo Spirit** and 6yo **Resolution** (both Follow The Stars), 5yo **Raptor Raider** (Fly Like An Eagle), and 6yo **Five Star Kevin** (Renaissance Man).

Congratulations to all the first time starters and first time winners.

The Westbred Bonus payments to Westsired starters (including First Win and First Start) for February 2024 were \$143,000, slightly up on the previous month.

There were 40 metropolitan races in February 2024, back to normal after a very light January. There were 4 wins by Westsired progeny including one filly. The remaining 2 winners of 3 races were:



- ♠ **5yo Flying Rumour – Fly Like An Eagle o/o Stage Whisper (Armbro Operative USA)**, breeder owner Kim Marsh. Only 2 months into the season and \$30,000 already. Started at 7/1 from the difficult 7 barrier, to the breeze early before getting a sit behind The Miki Taker who kept the leader honest, fast lead, even time first half, made a 3 wide move coming off the back, rounded in 3rd and 3 wide, a tough battle down the straight to just got the better of the breeze runner to win the \$21,000 Pace by a half head in 1:55.9, last qtrs 28.1 and 28.5. Half broher to **Extreme Dreams** 1:54.8 \$138,340. Dam a half sister to the dam of metropolitan winner **Maggies Mystery** 1:53.8 \$191,796; and

- ♠ **5yo Horse Mister Montblanc - Fly Like An Eagle o/o Arkareena (Village Jasper USA)** breeder Allwood Stud Farm, a midweek win last month in a Stand from 30m then started favourite from 3 off the 10m, briefly galloped before ending in a perfect one by one position, better than even time first half then moved 3 wide at the 400m, hit the front at the 100m to go to a 2.4m win in the \$21,000 Stand in 1:58.1. Dam a top winning filly and mare in Queensland with 30 wins and half sister to Inter Dominion Heat winner **Atomic Ark** 1:54.1 \$435,113 and Group 1 winner **Arkamigo** 1:56.2 \$293,474.



Shannon Suvaljko winning with Mister Montblanc

WESTBRED WINNERS – FEBRUARY 2024

More good news – the Bonus payments for February 2024 were \$358,000, which is \$107,000 more than the previous month.

Similar to the previous two months there were 96 winners of 105 races (61.8%) in February 2024. It is the second highest February figure in percentage terms in the last 10 years, only beaten by last years figure of 121 wins from 179 (67.6%) races.

There were 41 outside sires represented by winning Westbreds, with **American Ideal USA** on top with 7 winners of 7 races. Five other stallions all had 4 wins each.

With the 2yo season underway, there were 61 Westbred and Westsired first time starters (54 2yos split almost equally between colts and fillies) including 7 by Rock N Roll World USA from his NSW base, 6 by Captain Crunch USA and 5 by McWicked USA. Other relatively new sires represented were Lazarus NZ (1), My Hard Copy (2), Poster Boy (3), Soho Tribeca (1), The Storm Inside (1), Ultimate Machete NZ (1) and Vincent (3).

There were 22 First Time Westbred winners, with 2yos heavily represented. Westsired progeny excluded:

- 2yos **When In Vegas** (American Ideal USA), **Bettagetonpip** (Betting Line USA), **Mysta Moon Walker** (Foreclosure NZ), **Delulu** (Poster Boy), **Bull Shark Betty** (Sportswriter USA), **Copper Head Lady** and **Hold The Ammo** (Sweet Lou USA) and **Louie Vee** (Stay Hungry USA),
- 3yos **Sugar Delight** (Bettors Delight USA), **Atlantic Gem** (Downbytheseaside USA) and **The Van Goph Camel** (Vincent),
- and older progeny **Adda Lombo** (American Ideal USA), **Our Musical Motion** (Highview Tommy NZ) and the oldest first time winner, 6yo **Just A Pet** (Pet Rock USA).

There were also 6 multiple winners. Other than Westsired Flying Rumour the dual winners were **Gypsy Dragon** (Sportswriter USA) and **Louie Vee** (Stay Hungry USA) while triple winners were **Ima Tiny Dancer** (A Rocknroll Dance USA), **Hotly Pursued** (Huntsville USA) and **Chasing Hill** (Racing Hill USA).

Westbreds won 12 of the 13 2yo races, and 10 of the 14 3yo races run in February 2024. Sixty of the 62 2yo starters and 55 of the 67 3yo starters were Westbred. Surprisingly the total 3yo starters are higher this year in both January and February compared to last year, while the 2yo starters are lower for both January and February compared to last year.

The number of 4yo and over starters (521) increased marginally compared to February 2023 (512) but February remains lower than January for this age group. Westbred numbers are holding up well.

Pleasing to see 17 races for either 4yos or 4yo and over, with one of these races for maidens. There were 143 races in total for eligible 4yo and over horses, with Westbreds winning 83. This included 16 by 4yos, 29 5yos, 15 6yos and 8 7yos. The oldest winner was 12yo gelding Batavia Blackhole (Life Sign USA) at Albany.

There were 40 races at premium meetings at Gloucester Park in February 2024 with Westbreds winning 16, including 4 wins by Westbred fillies and mares and 3 Westsired wins. The remaining 7 winners of 9 races were:

- ◆ 4yo **All Is Well - Foreclosure (NZ)** o/o **Cap In Hand (Auckland Reactor NZ)** breeders S & N Dickson Pty Ltd. Racing well and won in each of the last two months including the \$30,000 The Warwick in January. Started favourite in 7 after two scratchings improved the barrier from 9, settled last before leading up the 3 wide line with a lap and the straight to go, made solid ground to be 2nd at the 400m, rounded just in front and withstood late challenges for a classy win in the \$23,000 4YO Westbred Pace by 2.3m in 1:54.7, last qtrs solid at 27.5 and 28.7. Dam is a winning half sister to **Robbie Rocket** and **Major Overs**, granddam **Elite Angel** is a half sister to the dam of **Son Of Fergie** 23 wins \$323,605;



- ◆ 7yo **Gregarmy - Shadow Play USA** o/o **Little Missmatuity (Mattuity USA)** breeder Estate of Percy Johnson, Joan Collins, P and L Johnson. First start since August 2023. Started middle of the betting from 7. Waited then into the breeze after half a lap, solid pace throughout, passed in the back straight, got his second wind and recovered from 3rd to run down the leader to win the \$9,360 Pace by 1.2m in 1:56.7 last qtrs 28.7 and 29.3. Good drive. Belongs to the prolific family stemming from 1948 Rey De Oro mare **Parisienne NZ**. A myriad of champions from the family but immediate family with WA links is that of dual Australian Broodmare of the Year **Summer Honey** and her Group winning progeny;



- ◆ 4yo **Hotly Pursued - Huntsville USA** o/o **Besos Baci (Blissfull Hall USA)** owner breeder Murray Lindau, Claire McNaughton. Homebred with \$61,000 last season and already that amount after just two months. Started favourite and sprinted out to hold the lead after a short challenge, dawdle first qtr but



fast last three quarters for an easing win in the \$21,000 4YO+ Pace by 2m in 1:56.9, last qtrs 28.8, 28.2 and 28. A week later started favourite from the outside barrier, got to the lead with just over 2 laps to go and went on to a good win under reins in the \$23,000 4YO Pace by 2.1m in 1:56 flat. A week later a triple treat



after starting favourite from 2 getting to the lead before the home straight the first time and staying there for the duration, fighting off a challenge to win the \$50,000 Chandon 4YO Classic by 1.3m in 1:56.6, slick last qtrs 27.7 each. Winning dam a half sister to **Passions Promise** 1:57.3 \$272,345;

- ◆ 5yo **Navy Street - Hes Watching USA** o/o **Life Of Bryne (Life Sign USA)** owner breeder Kim Tuckey Followed a run of outs in mobiles with a Stand starting in 3 at long odds. A few hops and skips but settled 2nd, took the gap with 500m to go to chase the leader, a lip in front into the straight, raced home to win the \$21,000 Pace by 1.5m in 2:00.1, last qtrs 28.5 each. Dam a half sister to the dam of **Miss Hepburn** and **Bolta**. Granddam a daughter of Group 1 winner **Whitbys Merit**, a daughter of **Remit**;

- ◆ **3yo colt Ten To The Dozen - Art Major USA o/o Nolessthanperfect NZ (Betors Delight USA)** breeder Solid Gold Standardbreds, Resumed from a 2 month absence in January with a midweek win and place before starting favourite from 1, easy lead and dawdle 1st qtr, sprinted down the back with Menemsha alongside, got away on the corner and went on to a nice win in the \$21,000 3YO Pace by 1.7m in 1:57.2, very slick last qtrs 27.6 and 27.2. Dam a half sister to **Vasari** 1:52 \$277,422. Granddam a half sister to the dam of **Waltzing With Cullen**;



Deni Roberts and Ten To The Dozen

- ◆ **7yo Terror In Texas - Terror To Love NZ o/o Texan Cowgirl (Fake Left USA)** owner breeder Dene Bickers. Resumed in January after an 11 month break for 2 places from 3 starts then started favourite from 3, happy to settle in the breeze with 2 laps to go, solid pace down the back, edged past the leader on the turn and ran home for a solid win in the \$9,360 Pace by 3.1m in 1:56.9. Half brother to Group 1 Golden Slipper winner **Aussie Reactor** and to dam of **Americanbootscoota** 1:52 \$327,251; and
- ◆ **5yo Tricky Miki - Always B Miki USA o/o Harriet Elisabeth (Modern Art USA) breeder Steve Johnson.** Resuming as favourite from 1 off a last start win in the Golden Nugget 2 months earlier. Started quickly but wisely conceded in a blistering 35.2 lead, better than even time first half, held up but got a miracle run at the 100m to whizz down the inside and win the \$50,000 Lord Mayors Cup by a half head in 1:53.6, last qtrs 27.8 and 28.6. Half brother to **Orlando Blue**. Dam Group 1 placed and a half sister to **Soho Jackman**.

A number of these are first time winners at metropolitan premium meetings - a great fillip to their connections.

How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (February 2024)

February 2024 produced 50 winners of 56 races (32.9%) for the fillies and mares. This is a greater percentage of winners than the previous month (32.1%), but doesn't reach the higher levels that were achieved last year (over 35%). We aim to maintain an average of above 31% winners. The wins were fairly evenly split between fillies/mares races (29) and open races (27).

Wins included 37 (27 Westbred) wins at the \$9,000 level, and 8 (4 Westbred) metropolitan, FFA or Group level races, which are very similar results to January 2024. Total stakes paid to fillies and mares in February 2024 was \$646,000 (32.4% of stakes) with Westbred fillies and mares earning \$627,000 including Bonuses.

Bettors Delight USA and Sweet Lou USA topped the sires list for the month for fillies and mares, both with 5 winners of 6 races, but there wasn't a lot between the top 5 that included local sire Fly Like An Eagle, as well as Betterthancheddar USA and Sportswriter USA.

Thirty one fillies and two mares venturing to the races for the first time. Rock N Roll World USA had 4 of his fillies starting for the first time, with McWicked USA and Captain Crunch USA both with 3 first time filly starters.

Fifty percent of the 22 first time winners were fillies or mares, and they were all by different sires – 2yos **Bettagetonpip** (Betting Line USA), **Diamondsareforever** (Fly Like An Eagle), **Delulu** (Poster Boy), **Bull Shark Betty** (Sportswriter USA), **Copper Head Lady** (Sweet Lou USA) and **Iseeubaby** (Wesley), 3yos **Sugar Delight** (Bettors Delight USA), **Atlantic Gem** (Downbytheseaside USA) and **State My Case** (Rock N Roll World USA), 4yo **Adda Lombo** (American Ideal USA) and 5yo **Our Musical Motion** (Highview Tommy).

There were 5 multiple winners amongst the fillies and mares including Westbreds **Ima Tiny Dancer** (A Rocknroll Dance USA) who won 3 Pinjarra races and **Gypsy Dragon** (Sportswriter USA) who won an Albany double. Other dual winners included **Steno** (Sweet Lou USA) with a metropolitan double.

Races for fillies in February 2024:

- 2YO – 5 of the 13 2yo races were restricted to fillies. Fillies won an additional 3 races. Seven of the 8 wins were by Westbred fillies. Fifty five percent of 2yo starters were fillies.

- 3YO – 5 of the 14 3yo races were restricted to fillies. Fillies won an additional two 3yo races and 4 3yo and over races. Seven of the 11 wins were by Westbred fillies, and 46% of 3yo starters were fillies.

There were 37 wins by mares in February 2024, well down on the good results for January 2024. It matched the lower starter levels (17 lower than January), which is a repeat of the pattern for 2023. Overall the number of mares racing in January/February this season is lower than in 2023. Eighty six percent of the wins by mares were in races with stakes of at least \$9,360.

Fillies and mares won 9 of the 40 (22.5%) races run at Gloucester Park on Friday nights, another disappointing result reflecting of programming that isn't providing enough incentive for fillies and mares to compete successfully at GP. Winners included 5yo mares **Mighthavtime NZ (Betterthancheddar USA)** who won a \$21,000 Open and **Steno (Sweet Lou USA)** won the \$50,000 Laurie Kennedy and \$27,000 Fillies and Mares FFA. Both of these mares have featured as winners in the previous two months. Other winners were **Lady Prima Donna NZ (Betterthancheddar USA)** who won a \$9,360 Pace and **In A Wink NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** won a \$21,000 3YO Fillies Pace.

There were also a win by **Pocketful Of Opals (Foreclosure NZ)**, part owner breeder trainer Bianca Ashcroft in the Williams Cup. The remaining 4 WA bred winners of 4 races at premium meetings were:

♥ **5yo Beyond The Sea - Sunshine Beach USA o/o Robyns C C NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** owner breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd. A good effort after starting favourite and making the most of the 1 barrier to hold the lead, quick 28.9 1st qtr, got headed down the back in a fast 28.1 3rd qtr, fought back around the bend to regain the lead and go on to win the \$30,000 Fillies and Mares Pace by 1.7m in a lifetime best 1:54.7, last qtr 28 flat. Half sister to **Beat The Bank**. Dam a metropolitan winner and family of Chariots of Fire placed **Salty Robyn NZ**;

♥ **3yo Filly Copy Cat Queen - My Hard Copy NZ o/o Luvya Maddy Lombo (Jet Laag USA)** breeder Bill Hayes. Promising filly, first start since September, started from 5 at long odds. Well back at barrier release and straight to the inside, settling 4th along the pegs, super fast 35.8 lead with race favourite Water Lou in the breeze, fast middle half, into the moving line with 700 to go, kept going and motored home to win the \$21,000 3YO Fillies Pace by 11.4m in lifetime best 1:54.5. Dam a half sister to **Suave Stuey Lombo** and to the dam of **Rock Me Over** and **Handsandwheels**. Family of **Misty Maiden**.

♥ **6yo Nevermindthechaos - Sportswriter USA o/o Dontgetmeruffled (Courage Under Fire NZ)** breeder Mike Howie. Quality mare, first start since July. Followed a winning trial with a first up win. Started favourite from 1, surrendered the lead then retook the position quickly after the start, quickish lead, steady first half, super slick down the back to set up the win, held out the late challenge to win the \$19,000 Pace by a head in 1:55.6, last qtrs in 27.7 and 28.3. Half sister to **Walsh**. Dam a winner of over \$70,000 and half sister to multiple metropolitan winner **Cloudie**.



♥ **7yo Rumour Has It - Roll With Joe Usa o/o Roustabout Nz (Christian Cullen NZ)** owner breeder Debra Lewis. Resumed in December for 2 good metro wins. Also won twice in January including a brilliant win in a Heat of the Nights of Thunder. Two starts later started favourite from 5, went forward to the lead, better than even time first half, led well into the back before sprinting hard, moved further away down the straight to win the \$21,000 4YO and Older Mares (yeh!) Pace by 8.6m in a pedal to the metal 1:54.9, last qtrs 27.9 and 28.2. Half sister to **Arousing** and **Loving You**, dam of **Brooklyn Bridge**. Dam a winner of the Empress Stakes and half sister to **Pelusiatic**.

The number of fillies and mares racing in February 2024, thanks to the increase with the fillies, is 4 more than the same month last year. For February 2024 Westbreds provided 100% of 2yo fillies, 78% of 3yo fillies and 78% of racing mares. Fillies and mares contributed 36.3% of overall starters.

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YOUR COMMITTEE

If you have a genuine interest in promoting breeding and harness racing in WA, have been a financial member for at least one full calendar year and have relevant experience and time to contribute to a Committee position involving meetings and undertaking various projects, please forward a brief profile to the WASBA Secretary.

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Don't forget to check out the facebook page and website from time to time for news, breeding information, links to various items of interest and contact information. The WASBA website is www.wasba.com.au

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Bank Details for payment of Membership and other:
Bank: Westpac; BSB 036 043; Account Number 129810



The WASBA AGM (for the 12 months ending 31 August 2023) was held on **Friday 24 November 2023.**

The **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** has been scheduled for **24 April 2024**. Meetings are scheduled monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, except on specific occasions and over the Christmas New Year period. If you would like to raise any issues or make comment, contact a Committee member or:

- Send an email to info@wasba.com.au .
- Write to WASBA at PO Box 3237 EAST PERTH WA 6892.
- OR **you can PM us on facebook** or use **Messenger** to get in touch.

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