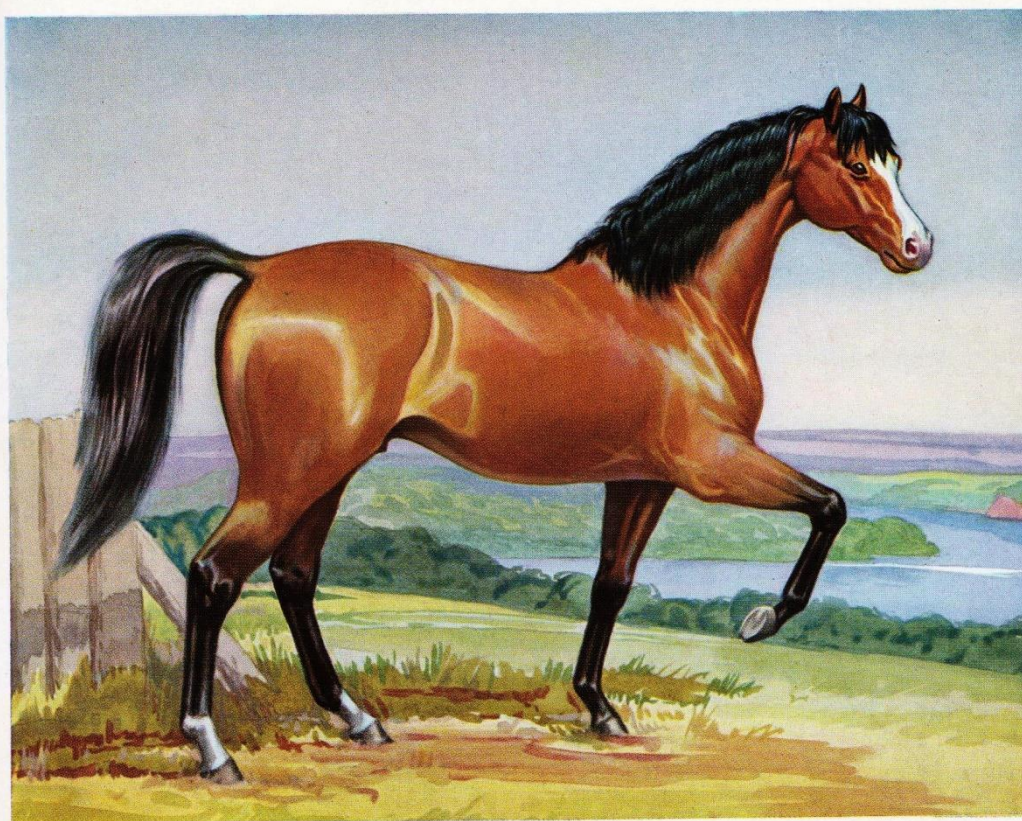# HISTORY OF THOROUGHBRED BREEDING IN THE UPPER HUNTER VALLEY

SECOND EDITION

NSW

AUSTRALIA

HECTOR

Bay Arab, at one time the property of the Duke of Wellington. Hector was imported from Calcutta to New South Wales, and was the most outstanding sire during the first decade of Australian racing.

Courtesy of Douglas M Barrie 'The Australian Bloodhorse'; from a watercolour impression by the author

COMPILED BY

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SCONE

2019

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About the author: W. P. Howey is a retired veterinarian and lives in Scone

Foreword

I had delusions of grandeur. I thought I could write a seminal tome about the evolution of the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry in the Upper Hunter Valley. Earlier I managed a very modest digest which I called the 'History of Thoroughbred Breeding in the Upper Hunter Valley'. I believed I could 'expand and enhance' this book. When I delved deeper I discovered that much of the best 'modern' information was available only on the web? The rest hadn't changed.

I had the good fortune to meet the late Keith Binney at his pristine home in Cremorne. He helped me immeasurably and even presented me with 20 copies of his pivotal research composition 'Horsemen of the First Frontier' to give to others. He said; *"If TROVE had been available he could have achieved the task in a fraction of the time".*

Today many of the best resources are contained in 'unpublished' websites. These include Ian Ibbett's excellent 'Kings of the Turf' (https://kingsoftheturf.com/) and the Thoroughbred Heritage Website (http://www.tbheritage.com/) . The latter includes excellent contributions from Keith Binney and Michael Ford (Australian Stud Book) although American home-based. It means that pivotal information can be accessed by a simple click of the mouse when available online. The same applies to Ian Ibbett's detailed encomiums to all the winners of the AJC Derbies from 1861 ('Cassandra') to 1976 ('Great Lover').

I quickly arrived at the decision that all I would be doing if I persisted on my own would be simply to regurgitate information already supplied by far more worthy proponents. Did I mention before 'plunder, plagiarise and purloin where possible'? I'm the world expert by now but I never claim the credit. I always cite the original text and duly acknowledge the source(s). There is a long list at the end of this 'publication'. This is a compilation; not a composition. In a perfect world Douglas M Barrie's 'The Australian Bloodhorse' would be digitalised by now? I wish I had the time and motivation. I may never 'print' this submission in hard copy. Even Keith Binney was left with pallet-loads of books he couldn't sell?

WPH 07/0619

Front Cover: 'Hector'

In the very early days of colonisation the 'new age of fast transport' (and communication) depended entirely on the best available horses. For the first settlers and subsequent squatters it wasn't all about personal gratification or self-aggrandisement. It was hard-nosed perspicacious business acumen. In America it has been defined as: 'Be best; be biggest; be first'. Since about 1800 it boiled down to who owned the 'best and fastest' most reliable means of conveyance.

Not much had happened before 1800. The initial seven 'Capers' introduced in January 1788 with the first fleet were found to be slow and cumbersome. It was not until the smart entrepreneurs began to move fast twenty years later that things started to improve rapidly. 'Northumberland' (UK) and 'Washington' (USA) were among the first thoroughbreds to be introduced in 1800 and 1802. About the same time a high quality bay Arab stallion was imported to NSW from Calcutta. This was 'Hector' or 'Old Hector'; at one time the property of Arthur Wellesley later Duke of Wellington. He was the most outstanding sire during the first decade of Australian racing. The inaugural meeting was held in Hyde Park in 1810. Governor Macquarie was obliged to attend although opposed to the concept on religious grounds. The Governor was a Free Presbyterian from the Isle of Skye.

Following Wentworth, Blaxland and Lawson's successful foray over the Blue Mountains everything opened up. It is possible even highly probable that Cox and Howe rode the progeny of Hector in foraging their way from Windsor into the Hunter Valley via the 'Great North Road' from 1813 onwards. His colour might be a clue. Many very successful lines of early Walers were solid or light bay in colour. The Scrumlo Saladin stock horses were a good example. With access to the best available means of covering the vast expanses the 'squatters' were off and running.

'Hector' epitomised the ideal source for the practice of 'breeding up'. In the earliest days the Arab horse was highly prized. Earlier pure bred thoroughbred stallions 'Northumberland' (1800) and 'Washington' (USA 1802) had been imported to improve the restricted local breed. In 1806 prominent merchant Robert Campbell acquired 'Old Hector' in India and delivered his purchase (500 rupees) to Sydney from Calcutta on the *Castle of Good Hope* together with "307 Bengal cows, 4 Indian mares and two horses (one of which is a stallion), four asses, sugars, pieces goods and about 14,000 gallons of spirits". Old Hector was described as "a bay horse standing nearly 16 hands, an Indian bred Stud horse, his stock distinguished themselves greatly on the Colonial Turf of his day; and were so remarkable for bottom and hardihood that a real Old Hector strain is highly appreciated at this time".

Hector stood in Sydney originally at Campbells' Sydney residence. By 1810 he had firmly established his credentials as a worthy sire and was almost certainly well represented at the first 'official' race meeting at Hyde Park the same year. In 1812 he was sold to Mr D'Arcy Wentworth (father of W C Wentworth who rode the first winner at Hyde Park) and continued the stables of Mr Robert Campbell at No 8 Bligh Street; terms '5 guineas and half a guinea the groom'. This building later became part of the Union Club. In 1813 Mr Wentworth's "Bay Arabian Horse Hector" stood at Sydney on Fridays and Saturdays and on the remaining days of the week at Wentworth's Homebush Farm. Was this the very earliest 'shuttle' so common between the hemispheres today? His fee varied between 5 and 6 guineas and 'Old Hector' passed away on Saturday 27th December 1823 at Mr D Wentworth's Homebush property. He was recorded as 31 or 32 years old.

Thoroughbred Breeding History in the Upper Hunter Valley II

Executive Summary

The history of thoroughbred breeding in the Upper Hunter Valley dates back to the very early days of settlement with the importation of the TB Stallion 'Crawford' to Potter Macqueen's Segenhoe Stud in 1826. Since then there has been an expanding continuum. In the early 21st century the valley is acknowledged as one of the premier TB breeding areas of the world comparing favourably with both Newmarket UK and Kentucky USA. There have been a number of iterations when one area of the valley or another has reigned supreme. Broadly speaking the region has been divided into at least three geographical clusters: Denman and environs including Widden, Bylong and Baerami Valleys plus Jerrys Plains, Muswellbrook and district, Scone and region with Merriwa and also latterly the Murrurundi/Timor precinct. It might be reasonable to argue that the TB enterprises were gradually squeezed northwards by the encroaching coal mining industry from earlier establishments in the lower Hunter Valley; especially around Maitland. Remarkably the 'mud map' of thoroughbred studs in 1900 very closely resembles that for 2016 with ownership the only issue. There is one notable exception: Widden Stud.

The Hon James White was the pioneer leviathan owner-breeder in the early days of metropolitan racing in both Sydney and Melbourne. His trail blazing forays included Epsom Derby assault on the august Jockey Club establishment in England. During the latter part of the 19th century the Thompson family of the Widden & Bylong Valleys were preeminent. Brothers W & F. A. Moses sustained a brief but exceptionally productive period at 'Arrowfield' (now 'Coolmore') near Jerrys Plains early in the 20th century. Many of their champion racehorse and later stallions stood at Widden. Percy Miller at Kia Ora Stud, Scone superintended a long string of champion stallions which produced several Melbourne Cup winners. The importation of Star Kingdom by Stanley Wootton in 1950 heralded a golden period in Australian TB breeding. Star Kingdom stood at Baramul Stud in the Widden Valley. 'Baramul' was owned by Sydney solicitor A. O. Ellison. R. F. Moses of Fairways Stud Muswellbrook was co-owner of Star Kingdom with Wootton and Ellison. In 1946 with several partners George Ryder acquired Woodlands Stud Farm Pty Ltd at Denman. By the 1960s under Ryder's management it reputedly produced annually more individual winners of more races than any other stud in the world. Newton Wonder, a very successful sire, was followed by the imports Pipe of Peace, Sostenuto and King of Babylon and the Australian-born Sky High. In 1970 Ryder sold Woodlands but almost immediately bought Kia Ora Stud Farm Pty Ltd at Scone. He championed the use of Australian-bred thoroughbred sires there until 1977. These included syndicated sires Gunsynd and Baguette. Woodlands was acquired by Bob Kleberg, King Ranch, Texas USA and Lord Derby UK. They later sold to the Ingham Brothers Jack and Bob which heralded another vastly successful period for Woodlands. The latter is now part of the enormously productive global empire Darley or Godolphin owned by the ruler of Dubai. The latter part of the 20th century and well into the 21st has been dominated by the story of the imported 'Danehill'. Initially standing in a joint venture partnership between 'Arrowfield' Jerrys Plains and 'Coolmore' Ireland at the Jerrys Plains property Danehill and his sire sons have eclipsed all the records previously claimed by the likes of Heroic (Widden) and Star Kingdom (Baramul). Under John Messara's tutelage the eponymous 'Arrowfield Stud' later moved to the Segenhoe Valley near Scone. This further consolidated this regional area as the epicentre of TB breeding in Australia. The valley is further enhanced by nascent reiterations in the locale including the neighbouring lower Rouchel Valley

TO COVER THIS SEASON,

AT GLENDON, HUNTER'S RIVER.

Terms,

For each Mare, 10l. Stg. Groom's Fee included.

THE BAY HORSE

TOSS;

15 hands 2 inches high, foaled in 1822 ;

WAS got by Bourbon, dam (Tramp's dam) by Gohanna, her dam Fraxinella by Trentham, Woodpecker, Everlasting by Eclipse, &c. &c.—Vide Stud Book, Vol. 3.

Bourbon. was got by Sorcerer, dam by Precipitate, her dam by Highflyer, out of Tiffany, by Eclipse, &c &c.—Vide. Stud Book, page 289, Vol. 2.

Gohanna was got by Mercury, dam by Herod, her dam Maiden by Matchem, &c. &c,—Vide Stud Book, page 151, Vol. 2.

PERFORMANCES in 1827.

Newmarket 1st Spring Meeting, Monday, April 30th, 1827.

Handicap sweepstakes of 10 sovereigns each, for Horses of all ages, Ab. m.

Lord Southampton's b. c. Toss, by Bourbon, 8 st. 10 lbs.   1
Mr. Wyndham's bl. c. Black Swan, 8 st. 6 lb.,   .   2

Lord Darlington's Albion, 9st. 5lb. ; Mr. Howe's Skiff, 9st. ; Mr. Payne's br. c. the General, 8st. 2lb. ; Duke of Richmond's b. c. Linkboy, 8st. 2lb. ; Lord Anson's ch. c. by Merlin, dam by Scud; 6st. 8lb. ; Mr. Grey's b. f. by Spectre, dam by Poulton, 6st. 8lb. also started, but the Judge could only place the first two ; 4 to 1 against Black Swan, 6 to 1 against the General.—Vide Racing Calendar, page 26.

EPSOM, FRIDAY, JUNE 1st.

The Woodcot Park Stakes of 10 sovereigns each, with 10l. added from the Fund, last half-mile.

Lord Southampton's Toss, by Bourbon, 5 years old 10 st. 1
Lord Mountcharle's ch. c by Cariton. out of Ursula, 3
years old, 7 st. 9 lb.   .   .   .   2
Captain Lock's br. c. Fairlawn, 3 years old, 7 st. 7 lb.   .   3
Duke of Richmond's bl. f. Busk, 3 years old, 7st. 3 lb.   .   4
Mr. B. Bond's bl. c. Sparkler, 3 years old, 7 st. 3 lb.   .   5
Duke of Richmond's ch. p. Starch, 3 years old, 8 st.   paid.
Vide Racing Calendar, page 49.

HAMPTON, TUESDAY, JULY 3rd.

Lord Southampton's b. c. Toss, by Bourbon   .   ..   1
Mr. Turner's br. c. Royal Oak, 4 years old   .   .   2
Mr. Westeura's ch. c. Conrad, 3 years old   .   .   3
Vide Racing Calendar, page 70.

Accommodation for Mares and Foals at the usual prices.

All expenses to be paid before the Mare is taken away.

The Horse will be limited to Forty Mares.

N. B.   A Certificate, respecting the identity of the Horse "Toss," from Mr. R. Tattersall, of Hyde Park Corner, London, may at any time be seen, by applying to the Proprietor.

An advertisement for "Toss".

Sydney Monitor, 9 August 1828.

'Toss @ Glendon 1828
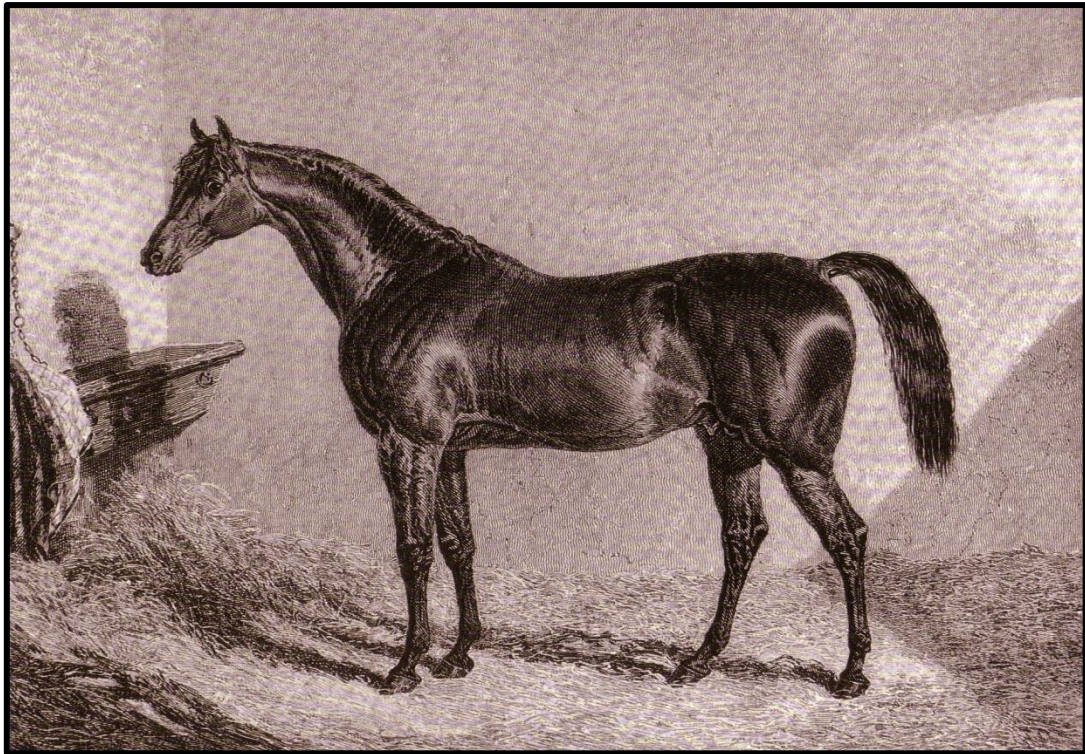
Dover @ Glendon in 1836

This is one of the very early images of a thoroughbred stallion in the Hunter Valley
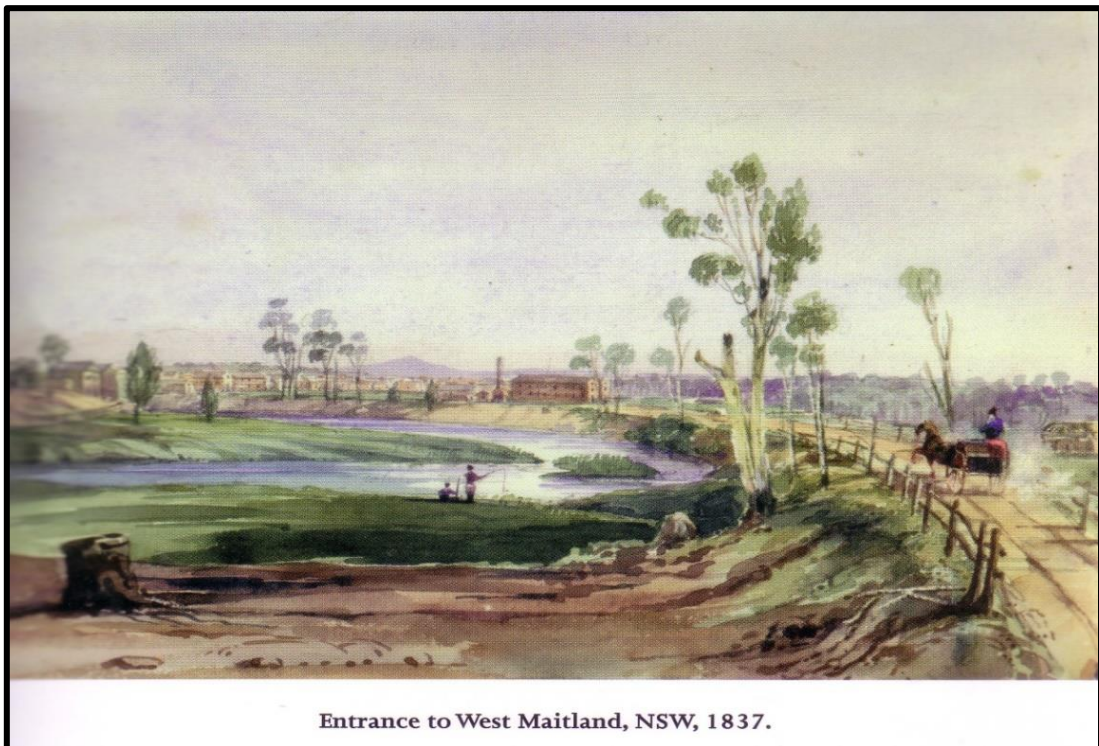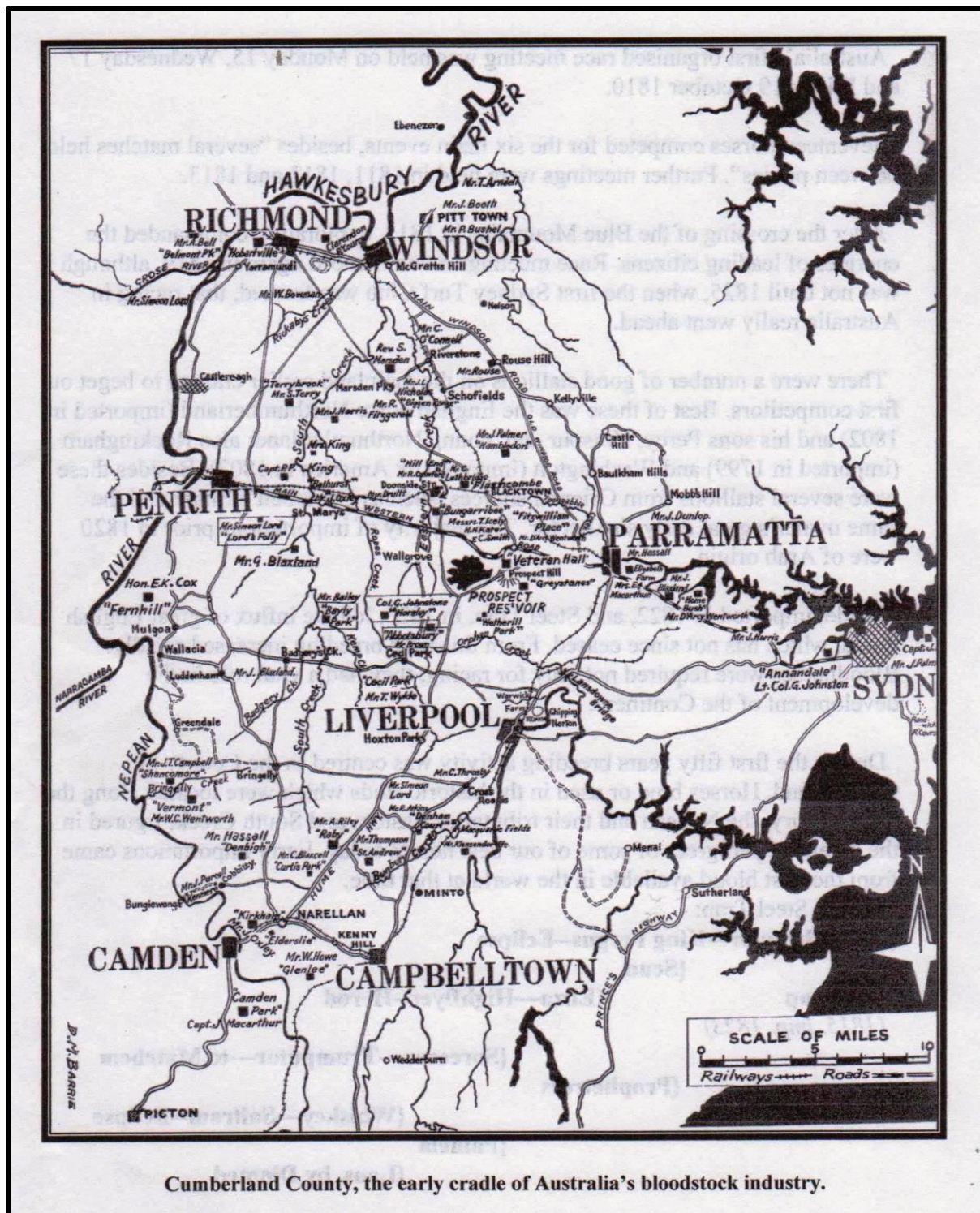
Entrance to West Maitland, NSW, 1837.

Maitland was the nearest commercial centre

The first recorded race meeting was held in 1834

Cradle of Thoroughbreds

Douglas M Barrie 1953

Cumberland County, the early cradle of Australia's bloodstock industry.

Cumberland County was the cradle of Australia's bloodstock industry. Early breeders and owners were men of historic significance, and many of their homes and farms exist today (1953).

Australia's first organised race meeting was held in Hyde Park, Sydney on Monday 15, Wednesday 17 and Friday 19 October 1810.

Seventeen horses competed for the main events, besides "several matches held between ponies." Further meetings were held in 1811, 1812 and 1813.

After the crossing of the Blue Mountains in 1813, exploration commanded the energies of the leading citizens. Race meetings recommenced again in 1819, although it was not until 1825, when the first Sydney Turf Club was formed, that racing in Australia really went ahead.

There were a number of good stallions on the mainland early enough to beget our first competitors. Best of these was the English horse Northumberland (imported in 1802) and his sons Percy, Hotspur and Young Northumberland; also Rockingham (imported in 1799) and Washington (imported ex-America in 1802). Besides these were several stallions from Oriental sources, such as Campbell's Shark and the same owner's great early sire Hector. The majority of importations prior to 1820 were of Arab origin.
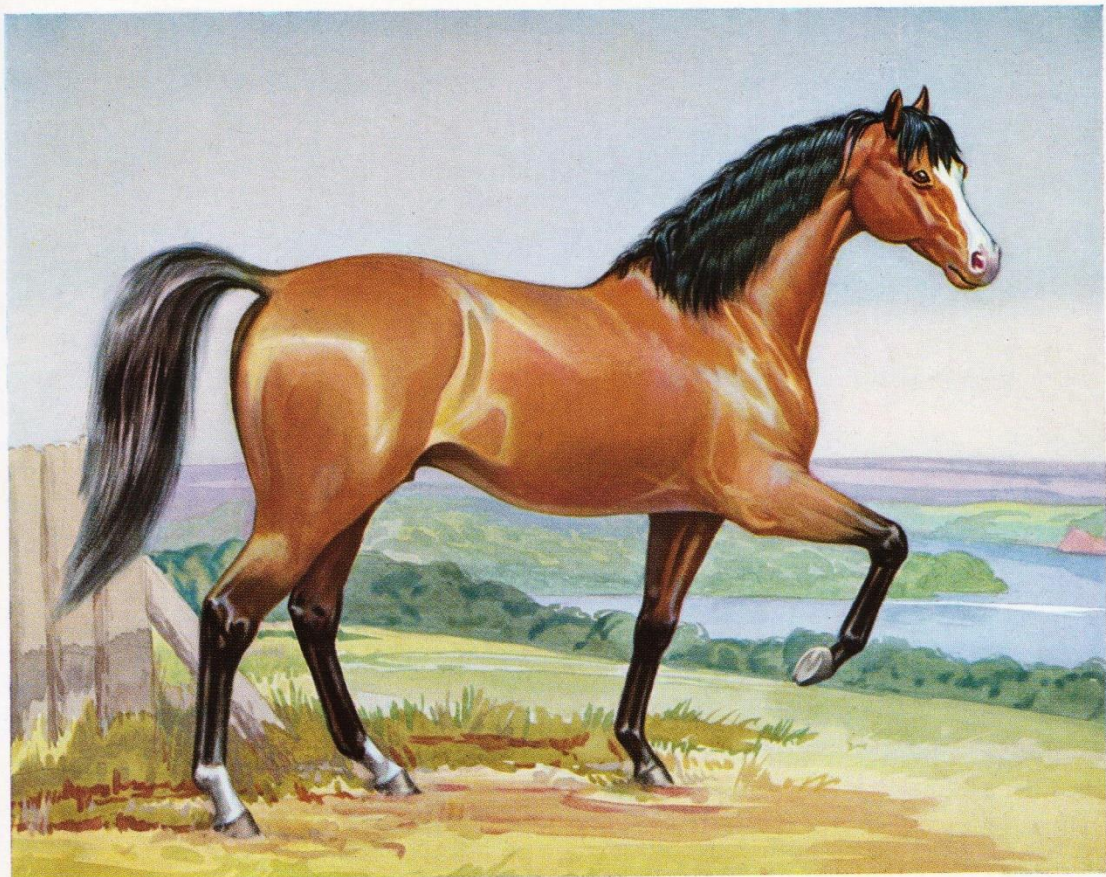
HECTOR

Bay Arab, at one time the property of the Duke of Wellington. Hector was imported from Calcutta to New South Wales, and was the most outstanding sire during the first decade of Australian racing.

Featured Image: 'Hector': From a watercolour impression by Douglas M Barrie

Stride, imported in 1822, and Steel Trap, in 1823, led the influx of great English blood, which has not since ceased. From this time breeding increased rapidly. Bloodhorses were required not only for racing; they had a vital role in the development of the Continent.

During the first fifty years breeding activity was centred in the County of Cumberland. Horses bred or used in the historic studs which were located along the Hawkesbury, the Nepean and their tributaries Eastern and Southern Creek, figured in the extended pedigree of some of our best horses of today. Early importations came from the best blood available in the world at that time. Steel Trap (Foaled in 1815; imported in 1823) was a star class exemplar.

In England Steel Trap was a good performer. His sire Scud got the 1818 and 1820 Derby winners Sam and Sailor, as well as Shoveler, the 1819 Oaks winner. Sorcerer, the sire of Steel Trap's dam Prophetess, was one of the best sires of his time and a link in the chain that led to Matchem down to Hurry On and Man O' War. Prophetess' sire Whiskey got Eleanor, the first winner of both the Oaks and Derby. His sire Saltram, won the Derby; while maternal great grandsire Diomed won the first Derby in 1780. Similarly, other imported sires came from the most successful English blood of their particular period.

Colonel George Johnston was the officer, who, at the instigation of Macarthur's party, arrested Governor Bligh in 1808. Johnston's stallion, Northumberland (imp), was one of the most used in early Sydney. He stood at Johnston's farm at Annandale, now a suburb of that name. Johnston's larger holding "The King's Grant" passed to his daughter and her husband Major Weston. Here, in 1817, historic Horsley Park was built, where the first hunt assembled in Australia, with hounds specially brought from England.

The first Australian-bred stallion advertised for duty was Captain Piper's Young Northumberland. He stood from 1804 at Hassall's stables at Parramatta. His owner was steward for the first Sydney Jockey Club and Point Piper takes its name from him. Captain Piper later left the coast for his "Alloway Bank" Estate near Bathurst, where he settled for the rest of his life.

Rival for Northumberland was Campbell's Hector, who was a great acquisition to the colony. His blood survives in maternal families. De La Salle traces back to a Hector mare.

Hector stood first in Sydney, at Campbell's yard in Bligh Street where the Union Club, the AJC and Stud Book Keeper's Offices are today (1953). His later owner, Mr D'Arcy Wentworth, was the father of W. C. Wentworth, explorer and statesman. Hector's next habitat was the "Home Bush Farm" where the Sydney Abattoirs are today (1953; now Sydney Olympic Park). It is possible that horses used in the first Blue Mountains crossing were progeny of Hector and Northumberland.

The Wentworths' larger holding was "Fitzwilliam Place" at Toongabbie, an important breeding centre in those far-off days. Mr J C Osborne is today (1953) breeding fine thoroughbreds at his small stud in Fitzwilliam Road, on a portion of the old estate. A Cold Shower colt bred by Mr Osborne was the biggest yearling offered at the 1952 Easter Sales, standing at 16.2 hands.

Friend of the Wentworths and one of the Blue Mountain trio was Lieutenant William Lawson. Shortly after the Bligh incident, in which he took part, Lawson built "Veteran Hall" at Prospect Hill. Today tall pines look down on Sydney's water reservoir; and mark the site of the house and stables where such horses as Baron (imp. 1824), Theorem (imp. 1828) and the Colonial-bred Spring Gun, stood the season. This son of Steel Trap was the winner of the Produce Stakes in 1828; the Governor's Cup, the Wentworth Cup (twice) and the Town Plate. Lawson was among the most notable of the early breeders.

Bungarribee, Eastern Creek, NSW, 1858.
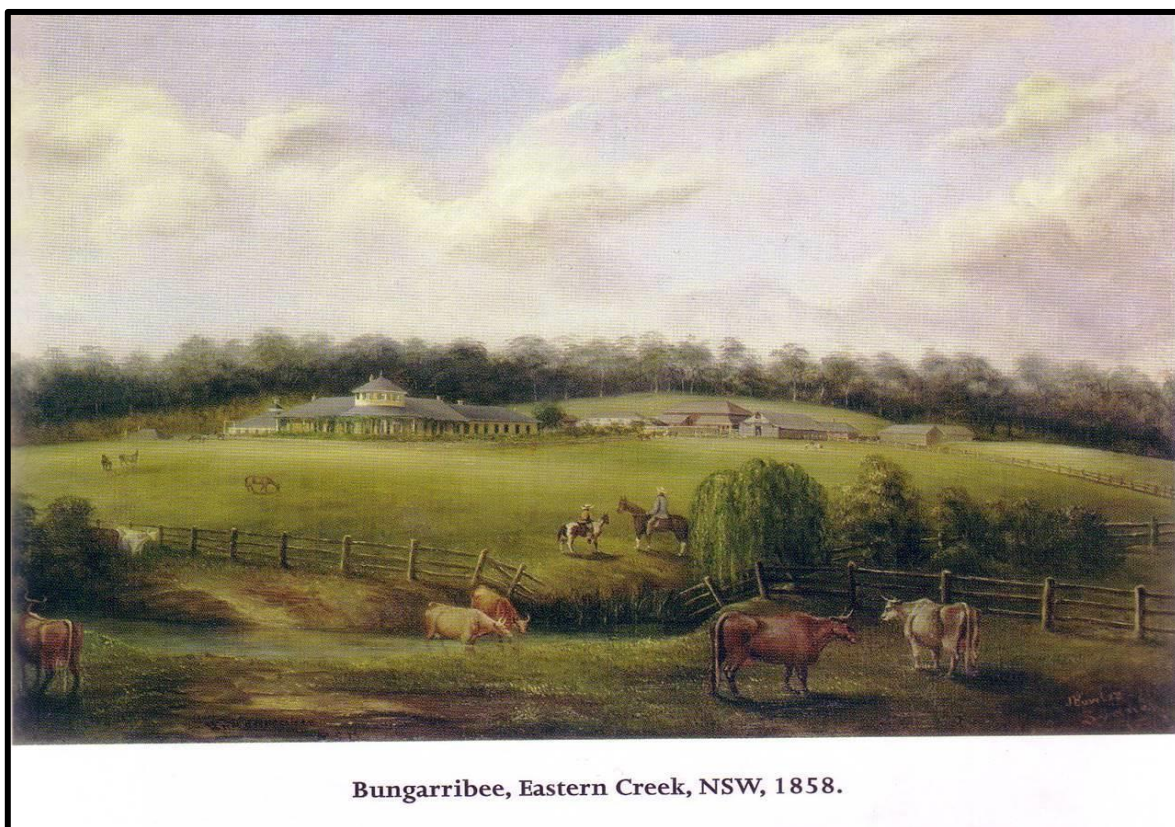
'Bungarribee House', Doonside has been associated with thoroughbred since 1825 until at least 1953. The stables built by Mr Thomas Icely are seen on the left of the house (RHS of image)

A few miles west, near Doonside, is the historic "Bungarribee", rich in thoroughbred history, and where Steel Trap died in 1834. Built 130 years ago by John Campbell of India Mutiny fame, Bungarribee was at times owned by three important breeders. The first, Mr T C Icely, imported Manto; our first named thoroughbred mare. She was the grand-dam of Flora McIvor and ancestress of the very numerous families that produced Trenton and company.

A later owner was Mr Charles Smith, a noted breeder who carried on the thoroughbred tradition. Famous Bungarribee sires in his time, beside Steel Trap, were Rous' Immigrant (imp) and Emancipation (by Toss imp).

Next came Mr Henry Herman Kater, who imported Cap-A-Pie, Tros and Kater's Georgiana in 1839. Cap-A-Pie was a son of The Colonel, winner of the 1828 English St Leger, and a grandson of the 1815 Derby winner Whisker. His best colonial son was Mr Charles Smith's bay horse Sir Hercules, the son of Yattendon.

Not generally known is that this was a line of Eclipse which survived n the County Cumberland for 60 years before being returned to the United Kingdom. The line ran thus – Eclipse, Pot8O's, Waxy, Whisker, The Colonel, Cap-A-Pie, Sir Hercules, Yattendon, Chester, Abercorn (exported to Ireland in 1898). Patron, another offshoot of this line, was also exported, to do well at the stud on the Continent.

"Bungarribee" was later used as an assembly depot by the Australian Agricultural Company when exporting our famous Walers. During the present century the property was owned and managed by Mr Tom Cleaver. In his time Messrs W Kelso, G Price, H R Telford, F Williams, J T Jamieson, Bayly Payten and Frank McGrath were among the leading trainers who sent their charges to spell in the paddocks which surrounded the old home. On the big oat-bin grooms have scratched the names of famous visitors. Clearly visible are such names as Gay Ballerina, Havoc, Chatham, Rampion, Pretzel, Phar Lap, Lord Valentine, High Caste, Lynch Law and Satmoth. Closing Time, Ammon Ra, Prince Humphrey, Amounis, make up a list of notable residents, not forgetting the great Peter Pan, who went from Bungarribee pastures to win two Melbourne Cups.

The gracious old home is now a ruin, although the big barn and stables, which housed good horses for over a century, still stand. What a pity that Bungarribee House cannot be saved from the fate which is rapidly overwhelming it.

Immediately to the north of Bungarribee was Mr Crawford's "Hill End", which may still be located today, between Doonside Station and Eastern Creek. Next door was "Flushcombe" the property of Mr R Lethridge. Hither came Bay Camberton in 1824 and here many colonials, such as Problem, were bred.

Bay Camberton's bloodline survives today through the old maternal families. His sire, Old Camberton, was one of the gamest stayers ever seen on the English turf. He won a famous race against three others. Of these, one dropped dead after passing the post, one went blind and the third was never of use again. Old Camberton was later exported to France to carry on his stud success.

At the junction with South Creek was the holding of the Reverend Samuel Marsden, who dabbled in breeding and farming, apart from his more religious activities. Champion (1809) by Northumberland (imp) was bred by His Reverence at Marsden Park.

Between Marsden Park and Castle Hill is "Hambledon", originally the estate of John Palmer, commissary general of the infant colony and the breeder of Palmer's Grey (1808) and Regent (1815). One of the State's most successful breeders today is Mr A Meehan, whose nearby Marylands Stud has in recent years produced Riptide, Free Rule and Nagpuni, etc.

At the headquarters of Eastern Creek, and almost next door to "Horsley Park", was Mr Brown's "Abottsbury Farm", where Model, the milk-white Arabian, presided over the equine establishment. Model was one of the few Arabs whose blood survives in the old colonial families; the taproot mare Myrtle, (by Gemma Di Vergy), traces to Vesta by Model. His sons included Australian, the winner of the 1825 Two-Year-Old Stakes, while the stout gelding Jorrocks was a close descendent.

One of the best of the early importations was Gratis (imp. 1835), a son of Middleton the 1825 Epsom Derby winner. He stood in Sydney, and also at Mr Charles Roberts' property Wallgrove, just north of "Abbotsbury". Dinah, by Gratis, is an Australian tap-root mare whose family was very successful in Victoria after the 1850's and included Mermaid, the Sydney Cup winner, besides Briseis, the only filly to win both the VRC Derby and Melbourne Cup (in 1876).
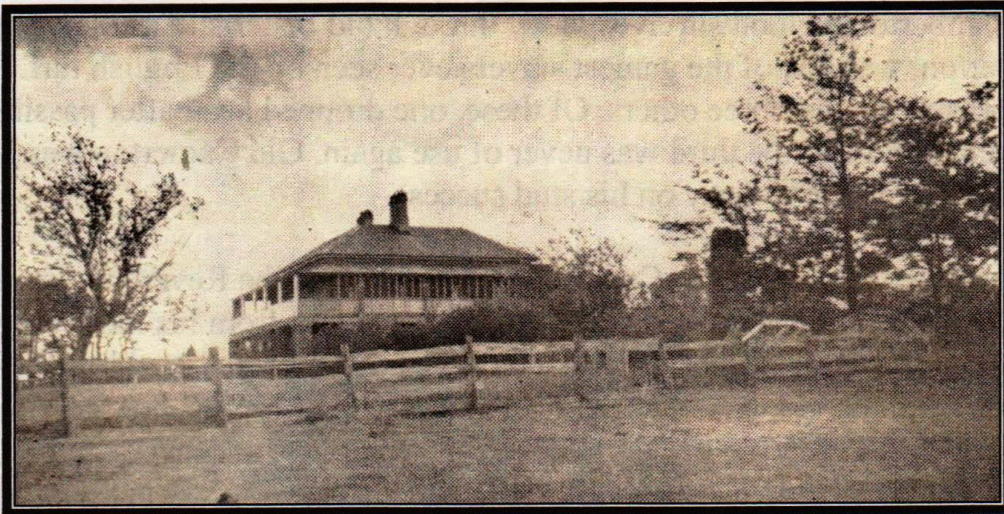
Photo taken above in 1953 shows "Raby" Australia's oldest inhabited Homestead. The stables which housed *Skeleton are gone. They were beyond the trees on the right.

South Creek rises near historic "Raby" and flows north to join the Hawkesbury at Windsor. Mr Alexander Riley, an early magistrate and pioneer wheat grower and sheep-breeder, imported Skeleton, Australia's first Irish horse to Raby Park in 1827.

This was a brilliant racehorse and one of the fastest horses in Ireland. "Raby" is said to be one of the oldest inhabited homesteads on Australia. The present owner, Major Mitchell, is a grand old horseman and thoroughbred horses are still bred there.

SKELETON.
THE CELEBRATED ENTIRE IRISH RACE HORSE.
So successfully run at 2 Years Old and during five successive Seasons by the MOST NOBLE the MARQUESS of SLIGO. subsequently the Property of PRINCE ESTERHAZY and now at RABY in NEW SOUTH WALES.
From a Painting in the Possession of His Lordship by H.M.Chalon Esq.r, Animal Painter to His Majesty.
LONDON, MAY, 1832.
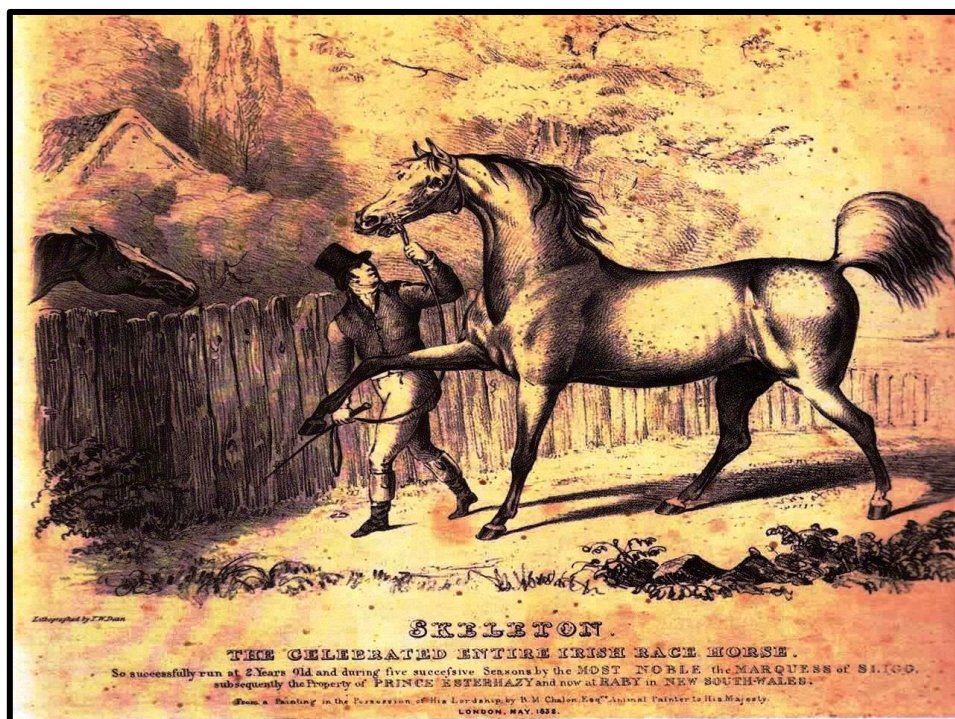
Some miles down South Creek, Mr Henry Bailey bred some of the first racers at his "Bayly Park". Here after 1830, the imported racehorse Whisker stood at stud, in between winning races and matches. He was a son and namesake of the 2815 Derby winner. He died in 1834 shortly after Mr Bailey had refused £1400 for him.

Less than three miles away was Gregory Blaxland's "Lee Holme", the starting point of the all-important Blue Mountain expedition. Today, close by is Mr H P McCormick's fine stud "Sundridge Park", where Edwardsi (imp) at present is top sire and where such good ones as Prince Dakhil have been raised.

South Creek crossed the old Western Road into "Bathurst", at one time owned by John Oxley, the surveyor-general and explorer, and then flowed through the farms of Captain and Mrs King, where several of the Young Hectors did stud duty in the 1820's.

Nazeer Farrib

Nazeer Farrib, 'a high caste Arab', painted in watercolour by Edward Winstanley, Sydney 1846. He appeared in early editions of the Australian Stud Book. Nazeer Farrib was part of the early Arab influence on the development of the Australian thoroughbred. Many of the Arabs imported to Australia in the early nineteenth century had raced on the turf in India. They were prized by breeders for fresh bloodlines, and were often put to thoroughbred or half-bred mares, or rheie daughters were out to thoroughbred stallions (Courtesy Mitchell Library, Ref. Z ML 282).

Messrs J Harris and Samuel Terry of "Terrybrook" were prominent breeders; each situated on the opposite sides of South Creek near the first site of the village of Castlereagh. Today, a few miles west nearer the Nepean River, is Mr J C Benrodt's "Princes Farm" and Mr H S Thompson's "Tarwyn Park" studs.

The boundary of the county is formed by the Nepean and Hawkesbury Rivers. Actually outside the county and across the Nepean River are historic "Camden Park", the home of John Macarthur and his descendants since 1805. Macarthur had been, perhaps, our leading breeder while at Elizabeth Park at Rosehill. Percy, a son of Northumberland (imp.) bred by Macarthur in 1804, and Hotspur, Percy's brother of 1805, was among the first of a numerous company of improving quality.

Over the long many years good racehorses and stallions came from Camden Park. Macarthur broodmares like Gulnare (imp.), Casandra, Alice Grey and Gedley have many descendants racing in Australia and New Zealand.

Mr William Howe's "Glenlee", well known in the early days, was just across the river. A mile or two northwest were tow holding so the surveyor-general Oxley, "Elderslie" and "Kirkham". The history of Kirkham dates back to 1816 when Governor Macquarie made a grant of 1000 acres to Oxley. Although Oxley's original home "Kirkham Cottage" has long since disappeared, the coach house and stables may still be seen. Oxley died in 1828 and for some years his sans managed the old home. Bachelor was a notable importation doing duty here from 1830.

However, "Kirkham" won greater recognition as a thoroughbred home later in the century, when it became the property of the Hon James White. In his time "Kirkham" stud sires included Martini-Henry, who won the Victoria derby and Melbourne Cup at his first two starts; and Chester who also claimed the same double among his many victories. The great son of Chester, Abercorn, was bred at Kirkham in 1884. Importations included Ayr Laddie, Dalmeny, Fitz-Donovan and the well performed Gossoon. Martini-Henry, although bred in New Zealand, came to "Kirkham" when a foal.

"Cobbitty", just downstream from "Kirkham", has long been a horse centre and "Denbigh", the old home of the Hassall family, is nearby. In later years "Cobbitty" became famous as the headquarters of the NSW Polo Association.

At the junction of Bringelly Creek with the Nepean, were "Vermont", the pastoral home of William Charles Wentworth, and "Shancomore" owned by J T Campbell, Sheriff of the Colony and Secretary to Governor Macquarie. "Shancomore" boasted three publicised stallions in the 1810 – 1820 period – Abracadabra (son of Hector); Shillelagh (by Nelson, the son of Northumberland, out of Worrogombee by Rockingham, imp) and Abdallah a "milk-white full bred Arabian". The stud fee for the latter was "currency 5 guineas., or in lieu of money payment, 12 bushels of good storable wheat".

Mulgoa, near the junction of the Warragamba and Nepean Rivers, was the Cox country. The three brothers were sons of William Cox of Sydney and Richmond who built the first road to Bathurst. Henry Cox's homestead "Glenmore" is now a country club of that name. George Cox's "Wimbourn" was the stud home of the good early racehorse Chase in the 1820's. Chase was a son of Bay Camberton (imp.).
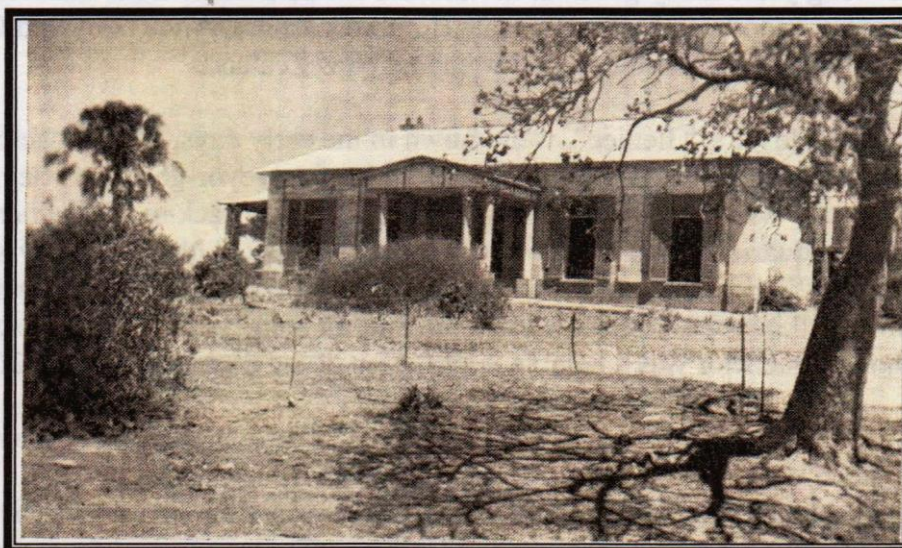
"Fernhill", where the great Australian horses Chester and the unbeaten Grand Flaneur were bred

In 1842 Edward Cox built the beautiful home "Fernhill", which his son the Hon E K Cox made the showplace of the Commonwealth when Yattendon was top sire. Chester was bred at Fernhill and also the unbeaten Grand Flaneur who was another of the select company to win the Victoria derby and Melbourne Cup double. The Fernhill Handicap, run at Randwick, owes its name to this famous old stud.

"Fernhill House' is an architectural gem wrought form local stone and timber and will look down on the grave of Yattendon and out across the cradle of the Australian thoroughbred for many another year.

CHESTER (8). Brown Horse, 1874, by Yattendon–Lady Chester (imp.). Winner of the V.R.C. Derby, Melbourne Cup, etc. A great racehorse, and the sire of Abercorn, Carlyon, etc. Bred and raced by Hon. James White. Died at Kirkham in 1891.

Overlooking the rich flats, beside which the Grose joins the Nepean to become the Hawkesbury River, is "Hobartville". Records in the Mitchell Library disclose it was known as "Hobart Ville" since 1816 or earlier. The home of the Reynolds family for over a half a century, "Hobartville" had produced fine horses for famous owners for almost the previous century. Maribyrnong, Tim Whiffler, Grand Flaneur have in turn been the boss there; while recent notable, like Temeraire and Moorland, have come from Hobartville sires and Hawkesbury pastures.

Clarendon racecourse lies between Richmond and Windsor – one of Australia's oldest racecourses and another old Cox home. Near Windsor, Mr Charles Smith had "Clifton" and across the river were notable horse breeders, like the Baldwins. One of the most celebrated performers of the early racing days was Scratch. Bred and reared on the Hawkesbury it was nothing for Scratch to travel 30 or 40 miles to a meeting.

From these old homes within forty miles of Sydney, came horses that were to establish a breed of stayers as fine as any in the world. From the time of Jorrocks, the iron gelding Spring Gun and Scratch, until the present day, the County of Cumberland has continued to contribute some of the best racehorses.

Footnote:

Since Douglas Barrie wrote this original article in 1953 things have changed dramatically in the County of Cumberland. Now largely subsumed and swallowed by the inexorable urban expansion of Sydney westward, fewer of the icon historical establishments remain in 'production'. Very little genuine pastoral land remains available for agricultural pursuits. Similarly, since the arrival of Star Kingdom and the introduction of the Golden Slipper Stakes at Rosehill, the breeding industry has focused on rapid returns and 'quick fix' outcomes. The heady halcyon days of Victoria Derby and Melbourne Cup doubles are long gone!

General Periods ('Patterns') of Horse Breeding in Australia

According to Douglas M Barrie in 'The Australian Bloodhorse' the following arbitrary patterns or periods of horse breeding in Australia pertain:

1788 – 1800   Importation from any convenient source

1800 – 1823   Period of slow improvement; mainly Eastern Arabs such as 'Hector'

1824 – 1840   Period of marked numerical increase and rapid improvement; 'Thoroughbreds'

1840 – 1870   Thoroughbred established as a distinct breed

1870 onwards   Australian thoroughbred 'comes of age' on the world stage

The British East India Company in Early Australia and John Macarthur's Influence in Colonial Horse Breeding

By Keith R. Binney, author *Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) and The Serpents Legacy*
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Edited extracts from *Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) and The Serpents Legacy.* Author Keith Binney; Hardcover ARP $59.95. At all good bookstores. Distributors Dennis Jones & AssociatesP/L.

See also: http://www.tbheritage.com/Breeders/AUS/AusHistBinney.html

Visit Horsemen of the First Frontier for more information

When one produces a broad historical work like "Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) & The Serpents Legacy", perhaps the writer should not be surprised at any comments received. However, the number of Australian readers who have recently said things like *"I didn't know the British East India Company had anything to do with Australia"* indicates a generally widespread gap in our historical knowledge of the early colonial period. This is especially so when the same people had learnt at school about the British East India Company's major role on the Indian sub-continent, in the Opium Wars with China and with the "Boston Tea Party" of 1773, which was a precursor to the American War of Independence.

In essence, from the very inception of New South Wales in 1788, the Royal Charter of the British East India Company conferred an exclusive right on the Company to control all trade to and from the penal Colony. Further, the founding Governor, Captain Arthur Phillip RN, was specifically instructed to prevent private individuals from trading with India, China and the colonies of any European nation. To this end, the local building of any craft capable of such trading was expressly forbidden. Yet from as early as 1792, the E. I. Company's monopoly right over all NSW commerce was being seriously flouted. However, the breaches were conducted in a subtle manner, being nothing as dramatic as when a party of American colonists dressed up as Mohawk Indians, boarded three British vessels in Boston Harbour and poured forty-five tons of tea into the sea. Early New South Welshmen were obviously much less flamboyant and dare we say, more discreet!

Largely through the entrepreneurial initiative of a 25 year-old, Lieutenant John Macarthur, aided by a complaisant Lieutenant Governor Major Francis Grose, in 1792 a consortium of NSW military and civil officers privately chartered the British supply ship and whaler Britannia. The charter fee was £2000 with a further £2,200 allocated as trading capital for the purpose of obtaining foodstuffs, livestock and general goods from the Dutch-controlled Cape of Good Hope. (£4,200 = $840,000 in 1998 AUD). Despite this being an obvious breach of the British East India Company's Charter, the ailing Governor Phillip did not use his power of veto and thus the first of three private charters went ahead. Around the same time that Britannia was unloading its first cargo at Port Jackson in June 1793, during government talks held in London to renew their Royal Charter, the Chairman of the British East India Company Sir Francis Baring, expressed his strong feelings concerning *".....the serpent that we are nursing at Botany Bay."* As it turned out, junior officer Lieutenant John Macarthur was no doubt considered to be the "King Serpent."

Lieutenant John Macarthur

Nonetheless, this metaphoric expostulation by Sir Francis Baring did not stop contraband trading in the infant colony of New South Wales. It appears that colonial officials, who would normally be expected to record all arriving cargos, simply turned a blind eye to illegal shipments. Thus no official records were kept and the recipients of such imports were naturally, discreetly tight-lipped. This fact is clearly demonstrated by the livestock records of John Macarthur. From a speculative shipment of 100 fecund Bengal sheep that had arrived illegally from Calcutta in February 1793 aboard the Shah Hormuzear, John Macarthur received 30. Yet in a letter written to his brother James in England over a year later in 1794, in which John Macarthur listed his livestock in some detail, there is no mention of any sheep whatsoever. It seems likely that the shrewd and extremely smart John Macarthur was not prepared to create any written record that could later come back to haunt him. Further, in 1800 Macarthur offered to the government *"a remarkable fine stallion from America for £650.* This was in all probability the important foundation sire **Washington**, for which no record of importation appears to exist.

How an official recorder could miss a horse valued in 1800 at £650 ($72,345 in 1998 AUD) at a time when shepherds were paid less than £10 per year, is a matter for suspicious conjecture. Regardless, all of these facts seem reasonable proof of the writer's hypothesis that the reason the importation of early thoroughbreds like **Rockingham** and **Washington** was not officially recorded, is simply because - the horses were imported illegally.

Major Francis Grose resigned as Administrator of the colony in 1794, replaced on an interim basis by Captain William Paterson. In September of 1795 the incorruptible Captain John Hunter RN arrived in New South Wales as the new appointee as Governor. Hunter viewed John Macarthur as an officer with a "restless ambition and litigious disposition."

To Captain Macarthur, the zealous Governor Hunter was an incompetent administrator, but perhaps more accurately, a real threat to Macarthur and his fellow-officers' commercial activities. The Machiavellian Macarthur regularly sent direct to the Duke of Portland in London, serious written criticisms of Hunter's alleged inept administration and extravagant expenditure of government money. In 1800, an unfortunate and bewildered Governor Hunter, who obviously did not expect such "behind the back" conduct from someone he considered a fellow-officer and thus a gentleman, was recalled to London. Hunter was the first but certainly not the last Governor to run foul of the nakedly ambitious John Macarthur, who by now was seducing those who passed for colonial socialites, with a litany of pious self-justification for his petty actions.

John and Elizabeth Macarthur's Elizabeth Farm at Parramatta NSW, 1825

Following his assumption of vice-regal office in September 1800, Governor Philip Gidley King RN, just like his predecessor, immediately set out to try and break the New South Wales Corps officers' powers by expressly forbidding them to carry on trade, particularly any dealings in alcoholic spirits. For whatever reason, but perhaps fulfilling his original intention of aping *"the Botany Bay nabobs"* in London, John Macarthur at this time announced that he was returning to England, and offered to the government all his livestock, and land holdings that he valued at a not unreasonable £4,000. The fertile, fully cleared Elizabeth Farm comprised nearly 300 acres and his total prime land holding was almost 1,300 acres. Not surprisingly, a still incumbent Colonial Secretary, the Duke of Portland, expressed concern that an officer on official duty should have been able over seven short years, to acquire such wealth apparently from part-time farming pursuits.

Fortuitously, from the viewpoint of anyone researching the history of the Australian thoroughbred, the interesting fact was that among his list of livestock John Macarthur offered ten horses. They included five mares of Indian descent (probably of mainly Arab blood, and thus more valuable than cape-bred ponies) at £65 per head, and in particular *"a remarkable fine stallion from America for £650."* Almost certainly this hugely expensive American horse was **Washington**, which is thought to have been one of a shipment of coaching and cavalry bloodhorses described as being of Spanish-Eastern origin, imported to the Cape of Good Hope from New England around 1797-98. **Washington** is suspected, with good reason, to have been imported to Sydney in April 1800 by a private arrangement with Captain William Kent, commander of the *HMS Buffalo.* However, no doubt for the reasons previously stated, no official record of **Washington's** landing was made. Thus, at this early stage of colonial history, *Elizabeth Farm* was the home of some of the very best bloodhorses and mares in the colony, even though some were obviously not pure thoroughbreds. A foal by **Washington**, especially one out of a mare by the earlier import **Rockingham**, represented the best bloodlines the colony had to offer at the time.

The sale of horses to the government did not proceed, and in a pre-emptive purchase Macarthur obtained 1,300 merino-cross sheep from a fellow officer, doubling the size of his own flock. By attempting to manipulate his superior officer, Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson, Macarthur precipitated a duel, in which he seriously injured Paterson. Governor King insisted the ensuing court martial take place in England. Macarthur set sail for London in a ship named the Hunter in November 1801.

During the period that John Macarthur was away, which turned out to be the next four years, a stoic Elizabeth Macarthur remained at Elizabeth Farm with her youngest children Mary, James, and William. Elizabeth was left to handle in her usual calm, competent manner, management of Macarthur's pastoral affairs including sheep husbandry and horse breeding activities. At this point feminists could well rise up and ask -- who in fact was the *Elizabeth Farm* studmaster and breeder of fine bloodhorses at what was then arguably the leading horse stud in the colony? Bloodhorses bred at this time included **Percy (1804) by Northumberland (GB)** from "**a famous Trotting mare**" and **Hotspur (1805) by Northumberland (GB)**, a full-brother to Percy. Incidentally, auctioneer John Howe later offered both stallions for sale at a Windsor auction in 1812. From that date on, John Macarthur became a regular vendor of high-class bloodhorses, particularly stallions. The bloodhorse sire **Percy (1804) by Northumberland (GB)** stood for a time at James Badgery's *Exeter Farm* at South Creek.

Camden Park House NSW, 1843

By the time the Hunter reached England in December of 1802, the ship carrying Governor King's emissary with details on the court martial had disappeared at sea. While both Macarthur and the colonial administration in Sydney were officially censured, it was made clear to King that charges against Macarthur should be dropped.

While in London Macarthur promoted the use of Australian woo, of a finer quality than English wool the demand for which had increased with the need for clothing and blankets for the army at that time engaged in the Napoleonic Wars. Macarthur composed a "Statement of the Improvement and Progress of the Breed of Fine-woolled Sheep in New South Wales," establishing himself as "the supreme authority on and industry representative in England for all of the fine-wool producers in New South Wales." With a network of political allies in place, bolstered by the patriotic mission of raising wool to clothe the army, Macarthur resigned his commission and returned to Sydney in 1805. He brought with him a recommendation that he receive a grant of 5,000 acres of the best grazing land in the colony (with a further 5,000 acres to be granted when returns were forthcoming). He also brought nine Spanish merino rams and a ewe obtained from the Royal flocks at Kew with a special dispensation from King George III for export. A disillusioned and ill Governor King resigned and was replaced by Captain William Bligh RN.

The Macarthurs retained *Elizabeth Farm* at Parramatta and set up *Camden Park* in the new district of Camden, both latter areas having been named in honour of Macarthur's benefactor, Lord Camden. John Macarthur proceeded to attend to his pastoral and mercantile interests at *Elizabeth Farm* and transferred most of his horse breeding activities to *Camden Park.* Unfortunately, while better tha most, the written Macarthur records on horses are often sparse in detail, especially for mares. However, there is no doubt *Camden Park* was a very significant, if not more likely, the major breeder of bloodhorses in the colony at the time. In the 1804 livestock census, Captain Macarthur is credited with owning 12 horses and 14 mares out of the total of 404 horses of all types in the whole colony. By comparison, in the year 1800 there were only two horses in all of Green Hills (later Windsor). Interestingly, both were owned by emancipists, viz. Andrew Thompson and Thomas Rickerby.

It seems that the American horse **Washington** had only a short career at stud. Nevertheless, it is obvious that his female progeny provided most of the foundation broodmare band, which in a short time established *Camden Park* stud's reputation as a supplier of first-class saddle and carriage horses. As well, the stud catered for the emerging demand for racehorses, of which they were major suppliers. Another prime *Camden Park* stud influence was the Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston-imported coaching sire Northumberland (GB), which spent from around 1809 until his death in November 1812 at *Camden Park.* It should be appreciated that the female progeny of many of the sturdy pony-sized Cape and Bengal mares, arising from matings with such fine big coaching horse sires, formed the taproot mares appearing in the pedigrees of the early racehorses. This quick upgrade in quality is not really surprising when it is considered that only three crossings of successive progeny with superior stallions reduces the original mare's genetic contribution to one-eighth of the gene pool and with reasonable luck, her vital influence has diminished accordingly. The same principles were used in upgrading Macarthur's crossbred sheep flocks, with pure merino stud rams being put over Bengal sheep and their progeny, to eventually provide the finest grade of wool producers.

Macarthur and Bligh, natural antagonists, clashed over such issues as the development of Camden Park with convict labor and Macarthur's various commercial activities. Macarthur supported Major George Johnston in the "Rum Rebllion" of 1808, in a dispute with the New South Wales Corps officers over control of the liquor trade. Bligh was deposed and Macarthur installed in a newly-created position, "Colonial Secretary." This lasted until a new administrator, Lieutenant-Colonel Joseph Foveaux, arrived to take command.

In 1809 Lieutenant-Colonel William Paterson (victim in the duel) became acting-Governor. Macarthur set sail for London again in March of 1809 to assist in the defence of Major George Johnston, and to continue his promotion of the colonial wool industry and advance his mercantile interests.

Meanwhile Elizabeth Macarthur assisted by her nephew by marriage Hannibal Hawkins Macarthur and an emancipist overseer, the admirable Richard Fitzgerald, continued to manage *Elizabeth Farm, Camden Park,* and the other family pastoral holdings. H.H. Macarthur had also received a grant near Camden that he named *Arthursleigh,* which for some time was the southernmost grant in the County of Cumberland. Besides her growing expertise in sheep husbandry, the well-educated Elizabeth was also in charge of the horse breeding activities. Early on, the sire **Derwent (Arab)** by the Tasmanian based White William (Arab) had been used at *Camden Park.* A homebred sire at this time was **Derwent by Derwent (Arab)** by **White William (Arab)** from a **mare by Washington**. Others were Holkar (1817) by the Macarthur-bred **Percy (1804) by Northumberland (GB)** from "**an imported Indian-Arab mare**" and **Marmion (1817) by Percy from a mare by Washington**. Also, **Oscar (1817) by Percy** from a **mare by Washington**. The importance of **Washington** mares at the premier stud of the colony is obvious. By the early 1820s, John Macarthur was listed as owner of more than 100 horses, and was the major supplier of prime bloodhorses in the colony.

Macarthur would not return to New South Wales until 1817, after which he had additional, serious run-ins with successive governors, served as a legislative representative of the first Legislative Council (1825), received gold medals from London for the quality of his fine-wool, and saw Camden Park expand to include over 60,000 acres of land, aquired by both grant and purchase. He gradually descended into madness, and died April 11, 1834. His sons, James and William Macarthur, became the leading breeders of thoroughbreds at Camden Park in succeeding years. For some of the colonial female families they developed, see [Family C - 1](#) *and* [Family C - 12](#).

The First Wave of Free Settlers on Hunter's River

By Keith R Binney 2003

Thomas Potter Macqueen 1791 – 1854

Segenhoe, the original home of Mr. Potter Macqueen. Its charming simplicity has been preserved by Mr. & Mrs. Lionel Israel.
1954.
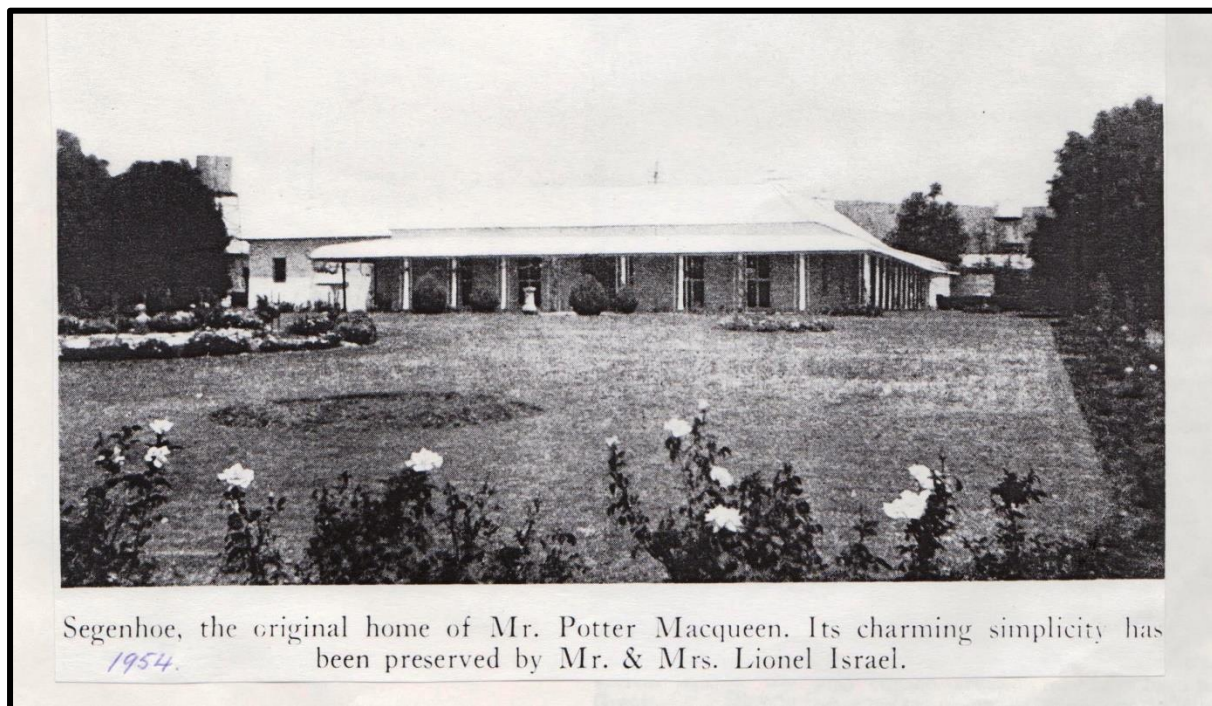
Image courtesy of Harley Walden Archive

Note: At about this time my late good friend Keith Binney published his seminal tome **'Horsemen of the First Frontier and The Serpent's Legacy' (ISBN 0 646 44865 X)**. This article is taken from his book in Section Three: **'The Hunter Valley and the counties of Northumberland, Hunter and Phillip, 1823 – 1860'; Chapter Nine: –** '*The First Wave of Free Settlers on Hunter's River, together with some emancipists and currency lads'*. This is a modest synopsis which is largely about the vicissitudes of Thomas Potter Macqueen and his iterations at historic Segenhoe Stud near Scone. Harley Walden had actually typed the whole section for inclusion in his personal record.

Henry Dangar's *bete noir*, the Honourable Thomas Potter Macqueen MP, was born in Bedfordshire, England at *Segenhoe Manor*. His father, Dr Malcolm Macqueen MD came into possession of this fine estate through his marriage to Mariana, daughter of Thomas Potter. Thomas Potter Macqueen was a Member of Parliament for East Looe, Cornwall, in the period 1816 – 1826, following which he was a Member for Bedfordshire between 1826 and 1830.During his latter parliamentary tenure, Macqueen established a friendship with John Macarthur Jnr, at that time a resident in England. The politically inclined barrister John Macarthur proved to be a most useful helper to Macqueen, particularly on the lection hustings. It seems that around the period just before the recall to England of Governor Brisbane and no doubt at the instigation of John Macarthur Jnr, Thomas Potter Macqueen made discreet overtures to be appointed the first civilian Governor of New South Wales. However, for what reason, the position was not offered to the ambitious Member of Westminster.

Potter Macqueen was successful in acquiring a land grant of 10,000 acres in New South Wales with a provisional grant of a further 10,000 acres through the good offices of the Earl of Bathurst. Today this would be 'insider trading' but was *de rigueur* in those days. Macqueen privately chartered 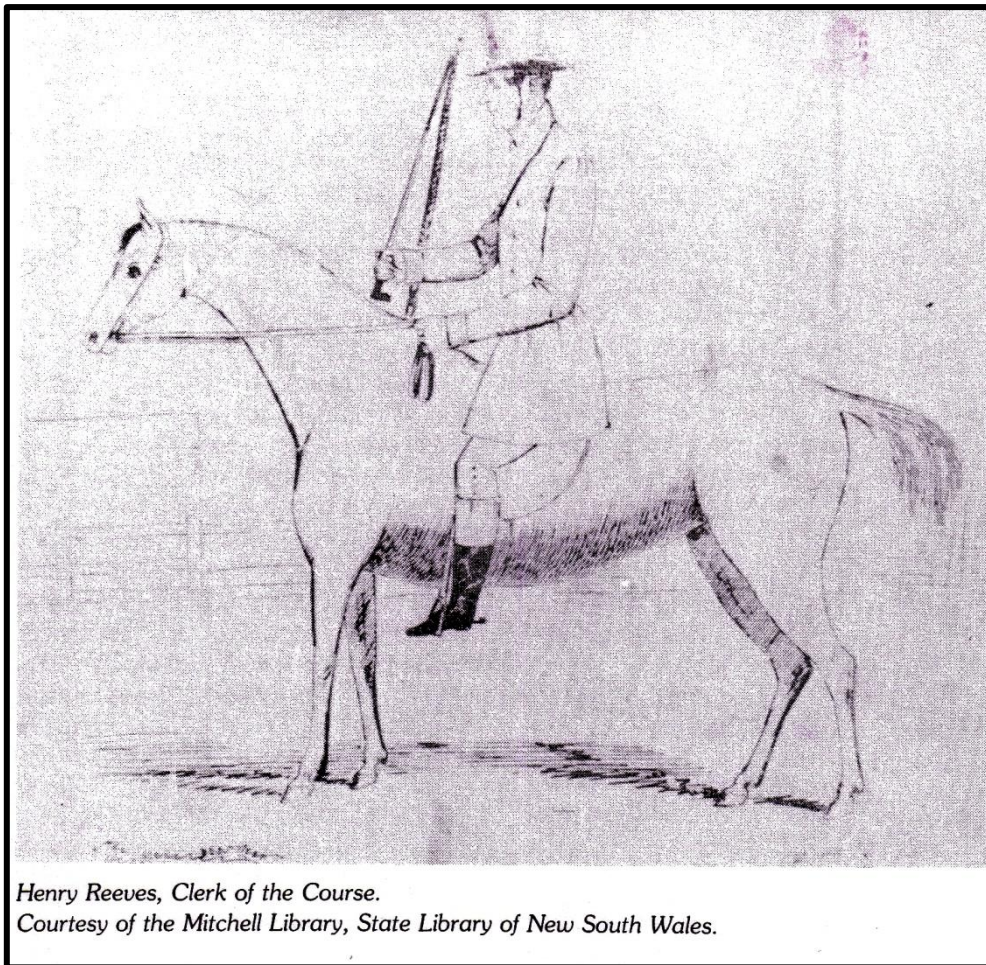two ships, the Hugh Crawford and the Nimrod, to transport the first free emigrants, livestock, goods and chattels to NSW. Included were overseer Peter Macintyre, "a Highlander of the best repute in Perthshire", and other sundry associates. It is probable that the thoroughbred horse Crawford (GB 1820), by Warrior out of Miss Catton) was on the shipment and located at Segenhoe by 1827.

There followed a whole series of inflammatory bureaucratic 'spats' between Peter Macintyre and colonial 'heavies' such as John Macarthur, Surveyor General John Oxley and Assistant Surveyor Henry Dangar. Eventually full title was established over the property under the management of Peter Macintyre. In 1830 H C Semphill replaced Macintyre who began farming in his own right. Kayuga 1827, near Muswellbrook was Macintyre's home base and may have been in his purview all along? Thomas Potter Macqueen himself located to Segenhoe on 25th November 1834. Semphill's role as overseer may have come under scrutiny. He had established a very large property portfolio himself but was a victim of the crash of the "Hungry Forties". He returned to Scotland where he died in penury.
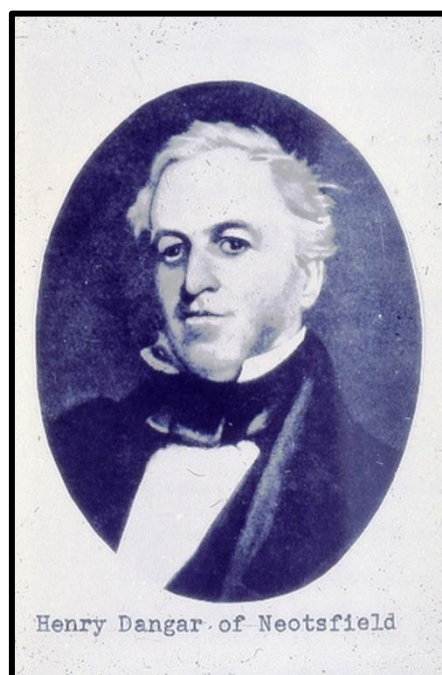
Macqueen himself proved to be an incompetent manager. John Bevan was sent from England by his brother Hugh Bevan to sort it all out. He failed. Macqueen reconnected with Peter Macintyre. At this time they founded the township of Aberdeen.

Macqueen was joined by his family at Segenhoe but the financial situation escalated out of control. The family returned to Europe where Macqueen managed to avoid his creditors before dying of apoplexy at Oswestry in 1854. He was described by his GB-based Segenhoe agent John Bevan as an 'arch idiot'. In 1871 after many aborted attempts Segenhoe was finally sold to respected thoroughbred breeders, brothers Honourable James and Frederick White Esq. Their good work was later followed up in the 20th century by William Brown and Lionel Israel.

Horses to grace the paddocks at Segenhoe included foundation sire Crawford (1824), Arab stallion Abger (b. 1820) by Model (Arab) ex Derwent mare, Spaniel (c. 1830) by Peter Fin (GB) ex a Spaniel mare, and Currency Lad. In the lower Hunter River at 'Glendon' brothers Robert and Helenus Scott had successfully established a thoroughbred breeding enterprise. Imported Stallions included 'Toss' (1828) and 'Dover' (1830). The latter was to emerge as a major source of superior bloodstock including for the enterprising Haydon family of 'Bloomfield', Murrurundi.

Henry Reeves, Clerk of the Course.
Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.

 Henry Reeves was originally assigned to Potter Macqueen at Segenhoe as a 'bullock drover'. He earned his ticket-of-leave and later prospered at Maitland ('Wallis Plains') as a horse livery man.

Henry Dangar of Neotsfield

Henry Dangar was an early settler at 'Neotsfield', Patrick Plains (Singleton).
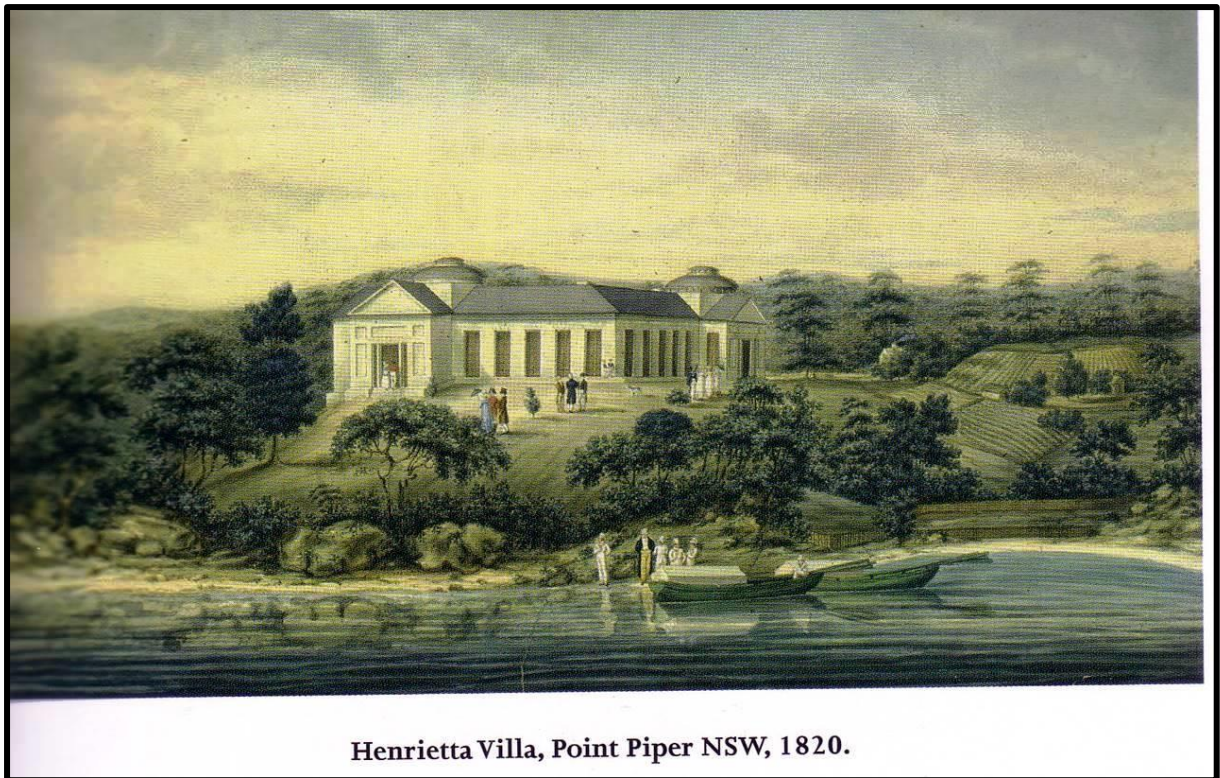
Henrietta Villa, Point Piper NSW, 1820.

Watercolour by Robert Russell by permission of the National Library of Australia from 'Horsemen of the First Frontier' by Keith R Binney

Henrietta Villa was the home of Governor Captain Piper who had a significant impact on the development of horse (thoroughbred) racing in the early Colony

Antipodes: British Stallions sent to Australia

By Keith R. Binney for Thoroughbred Heritage. ©Keith R. Binney, 2009. Keith Binney is author of *Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) & The Serpents Legacy* (Volcanic Productions, 2005) and a contributor to Thoroughbred Heritage.

http://www.tbheritage.com/TurfHallmarks/GoneAbroadf/Antipodes/Antipodes2.html
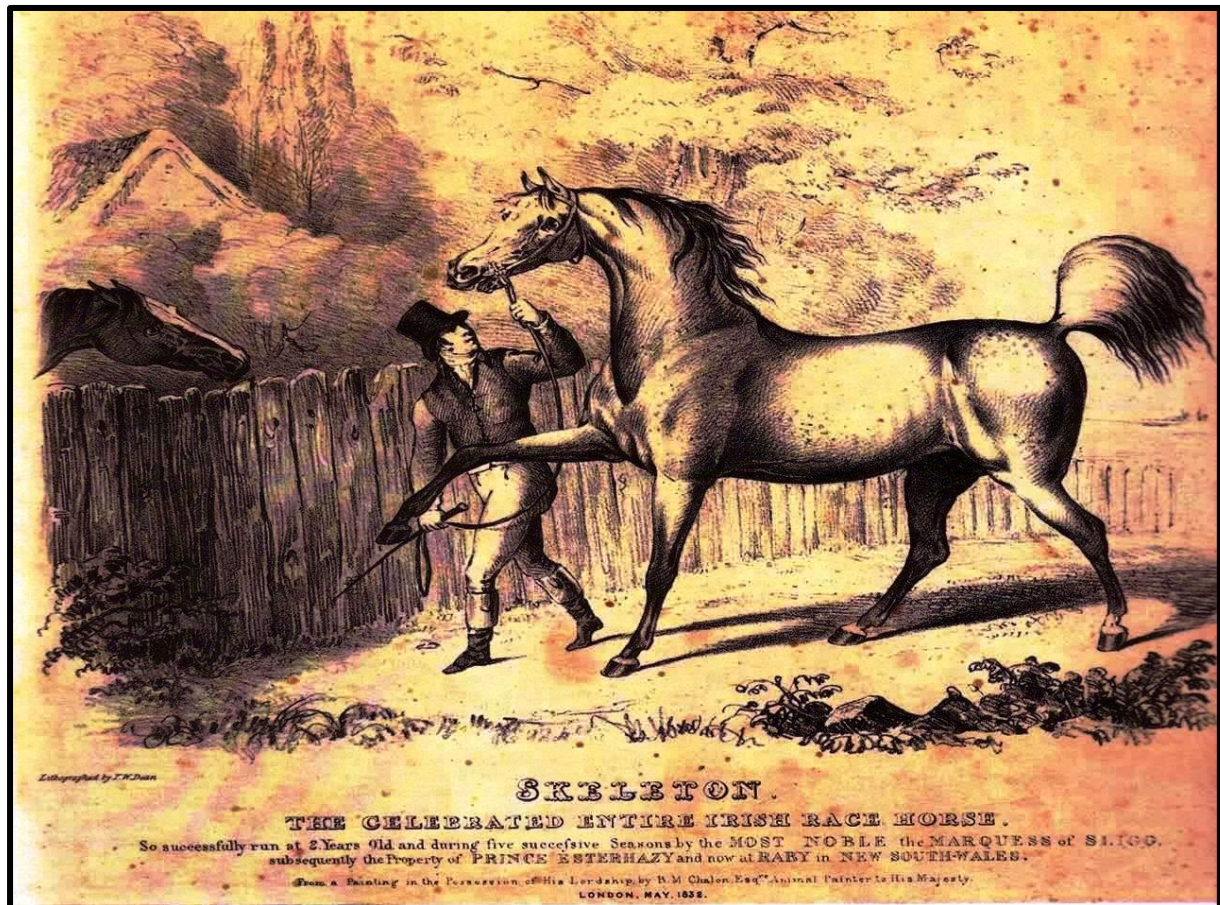
'Skeleton' was one of the very early importations into NSW (1827)

The Influence of British Stallions in Australia

In the period 1788 - 1882, almost 400 stallions were imported to the colony of New South Wales, forerunner of the nation of Australia. Yet despite the commercial and practical advantages available to Cape of Good Hope and Indian exporters, arising from their much shorter shipping distances -- plus a general recognition by early Australian horse breeders of the worth of Arab bloodlines -- more than 90% of these imports were English or Irish-bred thoroughbreds.

Colonial Sons of British Sires

From the earliest times, Australian breeders interested in "breeding up" from their mares of eastern origin, preferred to use the few English thoroughbred sires available, as even Colonial-bred stallions from English sires were naturally of mixed blood. Reputedly, the Honourable Thomas Icely's Chancellor (c1826, by Steeltrap (GB) 1815, out of Manto (GB) 1817) was the first colonial-born, pure thoroughbred stallion, but as he died at just six years of age, Chancellor did little as a sire. However, beginning in the early 1840s, pure-bred colonial sires, such as the famous Sir Hercules (1843, by Cap-a-pie (GB), out of Paraguay (GB) by Sir Hercules (GB)), stamped their mark on the Australasian racehorse. Sir Hercules' acceptance continued through his sons, particularly Cossack (1846, out of Flora McIvor) and [Yattendon](1861, out of Cassandra). However, perhaps his most famous racehorse son, The Barb (1863, by Sir Hercules (AUS) and out of Fair Ellen), was somewhat disappointing as a sire.

Other Colonial pure-bred sires of the early period, such as Waverley (1845, by St. George (GB), out of Splendora (GB)), Lawson's Tros (c1844, by Tros (GB), out of Persiani (GB)), and Whalebone (1844, by Speculation (GB), out of Paraguay (GB)), were also successful and reasonably well patronised. They were followed by Touchstone (1853, by Touchit (GB), out of Thetis), Chevalier (1854, by Lawson's Tros, out of Flora McIvor), and William Tell (c1855, by William Tell (GB), out of Maid of the Oaks), a full brother to dual Melbourne Cup winner Archer (1856).

By 1882, there were a large number of well-bred, Colonial-born, thoroughbred sires available. Some of these thoroughbred horses were put to use over station mares to upgrade the "Australian Stock Horse," which was to become famous as the "Waler" in military circles during the Indian and Boer Wars, as well as the 1st World War in the Middle East. Major Australian thoroughbred breeders of the time showed a strong bias against using locally-bred stallions, in favour of imported English sires. This preference -- or perhaps prejudice -- extended well past the interruptions to English imports due to the two World Wars.

Today this bias no longer exists, as confirmed by the fact that Australia's current leading sires are both Australian-breds, albeit with large doses of international blood: Redoute's Choice (AUS, 1996) by Danehill (USA) (a son of Danzig (USA)), out of Shantha's Choice (AUS), and Encosta de Lago (AUS, 1993) by Fairy King (USA) (a son of Northern Dancer (CAN)), out of Shoal Creek (AUS). Both Danehill and Fairy King were purchased as yearlings in the USA, and were raced and retired to stud in England and Ireland.

With the modern "shuttle stallion" system, Danehill and Fairy King and other superior stallions were and currently other superior stallions are flown by airplane to the southern hemisphere, after covering mares on northern hemisphere time. Travel time for shuttle stallions is 24 to 48 hours, depending on lay-overs, origin and destination -- a blink of the eye compared to the journeys faced by their predecessors.

Some Imported British Stallions

Some Important Early Imported Stallions From Great Britain, Unless Otherwise Noted			
Imported	Horse	Sire (Sire of Sire)	Importer
1823 NSW	Steeltrap (1815)	Scud (Beningbrough)	Mr. Aspinall
c1825 NSW	Bay Camerton (1817)	Camerton (Hambletonian)	Robt. Lethbridge
1825 NSW	Herald (1819)	Marmion (Whiskey)	Aust. Ag. Co.
1826 TAS	Peter Fin (1819)	Whalebone (Waxy)	Capt. Lamb
1827 NSW	Skeleton (1820) (IRE)	Master Robert (Buffer)	Alex. Riley
1828 NSW	Rous' Emigrant (1822)	Pioneer (Whiskey)	Capt. Henry Rous
1828 NSW	Theorem (1824)	Merlin (Castrel)	Henry Rous
1829 NSW	Toss (1822)	Bourbon (Sorcerer)	Mesrs. Scott
1830 NSW	Trumpet (1827)	Tiresias (Soothsayer)	W.A. Scott
1830 NSW	Whisker (1828)	Whisker (Waxy)	Henry Bayley
1832 TAS	Little John (1831)	Little John (Octavius)	Mr. Henty
1835 NSW	Gratis (1829)	Middleton (Phantom)	Capt. Daniels
1835 NSW	Velocipede (183-)	Velocipede (Blacklock)	Capt. Daniels
1836 NSW	Dover (1832)	Patron (Partisan)	Scott Bros.
1836 NSW	Gil Blas (1834)	Muley (Orville)	Chas. Roberts
1836 NSW	St. John (1834)	St. Nicholas (Emilius)	J. Wood
1837 NSW	Operator (1832)	Emilius (Orville)	Hon. T. Icely
1838 NSW	Lawson's Emigrant (1831)	Tramp (Dick Andrews)	Wm. Lawson

1839 NSW	Bassano (1837)	Filho-da-Puta (Haphazard)	Robt. Dawson
1839 NSW	Cap-a-pie (1837)	The Colonel (Whisker)	Henry Kater
1839 NSW	Muleyson (1833)	Muley (Orville)	Robt. Dawson
1839 NSW	Tros (1822)	Priam (Emilius)	W.A. Scott
1842 NSW	Boyd's Camel (1838)	Camel (Whalebone)	Benjamin Boyd
1842 NSW	The Doctor (1840)	Physician (Brutandorf)	Chas. Smith
1842 TAS	Jersey (1839)	Buzzard (Blacklock)	Mr. Rose
1843 NZ	Aether (1836)	St. Patrick (Walton)	Hon. Mr. Petre
1847 NSW	William Tell (1843)	Touchstone (Camel)	Cooper & Holt
1849 VIC	The Premier (1843)	Tory Boy (Tomboy)	McKnight & Irvine
1854 NSW	Warhawk (1848)	Epirus (Langar)	H.N. Simpson
1855 SA	Muscovado (1851)	Sweetmeat (Gladiator)	Messrs. Fisher
1855 SA	South Australian (1850)	Cotherstone (Touchstone)	Messrs. Fisher
1856 NSW	Cheddar (1850)	Cotherstone (Touchstone)	Messrs. Busby
1856 NSW	Magus (1853)	Pyrrhus the First (Epirus)	Cheeke & Tait
1856 NSW	New Warrior (1851)	Pyrrhus the First (Epirus)	Tait & Jenner
1857 VIC	Indian Warrior (1849)	Napier (Gladiator)	R.F. Greene
1857 TAS	Peter Wilkins (1853)	The Flying Dutchman (Bay Middleton)	James Purves
1857 NSW	Pitsford (1847) [2,000 Guineas/ 2nd Derby]	Epirus (Langar)	Mylne & Tindal
1858 VIC	Boiardo (1851)	Orlando (Touchstone)	James Purves

1859 VIC	Kelpie (1855)	Weatherbit (Sheet Anchor)	Simpson & Row
1859 NSW	Freetrader (1849)	The Sea (Whalebone)	Gord. Sandeman
1859 NZ	The Peer (1855)	Melbourne (Humphrey Clinker)	E. Moorhouse
1860 SA	Fisherman (1853) [*Ascot Gold Cup twice*]	Heron (Bustard)	Hurtle Fisher
1860 NSW	Lord of the Hills (1854)	Touchstone (Camel)	Richard Dines
1860 VIC	The Hermit (1851) [*2,000 Guineas*]	Bay Middleton (Sultan)	James Purves
1861 NSW	Kingston (1860)	Kingston (Venison)	John Lee
1862 NSW	Yelverton (1861)	Gemma-di-Vergy (Sir Hercules)	Chas. Baldwin
1867 VIC	Snowden (1853)	Pyrrhus the First (Epirus)	T. Henty
1869 NSW	Grandmaster (1868)	Gladiateur (Monarque)	Dangar & White
1871 VIC	The Marquis (1859) [*2,000 Guineas/ St. Leger/ 2nd Derby*]	Stockwell (The Baron)	Mssrs. Dakin
1874 NSW	Hawthornden (1867) [*St. Leger*]	Lord Clifden (Newminster)	Mssrs. Dangar
1874 NSW	Warlike (1865)	Weatherbit (Sheet Anchor)	G.C. Tindal
1874 NSW	The Drummer (1866)	Rataplan (The Baron)	Chas. Baldwin
1876 SA	Gang Forward (1870) [*2,000 Guineas*]	Stockwell (The Baron)	Sir Thomas Elder
1878 VIC	Musket (1867)	Toxophilite (Longbow)	Auckland Stud Co.

Letters behind import date indicate which country or state horse was imported into, although in some cases the horse later moved to another location.
NZ = New Zealand

Musket (3) imp

Brown Horse, 1867, by Toxopholite – half-sister to General Peel's dam. Winner of the Ascot Stakes, and 9 of his 11 races. Imported to New Zealand in 1878. Sire of Carbine, Trenton, Hotchkiss, Nordenfeldt, Maxim, Martini- Henri etc. Died in 1885. From a painting of the horse, at the age of 18 years, in possession of the artist (Martin Stainforth).

Colonial Foundation Mares

http://www.tbheritage.com/HistoricDams/ColonFoundMares.html

New Research Affects Traditional Organization of Female Lines

In the August 2002 edition of the journal *Animal Genetics,* Dr Emmeline Hill and her colleagues at the **Smurfit Institute of Genetics**, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, published "History and Integrity of Thoroughbred Dam Lines Revealed in Equine mtDNA Variation," a ground-breaking study that changes much of what we thought we knew about the early history of the thoroughbred, and that affects the pedigrees virtually every thoroughbred now living. The study examined pedigrees of horses associated with the English Foundation Mares, and does not address the other families, but it is highly likely further genetic research will have an impact on these families as well. The **original article** and a discussion of how the analysis of mtDNA in thoroughbred horses has affected the traditional Lowe families are in the **Genetics** section. These are female families which had proved themselves, but were ineligible for inclusion in Stud Books as they were not traceable to a mare in the General Stud Book.

Early Australian horse races, like their English counterparts, focused on endurance, with two or three mile heats run one-half hour apart; up until 1870 or so, racehorses could be asked to run a total of nine miles within an hour's time. Many of these horses were of part Arabian, part Thoroughbred, or Anglo-Arab breeding.

The Colonial taproot mares were imported over a long span of time, from 1818 to the 1870s. Beginning around 1820, at first sporadically, and then with increasing frequency, especially after 1870, "pure" thoroughbred mares were brought into Australasia, primarily from England, and the use of imported non-throughbred mares declined. But by then, the Colonial mares had established a number of speedy and durable families that excelled on the race course. The Australian and New Zealand Stud Books recognise and accept some of these families, and they have been numbered in *The Family Tables of Racehorses.*

Many of these families include early imported Arabian influence in the sire line. The oldest of the families is C15, Cariboo (in New Zealand, Myrtle), named for a mare born between 1812-1815, by an Arabian called (Old) Hector, who was imported into Sydney from Calcutta in 1806, from a daughter of an imported English or Cape-bred stallion named Rockingham, purported to be a thoroughbred grandson of the stallion by the same name in England. The Rockingham mare's dam was one of the so-called Cape Mares--mares who arrived on the ship *Brittania* in 1795, from either South Africa or India.

Several other mares in this group of foundation mares were almost certainly thoroughbred, but their pedigrees were either lost or otherwise considered unprovable. Among these was Cutty Sark (C3) who arrived in Sydney in 1826, along with the mare Spaewife, the latter's pedigree was confirmed and she is entered in the GSB, but Cutty Sark's pedigree, despite many efforts, could not be traced effectively. The Betty family (C10) derived from a "pure" English mare named Old Betty, imported prior to 1818 by an early colonist, D'Arcy Wentworth, a distant relative of the renowned early thoroughbred breeders in England, the Wentworth and D'Arcy families.

A number of mares of untraceable descent in this group were bred and owned by individuals who created thoroughbred breeding and racing in Australia and New Zealand. Their progeny often became top stakes winners. Some of the families are still well-represented on the turf today, in Australia, New Zealand, and in other countries.

In addition to the mares listed in the *Family Tables of Racehorses,* numbered C-1 through C-36, there were many, many mares who established long or short-lived families in Australia and New Zealand. Most are now extinct, but some continue to produce good winners. In the *Australian Stud Book* they are noted as "NSB" (non-stud book) or "NTB" (non-thoroughbred). These families were identified in detail, and each family numbered, in *The Australasian Racehorse,* by New Zealand Racing Conference secretary W.H.E. Wanklyn, and updated by turf writer A.F. Howarth ("Blair Athol") in 1949. After that, Douglas Barrie selected and re-numbered what he perceived to be the most significant colonial families in The *Australian Bloodhorse* (1956). The present, univerally-adopted system is based on the most recent compilation of *The Family Tables of Racehorses*, compiled by Toru Shirai (Japan: Thoroughbred Pedigree Center, 1990).

In Volume 23 (1950-1952) of the Australian Stud Book, nineteen Colonial families were officially accepted into the stud book. The relevant excerpt can be viewed here. A more general discussion of the role of non-stud book mares is included in Michael Ford's History of the Australian Stud Book.

Principal Sources Used in the Compilation of this Section

The Australian Bloodhorse by Douglas Barrie (Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1956)
The Australasian Racehorse by W.H.E. Wanklyn, ed. A.F. Howarth (Christchurch: Christchurch Press Co. Ltd., 1959)
The History of Australian Thoroughbred Racing by Harold Freedman and Andrew Lemon (Victoria: Classic Reproductions, 1987)
Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) and The Serpents Legacy by Keith R. Binney (Australia: Volcanic Productions, 2006)
Tapestry of the Turf: The History of New Zealand Racing 1840-1987, by John Costello and Pat Finnegan (Auckland: MOA Publications Ltd., 1988)
Thoroughbred Sires of Australia and New Zealand, by W.J. McFadden (Sydney: Angus & Robertson Ltd., n.d.)
Special Thanks to Richard Davis, Keith Binney, and the Australian Stud Book for additional assistance

CLICK on the Family Name to View History and Descent Line

C1. SAPPHO (18--)

(Grey. By Marquis out of mare by Zohrab. Bred by John Lee of Bathurst NSW.)

One of the most numerous and successful colonial families in Australia, through Saphho the Younger. Notable descendants: Etra Weenie (1889), Diffidence (1865), Kingsborough (1871), Lawrence (1940), Lecturer, Meriwee, Powerscourt

C2. YATTERINA (1865)

(By Yattendon - Koh-I-noor by Vanguard, Kate by Gratis*, Flirt by Steeltrap*, Brunette by Camerton*)

Still successful in New Zealand. Notable descendants: Chatspa (1942), Constant Lady, Fusilier, General Soult, Jalna (1955), Linmarch (1930), Matchlock, Queen March (1920), Salutation, Te Kara (1918)

C3. CUTTY SARK (imp. 1826)

(Chestnut. Pedigree Unknown. Imported into NSW from England in 1826, along with Spaewife*, Peter Fin* and Prince Regent. New Zealand Stud Book calls this family Ouida (1879, by Yattendon))

Notable descendants: Archer (1856), Artillery, Dalray, The Barb (1863), Star Stranger

C4. GIPSY (1840)

(Black. By Emigrant. Her dam said to be by Bay Camerton* from a Steeltrap* mare. Bred in NSW by Charles Smith and sent to New Zealand in 1844.)

Successful in the second half of the 19th century, still has descendants on both sides of the Tasman. Notable descendants: Azecena, Calumny (1869), Defamation, Envy, Gipsy King, Leonara, Manton (1885)

C5. DINAH (1844)

(Bay. Reputed to be by Gratis* out of a mare by Rous' Emigrant*, mare by Bay Camerton*. Bred in NSW, taken overland to Melbourne from Sydney "with a mob of horses.")

Notable descendants: Briseis (1873), Caspian, Ebor, Eleanor, Mermaid, *Newhaven (1893), Sea Spray

C6. ADELINE (186-)

(By Kingston* from a mare by William Tell, from Lucy by Marquis, from mare by Nimrod. Bred in NSW.)

Notable descendants: *Amiable, Eracre, Glenacre, Kuvera, Oakleigh, Shakuni, Star Affair

C7. BLACK SWAN (1874)

(By Yattendon out of Maid of the Lake (pedigree unknown; bred at Ravensworth NSW by Captain Bourn Russell), NSW.)

Notable descendants: Denacre, Dividend (1901), Heros, Lady Trenton, Lord Cardigan (1900), Lord

Nolan, Peter, Rainbird (1941)

C8. LILLA (1856)

(By New Chum out of Eva by Young Marquis, mare by The Gardener, mare by Toss*. Bred by William Lee in NSW)

Notable descendants: Acre (1914), All Love (1938), Blue Era (1958), Cunnamulla, Ibex (1898), Javelin, Maltine (1904), Stromboli, Woodlands

C9. THE YOUNG ENGLISH MARE (c.1845)

(By Camerton* out of The English Mare*, an imported mare of unknown pedigree)

Notable descendants: Governess, Kalo, Normanby, Pugilist, Randwick, Young Marquis

C10. BETTY (c. 1829)

(By (Old) Hector) out of Old Betty*, an imported English mare. Bred in NSW.)

A successful and prolific Australasian racing family, primarily stayers. Notable descendants: Balfour, Bargo, De la Salle, Favo, Highborn, Rego Lad, The Assyrian, Togo

C11. BELHARI (1861)

(By Indian Warrior* out of Blink Bonny by Egremont, Mrs. Burt by Snoozer*. Bred in Victoria.)

Descendants throughout Australasia, but primarily in eastern NSW. Notable descendants: Bundoora, Lord Acre, Scotland, Skirmisher

C12. CONTESSA (1869)

(By Gemma di Vergy out of a mare by Euclid, Messenger by Satellite* *(arabian)*. Bred by C.G. Tindal of Grafton, NSW)

Notable descendants: Binnia (1902), Lochano, Marvel Loch, Noreen, Strathroy

C13. EMPRESS (c. 1875)

(By Tamerlane out of Kerosene by Pioneer*. Bred in QLD.)

Notable descendants: Alexis, Czarina, Realm, Stralia

C14. HERIS (c.1872)

(By Gemma di Vergy out of Lady of the Lake by Cheddar*, Ladylike by New Warrior*. Bred in NSW)

Notable descendants: Famous (1899), Giru, Gravity, Virtu (1903)

C15. CARIBOO (c.1813)

(By Hector* out of mare by Rockingham*. A branch of what is sometimes called the Myrtle Family (1869))

Notable descendants: Acrasia, Blarney Stone, Blue Cross, Cerise and Blue, Jorrocks (1833), Little Bernie, Marvel (1886)

C16. STEELTRAP MARE (c.1834)

(Chestnut. By Steeltrap* out of unknown mare; also known as Col. Wrenche's chestnut mare. Bred in NSW)

Notable descendants: Bylong, Donald (1921), Phoebe, Secundus, Spear Chief (1943), Spear Vale, Stanley, Sweetmeat (1875), Triton, Zulu (1877)

C17. SHARKIE (c. 1846)

(Bay. By Riddlesworth out of an imported mare of unknown pedigree)

Notable descendants: Advance (1896), Beaulivre (1936), Diabolo, Fishhook, Ma Cherie, Silver Link (1915), Whaitiri

C18. MISS ROWE (1835)

(Bay. By Sir Hercules out of Miss Millar by Wanderer*, a mare by an arabian)

Notable descendants: Ariel, Lady Scholar, Omega, Peeress (1865), Vagabond (1914), Venus, Transit

C19. JOSEPHINE (1869)

(Bay. By Boiardo* out of Wano by Cossack, Fair Helen by Rous' Emigrant*. Bred near Melbourne, Victoria)

Through daughter Brassolis, established a successful New Zealand family still producing classic winners. Notable descendants: Fluency, Gay Ballerina (1926), La Gloria, La Moderne, Los Angeles (1904), Nonette (1898), Travel Boy (1956)

C20. SYBIL (1855)

(Bay. By Riddlesworth* out of mare (c.1845) by Aether*, from a NSW mare of unknown pedigree)

Notable descendants: Concentrate, Equitas, Lady Christine, Oratory, Oratress, Oratrix

C21. SYLPH (1865)

(Bay. By Impudence out of Creeping Jane by Plenipo *(arabian)*. Bred in VIC. Family of Irish Queen and Elvo, through whom latter day winners descend)

Notable descendants: Bacchus, Caesar (1934), Fidelity, Crusader, Irish Queen, Sal Volatile, Sedition

C22. MUSKET MAID (18--)

(By Musket* out of Miss Ariel by Dainty Ariel, mare by Pacific*. Bred in New Zealand)

Notable descendants: Master Soult (1905), Prince Soult, Sutala, Waiuku (NZ, 1890)

C23. WINNIE (1878)

(By Kingfisher out of Dolly Varden by Pacific*, Brunette by Von Tromp. Bred in New Zealand)

Notable descendants: Cheval de Volee (1933), Coleridge (1952), Gwilliam G, Kakama, Miss Winsome, Neenah

C24. BEATRICE (1862)

(By Pitsford*, Lucretia by St. John*, from a mare bred by Mr. G. Rouse. Known in Australia as the Beatrice Family, with branches descending from two daughters, Sound (1877) and Laverna)

Notable descendants: Cyclone, Katanga (1936), Marauder, Mollison (1925), Molly's Robe, Megaphone, Vaccine

C25. DUDU (1846)

(Bay. Imported parents of unknown breeding. Bred in NSW and sent to New Zealand)

Notable descendants: Adelaide, Asteroid, Lottie, Maheno, Mystificaiton, Quadroon

C26. MOTH (1847)

(Bay. By Boyd's Camel* out of Miss Foote by Herald*, Yellow Jenny by Model* *(arabian)*, mare by (Old) Hector*, mare imported from Cape of Good Hope)

Notable descendants: Atlantic (1875), Brigadier, Crackshot (1887), Irish Note (1940), Ladybird (1858), Pink Terrace, St. James

C27. SLANDER (1836)

(Bay. By Traducer* out of Annie Laurie by Cap-A-Pie*, Bell Brand believed to be by Dover*, Sophy by Skilhinda, Sally Brass by Langtonian, Kitty by Bay Camerton*. Bred in Canterbury, New Zealand)

Notable descendants: Billingsgate, Englefield, Foul Shot, Speculation, St. Paul (1893)

C28. WOODSTOCK (18--)

(Chestnut. By Theorem* out of an English thoroughbred mare of unknown breeding)

A successful New Zealand family. Notable descendants: Heiress, Roman Consul (1962), Sinking Fund, Tiresome, Toxeuma, Wolverine

C29. PERI (1841)

(Bay. By Gratis* out of Aspic by Satellite* *(arabian)*. Bred in NSW.)

Now extinct. Notable descendants: Regno (1859), Tarragon (1858), Veno (1849), Warrior

C30. BLACK BESS (AUSTIN'S) (c.1830)

(Pedigree unknown. Bred in NSW and sent to VIC in 1841)

Now extinct. Notable descendants: Fortunatus (1888), Imperial (1869)

C31. JEWESS (18--)

(By Marquis out of an arabian mare whose parents were imported by the A.A. Co. in 1835. In the stud of James and John Lee)

Notable descendants: Democrat, Easingwold (1918), Frisco (1883), Regina, Sydney, The Duke

C32. FAIR ELLEN (1850)

(Grey. By Rory O'More* out of Camarine by Forester, Faintail by The Caliph* *(arabian)*. Bred in Victoria)

Notable descendants: Freestone (1861), Lady Ellen, Toryboy (1857)

C33. QUEEN OF CLUBS (18--)

(By Cossack out of Queen of Hearts by Dover*)

Now extinct. Notable descendants: Glencoe (1864), Glentilt (1880), Loftus (1787), Meteor (18--)

C34. SPRAY (1850)

(Chestnut. By Donizetti* out of Lady Anne by Whisker*, mare by Tros*, arabian mare. Bred in NSW and sent to New Zealand)

Highly successful family in mid 19th century. Notable descendants: Bell of the Isle, British Lion, Flying Jib, Scud, Stormbird, Templeton

C35. BELLA (c. 1850)

(A purebred arabian imported into New Zealand from NSW by Major Durie)

Notable descendants: Castashore (1892), Elsa (1873), Top Rank

C36. ROSEBUD (1850)

(Chestnut. By Il Barbiere out of a mare bred in NSW and imported into NZ without pedigree)

Notable descendants: Black Rose, Chancellor, Gold Salute (1936), Palisade, Otto, Peronilla, Star Rose

NSB. PRINCESS (18--)

(Chestnut. By Gratis*, out of Roan Kit by Stride*, out of Cleodora by Hector [arabian])

Notable descendants: Opera (1860), Tambourini (1868), Resolution (1880), Bisox (1922), Refresher (1926)

NSB. FINESSE (1849)

(Brown. By Tros*, out of Polly by Baron, out of an arabian mare)

Notable descendants: Revoke (1857), Trump Card (1974), Piuthair (1922)

NSB. FLIRT (1849)

(By New Warrior, out of Dozey by Bookworm, out of a mare by Cap-a-Pie, out of a mare by Bay Camerton)

Notable descendants: Vanitas (1891), Dandy (1895), Lady Ruenalf (1904), Dame Acre (1913), Eastcourt (1913)

NSB. MARITANA (1849)

(Bay. By Traducer, out of Hypatia by Nutwith, out of Phyllis by Gratis)

Notable descendants: Maritana (1870), Don Caesar (1886)

Colonial Family Quick Links
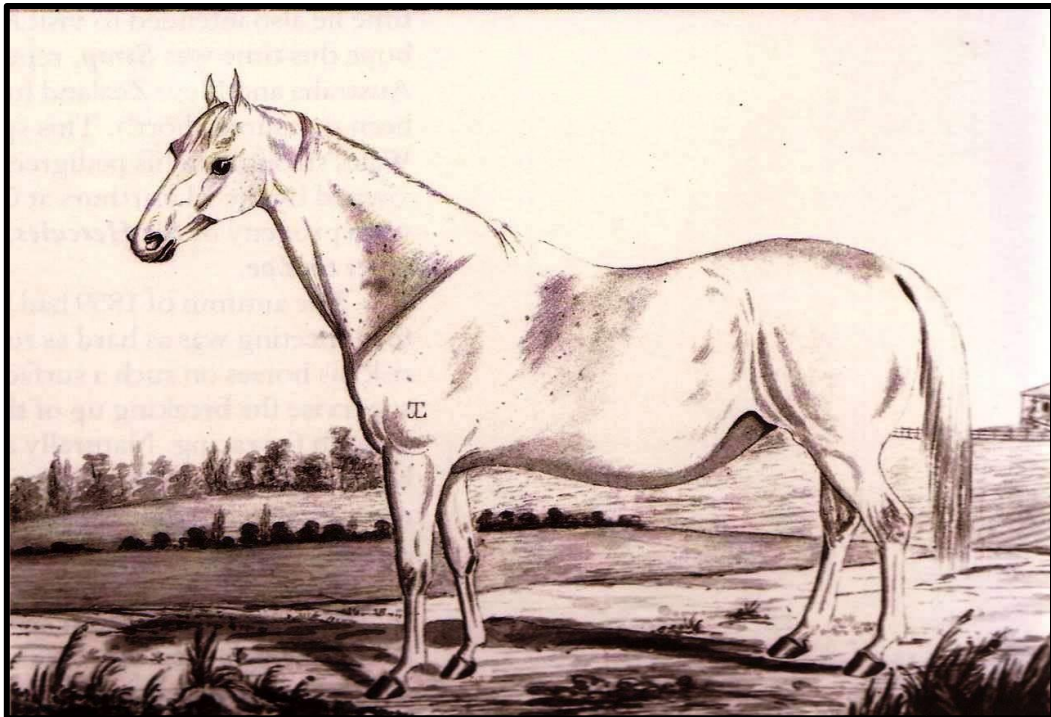
"Skeletine'; Colonial-bred daughter of 'Skeleton' (imp)
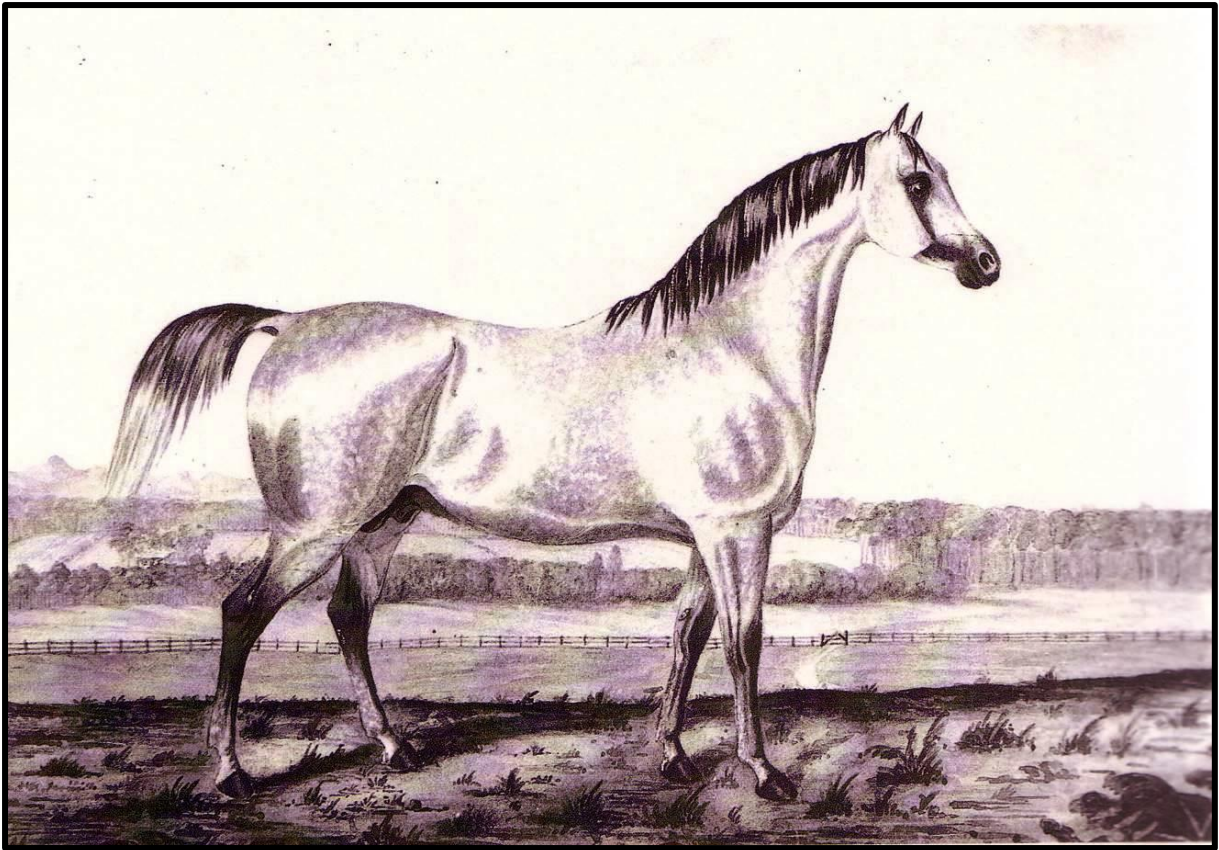
Bijou

Bijou was bred in New South Wales about 1830-5. Got by Theorem (imp) – Iris (stud-bred India), by Benedick-Arab mare. Benedick was imported to India from England, and was a son of Remembrancer. Iris was imported to New South Wales by Captain Rous in the frigate *Rainbow* about 1828.

Shipping Horses to the Antipodes

By Keith R. Binney for Thoroughbred Heritage. ©Keith R. Binney, 2009. Keith Binney is author of
Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788-1900) & The Serpents Legacy (Volcanic Productions, 2005) and a
contributor to Thoroughbred Heritage.

http://www.tbheritage.com/TurfHallmarks/GoneAbroadf/Antipodes/Antipodes.html
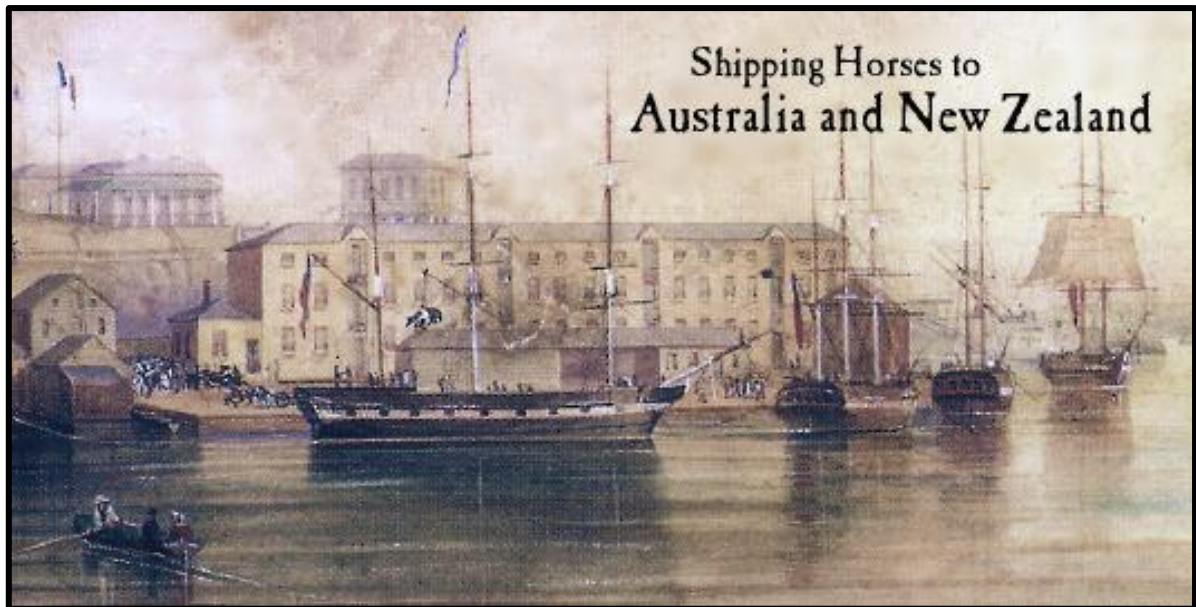
Sydney harbour: horses being loaded onto a Royal Navy frigate for shipment to India, 1844.
Painting by F. Garling.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the time taken for voyages on sailing ships from England to the east coast of America, vis-a-vis those to the Antipodes, do not bear a true comparison. The direct shipping route from Southampton to New York is listed as 3,091 nautical miles. From Southampton to Sydney, Australia, via Cape Town was 12,385 miles, with a further 1,233 miles from Sydney to Wellington, New Zealand.

But sailing ships, dependent on wind power, were unable to take a direct route. For example, Captain Arthur Phillip's First Fleet left Spithead (England) on 13th May 1787, and sailed in a slow sweep down the coast of North Africa, to pick up the favourable trade winds, then crossed the Atlantic Ocean to Rio de Janeiro in South America. From Rio, the ships drifted back across the South Atlantic Ocean, and on 13th October, 1787, five months after leaving England, the expedition reached the Dutch settlement at Cape Town (the tip of South Africa). Following their stay of a month in Cape Town, the First Fleet sailed for Botany Bay, New South Wales (Australia), arriving on 19th January 1788, to complete a journey of at least 16,000 miles in eight months. The Fleet loaded nine "Cape" horses at Cape Town, and safely landed them at Port Jackson upon completion of the two month long, last leg of the voyage, but horses sent from England would endure a far longer journey.
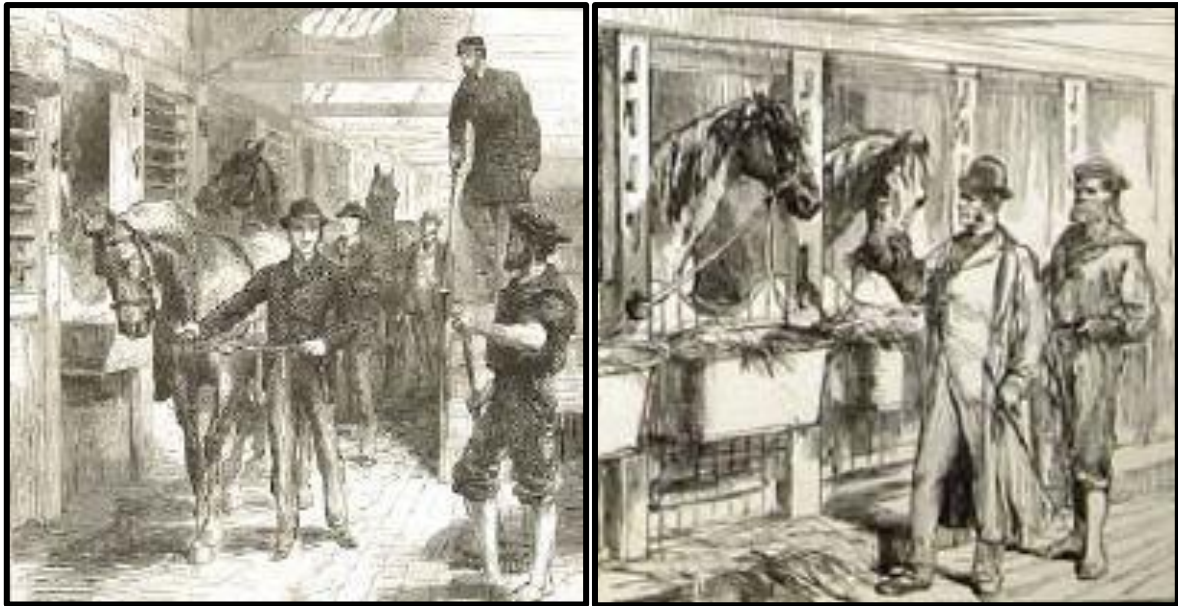
While the First Fleet did not carry any thoroughbreds from England, the onerous task of shipping horses from Britain, keeping them healthy, and safely landing them after such a long journey, is obvious. Nevertheless, a British coach horse stallion, Northumberland, arrived in Sydney from England in the early 19th century (1802). This horse, together with imports from Cape Town -- Rockingham and Washington, both likely to have been part-thoroughbred -- plus several Arab stallions from India, when put over "coarse" mares from Cape Town and Calcutta, resulted in a steady improvement of the early colonial bloodhorse.

From the 1830s onwards, a regular trickle of thoroughbred stallions arrived in Australia from Great Britain, despite a journey of at least four or five months, even for the faster clipper sailing ships and early steamships of the mid-nineteenth century. That most of the horses survived can be put down to several factors, including:

*There were very small numbers of these valuable horses in any one shipment. They had close, often individual, attention to their needs from dedicated stablehands.

*Changes were made in a horse's diet before shipment: grain and green grass were removed from their foodstuffs, replaced with liberal amounts of hay, plus carrots and bran, along with an unlimited supply of potable water.

*Onshore stabling before shipment introduced a horse to the specially fitted boxes or horse stalls onboard the vessel. These boxes had adjustable walls that restricted movement in bad weather; combined with slings, horses were secured against undue buffeting when a ship was rolling. Boxes were also fitted with removable cocoanut -- or similar -- matting to prevent slipping, and allow horses a padded surface to lie upon when the boxes were extended during good weather. These specialised merchant ships also provided adequate ventilation, access for mucking out and feeding, and exercise facilities.

The Prince of Wales and ceremonial horses were sent to India and Australia to celebrate Queen Victoria's appointment as Empress of India in September of 1875; the transport was the *HMS Serapis,* a Royal Navy troopship. By this time, a trip by steamship -- versus sailing vessel -- had reduced the time to India to about 70 days. Above: Horses being exercised aboard ship. Below: The Prince's stable manager inspecting the horses; note the ventilated stall fronts

Perilous and Deadly

Despite precautions, the loss of some blood horses and thoroughbreds on long voyages was inevitable, and while records are scanty, this fact is confirmed by newspaper references of the time. Even horses making the ten to twelve week trip (by sail) from India were not immune. In 1804, the *Lady Barlow* sailed from Bengal with 202 head of cattle and a "fine Arab horse" on board. During a stormy voyage, one third of the cattle died, and the Arab stallion expired as the ship entered Sydney harbour. A similar fate was in store for one of John Hooke's horses. The Hooke family from England arrived at Port Jackson, Sydney, in John Hooke's brig *Courier* on 1st March 1828. His British-bred thoroughbred stallion, Chilton (1820, by Old Chilton, out of Arcadia) was safely landed. However, Hooke was not as fortunate with his 800 guinea carriage stallion, which died within sight of land at Sydney Heads.

In 1829, James Henty bought four racehorses from the (3rd) Earl of Egremont, a noted British breeder. All were intended for the new West Australia colony at Swan River (now the City of Perth). During the latter part of the four month voyage of the *Caroline,* which sailed to Perth via Brazil, around treacherous Cape Horn, and across the stormy Southern Ocean, she struck wild gales and huge seas. As a result, the accompanying groom was forced to reduce the width of his stalls and set up slings to protect his costly charges. Three of the four horses survived the remorseless buffetings. These were the full sisters Merino (1826) and Petworth (1825) (by Whalebone, out of Vicarage by Octavius), and Young Wanderer (1826, by Sir John - Ogress, by Octavius). But, as Jane Roberts recorded in *Two Years at Sea,* a London-published diary of her time in Perth and Tasmania, "...a valuable horse on board was so badly bruised from being thrown about in its wooden 'horse house' during a storm, it soon died of its injuries." This was the mare Canopy.

Precious Cargo

On August 8th 1842, William Pomeroy Green sailed from Plymouth with his family, crew, and livestock in the chartered ship *Sarah.* His four horses, tended by a "Head Groom, Second Groom and a useful boy" were the thorougbreds Rory O'More ([Birdcatcher](#) - Nora Creina's dam), and Nora Creina (Sir Edward Codrington - mare by Drone); a hunter, named Pickwick, and a "favourite mare," Taglioni. In his diary, under a September entry, Green records: "My horses are doing well. I take them to the main hatch every day that is fine, and give them the height of grooming and salt water washing." Although there were several gales on the passage, and parts of the ship's bulwarks were washed away, the precious cargo arrived safely at Port Phillip, Melbourne, on the first day of December. This voyage illustrates the advantages of keeping the number of horses low, and the number of attendants high.

Another ship carrying valuable thoroughbreds -- the stallion [Traducer](#) and equally famous mare Mermaid (dam of [Lurline](#) and Le Loup), Tom King, Leotard, Tomiris, and one other mare -- set sail on the 1st of January 1862 from England. The English-born, French-based horseman, W.C. Webb, was hired by their purchaser, Lancelot Walker, of Canterbury, New Zealand, to take charge of the horses during the voyage:

"The ship they came on was the Kensington, a sailing vessel, and the voyage, which included a stoppage at the Cape for a week, was an eventful and a long one, occupying from New Year's Day to June 21st, 1862. Several times it was contemplated putting some of the horses overboard, in such a weak condition they had got. Indeed, Mr. Walker despaired of landing them; but Mr. Innes, of Harris and Innes, who had on board a Clydesdale stallion, Lord Fergus, was more hopeful, and as a matter of fact, bought the lot from Mr. Walker a few days off port. Mr. Webb remained in charge until the horses were sold." [Extract from *Men of Mark in the World of Sport in New Zealand,* by J. Chadwick, Auckland, 1906]

Regional Disasters

Even the short Australian coastal shipping routes provided their share of early shipwrecks and consequent horse deaths. On 5th August 1859, the steamer *Admella* left Adelaide, bound for Melbourne, where the first Australian Champion Sweepstakes to determine the fastest horse in the country was to be held on 1st October 1859. The *Admella* carried 87 passengers, a crew of 26, plus cargo, including three racehorses and three stallions. The two Sweepstakes' entrants, from South Australia, were Jupiter and The Barber, while the third racehorse was South Australia's champion steeplechaser, The Shamrock.

1859 painting of the wreck of the *Admella* by James Shaw; horse battling the surf can be seen to the left. While the exact location of the horse may be speculative, Shaw's depiction of the *Admella*, which hung for months on the rocks and was seen by Shaw, is accurate.

In the early hours of Saturday 6th August, 1859, in heavy fog the *Admella* grounded on the Carpenter Rocks at Cape Northumberland. The shipwreck cost 89 human lives, but remarkably The Barber and The Shamrock struggled ashore. Unfortunately, the latter broke a leg and had to be destroyed, but ten days later The Barber was found in scrub land and was later able to take his place in the Australian Champion Sweepstakes field.

On 11th September 1876, nine racehorses died when the steamship *City of Melbourne* ran into a heavy storm on its way from Sydney to Melbourne for that year's Cup. They included Eros, a Gwendoline filly, Poacher, Burgundy, Nemesis, Sovereign, Etoile du Matin, and the greatest loss of all: Etienne de Mestre's race favourite, Robin Hood. Only two horses survived the on-deck carnage, Redwood, and a Chrysolite colt, later named Robinson Crusoe, which went on to become a successful racehorse and sire.

Perhaps the worst shipping disaster for early horse *exports* from Australia was a shipment of "walers" despatched from Sydney to India on the *Hyderabad* on 26th April 1845. The 118 horses destined for the British Army in India were all drowned when the ship struck a rock 100 miles of Cape York. Fortunately, there was no loss of human life.

Hon James White

There remains little doubt that the leviathan behemoth Hon James White MLA was the most visionary and important Hunter Valley thoroughbred breeder during the latter part of the 19th century. Although his main thoroughbred breeding enterprise was based at historic Kirkham Stud, Narellan the Hon James White had widespread influence via his vast pastoral interests throughout the Upper Hunter and beyond. This included breeding thoroughbred horses at Segenhoe.

White, James (1828–1890)

by Martha Rutledge

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 6, (MUP), 1976

James White, 1890

James White (1828-1890), pastoralist and racehorse owner and breeder, was born on 19 July 1828 at Stroud, New South Wales, eldest son of James White and his wife Sarah, née Crossman. His father had arrived in Sydney on 24 July 1826 in the *Fairfield* as an overseer for the Australian Agricultural Co., and acquired land in the Hunter River district including Edinglassie, near Muswellbrook. James was educated at The King's School, Parramatta, and by Rev. John Gregor at West Maitland. In 1842 his father died leaving goods valued for probate at £15,000 and real estate, to be divided equally among his seven sons and two daughters. James returned home to manage Edinglassie, Timor, and Boorrooma on the Barwon River.

In partnership with his brothers Francis and George, James leased Belltrees, near Scone, from William Charles Wentworth in 1848, bought it in 1853 and later added the adjoining Waverley station. From 1848 they acquired other freehold property in the Hunter River district including Merton and Dalswinton. About 1860 White bought the freehold estate, Martindale, near Muswellbrook, where he lived in the 1860s and made well known for fattening cattle. He was a magistrate and in 1864 a sheep director for Merriwa.

In December White was elected by a large majority to the Legislative Assembly for the Upper Hunter, despite abuse from his opponent Thomas Dangar. In favour of free selection, railway expansion and taxes on luxuries, he confessed himself 'not quite equal to grapple' with the education question. On 8 May 1868 he resigned from parliament and visited England and the United States of America; while in England he and his brothers bought Segenhoe in the Hunter Valley. Soon after his return, he was defeated for the Upper Hunter by John Mildred Creed.

About 1873 White bought Cranbrook, Rose Bay, from the estate of Robert Towns and engaged John Horbury Hunt to carry out large extensions. He filled it with 'costly art treasures': European porcelain and pictures by Italian, German and English artists.

In 1875 he sold Martindale to his brother Edward in consideration of an annuity of £5000 to himself and £2500 to his wife. On 14 July 1874 he was appointed to the Legislative Council; next year he was elected to the local Royal Society and became a founding member of the Linnaean Society of New South Wales. A representative commissioner for New South Wales at the Philadelphia International Exhibition in 1876, he was also a commissioner for the exhibitions in Paris (1878) and Melbourne (1880) and the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London (1886). In the 1880s he was a vice-president of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales, the Horticultural Society of New South Wales and the Union Club, a committee-man of the Animals' Protection Society of New South Wales, a member of the Warrigal Club and a director and sometime chairman of the Mercantile Bank of Sydney.

A long-time committee-man of the Australian Jockey Club, White was chairman in 1880 and 1883-90 and did much to promote racing. His first two horses were Goulburn and Hotspur, steeplechasers which won many cross-country races. In the mid-1870s he bought Kirkham, near Camden, where Hunt built him two houses, one a 'French inspired fairy castle'. Kirkham became his main horse-stud, although he also bred horses at Segenhoe and paid high prices for promising youngsters, such as 1200 guineas for Martini Henry. He also built the lavish Newmarket Stables at Randwick where his horses were trained by Michael Fennelly (d.1887) and later by Tom Payten. In 1876 White bought Chester from Edward Cox and next year began a sensational twelve-year career on the turf when Chester won the Victoria Racing Club's Derby-Melbourne Cup double; the stallion had 19 wins from 29 starts and was only 3 times unplaced before becoming top sire. White won five A.J.C. Derbys in 1884-89, five A.J.C. Sires' Produce Stakes in 1885-90, five V.R.C. St Legers in 1886-90 and six V.R.C. Derbys in 1877-90, among most other important races. Out of 302 rides for him Tom Hales rode 137 winners. White's other great horses included Martini Henry, winner of the Victoria Derby-Melbourne Cup double; Abercorn, who raced against Carbine and whose wins included the A.J.C. Sires' Produce Stakes and the A.J.C. Derby (1887), the Australasian Champion Stakes and A.J.C. St Leger (1888) and the Metropolitan (1889); Democrat, winner of the Sydney Cup-Metropolitan double (1878); and Derby winners Nordenfeldt, Trident, Ensign, Dreadnought and Singapore. Possessed of 'the most consummate judgment in all matters of breeding, training, and racing thoroughbred horses', he was reputed to have collected over £121,000 in stakes from 66 horses winning 252 races. White was also a heavy punter and reputedly won £25,000 on Martini Henry's double, but was popular with the racing public as he never tried to bluff them. He planned to win the Epsom Derby and bred three colts by Chester to English time. In England they were supervised by Septimus Alfred Stephen but only Kirkham carried White's pale blue and white colours in Sainfoin's Derby in 1890 and was unplaced. He sent another contingent to England next year.

Early in 1890 White retired as chairman of the A.J.C. and in April sold most of his racehorses for some 16,745 guineas, Titan bringing the record price of 4600 guineas. In 1889 he had given twenty blood mares to his nephews at Belltrees. He died of heart disease at Cranbrook on 13 July 1890 and was buried in the Anglican section of Waverley cemetery. He was survived by his wife Emily Elizabeth, daughter of James Arndell, whom he had married at Merton, New South Wales, on 9 July 1856; she shared his love of racing. His estate was valued for probate at almost £350,000 and willed to his brothers, nephews, and his wife who inherited Cranbrook, Kirkham, £5000 and an annuity of £2500.

On 4 August 1896 at the Woollahra Presbyterian Church Emily White married Captain William Scott, M.R.C.V.S., aged 37 and principal veterinary surgeon in the New South Wales Defence Forces; she died on 28 October 1897 at Melrose, Roxburghshire, Scotland.

White's brother Francis (1830-1875) was born at Ravensworth, New South Wales, on 21 April 1830. Educated at Maitland by Gregor and Rev. Thomas Aitken he qualified as a surveyor before returning to Edinglassie. On 6 July 1853 he married Mary Hannah Cobb of Anambah, and lived at Belltrees for ten years before settling at Edinglassie, his share of his father's estate. Genial and generous he was 'a principal mover in all public matters' in Muswellbrook, where he was chairman of the bench of magistrates and president of the hospital board and the agricultural society. In 1875 he was elected to the Legislative Assembly for the Upper Hunter but died suddenly of fever at Edinglassie on 4 May. He was survived by his wife, a daughter and six sons, of whom the most notable were James Cobb of Edinglassie, a well-known breeder of Aberdeen Angus cattle, and Henry Luke of Belltrees.

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White, James (1828–1890)
From *Sydney Morning Herald*

Citation details

'White, James (1828–1890)', Obituaries Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/white-james-4837/text24968 , accessed 11 April 2016.
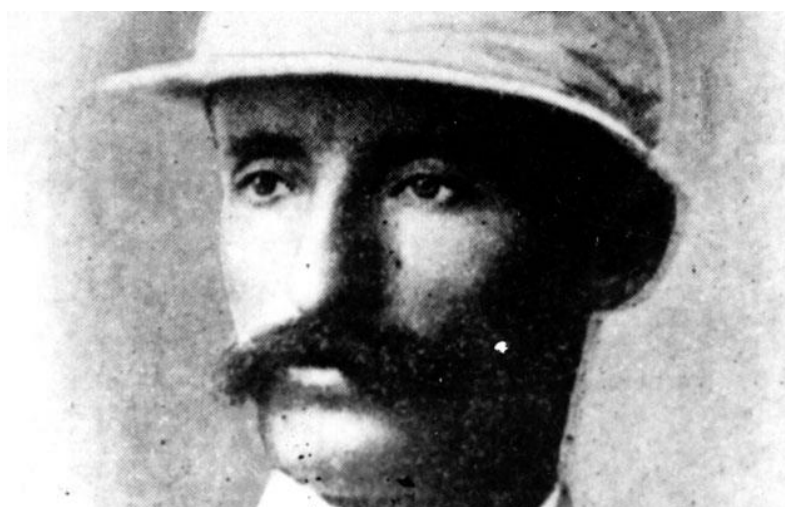
Champion Tom Hales was retained by Hon james White as stable jockey @ £2000pa

James White

From *Australian Men of Mark*, 1889, vol 1, p 297

Life Summary

James White

The announcement of the death of the Hon. James White, M.L.C., will be received with widespread regret. Yesterday afternoon he breathed his last at his residence, Cranbrook, Rose Bay, after an illness extending over a fortnight. It has long been known that the deceased gentleman suffered from heart disease, but a fortnight ago he took cold, and became so seriously affected that he was placed under the combined treatment of Dr. Sydney Jones, Twynam, and Warren, of Camden. Every possible attention was bestowed upon him, but despite the best medical skill he succumbed to his old malady about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The deceased gentleman was a native of New South Wales, having been born at Stroud, near Port Stephens, on July 19, 1828, so that he was 61 years of age. He received his education at King's School, Parramatta, at which institution he spent four years of his life under the guidance of the late Rev. Robert Forrest. He was afterwards placed under the tutorship of the Rev. Mr. McGregor, of West Maitland, with whom he remained for a similar period.

Here his education was suddenly terminated owing to the death of his father, who had owned the estates of Edinglassie, Timor, a property on the Isis, and Boorrooma, situated on the Barwon River, about 40 miles below the junction of the Namoi. Mr. White assumed management of the estates taking up his residence at Edinglassie when aged 16.

He took up the Narran Lake run about five years afterwards. His next investment was in Belltrees, which he purchased several years later from Mr. W. C. Wentworth. This was a large freehold estate on the Upper Hunter, and to it he afterwards added the Waverley Estate, which was adjoining. Every one of these stations was fully stocked, and the quality of the Belltrees wool became well known. Other estates were afterwards added to his possessions. Martindale, a fine freehold, situated below the junction of the Hunter and Goulburn rivers, was one of these, and this was followed by the purchase of Merton and Dalswinton, freehold estates on the opposite side of the river. In 1869 Mr. White went to England, and during his absence purchased Segenhoe, a very valuable property. Extensive improvements were made upon all of those properties. Mr. White was returned to Parliament for the Upper Hunter in 1866, and represented that constituency for three years. In 1869 he resigned his seat, and left this colony for a European tour, which extended over several years. He returned in 1873, and purchased Cranbrook, Rose Bay, where he resided at intervals for the remainder of his life. In 1874 he was nominated to the Upper House, and held his seat ever since. The deceased gentleman leaves a widow, but no family.

In connection with the national sport of horse racing Mr. White's name was a household word throughout the Australian colonies, and his upright and honourable career on the turf for upwards of 20 years earned for him the esteem and respect of all classes. He was a member of the Australian Jockey Club since the inauguration of that institution, and for many years held the responsible position of chairman until his retirement in January last, when he contemplated a trip to England for the benefit of his health, and also if possible to witness the race for the Derby in which two of his colts were engaged. During his term of office as a member of the A.J.C. Committee he was untiring in his efforts to promote the sport in which he took such great interest, and his retirement therefrom was looked upon as nothing less than a calamity. He first achieved prominence on the turf with the victories of Chester, whom he purchased in 1873 from E. K. Cox, of Mulgoa, and in the following year the great son of Yattendon and imported Lady Chester carried the famous "blue and white" banner to the front in the V.R.C. Derby, Melbourne Cup, and Mares Produce Stakes at the Spring meeting. Before leaving the post for the paddock Chester started on 30 occasions, scoring 19 wins, ran into second place 7 times, filled third place once, and was only three times unplaced.

In addition to Chester's wins at Flemington the following important victories were secured by the representatives of the Squire of Kirkham on the Victorian turf — The Champion Stakes, by Matchlock (1886), Trident (1887), and Abercorn (1888); Derby, by Martini Henry (1883), Nordenfeldt (1885), Trident (1886), Ensign (1888), and Dreadnought (1889); Maribyrnong Plate, by Palmyra (1879), Segenhoe (1881), Iolanthe (1883), and Acme (1885); Melbourne Cup, by Martini-Henry (1883); Oaks, by Sapphire (1880), Uralla (1885), and Spice (1889); Newmarket Handicap, by Cranbrook (1888); Ascot Vale Stakes, by Bargo (1884), Uralla (1885), Volley (1888), and Spice (1889); Australian Cup, by Morpeth (1884), Trident (1887), Carlyon (1888), and Dreadnought (1890); St. Leger, by Martini-Henry (1884), Matchlock (1880), Trident (1837), Abercorn (1888), Volley (1889), and Dreadnought (1890). At Randwick his horses have been equally successful, and the most important events placed to his credit were the A.J.C. Great Metropolitan Stakes, by Democrat (1878), the Pontiff (1880), and Abercorn (1887) A.J.C. Derby, by Bargo (1884), Nordenfeldt (1885), Trident (1886), Abercorn (1877) and Singapore (1889); Champagne Stakes, by Bargo (1884), Uralla (1885), Volley (1888), and Rudolph (1889); St Leger, by Matchlock (1886), Trident (1887), Abercorn (1888), and Dreadnought (1890); Sydney Cup, by Democrat (1878), besides a number of lesser events. At Caulfield and Hawksbury, Mr White's horses have also proved their superiority; in fact, he has been the most successful horse owner that has ever been connected with the turf in Australia.

Such great results, however, were not achieved without incurring great expense in the formation of a breeding establishment at Kirkham, near Camden, where some of the best imported and colonial bred mares were mated with the famous Chester whose success as a sire has only been equalled by his achievements on the turf. Chester, who is still to the fore hale and hearty, is responsible for such great performers as Abercorn, Uralla, Dreadnought, Cranbrook, Carlton, Spice, Acme, and Titan, who at the distribution of Mr White's racehorses in April last, brought the sensational price of 4600 guineas. The Newmarket stables at Lower Randwick, where the aforementioned equine celebrities have been trained, is, without doubt, the best appointed establishment of the kind in the colonies, and with such capable men as the late Mr Fennelly, and his successor, Mr T. Payten to superintend the preparation of the horses, the almost phenomenal successes of the Kirkham representatives can easily be accounted for. Mr White was also fortunate in securing the services of such as excellent horseman as T. Hales, who piloted most of the horses enumerated above to victory. Not content with securing the best prizes on the colonial turf, Mr White essayed to win the English Derby, and with that object in view he sent the colts Kirkham and Narellan—both sons of Chester—to England last year, having had them nominated for the leading classic events of the season, but so far they have not achieved success and a second contingent of three, who have been entered for the weight-for-age races of next season were recently despatched to the mother country According to the rules of the English Jockey Club, however, the death of the owner renders the nominations void. For some time past the state of Mr White's health precluded him from witnessing the victories of his horses, and in April last he disposed of all those in training with the exception of his favourite, Abercorn. The funeral will probably take place tomorrow.

Original publication

  ▪ *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 July 1890, p 5

White, James (1828–1890)

James White

Yesterday forenoon we received from our telegraphic correspondents in Sydney, Greville's Company, the message "The Hon James White died yesterday of heart disease, aged 62." From other sources we learn that Mr. White had been ailing seriously for about a fortnight prior to his death, the cause being a severe cold. He had been long a sufferer from heart disease, and the new malady proved too much for his enfeebled constitution.

The news that "the Lord Falmouth—the Duke of Westminster, of Australia" is dead will come as a sad shock to many and with regret to all, for there have been few better known or more honoured names in colonial history of late years than that of James White, even though that wide celebrity was almost entirely derived from its owner's connection with the turf. Mr. White has certainly been a member of the Upper House for several years, and a squatter who held an immense area of land almost since he reached man's estate, but it was as neither politician nor cattle king that fame came to him, for he was of an unobtrusive and retiring disposition and took but a comparatively slight interest in what are regarded as the more important questions of the day. Mr. White was born in the Stroud district some 62 years ago, and after gaining a fairly liberal education and passing through a preparatory course of pastoral pursuits he struck out for himself, and in addition to becoming a very large landowner acquired wealth very rapidly, but it is chiefly as a sportsman that we desire to deal with his career.

Among the first horses to carry his colours were the jumpers Hotspur and Goulburn, which won for him several races. Then he purchased Democrat, which, in company with other of the deceased gentleman's horses, was trained in Maitland by Mat. Scott, and although the veteran won few important races with the bearers of the famous blue and white jacket, the phenomenal success of the Squire of Kirkham can fairly be dated from this period. Mr. E. de Mestre shortly afterwards took charge of Mr. White's horses, and in 1877 won the V.R.C. Derby and Melbourne Cup for his employer with Chester, one of the greatest horses of all time, and the most successful sire Australian turf rolls can boast of. Mr. White was never what could be called a big punter, but this year he won £10,000 in one bet from the leviathan of the Victorian ring, Joe Thompson. About this time Democrat killed a jockey named Bloomfield in Maitland, but ill-luck did not attend his fortunes for this misdeed, as in '78 he landed both the Sydney Cup and Metropolitan Stakes for his owner, and later The Pontiff and Abercorn added the latter event to Mr. White's score. In 1883 Morpeth won Tattersalls Cup, and Mr. White's name was also inscribed as the winner of this event through the agency of Tempe and Acme, and it may be remembered that the former also landed the Summer Cup, and is also dam of Titan, who brought the stupendous price of over 4000 guineas as a two-year-old. In the commencement of his racing career Mr. White was satisfied to buy his horses, but he afterwards founded a large stud at Kirkham, where his beloved Chester was installed as lord of the harem, and by judicious selection and pluck in sticking to winning families, regardless of price, Mr. White continued a series of victories unequalled in the colonies. Indeed he well-nigh bid fair to rival the Phrygian King of old, for everything he touched seemed turned to gold. In '79 the beautiful but unfortunate Palmyra ran away with the Maribyrnong Plate, and in 1881, '83, and '85 Segenhoe, Iolanthe, and Acme followed the example of the daughter of Maribyrnong, and the blue and white banner was second on two or three occasions. Martini-Henry won the V.R.C. Derby for Mr. White in '83, whilst Nordenfeldt, Trident, the ill-fated Ensign, and Dreadnought got home in later years, and the first named also won Mr. White's second Melbourne Cup. The first A.J.C. Derby went the same way by the aid of Bargo in 1884, and in the following three years Nordenfeldt, Trident, and Abercorn also won, whilst the blue and white was behind Mr. Gannon's representative in '88, but once more in the van of battle in '89, when Singapore achieved a victory.

The records of the A.J.C. St. Leger disclose an exactly similar state of things, for Matchlock, Trident, and Abercorn won in successive years. Mr. Gannon then stayed the conquering host with Melos, but Dreadnought was once again at the head of affairs this season. Mr. White won no fewer than five V.R.C. St. Leger's with Matchlock, Trident, Abercorn, Volley, and Dreadnought, whilst the first named trio also added the Champion States to their owner's successes, and he was second in '78 and '90. The gigantic Cranbrook easily won the Newmarket in 1888 from a big field, whilst two or three of the deceased gentleman's fillies have secured both the A.J.C. and V.R.C. Oaks. His colours have been successful in all the Produce Stakes run at the Hawkesbury meetings, and indeed his equines have won all the races worth winning in this colony and Victoria with the exception of the Hawkesbury Handicap and Caulfield Cup. An idea of the manner in which Dame Fortune attended his career may be gleaned from the fact that 11 Derbies, 9 St. Legers, 11 Cups, 4 Champion Races, and about half a dozen Oaks Stakes among the classic events have fallen to his share. In four years seventeen of Chester's progeny won no less than £34,734 4s, every penny of which went to enlarge the White treasury, and this may fairly be set down as only about a third of what Mr. White's horses won during his short career as an owner.

Some three or four years ago Mr. White began to devote attention to the breeding of horses according to English time, and some thirteen months ago he determined to beard the British lion in his den, and accordingly despatched to England two colts, Kirkham and Narellan, accompanied by the old gelding Plutarch to act as schoolmaster, but notwithstanding that they were placed in the illustrious hands of Matt Dawson they have so far failed to uphold the reputation of their relatives in Australia. Undismayed, however, by their indifferent showing in the classic events in the old country, Mr. White sent Nepean, Wentworth, and Mons Meg to join them at Newmarket, and he was looking forward to their advent on the English turf with confidence when death came and nipped his hopes in the bud.

A ridiculous racing rule in force in the old country renders all entrances void on the death of the nominator, but as Mr. White's health has for years past been precarious, he wisely had his representatives nominated by Mr. S. Stephen, now in London, so that the nags may fulfil their engagements if it is thought desirable. It was Mr. White's intention to visit England at no distant period, and in accordance with this idea the whole of his horses in training were recently sold, many of them fetching extraordinarily high prices, and the distribution caused great regret amongst the majority of the followers of Isthmian games; but some there were who were made happy, for the representatives of the Kirkham stud had not without reason become to be regarded as well nigh invincible. Tom Hales was for a long time retained as first horseman at a salary of £2000 by Mr. White, whose colours were synonymous with fair play, straight running, and fair dealing. The public always backed the bearers of the blue and white with confidence, for they were always triers, so that amongst all divisions and classes of those who go racing the death of such an honest, conscientious and liberal follower of the sport of Kings will cause a deep and profound sorrow. Many there were who could have been better spared.

Mention has been made above of Mr. White as a legislator. During the latter part of his residence in the Upper Hunter, namely, in 1866, he was chosen its representative in the Assembly, in which he sat for three years. In the year 1869 he resigned his seat, and paid a lengthened visit to England and Europe. On his return in 1873 he bought Cranbrook, the residence in Sydney at which he breathed his last, and in 1874 he was nominated to the Legislative Council. Mr. White was married, and leaves a widow, but no family.

Original publication

- *Maitland Mercury* (NSW), 15 July 1890, p 4 (view original)

Other Obituaries for James White

- *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 July 1890, p 5
- *Queenslander*, 19 July 1890, p 106

White, James (1828–1890) from: *Queenslander*, 19 July 1890, p 106

James White

Included amongst our illustrations this week is a portrait of the Hon. James White, who died at his residence, Cranbrook, near Sydney, on Sunday afternoon last. As an owner and a breeder of racehorses, Mr. White had during the past fourteen or fifteen years a most remarkably successful career, and his close identification with the Australian Turf has made his name familiar in sporting circles throughout the world. For many years he held with honourable distinction the proud position of chairman of the committee of the oldest racing club in Australia, the A.J.C., and the loss which this club and horse racing generally has sustained through his decease is one which will be severely felt. Mr. White's health had been very precarious for a long time, and in consequence of this he determined only a few months ago to temporarily retire from the Turf and its excitements, little dreaming that his end was so close at hand. The Hon. James White was the eldest son of Mr. James White, one of the pioneer settlers in the Hunter River district. He was born at Stroud in 1828, and while he was still at school his father died. Mr. White, at the age of 16, was called upon to manage extensive station properties, and he gradually took up more and more outlying country on his own account, until he became one of the largest and most successful New South Wales squatters. He did a fair share of work in pioneering the country on the Barwon, Hunter, and Castlereagh rivers, and was almost uniformly successful in his enterprises.

In 1869 Mr. White went to England, and remained away for several years, during which time he visited all the principal cities of Europe. In 1866 Mr. White was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly as representative of the Upper Hunter, and he kept that position for three years and then resigned, as he was going to Europe. He was nominated to the Upper House in 1874, and had been a regular attendant, though not a frequent speaker, in the House ever since, except during the last two years, when failing health rendered his absence almost compulsory. The cause of his death was heart disease.

Hon James White

"Line-up" Sydney Cup 1889.

L to R: Keith (4th)   Abercorn* (3rd)   Melon (2nd)   Carbine* (1st)

Abercorn* & Carbine* exported to England as sires

(With acknowledgements courtesy Australian Jockey Club. Oil painting by W. McSherry)

Chester (AUS) (1874)
by Yattendon (AUS) by Sir Hercules (AUS) out of Lady Chester (GB).

(Painted lithograph with acknowledgements courtesy Australian Jockey Club)

Jem Mace & Hon James White
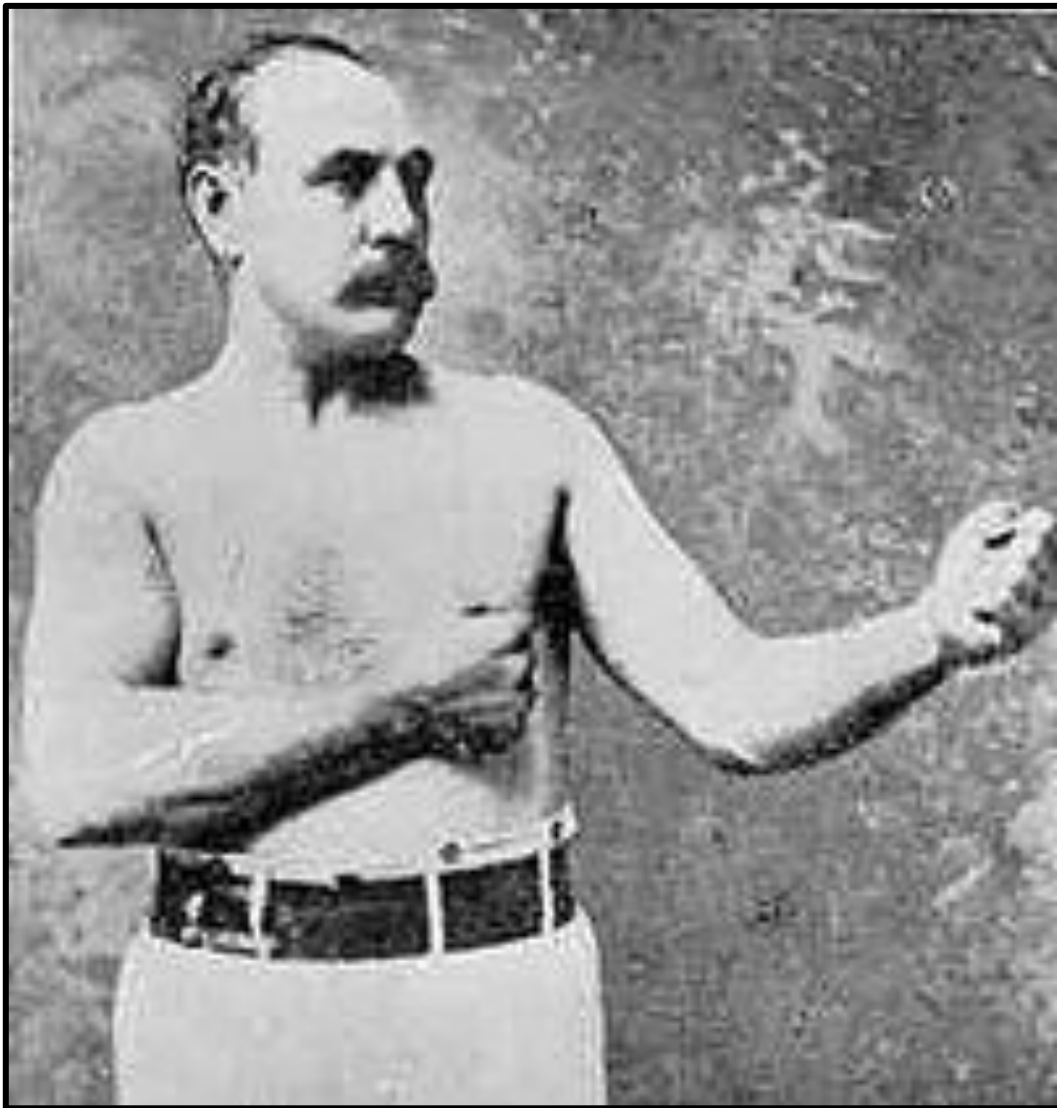
Jem Mace

Jem Mace was the English bare-knuckle boxing champion who lived in Australia from 1877 – 1882. Hon James White reportedly won £70,000 on Chester's Melbourne double in 1877. The bets included collects of £10,000 to £400 and £10,000 to £1000 from the leviathan bookmaker 'King of the Ring' Joe Thompson. The bets were collected by White's commissioner Septimus Stephens outside the Old Exchange in Collins Street, Melbourne in front of a large crowd. It is reported that the crowd 'counted out' the £100 notes in unison and raised a cheer when they reached 200. Another more likely account states that the payments were made in gold bullion and sovereigns. Not surprisingly Mr Stephens had the good sense to engage the renowned prize fighter Jem Mace as bodyguard and minder to escort him with White's booty to the bank. Hon James White and his friends were reputed to have won £70,000 backing Chester at the Carnival and sorely dented Melbourne bookmaker's capital. Similarly Hon James White took the then enormous sum of £25,000 off various bookmakers on Martini-Henry's 1883 Derby/Melbourne Cup double alone.
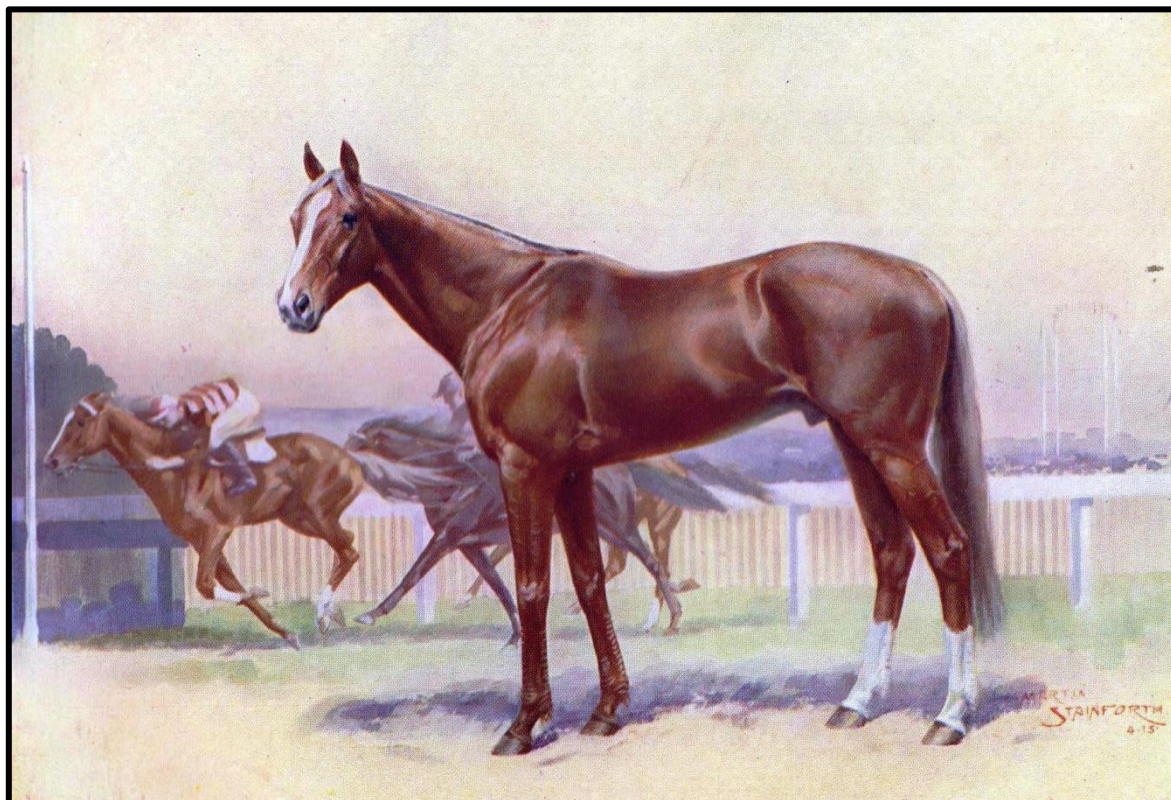
Why Horses Thrive in the Hunter Valley

(Acknowledgment: Dr Stuart McKay 'How to Breed an Australian Horse')

This is one of the most frequent questions put to me for over 50 years. I offer the following explanation from an industry leader, author and expert scientist of a century ago.

Featured Image:

Trafalgar (4*):

Chestnut Horse, 1905, by Wallace-Grand Canary; Winner of £22,111 and a high class stayer; now at the stud in NSW. Sire of Visibility, Heart of Oak, Annexit, etc.; Owned by the Executors of the late Walter Mitchell, NSW; from a painting of the horse, at the age of 7 years, in the possession of Dr Stewart McKay.

Australia contains magnificent country, and portions of it are blessed with a climate which is ideal for the purpose of breeding and rearing horseflesh. This is especially true of the Upper Hunter Valley. There is abundant procurable land at not too extravagant a price. It can be obtained in comparatively large areas. The soil is suitable in many localities for the purpose. The climate is excellent.

There are three major components essential to achieve the greatest amount of success in rearing horses:

1. Sufficient area of suitable land. There is an abundance of feed in favourable seasons and plenty of limestone in the soil. The contour of the land varies and the soil is not too rich. The feet of young horses are fashioned by the country they run on. Horses require frequent change. As far as possible on comparatively large areas everything can be left to Nature which is the reverse of Cato's maxim: "Laudito ingentia rura. Exiguum colito" ("Praise up big areas. Use small ones").

2. Shelter. Every paddock must have efficient shelters. 'The cold winds of winter blow mournfully here'. Plantations of suitable trees and artificial sheds make effective wind breaks. Shade in summer is equally necessary. Control of the bush fly menace has been largely alleviated by the introduction of South African Dung Beetles by the CSIRO.

3. Artificial Supplementary Feeding. In the average season mares carrying their foals require nothing in the way of artificial food once the winter has passed away. The grass supplies them with an abundance of good milk and their offspring are better for the natural sustenance unaffected by over-stimulation of oats or chaff. Some mares have a tendency to wax over gross and produce little milk. Supplementation with good quality sweet oaten chaff, well crushed oats and some course bran are all that is required until late autumn. Appetite stimulants such as brown sugar or equivalent may be added. These amounts can be increased with encroaching winter with the addition of boiled barley as an extra 'caloric'. Many alternative quality supplementary feeds are readily available in the Upper Hunter Valley. Observation vigilance is required at all times to monitor minute changes in the general condition of maternal and growing horses.

The Upper Hunter Valley NSW Australia meets all the criteria for successful horse production and has emerged as one of the three greatest global centres for this enterprise along with Newmarket UK and Kentucky USA.

Tait, John (1813–1888)

By Martha Rutledge

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 6. (MUP), 1976
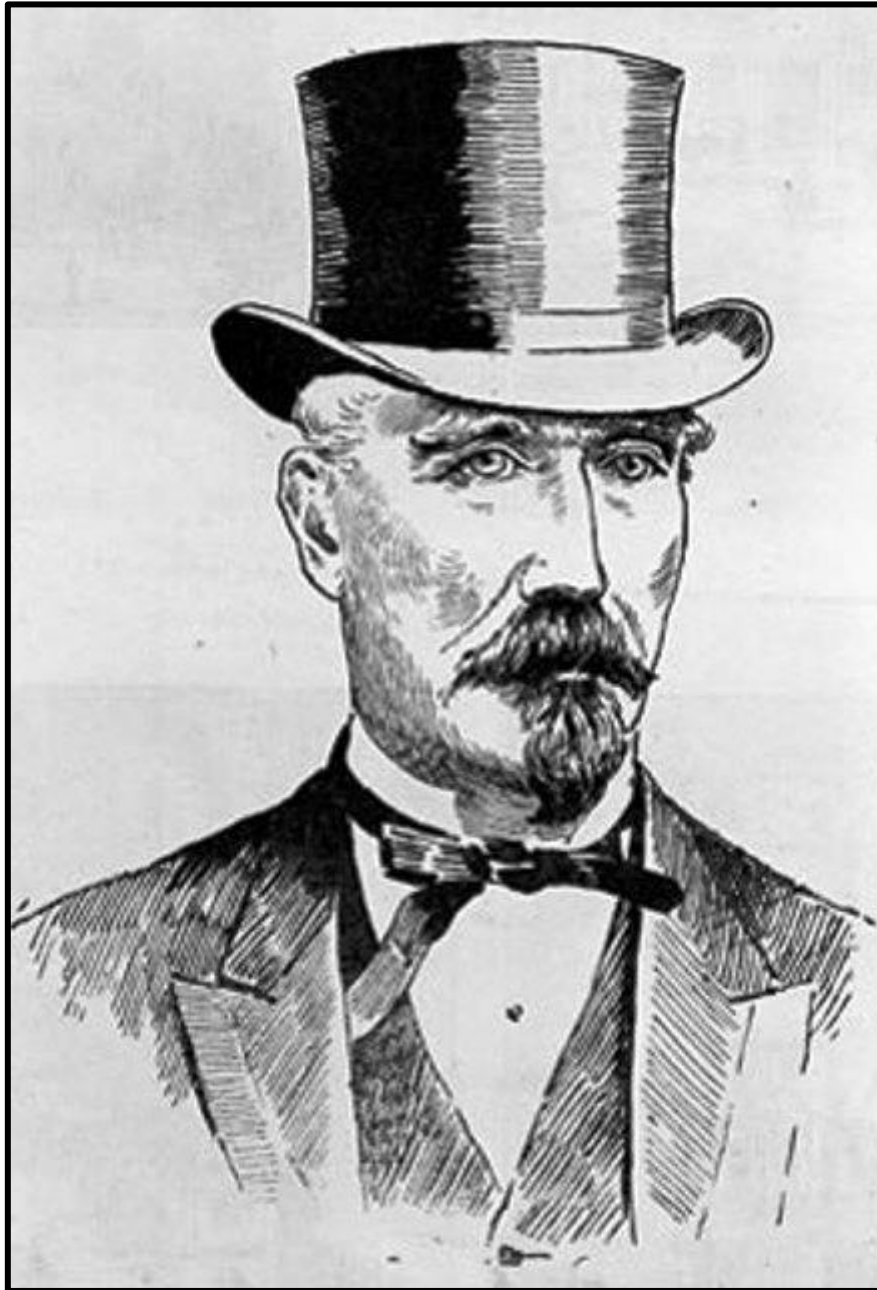
John Tait, *1888*

John Tait (1813-1888), racehorse owner and trainer, was born on 5 November 1813 at Melrose near Edinburgh, son of Robert Tait, jeweller and engraver, and his wife Margaret, née Maitland. Trained as a jeweller he with his wife Janet, née Buchanan (d.1880), and daughter, reached Hobart Town in the *Hindo* on 2 November 1837 and opened a business. He soon moved to New South Wales and in

June 1843 became the licensee of the Albion Inn, Hartley, and in 1847 took over the Black Bull Inn at Bathurst. Strong and wiry, his 'great skill as a boxer' enabled him to cope with his rougher patrons.

In 1847 Tait won the New South Wales St Leger at Homebush with Whalebone. He soon acquired a string of horses from such local breeders as Thomas Icely and George Lee and engaged Noah Beale as trainer and James Ashworth as rider. In 1851-54 at Bathurst, Parramatta, Homebush and Penrith he won races with stakes totalling about £2500, including two more St Legers with Cossack and Surplice and three Queen's Plates with Cossack (twice) and Sportsman, carrying his first colours, a black jacket and red cap. In 1854 in a match race at Homebush Sportsman defeated John Eales's Cooramin for £1000-a-side. Tait had probably moved to Sydney in 1853 and become licensee of the Commercial Hotel, Castlereagh Street.

In 1855 he sold his racehorses and visited England with Ashworth to choose breeding-stock. With Alfred Cheeke he imported Warwick, New Warrior and Magus, who sired Clove, winner of the first Australian Jockey Club Derby in 1865. He returned early in 1857 and was in partnership with Cheeke for several years in a stud farm at Mount Druitt and in racing some good horses. Tait adopted his famous racing colours of yellow jacket and black cap and in the early 1860s he set up with stables at Byron Lodge, Randwick. In the mid-1860s he acquired the Overland Stores at Dubbo which he still owned in 1888.

Unlike his fellow sportsmen Tait 'went into racing as a business'; as his fortunes depended upon the winning of many races he closely supervised the training of his horses, which always ran in top condition. His most famous horse was The Barb, 'the black demon', among whose 17 wins in 24 starts were the A.J.C. Derby and the Melbourne Cup in 1866 and the Sydney Cup in 1868 and 1869. In 1868 The Barb won the Metropolitan and defeated E. de Mestre's Tim Whiffler in the Queen's Plate but weighed in 2 lb. (.9 kg) light; Tait vainly offered £100 reward for proof of foul play. He owned two triple Derby winners: Fireworks, who won 12 of his 16 starts including the 1867 A.J.C. Derby and the Victoria Racing Club Derbys in both 1867 and 1868 (when the date for the race was changed to 1 January); and Florence who in 1870-71 won the A.J.C., V.R.C. and Queensland Turf Club Derbys and the V.R.C. Oaks Stakes. His other notable horses included three Melbourne Cup winners: Glencoe (1869) who also won the A.J.C. Derby, The Pearl (1871) and The Quack (1872). Goldsbrough won the Epsom-Metropolitan double for him in 1875 and Amendment won Tait's last big race, the 1877 Metropolitan. 'Caspian', writing in the *Australian Town and Country Journal* on 1 May 1880, estimated that between 1865 and 1880 Tait had won almost £30,000 in stakes without added money. Known as 'Honest John', he won repute for fair dealing with the press and protested only once—after the 1866 Sydney Cup when Pitsford crossed Falcon and 'hocked' him; Thompson, the offending jockey, was disqualified.

In bad health in 1880 Tait visited England and on 18 August in London he married a widow Christian Ann Swannell, née Garie, who had borne him six children. By 1883 he had moved to Toddington, The Boulevard, Petersham, where he was noted for his hospitality. A justice of the peace from 1879, he was a committee-man of the Animals Protection Society and a New South Wales commissioner for the 1887 Adelaide and 1888 Melbourne exhibitions. On 21 May 1888 he collapsed and died of heart disease; he was buried in Waverley cemetery without religious rites. Tait was survived by two sons and a daughter of his first wife, by his second wife and by two sons and two daughters of their children. His estate was valued for probate at £24,296.

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The Barb
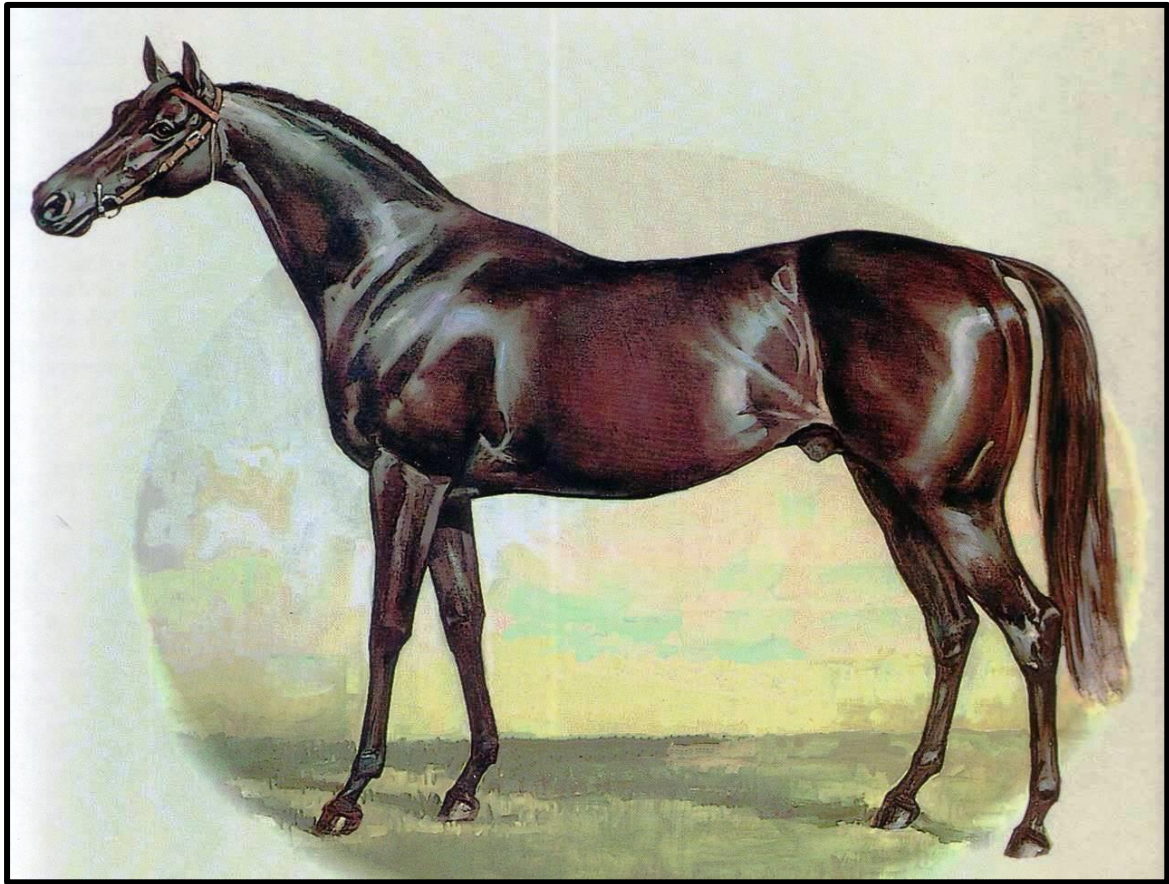
The Barb

The Barb was an Australian bred Thoroughbred racehorse, famed for winning the 1866 Melbourne Cup, the Sydney Cup twice, and other quality races. He was bred by George Lee and foaled in 1863 at Leeholme, near Bathurst, New South Wales. He was known by some as the 'Black Demon'

The Barb inducted into the Australian Horse Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.

Thousands of Thoroughbreds have competed in Australia, but fewer than 50 have been successful enough to merit induction into the Australian Horse Racing Hall of Fame.

Some of these are fresh in the minds of punters, having achieved Hall of Fame worthy results in recent times. Others, however, date to earlier times.

Their exploits were equally remarkable and to prove this we need look no further than a black stallion known as The Barb.

It's not certain if his name was meant to invoke the spirit of the Arab-Berber cavalry horses of that name which were so effective during the eighth century and were reputed to relish fighting, but The Barb seemed to possess enough of that nature to earn him the nickname, "Black Demon".

He was often described as high strung and temperamental.

Some attribute these characteristics to the fact that he was stolen and perhaps miss-treated by bush rangers while he was a foal at foot from Leeholme, NSW.

Whatever the reason, he did live up to his reputation through throwing his rider and bolting the first time he was tried.

Fortunately, his owner and trainer, John Tait, found a way to channel The Barb's exuberance productively.

So much so, in fact, that The Barb finished his 23 start career with 16 wins. (Records of that era contain some discrepancies regarding the exact number of starts and wins. One source lists 16 wins from 21 starts, another 15 wins from 23 starts. The third place finish in his first official race and a second in the All Aged Stakes leave between three and six races unaccounted for, possibly DNPs).

By way of background, The Barb was foaled near Leeholme, NSW, in 1863. Bred by George Lee, his sire was Sir Hercules, who sired 18 stakes winners, and his Dam was Fair Ellen. Both were of predominantly British bloodlines, with the exception of one near predecessor of Sir Hercules, also of that name, who hailed from the Emerald Isle.

After being recovered from his abductors, The Barb was sold for 200 guineas to honest John Tait, a man who is sometimes credited with being the first to make horse racing a commercial venture.

The business was apparently to his liking, because he fielded four Melbourne Cup winners as an owner, a record that has been tied but never surpassed, and one could reasonably conclude that Tait's 100-1 long-shot, The Pearl, who won the Cup in 1871, brought a broad smile to Tait's face.

As a two year old, The Barb probably gave Tait pause to wonder if his 200 guineas had been squandered. There was the afore-mentioned bolting incident and a third place finish, but to The Barb's credit, 1865 did produce a win in The Nursery Stakes.

A spell seemed to induce some measure of calmness in The Barb. When he returned as a three year old he was the class of the field. He won the AJC Derby first up, started and won as the favourite in the Melbourne Cup with W. Davis aboard. His erratic nature then resurfaced briefly, perhaps costing him a victory in the All Aged Stakes. He came back to post and easy victory in the Australasian Champion Stakes.

The Barb continued to perform respectably in 1867, notching Group 1 wins in the Launceston Town Plate, the Port Phillip Stakes and the Sydney Cup.

It was as a five year old, however, that he reached his zenith, winning all seven of his starts, which included a second Sydney Cup, Craven Plate, VRC Royal Parks Stakes, AJC Metropolitan Handicap and Queens Plate.

All this success resulted in The Barb being assigned a 73 KG weight for the Melbourne Cup.

Accustomed as he was to carrying great weight, Tait, not willing to risk losing lucrative stud fees, retired the horse, selling him to Charles Reynolds. Standing at Tocal Stud in the Hunter Valley, he failed to get any really good runners, certainly nothing approaching his record, but that case is not entirely unusual. Some of his daughters did become noteworthy broodmares.

The Barb died in 1888 at Mitta Mitta, at the considerable age of 25, perhaps some measure of compensation for his early hardship.

One criterion all horses who aspire to the Hall of Fame must meet is having run against top level competition. This was represented for The Barb by 1867 Melbourne Cup winner Tim Whiffler and Fishhook.

Strong competition and an impeccable record, despite being hard to precisely ascertain, resulted in The Barb earning a place in the Australian Racing Hall of Fame in 2004.
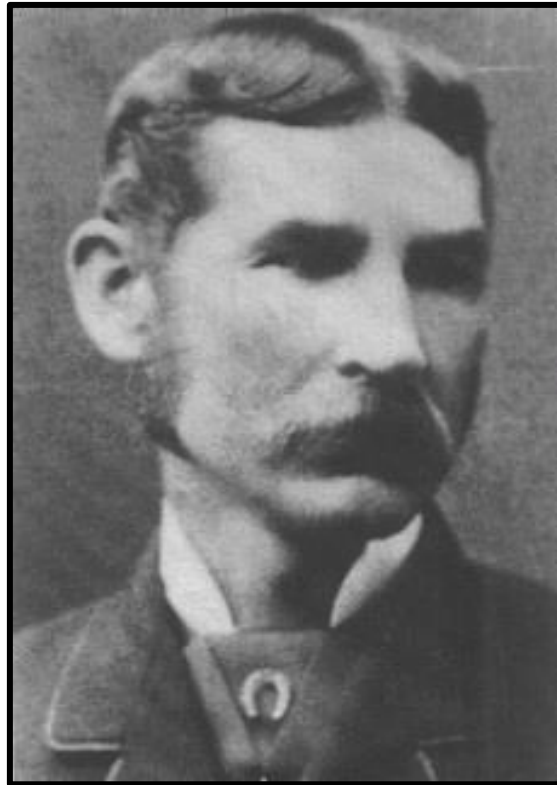
Adam Lindsay Gordon saw him as a horse who 'surges and flashes' past the field. Bells Life in Sydney wrote of the AJC 'Australian Derby' in 1866:

*'He appears delighted when going a strong pace, and in a race he fairly revels in going a cracker from end to end. It was a sight worth looking at on the Derby Day to see him make the running from start to finish; his jockey sitting quietly, hand down, and the other running **after** him, not **with** him. **The Barb** to be appreciated must be seen in action. When standing quietly in his box, he might be passed by as not a very attractive looking horse; but set him going, and the way he gets over his ground, with his beautiful action, so true and level, once seen is not easily forgotten.'*

Bruce Lowe (1845 – 1894)

"The Gentle Giant from Clarencetown'

Charles Bruce Lowe was born in 'Clarencetown' NSW in 1845. This is not quite the Upper Hunter but we'll claim him nonetheless. Bruce Lowe attained fame and to some extent notoriety from a scholarly treatise. Lowe's seminal work, **'Breeding Horses by the Figure System'** was published posthumously in 1895 by his friend and editor, William Allison. He had traced back the pedigrees of the complete list of winners of the oldest English classics, the St. Leger Stakes, Epsom Derby Stakes and Epsom Oaks, grouping them by direct lines of tail female descent, from dam to granddam and on back until the family was no longer traceable in the General Stud Book. There were 34 taproot mares listed in the first volume of Weatherby's General Stud Book. A further 9 non-winning families were also given numbers, making 43 in all.

He then tallied the number of classic winners produced by each family and listed them in declining order. The family with the most classic winners, the one descending from Tregonwell's Natural Barb Mare, was designated Family #1, the Burton Barb Mare second, designated Family #2, and so on. The resulting forty-three numbered families became the core of his study, and while few actually adhere to Lowe's resulting theory, many still use his family numbers as a convenient way to categorize Thoroughbred families. Herman Goos, who had first published a comprehensive collection of pedigree tables in 1885, expanded the number of Lowe families to fifty.

Lowe's theory went far beyond identifying female strains. Of these families, he found that nine in particular appeared to be *indispensable* in the breeding of top racehorses, and he divided these into two classes, *running*(family #s 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5) and *sire* (family #s 3, 8, 11, 12, and 14) or as Lowe perceived them, *feminine* and *masculine.* His theory, too complex to relate here, was based on balancing the "feminine and masculine factors" by using these two classes of families as core to

good matings.

In 1931, *The Tabulated Pedigrees of Thoroughbred Horses* (the "Polish Tables"), published by the Society for Promoting Horse Breeding in Poland expanded the tabulation of successful racehorses on a global basis. These were expanded upon by Captain Kazimierz Bobinski and Count Stefan Zamoyski in the first volume of *Family Tables of Racehorses* (1953), which compiled the families and detailed their lines of descent. Supplementary volumes were published through 1963. Research revealed that that some of Bruce Lowe's families went back to a common female ancestor, and so they were linked. Other groupings of mares were added to incorporate the global nature of the Thoroughbred.

Families 1 - 50   Bruce Lowe's original numbered English families, with Goos additions, traceable to the earliest volumes of the General Stud book
Families 51 - 74   Can be additionally traced to General Stud Book mares
Families Ar 1 - Ar 2 Native to Argentina
Families P 1 - P 2   Native to Poland
Families A 1 - A 37 Native to America
Families C 1 - C 16 Native to Australia and known as "Colonial families"
Families B 1 - B 26 Designated as "Half-Bred" due to some impure crosses
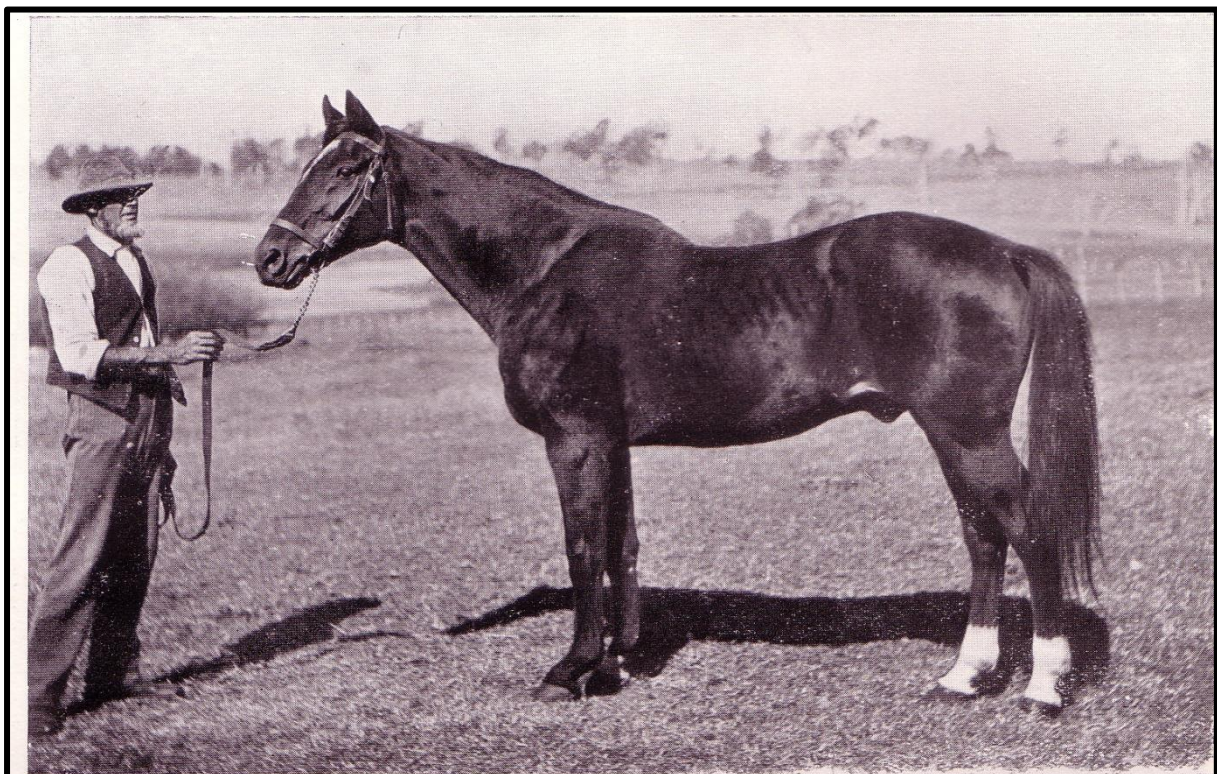
In 1990 the *Societe d'Encouragement pour l'Amelioration des Races de Chevaux en France* published Volume III of the *Family Tables of Racehorses,* updating the information to encompass race results and the expanding female family line branches in the thirty years since 1963; it was compiled and edited by Toru Shirai.
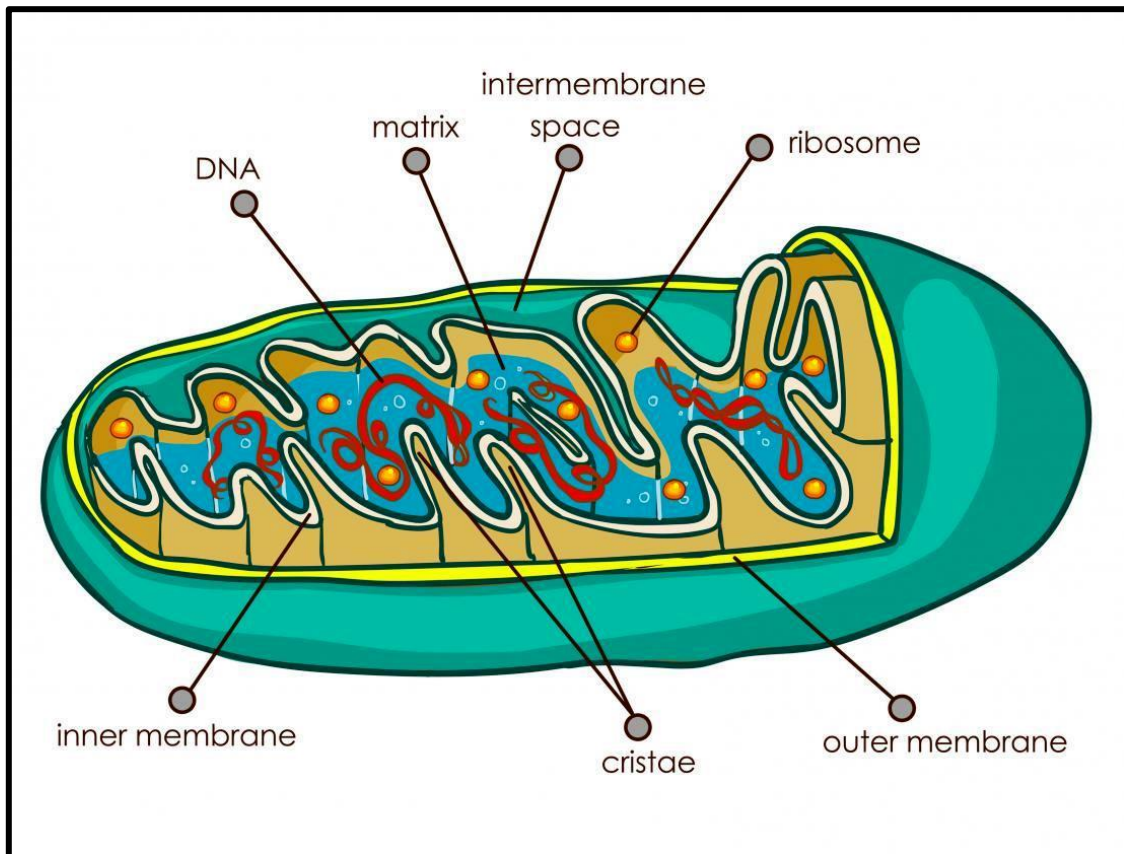
GOLDSBROUGH (13). Brown Horse, 1870, by Fireworks–Sylvia. A high-class racehorse and sire, whose daughters produced many of the best horses of Australia, including Trenton, Wallace, Abercorn, etc. Died at Tocal Stud in 1898.

Tocal's proximity to Clarencetown may have inspired Bruce Lowe

The Application of mtDNA Research in Horses

By Michael Bowling ©Michael Bowling 2002. All Rights Reserved.

http://www.tbheritage.com/GeneticMarkers/mtdnaintbBowling.html

Featured Image: Mitochondrion basic diagram

This simplified guide to the language of genetics was prepared for Thoroughbred Heritage by geneticist Michael Bowling. Mr. Bowling and his wife, Dr. Ann Bowling, co-authored the first studies of the practical application of mtDNA analysis to horses, specifically Arabians.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) codes for some of the proteins of the mitochondria, the "energy furnaces" essential for cellular respiration and thus for multicelluar life. Mitochondria reside in the cell's cytoplasm, not in its nucleus, which means mtDNA is transmitted independent of the nuclear chromosomes. Specific molecular mechanisms exist to exclude the sperm's mitochondria from contributing to the developing embryo, so sequencing mtDNA makes possible the reconstruction of dam line relationships, without influence from the sires used over the generations.

An advantage of mtDNA testing is that, in sharp contrast to nuclear genes, it can be applied even at many generations' remove to address questions of maternity, provided direct female line descendants of the animals in question are available. The origin of replication or the "D loop," where the DNA polymerase enzyme binds, has been found to mutate more freely than the coding regions which are very highly constrained by natural selection (most mutations in coding regions result in

lessened function and thus in selection against defective mitochondria). For this reason it is also known as the "hypervariable region" of the mitochondrial chromosome.

Within historical stud book time frames, mtDNA sequence appears to be highly stable; for example, multiple living descendants tested to date of the three daughters of the Arabian RODANIA (ROSE OF JERICHO 1883, ROSE OF SHARON 1885 and ROSEMARY 1886) have possessed the same hypervariable-region mtDNA sequence. A minority of families has shown variation to the extent of a single base change within stud book time frames, but at the current state of knowledge a difference of two or more mutational changes is taken to reflect a difference in maternal origin.

Mitochondrial sequences can also be used over evolutionary time frames and compared to relational trees derived from other traits. It has been shown that mtDNA variation reflects some connections which must date back before domestication; thus while a difference in mtDNA haplotype must be explained as a difference in origin, showing a matching haplotype may reflect either a pre-domestication event or a common historical origin. Mitochondrial DNA matches therefore are best interpreted in the light of historical research.

A Few Definitions

Matriline: the direct dam line, "bottom of the pedigree."

Haplotype: a set of genetic variants inherited as a unit

Cladistics: system of reconstructing evolutionary relationships putting greatest emphasis on "shared derived" characters; a clade is an evolutionary line so defined, and a cladogram is a diagram showing cladistic relationships.

http://www.tbheritage.com/GeneticMarkers/mtdnaintbdamlines.html

http://www.tbheritage.com/GeneticMarkers/mtdnaintbdamlines2.html

http://www.tbheritage.com/GeneticMarkers/mtdnaintbdamlines3.html

http://www.tbheritage.com/GeneticMarkers/mtdnaintbdamlines4.html

Leading Sires of Australia

1883 - Present
Compiled by Anne Peters; Updated by Hilda Marshall, Patricia Erigero

See: http://www.tbheritage.com/HistoricSires/LeadingSires/AustLeadSires.html

See also: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leading_sire_in_Australia

Featured Image: 'Chester'; Champion Sire 4 times: 1887/1888; 1889/1890; 1891/1892 and 1892/1893

Influence of the Hunter Valley

It can be seen from the championship 'league tables' from 1883/84 to the present day 2018/19* that the leading sire has been based on 76 occasions (out of a total 136*) on studs located in the Upper Hunter Valley. This is a remarkable period of 'dominance' which has been consolidated even further in more recent times (26 out of 30 since 1990/91)..

Nineteenth Century

Year	Stallion	Sire - Dam			Location
1883/84	St. Albans (GB)	Blair Athol-Pandora			Field's Stud, TAS/St. Albans Stud, Vict.
1884/85	St. Albans (GB)	Blair Athol-Pandora			Field's Stud, TAS/St. Albans Stud, Vict.
1885/86	Musket (GB)	Toxophilite-West Australian mare			Cambridge, NZ/Glen Orchard Stud, Auckland, NZ
1886/87	Robinson Crusoe	Angler-Chrysolite			Terara, NSW
1887/88	Chester	Yattendon-Lady Chester			Kirkham Stud, Camden, NSW
1888/89	Musket (GB)	Toxophilite-West Australian mare			Cambridge, NZ/Glen Orchard Stud, Auckland, NZ
1889/90	Chester	Yattendon-Lady Chester			Kirkham Stud, Camden, NSW
1890/91	Musket (GB)	Toxophilite-West Australian mare			Cambridge, NZ/Glen Orchard Stud, Auckland, NZ
1891/92	Chester	Yattendon-Lady Chester			Kirkham Stud, Camden, NSW
1892/93	Chester	Yattendon-Lady Chester			Kirkham Stud, Camden, NSW
1893/94	Newminster	The Marquis-Spa			
1894/95	Grand Flaneur	Yattendon-First Lady			Hobartville Stud, Richmond, Vict./Chipping Norton Stud, Sydney, NSW

1895/96	Trenton (NZ)	Musket-Frailty			St. Albans Stud, Geelong, NSW	
1896/97	Newminster	The Marquis-Spa				
1897/98	Lochiel (NZ)	Prince Charlie-Nelly Moore			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, NSW	
1898/99	Gozo	Wild Oats-Malteze			Tucka Tucka Stud, Yetman, NSW	
1899/1900	Lochiel (NZ)	Prince Charlie-Nelly Moore			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, NSW	

Twentieth Century

Year	Stallion	Sire - Dam;			Location	
1900/01	Lochiel (NZ)	Prince Charlie-Nelly Moore;			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, NSW	
1901/02	Trenton (NZ)	Musket-Frailty			Hobartville Stud, Richmond, NSW/St. Albans Stud, Vict.	
1902/03	Pilgrim's Progress (GB)	Isonomy-Pilgrimage			Victoria	
1903/04	Grafton (GB)	Galopin-Maid Marian			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, NSW	
1904/05	Lochiel (NZ	Prince Charlie-Nelly Moore			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, NSW	
1905/06	Lochiel (NZ)	Prince Charlie-Nelly Moore			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, NSW	
1906/07	Grafton (GB)	Galopin-Maid Marian			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1907/08	Grafton (GB)	Galopin-Maid Marian			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1908/09	Grafton (GB)	Galopin-Maid Marian			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1909/10	Maltster	Bill of Portland-Barley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1910/11	Maltster	Bill of Portland-Barley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1911/12	Maltster	Bill of Portland-Barley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1912/13	Ayr Laddie (GB)	Ayrshire-Catherine Douglas			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1913/14	Maltster	Bill of Portland-Barley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1914/15	Maltster	Bill of Portland-Barley			Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1915/16	Wallace	Carbine-Melodious			St. Albans Stud, Geelong, Victoria	
1916/17	Linacre (GB)	Wolf's Crag-Lismaine			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1917/18	Linacre (GB)	Wolf's Crag-Lismaine			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud,	

					Widden, NSW	
1918/19	The Welkin (GB)	Flying Fox-Woodbury			Melton Stud, Victoria	
1919/20	Comedy King (GB)	Persimmon-Tragedy Queen			Noorilim Stud, Murchison, Vict.	
1920/21	The Welkin (GB)	Flying Fox-Woodbury			Melton Stud, Victoria	
1921/22	The Welkin (GB)	Flying Fox-Woodbury			Melton Stud, Victoria	
1922/23	Comedy King (GB)	Persimmon-Tragedy Queen			Noorilim Stud, Murchison, Vict.	
1923/24	Valais (GB)	Cicero-Lily of the Valley			Arrowfield, NSW	
1924/25	Valais (GB)	Cicero-Lily of the Valley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1925/26	Valais (GB)	Cicero-Lily of the Valley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1926/27	Valais (GB)	Cicero-Lily of the Valley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1927/28	Valais (GB)	Cicero-Lily of the Valley			Oakleigh Stud/Widden Stud, Widden, NSW	
1928/29	Magpie (GB)	Dark Ronald-Popinjay			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1929/30	Night Raid (GB)	Radium-Sentiment			Seadown Stud, Timaru, NZ	
1930/31	Night Raid (GB)	Radium-Sentiment			Seadown Stud, Timaru, NZ	
1931/32	Limond (GB)	Desmond-Lindal			Koatanui Stud, Wangauni, NZ	
1932/33	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1933/34	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1934/35	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1935/36	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1936/37	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1937/38	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1938/39	Heroic	Valais-Chersonese			Tarwyn Park, Bylong, NSW	
1939/40	Beau Pere (GB)	Son-In-Law-Cinna			Westmere Stud, Wanganui, NZ	
1940/41	Beau Pere (GB)	Son-In-Law-Cinna			St. Aubins Stud, Scone, NSW	
1941/42	Beau Pere (GB)*	Son-In-Law-Cinna			St. Aubins Stud, Scone, NSW	
1942/43	Spearfelt	Spearhead-Lady Champion			Alma Vale Stud, Greenmount, Qld.	
1943/44	Manitoba (GB)	Manna-Berystede			St. Aubins Stud, Scone, NSW	
1944/45	Manitoba (GB)	Manna-Berystede			St. Aubins Stud, Scone, NSW	
1945/46	Emborough (GB)	Gainsborough-Embarass de Richesse			Kialla Stud, Greenmount, Qld.	
1946/47	The Buzzard (GB)	Spion Kop-Valescure			Lyndhurst Stud, Warwick, Qld.	

1947/48	Midstream (GB)	Blandford-Midsummer			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1948/49	Helios (GB)	Hyperion-Foxy Gal			Warlaby Stud, Vict.	
1949/50	The Buzzard (GB)	Spion Kop-Valescure			Lyndhurst Stud, Warwick, Qld.	
1950/51	Midstream (GB)	Blandford-Midsummer			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1951/52	Midstream (GB)	Blandford-Midsummer			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1952/53	Delville Wood (GB)	Bois Roussel-Everlasting			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1953/54	Delville Wood (GB)	Bois Roussel-Everlasting			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1954/55	Delville Wood (GB)	Bois Roussel-Everlasting			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1955/56	Delville Wood (GB)	Bois Roussel-Everlasting			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1956/57	Delville Wood (GB)	Bois Roussel-Everlasting			Kia Ora Stud, Scone, NSW	
1957/58	Khorassan (GB)	Big Game-Naishapur			Trelawney Stud, NZ	
1958/59	Star Kingdom (Ire)	Stardust-Impromptu			Baramul Stud, Widden, NSW	
1959/60	Star Kingdom (Ire)	Stardust-Impromptu			Baramul Stud, Widden, NSW	
1960/61	Star Kingdom (Ire)	Stardust-Impromptu			Baramul Stud, Widden, NSW	
1961/62	Star Kingdom (Ire)	Stardust-Impromptu			Baramul Stud, Widden, NSW	
1962/63	Wilkes (Fr)	Court Martial-Sans Tares			Newhaven Park, Boorowa, NSW	
1963/64	Wilkes (Fr)	Court Martial-Sans Tares			Newhaven Park, Boorowa, NSW	
1964/65	Star Kingdom (Ire)	Stardust-Impromptu			Baramul Stud, Widden, NSW	
1965/66	Better Boy (Ire)	My Babu-Better So			Range View Stud, Vic	
1966/67	Alcimedes (GB)	Alycidon-Honey Hill			Trelawney Stud, Cambridge, NZ	
1967/68	Agricola (GB)	Precipitation-Aurora			Te Parae, NZ/Newhaven Park Stud, NSW	
1968/69	Wilkes (Fr)	Court Martial-Sans Tares			Newhaven Park, Boorowa, NSW	
1969/70	Alcimedes (GB)	Alycidon-Honey Hill			Trelawney Stud, Cambridge, NZ	
1970/71	Better Boy (Ire)	My Babu-Better So			Range View Stud, Vict.	
1971/72	Better Boy (Ire)	My Babu-Better So			Range View Stud, Vict.	
1972/73	Oncidium (GB)	Alcide-Malcolmia			Te Parae Stud, NZ	
1973/74	Matrice	Masthead-La Patrice			Tudor Vale Stud, Smithfield,	

Year	Stallion	Sire - Dam; Family #			Location
					SA
1974/75	Oncidium (GB)	Alcide-Malcolmia			Te Parae Stud, NZ
1975/76	Showdown (GB)	Infatuation-Zanzara			Stockwell Stud, Vict.
1976/77	Better Boy (Ire)	My Babu-Better So			Range View Stud, Vict.
1977/78	Showdown (GB)	Infatuation-Zanzara			Stockwell Stud, Vict.
1978/79	Century	Better Boy-Royal Suite			Mornmoot Stud, Vict.
1979/80	Bletchingly	Biscay-Coogee			Widden Stud, NSW
1980/81	Bletchingly	Biscay-Coogee			Widden Stud, NSW
1981/82	Bletchingly	Biscay-Coogee			Widden Stud, NSW
1982/83	Sir Tristram (Ire)	Sir Ivor-Isolt			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1983/84	Vain	Wilkes-Elated			Widden Stud, NSW
1984/85	Sir Tristram (Ire)	Sir Ivor-Isolt			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1985/86	Sir Tristram (Ire)	Sir Ivor-Isolt			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1986/87	Sir Tristram (Ire)	Sir Ivor-Isolt			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1987/88	Zamazaan (Fr	Exbury-Toyama			
1988/89	Sir Tristram (Ire)	Sir Ivor-Isolt			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1989/90	Sir Tristram (Ire)	Sir Ivor-Isolt			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1990/91	Marscay	Biscay-Heart of Market			Widden Stud, NSW
1991/92	Nassipour (USA	Blushing Groom-Alama			Redoubt Stud, Pukekhoe, NZ
1992/93	Marscay	Biscay-Heart of Market			Widden Stud, NSW
1993/94	Last Tycoon (Ire)	Try My Best-Mill Princess			Arrowfield Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
1994/95	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
1995/96	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
1996/97	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
1997/98	Zabeel (NZ)	Sir Tristram-Lady Giselle			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1998/99	Zabeel (NZ)	Sir Tristram-Lady Giselle			Cambridge Stud, Cambridge, NZ
1999/2000	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW

2000 - Present

Year	Stallion	Sire - Dam; Family #			Location

2000/2001	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
2001/2002	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
2002/2003	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
2003/2004	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud, Jerrys Plains, NSW
2004/2005	Danehill (USA)	Danzig-Razyana			Coolmore Stud , Jerrys Plains, NSW
2005/2006	Redoute's Choice	Danehill-Shanta's Choice			Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW
2006/2007	Flying Spur	Danehill-Rolls			Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW
2007/2008	Encosta de Lago	Fairy King-Shoal Creek			Coolmore Stud , Jerrys Plains, NSW

*1941-42: [Beau Pere](#)'s winnings included £11,301 won in New Zealand; if that had been discounted, The Buzzard (In GB The Bastard), by Spion Kop - Valescure would have been leading sire in Australia with winners of 57 races worth £19,595, all in Australia.

2008/2009	Encosta de Lago	Fairy King-Shoal Creek; Coolmore Stud, Jerry's Plains, NSW				
2009/2010	Redoute's Choice	Danehill-Shanta's Choice; Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW				
2010/2011	Lonhro	Octagonal-Shadea; Darley Stud; Aberdeen, NSW				
2011/2012	Fastnet Rock	Danehill-Piccadilly Circus; Coolmore Stud , Jerrys Plains, NSW				
2012/2013	Exceed and Excel	Danehill-Patrona; Darley Stud; Aberdeen, NSW				
2013/2014	Redoute's Choice	Danehill-Shanta's Choice; Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW				
2014/2015	Fastnet Rock	Danehill-Piccadilly Circus; Coolmore Stud , Jerrys Plains, NSW				
2015/2016	Street Cry	Machiavellian-Helen Street; Darley Stud , Aberdeen, NSW				
2016/2017	Snitzel	Redoute's Choice-Snippet's Lass; Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW				
2017/2018	Snitzel	Redoute's Choice-Snippet's Lass; Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW				
2018/2019	Snitzel	Redoute's Choice-Snippet's Lass; Arrowfield Stud, Scone, NSW				

Hunter Valley Based Australian Champion Sires Since 1900

[Chester*	Kirkham*	1888. 1890, 1892, 1893]
Lochiel	Widden	(1898*), 1900, 1901, 1905, 1906 (4)
Grafton	Widden	1904, 1907 – 1909 (4)
Malster	Widden	1910 – 1912, 1914, 1915 (5)
Ayr Laddie	Widden	1913 (1)
Linacre	Widden	1917, 1918 (2)
Valais	Widden	1924, 1928 (2)
Magpie	Kia Ora	1928, 1931 (2)
Heroic	Tarwyn Park	1933 – 1939 (7)
Beau Pere	St Aubins	1940 – 1942 (3)
Manitoba	St Aubins	1944, 1945 (2)
Midstream	Kia Ora	1948, 1951, 1952 (3)
Delville Wood	Kia Ora	1953 - 1957 (5)
Star Kingdom	Baramul	1959 – 1962, 1965 (5)
Bletchingly	Widden	1980 – 1982 (3)
Vain	Widden	1984 (1)
Marscay	Widden	1991, 1993 (2)
Last Tycoon	Arrowfield	1994 (1)
Danehill	Arrowfield & Coolmore	1995 – 1997, 2000 – 2005 (9)
Redoute's Choice	Arrowfield	2006, 2010, 2014 (3)
Flying Spur	Arrowfield	2007 (1)
Encosta De Lago	Coolmore	2008, 2009 (2)
Lonhro	Darley	2011 (1)
Fastnet Rock	Coolmore	2012, 2015 (2)
Exceed and Excel	Darley	2013 (1)
Total		68 times in 117 years
Widden	9 champion stallions	23 championships

Arrowfield	4 champion stallions	14 championships (shared)
Coolmore	3 champion stallions	13 championships (shared)
Kia Ora	3 champion stallions	10 championships
Tarwyn Park	1 champion stallion	7 championships
St Aubins	2 champions stallions	5 championships
Darley	2 champion stallions	2 championships
Baramul	1 champion stallion	5 championships

*Chester was owned by Hon James White of 'Belltrees'. See above.
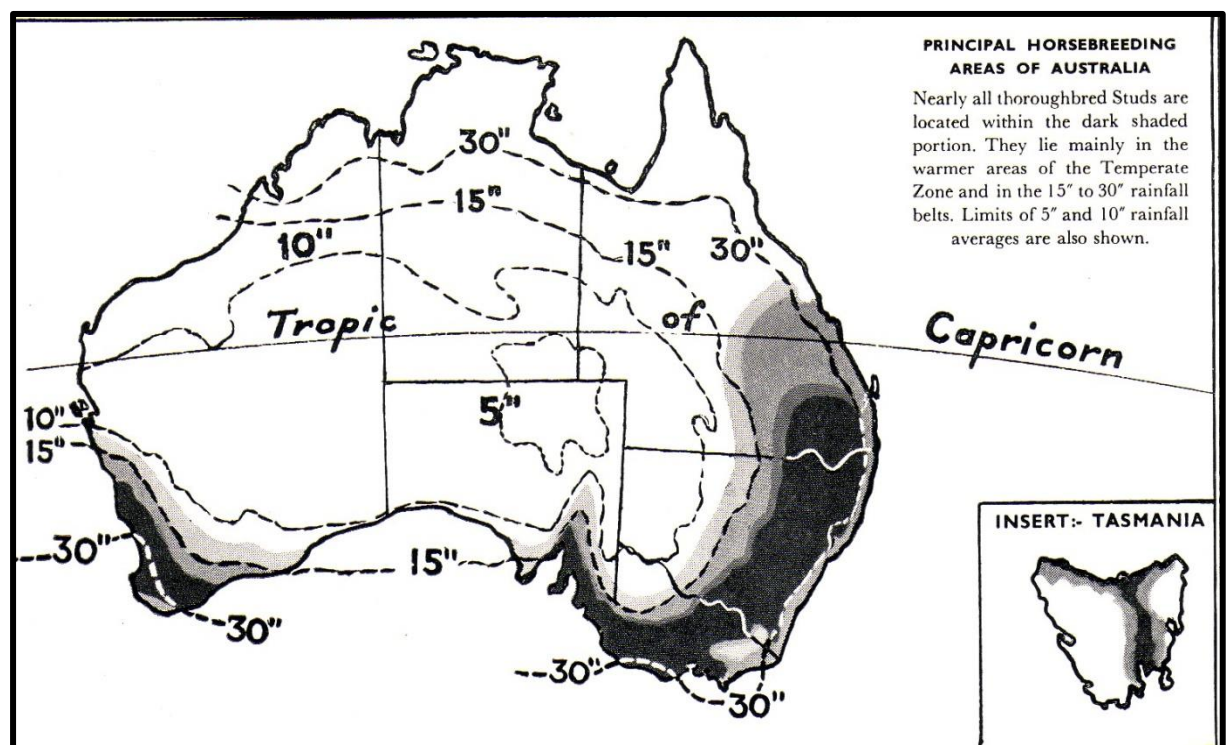
Geographical Clusters of Upper Hunter Thoroughbred Studs
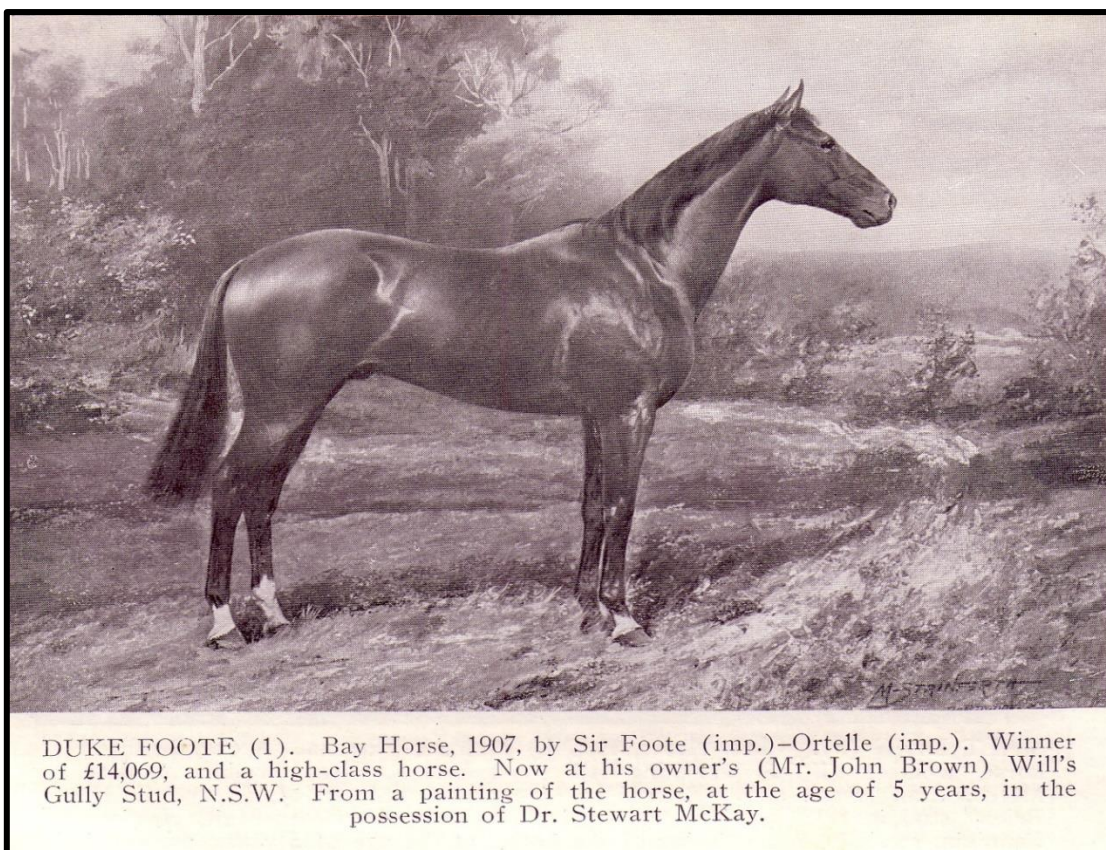

Owners of Thoroughbred Stud Farms in the early 1900s

- Tocal   Reynolds Estate   Maitland
- Duninald   Reynolds Estate   Maitland
- Wills Gully   John Brown   Maitland
- Dulwich   Thomas Longworth   Maitland
- Neotsfield   R. H. Dangar   Singleton
- South Wambo   R. C. Allen   Singleton
- Arrowfield   W. & F. A. Moses   Jerrys Plains
- Woodlands   H. C. White [E. G. Blume]   Denman
- Merton   E. R. White & W. H. Mackay   Denman

- Turanville   W. B. & C. L. Thompson   Scone
- Camyr Allyn   W. B. & C. L. Thompson   Scone
- Sledmere   H. R. Denison & H. G. Raymond   Scone
- Cressfield   D. S. & H. Hall   Scone
- Kia Ora   Percy Miller   Scone
- Segenhoe   William Brown   Scone
- Kingsfield   J. E. & C. H. O'Brien   Scone
- Cliffdale   J. Campbell Wood   Scone
- Petwyn Vale   Sir Samuel Hordern   Wingen
- Werribon   Quirindi   Quirindi
- Widden   A. W. & A. E. Thompson   Widden Valley
- Oakleigh   Thompson Bros [Herbert]   Widden Valley
- Canema   Thompson Bros [Herbert]   Baerami
- Holbrook   W. Harris   Widden Valley
- Tarwyn Park   Thompson Bros [Herbert]   Bylong Valley
- Havilah   Hunter White   Mudgee
- Dunlop   T. A. Stirton   Merriwa

PRINCIPAL HORSEBREEDING AREAS OF AUSTRALIA

Nearly all thoroughbred Studs are located within the dark shaded portion. They lie mainly in the warmer areas of the Temperate Zone and in the 15″ to 30″ rainfall belts. Limits of 5″ and 10″ rainfall averages are also shown.

INSERT:- TASMANIA

The Upper Hunter is ideally placed both geographically and meteorologically

DUKE FOOTE (1). Bay Horse, 1907, by Sir Foote (imp.)—Ortelle (imp.). Winner of £14,069, and a high-class horse. Now at his owner's (Mr. John Brown) Will's Gully Stud, N.S.W. From a painting of the horse, at the age of 5 years, in the possession of Dr. Stewart McKay.

'Cetigne' 1912 @ East Dunlop (T. A. Stirton)

BEAUFORD (18). Brown Gelding, 1916, by Beau Soult—Blueford. Winner in 1922 of 8 races and £11,390 up to the date of publication. One of the most brilliant horses of recent years. Raced by his breeder, Mr. W. H. Mackay, Sydney. From a painting of the horse, at the age of 6 years, in the possession of the artist.
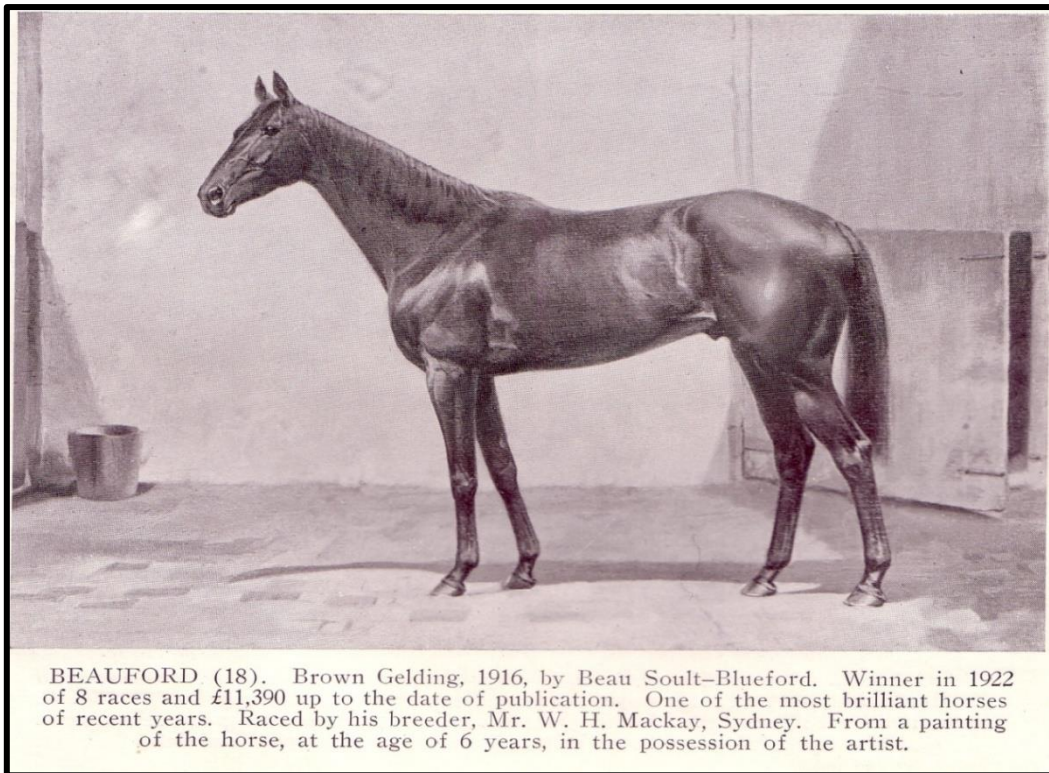
(Acknowledgement courtesy Racehorses in Australia: Lang, Austin & McKay. Paintings by Martin Stainforth)

(Acknowledgement courtesy Racehorses in Australia: Lang, Austin & McKay. Paintings by Martin Stainforth)

Gloaming (NZ) was Beauford's great rival on the racetrack

The Rebarbative John Brown and Prince Foote! (1909)

http://kingsoftheturf.com/1909-the-rebarbative-john-brown-and-prince-foote/

BY IAN IBBETT

ON FEBRUARY 27, 2018

IN 1900'S

FEATURED IMAGE: PRINCE FOOTE AT WILLS GULLY STUD

The year 1909 introduces into our chronicle one of the more colourful – if less attractive – of those *dramatis personae* to have owned a Derby winner. The man in question, John Brown, was born in 1850 at Four Mile Creek near Morpeth, the eldest son in the second generation of the Newcastle family coal firm of J. and A. Brown. It was a company founded by his father and uncle in the middle of the 19th century, and his childhood coincided with the move of the firm's headquarters to Newcastle. John Brown's uncle was the real guiding spirit of the firm in its early days.

It was a privileged start in life but not one that fathered a man of charm or bonhomie with a liberal outlook. I think quite the contrary. John Brown was every inch the dour and taciturn Scot of his forebears; he shunned publicity although possessed of a strong element of theatricality and he seemed to relish the role of relentless capitalist. Tall and lean, he cut a conspicuous figure on the racecourse as he continued to dress in sober broadcloth, gleaming black boots and tie, topped off by a high square bowler hat, long after the fashion had ended. With his thinning silver hair and a moustache that flourished into a close-cropped beard in his later years, he might have stepped straight from the pages of a John Galsworthy novel. And this man of property seemed to personify the very worst features of Soames Forsythe in those heady days of rampant capitalism that marked the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth.

It was the family coal firm that was to provide the immense sums of money that Brown poured into horse racing from around 1893 until his death in 1930. The firm was already a thriving concern when he became general manager at just the age of thirty-two, but under his shrewd stewardship, he steered its fortunes to ever more prosperous levels. It became an empire of extensive collieries in the Hunter Valley with its own rail link, locomotives and workshops, besides boasting an extensive fleet of tugboats that dominated Sydney and Newcastle harbours. Obsessed with power, over the years John Brown cultivated both State and Federal politicians, and it was his extensive interests in racehorses that often provided him with the smoothest access to the political class. Nonetheless, Brown's autocratic and ruthless personality earned him considerable enmity not just from the unions and other coal mine owners, but his own family as well.

His own brother, William, took him through the courts in a bid to establish a right to participate in the management of the firm, which was eventually acknowledged, but not before the challenge had gone all the way to the Privy Council. The partnership eventually dissolved although ultimately John was to emerge the real manager. Such spats of fraternal bitterness were nothing to the acerbic nature of his relations with his miners and towards the concept of trade unionism in general.

He denied his own miners the opportunity to buy the land on which their homes were built, even refusing to renew long-term leases, thereby retaining the power to threaten eviction during strikes. Brown shunned publicity and hated cant or hypocrisy, and he could be as blunt as circumstances warranted. He travelled the world to find customers and organise agencies for his coal; agents of the firm were in the shipping quarters of most of the big cities in the world. The result was a great demand for Newcastle coal by steamers using the Seven Seas. As a young man John Brown had married, but tragically his wife died on one of his early visits to the Old Country. Brown took the loss rather badly, and one can only speculate to what extent this misfortune deepened his misanthropic nature. He never married again and in a curious pattern of behaviour that might have come straight from the quill of Dickens, demanded that his housekeeper maintain his wife's room as she had left it with her clothes to be regularly aired.

Perhaps virtue does enjoy its own rewards, and vice incurs its own punishments, but I have never found that it is the place of the racecourse to meter out such consequences. It was John Brown's good fortune to see his colours carried to victory in the A.J.C. Derby not once but twice and the first occasion came in 1909. From the time that he amassed his first million, Brown became known as 'The Baron'; it was a title that he relished and when it came to registering ownership of his horses he used the nom de course of 'J. Baron'. However, it wasn't until 1897 that he enjoyed his first major success when he won the Doncaster Handicap with the gelding, Superb. Brown travelled abroad extensively on business, spending much time in England and it was while living there in 1901 that he negotiated the purchase of the stallion, Sir Foote, for his stud *Wills Gully*, near Singleton, NSW. It was this horse that was to lay the foundation of Brown's greatest triumphs on the Turf. Sir Foote had raced in England, and though his conformation and brilliance were impressive, he was but little prized in the Old Country because of a history of unsoundness. It was this that enabled Brown to get him at a selling plate price. Brown reasoned that even if the horse couldn't stand a preparation on the hard tracks in Australia, his bloodlines and conformation made him a likely stallion prospect. After all, his near full brother, Surefoot, had won both The Two Thousand Guineas and the Eclipse Stakes in England and had even started an odds-on favourite in The English Derby of 1893, only for temperament to get the better and relegate him to fourth place in the race won by Sainfoin.

But whereas Surefoot was a savage devil, Sir Foote was most equably tempered. Up to that time, Brown had already imported some useful stallions such as Trussing Cup, Jolly Hampton and Simile into Australia, but Sir Foote was to prove his real find. When the horse landed in Sydney, he was almost lame as he hobbled off the boat, and while resting at *Windsor Farm*, it was all he could do to shuffle about in the sand yard. But Ike Earnshaw, who was Brown's trainer at the time, was a remarkably patient man and eventually got Sir Foote ready for racing. Though the horse was always half-crippled, Earnshaw managed to fit him up well enough in the autumn of 1902 to win the Newmarket Handicap at Flemington and the Futurity Stakes at Caulfield before coming to Randwick and taking out the Doncaster.

Though Brown owned many horses before the advent of Sir Foote, he didn't breed on a large scale until that stallion's retirement. When Sir Foote got that smart colt, Antonius, in his first crop it seemed that his stud reputation was assured, but unfortunately, he died all too soon afterwards. A first-class show horse usually kept in peak condition, Sir Foote was found dead in his stall from peritonitis shortly after returning to *Motto Farm* from the *Royal Agricultural Society* Exhibition at Moore Park at Easter 1907. However, in the spring prior Sir Foote's death, one of the mares roaming the *Will's Gully* paddocks had dropped a tiny bay colt by the stallion. The little fellow was destined to bring posthumous glory to his sire's name and become the finest racehorse ever to sport the colours of John Brown on the Turf. The mare in question, Petruschka, was one of those finely-bred English mares that the Baron was in the habit of buying on his European travels and shipping back to the Hunter Valley.

A daughter of the great racehorse Isinglass, winner of the English Triple Crown in 1893, out of a good race mare that had won six races in the Old Country, Petruschka had never been tried on the racecourse herself. She had come to Australia in 1903 along with her dam, only two years after Sir Foote. She had cost quite a bit of money to land here, and when her first two foals failed to make their mark, Petruschka began to look distinctly expensive. It was to be third time lucky, however, when she was mated with Sir Foote in that spring of 1905 for the resultant foal was to be the little claret-bay colt, Prince Foote.

Reared at John Brown's property at Warrah – then one of the most fertile patches of pasture on the Liverpool Plains – when it came time for the colt to be broken in and prepared for a life on the Turf, he went into the Randwick stables of Frank McGrath. McGrath was then 44-years-old, and the fires of his determination had already begun to forge the reputation that would see him acknowledged as one of the great Australian trainers of the century. In Prince Foote, he got a colt worthy of his steel.

As we have seen, McGrath had already won the Derby with Abundance in 1902 and enjoyed other successes that same year in the Toorak Handicap and Villiers Stakes with his own horse Kinglock. The next decent galloper that the Master of Stormy Lodge got his hands on was Little Toy, a son of Positano, which he raced himself. McGrath bought the colt through the sales conducted by Thomas Clibborn for just 85 guineas only three days after Abundance had won the A.J.C. St Leger. Curiously enough, Little Toy was bred by Richard H. Dangar at *Neotsfield* from a mare that his father, Henry C. Dangar, had imported from England. Given the significance that another branch of the Dangar family was to play in Frank McGrath's eventful life, it is an interesting sidelight of history. In just one victory – that of the 1906 Doncaster Handicap – Little Toy did more than virtually any other racehorse to guarantee the prosperity of Frank McGrath and his family. Unraced at two and sparingly raced at three, Little Toy was set for the Doncaster as a four-year-old getting into the handicap with just seven stone. A few weeks before the race, McGrath confided to fellow Randwick trainer and good friend, Tom Scully, that he fancied the son of Positano for the big mile, and in turn, Scully admitted that he liked one of his own, Noreen, for the Sydney Cup. McGrath coupled both horses in doubles at lucrative odds, and when Scully's boast made good, Frank McGrath became a wealthy man overnight. Little Toy lived up to his part of the bargain in devastating style. In the hands of Andrew Thomas, who was then an apprentice with Alfred Foley, Little Toy at 8/1 streeted the field to win by five lengths. Out of the proceeds, McGrath proceeded to build four contiguous cottages in Kensington-avenue on land adjoining his stables.

Despite being a son of Positano, Little Toy wasn't a big horse, and his Doncaster victory lifted him in handicaps such that he failed to win another race of any significance. Nonetheless, it was a happy reminder to Frank McGrath that good things come in small packages; after all, McGrath was a man who first made his name training ponies. Now another good little 'un had arrived on his doorstep.

If McGrath was disappointed with the pint-sized Prince Foote the first time he set eyes on him, he never let on; and McGrath was more than elated the first time he set his stopwatch on the little colt. Never a man to rush his juveniles, McGrath delayed the colt's debut until early autumn and a four-furlong scamper at Moorefield in which he went around unnoticed. Given the educational value of that outing, the stable supported Prince Foote at his next assignment against a big field of juveniles in a five-furlong Nursery at Rosehill. The colt had only 6 st. 10lb and McGrath had engaged a promising young apprentice by the name of Jim Pike for the ride. The inexperience of both horse and rider showed at the start, and after being awkwardly placed, Prince Foote came with a powerful finish inside the distance to be just beaten into third placing – less than three-quarters of a length from the winner. The McGrath stable might have left their money in the bookmakers' satchels, but the run had topped the colt off nicely for his assault a fortnight later on the Sires' Produce Stakes.

The talking horse in the Sires' that year was the local Wallace colt, Sunny South, a homebred trained by Richard O'Connor at Kogarah. Taken to Victoria for the autumn meeting he had won the Ascot Vale Stakes most impressively and the *Tattersall's* men, as a result, looked upon the Sires' as a shutout with at least tens on offer about anything else. The race was being run over the seven-furlong course at Randwick for the first time, and McGrath rather fancied his colt at the extended trip. While Sunny South bowled along in front for five furlongs he was gone at the six when Malt King took him on, and no sooner did this son of Maltster look the winner than Prince Foote swept past him majestically in the final furlong to win in a very quick time.

Two days and a ten-pound penalty later, Prince Foote was denied the rich Randwick autumn double at his final appearance that season when Malt King had four lengths to spare over him at the end of the shorter Champagne Stakes. But never mind the winner, from the perspective of the spring, Prince Foote's powerful finish that day had blue riband written all over it. Badly away at the start, in the words of William Cook ('Terlinga' of *The Australasian*), Prince Foote "was lengths behind entering the straight and ran past all but Malt King from the Leger stand as if they were hobbled."

Although Prince Foote wintered exceptionally well and strengthened considerably, he failed to grow much during his lay-off. The colt's seasonal re-appearance came in the Chelmsford Stakes at the Tattersall's Club Meeting in early September. Malt King and Patronatus, putatively Prince Foote's main challengers for Derby honours, resumed in the same race and rather surprisingly were preferred in the betting in a field that included older horses the likes of Linacre and Mountain King. Prince Foote made light of his seven-pound penalty to win rather easily, although Malt King in finishing third did suffer from interference. Until the Tattersall's fixture, a good many colts had been left in the Derby tentatively in the hope that the crack juveniles of the autumn might fail to strike form in the spring. Such wishful thinking, not unusual in owners, quickly dissipated in the light of Prince Foote's powerful performance and the ranks of Derby acceptors thinned considerably.

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The 1909 A.J.C. Derby field and race conditions appear in the table below:

Run Saturday, October 2nd, 1909.

A sweepstakes of 20 sovereigns each 5 forfeit, or 1 only if declared and paid to the secretary of the A.J.C. Sydney or V.R.C. Melbourne, before 4 o'clock pm on the day of general entry for the spring meeting 1909, with 3,000 sovereigns added. For three year olds: colts: 8-10lb; fillies 8-5lb; no allowance to geldings. The breeder of the winner is to receive 250 sovereigns. The owner of the second horse is to receive 500 sovereigns, and the owner of the third 250 sovereigns from the prize. The second forfeit to be paid to the A.J.C. secretary before 4 o'clock pm on the Thursday preceding the race, or the nominator will be liable for the whole stake. One-mile-and-a-half

1st £2,582; 2nd £500; 3rd £250

1st	Mr J. Baron's	b. c.	**PRINCE FOOTE**	Sir Foote - Petruschka	8-10	McCarthy
2nd	Mr Jos. Brown's	ch. c.	**PATRONATUS**	Patronage - Sway	8-10	J. Barden
3rd	Mr J. C. Williamson's	blk. c.	**DANILO**	True Blue - Lady Robinson	8-10	M. Connell
4th	Mr J. E. O'Brien's	ch. c.	Malt King	Maltster - Patrona	8-10	J. E. Pike
5th	Mr F. Merton's	br. f.	Lady San	San Francisco - Lady Mostyn	8-5	C. Pratt
6th	Messrs W. & F. A. Moses	b. f.	Byplay	St Alwyne - Wink	8-5	A. Woods
7th	Mr W. E. Bidwell's	b. c.	Provocation	Birkenhead - Stepfeldt	8-10	A. Oliver
8th	Mr W. Brown's	b. or br. c.	Hayfield	Simile - Ceres	8-10	W. H. Smith
9th	Messrs A. & G. A. Viver's	b. c.	Gidyea	San Francisco - Wilga	8-10	S. Lamond
10th	Mr W. E. White's	ch. c.	Grist	Maltster - Egale	8-10	F. Hickey
0	Mr H. A. Currie's	b. c.	Brookong	Orzil - Kettledrum	8-10	S. Ferguson

Betting: 4/5 Prince Foote; 6/1 Malt King; 7/1 Provocation; 10/1 Byplay, Hayfield; 12/1 Danilo, Patronatus.

Margins: 1 ½ lengths, 3/4 length. Time: 2 minutes and 37 ½ seconds.

Breeder of Winner: Mr John Brown, NSW. Trainer of Winner: Mr Frank McGrath, Randwick.

Winning Colours: Pale blue, yellow sleeves, black cap

When Derby Day dawned three weeks later, a field of eleven accepted for the race, with Prince Foote, the outstanding contender on paper. Next fancied in the betting was Malt King, who was the most imposing physical specimen in the race, standing head and shoulders over Prince Foote and like most Maltsters, raced big and lusty.

Bred at the *Widden Stud* he hailed from one of the best Australian families, his dam Patrona being a full sister to the Melbourne Cup winner, Patron, and the Sydney Cup winner, Patroness, as well as the good horses, Patronage and Ruenalf. The maternal pedigree ran all the way back to Omen, one of those famous importations of Hurtle Fisher. Trained privately by his owner Joe O'Brien away from Randwick, Malt King, already the winner of the Champagne Stakes at two had followed his minor placing in the Chelmsford Stakes with an easy victory in the Spring Stakes at Rosehill just the week before. Although his speed was proven, his stamina was not, and many thought him better placed up to a mile.

An exciting runner was the New Zealand representative, Provocation, a half-brother to the New Zealand Derby winner, Elevation, owned by the Wairarapa pioneer and studmaster, W. E. Bidwell. From a most distinguished family, Provocation had been a smart juvenile in New Zealand and was the winner of the Champagne Stakes at Canterbury. Danilo, a well-bred son of True Blue, trained by Jack Mayo, represented the theatrical magnate, J. C. Williamson, in the Derby. Also included in the field were two good fillies in Lady San and Byplay, the latter trained by Ike Earnshaw and the winner of the Easter Stakes at the autumn fixture and the Spring Handicap in fast time at the recent Tattersall's gathering. Although the Derby would prove too rich for the pair, later that spring they would quinella the Oaks Stakes at Flemington.

The weather was anything but pleasant with a strong, blustering, westerly gale bringing clouds of dust from Cleveland-street and Randwick road across the course, leading citizens to ask why, given the occasion, the City and Randwick Councils couldn't lightly water the respective thoroughfares. It wasn't enough, however, to deter a large crowd from attendance. Since the last Spring Meeting, the Tramway Department had constructed two additional lines of rails and a corresponding number of platforms to ease the Randwick congestion, while the cross line from Bunnerong road via Victoria Park racecourse to Botany road opened direct communication with the western suburbs for the first time. Of course, not everybody relied on public transport and some in attendance such as the Governor-General, Lord Dudley, and the State Governor, Lord Chelmsford and their parties, travelled to the course in more elegant style.

Prince Foote opened in course betting at 7/4, but as the colourful cavalcade belatedly picked its way to the start – each of the jockeys, bar Barden, was fined for being late out – money continued to tumble onto the favourite despite the shortened odds. Although the field went off at a steady pace, there was much pulling and fighting over the first half-mile. At the time McCarthy had Prince Foote on the rails and close-up behind the leaders. Provocation fighting hard with Grist next made the running, but six furlongs from home Provocation began to tire and fell back upon Prince Foote, forcing him back to last but two. The favourite quickly came again only to receive another check and at the bend remained near the rear of the field. At the entrance to the straight Patronatus, Danilo and Malt King seemed to have the race at their mercy, but once McCarthy pulled out wide on the son of Sir Foote and gave the little colt his head, it was a matter of shut the gate. In an electrifying final quarter-mile, Prince Foote won easing up by one-and-a-half lengths from Patronatus with Danilo filling the minor placing. For the second year in succession the Maitland sportsman, Joe Brown, had suffered the pangs of seeing his colours relegated to second in the classic.

John Brown elected not to start his colt again at the meeting but requested that McGrath spirit him to Caulfield immediately with the Guineas as his next mission seven days later. In winning the Caulfield race over the shorter trip, Malt King extracted a measure of revenge, although Prince Foote was his own worst enemy in missing the jump and then trying to run off the course on top of the hill. The fact that he beat all but Malt King after spotting the leaders almost a furlong, made the Victoria Derby at Flemington seem a foregone conclusion. It was. Despite the inconvenience of a split hoof that the veterinarian Sam Wood needed to rivet together about a fortnight before the race, Prince Foote won his second blue riband by six lengths. Lord Foote, a stablemate also owned by John Brown, made much of the running in that Derby and yet still managed to hang onto third placing, a head behind Danilo. It was a memorable day for trainer Frank McGrath, for his filly Desert Rose took out the Maribyrnong Plate earlier in the day. Such was Prince Foote's dominance in the classic that he was immediately installed as favourite for the Melbourne Cup, just ahead of the great Trafalgar, which that year was having his first start in Australia's richest handicap.

Prince Foote thrived in Melbourne once the split hoof mended and McGrath regarded him as a good thing for the Cup with 7 st. 8lb or two pounds over weight-for-age, provided the little fellow avoided interference. With McCarthy unable to do the weight the job of steerage fell to the 22-year-old 'Midget' McLachlan. Second-last in the field of twenty-six going down the riverside after earlier interference, he steadily improved his position but coming around the home turn was still fully three lengths or more adrift of the heavyweights Alawa and Trafalgar. McLachlan had only ridden the colt once before in a track gallop and never in a race; he was wholly unprepared for the acceleration that came with just one crack of the whip and was still marvelling at it thirty years later when he told his life story. McLachlan came to regard Prince Foote as the best racehorse he ever rode in Australia in his long career but ruefully recalled that he got no more than his riding fee and the statutory percentage from Brown for landing the Cup. The crusty and querulous old autocrat was a little more generous to the V.R.C. committee when he presented them a silver-mounted hoof of Sir Foote, in the shape of an inkstand a few weeks later to celebrate his Flemington triumphs.

When Prince Foote resumed racing in the autumn, he remained just as dominant, winning both St Legers in hollow fashion, as well as trumping the older horses at weight-for-age in the Champion Stakes at Flemington and the Cumberland Stakes at Randwick and leading all the way in the A.J.C. Plate in very fast time. In fact, his only defeat during that campaign came when Malt King beat him in the All-Aged Stakes at Flemington over the mile. I might add that the three-mile Champion Stakes, moved from the midsummer programme to the autumn, was something of a farce that year when neither Prince Foote nor his two rivals wanted to make the pace. The result was that the winner took 8 minutes 47 seconds and given that it exceeded the time limit, John Brown forfeited half the prize. Not that it mattered much in the overall scheme of things, because, thanks to the dominance of Prince Foote, John Brown topped the Winning Owners' List for the season with £14,610 in stakes – a new record for an owner eclipsing the previous record set by the J. B. Clark syndicate in 1893. It was one of the great three-year-old seasons of all time, very similar to Poseidon's and was to be the high-water mark of John Brown's life on the Turf.

Prince Foote began his four-year-old season in the same manner as the year before – with a convincing victory in the Chelmsford Stakes – only this time humping 9 st. 7lb, and it seemed that past glories would be repeated. It wasn't to be. Sent out at twos on at his next appearance in the Spring Stakes, the imported Comedy King was untroubled to cause a boilover in relegating him to second place. When Prince Foote then finished unplaced in the Craven Plate won by Parsee, McGrath abandoned the entire campaign, and the horse went to the spelling paddock for almost a year. Then for the third year in succession, his seasonal re-appearance came in the Chelmsford Stakes, but dreams of a hat-trick were soured when he failed ignominiously. It was the same story in three more appearances at weight-for-age during the Randwick Spring Meeting.
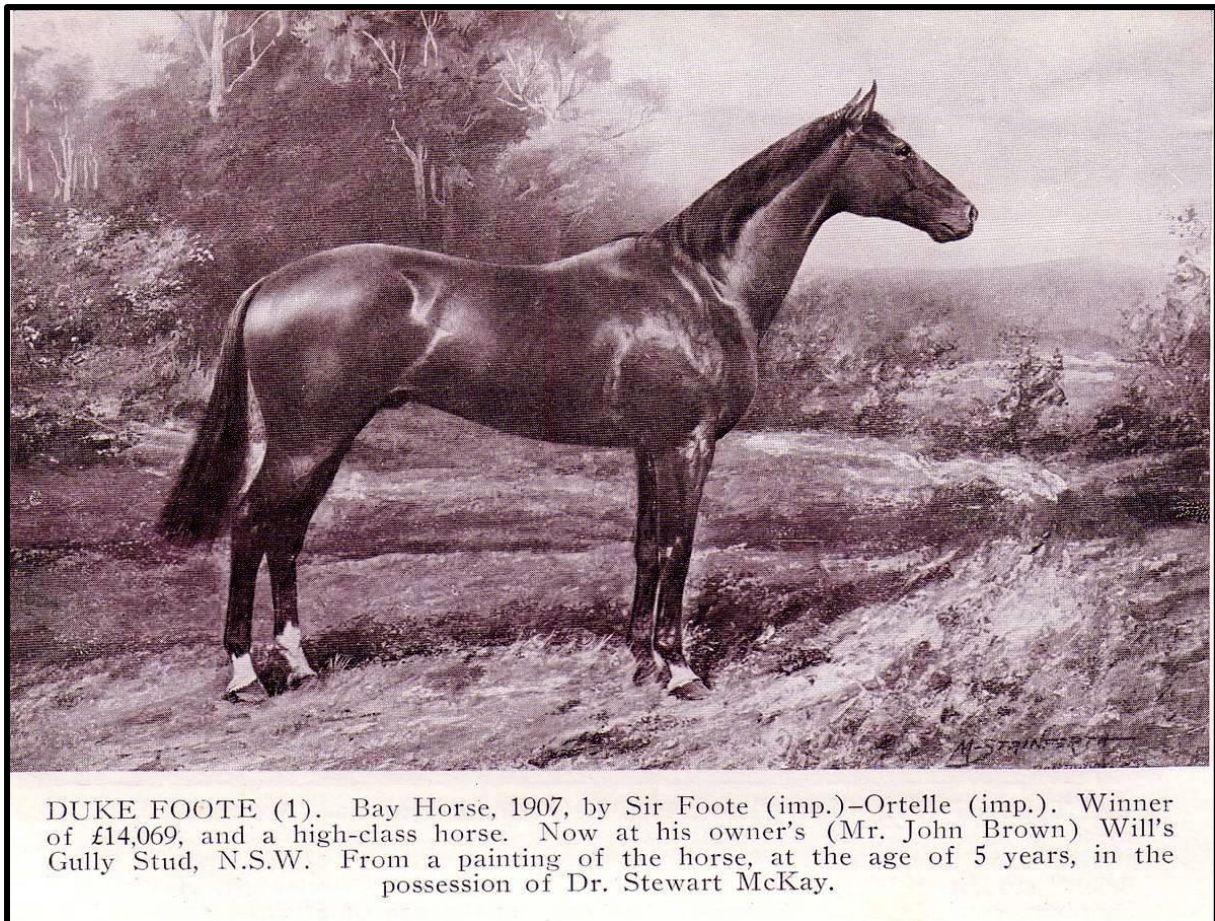
It was after the last of these – in the two-mile Randwick Plate – that Prince Foote bled and his racecourse retirement was announced. The stallion went to stand duty at his owner's *Wills Gully Stud*, among the hills and dales of the Hunter Valley, a few miles from the Rothbury Ranges.

Brown exercised the jealous right of exclusive property with all of his stallions, and Prince Foote was to suffer from this parsimony. Nonetheless, he proved himself a very able stallion, siring some first-class horses, most of which carried John Brown's pale blue and yellow livery. It is a curious fact, however, that all of Prince Foote's best progeny were colts. As we shall see, he was responsible for Brown's second success in the A.J.C. Derby with that fine chestnut colt Richmond Main, and his younger brother Pelaw Main which won the A.J.C. December Stakes. Prince Foote's other good winners for John Brown included the dual St Leger winner, Prince Viridis and the 1922 Sydney Cup winner, Prince Charles. Prince Cox (V.R.C. Australian Cup) and Prince Minimbah (A.J.C. Summer Cup) were among other notable progeny by the Derby winner. Prince Foote died at the *Wills Gully Stud* in January 1922 from a ruptured blood vessel. In the autumn of 1930, at a time when even the great Amounis was stabled in *Stormy Lodge* and enjoying his finest season, Frank McGrath looked back on his racing career in an interview with Jack Dexter. McGrath reflected that up to that time Prince Foote, a wonderfully clean-winded horse, was the best he had ever trained. While it was an opinion that McGrath was to review less than three years later when a certain showy chestnut with a flaxen mane and tail walked into his life, the later revision doesn't necessarily detract from his initial judgement.

The great man admitted that he never galloped Prince Foote beyond nine furlongs when preparing him for his longer races and these were training methods that at the time drew criticism. He recalled that some wiseacres had buttonholed John Brown before the Derby at Randwick and told him it was impossible for Prince Foote to stay on such a light preparation. Brown had reported the doomsayers' advice to McGrath, whose laconic reply was*: "When he's tired, I don't know how the others will be."

Prince Foote was easily the best horse that John Brown ever raced in his long career on the Turf, although the next best was arguably another son of Sir Foote in Duke Foote, winner of an A.J.C. Metropolitan, two Craven Plates and some other top-class weight-for-age events. He was the horse that triggered one of the most hostile demonstrations ever witnessed at Randwick. It came at the 1913 A.J.C. Spring Meeting and the incident distils the essence of John Brown's character.

Duke Foote was a hot favourite for The Metropolitan that year and had been the subject of much pre-post betting, but was scratched a few days before the race. There was nothing wrong with the horse, however, and when Duke Foote proceeded to win the Spring Stakes on the first day of the meeting, elements in the irate crowd loudly hooted the presentation. Just as the demonstration was subsiding and the attendant was leading the horse away, John Brown stepped forward and ordered the horse to be brought back. He then proceeded to pat Duke Foote on the neck, and all hell broke loose yet again. When the demonstration was at its height, Brown with characteristic hauteur stepped forward to face the crowd, smiled, bowed, and raised his hat. He remarked afterwards: "The public can rely upon every horse I run being a genuine trier, but I will not allow them to dictate to me as to which races I will run my horses in." As he was doffing his hat, an enterprising news photographer snapped the image, and it appeared in all the papers. John Brown was so impressed with the photograph that he obtained an enlargement and had it framed and hung on the wall of his home on the hill in Woolf Street, Newcastle, where it remained for years.

DUKE FOOTE (1). Bay Horse, 1907, by Sir Foote (imp.)—Ortelle (imp.). Winner of £14,069, and a high-class horse. Now at his owner's (Mr. John Brown) Will's Gully Stud, N.S.W. From a painting of the horse, at the age of 5 years, in the possession of Dr. Stewart McKay.

Duke Foote at Wills Gully Stud

Duke Foote was also the horse that was again to bring John Brown into direct conflict with his younger brother, William, although this time on the Turf itself. The occasion was the 1912 Melbourne Cup in which Duke Foote started as a hot favourite to land the prize but finished unplaced behind Piastre. The latter just happened to be owned by William Brown and at Flemington on that first Tuesday in November the older brother didn't seem to derive much fraternal satisfaction from the result. While William was to win just as many good races on the Australian Turf as his brother John, the two men could hardly have been more different characters. William was shy and retiring and something of a hypochondriac, although he did plunge rather heavily on his own horses when he first came into the game. Originally the brothers shared the common stud property at *Motto Farm* where they bred and trained in private with Mark Thompson in charge of affairs for a time, but there inevitably came a parting of the ways.

John established *Wills Gully* (a property formerly bought originally by their father) as his own stud; and William spent large sums in the purchase of bloodstock for his *Segenhoe Stud*, which he acquired in January 1913. It was William Brown who was responsible for bringing Multiform to Australia, and in 1911 replaced him with Tressady. Like his brother, William also imported a number of mares from England, including the remarkable Chand Bee Bee in the early 1890's and raced her. She proved a most wonderful and versatile matron when eventually retired to stud producing for William Brown the winners Chantress (Newmarket Handicap), Bee Bee (Maribyrnong Plate), Baw Bee (Breeders Plate and Summer Cup), and Piastre (Melbourne Cup).

John Brown conducted his racing empire along the same lines as his business empire: nothing was to be done by halves; he brooked no outside interference, and his word to his employees was to be taken as a command to be obeyed. Brown conducted two thoroughbred studs, the main one at *Wills Gully*, Singleton, and the other at *Darbarlara*, Gundagai, and he derived great pleasure from his occasional visits to these holdings in the company of his select friends. There were hundreds of horses running loose at these properties and although he only ever raced a fraction of them, rarely did he sell any. In fact, many were never broken-in at all. He was determined not to run the risk of being defeated by a horse of his own breeding in the ownership of someone else.

Frank Marsden, when he was Brown's trainer, often toured the paddocks to select likely prospects and some were four or five-year-olds before they felt the touch of a man. On one occasion, Marsden brought back a real brumby, which he eventually broke-in and registered as Prince Sandy. Prince Sandy was a five-year-old before he ever raced but managed to run second in The Metropolitan of 1921 and was the horse that H.R.H. The Prince of Wales rode on the famous occasion he turned up at early morning trackwork at Randwick. I think the only man that got the occasional concession from Brown was Bob Skelton; he managed to race some horses of John Brown's breeding on the old pony courses. As such they didn't represent a threat to Brown because they were ineligible to be raced on registered tracks. Skelton was known as 'Baron Junior'.

Despite the vast numbers of yearlings that he bred himself, there were some famous occasions when John Brown patronised the sales ring. The achievements of the brothers Windbag and Bicolor were responsible for him paying 4000 guineas for their yearling brother at the Sydney Easter Sales in 1928. Registered as Magnifico and placed in Frank McGrath's stables, the horse proved to be a roarer and never won a race. The following Easter Brown saddled up again, this time paying 2600 guineas for what he believed was a half-brother to the A.J.C. Derby winner, Prince Humphrey, by Valais. As it transpired, the colt wasn't a half-brother to the Derby winner at all, a fact revealed just a few months later; registered as Royal Status, he failed to win in three seasons.

It was with his various trainers that John Brown's ineffable charm was most evident. Frank McGrath was just one of many to train Brown's horses over the years, and, although on and off, he lasted longer than most. Ike Earnshaw was the first and along with McGrath came the likes of Stan Lamond, Albert Wood, James Barden, Frank Marsden, Ike Andrews and Joe Burton. The Baron argued with them all and changing trainers seemed to be as much of a hobby with him as the actual racing of horses. He sacked Joe Burton because old Joe had the temerity to tell him that one of them wasn't much good. Brown's most famous split, however, involved the parting of the ways with Frank Marsden, the man who trained Brown's second Derby winner, Richmond Main.

Marsden was arguably the most successful of all Brown's trainers, and apart from a Derby with Richmond Main, had also won the Sydney Cup with Prince Charles for the owner; in just over three years Marsden won the Baron some £36,000 in stakes alone. Despite such success, Marsden got his marching orders, and it came in somewhat unusual circumstances. The cause of the split was the racehorse, Prince Cox, who, in Brown's colours and Marsden's stable was at first mediocre. It was only after the horse was sold to Sir Samuel Hordern and Fred Smith, other clients of Marsden, that the horse began to show promise, eventually winning the Australian Cup in 1923. Brown was in England at the time, but he quickly fired off a cable to his agent, John Grisdale, with instructions to remove all his horses and gear from Bowral Street and place them in the care of Stan Lamond. Sooner or later Brown would argue with most people with whom he came into contact.

An exception was Sir Adrian Knox, who, when the chairman of the A.J.C. extended the freedom of the committee rooms to the Baron, a concession of which he took full advantage even to the extent of entertaining his own cronies there. Not all members of the committee were as enamoured of Brown as Knox. Brown continued to abuse the privilege even after Knox resigned from the committee to go to the High Court. As a result, Harry Chisholm broached the subject in his most diplomatic manner, but Brown took umbrage, stormed out and never forgave the club.

John Brown died in March 1930 at the age of seventy-nine in his unpretentious home in Newcastle, leaving a personal estate valued for probate at £640,380. Brown left shares in *J. and A. Brown* to his general manager Thomas Armstrong and Sir Adrian Knox as tenants in common, to carry on the firm under the same name during the lifetime of his brother, Stephen. It is worth remarking that in true Scots' fashion despite their differences at times, brother William had bequeathed his estate to John when he pre-deceased him in 1927. At the time of his death, John Brown owned well over two hundred broodmares. The subsequent disbandment of his stud and stable for quite modest prices was an event that scarcely brought much regret to the Australian breeding industry, although Brown's death wasn't quite the end of the line insofar as Brown money expended on Turf affairs was concerned. As we shall see in the course of this narrative, quite a bit of that fortune was to be squandered – in a manner quite uncharacteristic of the Scots – during the 'thirties through the misadventures of the hapless Allan Cooper.

Woodlands Stud

In 1946 with several partners George Ryder acquired Woodlands Stud Farm Pty Ltd at Denman. By the 1960s, under Ryder's management, it reputedly produced annually more individual winners of more races than any stud in the world. Newton Wonder, a very successful sire, was followed by the imports Pipe of Peace, Sostenuto and King of Babylon, and the Australian-born Sky High. The Ryder mantra was 'to put speed to speed and pray they stay'. Another was 'we need horses that fly around saucers' . This was a reference to the closer affinity Australian racing had compared with the USA. In 1970 Ryder sold Woodlands but almost immediately bought Kia Ora Stud Farm Pty Ltd at Scone.

George Ryder   http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/ryder-george-edward-14181

George Edward Ryder (1905-1989), racing administrator, stud master and businessman, was born on 29 June 1905 at Tingha, near Inverell, New South Wales, fourth child of George Henry Ryder, tin-miner, and his wife Inez Evelyn, née Arentz, both born locally. Brought up in a slab hut with a pressed-earth floor, George was educated at Nullamanna Public School, leaving at age 13. He had a job transporting a dentist on his rounds on a motorcycle with sidecar. In about 1928 he moved to Cessnock. After driving a bus for a year he purchased one on time payment. During the 1930s he bought out most Hunter Valley rivals and his business grew into Rover Motors Pty Ltd, with forty-five buses in a modern fleet. He sold it in 1946 and invested in hotels, including Craigieburn Guest House, Bowral.

Gaining a pilot's licence, Ryder expanded into aviation. While operating from Mascot airport he befriended Sir Charles Kingsford Smith. In 1939 he established the first passenger run between Sydney and Newcastle. Later he sold his aviation assets to Australian National Airways Pty Ltd. A talented amateur sportsman, he was an excellent tennis player and golfer, and also enjoyed billiards, shooting, polo and speedboat driving. He was president of Cessnock tennis and rugby league clubs. On 7 September 1932 at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cessnock, Ryder had married Dorothy Abbott Scott, a clerk. He entered horse racing in 1937 when he purchased a colt that he named Jan, after their daughter. Jan won at Newcastle and a smitten Ryder purchased more racehorses, which Bayly Payten trained at Randwick. A later horse, his best, was also named Jan. Trained by T. J. Smith, she dominated weight-for-age races at the 1953 Randwick Easter carnival. Apple Bay, winner of the 1955 Doomben Ten Thousand in Brisbane, was another notable horse to carry Ryder's colours of pale blue, red diamond and sleeves, and yellow cap.

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Ryder had been an honorary representative of the Ministry of Munitions in the Hunter Valley during World War II. In 1943 the premier of New South Wales, (Sir) William McKell, wanted a representative from the area on the board of the new Sydney Turf Club. The jockey Maurice McCarten suggested Ryder, who then began his thirty-seven-year tenure—an Australian record. He served as treasurer (1943-47, 1963-72), vice-chairman (1972-77) and chairman (1977-80).
In the early 1950s Ryder advocated a rich race for two-year-olds to be run over six furlongs (1200 m) at Rosehill. The Golden Slipper Stakes was first run in 1957; its novel title came from the answer that Ryder's wife gave when asked the perfect present for a baby.

For the Slipper he insisted that fillies receive a seven pounds (3 kg) handicap from colts, a kilogram more than customary in set-weights races. Other new provisions included first acceptances paid in the year of mating, followed by second and third acceptance payments, and the option to pay an exorbitant late entry fee. The Golden Slipper quickly became the STC's signature race and is the only non-Melbourne contest among Australia's 'big four' races. He was accused by many for programming the race to suit the progeny of Newtown Wonder. Despite several of his offspring starting in Todman's 1957 Slipper none actually ran a place. Ryder did much to provide more feature-race opportunities for fillies and mares.

During Ryder's time the STC introduced numerous innovations to Australian racing including, in 1946, transportable barrier stalls. The photo-finish camera and saddlecloth numbers on jockey's armlets soon followed. The STC recommenced, after twelve years, metropolitan midweek racing in 1954 and also trialled bookmaker-free race meetings. In 1970 Ryder established the successful Australian Racing and Breeding Stables Ltd, a not-for-profit syndication—Australia's first—that made ownership possible for the non-wealthy. In 1983 it became a public company; he resigned as chairman the following year.

A gregarious man, Ryder was of average height with fair skin and blue eyes. His character was uncomplicated, down-to-earth, loyal, obstinate and humorous. He was fond of using figurative language. With little regard for 'big noters', he led the cause of 'battlers' in racing. He helped to gain entry to official grandstands for non-member owners. Although a member of the Anglican Church he was not a regular churchgoer. Survived by his wife and their daughter, Ryder died on 18 May 1989 at Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, and was cremated. The Group 1 race, the George Ryder Stakes, run at Rosehill, commemorated his services to racing. His portrait (1978) by Judy Cassab is held by the STC.

Bob Hawke, Neville Voigt, T. J. Smith and G. E. Ryder

Tommy Smith always said *'George Ryder was the best man for racing in NSW in my time'.*
Hundreds of winners were raced in their interests in the halcyon days of the 40's – 70's

It would be a powerful argument that George Ryder was the single most influential administrator in both thoroughbred racing and breeding in Australia in the second half of the 20th century with the possible exception of Stanley Wootton.

Black Onyx

BLACK ONYX (Aus): Gr g 1965, Pipe of Peace (GB) - Organdie (GB).
35 starts, 12 wins. Winner 1968 AJC Sires Produce Stakes, 1969 & 1970 BATC Doomben 10,000, 1970 Newmarket Handicap etc.

Bred and raced by the Bootle Family of Narromine Black Onyx was one of the many highly successful racehorses produced at Woodlands during this remarkable era. Banned from racing in Australia due to successive 'bleeding' attacks (EIPH) Black Onyx was exported to the USA where he reproduced his Australian racing form on the dirt tracks. Sadly I read of his ultimate demise at Arlington Racetrack when on a visit to Chicago in 1973.

Ron Jeffries

Legendary manager of Woodlands during the Ryder years

Gunsynd

Final racetrack appearance at the Scone Cup Meeting White Park Racetrack, May 1973.

Kevin Langby is the jockey with Jim Gibson as stallion minder. This was all part of George Ryder's incredible publicity machine

Stanley Wootton   http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/wootton-stanley-thomas-stan-13287

Stanley Wootton – A Breeder of Champions

When horse racing is discussed in Australia the name of Stanley Wootton invariably arises. Stanley Wootton imported to Australia the outstanding sire Star Kingdom and the mare Oceana, which produced one of Australia's greatest racehorses – Todman.

The son of Dick Wootton, a successful horse trainer both in Australia and England, Stanley Wootton was 'born into the game.' Born in Australia he migrated to England and became a successful trainer in his own right.

Stanley Wootton owned a substantial number of racing tracks at Epsom, where some of England's leading racehorses train. After his success as a trainer he became a very successful owner and breeder. In fact, he has probably done more to influence Australian racing than any other man.

Star Kingdom was brought out from England where he had been about equal top two-year-old of his year. However, his breeding qualities were in doubt because of the failure of Star Kingdom's sire, Stardust, at stud. Those doubts were soon put to rest as Star Kingdom became the most dominant influence in the history of Australian breeding. Five times champion Australian sire, seven times leading juvenile winner-producer and three times at the head of the broodmare list.

Wootton also brought with him some mares for breeding, one of them being the mare Oceana. It is now history that Oceana's first foal was Todman, one of the fastest two year old horses ever, winner of the inaugural STC Golden Slipper, the Canterbury Guineas, AJC Champagne Stakes and the VATC Futurity Stakes.

Another foal from Oceana by Star Kingdom was Noholme II, winner of the AJC Champagne Stakes, Epsom Handicap, and the MVRC W.S. Cox Plate, who was later sold to American interests and went on to become an outstanding sire and champion sire of two-year-olds in North America in 1967.

Star Kingdom was one of a number of sires that Wootton exported from England to Australia, two others being Makarpura and Newtown Wonder. Makarpura sired the dam of the Wootton bred Biscay, and Newtown Wonder became a leading sire at Woodlands Stud when it was run by the late George Ryder.

Mr Wootton followed the practice of naming his Australian horses after English place names and his English horses after Australian place names. Todman was an exception and was named after the street, Todman Avenue in Kensington, where Stanley Wootton once lived. Some of his successful English horses included Coogee, Pyrmont, Ballina and Baramul.

Strangely enough, Mr Wootton was reputed not to be an expert on breeding, but had and exceptional reputation as an outstanding judge of horseflesh. Either way, Stanley Wootton left an insurmountable legacy to the Australian thoroughbred industry.

Another great legacy left by Stanley Wootton in Australia was his thoroughbred breeding and racing loving daughter Catherine Remond. Catherine inherited his mares and also his magic and has continued to breed good horses from their descendants. Two of these horses are Danehill mare Crevette and her Flying Spur half-sister Pimpinella.

Outstanding broodmare prospects for the future, they are both bred and raced by Mrs Remond using Twiglet, one of the first good fillies she bred following the death of her father in the mid 1980s.

A daughter of Twig Moss and the Wootton bred Bletchingly stakes placed Extradite, Twiglet won five races including the G2 Edward Manifold Stakes and two Listed events.

At stud she has had 13 matings using 11 different sires and resulting in 10 foals and six metropolitan winners headed by the dashing Group 1 winner and sire Easy Rocking and Hong Kong champion Fairy King Prawn.

Stanley Wootton established this family in the Hunter Valley when he sent from the mare Expulsion, by Showdown's sire Infatuation.

At stud she produced 10 foals including nine fillies, six of which were by Wootton bred and raced sires Todman (3), Bletchingly (2) and Biscay (1).

One of the Bletchingly products Extradite, is the mainstay of the family and has provided it with its most successful era in half a century through the offspring of Twiglet.
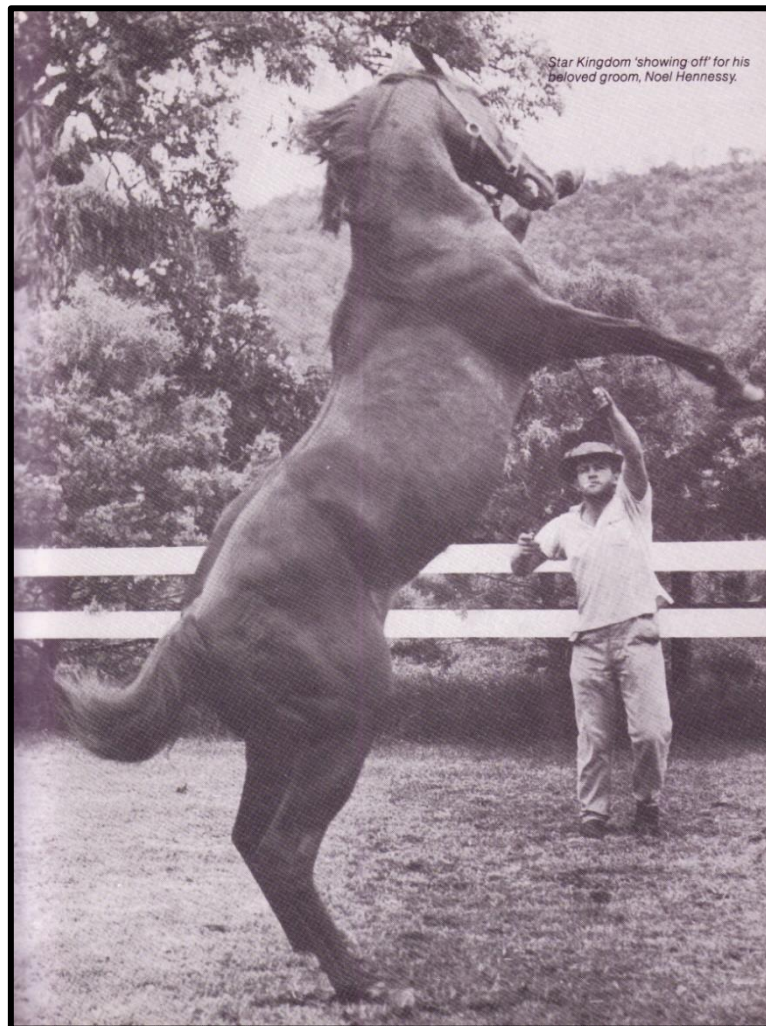
Star Kingdom @ 'Baramul' with Stud Groom Noel Hennessy
(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)

Wootton was a class apart: Max Presnell   Date: June 19, 2011

http://www.smh.com.au/sport/horseracing/wootton-was-a-class-apart-20110618-1g8z8.html

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)

Gentleman of the turf ... Stanley Wootton with 'Todman' left his mark on the Australian racing scene.

The straight left was delivered with purpose and accuracy by Stanley Wootton, one of the great gentlemen of the Australian or any other turf, and the target fell back onto his chair. Wootton adjusted his cuffs and excused him: ''He is either drunk or mad.''

It had been a good lunch until Frank Wootton wanted to check the authenticity of a guest, nicknamed ''The Boxer''. Now you don't get a tag like that for being a butterfly fancier but Wootton, mad, bad and dangerous, called him outside. Brother Stanley took a hand and The Boxer, fortunately, remained in his corner.

With Royal Ascot just completed the question can be asked: who was the best Australian jockey to ride there? Scobie Breasley quickly comes to mind, but some might say George Moore, Togo Johnston or Edgar Britt.

However, the feats of Frank Wootton, a genius on horseback, dwarfed them. In 1912 he rode seven winners at the Royal Ascot meeting. Alas, at ground level he fell well short of his brother Stanley. Never were two brothers so unalike. Stanley was given the accolade of having ''his father's brains and a bit more''. By this time the patriarch, Richard, owned half of Kensington alongside Randwick racecourse with the Doncaster Hotel the jewel in the Australian crown, but this wealth was overwhelmed by the family's British holdings, including Epsom Downs where they received fees for every horse trained there. The punt, too, was a strong contributor to the fortune.

Stanley, a big contributor to Australian racing by importing the great stallion Star Kingdom, was regarded as one of the most wealthy and influential on the British turf but had outgrown the saddle early. Frank, though, born and groomed for greatness by his father, was a wild child who never grew up.

According to Bill Eacott's *The Wootton Family - Australia To Epsom* Frank was not permitted a decent meal in his youth for fear of putting on weight. Frank was taken to South Africa by his father at the age of eight, rode his first winner at nine when Richard planned a first-up killing with Centurion in the 1903 Goldfields Cup at Johannesburg. Frank was nine years and 10 months and Dick secured a special amateur's licence for him to ride.

Bookies put up 50/1. On the day, the trainer picked up Frank from school to land the plunge. Frank was regarded as the youngest jockey in the world to ride a winner at a registered race meeting.

But his father was constantly seeking new horizons and Richard took 12-year-old Frank and the family to Great Britain with the plan to make him the best jockey in the world. Frank, only 14 when he won the Cesarewitch on Demure, was advised to model his style on the American Danny Maher. In 1912 he came in second to Maher in the jockeys' premiership with 129 winners but blitzed him the following season to take the title with 165.

The Wootton boys were getting homesick, so a kangaroo was imported to the family property, Treadwell House, on Epsom Downs, and Frank played on the British public's infatuation with his background.

''I keep a kangaroo in the garden and spar three rounds with it every morning before riding out,'' he quipped. By 16 he was earning more money than a British cabinet minister. Frank was the champion jockey in four successive seasons and only four others, Steve Donoghue, Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggott and Pat Eddery, were able to achieve the feat. However, he did it before he was 20. By 1913 Frank was losing a battle against increasing weight, yet at the end of his flat career he had 4000 rides for 912 successes and was placed at more than 50 per cent of his engagements.

Apart from his weight problems, Frank's career was limited due to regular suspensions; the opposition constantly wailed: ''Wootton knocked me down.''

Folklore has it that a rival made the bleat to a trainer only to be told: ''That would be difficult because he's not here today. He just rode two winners for Lord Derby at Ripon.''
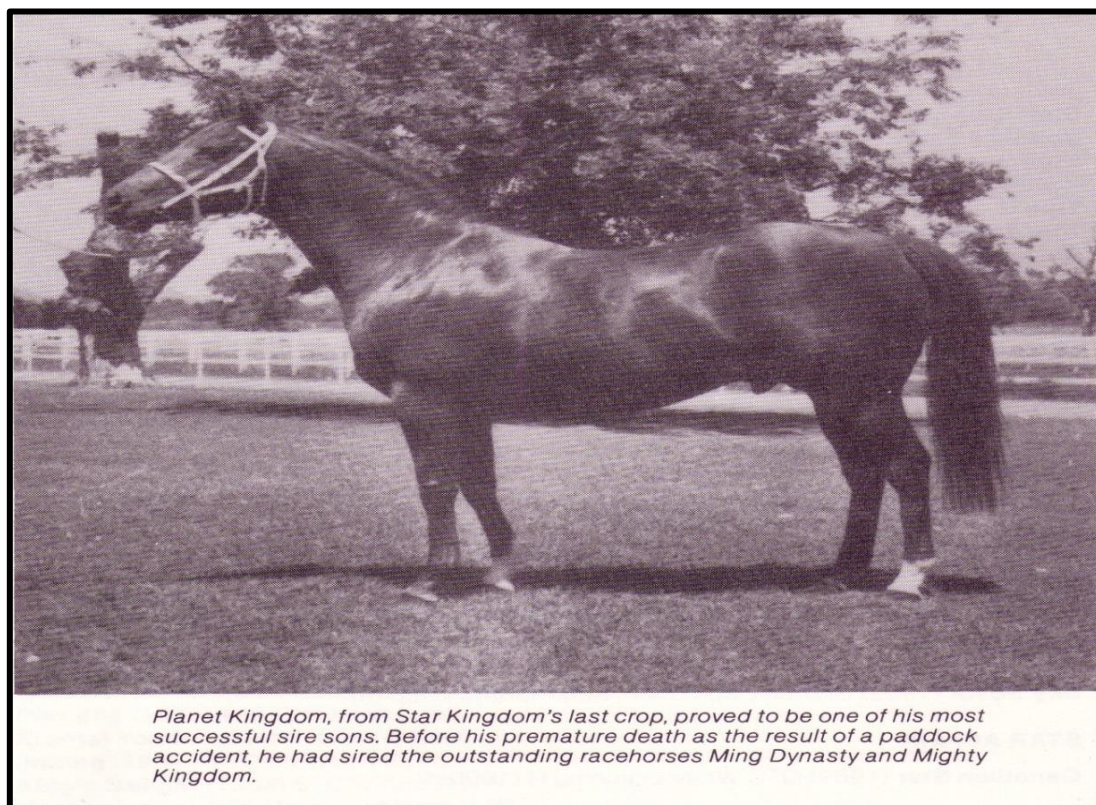
During World War I, Frank followed Stanley into service and joined the Anzac forces in the Middle East, receiving a mention in dispatches. On his return, Frank took out a licence to ride as a National Hunt jockey. In five years he rode almost 200 winners, mainly over hurdles. In 1921 he was champion National Hunt jockey, the only rider in turf history to be champion under both codes. He later trained more than 200 National Hunt winners until 1932.

Gradually, Frank's behaviour became more unruly. He would go out for a drink and not return for days. The family wanted him in Australia to dry out. He boarded the boat at Southampton, but a week later was back in London at his regular haunts. Finally he was taken home. He died in Sydney on April 4, 1940.

The constant wasting, nasty falls and the booze had taken their toll far more than Stanley's straight left.

Star Kingdom meets with his son Todman, for whom he harboured feelings of intense jealousy.

Planet Kingdom, from Star Kingdom's last crop, proved to be one of his most successful sire sons. Before his premature death as the result of a paddock accident, he had sired the outstanding racehorses Ming Dynasty and Mighty Kingdom.

'Planet Kingdom' was bred by R. F. Moses @ Fairways Stud, Muswellbrook

Reg Moses, Star Kingdom's part-owner, and trainer Harry Plant photographed at the races at Randwick. Moses owned a number of stallions in partnership with Wootton before they hit the 'jackpot' with Star Kingdom. Plant trained two of Star Kingdom's most successful racehorses, Fine and Dandy and Time and Tide.

R.F. Moses & Harry Plant

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)

Alf Ellison, Star Kingdom's managing part-owner in Australia, photographed at the races at Flemington.
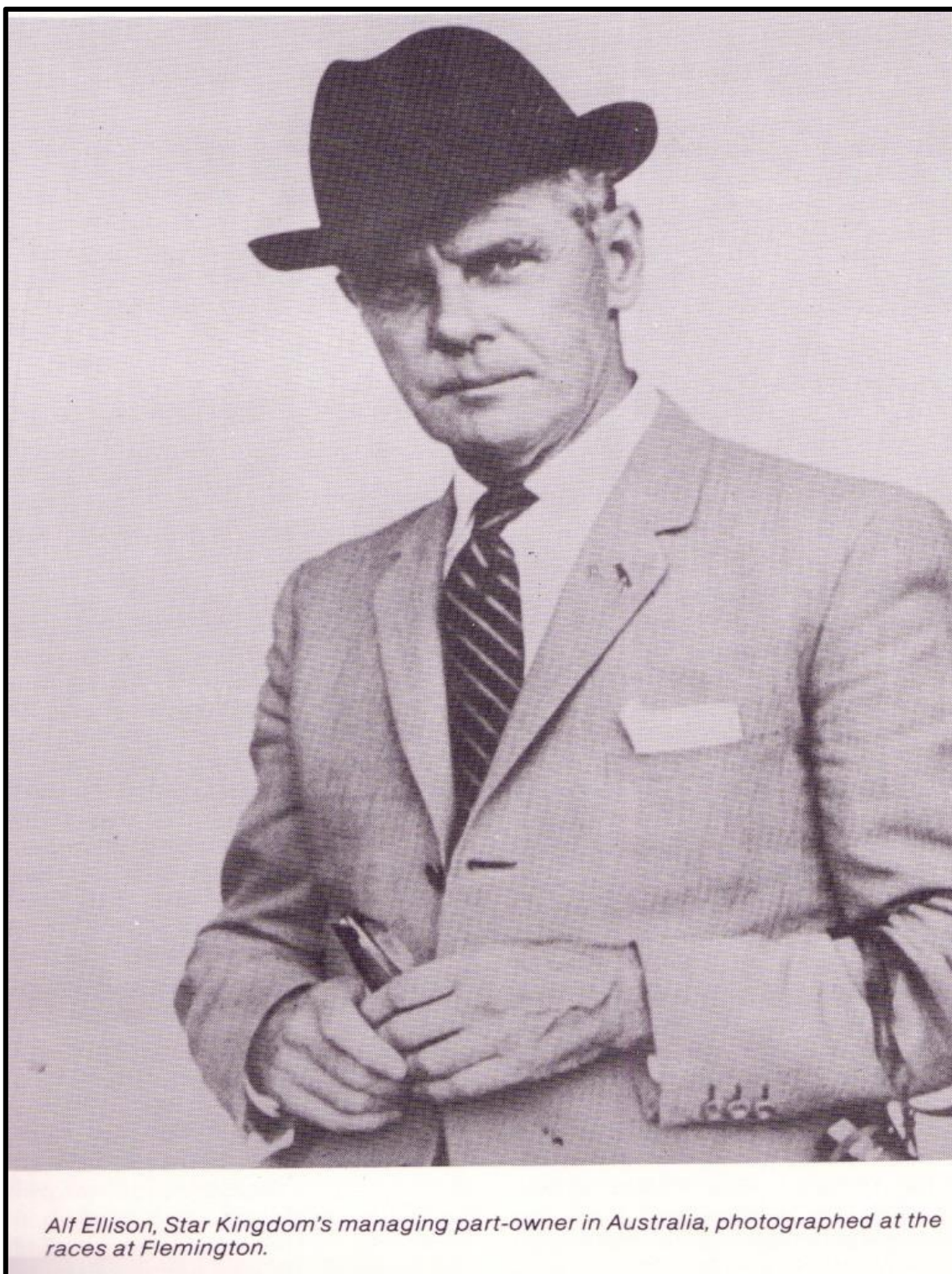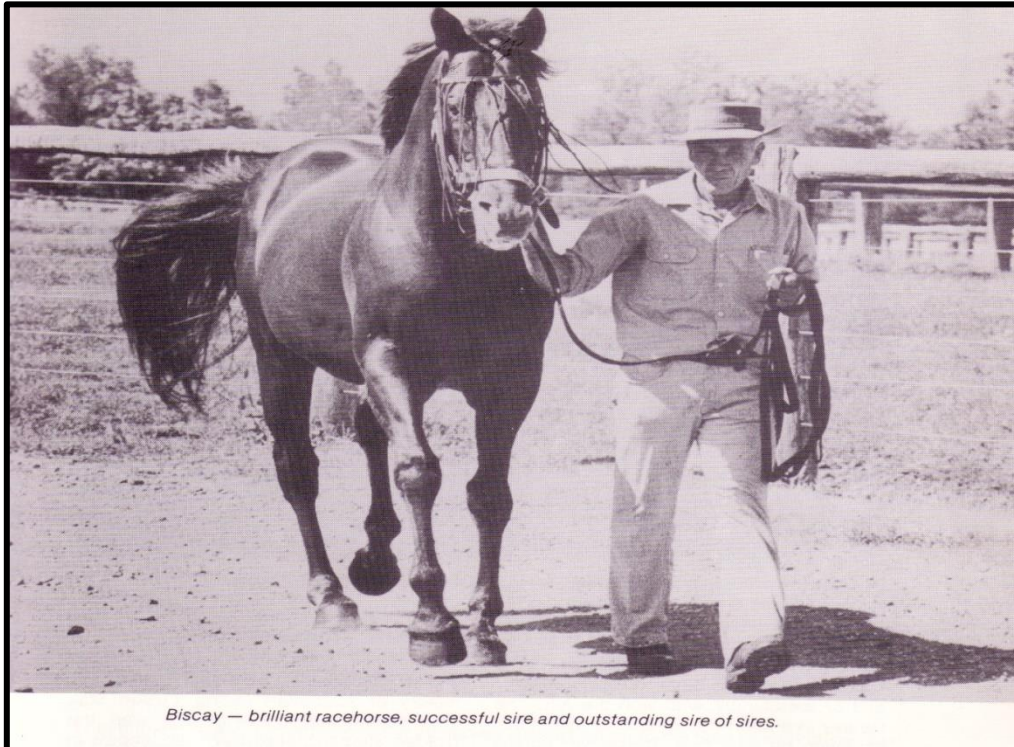
A. O. Ellison owner of 'Baramul'

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)

Dark Jewel was Star Kingdom's most celebrated daughter at the stud. She produced five individual stakes winners Heirloom, Betelgeuse, Cabochon, Birthright and the champion Baguette.

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)

Dark Jewel was owned by the Tait Family

Biscay — brilliant racehorse, successful sire and outstanding sire of sires.

Biscay (Star Kingdom ex Magic Symbol by Makapura by Big Game)
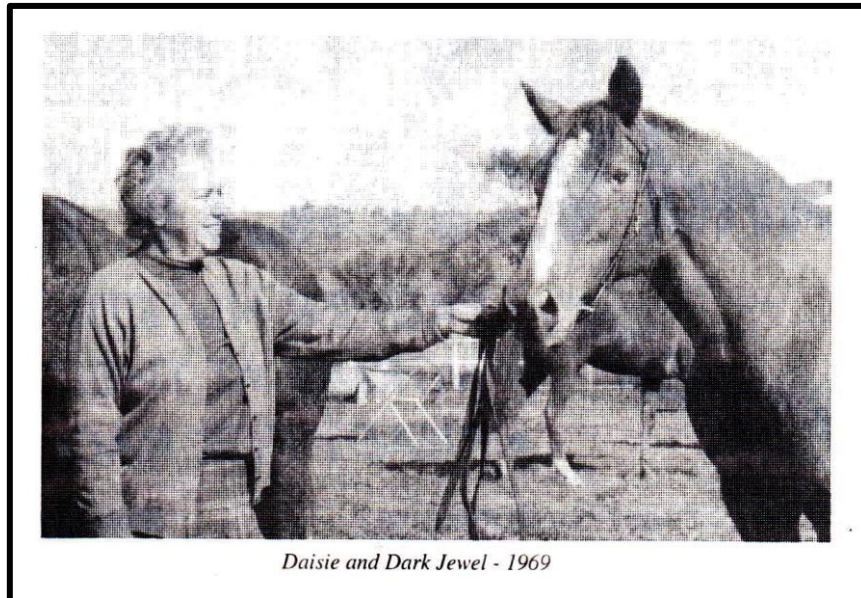
Bred and raced by Stanley Wootton

The Dark Jewel Legacy

http://www.scone.com.au/dark-jewel-legacy/

November 12, 2016

By Harley Walden

Daisie and Dark Jewel - 1969

When the wonderful broodmare Dark Jewel passed in 1971 she left an enormous legacy to the Australian racing industry.

Dark Jewell was from the second crop of the great Star Kingdom and was purchased on behalf of the Tait family by Randwick trainer Fil Allotta at the 1955 Yearling Sales.

Allotta went to $2,310 to secure the filly, but considered the money well spent. In years to come Allotta's judgment proved spot on.

Dark Jewell was foaled in 1953, and was the result of a mating between Star Kingdom and the Excitement mare Red Lace.

Red Lace's dam, Red Clover, was by Iliad, a son of Swynford from Red Shank, by Thrice from Red Streak, by Wallace a son of Carbine.

Wallace sired the winners of 949 races. Between them progeny of the stallion won $492,290 in prizemoney.

Dark Jewell could hardly be described as a top racehorse, she was successful in three events. She won twice at Canterbury and once at Warwick Farm and accumulated very little in prizemoney.

Red Lace, the dam of Dark Jewell, was a very fine broodmare and produced eleven foals at stud. Of these six raced and three were winners.

The odds of Dark Jewell being a successful matron were good. She was lightly raced and very well bred.

It was in the capacity of a matron Dark Jewell found her true destiny. The mention of her name is enough to grab even the most casual listener's attention. From 1958 until her death Dark Jewel produced ten foals. Of these nine reached the racecourse. Without exception they won races. The only foal not to race was destroyed at an early age after breaking a leg. That was a filly by Persian Book, foaled in 1961.

In her first season at stud Dark Jewel was mated with the beautifully bred French stallion, Wilkes (Fr). The result of the union was a colt, Gingerbread. Gingerbread was only ordinary, as was Powella, his half-brother by Rawson, produced in the following season. Powella won only one race, a Novice at Warwick Farm. These two were produced in 1958 and 1959.

In 1960, the mare had a much better result when mated with the Nasrullah stallion, Rego. When covered by Rego, Dark Jewel threw the classy filly Heirloom.

Heirloom was the top filly in her two-year season winning the Maribyrnong Plate, 5furlongs, and other races. At three years she was successful in the 1,000 Guineas.

Heirloom won nine races and was placed in such prestigious events as the Stradbroke Handicap, Healy Stakes, Epsom Handicap, Craven "A" and others.

Heirloom, unfortunately, is now dead, but other fillies continued to produce stock. Included among these was Snuff Box, dam of Snuff. Also left to carry on were Memories and the brilliant Blue Mountain.

The 1961 saw the Persian Book filly destroyed.

Dark Jewel's next racing representative was Betelgeuse who was foaled in 1962. Betelgeuse was by Wilkes, who seized the opp0rtunity to improve on Gingerbread. This he did. Betelgeuse was an infinitely better racehorse than his brother and won thirteen races and $36,845 in stakes. Gingerbread had won three races and $4,270.

Betelgeuse was a handy horse and was successful in such races as the Lightning Handicap, City Tatts Club Stakes 5f, and the Shorts 6f. The flashy Wilkes Fr horse retired to stud but did not do as well as was expected.

Dark Jewel produced the first of her champions in 1963. He too was a chestnut and was sired by the imported stallion Edmundo. Edmundo enjoyed great success in this country and was eventually exported to America, but, in company with Dark Jewel, gave us the class performer Cabochon.

Cabochon was gelded at an early age and subsequently developed into one of the most genuine performers ever. A good-looking chestnut, Cabochon was easily distinguished by his pale-blue blinker hood allied with the familiar Tait colours, made Cabochon easy to see, even in the largest field.

Cabochon first came to prominence in in the autumn of 1967. Only a three-year-old, Cabochon was caught in the last few strides of the AJC Doncaster 8f., by the great Tobin Bronze.

Tobin Bronze humped 9st 5lb compared to Cabochon's 7.5.

Nevertheless, it was a very good effort from a horse still eligible for restricted class races.

Connections, realizing they had a good one, put Cabochon away with the AJC Epsom in mind. He returned to racing a much stronger horse. He duly won the Epsom, easily defeating Royal Rene and Auto Filou. The time was a very fast 1.34.4. This was only .02 outside the course record set by Fine and Dandy in the 1961 Doncaster Handicap.

The long striding son of Dark Jewel became somewhat of a traveller after that, and won or was placed in some of the major Eastern state handicaps. During his career Cabochon won an Epsom Handicap, Stradbroke Handicap, Boroolong Handicap and the Windsor Flying Handicap. He was placed in two Doncasters; to Tobin Bronze and Unpainted; the Craven A Stakes to Iga Ninja and second to Black Onyx in the Doomben 10,000.

At his career's end, Cabochon boasted fifteen wins, sixteen seconds, seven seconds and seven fourths and $106,190 prizemoney.

Cabochon raced into his seventh year, his career took in sixty eight starts. The champion almost always gave of his best in races and brought glory on his dam.

Dark Jewel's 1964 foal was a beautiful bay filly by Rego. Birthright she was called, never reached the heights attained by her sister, Heirloom or her half-brothers, Cabochon and Betelgeuse. However she was a competent racehorse and was successful eight times, from 5 furlongs to 7 furlongs and won $27,310. Birthright's best win was in the Maribynong Plate, a race also won by Heirloom.

Dark Jewel again missed in 1968, this time to Sostenuto, however she returned a positive test to that stallion the following season. The resultant foal Star Facet lived up to the family tradition in as she did win. She was only kept in training a short time before being retired to stud.

King of Babylon* was the sire of Dark Jewel's last foal, which raced as Briolette. This filly also won and so gave Dark Jewel the perfect record. The mare produced nine foals which made it to the track, and each, as stated earlier, managed to win.

One wonders why so much emphasis is placed on stallions by breeders and public alike.

Dark Jewel was mated with various stallions over a long period of time, and apart from the occasional lapse, her foals were consistently high quality. Heirloom, Cabochon and Baguette were exceptionally good, judged not by money won, but the class of event they managed to capture. Between them the trio annexed 2 Maribyrnong Plates, Silver Slipper, Golden Slipper, AJC Sires Produce and Champagne Stakes. They also got away with 2 Booroolong Handicaps an Epsom, Ten Thousand and a Stradbroke Handicap, as well as a dead-heat for first in the One Thousand Guineas.

They are only a few of the races won by Dark Jewel's progeny. Add to these the non-feature events and the total races won are over the half century mark.

Just two of the family Cabochon and Baguette, eclipsed $302,190, which is truly staggering. It is hoped that the dynasty established by the great mare can continue. Heirloom following in her dam's footsteps, has thrown winners, and they in turn have done the same. Betelgeuse, Star Facet and company have been represented on the racetrack. Hopefully for Australian breeding the blood of one of our great broodmares will continue to flow many of our future champions.

Histories of Major Upper Hunter TB Studs

Arrowfield Stud   http://www.arrowfield.com.au/

History

Arrowfield Stud was established in 1985 under the visionary and innovative leadership of John Messara.

In 1989 Arrowfield made one of the single most important purchases in Australian bloodstock history when it selected and secured a majority interest in Danehill, who proved to be a global breed-shaping influence, and the sire of 89 Group 1 winners – more than any other stallion in history.

After relocating in 1996 to the stud's present location near Scone, Arrowfield enjoyed success with the outstanding sire Snippets before launching the careers of three champion sire sons of Danehill: Danzero, Flying Spur (retired from stud duties in 2012) and the exceptional champion sire, sale-ring sensation and sire of sires Redoute's Choice. Redoute's Choice heads the current roster and stood two northern hemisphere seasons in 2013 & 2014 at HH The Aga Khan's Haras de Bonneval in France.

In 2003 Arrowfield purchased the champion sire of Chile, Hussonet (by Mr Prospector), sire in Australia of Horse of the Year Weekend Hussler. He was followed in 2005 by Charge Forward (by Red Ransom) and Not A Single Doubt (by Redoute's Choice), and in 2006 by Snitzel (by Redoute's Choice) - all three now established among the leading stallions of their generation.

Group 1 winners All American (by Red Ransom) and Manhattan Rain (by Encosta de Lago) joined the Arrowfield roster in 2010 and superstar colt Smart Missile (by Fastnet Rock) followed two years later.

Arrowfield's 2012 decision to acquire a majority interest in Kentucky Derby & subsequent Dubai World Cup winner Animal Kingdom (by Leroidesanimaux) confirmed the Stud's commitment to offering Australian breeders diverse opportunities of the highest quality.

Six-time Group 1 winner Dundeel (by High Chaparral) joined Arrowfield's roster in 2014 and Al Shaqab Racing's four-time European Group 1 winner Olympic Glory (by Choisir) stands his first season at Arrowfield in 2015.

Arrowfield made Australian breeding history in 2014 when Redoute's Choice & Snitzel finished 1st & 2nd on the Australian General Sires' Premiership - the first time this has been achieved by father-&-son stallions, and the first time since 1953 that it has been achieved by stallions standing at the same farm.

Arrowfield is a leading breeder and yearling vendor with Danewin, Dr Grace, Fashions Afield, Flying Spur, Forensics, Inspiration, Mentality, Miss Finland and Weekend Hussler among 54 Group 1 winners on the Stud's graduate record.

The 2014/15 season has featured four Group 1 winners bred and sold by Arrowfield: Hot Snitzel, Majmu, Sweet Idea & Wandjina. A further two Group 1 winners, Lankan Rupee & Miracles of Life, were foaled & raised at Arrowfield for Teeley Assets.

Thirty Arrowfield yearlings have sold for $1 million or more since 2001, most recently the $1.8 million Snitzel-Alinghi colt and the $1.1 million Redoute's Choice-Weekend Beauty filly at the 2015 Inglis Australian Easter Sale. The three most expensive Arrowfield yearlings are Musket ($2.5 million, G2 winner), Master of Design ($2.1 million, G1 winner) and Estee ($2.1 million, stakeswinner & Group 1-placed).

Arrowfield also enjoys its share of racetrack success, with the likes of champion Australian 2YO & champion 3YO filly Miss Finland, Group 1 winner Alverta and Group-winning colts Beneteau, Panzer Division & Scissor Kick. In addition, All American, Charge Forward, Snitzel, Animal Kingdom & Dundeel all won Group 1 races after their purchase for stud duties by Arrowfield.

The Stud

Traversed by the Pages River, the Arrowfield Estate comprises 2500 acres of prime land in the fertile Segenhoe Valley, near Scone in the Upper Hunter region of New South Wales, long famous as a source of great thoroughbred horses. Free-draining, undulating hill country complements the rich alluvial flats pastured with a mix of high production grasses in order to provide the perfect balance of nutritional requirements for raising thoroughbreds to achieve their maximum potential. When irrigation is required, Arrowfield has substantial access to water from the Glenbawn dam.

The Estate includes Arrowfield Stud, Arrowfield Broodmare Farm and the Arrowfield Sales Centre. The infrastructure and facilities at all three properties have been designed and constructed to ensure the best care of all resident horses and the safety of the people who work with them.

Arrowfield Broodmare Farm

Formerly known as Bellerive Stud, the Arrowfield Broodmare Farm is a boutique broodmare farm wholly owned by Arrowfield and adjoining the main Stud property. The Arrowfield Broodmare Farm provides excellent walk-in facilities and a fully integrated service, including sale preparation, for Australian and international clients.

Arrowfield Sales Centre

The Arrowfield Sales Centre, adjoining the main stud property, is a state-of-the-art sales preparation facility run by Yearling Manager Denis Griffin. Facilities at the Arrowfield Sales Centre include walking machines, an aqua-exerciser, swimming pool, day yards and large, rubber-lined boxes.

Redoute's Choice

Flying Spur

Baramul Stud   http://www.vinery.com.au/about-us/history-2/

JOE'S PADDOCK BECAME THE NURSERY OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST BRILLIANT HORSES:

A choice portion of country stretching back from the mineral rich Widden Brook, a tributary of the Goulburn River, to the limestone cliffs of the girding mountain on the western fringe of the Hunter Valley, referred to around the 1870s as 'Joe's Paddock', produced the first great thoroughbred to emerge from the famous Widden Valley, the 1887 Caulfield Cup winner Oakleigh.

He was bred by Joseph Thompson, one of the six sons of William Barber Thompson, an Englishman who with his brother James and their father John, settled in the lower half of the Widden Valley in the 1840s.

Widden is an Aboriginal name interpreted as 'go no further, stay here'. The Thompsons have lived up to this creed to the extent that the section known as the Widden Stud is still in their ownership seven generations on, and is one of the world's foremost thoroughbred nurseries.

At one time, members of the Thompson family owned all of the Widden Valley this side of what was settled by the Harris family, a property named Holbrook. Out of the Thompson holdings grew three very successful adjoining thoroughbred studs, Widden, Baramul and Oakleigh.

Baramul, developed on 'Joe's Paddock', produced some of the early good horses bred by the Thompsons, but its greatest era followed its acquisition in the 1940s by Sydney solicitor Alfred Ellison, a breeder who earlier had his mares at the Widden Stud. A.O., as he was respectfully called by just about all, had a deep love of the horticulture, as well as racing and breeding, and in his spare time, he grew prize camellias.

On his visits to the Widden Valley, he had discovered that not only was this the prettiest country he had ever seen, but it was also perfect for the growing of pastures. In acquiring Baramul, a name which initially was spelt with two Rs, he had samples of the soil analysed by the Department of Agriculture and they showed that just the right amounts of calcium and phosphorous for growing horses, and cattle, existed.

One of the first horses that A.O. bred was Alister, winner of the AJC and VRC Derbys and the Cox Plate. The golden era of Baramul, however, followed the arrival at the stud in 1951 of the good English two-year-old Star Kingdom, a sire owned by a partnership of Ellison, Stanley Wootton and Reg Moses.

Star Kingdom

Five times champion Australian sire, seven times leading juvenile winner-producer and three times at the head of the broodmare list, Star Kingdom became the most dominant influence in the history of Australian breeding, particularly through offspring reared on the hills and dales of Baramul.

They included such icons as Todman (STC Golden Slipper, Canterbury Guineas, AJC Champagne Stakes, VATC Futurity Stakes), Noholme (AJC Champagne Stakes, Epsom Hcp, MVRC W.S. Cox Plate) and Biscay (VRC Maribyrnong Plate, VRC Merson Cooper Stakes, Debutant Stakes - new Australian record time for 800m).

This trio, outstanding sires in their own right, were all bred at Baramul for Stanley Wootton. It was success on Baramul that continued for him for nearly half a century and included some of the most awesomely fast horses ever bred. In addition to Todman and Biscay, they have included Bletchingly (won four of five starts including the AJC Galaxy and VRC Moomba Plate - course record time), Star of Heaven (VRC Craven 'A' Stakes, Linlithgow Stakes, third in Golden Slipper), Forina (VATC Blue Diamond Stakes) and more recently Schillachi (eight Group 1 wins, champion Australian sprinter, two course records).

Ellison also raised a long list of good horses at Baramul out of his own mares including Citius (VRC Lightning Stakes, VATC Oakleigh Plate, AJC Doncaster Hcp), Aura (AJC June Stakes), My Kingdom (AJC Challenge Stakes), Concert Star (AJC Grimcrack Stakes, VRC Marybynong Plate), Mighty Kingdom (AJC Breeders Plate), Ritmar (VRC Lightning Stakes), Ulola (AJC June Stakes - twice) and Noble Star (AJC June Stakes).

Celebrating more than 150 years since the first horses galloped out of its paddocks, Baramul Stud has entered the new century with the potential for a new golden era of breeding. Now owned by Gerry Harvey, the founder of retail store giant Harvey Norman and one of the trio of owners of the Magic Millions bloodstock sales organization, the stud has more than 200 broodmares and besides standing sires, is patronizing the leading sires of Australia and New Zealand.

Already new generations of good horses are growing up on 'Joe's Paddock' including 2003 stars Arlington Road (AJC All Aged Stakes), Polar Success (STC Golden Slipper), World Peace (Group 3 MRC Blue Diamond Preview for fillies), Best French (Listed Gold Coast Turf Club Silk Stocking), Lotteria (NJC Spring Stakes, Group 3, AJC Flight Stakes, Gr 1), Savabeel (AJC Spring Champion Stakes, Gr 1, W.S. Cox Plate, Gr 1).

Baramul Stud Dispersal 1970

In July 1970 I was extremely fortunate to accompany as attendant veterinarian the last major shipment of horses to traverse the wild Pacific to west coast USA. The MV 'Parrakoola' was a modern Swedish-registered container vessel circumnavigating the vast ocean in pursuit of trade. This was my first and only exposure to 'life on the ocean waves' and the vicissitudes of a merchant seaman! What an experience in life skills and people/animal management training! My co-strappers were Malcolm Ayoub who has recently achieved national notoriety/fame as the 'guru' for Jim Cassidy. Malcolm was a colourful racing identity encompassing in spades all the skills and attributes the sobriquet implies. Jack Flood my 'boss' was a magnificent horseman of the old school and a firm and loyal friend of his equally impeccable employer and gentleman John Inglis. Like John he became my much respected mentor, advocate and confidant until his ultimate demise some years ago. With three of us to care for 84 horses for a month the job was ahead! Malcolm with some psychological baggage was occasionally AWOL.

The crew was a most intriguing conglomerate of Scandinavian and West Europeans with a few global itinerants completing the cast! The captain was a very fine Swede and many were equally impressive Finns. The Chief Engineer was ex-Baron August von Reinfelds of old Prussia who had commanded a U-boat during the war! Then resident of Mosman he told me stories of his 4-horse drawn carriages on the expansive family estates in Bavaria. He certainly knew his horses. All his subordinates were Austro-German and 'Sieg Heil' ruled OK! Only one courageous Englishman, Ted from Manchester and resident of California challenged the domain with his Churchillian rhetoric, 'fight them on the beaches', cigar and correctly applied 'V' sign! Willy Richter from Adelaide had previously accompanied bloodstock agent Reg Angel shipping the champion racehorse and stallion 'Tobin Bronze' to America.

The 84 horses on board were comprised mostly of thoroughbreds from the dispersal of the famous Baramul Stud in the Widden Valley. My personal favourite aesthetic HV Stud property this was the home of the immortal 'Star Kingdom'. Many of the mares and weanlings on board carried his genes directly or through the aegis of his sons 'Todman' and 'Biscay'. The latter's first crop were 7 – 9 month foetuses carried in some of the in-foal mares. The exquisitely beautiful chestnut Todman mare 'Eternal Youth' was the then extant 'love of my life'! She later featured as a star on the front page of the 'Fijian Times'. 'Pio Pio' by 'Summertime' and dam of 'King Apollo' was a close second! All had been purchased by a disparate triumvirate of successful USA business men following the brilliant success in North America of Todman's brother 'Noholme II' and his son 'Eskimo Prince'. Rex C. Ellsworth was a big time Morman cattle rancher from Utah who had enjoyed enormous success with Hyperion's grandson 'Swaps' by 'Khaled'. His son Kumen was veterinarian at Chino CA. Dr. Franklin achieved global prominence firstly by pneumatically enlarging and enhancing the mammary tissue of the post-ingenue female residents of Hollywood and secondly by purchasing overnight TB stallion success 'Vaguely Noble' from the UK. My colleague John Morgan 'vetted' the latter in Newmarket prior to his sale to the US.

Todman proved to be a most successful sire in all departments. His outstanding racehorses included Eskimo Prince, Crewman and Ricochet; his sons sired the top performers Ngawyni, Scamanda and Burwana; and his daughters produced the champions Dulcify, Maybe Mahal and Good Lord.

Dr. Arnie Pesson was a larger than life Texan-born and Lexington/Kentucky based veterinarian who was my gracious and generous host later that year. I still retain clear memory of his supervision of the construction of a new Fasig-Tipton sales complex in Lexington with 'mate' John Finney. He directed the bulldozers on site from horseback complete with spurs, whip, cigar and topped off by an immaculate white ten-gallon Stetson! Arnie Pesson was particularly ungracious about the original owner of the mare shipment, barrister Mr. A. O. Ellison of Baramul. However, his descriptive American vernacular then fresh to my *ingenue* ears in alleging various banal proclivities does not bear repetition here!

The mares were held in individual inwardly facing stalls on deck and stood for the entire 28 days journey on wooden slats. The stalls were constructed of Australian hardwood ('Iron Bark'). We removed partitions between the weanlings so they could move about their 'corral'. This was ultimately highly significant! Feed bins and fresh water buckets were placed in front of each mare. Ordure was washed overboard daily by power seawater hosing. Feeding comprised Lucerne hay and chaff, oaten and wheaten chaff, Victorian meadow hay, molasses as an 'appetiser' and some salt. My veterinary pharmacy included Penicillin ('Crystapen' and 'Triplopen'), syringes and needles, stomach tube, alkaline salts, Epsom salts, stethoscope and thermometer. The journey took us via Fiji (Suva [6] and Lautoka [2] days) to Hawaii [2 days] and finally San Diego. The mares and other horses rested beautifully at night gliding peacefully over the smooth ocean. It was serenely sanguine to observe the tranquil scene with flying fishes glinting and sparkling in the crystal clear moonlight before retiring at nightfall!
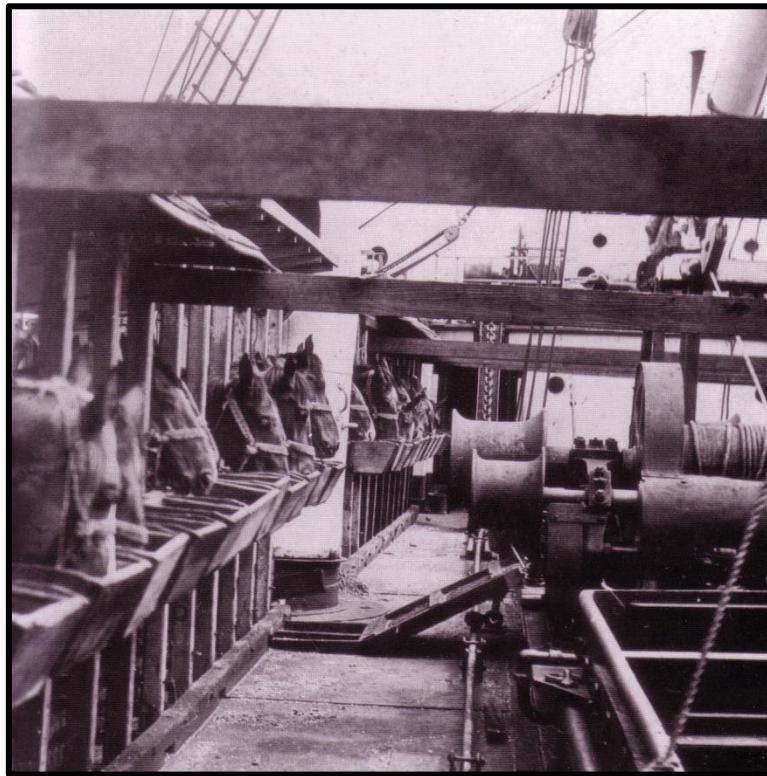
'Horses at Sea'

This was almost exactly the arrangement on the 'Parrakoola'

Photo courtesy of John Gilder and Dr Judy White AM

The first 'hiccup' was that Widden Valley domiciled mares did not find Victorian meadow hay palatable and to their liking at all! The alarm bells sounded with loud clear clarion fortissimo very early on day 3! An old brown mare was clearly severely distressed from before daylight! She had consumed her usual feed and water overnight. I will never forget her anguished expression, terrified mien, flared dilated nostrils, dark purple plum coloured mucous membranes, dyspnoea, high febrile temperature (41.2 Celsius), sanguineous blood tinged watery nasal discharge, distress, terminal struggling and death all within 2 hours! Treatment proved useless! I had witnessed first-hand the onset, egress, progress and inevitable ultimate demise of a case of per-acute 'Shipping Fever'. Old Jack was shocked and I was in trepidation! Jack, a veteran of many long sea voyages with horses, had never seen anything like it!

The next series of events have also stayed with me over the years! At sea in the merchant navy, the captain of the ship is supreme omnipotent commander as judge, jury, advocate and executioner! No arguments! Not surprisingly I was not allowed to perform a PM. Within moments of her death the mare was winched up by a gantry crane with a rope around a hind leg and swung overboard. A seaman with a knife cut the rope and 'Duchess Delville' + foetus plummeted to the depths of the wide blue pacific mid-way between Sydney and Suva! Not two weeks before she had languished in the lush Lucerne paddocks at Baramul! I stood transfixed and stunned at the speed and efficiency of the whole operation which seemed to take only a few seconds although it must have been longer? To this day I have never seen a more impressive or proficient means of disposal of a large cadaver. I am forced to confess the circumstances were unique, however!

Alarmed and fore-warned Jack and I took exquisite care and paid minute attention to detail from here on! At the slightest sign of abnormality we checked them out. With any rise in temperature I gave them 5 mega units of 'Crystapen' (Glaxo) = 3g crystalline penicillin intra-venously and 10 – 15 mega units 'Triplopen' (Glaxo) = 6g – 9g procaine/benethamine penicillin intra muscularly. This was repeated one or two times. I/we became adept at picking the early cases by astute observation. At first light each morning one could look along the line of horse's heads over the front rails. The clearly defined glazed eyes and alarmed anxious expression with flared nostrils became pathognomic for the condition. Temperature rise confirmed the diagnosis. Treatment instituted immediately proved to be effective. The affected mare(s) were removed from their stall(s) and placed on straw on deck with restraining ropes attached to the containers. Here they could lie down and rest, quite critical for recovery. We lost no more. 'Torrina' was the biggest 'guts' and best conditioned mare on board but she succumbed on the Lautoka/Hawaii leg. She lost an estimated 200kg and 'slipped' her hairless colt foal on deck. Disposal presented no problem!

Even though the weather was generally warm and balmy, 17 or 18 mares showed 'acute' signs of travel or shipping fever necessitating treatment. I was not prepared to take the risk! A few others exhibited milder chronic clinical signs and were treated prophylactically. The weanlings having more space to move and mix travelled well. The six night stay in Suva was extremely damaging to the horse's well-being and psyche. Container vessels are intense hives of activity around the clock while in port. On the leeward side of Viti Livu it seemed to rain every afternoon at 4 o'clock and frequently at other times! This meant extremely noisy opening and shutting of hatches at the slightest sign of inclemency. The 'hubbub' of lights, metal, clanking and incessant human activity was constant for 24 hours non-stop. Consequently there was no tranquil rest for the horses as at sea. They were constantly 'jittery' and 'on edge' all the time in port with no opportunity for relaxation. The process was repeated to a lesser extent in Lautoka (2 nights) and Hawaii (2 nights). We successfully employed local labour to assist with feeding, watering and hosing down in port. The Fijian media were intensely interested in our unique cargo. We featured on the front page of the 'Fijian Times' as well as radio and TV. The female journalist with the 'Times' was particularly charming. Sydney trained local veterinarian Dr. Goldsmith was also most hospitable.

Life experience with merchant seamen ashore and exposure to local culture is not something one forgets easily! Minutes after docking in Suva and laying down the gang plank the deck was swarming with local female talent. This seemed to be *de rigueur* behaviour and mostly re-acquaintance with further (literal!) bonding from previous visits. There were some truly memorable parties! The morning after a 'special' at the idyllic Hotel Isa Lei the ship's captain made an amusing breakfast time announcement. He read a message in broken English from the manager of the hotel: "Would gentleman from your ship kindly return to retrieve his glasses and his underpants from the swimming pool!" I made an appointment with an optometrist in Suva for a new pair for myself being half blind, very reliant and as I had no spare(s)!

Waikiki was also exceptional! Hans Selgren, ship's bursar, entrepreneur, urbane avid punter, motel owner and resident of Brisbane put on the greatest show on earth in a bar on the strip. His sobbing rendition of the pain of loneliness at sea so impressed the gullible but sympathetic barmaid we had our own private party within an hour of arrival! 'Hassa' is one of the most socially adroit experienced and genuinely gregarious people I have ever met! I don't think he's ever been lonely! His thespian talents exceeded his consummate social skill and punting proclivity!

He later wrote to tell me he'd successfully backed 'Divide and Rule' for the proverbial 'squillion' in the Stradbroke Handicap and Doomben Cup of that year. I rather doubt he still retains the proceeds!

While I was administering prophylactic penicillin to the horses the whole crew seemed to be lining up in sympathy for the same treatment by ship's medical officers after leaving port! On strong medical advice they had all been compulsorily vaccinated against tetanus before embarkation because of 'exposure to horses' and the perceived increased danger of contracting the disease!

The Hawaiian visit was rudely interrupted by the need to blood sample all horse on board for quarantine purposes beginning at 2am! Some party pooper! Dave Mackay was the courteous and hospitable local state veterinarian. His expertise with horses wasn't initially great but he adjusted very quickly and we finished the task long before breakfast. Before arrival in LA we were met by boarding party including a senior CA state veterinarian. He came to check the 'strange virus'. After detailed and thorough interrogation and the results of the blood tests were known we were cleared to land on mainland USA.

Disembarkation in LA was classic! The horses were lifted individually in crates by large gantry cranes from deck to port. The crates were 'geriatric' wooden devices probably not used for decades. Chief Engineer von Reinfelds had not disguised his disdain or disgust for Americans and their culture all voyage. His vituperative about the caricature 'Yankee' with the 'loud shirt, big hat and bigger cigar' was strongly impressed on anyone who cared to listen. In fully gold braided Chief Engineer's uniform complete with cap, gloves and white cane he paraded conspicuously in upright splendour back and forward along the sidewalk poking the LA wharfies with his cane loudly proclaiming time and again: "So Fred Flintstone have built zees crates, ugh?, So Fred Flintstone have built zees crates, ugh?" I thought World War III was about to erupt! August Von R. was even more delighted when the challenge of dismantling the Iron Bark wooden stall infrastructure proved too much for the 'soft' chainsaws operated by the indigenous 'wharfies'. All were firmly seized up within 20 minutes and the job only just begun! Interestingly 'Hassa' Selgrun and 'Baron August' visited me in Scone the following year. After a very good night out in the 'Wounded Buffalo' and the 'Golden Fleece' August became somewhat disoriented and was discovered wandering in the grounds of the house in which I now reside! Then incumbent Janet Barton, mother of Cessnock veterinarian David was singularly not amused on discovering the strange man late at night in the bushes muttering in deep gutteral German/English: *"So Bill Howey have done zees! So Bill Howey have done zees!"* Strike 1 Winston C. and Ted from Manchester!

Pessin, Ellsworth and Franklin were present to greet their precious but somewhat dishevelled cargo in LA. The journey was complete. Dr Pessin kindly invited me to spend time with him in Kentucky. I was delighted to accept! I was unable to extract any response at all from either Franklin or Ellsworth!
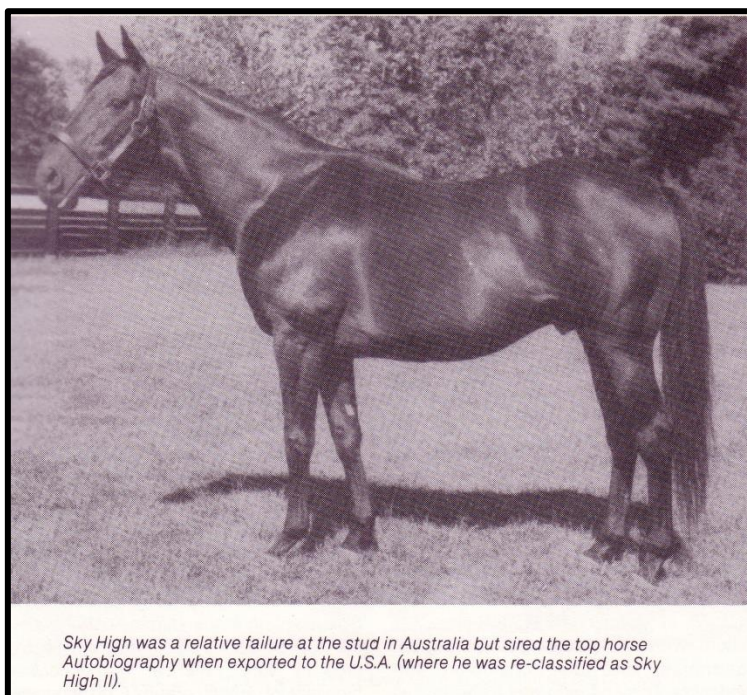
Footnote:

Research by renowned bloodstock expert an author Brian Russell subsequently revealed that very few if any of the shipment actually made it to the 'Blue Grass Country'. Hoping to 'cash in' on the Noholme II and Nodouble juggernaut it may be the trifecta of disparate owners had a contretemps? The majority of the consignment was actually dispersed to South American countries including Venezuela and Brazil. From there it was very difficult to access accurate information on their destiny.

Destination 'Bluegrass' – 'Kentucky Lace'

In Lexington I was accommodated in the 'Polo Club' at Winchester Farm on Winchester Pike. I had never seen such luxury! I met a few mates I had seen in Oz (Brian Palmer) and was also lavishly entertained by Patrick Madden of Meadowcrest Farm. The gate posts at the entrance drive had flames leaping from their apex throughout the night! Easier to find your way home? It was facile to be side tracked by Patrick and his colourful entourage! This was southern exposure at its very finest. Modesty and coyness prevent full disclosure of the extent of hospitality provided! Suffice to say anything goes! I also made time to visit old friend John Hughes of Dublin then completing his research at the University of Kentucky. Jim Smith and Walter Zent of Hagyard/Davidson/McGee were great and we began a lifelong communication. Among many other highlights were visits to Darby Dan Farm ['Ribot'], Gainesway, Claiborne, Spendthrift, Castleton and the like. I also ran into 'Aussies' 'Sky High' and 'Tobin Bronze' *en passant*. Remarkably on the last leg of my return journey to Sydney I sat next to Dr. Goldsmith's parents from Suva! Small world! Some life!

Sky High was a relative failure at the stud in Australia but sired the top horse Autobiography when exported to the U.S.A. (where he was re-classified as Sky High II).

Vinery Stud   http://www.vinery.com.au/about-us/history-2/

1800s

Gerry Harvey

There are few more seminal areas that drove the growth of New South Wales in its fledgling colonial days than the Hunter Valley, and at its very heart is the historic Vinery Stud. Settled in the 1820's this magnificent property was settled prior to the Scone Township and was known as "Segenhoe".
Lush green pastures divided by fresh free-flowing rivers and creeks allowed for a range of agricultural activity that made the citizenry of the day self-sufficient.

One of the most important figures in development of the Upper Hunter Valley region was Thomas `Potter' Macqueen. As a British Member of Parliament, Macqueen was permitted to apply for a land grant in the new colony of New South Wales and acquired 8,100 hectares in a rich valley which was to become Segenhoe. (Map right circa 1837 *Free Settler or Felon*)

This valley is now the heartland of Australian thoroughbred breeding, with studs such as Arrowfield, Darley, and Kia Ora taking up position around the original homestead and prime land that is now Vinery. Having acquired the land, a ship was purchased, managers hired, and people, livestock (including horses), and building essentials were dispatched to Australia. By 1829, Segenhoe was fully operational and boasted a community post office, hospital, police station, jail, homestead, church and schoolhouse, some of which are still present today. At its peak the property was home to one of the largest contingents of convicts in the new colony.

Despite this success, the property was eventually subdivided and sold off with the homestead and outbuildings becoming part of a 1,010 hectare holding that retained the Segenhoe name until becoming Vinery in 1998.

1900'S

Whilst there were thoroughbreds on McQueen's ship, a Stud was not established until 1913, when William Brown set up a thoroughbred stud on the property. However, it was new owner Alan Cooper in 1931 that really established Segenhoe at the fore front of Australian breeding. Cooper was determined to produce quality thoroughbreds and paid a then record price of (19,000 pound) for AJC & Victoria Derby winner 'Talking' before selling the property to the famed Lionel Israel in 1938.

The Israel Years

'Old' Segenhoe Homestead

Above: *Lionel Israel, owner of Segenhoe since 1938.* Below: *Part of the stallion complex at Segenhoe.*
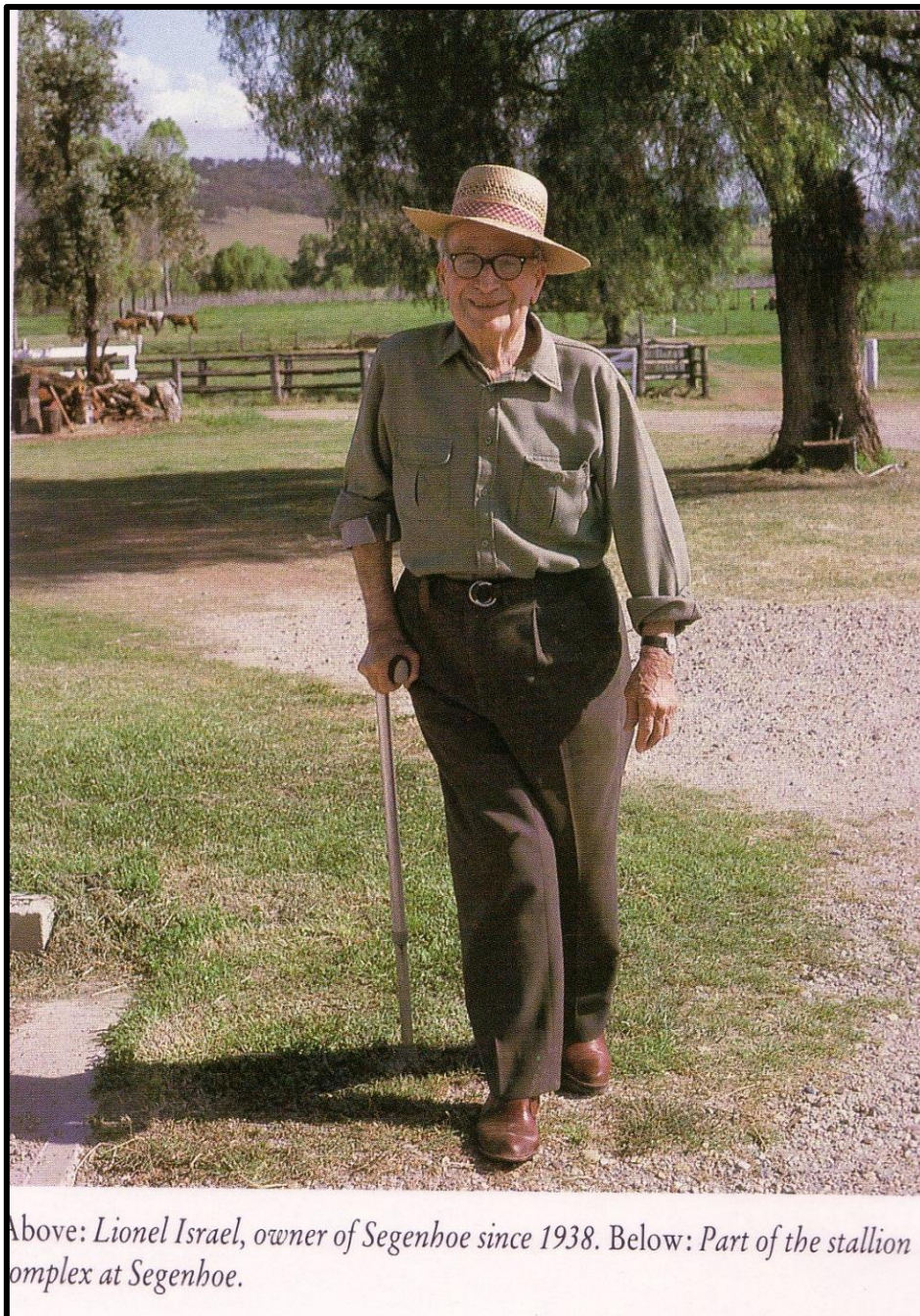
Lionel Israel

Mr Israel ran the property for the next 48 years and during this period was most closely associated with the great Kaoru Star and dual Broodmare of the Year Humour, whose graves are still maintained on the property today. This period ensured the property would forever be renowned for producing quality thoroughbred bloodstock. In 1986 the property was bought by Sydney property developers Tony Bott and George Parbury and four years later it changed hands again when a group including Michael Sissian took a stake in the property. Eventually Michael Sissian would own the property outright before selling to an American, George Hoffmeister, in the late 1990's and taking the Segenhoe name with him to a smaller holding nearby.

Kaoru Star. His progeny, which includes Luskin Star, have won more than $4 million.

Kaoru Star

Luskin Star (Kaoru Star ex Promising: Foaled 1974 @ Bhima)

Record breaking winner of the Golden Slipper in 1977when trained by Max Lees @ Broadmeadow
and ridden by John Wade

Vinery

Hoffmeister already owned and operated Vinery Farm in Kentucky and had purchased the iconic Hunter Valley property in order to "shuttle'' his Vinery stallions between hemispheres. The magnificent property was renamed Vinery and the dual hemisphere operation opened its doors in 1998.

Not long after, the entire dual hemisphere operation was bought by Dr Thomas Simon, who already had a significant number of quality broodmares at a boutique breeding operation named Roselands in Victoria. In 2000, present-day General Manager Peter Orton was appointed to run Dr Simon's Australian thoroughbred interests, which resulted in the Hunter Valley property becoming the premier breeding establishment it is today. In 2005, Dr Simon joined forces with several of Australia's most successful breeders and businessmen forming an Australian partnership which directs Vinery today.

With its origins built on hope and determination almost two centuries ago, modern-day Vinery is little different in its philosophy to what its predecessors had dreamed. Despite the passing of time, the Vinery property is still very much the heart and soul of men and women with aspirations to succeed. We call them breeders.

Yarraman Park Stud   http://www.yarramanpark.com.au/the-stud/about-yarraman/

Yarraman Park Stud has been home to thoroughbreds for over 100 years dating back to the early 1900s when the Thompson Family raised many fine horses on the farm including the great champion Eurythmic foaled in 1916.

Eurythmic won 30 races in all beginning his racing career in Western Australia winning the Karrakatta Plate, WATC Derby and Perth Cup before venturing east where he defeated the best horses of the time and claimed victory in races such as the Caulfield Cup.

MAJOR JAMES MITCHELL

Yarraman Park Stud came into the ownership of the Mitchell Family in 1968 after it was purchased from legendary jockey George Moore.

James (Major) Mitchell had visited Yarraman Park in 1966 and was so impressed by the stud and the area that he made George promise to give him the 'first right of refusal' if he ever decided to sell.

Yarraman Park has been a family owned and run operation for 45 years and is now under the charge of brothers Arthur and Harry Mitchell who bring to the stud a lifetime of international and local experience in the industry.

They are supported by an excellent team of staff who share the Mitchell's commitment to the professional and personal service that only a family owned business can provide.

Widden Stud http://www.widden.com/

The Story of Widden

'This is the story of a valley. It is a valley that has sometimes known flood and fire, but seldom famine. For it is a valley of lush, green springs and golden summers. Its sweet waters, its abundant pastures and sheltered timber are ringed about by steep ramparts. Winter cannot disturb its calm. One could search the world for such a place.

Long before the white man came, the black tribesman had given it a name that none would change – "Widden" – "stay here"! *Here the Thompson family came a century ago and here they stayed.'* – Douglas M. Barrie, Valley of Champions, 1967.

The First Widden Homestead 1867

'Widden Homestead about 1885'
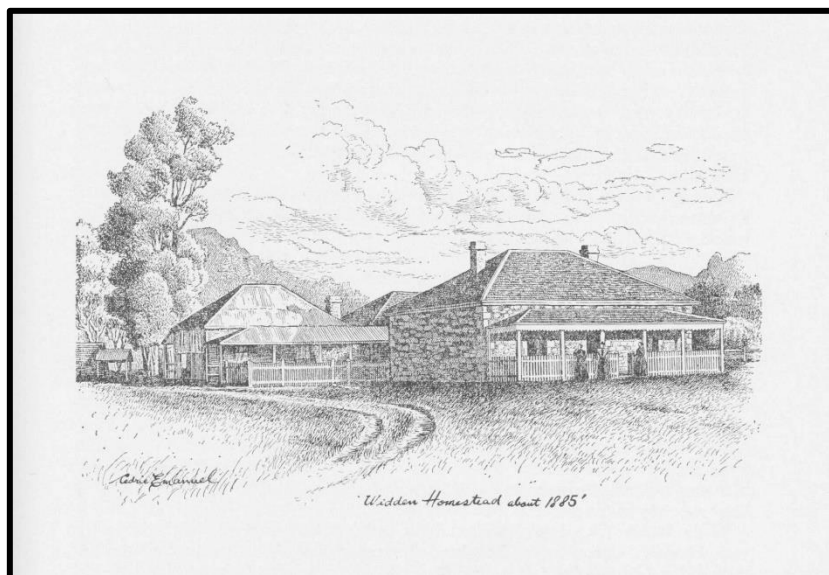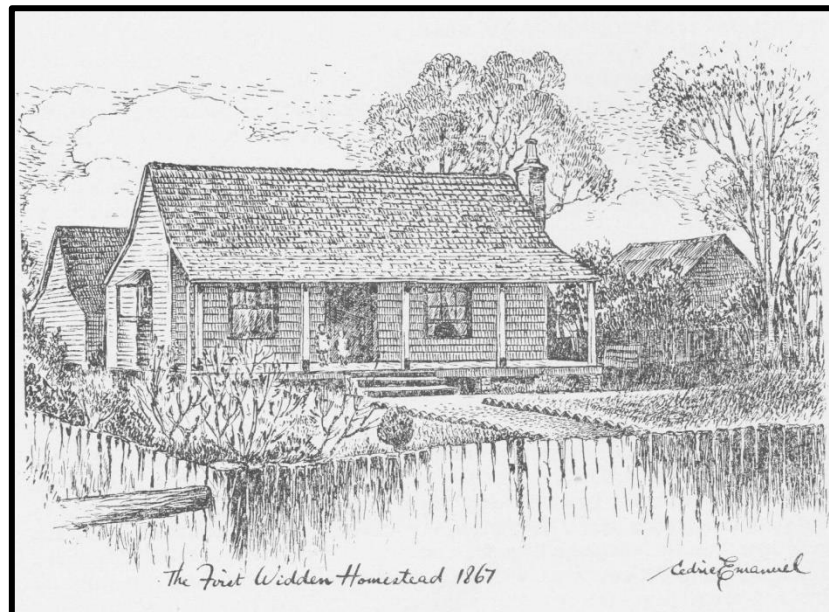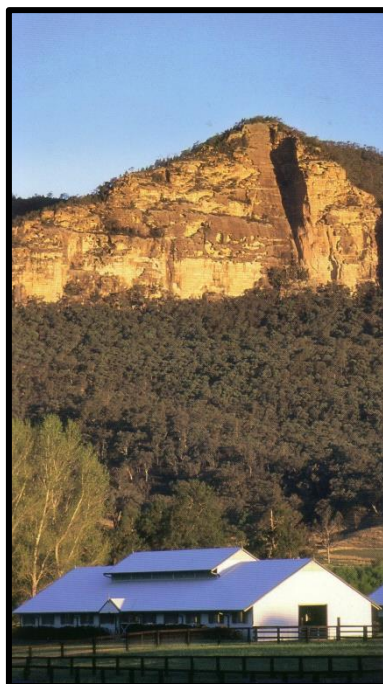
Widden homestead 1885

(Courtesy Douglas M. Barrie: Valley of Champions)
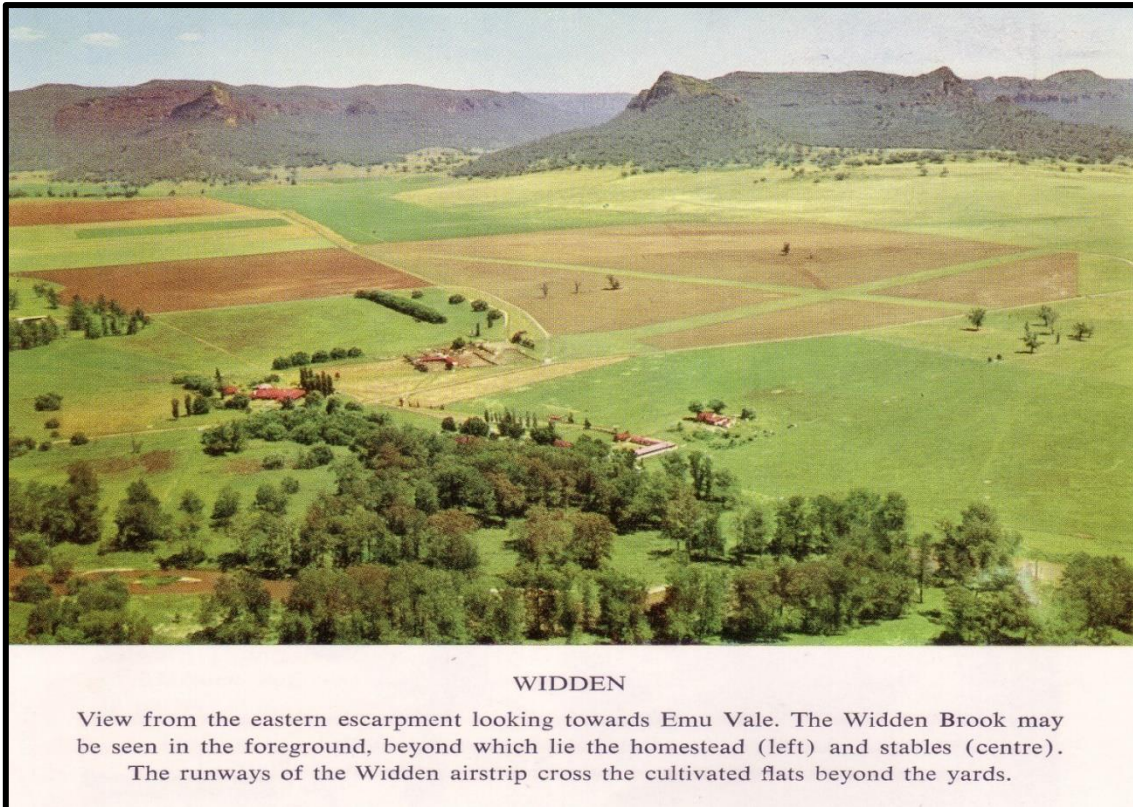
WIDDEN

View from the eastern escarpment looking towards Emu Vale. The Widden Brook may be seen in the foreground, beyond which lie the homestead (left) and stables (centre). The runways of the Widden airstrip cross the cultivated flats beyond the yards.

(Courtesy Douglas M. Barrie: Valley of Champions)

Widden Stud as it exists today is widely known as one of the most successful thoroughbred studs in Australia, but it is unique from all others in its history and unbroken chain of ownership by one family, the Thompson's.
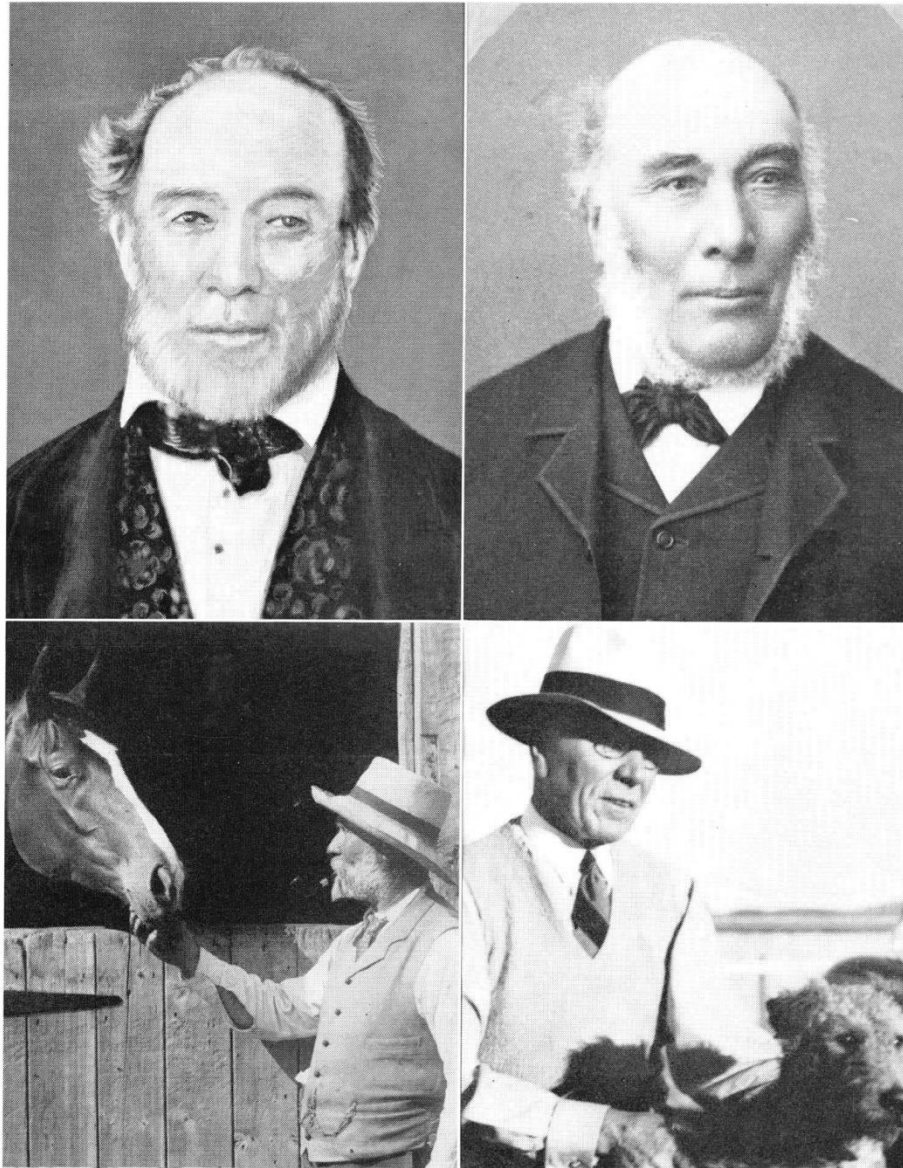
PLATE 2. PIONEER STUDMASTERS. *Above left:* John Thompson (1796-1873), brought the family to Australia. *Above right:* William Barber Thompson (1821-1899), pioneer of Nullo Mountain and Widden Valley. *Below left:* James Thompson (1851-1911), a most successful thoroughbred breeder. *Below right:* His son, Herbert Stanley Thompson (1879-1955), bred more winners than any member of this famous family.

Four generations of Pioneer Studmasters

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)
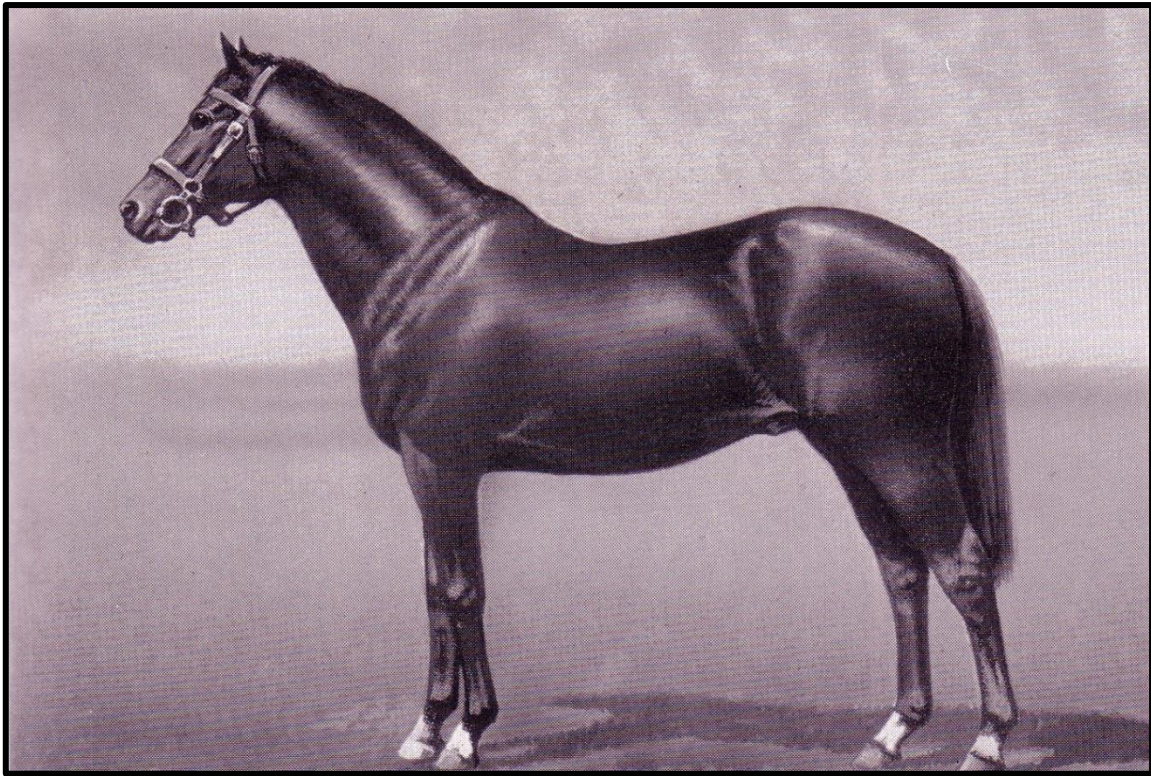
Grafton @ Widden (1894): 4x Champion Sire

(Courtesy Douglas M. Barrie: Valley of Champions)
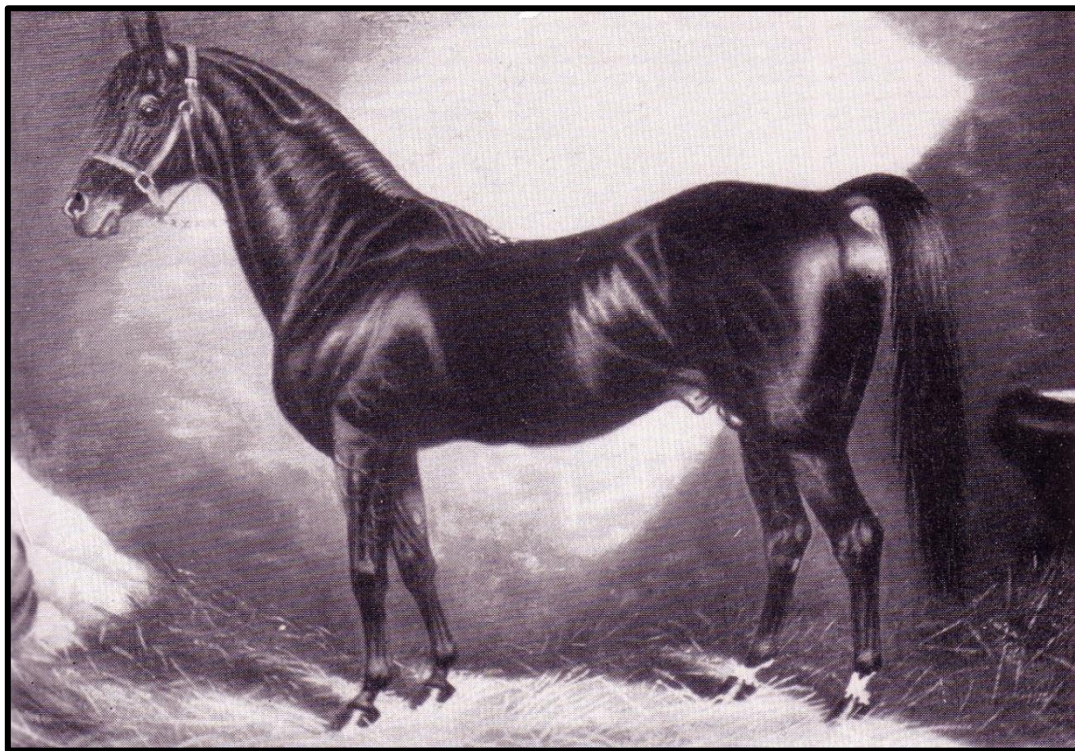
Lochiel @ Widden: 5x Champion Sire

(Courtesy Douglas M. Barrie: Valley of Champions)
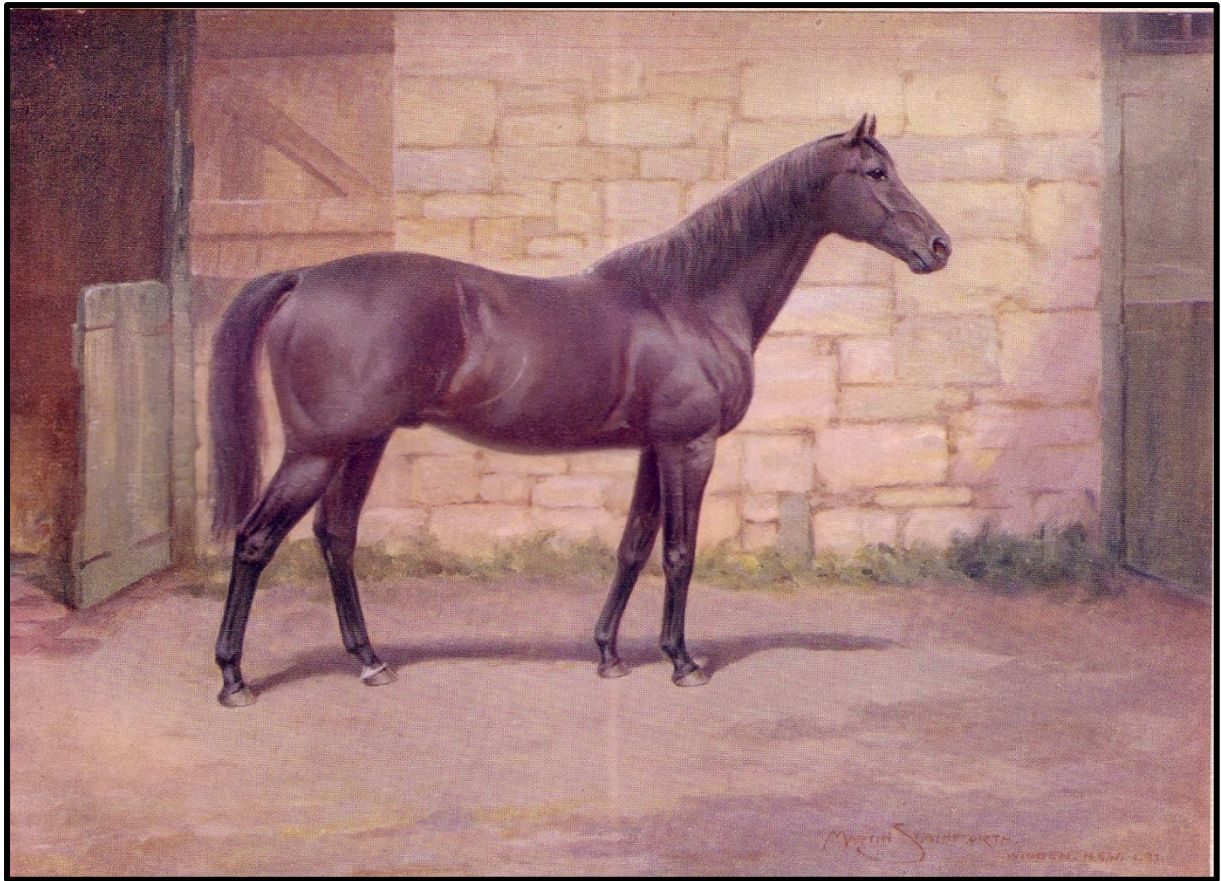
Linacre @ Widden 1904

The story of Widden begins with John Thompson, a forward thinking young man from a large English family that engaged in the manufacture of cloth, notably producing the very first cloth made in England from Australian wool.

His keen interest in Australia and vast knowledge of the wool trade led John to a momentous decision to emigrate to this country and on December 6th 1832, he arrived at Port Jackson with his two sons and a niece, his wife Elizabeth having died during the arduous voyage.

John Thompson's bold gamble paid off, his expertise in sheep and wool leading to prosperity for the family and opportunities for his eldest son William Barber Thompson, who was charged with opening up new country for his patron Edward Cox.

Young William did this with great success, acquiring land for himself on Nullo Mountain along the way and finding time to raise 12 children with his wife Elizabeth.

In 1854, William Thompson and Thomas Harris sought an official survey of creek frontage land in the Widden Valley and the subsequent sale of that land was conducted in 1856, with Thompson and Harris the principal buyers.

William and his father John secured two blocks of land totalling 603 acres along the Widden Brook between the Blackwater and Emu Creek junctions and these are the first recorded purchases by the Thompson family in the Widden Valley.

The Thompson's continually added to their land holdings and in July of 1867 the brothers-in-law John Thompson (son of William) and John Thomas Frost were successful in purchasing significant parcels of land from the Tindale and Lee families forming the central part of Widden Stud as it is today.

Malster @ Widden 1897

(Acknowledgement courtesy Racehorses in Australia: Lang, Austin & McKay. Paintings by Martin Stainforth)

'Eurythmic' 1904 @ Widden

(Courtesy Douglas M. Barrie: Valley of Champions)

It was during the 1870's that the family business moved away from sheep to concentrate on horses, firstly on draught and stock horses, then progressing to the finely modelled thoroughbreds that would bring lasting fame and fortune to Widden.

The entire Thompson family embraced thoroughbred breeding and the first six Volumes of the Australian Stud Book feature mare returns from the varied ownership of John Thompson, his brothers William, James and Joseph, plus their sons Albert, Alfred, Herbert and Cyril.

The strength of the early Thompson owned studs was evidenced by the 1917 Inglis Yearling Catalogue which featured 375 youngsters, 115 (31%) of them bred by members of the Thompson family.

They continued to dominate the thoroughbred breeding industry right through the 1930's with a powerful stallion line-up that included horses such as Heroic, Ajax, Brueghel*, Backwood*, Veilmond, Marconigram* and Melbourne Cup winner Hall Mark.

In the 41 stud seasons between August 1st 1897 and July 31st 1939, stallions located at Thompson owned studs in the Widden and Bylong Valleys headed the Leading Sires' List no less than 29 times.

The art of breeding commercial thoroughbreds and champion racehorses has been passed seamlessly from father to son for some 140 years and Widden Stud is now progressing under the excellent stewardship of Antony Thompson, a seventh generation descendant of John Thompson.

Widden Stud Australia

About Widden

Kate & Antony Thompson

Selecting Success

Widden Stud is a name synonymous with champion sires – Marscay, Vain, Bletchingly, Todman, and General Nediym – brilliant, tough, speed oriented horses that left a legacy of greatness for generations to come. With the emergence of young champion sires Stratum, Sebring & Northern Meteor the future of Widden being the source of Champion stallions looks assured.

The current roster features an array of young sires with aspirations to greatness and the process that brought them to the Widden Valley is one that did not happen by chance.

Seeking out the best prospects is the starting point and that involves evaluation of pedigrees, conformation and suitability to Australian race conditions as well as racing ability. This all equates to 'will this horse be an asset to our farm?'

Once identified, the next task is the acquisition of a horse and quite frequently it's not all about the money, but what a stud can offer in terms of quality of life for the stallion, opportunity to cover excellent books of suitable mares and ongoing marketing of the stallion and his offspring when they eventually hit the sale ring.

It is invariably a combination of factors that result in the purchase of a stallion prospect and Widden have been at the forefront of acquiring some of the best and most promising in recent years with recruits Sebring, Stratum, Northern Meteor, Zoustar, Shamus Award, Star Witness, Your Song, Nicconi, Snippetson, Tickets and Dreamscape indicative of the quality of Widden's exciting roster of Australian stallions.

Attention to Detail

Geography and Mother Nature have bestowed tremendous natural gifts on Widden, but it is our valued team of staff who are the greatest asset of all.

Dedicated horsemen and women from throughout Australia and all around the world come together at Widden to live, work and learn in the valley of champions. Providing a safe and happy working environment enables our team to apply the attention to detail required to care for high value individuals.

Many of the leading farm managers and industry personnel can boast having worked at Widden and we pride ourselves on training and developing our staff under the guidance of enthusiastic managers with decades of experience. Our loyal team of dedicated managers have been at Widden for many years ensuring continuity of management and a wealth of knowledge.

Our team is focused on providing the individual care and attention to each horse ensuring each foal gets the best possible start in life, every yearling grows to its full potential and all the mares are cared for like they are our very own.

Affordable and Sustainable

Widden shares its clients' goals. We celebrate your success. We understand the highs and lows of this challenging business. We value our clients as partners in our business and appreciate your comments and feedback. Widden enjoys good relationships with industry participants and as a wholly owned Australian farm we are dedicated to the future health of the Australian racing and breeding industries.

We are actively involved on the boards of Aushorse Marketing, The Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Association, The Racing Industry Consultative Group and The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association and feel we can contribute to our industry through these groups.

Our aim as a stud master is to be fair to our clients in a way that is sustainable. We resisted the temptation to increase our service fees in the boom times and the results were evident this year with many of our clients recording healthy returns on their investments and our sires' sales averages demonstrating positive multiples of service fee. This year it is imperative the stud masters are in tune with the economic challenges facing breeders and we have carefully priced our stallions to allow breeders to make a commercial return.

We, like you, are breeders, understanding the nuances of this complex industry, and are subject to the ever changing fashions of the market place. As much as it changes there is one constant; good types of horses never go out of fashion and we rely heavily on the type of horse we breed as the cornerstone of our success. We hope when using our sires you will breed the type of horse that turns heads and succeeds both in the sales ring and on the track as ultimately your success is our success.

A Head Start

Horses living at Widden receive a massive head start in life, reaping the benefits of being raised on superb pasture, provided with the expert assistance of an agronomist, combined with round the clock care from our resident veterinarian.

The Widden Valley comprises rich alluvial creek flats sheltered by magnificent sandstone cliffs providing a pristine and tranquil environment in which young thoroughbreds can thrive and grow in large paddocks.

From conception, through foaling and on towards a yearling preparation and eventual sale, the team at Widden work as one to deliver the best outcomes for our clients and their horses.

Our experienced bloodstock staff are always available to assist clients with any and all bloodstock matters ranging from pedigree analysis and mating advice, to sales planning, preparation and agistment, both long and short term.

Acquisition of new stock is an important aspect to consider for all breeders with aspirations to improve their bloodstock portfolio and is an area in which our expert team is happy to assist.

Widden is also an industry leader in terms of modern technology and communications with an outstanding website to facilitate distribution of news in the pursuit of building close and productive relationships with clients from all over Australia and throughout the world.

Another Chapter in our Book of Success Stories

As long as there have been thoroughbred yearling sales in Australia, Widden Stud has been in the business of selling young racehorses and after 143 years, we are still industry leaders.

Whether a yearling is expected to make $20,000, $200,000 or $2 million, he or she receives the same level of care and attention, with results on the racetrack reflecting in the ongoing popularity of our yearlings in the sale ring.

Recent Stakes winners consigned by Widden Stud include All Silent, Anacheeva, Whobegotyou, Dissident, Happy Zero, Floral Pegasus Champagne Harmony, Driefontein, Poor Judge, Belong to Many, I'm All The Talk, Ready to Lift, Sir Moments, Running Tall, Shamal Wind, Stratum Star etc.

Their success follows on from horses such as recent Group One stars Typhoon Zed, Absolute Glam, Bon Hoffa, Triple Honour, Le Drakaar and globetrotting superstar Sun Classique, who was foaled and raised at Widden before being exported to South Africa.

Champion mares Sun Classique & Samantha Miss have provided recent highlights for Widden Stud when consigned under our banner for the Inglis Australian Broodmare Sale on behalf of their respective owners; Sun Classique being purchased for $2 million & Samantha Miss fetching $3.85 million.

The Widden nursery invariably produces the sort of horses that can shape the breed with two such leading lights being Sydney's Dream (dam of Charge Forward) and Circles of Gold (dam of Haradasun and Elvstroem).

Bred by Widden Stud and sired by our former champion sires Bletchingly and Marscay respectively, Sydney's Dream and Circles of Gold were Group One winners on the track who have made an even bigger impact at stud… is it any wonder Widden Stud is the yardstick by which others are measured.

Widden Stud is a name synonymous with champion sires - Marscay, Vain, Bletchingly, Todman, and General Nediym - brilliant, tough, speed oriented horses that left a legacy of greatness for generations to come. The current roster features an array of young sires with aspirations to greatness and the process that brought them to the Widden Valley is one that did not happen by chance.

On Tuesday 7th May 2019 the Thompson Family of Widden was inducted into the Newcastle and Hunter Racing Hall of Fame in the Associate Category. Antony Thompson was present at the sparkling ceremony to accept the award at the Newcastle Jockey Club's Broadmeadow Racetrack. He was accompanied by spouse Kate. I was also there to witness the seminal occasion.
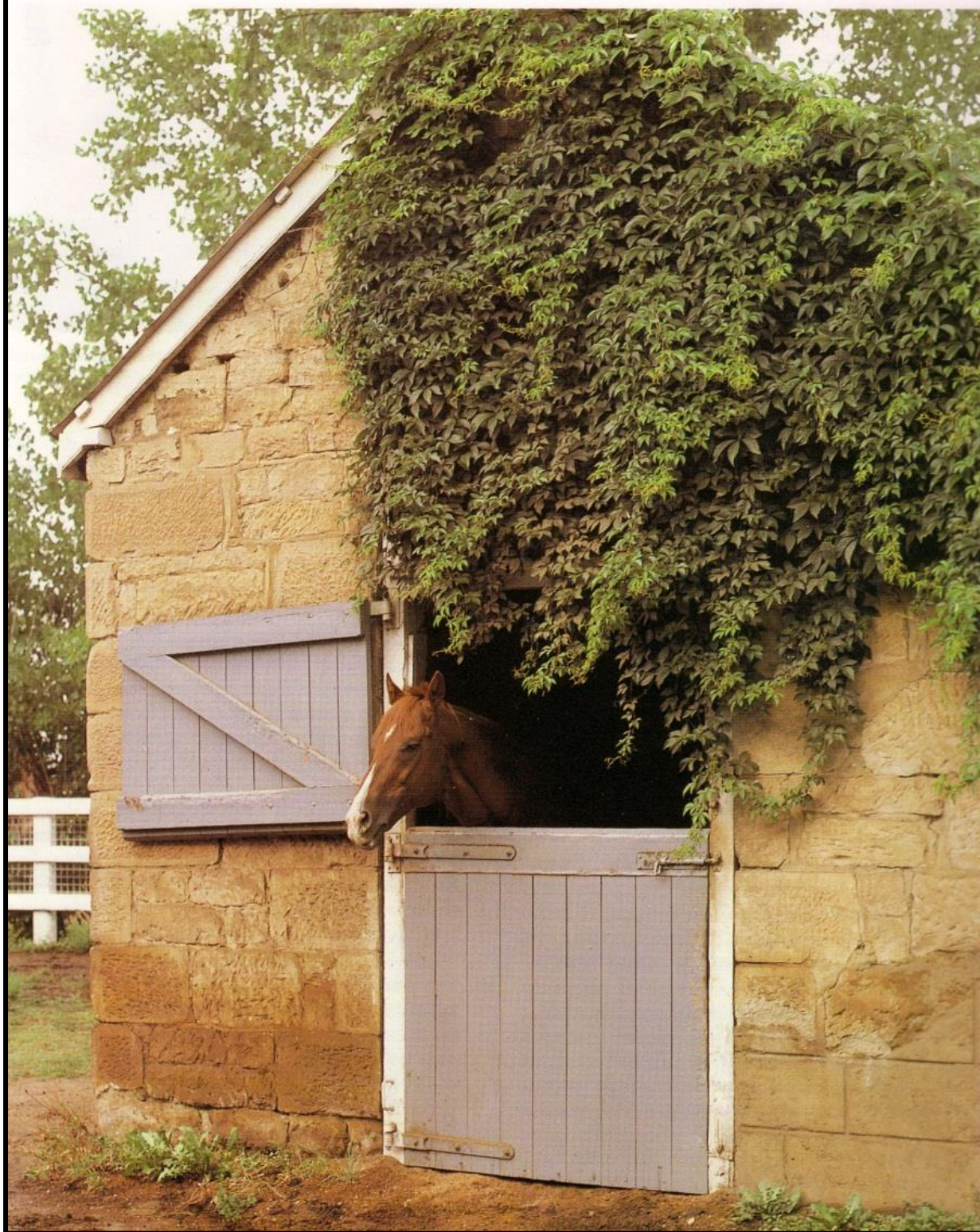
Vain in the historic sandstone stallion box
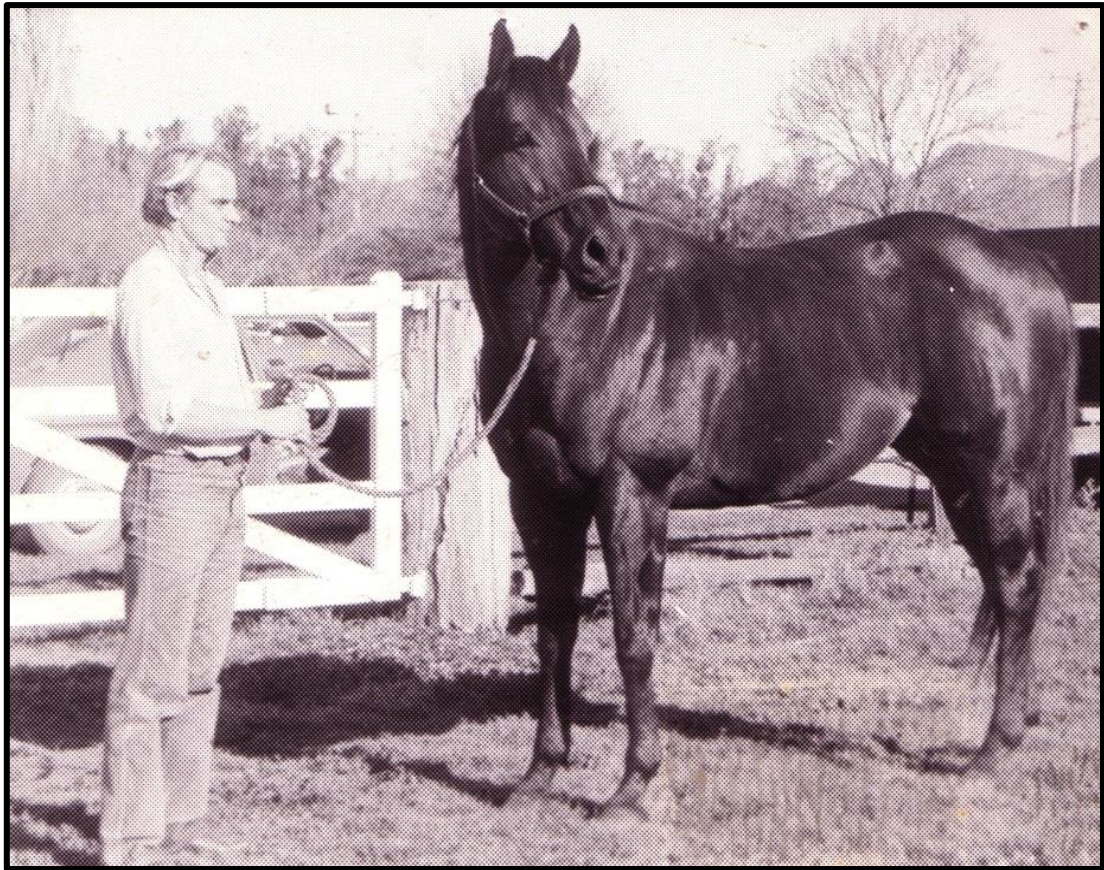
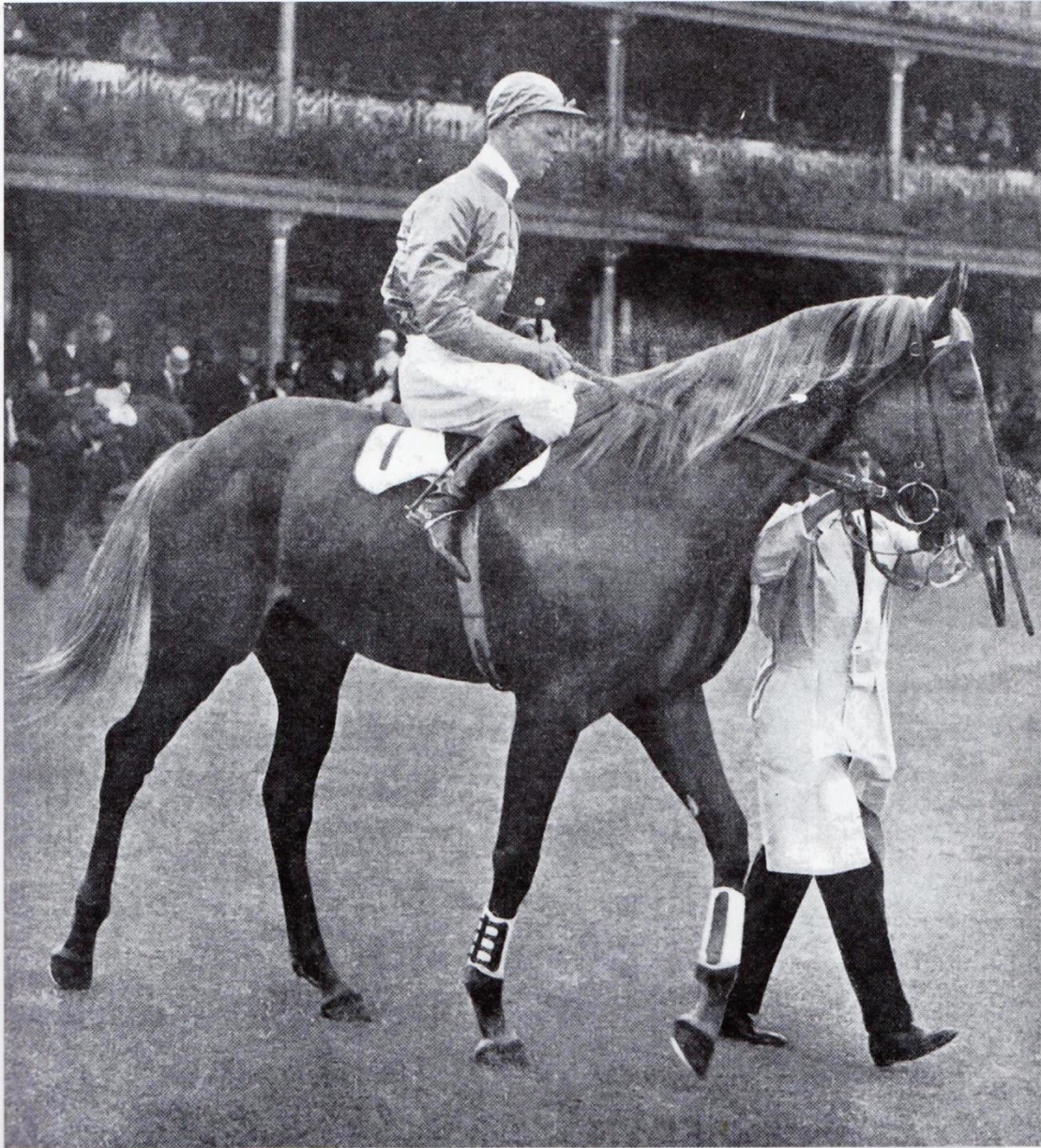'Bletchingly' with Henry Plumptre c. 1980

'Marscay' in 1989

Rodney Dangar and Peter Pan

Peter Pan (J. Pike) going out for the Autumn Plate at the 1935 Randwick Easter meeting, in which he narrowly defeated Rogilla. He won 3 races at the meeting and had never been in better form. His attendant, George Phillips, is just removing the bit in which he led the stallion.

Featured Image: Peter Pan at Randwick 1935

Dangar, Rodney Rouse (1871–1950)

Mr. Rodney Rouse Dangar, well-known Australian pastoralist, prominent philanthropist and racehorse-owner, died in Sydney last Friday, aged 79.

Mr. Dangar, a former A.J.C. committeeman, owned and bred Peter Pan, twice winner of the Melbourne Cup.

He turned down an offer of £50,000 by American buyers for Peter Pan. The horse won £34,938 in stakes money.

Mr. Dangar was a director of the National Bank of Australasia, Ltd., and of the Australian Mutual Provident Society, an ex-president of the Union Club, and a councillor of Cranbrook School.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. D. V. Ritchie, of Edgecliff.

Mr. Dangar contributed freely to dozens of charities, founded the Peter Pan Kindergarten, and endowed many hospital beds.

The funeral will be at South Head Cemetery to-day after a service at All Saints' Church, Ocean Street, Woollahra, at 11 a.m.

Peter Pan (1929–1941) was a chestnut thoroughbred racehorse and stallion.

Peter Pan was sired by Pantheon (GB) out of Alwina by St Alwyne (GB). He was foaled at the Baroona Stud at Singleton in 1929. His sire, Pantheon was an outstanding racehorse winning 10 races from 44 starts in England and Australia. Alwina did not race, but was a good broodmare. Peter Pan was known for having an unusual colouring for a Thoroughbred. He was chestnut with a blonde mane and tail. Frank McGrath's wife loved Peter Pan for his colouring and racing beauty.

Conditioned by future Hall of Fame trainer Frank McGrath Peter Pan raced early in the 1930s during the Great Depression with Phar Lap, Chatham and Rogilla all household names at the time. Frank McGrath, Sr. and some others considered Peter Pan to possibly be a better horse than Phar Lap?

Peter Pan was famous for winning the Melbourne Cup twice, in 1932 and 1934. In the running of the 1932 Melbourne Cup, Peter Pan, carrying Billy Duncan, was travelling at the rear of the pack when he clipped the heels of the horse in front and fell to his knees. Running behind him was his stablemate Dennis Boy, who bumped the champion back onto his feet. From there, Peter Pan raced past the pack to take out the race by a neck. When he was led into the winner's circle, a grass stain was clearly visible on his face. In 1933, Peter Pan fought a near-fatal viral disease that swept Sydney's racing stables and did not contest the Melbourne Cup. Frank McGrath Snr. personally nursed the horse back to health. Peter Pan won his 1934 Melbourne Cup carrying Darby Munro at 9 st 10 lb on his back and from an outside draw on a heavy track, hence his long odds of 14/1. In 1932, he also won the VRC Derby and the MacKinnon Stakes.

To win two Melbourne Cups is a rare feat, and this with his fine record gained him a place in the Australian Racing Hall of Fame. In 1935, Peter Pan suffered a recurrence of the illness that nearly killed him in 1933. Once again, Frank McGrath Snr. nursed him back to health but the horse was not his old self. Out of loyalty to the enormous public following that Peter Pan had gained, Rodney R. Dangar and McGrath agreed to start Peter Pan in the 1935 Melbourne Cup. The horse carried 10 sonet 5 lb (the weight carried by Carbine to win the 1890 shed 13th. He was immediately retired to stud.
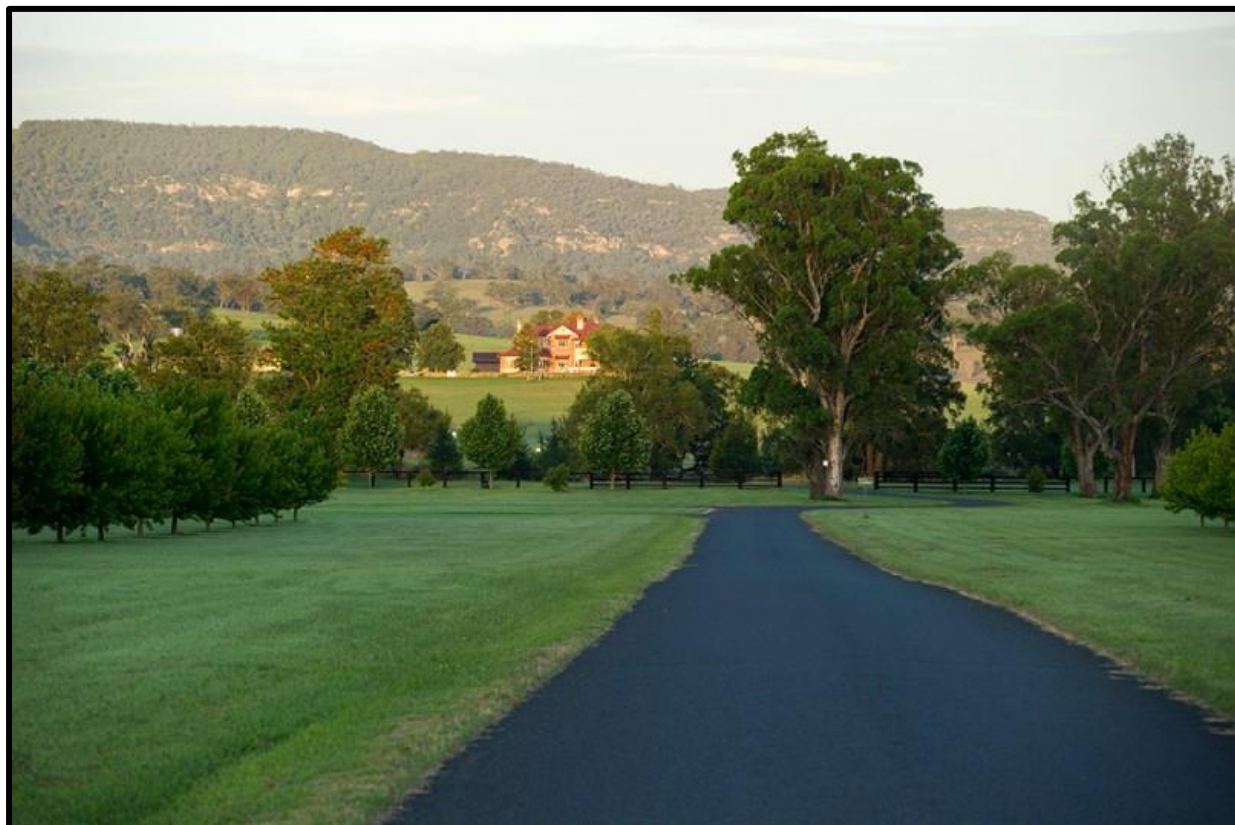
Peter Pan stood at Rodney R. Dangar's country property Baroona, Whittingham, Singleton, New South Wales where he exclusively covered his owner's mares. His stud career was cut short when he broke his leg in 1941 and was destroyed. Peter Pan is buried at Baroona, Whittingham, Singleton, New South Wales. Peter Pan sired the stake swinners Grampian, Peter and Precept, who won the Moonee Valley Stakes and VRC Derby. Peter won the Williamstown Cup and placed 2nd in the 1944 Melbourne Cup.

Cressfield Stud http://www.cressfield.com.au/about-/

Cressfield's history begins in the early 1900's being initially established as a 10,000 acre wheat and sheep farm and owned by the Hall family until the late 1990's. It was then subdivided, and in 2000 the 1917 Cressfield Homestead inclusive of approximately 3,500 adjoining acres was purchased by the current owner. Since then 1,200 acres of this land has been specifically developed for Thoroughbred breeding, transforming the blank canvas of a sheep farm into the premier boutique broodmare farm that it is today.

The 1917 Queen Anne Federation Homestead was also completely restored during this time.

Taking four and a half years to complete, it retains all its period features while concealing the conveniences of a modern home.

The development of Cressfield has seen it assemble a broodmare band of enviable quality boasting the likes of Group 1 winners, Champagne (NZ), Regimental Gal, River Dove, Star Satire (NZ), Our Egyptian Raine (NZ) and the well performed Palia, Absolutelyfabulous, Personify and Galapagos Girl.

Using a simple strategy of mating quality mares to the best available stallions, Cressfield is now seeing strong sales results being reflected in racetrack performances.

Easter 2013 saw Cressfield post its most successful sale to date, selling 5 superior yearlings for an average of $1.36 million. Including the $4 million Fastnet Rock x River Dove colt and the two $1million fillies, Fastnet Rock x Park Esteem and Redoute's Choice x Star Satire. We now wait with great anticipation for the start of their racing careers.
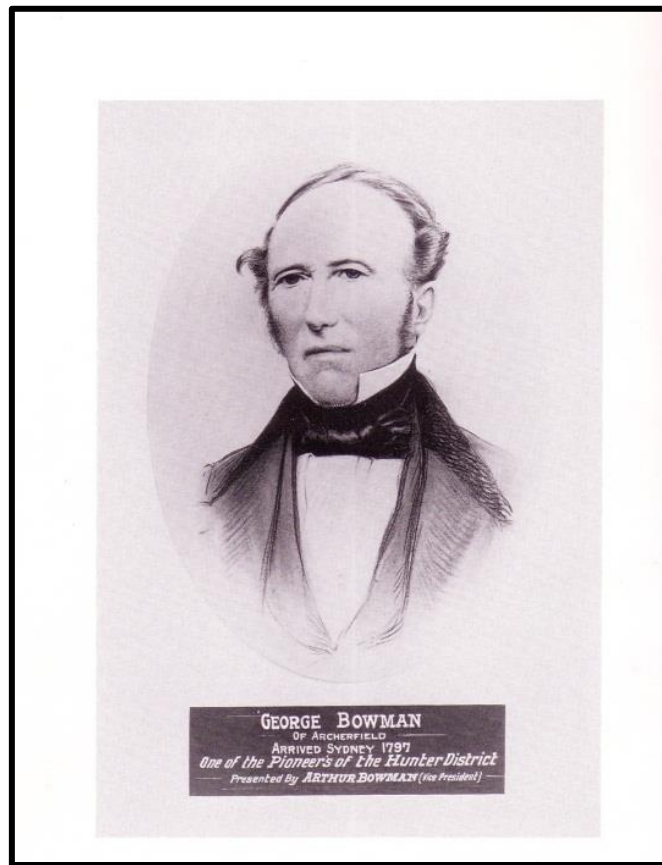
Newgate Farm

Henry Field is the great grandson of R. F. Moses of 'Fairways'

He is also directly descended from W. & F. A. Moses of 'Arrowfield'

Newgate Farm was founded by Henry Field in 2010 with only a handful of mares on a 250 acre leased property. Today, Newgate is one of the leading farms in Australia encompassing 1,000 acres of prime Hunter Valley land. With a foundation based upon quality bloodstock and quality people, Newgate has flourished.

Within a few short years, Newgate has become a major force within the Australasian Thoroughbred Industry. Newgate established a stallion division in 2012, which has grown exponentially since the acquisition of the high-class Group 1 winning sprinter Foxwedge. In 2013 Newgate purchased one of the finest properties in the Hunter Valley, the historic Brooklyn Lodge Stud, which has already produced Golden Slipper winners, Classic winners, and Cup winners among countless others. Newgate also ranks among the top consignors at major Australian auctions having a record of producing high priced, quality yearlings that go on to perform on the racetrack.

Coolmore   http://coolmore.com/australia/

GEORGE BOWMAN
OF ARCHERFIELD
ARRIVED SYDNEY 1797
One of the Pioneer's of the Hunter District
Presented By ARTHUR BOWMAN (Vice President)

Bowman's Cottage

While the Coolmore operation with which we are familiar today started in earnest in 1975 when John Magnier joined forces with Robert Sangster and Vincent O'Brien, the stud farm now occupied by Coolmore in Australia has a history which dates back much further than that. Settled in 1824 by George Bowman and established as 'Arrowfield', this property has a precedent of producing racehorses of the highest quality tracing back over 100 years. The 1920 Melbourne Cup winner Poitrel, champion racehorse and sire Heroic and high-class galloper Manfred are examples of some of the wonderful racehorses bred at the Jerrys Plains property by the Moses brothers during the first quarter of the 20th century.

William (left) and Frederick Albert Moses, owners of the original Arrowfield Stud. (Photo, courtesy of R.L. 'Tig' Moses).

W. & F. A. Moses

Poitrel

'Heroic' @ Widden. Bred by W. & F. A. Moses @ 'Arrowfield'

Coolmore Australia was established at Jerrys Plains in 1996. Located on over 8,000 acres, including 5,000 of irrigated river flats and undulating paddocks, the pastures have been shown by agronomic studies to be amongst the highest quality in Australia. Careful management has ensured that the land continues to provide the optimal conditions for the growth and development of thoroughbreds of the highest quality. Those 'raised and grazed' at Coolmore's stud farm include the likes of Fastnet Rock, Redoute's Choice, Special Harmony, Sea Siren, Haradasun, Vancouver and Pride of Dubai.

'Home Of Champions' has long been the moniker synonymous with Coolmore. At Coolmore Australia, it's a particularly fitting one.

Danehill

Darley Australia Woodlands Farm   http://www.darley.com.au/
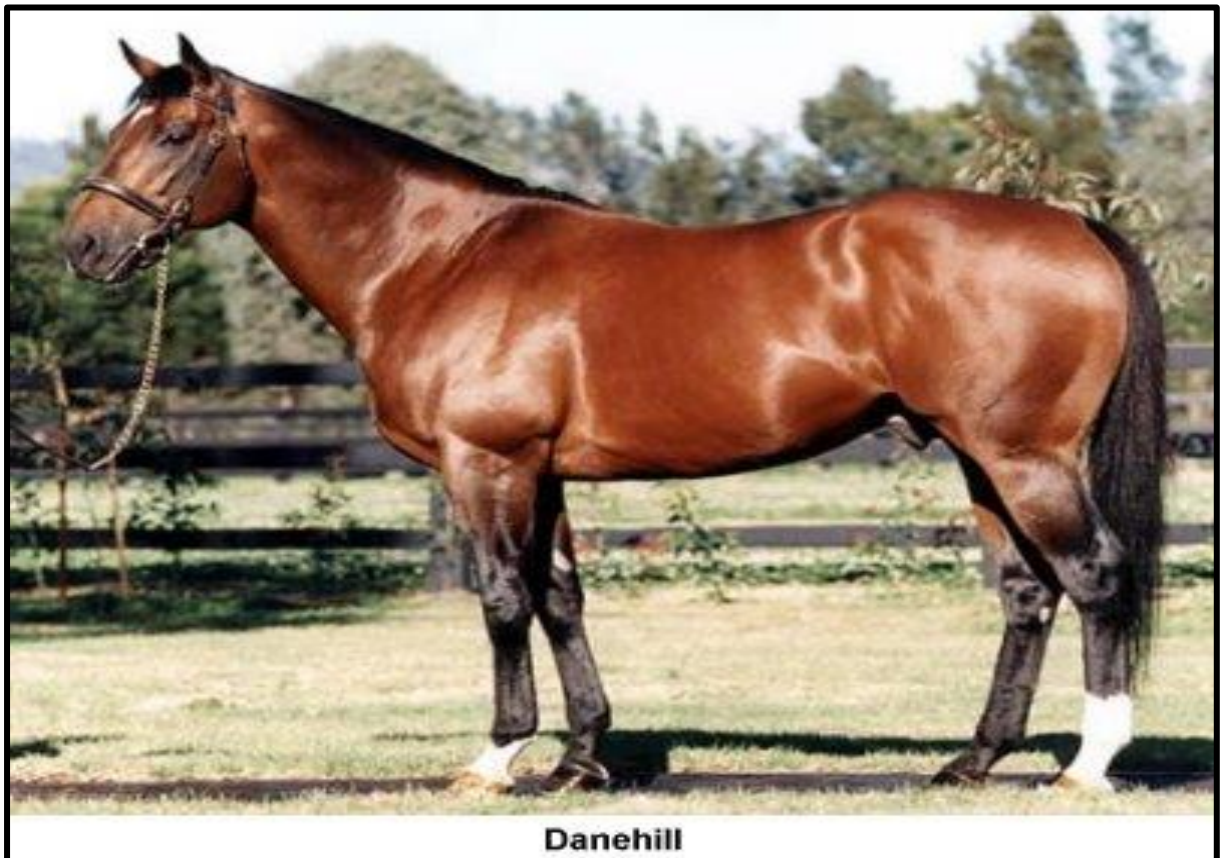
Canny Lad (Bletchingly ex Jesmond Lass) 1987

Darley is HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's global thoroughbred stallion operation which currently stands stallions in six countries around the world. Darley's headquarters is Dalham Hall Stud in Newmarket - the renowned home of racing.

The history of the thoroughbred involves wars, long sea journeys and a lucky find in Paris - and it all started back in the 17th century with just three remarkable stallions.

A trio of dominant foundation sires heralded the dawn of the English Thoroughbred, and all racehorses now descend from these founding fathers.

The oldest of the three is the Byerley Turk. Seized by a soldier called Captain Byerley during the battle of Buda in 1686, the Turkish stallion spent the next decade serving as the Captain's warhorse. The Byerley Turk then moved with his newly-married owner to Yorkshire, England, where this legendary horse's dynasty was founded.

In 1704, the Darley Arabian was bought in Aleppo, Syria, by Thomas Darley - an English trader and emissary of Queen Anne - who exchanged the horse for a shipment of rifles in the first arms deal in the Middle East. The stallion was then shipped to his family estate of Aldby Park in England, and entered racing legend as the Darley Arabian.

Known to have covered mares from 1706 to as late as 1719, before dying at the advanced age of 30 while the property of John Brewster Darley - the brother by marriage of Thomas Darley - the Darley Arabian has proved to be the most prepotent of the stallions who formed the thoroughbred.

Most racehorses alive today carry several hundred crosses of his descendants - and 95% of modern thoroughbred racehorses can trace their Y chromosome back to this single stallion.

Almost 280 years after the Darley Arabian stood his first season at stud, Sheikh Mohammed named his breeding operation in honour of the stallion: one of the Arab world's greatest exports.

The third of the three most famous forefathers of the racehorse, the Godolphin Arabian, was foaled in 1724 in Yemen and given to King Louis XV of France by the Bey of Tunis. Not valued by his new owner, he was bought by Englishman Edward Coke, who found the famed stallion pulling a cart in Paris and brought the horse to England. Upon Edward Coke's death, the Arabian became the property of the Earl of Godolphin.

The Darley Arabian by John Wootton
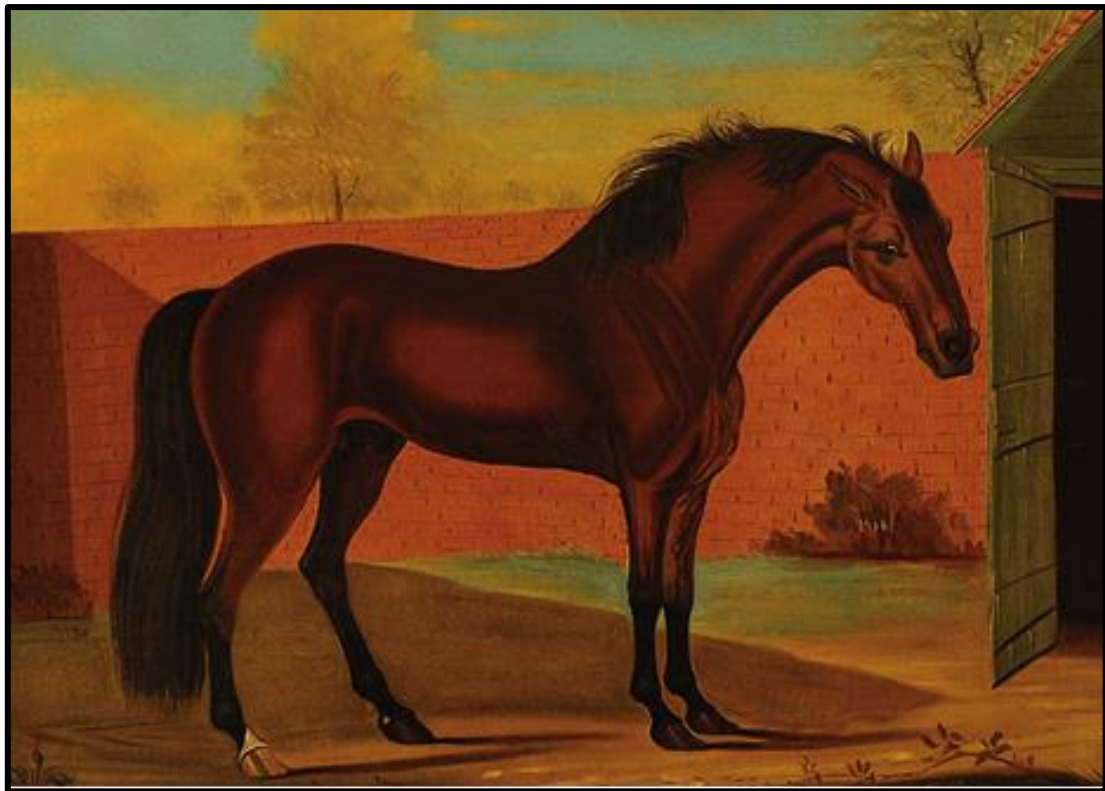
Godolphin Arabian (by D Quiqley c.1750/60)
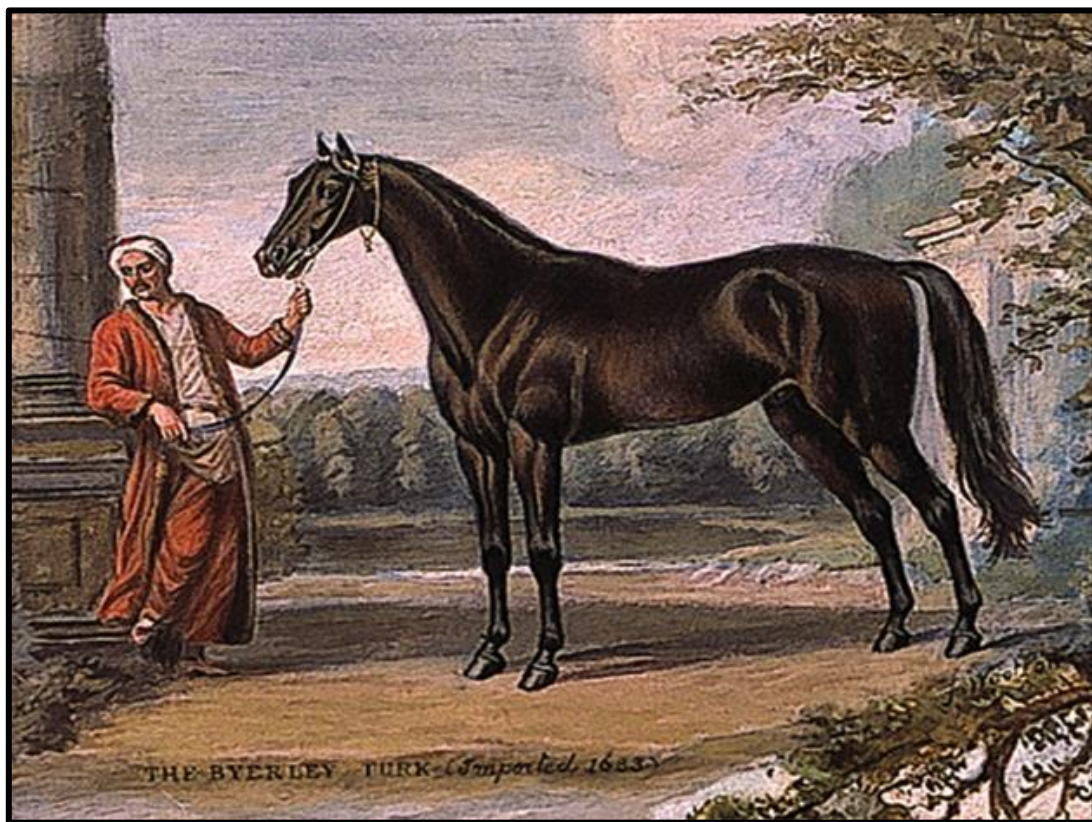
A detail from Fathers of the Turf by John Beer which features the Byerley Turk

Originally, this small stallion was considered inferior to the larger European horses of the time, but once he was allowed to cover mares, he produced offspring who were exceptionally fast on the track, and went on to sire many foals themselves.

This was the start of the Godolphin Arabian's illustrious career: he spent the rest of his days as the Earl of Godolphin's prize stallion, bred to England's finest mares. The Godolphin Arabian is now buried at Wandlebury Park in Cambridgeshire, where visitors can see his commemorative stone in the passageway of the old buildings.

Nearly 300 years later, the stallion's name found renewed fame as the inspiration for Sheikh Mohammed's famous racing stable.

Darley's global bloodstock expansion continued in 2001 when Sheikh Mohammed purchased Jonabell Farm in the famous bluegrass state of Kentucky.

Jonabell was founded in 1946 by renowned breeder John A. Bell III, and has occupied its present location on Bowman Mill Road since 1954.

Darley's bloodstock story in Australia began in 2003, with the purchase of **Kelvinside Stud** in New South Wales, from Hilton Cope, the former jockey and well-known breeder. The property has been developed into a world-class racehorse breeding facility with the capacity to stand 18 stallions.

As Darley's Australian breeding business expanded, another property was acquired in 2006, this time in Victoria. Northwood Park is an historic horse and cattle property and can stand a further 12 stallions.

In 2002 Darley also established a racehorse breeding stud in Japan, and has since made its first inroads into China.

Kelvinside Homestead

Kia Ora Stud   http://www.kiaoraestates.com.au/about/history

Percy Miller was a successful businessman and a hobby breeder with half a dozen mares. In 1914 he embarked on commercial thoroughbred production and purchased the cattle property Kia-Ora, over the Pages River from the established Segenhoe Stud, just east of Scone. With manager Bert Riddle, Miller set about developing Kia-Ora as a fully operational horse stud and by 1917 was able to offer two yearlings at the Sydney Easter Sales. It was to be the start of a sustained and most remarkable breeding record. In the same year a horse called Magpie ran second in the English 2000 Guineas and eventually came to Australia where he was acquired as a stallion by Percy Miller. Over the next decade Magpie became one of Australia's leading sires producing many feature race winners at Kia-Ora including Windbag, Amounis and Talking. This became the pattern with a succession of successful sires standing at Kia-Ora. Most notable of these were Midstream and Delville Wood who also became premiership winning sires and were responsible for such champions as Shannon, Delta, Hydrogen and Evening Peal.

They were to leave a legacy in a superb brand of brood mares but most remarkable about the record of Kia-Ora was the high percentage of winners that came off the property and the huge numbers, for the times, of well-grown yearlings that were sold off the stud. This peaked with 105 yearlings offered at the 1941 Sydney Easter Sales, while there were 103 catalogued in 1928 and 99 in both 1931 and 1936 for a total of 2,862 yearlings presented for sale between 1917 and 1949. Bert Riddle was the manager through all these years but on his death in 1952, four years after Percy Miller, the stud was scaled back by the family and finally dispersed in 1957. Kia-Ora had a series of owners from then on and amongst the stallions that stood at the farm were Australian champions Gunsynd and Baguette. Despite the numbers of horses bred at Kia-Ora being far less than before the winners kept coming, including top two year old Gretel and Caulfield Guineas victor Sou'wester.

The present owners took over Kia-Ora in 2000 and have re-developed the famous stud farm returning it to its former glory and once again making it home to some of the best bred mares in Australia.
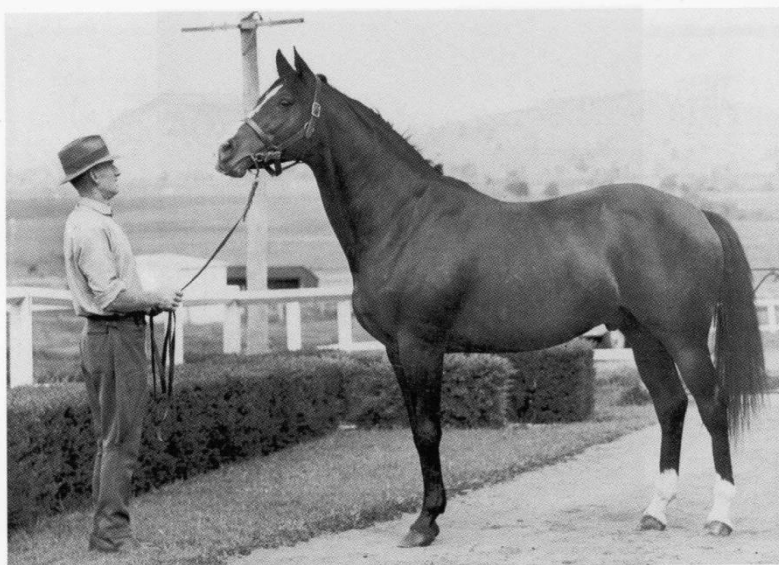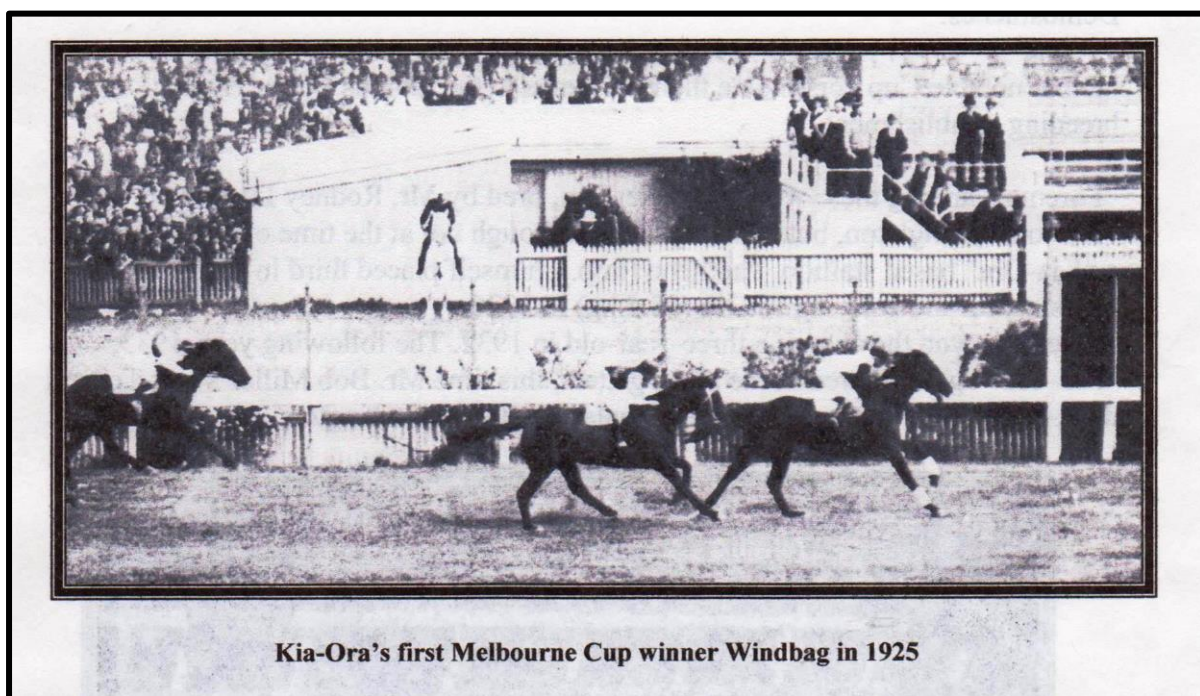

The imported English stallion Midstream, photographed at Kia Ora Stud in September 1954 with stud groom Jack Keown. (*Fairfax Syndication*)

The Breeding Scene & the Melbourne Cup

By Harley Walden 2005

Whenever a new champion arrives on the racing scene or a new stud opens its quest into the breeding arena memories are rekindled of a stud that produced so many great racehorses. In this article I have outlined the deeds and connection Kia Ora Stud, Scone had with Australia's premier staying race, the Melbourne Cup.

Since its foundation as a breeding property in 1912 the famous thoroughbred nursery over the next fifty years could be described as the doyen of other noted properties. It has featured in the principal races of Australia and the USA but its importance in the Melbourne Cup must be particularly stressed. The latter is the main distance handicap on the racing calendar.

Kia-Ora's first Melbourne Cup winner Windbag in 1925

Thirteen years after Percy Miller founded "Kia Ora" and under the spectacular management of A W (Bert) Riddle, "Kia Ora" produced the mighty Windbag the winner of many WFA races culminating in a record breaking win in the 1924 Melbourne Cup. Windbag, by Magpie (imp.) from Charleville was a real tonic for the Scone district.

Three years later another Melbourne Cup winner merged from the same establishment. This time it was Statesman by Demosthenes (imp.) from the imported mare Marcelle. A number of years since the Statesman year, in which all three placegetters were reared on "Kia Ora", the second horse was Strephon by Saltash. Strephon was rated good enough to ship to England to throw down the gauntlet to the best horse racing in the old country; unfortunately he failed to acclimatise and never produced his Australian form. The third placegetter, Demost, was also by Demosthenes.

Statesman wins the "Big One" in 1928

Other notable Cup horses owe their existence to the famous Upper Hunter breeding establishment. Foremost among these would be Peter Pan, bred by Mr Rodney Dangar of "Baroona", Singleton, but certainly sired, although not at the time of conception, by a "Kia Ora" based stallion, Pantheon (imp.), himself placed third in the two-miler as a six-year-old carrying 9st 3lb (58.5kg) in 1926. Peter Pan won the cup as a three-year-old in 1932. The following year, 1933, "Kia Ora" again figured in the placegetters, this time Mr Bob Miller's colt Tropical dead-heating for third with the New Zealander, Gaine Carrington.

In 1934, this time under extreme conditions, Peter Pan was again victorious carrying 9st 10lb (61.5kg).
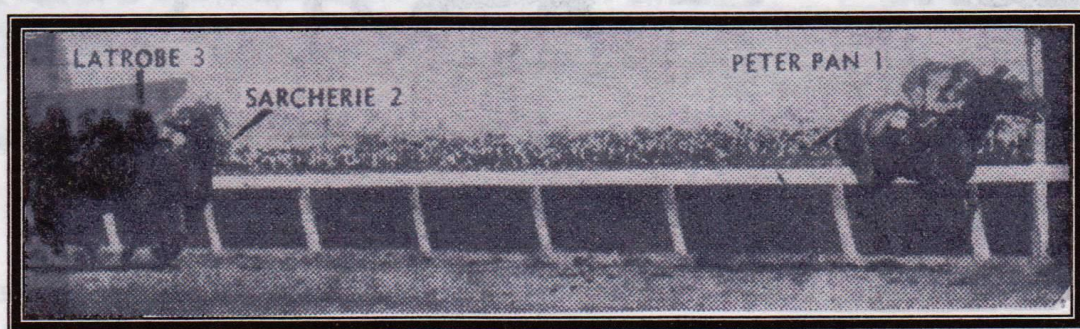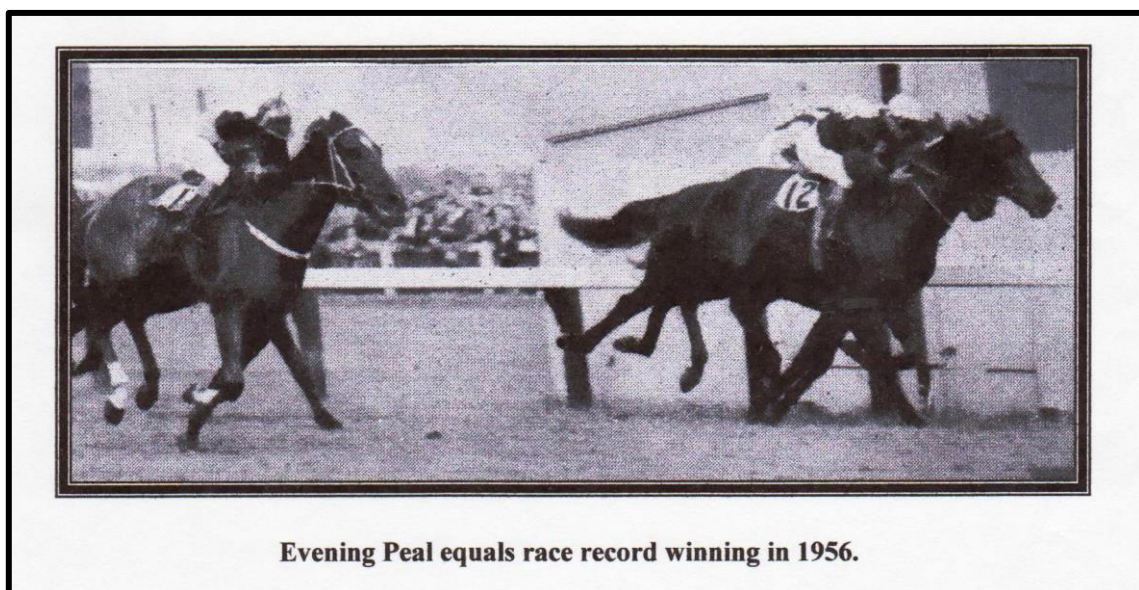

**The one they talk about. Peter Pan winning the Melbourne Cup in 1934.
Bred by Rodney Dangar at Singleton. His sire Pantheon standing at Kia-Ora at
the time of his son's dual successes in 1932 and 1934.**

Five years further on and we find Maikai and Pantler, both sired by Pantheon, filling second and third places respectively. Maikai, form Western Australia, suffered a narrow defeat by Old Rowley in the 1940 running of the major handicap. Nineteen forty-six saw yet another "Kia Ora" product fugure in the prizemoney, this time, Carey by Midstream (imp.) finished in third position.
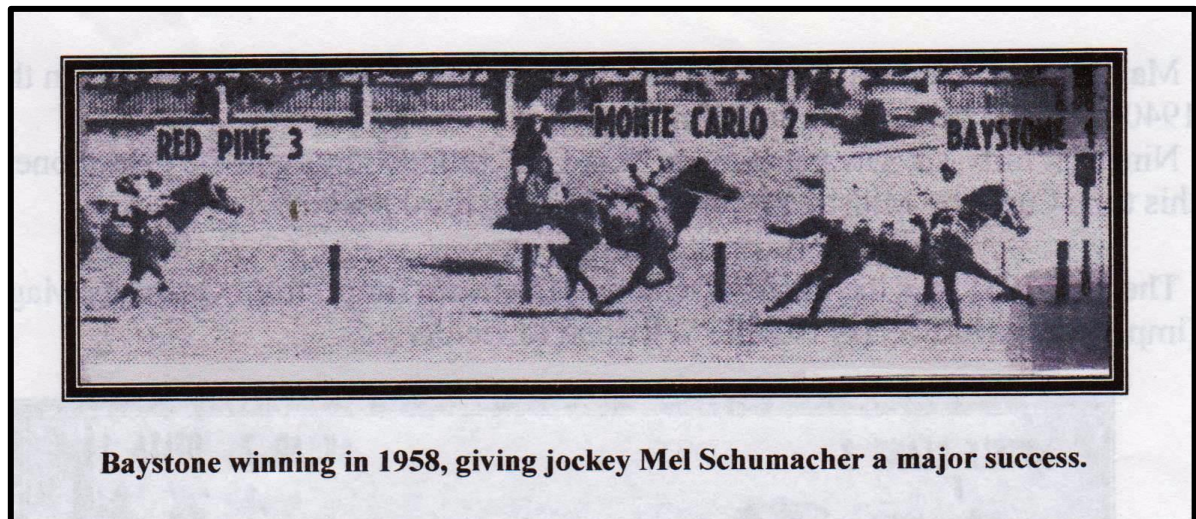
The year 1951 saw the mighty Delta by Midstream (imp.) from Gazza by Magpie (imp.) successfully carry Neville Sellwood to victory.

Neville Sellwood and Delta salute the judge in 1951.
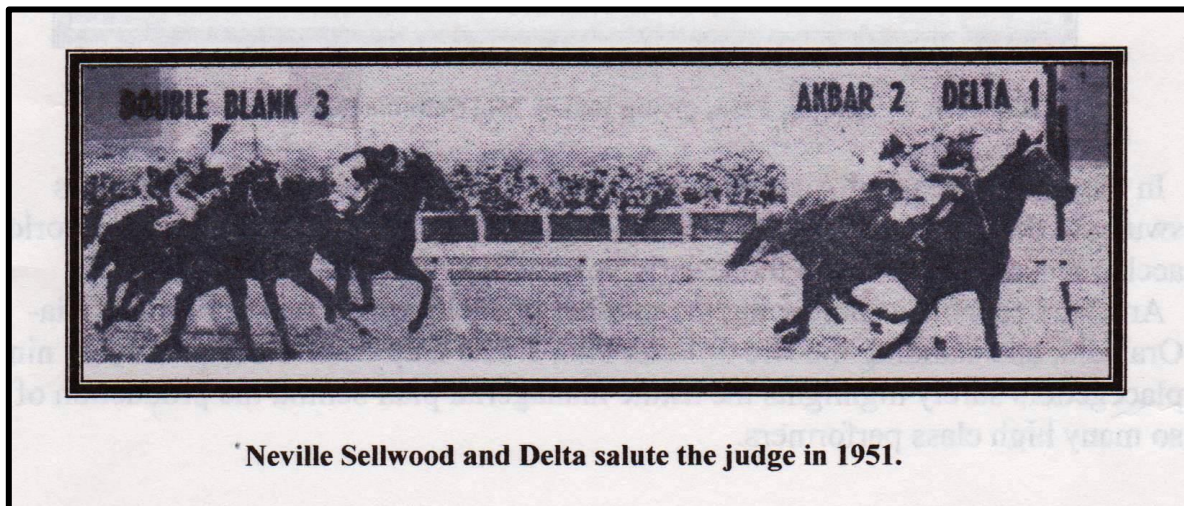
"Kia Ora" by this time was becoming known world-wide as the greatest horse nursery in the Southern Hemisphere, but it was to rise to still greater heights by 1956 when Evening Peel by Delville Wood (imp.) from Mission Chimes by Le Grand Duc, another Kia-Ora import, reigned supreme in the great two-mile event to defeat the New Zealand great Redcraze.

Evening Peal equals race record winning in 1956.

Baystone, in 1958, by Brimstone (imp.) from Unity by Manitoba (imp.) was the final Kia-Ora bred to take the two mile stayer's classic bringing to an end a domination that had run for near on 35 years.

Baystone winning in 1958, giving jockey Mel Schumacher a major success.

In these latter years of Australian racing and breeding where the pendulum has swung to the sprinting breed of racehorse it is highly unlikely that what this world acclaimed stud achieved in those early years will ever be achieved again. Any stud capable of producing the number of Melbourne Cup winners as "Kia Ora" did, and standing the sire of Peter Pan, a dual cup winner and producing nine placegetters, surely highlights the astute managerial plan behind the production of so many high class performers.

Footnote: I believe 'Cambridge Stud', Cambridge, NZ might mount a challenge to the number of individual Melbourne Cup winners produced?

Harley was correct to anoint Kia Ora as the 'jewel in the crown' of thoroughbred studs in the Upper Hunter throughout the 20th century. The main challengers would be Moses Bros. 'Arrowfield' and the Thompson family's 'Widden'.

Bill Whittaker wrote an excellent resume of Kia Ora in the Bloodhorse Review, published in August 2006. Bill pays tribute to Percy Miller who *"always thought less of his own pocket than of the bloodhorse industry. He would cut his losses rather than unload failures"*. Bill describes how there was great rivalry from the 1920s to the 1950s between the Thompson family (Widden, Oakleigh, Yarraman Park, Camyr Allyn, Tarwyn Park) and Kia Ora with the later gaining hegemony following the death of Widden's two great stallions Valais and his champion son Heroic.
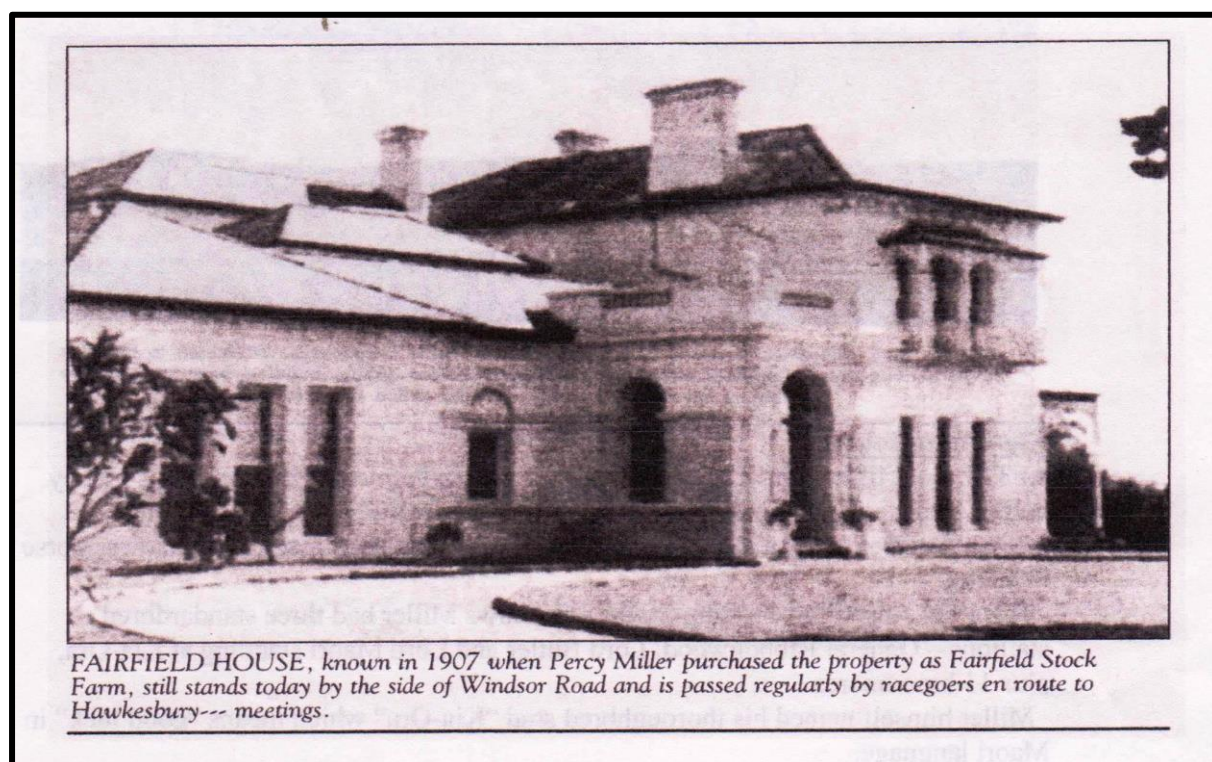
In the period identified Kia Ora produced no less than EIGHT W S Cox Plate winners between 1927 and 1953. These were Amounis (1927), Chatham (1932 and 1934), Young Idea (1936 and 1937), Delta (1939) and Hydrogen (1952 and 1953) The three stand-out sires were Magpie, Midstream and Delville Wood plus Peter Pan's sire Pantheon.

Kia Ora's seven winners of the Melbourne Cup sired at Kia Ora in these 'golden years' were: Windbag (1925), Statesman (1928), Peter Pan (1932 and 1934), Delta (1951), Evening Peal (1956) and Baystone (1958). Pantheon was purchased by Percy Miller for 7250 guineas at the dispersal of J E and C H Brien's neighbouring Kingsfield Stud in 1929. Pantheon had actually been conceived at the latter stud by R R Dangar's mare Alwina. Rodney Dangar owned Baroona Stud at Whittingham near Singleton where Peter Pan was raised.

1937 – Percy Miller and the Kia Ora Stud
BY IAN IBBETT ON APRIL 1, 2018

HTTPS://KINGSOFTHETURF.COM/1937-PERCY-MILLER-AND-THE-KIA-ORA-STUD/

FAIRFIELD HOUSE, known in 1907 when Percy Miller purchased the property as Fairfield Stock Farm, still stands today by the side of Windsor Road and is passed regularly by racegoers en route to Hawkesbury--- meetings.

IN 1930'S

In the story of Australian bloodstock breeding during the first half of the twentieth century, one man and one stud stand supreme. The man was Percy Frederick Miller; the Stud was *Kia Ora*. Born in 1879, the youngest of eleven children, Miller started life in rather humble circumstances in the inner Sydney suburb of Leichardt. When only a boy he set out on man's estate to earn a living by purchasing a few calves, slaughtering them himself at the old Glebe Island Abattoirs, and then selling the meat to Sydney's retail butchers. From such modest beginnings, he eventually prospered to become one of the largest carcass butchers in Sydney, founding the firm of *Miller Bros*. It was in 1902 that Percy Miller married his childhood sweetheart, Mabel, and the couple were to be blessed with only one child – a daughter, Marjorie – born three years later. Happy in a secure marriage, as

his fledgeling meat business burgeoned in the early years of the century, Percy Miller began to race a few trotters, retaining the brothers Bert and Peter Riddle to prepare and drive the horses. If the standard-bred was to be his first love, the thoroughbred was to supplant it and become his lifelong passion.

Peter Riddle after winning The NZ Cup with champion pacer Sheik; his wife holds the trophy. Peter Riddle died after suffering a stroke two months after Shannon's sale, his will stating that the champion should be sold

His first thoroughbred was a colt by Maltster from Red Flag, which he purchased as an Easter yearling in 1910. Registered rather unimaginatively as Malt Flag, Bill Kelso trained him to win a few races. Subsequently, Miller resolved to build up a stud, and he became a prospective buyer of any well-bred mare by Maltster or Wallace that came onto the market, with Kelso acting as his eminence grise on all matters bloodstock. The first prestigious race in which his colours were carried to victory came with Starland, a daughter of The Welkin, in the 1914 Gimcrack Stakes. I think this really began his love affair with daughters of The Welkin and he was assiduous in seeking well-bred mares by that stallion for his stud. At the same time, he extended a commission to the *British Bloodstock Agency* to buy appropriate English mares, acquiring as many as eight at the December Sales in England in

1915, and these formed the core of his nascent stud. In those days Miller raced under the nom de course of 'Leslie English', a fiction he continued through the early years of the War before abandoning it to the full glare of publicity.

It was in February 1914 that Miller purchased the extensive property of A. J. Burcher, near Scone, to use to fatten-up cattle, as well as establish his standard-bred and thoroughbred horse studs. Initially, his holding consisted of about 1800 acres, which he initially named *Kiora*, although the spelling was later amended to *Kia Ora*. The property, only a few miles out of Scone, was in a belt of country crowded with breeding establishments; at one time it had formed part of the old *Segenhoe* estate owned by William Brown. The *Kia Ora* property was separated from what remained of *Segenhoe* by the Page River, which a few miles further downstream joined with the Hunter. It was ideal land for a thoroughbred stud, beginning with rich river flats of alfalfa extending inland to sheltered and timbered hills.

In early 1915, in his quest for a stud sire, he negotiated with Richard Wootton, who was then in England and purchased the five-year-old English stallion, Flippant. The horse, who had been a fair performer on the English Turf, was a three-quarter brother to Bronzino, the high-priced but ultimately disappointing stallion that Samuel Hordern imported into this country with much fanfare a few years before. Flippant came at a price of 1000 guineas, and Miller raced him briefly in Australia before retiring the horse to his stud in 1916, where he was mated with about twenty mares. Flippant wasn't a stud success and once that became obvious, Miller moved quickly to supplant him. This quick turnover of non-performing stallions was a firm policy of the *Kia Ora* studmaster. As far as his stallion philosophy was concerned it was very much a case of – if you will forgive the pun – 'many were culled, and few were chosen'. Flippant was merely the first in a long line of casualties that failed to measure up to the exacting standards, only to be sold-off.

Consider for a moment if you will, the number of sires that had already stood at *Kia Ora Stud* in the years up to 1937. Apart from Flippant and his successor, Magpie, there were Leverrier, Demosthenes, Nassau, Legionnaire, Saltash, Spelthorne, Sarchedon, Ethiopian, Constant Son, Baralong, Caledon, Pantheon, Christopher Robin, Medieval Knight, Ronsard and Chatham. Now, this

isn't a bad list to be going on with. And from the very start, Miller was prepared to pay big money to acquire the right horse. Flippant wasn't cheap, but when it came to replacing him, Miller outlaid 5000 guineas each for Magpie and Demosthenes.

The latter, incidentally, is a rare example of Percy Miller purchasing an already tried stallion. Demosthenes was something of a sensation when he first got to New Zealand, and the *Kia Ora* studmaster went after him. Alas, when installed on the Page River, Demosthenes was most disappointing and proved a shy foal-getter into the bargain. Sarchedon, whom many regarded as the best two-year-old in England, set Miller back 6000 guineas and no less an authority than Dick Wootton declared him to be the finest-looking horse ever imported into Australia. Alas, at stud he, too, proved a failure.

The list appended above shows that Percy Miller had tried sixteen different imported stallions in the first twenty-one years of *Kia Ora's* existence. One is entitled to ask how any studmaster could possibly make a profit by turning over so many expensive stallions so quickly. The answer, dear reader, lies in the remarkable optimism of horse buyers in being willing to fall over each other in a rush to acquire yearlings by well-credentialed but unproven stallions. Given that the gestation period for a horse is some eleven months and a foal won't race until it is a two-year-old at the earliest, it follows that any stallion will enjoy three books of mares before any shortcomings in his stock become obvious on a racecourse. Miller capitalised on this unbridled optimism of buyers towards the progeny of new stallions. If their stock didn't fire in the first season or two, Miller quickly discarded the stallion. I might add that Miller was just as ruthless in his culling of poorly-producing mares, with rejects sold at West Maitland. The *Kia Ora Stud* simply didn't retain any stallion or broodmare exhibiting any weakness or lack of a constitution.

But I am getting ahead of my story. It was in Easter 1916 that Percy Miller made his first appearance as a vendor at the Sydney Yearling Sales when his embryonic stud put forth a modest offering of three yearlings, a colt and a filly by Flavus, and a filly by Downshire. The trio realised an aggregate of 280 guineas. In 1917 Miller again submitted three yearlings for sale, and the following year it increased to four.

From the very beginning, Miller resolved to be a breeder for the public and as such, apart from a period during the Depression years, his yearlings were largely sold without reserve. It was in 1919 that he offered the first draft of Flippant, seventeen in number. Although his English import sired sound and hardy horses, Flippant wasn't particularly fashionably-bred for the time, and buyers were not that keen on his progeny.

Miller moved quickly to replace him with Magpie whom he purchased for 5000 guineas in May 1919. Now I suspect that the imagination and commercial flair of Percy Miller would have seen *Kia Ora* prosper under any circumstances, but the astounding success of Magpie made the task immeasurably easier. I have already told the tale of Magpie in the previous chapter. His progeny were not early comers but oh! What stamina they possessed when allowed to mature!

It was Windbag, coming from Magpie's second crop, that really made the stallion's reputation and the story of his sale, as a yearling, is part of Australian Turf folklore. The champion might so easily have raced in the ownership of Percy Miller, rather than that of his older brother Bob. When the future Windbag first entered the yearling ring on that autumn day in 1923, he was initially knocked down to Ian Duncan, a leading New Zealand breeder who was buying on commission for a colleague in the Dominion. Duncan had been frustrated in attempts to obtain earlier lots by Magpie that had gone for stiffer prices, and his decision to bid for the Charleville colt had been somewhat impulsive. After the horse had been sold to him and had left the ring, Duncan hurried to where the *Kia Ora* draft was stabled at *Newmarket* for a closer inspection of his latest acquisition. The future Windbag was not only small but a rather weak walker to boot, and in this instance familiarity bred contempt.

GEORGE PRICE & BOB MILLER

Duncan approached the auctioneer, Clive Inglis, and advised him that he wasn't prepared to transport the horse back to New Zealand. Accordingly, he requested that the colt enter the ring again at the end of the sale. No auctioneer is keen on such a course of action because buyers are immediately wary that there might be something wrong with the animal. So instead, Inglis approached Percy Miller and asked him if he was prepared to relieve Duncan of the purchase. In a lifetime of trading horses, Percy Miller earned a reputation for absolute integrity and straight shooting in his dealings, and this occasion was no different. Miller stated that if Duncan was prepared to take 120 guineas for the colt, he could book it to Bob Miller. He was, and he did. It was in this manner that Windbag became a windfall for Percy's brother. In ordinary circumstances, Percy would have taken the colt himself. However, the *Kia Ora* studmaster had only just broken off his relationship with his trainer Bill Kelso and sold all his horses in work. Accordingly, at the time he wasn't interested in ownership. Considering what Windbag went on to achieve, Percy's estrangement from Bill Kelso proved particularly expensive.

WINDBAG AFTER WINNING THE 1925 MELBOURNE CUP

Incidentally, when Windbag retired, Miller could have stood him at *Kia Ora* for the asking, but at that

time he refused to stand a colonial sire at any price. Consequently, Windbag went to Alex Hunter's

Northwood Park Stud, near Seymour in Victoria, after bringing 4000 guineas at auction – a good

price for an Australian stallion in those days. Alex Hunter was a good friend of Miller – a friendship

that traced back to their younger days when each was heavily involved in light-harness

racing. Although Percy hadn't been prepared to stand Windbag as a stallion, he was more than

happy to patronise him with a few mares to kick-start his stud career for his friend. Two mares that

Miller sent to *Northwood Park* for Windbag's first book were Kanooka and Myosotis. It was in this

way that two of the great milers of the Australian Turf came into this world when the mares gave

foal to Winooka and Chatham respectively. As a matter of fact, these two future champions

followed each other into the sales ring when sold as yearlings.

I seem to have wandered off the theme of Magpie and the growth of *Kia Ora Stud*, but it is all grist to the mill insofar as the story of the 1937 A.J.C. Derby is concerned. Once Magpie, through the racecourse deeds of his sons, Windbag and Amounis, had become famous, the growth and prosperity of *Kia Ora* flourished spectacularly. Percy Miller passed his wholesale butchery business over to his older brother Bob to manage in the mid-1920's once Magpie had guaranteed *Kia Ora's* success, and from then on Percy devoted his energies to the stud. There is nothing in the annals of Australian thoroughbred history to match the mushrooming growth of *Kia Ora*, which quickly became the largest stud in the southern hemisphere. The milestones came thick and fast.

It was Percy Miller who bred and sold Dominant, the most expensive yearling ever sold in Australia up to that time when he went for 6750 guineas at Easter 1928; it was a record that stood for thirty years. Dominant was part of the stud's record aggregate at that year's Easter sales of 33,885 guineas. I think this is the statistic that best illustrates the stud's rapid development. In 1919 the yearling sales aggregate was a mere 1865 guineas, and yet just ten years later it had grown to 33,885 guineas! Two years after, in 1930, Percy Miller realised his coveted ambition of consigning one hundred yearlings into the Easter sales ring.

Much of the success, as Percy was the first to acknowledge, was due to the animal husbandry of **Bert Riddle**, the stud manager who was there from the very beginning. In those days the yearlings were dispatched to *Newmarket* well before Easter and, being boxed at Randwick, the youngsters were less likely to incur injury than running loose in the stud paddocks.
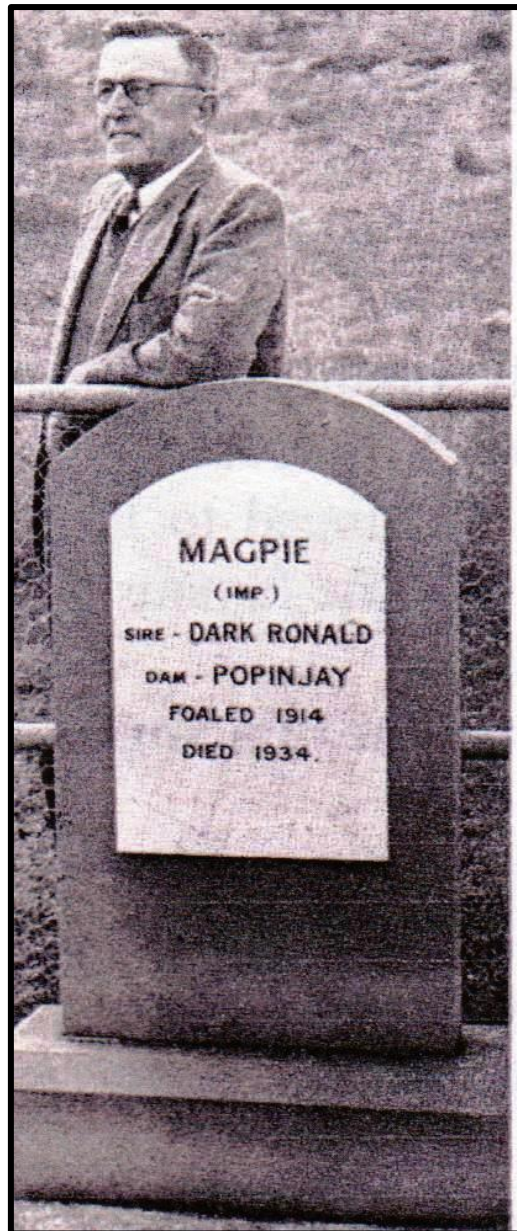
Bert Riddle & Magpie

Among the six yearlings on offer in 1922, the very first year Magpie's stock was sold, was a little filly from the well-bred matron, Galtee Princess. The mare had been one of *Kia-Ora's* early acquisitions for breeding. She had won races in Perth and Melbourne, and in 1918, was purchased with a Linacre foal at foot for 700 guineas by Percy Miller. The Linacre foal subsequently raced successfully as Galtee Maid. Just about all of the progeny of Galtee Princess won races, including this particular filly sold in 1922, later registered as Chatterbox. She raced in the colours of Bob Miller – pale blue, black diamond and sleeves and yellow cap – and was a filly that got better with age.

She raced in the 14.2 pony classes before graduating to win at Rosehill, Canterbury Park and Moorefield in flying company. Perhaps her best effort was to finish second at Randwick in the June Stakes when beaten a neck as the favourite. Unfortunately, she broke down rather severely as a five-year-old and was promptly retired to matronly duties at *Kia Ora*. Chatterbox, despite her small stature, proved quite a useful broodmare and had already enjoyed success when Miller mated her with Pantheon in the spring of 1933. The resultant foal was in the draft of *Kia Ora* yearlings at the Sydney Easter Sales in 1936.

Now it is not always possible to provide a faithful description of a future Derby winner when offered as a yearling, but Avenger, our 1937 hero, is an exception. It was common in those days for the major newspapers of Sydney and Melbourne to send their principal racing writers on a motoring tour of the studs in the run-up to Christmas to review the yearlings for sale the following year. The pressmen would all informally chance their judgement of bloodstock by nominating the yearling they thought most likely. *Chiron* of '*The Australasian*' won the contest that year when he showed remarkable prescience in selecting the future Avenger as the pick of the *Kia-Ora* draft of ninety-six yearlings. I quote below the copy he filed for his newspaper at the time:

"However, to my mind, the pick of the draft is the bay Pantheon colt from that one-time good performer, Chatterbox, by Magpie from Galtee Princess. The breeding is right, and so is the colt. The earlier progeny of Chatterbox were rather on the small side, but lack of size cannot be urged against this fellow, as there is plenty of him, and what there is exceptionally good. Although short topped, his back being strong and the middle-piece splendidly ribbed, he stands over a lot of ground and is a fine reachy mover. He gives the impression of perfect pitch and balance. He is exceptionally good in front, with a long clean shoulder well set back, with a long muscular neck and a keen, intelligent head."

As it transpired, when the colt went through the ring he was bought by *Messrs Mackinnon and Cox* of Melbourne on behalf of the Victorian sportsman, J. P. Arthur, for 850 guineas. Now, chance is a funny thing in life.

By the mid-1930's Miller had been racing horses for more than a quarter of a century and he seemed fated never to win a classic with a horse of his own breeding and carrying his own colours. That he eventually did so with a horse he had once sold seems scarcely credible,. However, that is precisely what Percy Miller achieved with this youngster from Chatterbox. It just so happened that in the months immediately after the yearling sales at which the colt was sold, J. P. Arthur had a run-in with Victorian officialdom and decided to retire from the Turf on a matter of principle. He put up his extensive string of horses for sale at public auction in August 1936. It so happened that Miller had taken a shine to the Chatterbox colt as a weanling when he gambolled about the *Kia Ora* paddocks.

The studmaster always considered the youngster would develop stamina. Miller approached trainer Jack Holt and asked him to inspect the horse before the auction, and if he was sound, to buy him. Holt liked what he saw and for 800 guineas Avenger returned to the ownership of the man that bred him. I might mention here that at that auction of Arthur's horses, Holt also bought another rising two-year-old on behalf of Miller – Devoted Son – yet another that *Kia Ora* had bred and sold as a yearling. It is interesting to observe that in both cases the horses actually cost less some four months after being sold at Easter, even though neither had been tried on the racecourse.

JACK HOLT AND PERCY MILLER (Courtesy of Racing Victoria)

A strapping bay colt, Avenger wasn't hurried by Jack Holt in his first season, his debut being delayed until the autumn when he ran unplaced in a minor juvenile event at Pakenham. He appeared five more times that season, twice earning place money and saving his best effort till last when he ran second to John Wilkes in a seven-furlong handicap at Caulfield in late July. Considering that at the time, nominations for the major handicaps and Cup races closed in June, and Avenger hadn't returned Miller any prize money at all, it came as no surprise that the *Kia Ora* studmaster didn't bother putting forth the colt's name for the rich events. Indeed, the stable was not even entertaining the ambition of a Derby start at that stage. But colts – and particularly backwards and immature types such as Avenger – can often improve dramatically as the last weeks of winter give way to spring.

AVENGER (The Australasian)

Jack Holt chose the Chatsworth Plate, a mile race for three-year-olds run at Caulfield, for Avenger's seasonal reappearance. It was unfortunate for Holt that the veteran Caulfield trainer Frank Musgrave also chose the same race for a flashy chestnut son of Heroic sheltering in his '*Ruthen Lodge*' stables in Leopold Street. The horse in question was Ajax, who had proved himself the best juvenile in Australia earlier in the year. Despite a field of seventeen competitors and conceding weight to them all, including a full two stone to Avenger, Ajax had little trouble adding this event to his lengthening tally of triumphs. Avenger, however, ran on nicely enough at the end of the race to take the second prize and suggest that he was going to make up into a nice colt once he got over further ground. Moreover, he possessed a relaxed and docile temperament, the trait of a real stayer. When the strapping son of Pantheon continued to thrive in his work and won his next two races at Williamstown and Caulfield against his own age group, Holt knew he had a genuine Derby contender and laid his plans for a northern visit to the Harbour City.

His only start in Sydney before the Derby came in the Hill Stakes at Rosehill, and as is so often the case with Victorian horses making their first appearance at the suburban course, managed to find plenty of trouble. Several horses suffered in a scrimmage at the start and Avenger was the worst sufferer when crowded onto the inside running rail. After being last on the home turn he unwound a great finish to run second to the previous year's Derby hero, Talking.

It was Baillieu who was really responsible, for it was he that had imported Medmenham, the dam of Ajax, into Australia. She only raced here during her four-year-old season but won twice in nine starts, including a narrow victory in the Brunswick Stakes (10f) at Flemington. I might mention that while 'Prince' Baillieu never maintained a separate stud farm, this Melbourne stockbroker and scion of one of Melbourne's establishment families, was far more responsible for improving the quality of Australian bloodstock than many who did. Medmenham was just one of many of his successful imports.

AJAX

THE MOMENT THE AJC DERBY WAS WON BY 'AVENGER" (Sydney Mail)

LADY WAKEHURST AND AVENGER AT THE PRESENTATION (Sydney Mail)

Despite the success of a Derby with Avenger and a Caulfield Guineas and other good races with Young Idea, Percy Miller, for all his genius as a horse breeder, was never really fortunate as a horse owner. He raced some useful gallopers such as Broadcaster and Flying Duke but somehow, they never quite lived up to their early promise. Perhaps the best horse to carry his colours was the wonderful filly, Sweet Chime, who swept the board of fillies' classics in Melbourne in the spring of 1946. There was one other horse that might have developed into something special, however, – and that was Rob Roy, the half-brother to Homer that raced in Talking's Derby. He later won the Members' Handicap at that A.J.C. Spring Meeting by six lengths pulling up at only his second start in Miller's colours and was strongly fancied for the Melbourne Cup that year only to break a leg in a Caulfield gallop before the race, and was subsequently destroyed. To the end of his days, Miller maintained that he was the most promising stayer that he had ever had the good fortune to own.

Percy Miller died at the age of 68 after a long illness in August 1948 at his Dudley St, Coogee home, survived by his wife, and his only child, Marjorie. At the time of his death, *Kia Ora* remained Australia's pre-eminent stud as the quality of the stallions standing there at the time attest – Midstream, Le Grand Duc, Channel Swell and Delville Wood. Although in its prime, *Kia Ora* had been extended from its original 1800 to almost 3000 acres, the march of progress had served to reduce it over the years, not least with the construction of Glenbawn Dam, and at Miller's death, the stud totalled a little more than 2,400 acres. Likewise, its broodmare numbers had declined from the halcyon days when two hundred or more matrons roamed the paddocks to about half that number. During Percy Miller's lifetime, the stud had been responsible for breeding such champions as Windbag, Amounis, Murray Stream, All Love, Feminist, Loquacious, Chatham, Winooka and Shannon from its own mares, not to mention the greats such as Peter Pan that came from visiting broodmares.

Miller lived long enough to see another of his stallions in Midstream, succeed to the title first won for *Kia Ora* by Magpie, that of Australian Champion Sire. Loyal and generous, and a man of absolute integrity, from his very first tentative offering as a vendor in 1916, Percy never sold his yearlings outside the Sydney region, and he retained his original selling agents, *William Inglis and Son*, to the very end of his days.

His friendship with the Inglis family was such that he bequeathed his racing colours to John Inglis and for years after Miller's death the livery continued to be successful on Sydney racecourses.   I shall leave the story of *Kia Ora's* sad decline to a later chapter of this chronicle, but it is fair to say that the seeds of destruction were sown with Percy's death. Even during his lifetime, the inevitable squabbles and petty jealousies that so often mar and fracture family companies had threatened the stud's viability. But a legal instrument that resided control of the enterprise in Percy's hands had at least contained such discontent while he lived. His death released the demons to wreak their havoc.
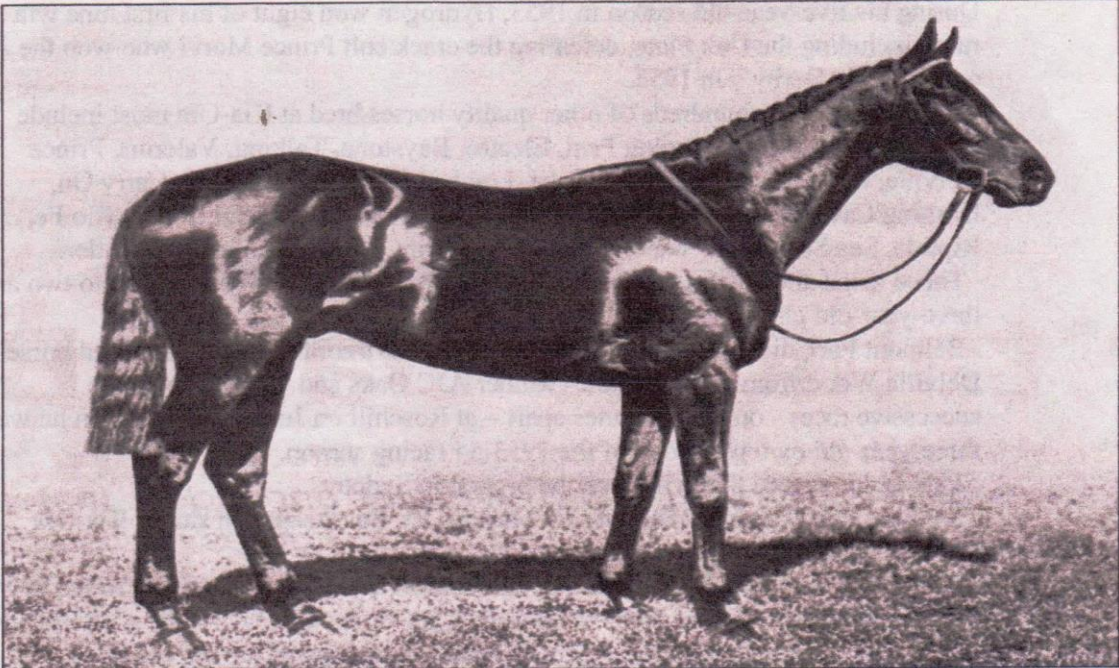
MAGPIE (Dark Ronald-Popinjay by St Frusquin) was the all-time favourite of both Miller and Bert Riddle. Miller called his residence "Canara" which is an aboriginal-sounding word for blackbird or magpie. As a broodmare sire he was peerless.

Shannon

Almost more than any other horse in the 20th century 'Shannon' epitomises the very best of folk lore in both thoroughbred breeding and racing in the Upper Hunter Valley. He captured all the elements of hardship, perseverance, application, dedication, romance, rich drama, emotion, high theatre and human endeavour in his truly remarkable career. Percy Miller, Bert Riddle, Peter Riddle and Barney O'Brien became household names. Later added to the list were W. J. 'Knockout' Smith with further loathing and lustre to Darby Munro.

Shannon was foaled at Kia Ora Stud in the New South Wales Hunter Valley in the spring of 1941. His sire Midstream was a son of Blandford, and his dam Idle Words was by the champion stallion Magpie. Their union was then unremarkable. The Blandford line was new to Australian breeding, and Shannon was dropped from only the second crop of Midstream progeny. Although plain and small he proved far from unremarkable. In five seasons of Sydney racing Shannon was peerless.

He won the Epsom Handicap, King's Cup and George Main Stakes (twice); sometimes a length in hand, sometimes six. He defeated horses such as Flight and Tea Rose in an era marked by heroes including Bernborough, and he was quick. Crazy quick. Shannon's unofficial time in the 1946 Epsom mile (1:32.5) still stands at Randwick, as does a seven-furlong record at Rosehill. By the time he came up for sale in 1947, he was a rising 7-year-old but remarkably preserved. He had raced only 25 times.

Shannon's sale to the U.S. followed a trend of Australian bloodstock steaming its way to American farms at that time. Beau Pere, Ajax, and Bernborough had all found stud careers in America. Shannon was to tread new territory. He wasn't sold to stud; he was sold to race He became the first Australian Thoroughbred to infiltrate the highest levels of American horse racing.

Taking quite some time to find his best form and after much archaic and bureaucratic drama the 'Bullet from Down Under' found his true metier. In rapid succession in 1948 he won the Argonaut, Hollywood Gold Cup, Forty-Niners, Golden Gate, and San Francisco handicaps. Shannon broke long established records for nine and ten furlong races in the process

He was syndicated and sent to Spendthrift Farm owned by the leviathan Leslie Combs II. Although well patronized by his syndicate of owners Shannon's stud record did not reflect his racing record. He was a far better racehorse than stallion. He produced 132 foals of racing age. One hundred and nineteen made it to the racetrack of which 100 were winners. Shannon produced only six stakes winners before he died in 1955.

Shannon at Spendthrift Farm, Keeneland Meadows, Lexington KY in 1951

Segenhoe Stud

http://www.segenhoestud.com.au/about-us/our-history-experience.html

The farm has access to over 1,300 megalitres of water annually, leaving the property lush and fertile. The stud recently expanded, doubling in size with the acquisition of five new properties and the development of a state-of-the-art, 200-acre spelling and rehabilitation complex known as the Segenhoe Spelling Complex. Segenhoe Stud's facilities and quality staff enable us to manage and care for our thoroughbred assets from birth through their racing careers and then on to the breeding phase of their lives. Under the ownership of the Maloney family, we are continually developing a high-quality band of young stakes-winning Australian and international broodmares including Hurtle Myrtle, Sister Madly, Mimi Lebrock, Set For Fame, Buckleupbuttercup (USA), My Chicharita (NZ), Deer Valley, Swiss Rose (NZ) and Radharcnafarraige (IRE). Segenhoe Stud offers permanent and seasonal agistment facilities as well as sales consignment preparation. We understand our clients have a lot riding on their assets and with Segenhoe Stud's experienced staff, we ensure every thoroughbred receives the highest level of care and attention to reach their full potential.

Segenhoe History

Thomas Potter Macqueen brought the Segenhoe name from Bedfordshire to the Hunter Valley in 1824. He was born at Segenhoe Manor, and as a British Member of Parliament he was entitled to apply for a land grant in the colony of New South Wales. Moreover, he wanted to transport as many people as possible from his estates to the new colony to alleviate high unemployment in England. Macqueen eventually acquired 8,100 hectares and labelled the area as the Segenhoe Valley. He then hired a manager, purchased a ship, gathered together people, livestock, building materials and supplies and sent them off to Australia.

Within five years Segenhoe was up and running and the property boasted a community post office, hospital, police station, jail, homestead, church and schoolhouse. It also housed one of the largest contingents of convicts in New South Wales. However, Potter Macqueen got into financial difficulty and the property languished for many years before it was finally subdivided and sold off. The homestead and outbuildings became part of a 1,010 hectare holding, and retained the Segenhoe name. William Brown established thoroughbred stud operations at Segenhoe in 1913, but it was the racing personality Alan Cooper who really put Segenhoe on the map when he took over in 1931. He paid a record price for a 3YO Victoria Derby winner and was determined to establish a quality horse farm.

When he sold the property in 1938 to Lionel Israel, the ragged history of the farm disappeared, and from then on Segenhoe would forever be recognised as a quality horse and cattle stud. Lionel ran the farm solidly for 48 years, and during his ownership was associated with such famous horses as Star Kingdom, Biscay, Turf Ruler and Kaoru Star. The property, resident stallions, broodmares and their progeny were all sold in 1986 to Sydney property developers Tony Bott and George Parbury. Four years later, the ownership changed again, and a varied group of people took up percentage holdings in the Segenhoe property including Michael Sissian, who ended up owning the property outright before he in turn sold it to an American, George Hofmeister. Sissian then purchased the current Segenhoe farm (taking the Segenhoe name with him), and continued operating independently under the famous Segenhoe label. In 2010 Kevin Maloney and the Maloney family bought the Segenhoe Stud and transformed the farm by doubling it in size and investing millions of dollars to make it the world-class stud it is today.

Holbrook Stud

http://thoroughbrednews.com.au/australia/archive.aspx?id=28570&page=78&keyword=

An association by the Harris family with much of the country at the south western end of the Widden Valley offshoot of the Hunter Valley which commenced over 150 years ago ended in March 2007 with the completion of the sale of their property named Holbrook Stud by Trevor and Elizabeth Alley. Elizabeth is a daughter of John Harris, one of the three sons of Bill Harris, himself a grandson of the original settler in the middle of the 18th century.

The other brothers are Richard Harris, former secretary of the Muswellbrook race club, and Alan, the owner with wife Madge and daughter Julie of a prominent agistment and yearling preparation farm along the Pages River between Scone and Gundy in the Hunter valley. The Harris family sold the bulk of the Holbrook Stud, one bisected by the Widden brook and stretching back to the mountains, late in the 1990s. This left the Alleys with the holding they traded on under the banner of Holbrook Stud on the northern side of the creek and portion of the former neighbouring Oakleigh Stud. This farm has now been secured by the Paynters, the buyers earlier of the Holbrook homestead block, one on which they grow cattle.

The Harris family bred hundreds of good horses over the years on Holbrook for themselves or clients including Easingwold (after winning the Western Australian Derby and St Leger appeared in the first two runnings of the Cox Plate at Moonee Valley, following a second in 1922 with a win the following year), Even Better (three Group1s in Sydney at four, the All-Aged Stakes, Epsom Handicap, Rawson Stakes), Castanea (12 wins included STC Rosehill Guineas-Gr.1, QTC Stradbroke Handicap-Gr.1), Persian Lyric (four Group1 wins at three, AJC Derby, QTC Queensland Derby, Stradbroke Handicap, STC Canterbury Guineas), Jane Hero (AJC Oaks-Gr.1), Lord Dudley (VRC Sires' Produce Stakes-Gr.1, Australian Cup-Gr.1, MRC Blue Diamond Stakes-Gr.1, Poetic King (MRC VicHealth Cup-Gr.1, Toorak Handicap-Gr.1, MVRC Manikato Stakes-Gr.1) and Prince Darius (Sydney Tattersall's Chelmsford Stakes-Gr.2 twice, Tattersall's Gold Cup; second at three in the Melbourne Cup and to Tulloch in the AJC and VRC Derbys), to mention a few.

Even Better, Castanea, Persian Lyric, Jane Hero and Prince Darius were all by the most successful of the many sires used at Holbrook, Persian Book, an England bred son of Pherozshah, a close relation to Nasrullah and Royal Charger who won two races at Newmarket in a six start career. His son Persian Lyric also stood at Holbrook and, although he died in mid age, supplied more good horses out of their paddocks including Regal Jane (successful at Randwick in the AJC Queen's Cup, Summer Cup and Tattersall's Cup).

Sledmere Stud   http://www.sledmerestud.com.au/

POSEIDON (10). Bay Horse, 1903, by Positano (imp.)—Jacinth. Winner of £19,946, including V.R.C. Melbourne Cup, Caulfield Cup, A.J.C. and V.R.C. Derbies, etc. Sire of Telecles, Greg, Old Mungindi, etc. Owned by Mr. H. R. Denison, N.S.W.

Mr Hugh Denison owned Sledmere Stud in the early 1900s

Sledmere Stud is situated just three hours from Sydney in the picturesque Hunter Valley, in prime thoroughbred country at Scone. Close to all the major thoroughbred studs, Sledmere Stud is renowned for its long and illustrious history as a nursery for thoroughbred horses. The purpose built property comprises 700 prime acres of undulating paddocks, all pasture improved and irrigated, with the majority being post and rail fencing.

Purchasing Sledmere Stud in 1977, the farm has been home to a long string of successful horses under the expert guidance of Ann Raymond. Interestingly Ann's father, thoroughbred industry icon Guy Raymond, co-founded Sledmere Stud just after the First World War, before moving to Victoria to establish St Albans Stud at Geelong.

Ann herself would eventually manage the leading Victorian stud for her father, and over the years they were very successful with horses like Great Britain (1942 VRC Derby and Caulfield Guineas), Red Fury (Caulfield Cup), champion racemare Tranquil Star (20 stakes-wins from 1941 to 1946 including Cox Plate twice, Caulfield Cup and the Mackinnon Stakes three times) and 1948 Melbourne Cup winner Rimfire.

A lifetime member of the NSW Thoroughbred Breeders Association, Ann has bred many winners including Queensland Derby and VRC Queen Elizabeth Stakes winner Valance and multiple Gr2-winner Gold Brose (sire of 14 stakes-winners).

Keeping it in the family, Cryptic Verse (purchased by Ann in foal to Gold Brose) would establish herself as a foundation mare for the farm, with all eight of her foals being winners, including Dyslexia, Bewilder, Cryptique and Lyrics. Ann retained all the fillies, and Lyrics has continued the family's success with all seven of her foals' winners too, including recent Inglis Nursery winning Testa Rossa filly, Pane In The Glass.

Other successful horses bred by Ann include the stakes-placed gelding Glenrowan, and the Guy Walter-trained Gr3-winning mare Star Alight, who also ran third in the Gr1 AJC Oaks.

Entering a new era, Ann's neice Catriona Murphy is the next generation of the family to take up the reins at Sledmere Stud. Catriona has been in the business of thoroughbreds her whole life. Her parents are both very successful breeders, while her brother runsÂ Cangon Stud Farm, while her husband Royston managed leading Hunter Valley farm Segenhoe Stud before joing Catriona at Sledmere Stud.

Catriona graduated from Marcus Oldham College, before spending four years at Widden Stud under the guidance of David Merrick. During this period Catriona gained her Equine Nursing qualifications, before heading overseas on a scholarship with the prestigious Kentucky-based Hagyard-Davison-McGee Equine Medical Institute, to work in their intensive care facility. Upon her return from Kentucky, Catriona spent three years with Darley, as part of the stallion nominations team, before her move to Sledmere Stud.

Catriona's experience and long association with thoroughbreds, lends itself to a world of expertise and knowledge. Sledmere's clients can be assured that their investments receive the utmost care and attention, in order to fulfil their potential.

The stud is just five kilometres from Scone Veterinary's intensive care foaling unit, and is close to Scone racecourse and the airport.

Facilities include:

- Post and rail fencing
- Shelters in paddocks & yards
- 25 boxes
- 8 horse walker
- Brand new crush and vet facility
- 24-hour vet
- Broodmare barn with heated floors & air-conditioned box

Upper Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Society

OBJECTS AND AIMS OF THE UHTBS

A meeting convened in Scone on 31st November 1951 led to the formation of the Upper Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Society. Inaugural President George Christmas (Oak Range) stated: *"The condensation of what I have had to say resolves itself into two main headings"*:

1	There exists a pressing need for the promotion and advancement of the thoroughbred breeding industry in this district.

2	The need for the means by which this promotion and advancement may be achieved.

"Therefore, I submit, in conclusion, that we have a case for the formation of a local Thoroughbred Breeders' Society, having for its goal some of the following aims and objects":

1	Foster and achieve the promotion and advancement of thoroughbred breeding in the district.

2	Provide for the establishment of a Breeders Club.

3	Provide for the implementation and maintenance of a worthwhile local advertising set-up.

4	Create for the convenience of visitors and travelers, a central office, where information and inspection appointments may be handled.

5	Foster and improve thoroughbred sales in the district.

6	Encouragement of racing and training facilities

7	Fix a standard scale of charges for agistment, hand feeding, etc.

8	Discuss labour problems

9	Promote stud managers and grooms' education and refresher courses.

10	Arrange entertainment, where necessary, and more particularly for the annual May Cup meeting visitors, who are interested in the breeding and racing of horses.

11	To foster and maintain a suitable veterinary service in the district.

12	Improve local transport facilities

13	Prepare, if necessary, and maintain a list of owners of mares, who are debtors to studs in the district, in regard to stud and agistment fees.

Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders Association http://www.htba.com.au/#!organisation/cwny

The major sponsor for the Scone Race Club Cup Carnival was for the first time in 1996 the Hunter Valley Bloodhorse Breeders Association (HVBBA) with the $40,000 HVBHBA Scone Cup (1300m) and the $50,000 HVBHBA Dark Jewel Quality Handicap (1400m) for fillies and mares on Friday 17th May 1996. This summary was written by the author at the request of Scone Race Club.

"The incumbent committee is to be warmly and sincerely congratulated on this magnificent initiative to promote their local industry. It begs the question of the origin, incentives and objectives of the organization.

Research revealed that a meeting convened in Scone on 31st November 1951 led to the formation of the Upper Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Society. Present at that meeting were G.A. Christmas (Oak Range), L.R. Morgan (Redbank), A.H. Young, Scott Johnston (Tyrone), R.M. and J. Bowcock (Alabama), A.W. ('Bert') Riddle (Kia Ora), Cliff Duncombe (Kingsfield), W.M. Bate, R.A. Basche, and Noel Hall (Cressfield). Apologies were received from F.W. Thompson (Widden), L.B. Israel (Segenhoe) and J.W. Johnston (Tyrone). The stated objectives of this embryonic society were to promote the thoroughbred racing industry in the Upper Hunter. Presumably, this association did not have a long lifespan as it appears to have fallen into liquidation within the decade. This may well have been attributable to the (also) recent formation of the Bloodhorse Breeders Association of Australia (NSW Division) some of whose major protagonists were common to both committees.

The next significant and energetic drive to galvanise the industry and achieve consensus was achieved by Murray Bain and John Kelso who combined to convene a series of meetings designed to discuss mutual problems based on scientific, veterinary and management presentations. The first of these seminars was held at the Scone Bowling Club in July 1968. Out of this, sprang the Murray Bain led crusade which culminated in the construction of the first set of yearling boxes on White Park. This was financially backed by William Inglis and Sons and Pitt Son and Keene as well as local Stud Masters and Veterinarians. Gough Whitlam's 'RED' Scheme was to further augment this construction between 1972 and 1975. Later, Peter Morris (Derby-King Ranch) and Bill Howey formed the 'F2 Club' with a similar legacy to promote regular meetings of thoroughbred breeders at the beginning and end of each breeding season and to meet socially. (F2 = 'First and Final' Service Club).

By the mid-1970's a ground swell of opinion began to emerge, partially orchestrated from what was to become a familiar source, that the philosophy of this type of seminar should be expanded to include a far wider range of topics for discussion and decision by regular like-minded gatherings. It was left to Peter Hodgson (Chamorel Park Stud, Upper Rouchel) and Jack Sheppard (Gyarran Stud) to systematically drive the genesis of what was to become The Bloodhorse Breeders Association of Australia, New South Wales Division, Hunter Valley Branch (HVBHBA). Peter and Jack constituted a formidable duo combining 'new age' acumen and vision with traditional knowledge and values

A series of well-attended and enthusiastic meetings were subsequently convened in Scone and in mid-1978 the Rules of The Bloodhorse Breeders' Association of Australia, New South Wales Division, Hunter Valley Branch were formally adopted.

Rule 3 states:

The objects (sic) for which the Branch is formed are:

(a). To promote and advance the interest of the Breeders of the Bloodhorse in the Hunter Valley district.

(b). To regulate or assist in regulating the days of sale, order of sale and procedure in connection with the Hunter Valley Branch Yearling Sale or Hunter Valley Branch Sales.

(c). To co-operate with and assist all other divisions and Branches of the Bloodhorse Breeders' Association of Australia.

The inaugural committee elected in Scone to implement these objectives included the following: Peter Hodgson (Chamorel Park), Jack Sheppard (Gyarran), John Harris (Holbrook), 'Bim' Thompson (Widden), John Kelso (Timor Creek), James Mitchell (Yarraman Park), David Bath (Bhima), David Casben (Yarramalong), Peter Morris (Woodlands D-KR), Hilton Cope (Kelvinside), Betty Shepherd (Trevors), John Clift (Kia Ora), Ray Gooley and Bill Howey (Veterinarians). Their success or failure may be judged against today's values.

Amongst many of the early deliberations were the promotion of racing at Muswellbrook, sales at Scone, co-operative buying groups for goods and services and a 'black list' of bad debtors! The legal profession under current legislation might have discovered fertile territory had some of these come to fruition?

Perhaps the major early significant achievement was the promotion of the First Annual Yearling Sale, White Park Racecourse, on Sunday 4th March 1979 at which 204 lots were catalogued. There was a barbeque and parade of yearlings at 6.30 pm on Saturday 3rd March 1979. This followed the Denman Race Club Meeting at Skellatar Park, which was sponsored by the HVBHBA with the Upper Hunter Breeders Improvers Handicap (Fillies and Mares), 1200m., $1000 prize money with a Winners' Trophy of $200 and Breeders Trophy of $100! Woodlands Stud, Balfour Stud and Yarraman Park Stud were also major sponsors on the day.

The sale was officially opened by media personality Mike Willesee who purchased his first yearling, Lot 115, the Chestnut Colt by Coolness ex. Liquid Fire consigned by the Holbrook Partnership, Widden Valley. The liquor licensing laws of the period demanded that on Sunday, alcoholic beverages and refreshment could only be provided by 'committee' from the minute bar at the Scone Race Club. There were some very interesting accounts and 'shouts' from that arrangement which the combined tyrannies of time and distance fortuitously prevent accurate recall and/or redress!

It was measure of the calibre of the man that 'Bim' Thompson voluntarily elected to vacate some of his 'choice' boxes on course to accommodate well-presented yearlings consigned by Sledmere Stud who had been allocated the less favourable tie-up stalls. Would this be likely to happen today?

The social highlight of the year for the HVBHBA had undoubtedly been the Annual Dinner and Presentation of Awards during the Scone Horse Festival in May. Unique accolades are the 'Murray Bain Service to Industry Award' and the President's Award for Industry Achievement. In the spirit of the 'F2 Club', very successful Christmas Parties have also been held! Occasionally, as needs arise, very important industry collaboration has taken place whenever new disease or other threats appear. Paramount among these was the gathering of 400+ at Scone Bowling Club in July 1977 when the 'twin disasters' of 'Jubilee Clap' (CEM) and Viral Abortion were anticipated and repelled.

Perhaps the most significant of all 'new beginnings' to emerge from the original HVBHBA conceptus has been the nascence of the Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation (HVERF) in the mid 1980's. This was the brain child of the author and Brian Agnew of Wakefield Stud and as history has displayed, has been the underpinning organization in the startling, impressive and holistic development of the Hunter Valley Equine Centre at Satur. The HVBHBA has followed a circuitous path to arrive at today's crossroads and is a rather different organization than that originally envisaged and constituted. However, it has been constant in promoting races even since its inception, and surely the scale and magnitude of the promotion of the Scone Cup Meeting 1996 and the quality of the catalogue for the HVBHBA Yearling Sale, Sunday May 1996 represent the culmination of effort and pinnacle of achievement to date"?

Hunter Valley Equine Research Centre

Murray Bain Service to Industry Award

The Hunter Valley Blood Horse Breeders Association [HVBBA] as it was then known instituted the 'Murray Bain Service to Industry Award' in 1985 at my suggestion and request. This was the beginning of the Brian Agnew era. Darcy Walden was the first recipient in 1985. This was a most memorable occasion at the Scone Bowling Club. Babe Singleton was next in 1986. The major premise was that Murray was a great exponent of the 'working stud groom' and championed their cause. He always impressed on me that: "given the choice of a good stud groom and a good stud vet you take the good stud groom every time"! That put me firmly in my place! Many of his close friends subsequently received the award including Ron Jeffries, Cliff Ellis, George Bowman and Jim Gibson. I think Murray would have approved!

The back ground of the **Perpetual Trophy** relates to the letter from Mace to me and my subsequent response. Channel 10 had used Murray's old original 16mm film 'The Veterinarian on the Stud Farm' [c. 1964/1965] for footage to make the Star Kingdom Video. They offered the munificent sum of $500:00 as payment of royalties to Mace! We had just formed the Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation [HVERF] and Mace suggested the money be invested there. I made a 'unilateral executive decision' to put it into something more tangible and telephoned Mace [13/10/88] to request a 'perpetual trophy in honour of Murray'. She agreed. A copy of the original letter from Mace to me is included below with my 'annotations' relating to debate on the 'fate' or ultimate destiny of the $500:00.

I purchased the trophy for c. $760:00 and 'made up the differenced myself'. This is the trophy presented each year at the Annual Dinner. The underlying and deeply entrenched principle is the award should be made to a "richly deserving person actively working with 'hands on' in the industry" and not at a safe distance. The Presidents' Award was instituted for other purposes in 1990.

Winners of the Murray Bain Service to Industry Award

1985	Darcy Walden	1994	Reub Cochrane
1986	Babe Singleton	1995	Jack Johnston
1987	Cliff Ellis	1996	John Flaherty
1988	Ron Jeffries	1997	Shona Murphy
1989	Jim Gibson	1998	Billy Neville
1990	Alec Herbert	1999	John Vincent
1991	John Morgan	2000	Angus Campbell
1992	George Bowman	2001	Senga Bissett
1993	Syd Anderson	2002	

120 St. James Road
Bondi Junction
Sydney N.S.W. 2022
Tel: 389 0102

St. Aubins Arms
245 Kelly Street
Scone, N.S.W. 2337
Tel: 45 1040

22 September 1988

The Hunter Valley Equine Research Foundation,
c/o Mr. Bill Howey,
P. O. Box 280 Scone.

Dear Bill,

Further to our telephone conversation , I
enclose a cheque from the producers of the
Star Kingdom Dynasty film which is in
payment for Royalty fees for the use of
footage from the film "The Veterinary
Surgeon on the Stud Farm" which as you know,
was produced by Murray.

I requested that these royalties be paid to
the H.V. Equine Research Foundation as a
donation from the family of the Estate of
the late Murray Bain.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Mace

M.J.Bain

PS The film I think is being shown on
Channel 10 around 1pm on the 16 Oct.
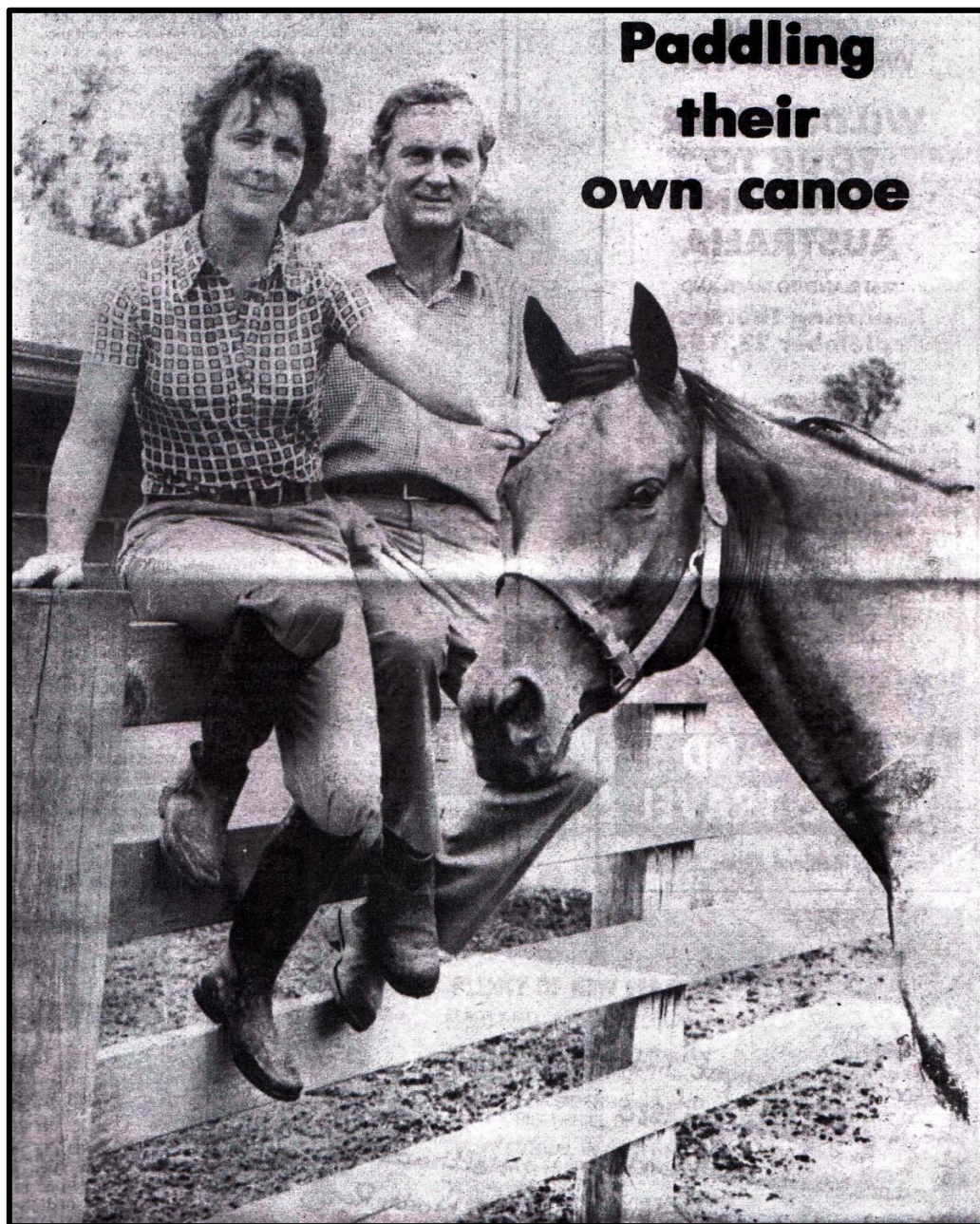
TELEPHONE 13-10-88

REQUEST TROPHY "MURRAY BAIN
SERVICE TO INDUSTRY AWARD"

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: P.O. BOX 822 BONDI JUNCTION N.S.W. 2022

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Bold Scone Venture

Featured Image: Robyn and Peter Hodgson with a favourite mare at their 'Chamorel Park Stud', Synone, Upper Rouchel, Aberdeen in January 1978

The following article appeared in the *Hunter Manning Magazine, Issue No 40; Fortnight beginning February 6, 1978.* It's essentially about the formation of the then nascent Hunter Valley Blood Horse Breeders Association. One of the main drivers was Peter Hodgson. Peter was a 'new chum' in the industry coming off a very successful business career in Sydney in the Electrical Engineering industry. He was a genuine 'new broom', highly literate and bringing a very fresh approach with novel ideas.

'Paddling their own canoe'

Peter Hodgson is convinced that unless breeders "get off their tails and do something" the Upper Hunter Town of Scone is going to lose its tag of as a traditional horse breeding centre.

"It'll slip through our fingers," he says, fingering the folder of documents he has accumulated on the subject.

And it appears that the breeders agree with him.

Spearheaded by Peter, and operating under the title of the Hunter Valley branch of the Blood Horse Breeders Association of Australia, they've planned a bold attack on the over-productive industry. "Bold" because it's never been done before.

The breeders want to establish Scone as a national thoroughbred selling centre. Their first step in this direction – a quality yearling sale – is presently planned for next February (1979).

They have invited Mr John Inglis, head of William Inglis & Son, the biggest bloodstock auctioneers in NSW, to conduct the sale. It obviously augurs well for the future if he accepts but according to Peter Hodgson, a refusal will not be considered a setback.

The decision to form the new Hunter Valley Branch was made unanimously at a Scone meeting last October (1977) attended by about 54. The branch covers the established horse breeding territory from Maitland to Murrurundi and has 85 "interested breeders." These 85 said Peter represent the majority of breeders in the area and includes all the major breeders.

According to Peter, the aim of forming the branch was to give the breeders more say in the running of their industry. Its aims are to promote the Hunter Valley thoroughbred, to provide services for breeders and primarily, to promote regular yearling sales in the area.

He does not see the planned Scone sale as replacing the major Sydney sale but as "probably reducing the quantity of yearlings sold in Sydney.

Quality, eh says, will be the key word to its success. "If we can provide quality we will have a successful sale and attract people from far and wide.

"To date none of the sales held out of Sydney have attracted quality. The breeders themselves are running this sale and it is in their interest to provide quality".

In theory, the case for a successful quality Scone sale is strong. About 60 per cent of the yearlings sold in NSW each year, said Peter, re bred in and around the Hunter. At present it costs and average of $600 to sell a yearling in Sydney whereas the new Hunter Valley body says it can put on a quality Scone sale at a cost of $150 a yearling.

Ar present "decent pedigreed" yearlings bring big money but from there the drop is dramatic. "o the 563 yearlings catalogued at the last couple of weeks of summer sales, less than 10 per cent were top sales of $10,000 and more.

"of the 563, 153 that made reserve figures such as $800 and $1000 were passed in. These people not only had the expense of taking the yearlings to Sydney to sell them, but they didn't sell them.

"Of the 400 sold, I would say half the prices were not acceptable to the breeder. The service fee of a reasonable stallion is $1000 and $1500."

Quality dictated sales will solve the problem at present plaguing thouroughbred breeding in Australia – too many broodmares. The past six years, which saw the boom period, also saw an increase of 12,000 to 24,000 brood mares in Australia.

This figure compares with 300 brood mares in Ireland, 6000 each in England and between 30,000 and 33,000 in the USA.

According to Peter, Australia would be the only country in the world where thoroughbred yearlings are sold in the capital centres. "In Australia, for some reason, we cart them to the capital cities and incur all these costs," he said' adding: "It will get to the stage where people will not be able to afford to send yearlings to Sydney unless the yearling is designed to bring more than $10,000."

He asked why Scone could not attract buyers. The branch intends soliciting race course associations and trainers and promoting the sale on a large scale. "If we can put out a catalogue we will attract buyers, no doubt about that," he said. One thing Peter is assured of is that people who attend the sale will be interested. "In Sydney half the people there are spectators," he said.

On present plans, the association plans to hold the sale over a week end in February. It will parade the yearlings on the Saturday morning; hold a race meeting in Scone for visitors on Saturday afternoon; start the sale probably with 75 lots on Saturday evening; another parade of yearlings on Sunday morning; and a sale of the balance of the yearlings on the Sunday afternoon. Visitors will be able to see the studs where the yearlings are standing prior to going to sale.

A major airline is considering sponsoring the sale in South-East Asia. "The airline has good connections in the breeding and racing industry in this area and it feels it can attract a tour to the sale," said Peter. "They even intimated they will provide travel to South-East Asia for one of our members to promote the sale," he added.

Another project the branch is backing at present – and which has received good State and Federal Government response – is the establishment of an equine research centre, as a Department of Sydney University Faculty of Veterinary Science, in the Hunter. A site it is looking at is the AI centre at Aberdeen which is to be sold this month.

There is also bid afoot in Scone to establish and equestrian centre.

All these proposed developments lead Peter to believe Scone could be a big equestrian and selling centre in five years. The Hunter Valley branch of the Blood Horse Breeders Association would put any proceeds from its sale into supporting these ventures, he said.

All eyes, however, will centre on Scone next February when the branch members "paddle their own canoe" with their first sale.

Peter Hodgson's final say is: "Provided the breeders stand firm with their commitment to our local association, there is no way it won't be a roaring success."

Endnote:

Sadly Peter Hodgson passed away at far too early an age. He was a true visionary and a close friend. His optimism did not materialise into full fruition. I have been intimately involved myself; even today after over 50 years. Although much has be achieved I am a somewhat disappointed that *'the breeders did not stand firm with their commitment'* as Peter hoped and predicted. It's a pity to end on a mildly pejorative note. However there are some promising signs on the horizon; yet again! Stay tuned and remain positive!

Economic Importance of the Thoroughbred Breeding Industry in the Upper Hunter

Background

The Hunter Valley's Thoroughbred Breeding industry contributes over $5 billion annually to the national economy and $2.6 billion annually to the NSW economy. It supports over 50,000 jobs in NSW and over 230,000 jobs throughout Australia. It is one of three international centres of thoroughbred breeding excellence in the world – alongside Newmarket in the UK and Kentucky in the USA. It is Australia's largest producer and exporter of premium thoroughbreds. It is an iconic part of Australia's sporting history and an industry worth protecting. One in two racehorses born in Australia every year is/are born in the Hunter Valley. It is undoubtedly an industry of state and national significance. The Hunter Valley produces about half of all racehorses born in Australia by number and more than 90 per cent of the value of thoroughbred export earnings. This region is the epicentre of horse breeding, the nursery of Australian racing. About 7500 broodmares are covered by the region's 75 Australian and international stallions.

Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association

Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association is an organisation devoted to fostering and promoting the thoroughbred breeding industry in the Hunter Valley area of New South Wales.

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association represents stallion farms, broodmare farms, the largest equine hospital in the Southern Hemisphere and a sophisticated network of equine support industries all of whom are dependent on Australia's premier breeding industry.

Together we employ thousands of people across our region and contribute to the employment of hundreds of thousands of people across our value chain nationally – from feed merchants, saddlers and equine transport companies right through to the racing industry.

The Hunter Valley is the recognised horse capital of Australia. It is the second largest thoroughbred breeding region in the world second only to the State of Kentucky in the USA.

Boasting world class stallion rosters at a number of farms, with high class Australian horses bolstered by an annual influx of top level shuttle stallions from the UK, Ireland, Europe, USA and Japan each year, the Hunter has plenty to offer.

These stallions serve 40 per cent of Australia's broodmares each breeding season and their progeny dominate the Australian black type calendar every racing season.

Along with first class Australian-owned stallion farms such as Arrowfield, Kitchwin Hills, Lincoln Farm, Newgate Farm, Turangga, Widden and Yarraman Park, to name but a few, international operations such as Coolmore, Darley, Emirates Park and Vinery add great depth and quality to the line-up of stallions on offer.

Many of Australia's greatest broodmares reside on farms in the Hunter, such as: Shantha's Choice the dam of Redoute's Choice, Platinum Scissors and Manhattan Rain; Tracy's Element the dam of Typhoon Tracy and Red Element; Palia the dam of Onemorenomore; Procrastinate, the dam of Foreplay and Time Thief; Circles of Gold the dam of Elvstroem and Haradasun; Nancy Eleanor the dam of Golden Slipper winner Phelan Ready; Surrealist the dam of Racing To Win and Purrealist – the list goes on. And the quality endures.

There is a host of wonderful broodmare specialist farms in the region with names like Amarina, Ashleigh, Attunga Stud, Barador, Baramul, Bellerive, Broadwater Farm, Brooklyn Lodge, Cressfield, Crowningstone, Dalmore, Edinglassie, Flame Tree, Goanna Downs, Glastonbury Farms, Goodwood Park, Holbrook Thoroughbreds, Kanangra, Kia Ora Stud, Kirks Bridge Farm, Kulani Park, Liverpool Farm, Middlebrook Valley Lodge, Monarch Stud, Murulla Stud, Oak Range, Redman Park, Riversdale, Rothwell Park, Sefton Park, Segenhoe Stud, Sledmere, St Aubins, Timor Creek, Trevannah, Wakefield and Willow Park.

Stallions, mares, farms, people are the underpinning strength of thoroughbred breeding in the Hunter.

Our Board reflects our commitment to the preservation and promotion of the thoroughbred industry. It comprises representatives from some of Australia's most influential and historic thoroughbred breeding farms including Arrowfield, Coolmore, Cressfield, Crowning Stone, Darley, Emirates Park, Eire Bloodstock, Riversdale Farm, Vinery, Widden, Yarraman Park and the Scone Equine Hospital.

Our Commitment

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association is committed to upholding over 150 years of breeding history by fostering and promoting the thoroughbred breeding industry in the Hunter Valley.

We are committed to improving awareness of the value and importance of our industry domestically and globally and to retaining our position as one of the most influential and respected premier breeding regions in the world.

The Hunter Thoroughbred Breeding Industry is:

- One of three international centres of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence in the world (alongside Kentucky in the USA and Newmarket in the UK);
- Australia's largest producer, supplier and exporter of premium thoroughbreds;
- The second largest concentration of thoroughbred breeding studs in the world (second only to Kentucky in the USA);
- Home to the most influential domestic and international breeding investors and to a sophisticated network of equine support industries (including the Southern Hemisphere's largest equine hospital).

The Hunter Valley is Australia's Horse Capital and we are committed to working with our community and with Governments at al levels to foster the industry's preservation, promotion and prosperity.

Our Challenge

The Hunter Valley's historically significant thoroughbred breeding region is now under threat.

Increasing levels of mining exploration and activity are threatening the future viability of our industry, the health and future of our employees, our livestock, our communities and our environment.

We are seriously concerned about the increasing encroachment of coal and coal seam gas mining and the cumulative impact these industries will have on our water quality, our land management, our air quality and the health of our people and our livestock.

Unchecked these factors will significantly impact on the future viability of our industry, our employees, our bloodstock, our international reputation and the future of our communities.

Governments and industry alike have a responsibility to provide a sustainable future for our region and to protect our environment for future generations.

This means finding a responsible and sustainable balance between the ever increasing and competing demands for our lands and our natural resources.

The Hunter Valley

The Hunter Valley is internationally renowned as Australia's horse breeding capital.

It is:

- Home to Australia's multi-billion dollar thoroughbred breeding industry;
- One of three International Centres of Thoroughbred Breeding Excellence (alongside Kentucky in the USA and Newmarket in the UK);
- The largest domestic producer, supplier and exporter of premier quality thoroughbreds;
- The second largest concentration of Thoroughbred studs in the world (second only to Kentucky USA);
- Home to the world's leading Thoroughbred breeders;
- A significant regional, state and national employer – employing thousands of people directly in the region and contributing to the employment of hundreds of thousands of people across its national value chain;
- Home to Australia's most sophisticated and concentrated network of equine support industries – including the Scone Equine Hospital, the largest equine hospital in the Southern Hemisphere.

"The Hunter region is a powerhouse of thoroughbred breeding"

Michael Ford, Keeper of the Australian Stud Book.

The Hunter Valley is world recognised as a champion breeding ground. Hunter bred thoroughbreds dominated the 2011 world racing rankings. 33 of the 53 Australian bred horses that made the world rankings list were from the Hunter Valley. Among these eleven came from Darley, seven from Coolmore, six from Arrowfield, four from Vinery, three from Yarraman Park and two from Widden.

Three Australian horses topped their categories in the International Federation of Horse Authorities 2011 assessment – two of them Sepoy and Atlantic Jewel were bred in the Hunter Valley.

In 2011 the Hunter produced 63 per cent of the world's top Australian racehorses ranked by the federation.

Our History & Heritage

Horse racing is part of Australia's heritage and history. It is one of our oldest sports – dating back to 1810 when the first official thoroughbred race meeting was staged by Governor Macquarie in Hyde Park, Sydney.

Since that time Australian bred and raised stallions and broodmares have been among the finest in the world – including Phar Lap, Kingston Town, Tulloch, and Makybe Diva just to name a few.

The Hunter Valley has a proud heritage spanning more than 150 years of thoroughbred breeding. This is exemplified by the Widden Stud – one of the oldest family owned studs in the world with a proud tradition of passing the art of breeding commercial thoroughbreds and champion racehorses seamlessly from father to son. Antony Thompson represents the seventh generation of breeders and hopes his son Sam will continue the family tradition.

The Hunter Valley breeds around half of all thoroughbred horses born in Australia and is internationally recognised as a major source of international Group 1 winners – the equine equivalent to Olympic Gold medal winners.

Breeding, training and racing internationally recognised thoroughbreds is a tradition that we want to continue in our prized Hunter Valley.

The Economics

In 2006 Australia's thoroughbred breeding and racing industry's economic contribution was assessed at:

- $5billion in value added to the national economy with regional areas responsible for generating more than $2.2 billion);
- over $1.1 billion in state and federal taxes;
- investment of over $1.1 billion annually by breeders, owners and trainers;
- exports of over $750 million to 24 countries around the world;
- More than 4,700 thoroughbred trainers play a vital role in the preparation of more than 40,000 race horses each year;
- More than 78,000 thoroughbred owners, 5,000 trainers and over 1,100 jockeys also play a pivotal role in the production, training and racing of Australia's thoroughbred horses.

The reputation of the Australian-bred horse grows exponentially each year. Australia's export markets include Ireland, Great Britain, Japan and the United States, in addition to traditional stronghold markets like New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Africa and Malaysia.

Over the past decade there has been a significant increase in the number of Australian thoroughbred horses exported to Hong Kong (an increase of 84%), Singapore (an increase of 180%) and Malaysia (an increase of 557%). In 2008/09 Australia exported 107 thoroughbred horses to South Africa.

In 2009, more Australian thoroughbred horses were exported than ever before. The export figure in 2009 stands at 2,650 with a value in excess of $100million - representing an increase of more than 50% on the 1,631 horses exported at the start of the decade.

In 2008/2009 the number of thoroughbred exports sired or bred in the Hunter Valley represented 67% of total Australian thoroughbred exports. In dollar terms the percentage of exports sourced from the Hunter Valley were significantly higher (as high as 80% or 90% of the total value of Australian thoroughbred exports) reflecting the fact that the Hunter Valley produces the majority of premium quality thoroughbred horses.

Australia is a respected and major supplier of Thoroughbred horses to Asia and is well positioned to respond to increasing interest and export opportunities from this region.

Local Communities & Jobs

The Hunter Valley breeders are an important part of the New South Wales economy and the fabric of our regional communities.

The Hunter Valley Breeders are significant employers – employing thousands of people in the region and supporting the employment of hundreds of thousands of people across the breeding and racing industry's national value chain.

The industry is a significant contributor to the regional economy with 85 per cent of all operating expenses sent within the Hunter Valley region.

The Hunter Valley thoroughbred breeders are significant investors in thoroughbred racing stock – over 75 per cent of thoroughbred breeders are owners of racehorses wither individually or as part of syndicates.

They contribute to over $1.2 billion in direct spending in New South Wales and help support over 1200 trainers, over 300 jockeys and apprentices and over 1,000 other employees.

Not Against Mining

Our campaign in the Hunter Valley is not against all coal mining.

It is about a responsible and sustainable future for our region that balances the interests of all stakeholders and values the contribution thoroughbred breeding makes to our society.
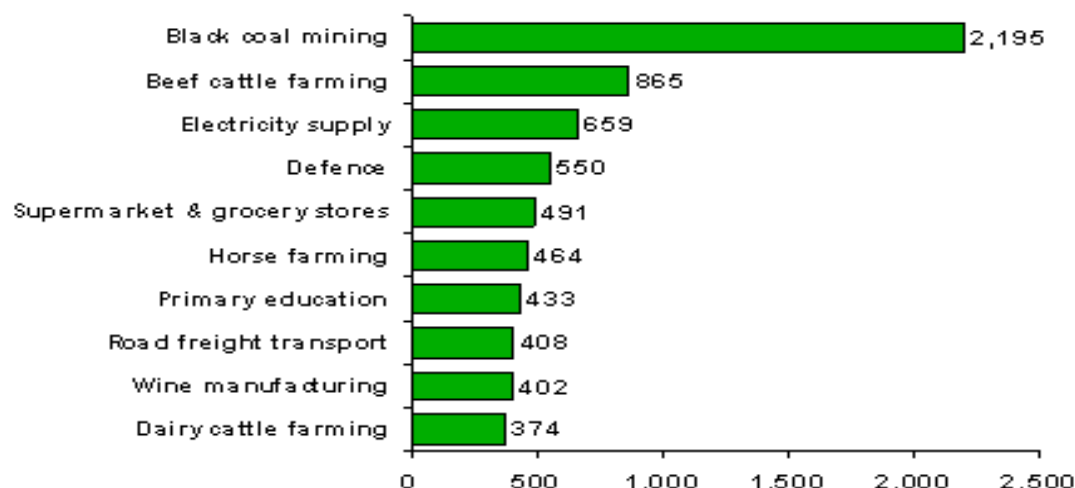
Our campaign is about:

- responsible whole of government actions so that our industry can invest with confidence
- sustainable industries
- sustainable long-term jobs
- sustainable land management
- protecting our environment – particularly our water supply and air quality
- protecting the health of our people and livestock
- preserving our local economy and the future of our region.

Upper Hunter Top Employing Industries

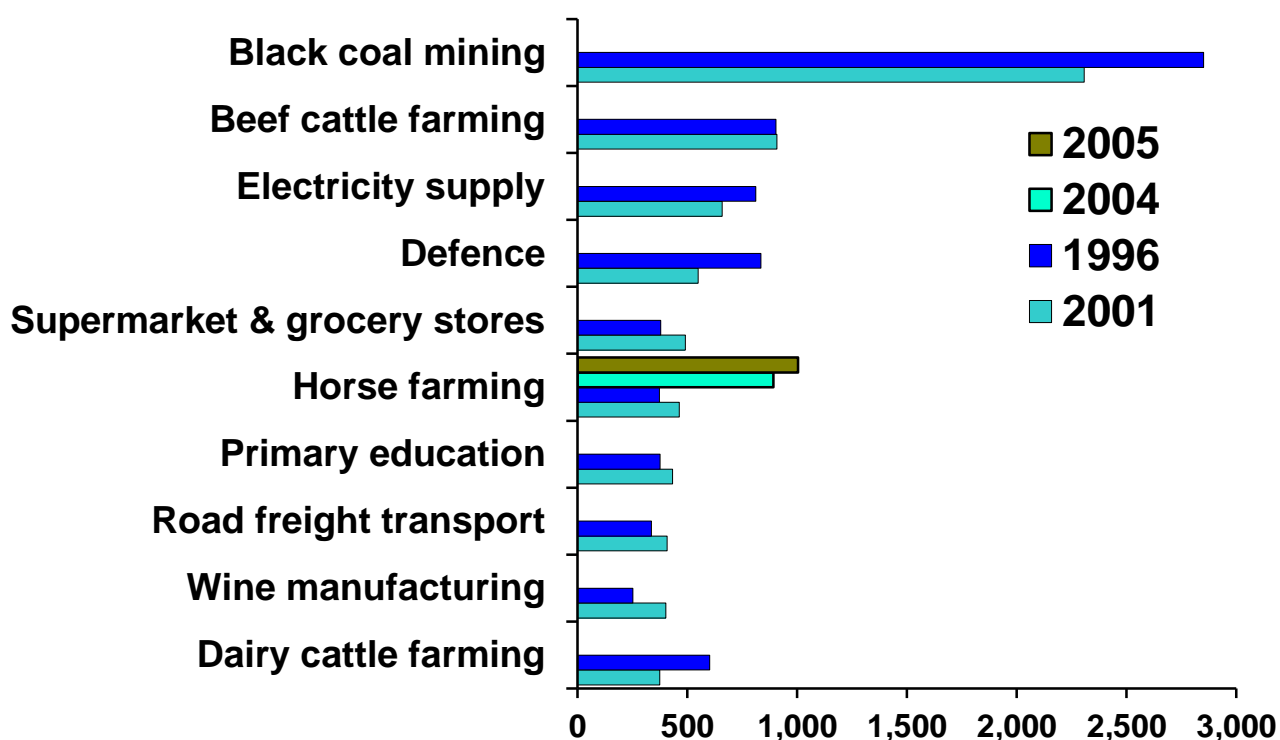**Reference: HVRF Working Paper No: 1/05: - Horse Power – An Assessment of the Upper Hunter Thoroughbred Industry**

2001

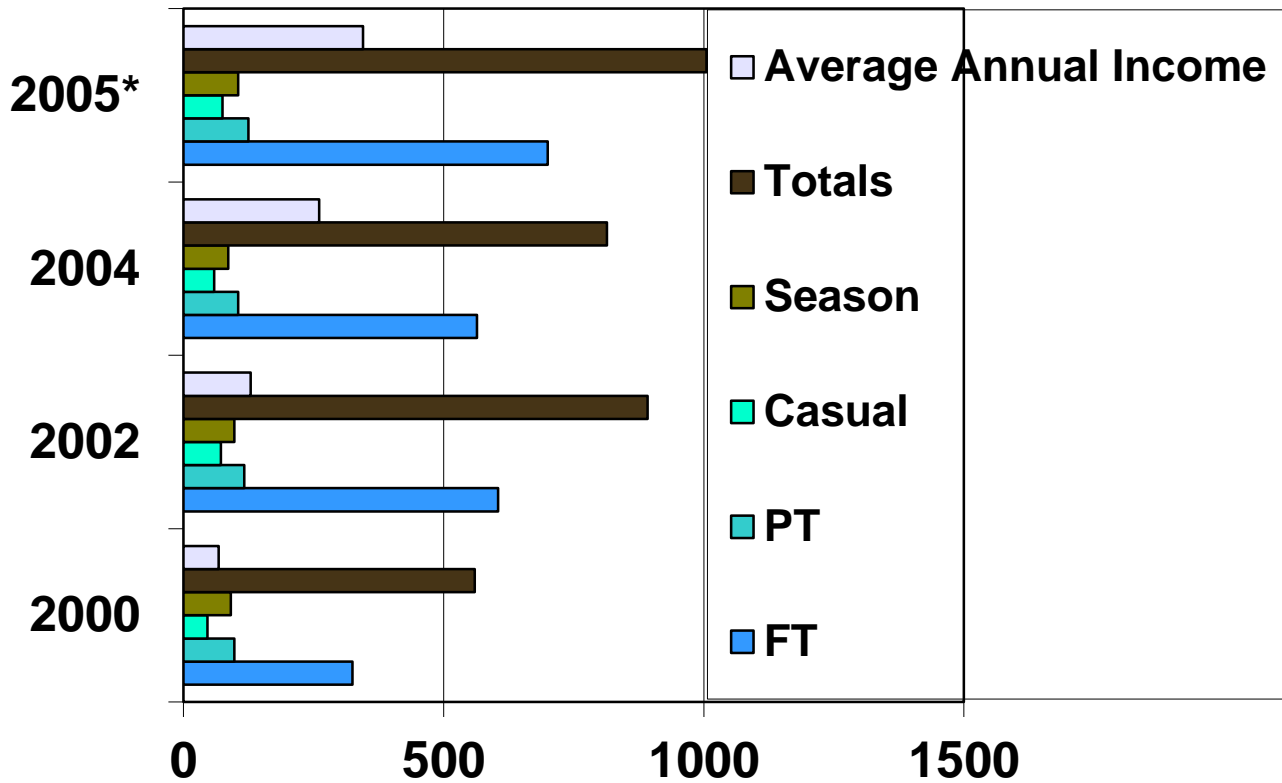## Upper Hunter – Top 10 Employing Industries
2001

Industry	Employees
Black coal mining	2,195
Beef cattle farming	865
Electricity supply	659
Defence	550
Supermarket & grocery stores	491
Horse farming	464
Primary education	433
Road freight transport	408
Wine manufacturing	402
Dairy cattle farming	374

RESEARCH

Upper Hunter – Top 10 Employing Industries
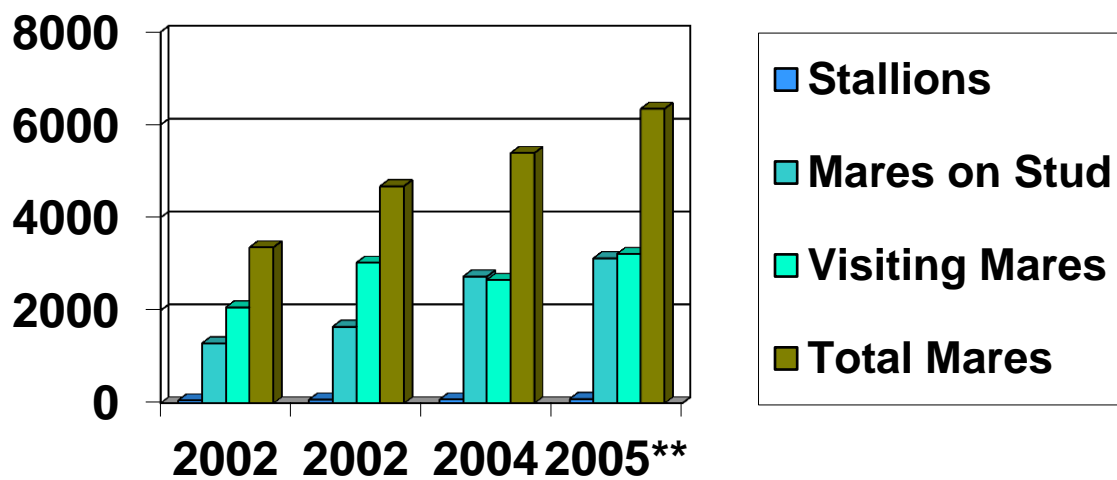
1996 – 2001 – 2004 – 2005
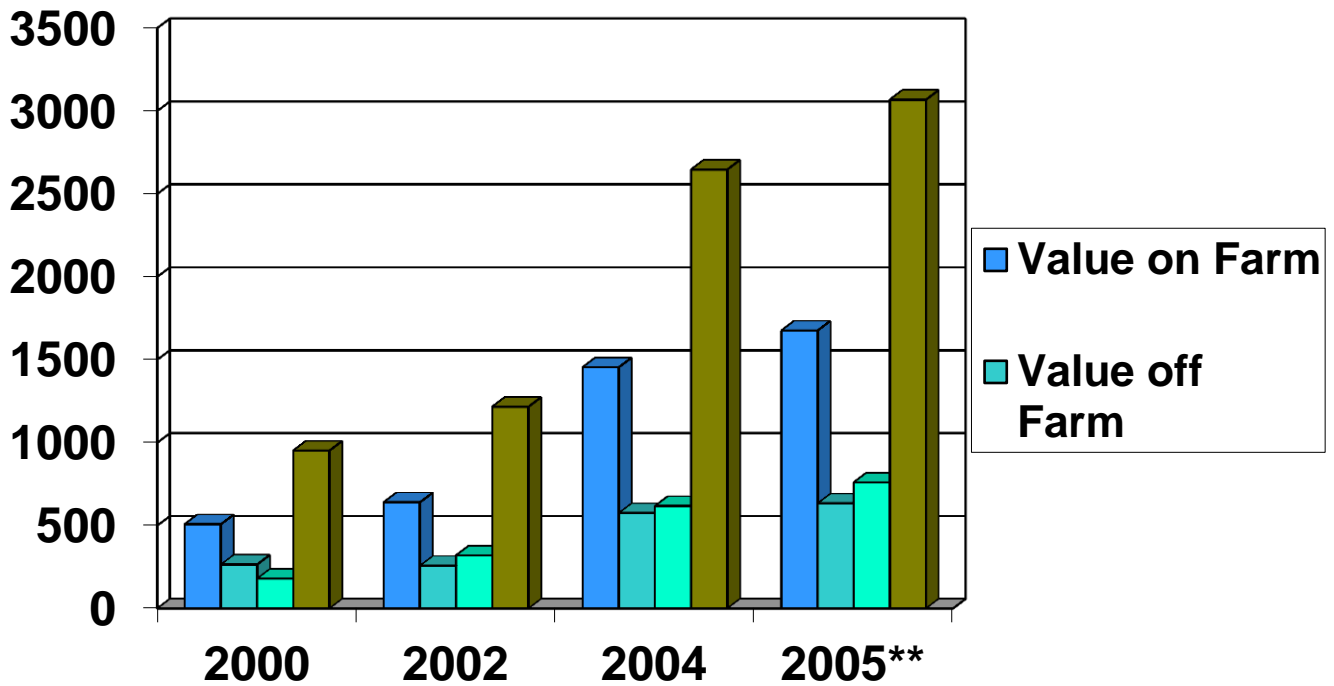
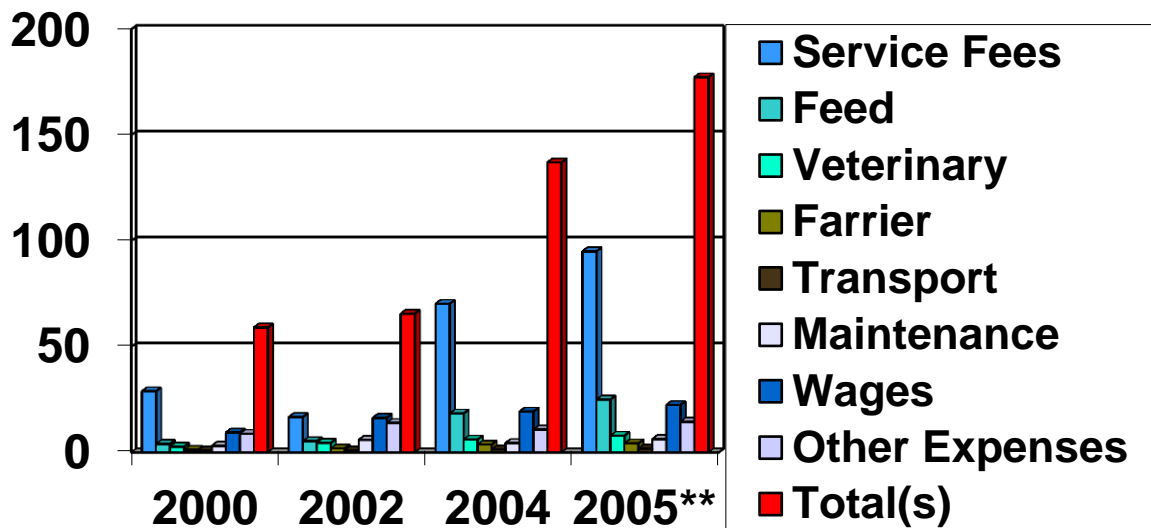**Employment on Studs in the Upper Hunter**

Number of Stallions and Mares on Studs in the Upper Hunter

Value of Capital Items on Studs in the Upper Hunter

Value of Expenditure and Proportion Spent in Upper Hunter

Beginning in the 19th century and continuing throughout the 20th century the auctioneering and sales firm of William Inglis & Sons were intimately connected with the Upper Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeding Industry.

"The Boss" John Inglis

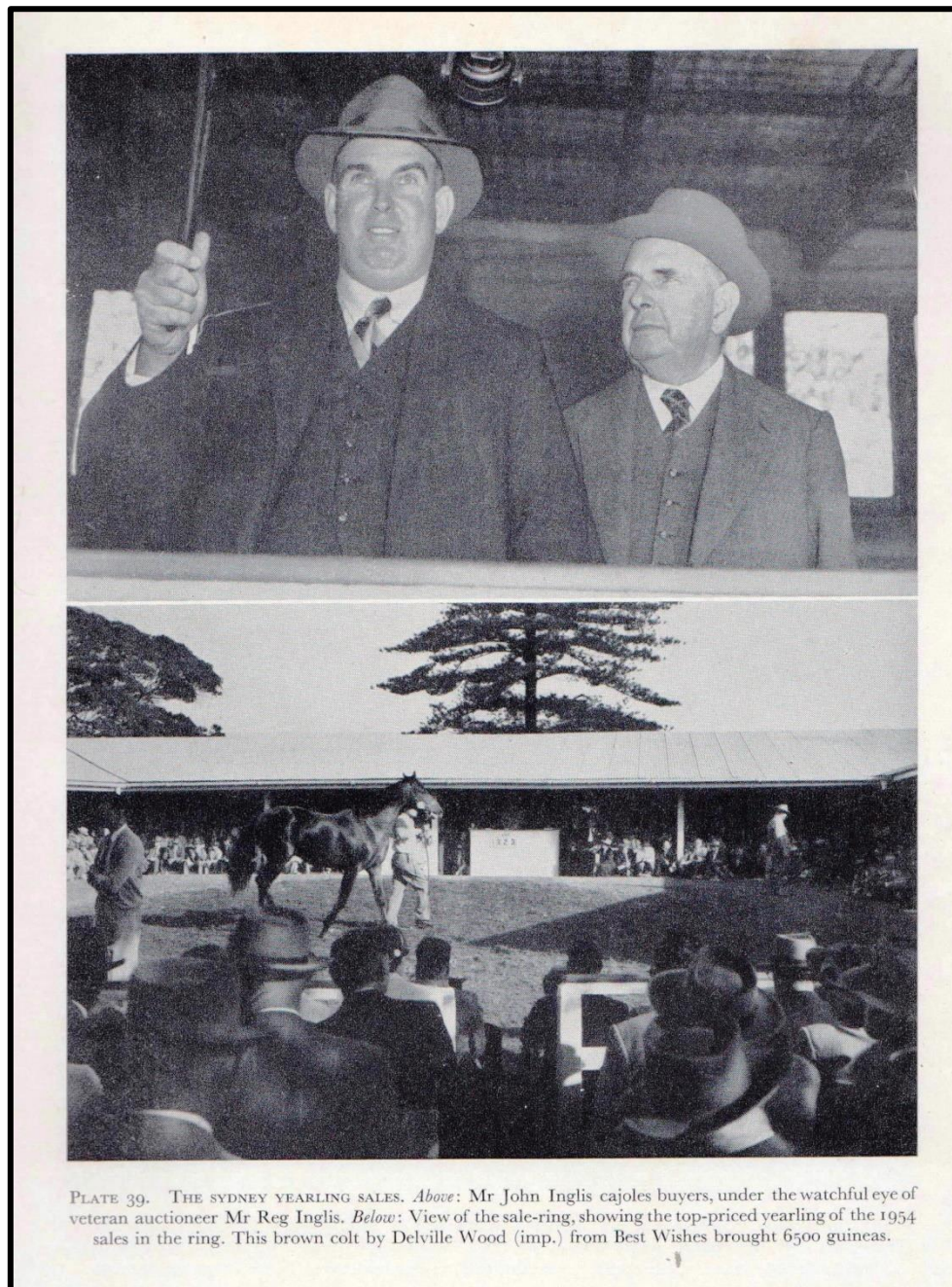John Inglis … was his unit's SP bookie during the war.

PLATE 39. THE SYDNEY YEARLING SALES. *Above*: Mr John Inglis cajoles buyers, under the watchful eye of veteran auctioneer Mr Reg Inglis. *Below*: View of the sale-ring, showing the top-priced yearling of the 1954 sales in the ring. This brown colt by Delville Wood (imp.) from Best Wishes brought 6500 guineas.

Photo: *Courtesy of Douglas M Barrie 'The Australian Bloodhorse'*

See also: http://sconevetdynasty.com.au/john-inglis/

John Inglis *aka* **"The Boss"**

Former highly valued Inglis employee and Scone Bloodstock Agent Kieran Moore has just reminded me ('The Bar', Scone 15/11/18) that John was always known as 'The Boss'; no argument and everyone knew who! Kieran's tales from 'behind the gavel' are legendary! I will try to catch up sometime. There was a secret 'language' between John and Ossie Roberts which you could not detect from under the Morton Bay Fig Tree. I did perceive it on the few occasions when I occupied in the vendors box. You had to be an 'insider' to interpret the signs! Suffice it to say that there were 'favoured' vendors and buyers; and then there were others! It was a very serious contest.

I was going to call this blog 'The Rock'. I should have done; it would have been apposite. Almost 50 years ago Harold Baldwin told me the reason he stayed in the thoroughbred breeding industry was one man: John Inglis. Harold was a business man well used to the vagaries and vicissitudes of everyday business and barter transactions; occasionally encountering the recusant, rebarbative, fraudulent and serially mendacious. John Inglis represented the very pinnacle of integrity, honour, honesty, decency and reliability. He was an immutable constant in a cabal with few others. Harold trusted him implicitly. I quickly learned to do the same. The industry does no always engender such implicit trust.

In the encomium reproduced below there is reference to 'hoaxers'. I was once the unwitting victim of a serious hoax. John was my salvation. I had just sold a yearling by 'Bletchingly' for the then enormous sum of $105,000:00 in about 1980 knocked down to champion trainer T J Smith. My brown colt out of 'Beyond All' was lot number 13 in the Easter Catalogue. 'Beyond All' was a sister-in-blood to champion mare 'Lowland'. 'Kingston Town' was at his peak and 'Bletchingly' was champion sire. Angus Armanasco had inspected him and declared "he was the most like 'Bletchingly' he had seen". The planets were aligned. I was floating on air as I descended from the vendor's box. I almost knocked over cold, grey-eyed George Freeman who had the next lot in the ring. From there things started to go awry. The supposed purchaser, a Mr. Prosser, came back to the stables with us and discussed possible names. The same buyer also bought a Biscay colt from Sir Tristan Antico's 'Baramul Stud' for $80,000:00. I conducted an interview with a commercial TV station. The portents were excellent; until Mr. Prosser turned out to be a complete fraud! John Inglis tried to chase him down including through a local Synagogue but the man was a charlatan without any money, capacity or intent to pay! John came to see me. He looked me in the eye and said: 'Don't worry Bill; Tommy (T J Smith) and I have been doing business for 50 years. You'll get your money'. He was as good as his word. My colt raced as 'Norseman' and won a midweek race at Rosehill for c-owner Mrs. Darby Munro. Sir Tristan's Biscay colt was more successful racing as 'The Challenge'.

When I accompanied the Baramul horses to the USA in 1970 my immediate boss was Jack Flood. Jack worked for 'Mr. Inglis'. He always called him that and was full of lavish praise. On another occasion Hugh Munro from 'Keira', Bingara turned up late one winter Sunday afternoon with a float-load of cull broodmares for sale. Who helped him unload and provide stabling; none other than J. A. Inglis 'as soon as he'd finished feeding the pigeons'. Racing pigeons were his relaxing passion. We used to host release for his club at our Scone Cup Race Meeting. It was a very popular feature. The winning pigeon used to take little over an hour reaching its loft in Randwick. As always John and the firm William Inglis & Sons were the best friends we had in Scone. They sponsored races and invested significantly in building sales boxes at White Park. There were myriad other courtesies and kindnesses. Not many are recorded.

Cliff Ellis and I attended Tom Flynn's (Oakleigh Stud) Memorial Service in the beautiful Heber Chapel in Cobbitty. John delivered the eulogy but was overcome with emotion. He was an extremely sensitive man. On another occasion a close family member had passed away. I wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Inglis. The next time I saw John he took my hand in his and held it firmly. Tears poured down his cheeks. No words were necessary.

Mrs. Inglis had been a close school friend of my late mother-in-law. It always felt like 'family'. With John Inglis his word was his bond. There aren't many who can justifiably claim this honour.

An eye for horseflesh and hoaxers' Hush Puppies

http://www.smh.com.au/news/obituaries/an-eye-for-horseflesh-and-hoaxers-hush-puppies/2006/07/27/1153816316050.html

July 28, 2006

John Inglis, 1917-2006

THE Australian turf is awash with people known, sometimes fondly and more often euphemistically, as "colourful racing identities". But, says the writer and broadcaster Max Presnell, true gentlemen of the turf are thin on the ground. John Inglis is generally regarded to have been one of the few.

Inglis, whose funeral was held in Randwick yesterday, left a mark on the thoroughbred industry, not least through his role as auctioneer at the sales under the Moreton Bay fig at Newmarket. He would begin the sale every day with a cry of "Sale O! Sale O! Sale O!" then sell through to lunchtime, eat a pie, then sell to dusk.

He retired as William Inglis & Son managing director and chief auctioneer in 1988, although staying on as chairman and then a director. Yet, at 88 and in failing health, he attended this year's Easter yearling sale and the Randwick autumn carnival and was pleased with the result – a record turnover of $117 million in four days of selling.

John Alan Inglis was born into the family of stock and station agents founded by William Inglis, the son of Thomas and Catherine, who migrated from Scotland in 1830. William started the company in 1867 with Joseph Butler. It was an auctioneering and produce agency in George Street, Sydney. Butler left the partnership after 10 years and, in 1882, Inglis began a "horse bazaar" between Castlereagh and Pitt streets.

The family conducted its first yearling sale at rented premises in Newmarket in 1906 and bought the property in 1917, the year John became the first of three children for Reg and Bubbles Inglis. The house on the Newmarket property became home for John, Dick and Diana, and John was to live there for 75 years.

Educated at Coogee and Shore, he began work at 15 for William Inglis in the company's O'Connell Street headquarters as an office boy. John and Dick would wander the trainers' stables, talking horses and seeking tips. One of John's early passions was pigeon showing and racing.

Trained as a gunner, Inglis was stationed near Toowoomba during World War II, making friends with Bernie Byrnes, who was to become his trainer. Inglis became the unit's illegal SP bookmaker, cleaning up the company's loose change every week. He and Byrnes also ran a two-up game. At Toowoomba races he saw a two-year-old horse, Bernborough, which he said later was the best horse he ever set eyes on.

Back in Newmarket after the war, Inglis bought a colt with two unhealthy looking legs from Percy Miller, of Kia Ora stud. Inglis called the animal Meteor and gave it to Byrnes to train. Meteor won 10 races and Inglis was hooked. "The Boss", as Inglis became known, had a knack of selecting a good horse by an unfashionable sire.

The Miller family later gave Inglis their familiar racing colours – light and dark blue diamonds and red cap. The best horse to carry them was Shaftesbury Avenue, which Inglis owned with trainer Bart Cummings and which won six group one races. Disorderly, a two-year-old gelding, carried them to victory at Newcastle two weeks ago.

Inglis took over the company reins from his father in 1957. He developed friendships with breeders and paid annual visits to studs to see the young horses. He would watch them walk off the floats when they arrived to be sold. His eye for a horse was such that he remembered them when they came up for sale. The best bargain he ever saw was Flight, bought by Brian Crowley for 60 guineas ($126) in 1942. Flight won 24 races and over $60,000, making her the highest money-winning mare.

His judgement in other areas was sometimes tested. A hoaxer masquerading as a blind man bought yearlings one year before it was discovered he had no money to pay. After wealthy Arab racing enthusiasts took an interest in Australian horseflesh, John Singleton had a couple of men dressed in Arab clothing strike fear into the hearts of other buyers, until the Hush Puppies under their white robes were noticed.

Some young trainers had their start after Inglis allowed them time to pay when owners were hard to find. The Inglis company ran into trouble after Cummings, one of the leading trainers, owed the firm $7.5 million in 1991 for horses bought in 1989. The matter was resolved.

There were also problems with Brian Yuill, who bought 15 per cent of William Inglis with hidden interest-free loans. Before serving four years in jail from 1994 for defrauding Spedley Securities, Yuill was a director of Tulloch Lodge Ltd, a syndication company based on the stables owned by the trainer Tommy Smith.

Legend has it that Inglis said to Smith: "Tommy, racing has been good to you. Why don't you pay it [the money owing]?" Smith replied: "You must be mad. Why don't you?"

John Inglis married Margaret Whitford in 1950. They had three children, William, Jan and Arthur.

He is survived by Margaret, Arthur, Jan and seven grandchildren. His son Arthur is now managing director of William Inglis & Son.

Tony Stephens

John Inglis, thoroughbred auctioneer, gentleman and scholar, dies at 88

By John Holloway 21 July 2006 — 10:00am

https://www.smh.com.au/sport/racing/john-inglis-thoroughbred-auctioneer-gentleman-and-scholar-dies-at-88-20060721-gdo0a5.html

JOHN Inglis, the doyen of Australia's thoroughbred auctioneers, passed away after a lengthy illness in Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, on Wednesday night. He was 88.

Inglis, whose family's thoroughbred and cattle operation dates back to 1867, was regarded by peers as a gentleman and a scholar. He loved racing and had been honoured with life memberships by the Australian Jockey Club and Sydney Turf Club.

Inglis had been ill for several years but still attended the races quite often with his wife, Margaret.

Apart from selling horses, Inglis also raced successful gallopers, with the Bart Cummings-trained chestnut Shaftesbury Avenue the best by far. He also had a successful association with Ron Croghan, a friend of more than 50 years, selecting yearlings for the pair to race, buying them at modest sums.

"The Boss", as he was affectionately called, was always close by when the floats arrived at the Newmarket stables at Randwick with the yearlings to sell at the respective auctions. He would watch the yearlings come off the floats and his eye for a horse was so outstanding that he could remember which ones he liked and invariably bought one or two at each sale.

A great number were trained by his close friend Bernie Byrnes, who lived on the Inglis Newmarket complex for a number of years.

Inglis saw many ups and downs during his thoroughbred selling career and possibly the most disturbing event concerned two of Australia's greatest trainers, Tommy Smith and Cummings. Both trainers experienced financial problems in paying for their yearling purchases some 20 years ago and, as a result, Inglis's arranged a sale, called the Night of the Stars, where the yearlings were re-sold to try to recoup some of their outstanding debts.

Inglis stuck by both trainers and remained great friends with the pair through the ordeal.

Woodlands Stud general manager Trevor Lobb, who began his working career with Inglis's in 1965, recalls many a sale when Inglis would auction every yearling from the catalogue.

"He was an amazing person," Lobb said. "He'd start the sale off in the morning and sell through to lunchtime where there was a recess for about an hour, join the vendors in having a hot pie for lunch, and then going through all afternoon and back up again the next day until all lots were sold."

Inglis is survived by his wife Margaret, son Arthur and daughter Jan. His nephew Reg Inglis is the managing director of William Inglis & Son.

Vale John Inglis

http://www.thoroughbrednews.com.au/News/Story/24850

21 July 2006

by Stallions.com.au

The thoroughbred industry has lost one of its finest with the passing yesterday of John Inglis.

The patriarch of Australia's foremost bloodstock auction house, the man known to all as "The Boss", probably dropped the hammer on more thoroughbred horses than anyone in the world.

And he sold every one of them – as many as 40,000 – with the same honour and decency he displayed in every aspect of his life. Born in 1918, John Inglis represented the fourth generation of a family that arrived in New South Wales from Scotland in 1829.

Soon after landing in the colony, Thomas Inglis received a grant of 60 acres of land at Camden where he established a farm called Craigend, which still exists and is still farmed by an Inglis.

The auction business was begun by Thomas' first son William who started selling produce at Camden and then went into the livestock business in Sydney, where he established the Inglis Horse Bazaar that operated for 30 years in Pitt St.

In 1906 the business moved to the Newmarket site near Randwick racecourse where it has stood for 100 years.

William Inglis passed the reins to his son John who died in 1914 when they were, in turn, handed to his son Reg who kept the business going while his older brothers were away at the war.

The firm of William Inglis and Son rode the boom of the 1920s, becoming Australia's biggest bloodstock auctioneers, only to plunge back to earth with stock market crash of 1930, surviving the depression largely by selling
cattle.

By the time the next major crisis arrived, the latest John Inglis and his brother Dick were running the firm.

That difficulty was the collapse of tax-minimisation syndicates, the most high-profile of which was the Cups King syndicate put together by trainer Bart Cummings.

Cummings faced financial ruin with around $12 million worth of yearlings and no-one to buy them.

But thanks to "The Boss", who ensured all the breeders were paid, the great trainer was allowed to trade his way out of trouble.

John Inglis personally sold every yearling offered by his firm for around 35 years after WWII.

"In my day I'd do the lot. Be in the box all day," he said.

"The only time I didn't sell them was when a very good racehorse was up.
Then my father would step in."

These days five men do the same job.

"The Boss" gave the selling away in 1988, handing the running of the business over to his nephews Reg and Jamie and his son Arthur.

But until he fell ill a few months ago he would visit the office every day.
Reg Inglis yesterday described his uncle's passing, at the age of 88, as a sad reminder of lost times.

"It is the end of an era," he said.

"It is a sad day but a happy release. He had become quite unwell and he didn't like being that way.

"He was the the doyen of auctioneers in Australia and a wonderful man who was universally liked.

"He personified common decency, his word was his bond and he was a very humble man."

William Inglis and Sons sold many of the greatest horses to have raced in Australia to some of the greatest names in the country.

But none did more for the game than the man who put true meaning into his company's motto: "Unshakeable integrity".

Stallions.com.au

History of the Australian Stud Book: Part I

By Michael Ford, Keeper of the Australian Stud Book June 2006 ©Australian Stud Book, 2006

PLATE 32. KEEPERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK. *Above left*: Mr A. Yuille, compiler of the first volume (published in 1878) and of the next eight volumes. *Above right*: Mr L. G. Rouse, Keeper of the Stud Book from 1914 until 1927. *Below left*: Mr G. Loddon Yuille, the Keeper from 1927 until 1949. *Below right*: The present Keeper, Mr W. J. McFadden, who was appointed in 1949.

http://www.tbheritage.com/Breeders/AUS/ASB.html

The Australian Stud Book has a pedigree as long as some of the horses contained in it. For the first seventy years it was mostly 'kept' by one family and over the last fifty five years it has only had four 'keepers'. It ranks second to the American Stud Book with its 30,000 broodmares, 18,000 foals and nearly 20,000 breeders but could rank first for services to breeders. The early history of the Australian Stud Book is the history of the men who established and nurtured it, and they lived interesting lives. From the early principle of "express purpose of preserving an official record of the breeding industry in Australia and of assisting to improve the standard of the blood horse in the country" to "ensuring the integrity of thoroughbred breeding in Australia," there has been much change to the way the Australian Stud Book operates.

Early colonial stud books

From the earliest time, breeding was a most important factor in the development of a satisfactory standard of racing in Australia. Initially, details of matings and bloodlines were recorded in a haphazard way. Although the first race meeting in Australia is generally regarded as being held in October 1810 at Hyde Park, Sydney, twenty two years after the first settlement, it was not until 1842 that any attempt was made to establish a Stud Book. The newly formed Australian Jockey Club deemed it desirable that a Stud Book for the colony be established and requested horse identification details from breeders but nothing came of the AJC's project.

As the nation grew and each state emerged, the settlement of rural land intensified and the local race club became an integral part of community life. Land was set aside for the racecourse and soon racecourses were located right throughout the country. At one stage there were over 500 race clubs operating. The Principal Racing Clubs grew from the need for leadership and consistent rules and the major clubs in the capital cities tended to take this role. Gradually the Principal Racing Clubs became the arbitrator in solving troubling racing questions and formulated local rules within each state which were expected to be followed by all clubs. This led to the Australian Rules of Racing and the Local Rules of each club.

The Principal Racing Clubs were the genesis of the current Australian Racing Board which administers the Australian Rules of Racing and estimates are that breeding and racing today is a $7 billion industry, employing some 240,000 people, holding over 22,000 races annually, with 454 raceclubs and a gross annual attendance of 1.7million, which is the second highest of any sport in Australia apart from Australian Football. Three of the colonies, Tasmania, New South Wales and Victoria, commenced stud books which could not be sustained.

Tasmanian Stud Book

Despite a Mr Chisholm's early call in 1812 in the Sydney Gazette to those "desirous of improving their breed of horses", the first published stud book in Australia was the Tasmanian Stud Book, compiled in 1836 by Henry Rawlings, Clerk of the Course to the Tasmanian Turf Club. In 1847, the Tasmanian Race Club appointed one of its officers, WT MacMichael, as Keeper of the Stud Book, but no further stud books appeared in print. It was obvious there was a need for a stud book, but compiling was harder than it looked, even in a small state like Tasmania.

NSW Stud Book

Seventeen years after the AJC's call for a Stud Book, Fowler Boyd Price succeeded in publishing Volume 1 of the Stud Book of New South Wales in 1859, offered not as a universal stud book, nor perfectly free of error, but confident it contained the most concise and approved collection of authentic pedigree information. Price decided that, due to the paucity of records of imported horses and breeders' own records, the only broodmares he would allow in the book were those which were wholly thoroughbred. This meant many mares, bordering on being wholly thoroughbred, were omitted.

Harry P Mostyn compiled and edited a second volume in 1868 which was published by *Bell's Sporting Life,* and in which he begged forgiveness for the delay and the number of errors caused by studmasters holding back information. The Agricultural Society of New South Wales published a third in 1873, compiled by Edward King Cox and John Agar Scarr. Both volumes suffered from the same fate as other colonial stud books: lack of co-operation and hostility. Cox, a principal of Fernhill Stud, and Scarr an AJC handicapper, took "nothing on trust where it could be verified by search."

The AJC, in 1860, established 1st August as the official birthdate of all horses born in Australia, to correct the climactic, breeding and pastoral imbalances caused by the Northern Hemisphere's 1st January birthday.

Victorian Stud Book

Around 1859, William Levey edited Volume 1 of the Victorian Stud Book, published by *Bell's Sporting Life,* which ran for four volumes, the last in 1875 compiled by William Yuille junior, sporting editor of the *Melbourne Weekly Times,* also apologising for the delay in publication. He thanked WE Dakin for his wonderful knowledge of pedigrees of English horses. Could this be the trainer of Darriwell, winner of the 1879 Melbourne Cup, and brother of Frank F Dakin, VRC Handicapper who later helped with the Australian Stud Book?

This Stud Book also was restricted to thoroughbreds only. Yuille was assisted with the compilation by a number of interested subscribers, including men whose names live on through races in recognition of their services to racing, being RC Bagot (VRC Secretary), TS Clibborn (AJC Secretary) and CB Fisher, who had a Plate named after him, which is now the VRC Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

Origin of the Keeper title

Where did the word 'Keeper' come from? It is thought that it had its origins when racing in England, over three hundred years ago, was mainly a match race between two horses. Often at major meetings, there were as many as 24 match races of two horses with stakes ranging from £200 to £2,000, an enormous amount of money. It was therefore imperative that meticulous records be kept. The results were kept by the Keeper of the Match Book, James Weatherby, having this role in 1770. He was also Secretary to The Jockey Club. As interest in the breeding of these horses grew so did the role of the Keeper, to become Keeper of the Stud Book.

The first Keeper was James' nephew, James Weatherby who published Volume 1 of the General Stud Book in 1791. The Weatherby family still own and manage the General Stud Book and provide a secretariat service to British racing, handling nominations, acceptances, results as well as breeding records.

Until 1947, the Keeper of the Stud Book in Australia was also the Registrar of Racehorses, before the naming function was divided up to the states and compiled under the Registrar of Racehorses, centralised at the Australian Jockey Club. Racing Information Services Australia, owned by the state racing authorities, now carries out this function thereby providing the Stud Book with independent integrity without conflict or compromise.

Compilers and Keepers of the Stud Book

Compiler	Notes	Years	Volumes
William C. Yuille	founder	1878	1
Archibald Yuille	son of founder	1882	2 to 9
Keeper	Notes	Years	Volumes
A.P. Wilson		1909	10
Leslie G. Rouse	Died in office	1914	11 to14
Gordon McKellar	Died in office	1927	15
A. Loddon Yuille	Grandson of founder	1927	16 to 21
Walter J. McFadden	Retired	1949	22 to 35
Roderick Page	Resigned	1985	36
John Digby	Retired	1988	37 to 40
Michael Ford	Current	2004	41

<u>William Cross Yuille</u>

William Cross Yuille was born in Glasgow in 1819 and emigrated to Hobart in 1836 with his cousin Archibald Buchanan Yuille. They bought 2,000 merino sheep and shipped them to Geelong in 1837 but trouble with the aborigines around the Barwon River forced them to move on to Ballarat in 1838 along with Henry Anderson, one of the first white settlers to do so. It appears Yuille had a falling out with Anderson and set up a separate camp on the corner of now Pleasant Street and Wendouree Parade which today is marked by an obelisk outside the State school. Known as Black Swamp or

Yuille's Swamp then, it is now the beautiful Lake Wendouree. The name Wendouree comes from the aboriginal word 'wendaaree' which means 'go away'. A story is told that when William Yuille asked an aboriginal woman the name of the swamp, that was her reply. He established his sheep station 'Ballaarat' around present day Ballarat and Sebastopol.

The following year Yuille travelled to New Zealand, became caught up in incidents around the Treaty of Waitangi with Maoris, returned to Melbourne and sailed for England in 1840. After his return in 1842, William established a mercantile firm with James Oliphant Denny which took up the Right Run station at the Rockbank run and where William lived until he returned to England in 1853 having sold all his stations to his cousin Archibald. William married Denny's daughter Mary and six of their eleven children were born at Rockbank. He took them all back to Scotland in 1853 where they lived for five years, later returning to Australia to reside in Williamstown, Victoria.

Yuille became one of the principal pastoralists of Victoria, a turf expert and a respected bloodstock agent. One of his first experiences in racing was in 1839 when he matched his horse Nobby against a mare from Tasmania, owned by William Wood for £25 stakes and breakfast for a dozen people. Not only did Nobby win, but he kept running along the banks of the Yarra after he passed the winning-post. Yuille became interested in breeding thoroughbreds from around 1842 and was a member of the Port Philip Turf Club which conducted racing in the area known as Melbourne Racecourse, subsequently to become Flemington. Historian Andrew Lemon, credits Yuille, along with James Purves, as doing the most to introduce new racehorses to Victoria in the early years.

Yuille, on one of his return trips to England, imported the stallion Warhawk and the broodmare Gaslight. Apparently, when his top racehorse Flying Buck won the Australasian Championship Stakes over three miles in 1860, Yuille walked away with over £7,000 in winning bets. It won by seven lengths, leading all the way with a very light weight. The following year Flying Buck won the Victorian St Leger. The Championship win was the first time that racing made sporting headlines, appearing in Bell's Life In Sydney. However, at the next start Flying Buck was beaten and the jockey asserted that Yuille instructed him not to win, only to retract the statement explaining that bookmakers had forced him to say it. Yuille took the jockey back into his stable, which added to everyone's suspicions, but the case was never satisfactorily resolved and damaged the goodwill Yuille had earned to date.

Yuille used the proceeds of the earlier winnings to purchase Melbourne's best-known sporting bookshop, Kirk's Bazaar at 47 West Bourke Street. He owned Toryboy, which was unplaced in Archer's Melbourne Cup wins of 1861 and 1862, but unfortunately for him he sold it before it won the 1865 Cup.

William closed his racing establishment in 1866 to take up the position of principal sporting writer for the Australasian newspaper, writing under the nom-des plumes of 'Peeping Tom' and 'Playboy.' He was a Victoria Racing Club steward and handicapper and a member of Tattersalls' Committee until 1881. He established the bloodstock firm William Yuille & Company in 1873 with his sons Archie and Albert. One of the firm's most notable transactions was the disposal of Maribrynong Stud in 1878 for £84,000. Eventually, William undertook to produce an Australian Stud Book.

The firm, situated in Melbourne's Bourke Street West, later became Wright Stephenson's, then Wrightson Bloodstock and is known today as New Zealand Bloodstock. It was at these offices that he edited Volumes 3 and 4 of the Victorian Stud Book, published Volume 1 of the Australian Stud Book and assisted his son Archie with its next four volumes.

William Cross Yuille died in 1894 aged 75, his wife Mary dying five years earlier, William's contribution to Australian racing and breeding being a lasting legacy.

Archibald Yuille

William Yuille had barely begun work on the project when he lost his son William junior who accidentally drowned. Young William had edited the last two volumes of the Victorian Stud Book. One of the elder William's other six sons, and a member of his firm, Archibald (Archie) Yuille, a VRC committeeman and treasurer, helped his father to publish Volume 1 of the Australian Stud Book, containing over 2,000 mares which had been at stud in the last 60 years, in 1878. Archie was also a recognised auctioneer of note with considerable expertise. He referred to himself as 'The Compiler' and when the AJC and VRC took over the ownership in 1910 they adopted the English title of Keeper of the Stud Book for its appointees.

Archie was eventually honoured with life membership of the Victoria Racing Club and was responsible for compiling and publishing the next eight volumes of the Australian Stud Book up to 1909 with the assistance of Frank Dakin, a VRC handicapper, from 1880 until his death in 1901 during the compilation of Volume 8, in which Archie pays tribute. Dakin, a native of Somersetshire, with previous military experience, arrived in Melbourne in 1871. The format decided by Archie, based on the General Stud Book of England, has changed little in over 125 years. His policy was to keep the breed as pure as possible and gradually eliminate the doubtful elements at Australian studs.

While most horses traced to mares in the General Stud Book of England, certain Australian bred mares of unknown pedigree were accepted as colonial taproot mares due to the excellence of their progeny. These included Sappho, Yatterina, Adeline, Betty, Black Swan and the Steeltrap Mare. Even today, Yatterina's descendants have produced 134 winners of 316 major races including Commissionaire, March Legend and Regal Rhythm, while Sappho has 130 winners of 223 major races. In addition, some English mares with incomplete pedigrees such as Cutty Sark, the ancestress of Dalray plus another 101 major racewinners, were accepted.

Of those excluded altogether, their current owners were paying the penalty of their breeders' carelessness and neglect in keeping satisfactory records. The Yuilles consistently called for a regulated naming system as many horses around Australia carried the same name and many others had their names changed regularly, which Archie Yuille referred to as "the interminable repetition of names." Archie had also complained in Volume 9 about breeders "unblushingly submitting impossible pedigrees, and indignant letters received when they have been refused ."

The scope of Volume 1 was to not only include the broodmares of the colonies which were not yet united but also those of New Zealand in a time when communication facilities were unsophisticated.

It is not a well-known fact that the Australian Stud Book included the New Zealand Stud Book in Volumes 1 to 6, until 1900, integrated with Australian mares. Carbine (NZ) 1985, for instance, is first recorded in ASB volume 4, page 246, under his dam Mersey.

A. Loddon Yuille

Nearly twenty years later, another family member, Albert Loddon Yuille, a son of Archie, in 1927 renewed the family's long association with racing and breeding in Australia, publishing, as Keeper, Volumes 16 to 21 of the Australian Stud Book until he retired in December 1949 due to ill-health. Known as A. Loddon Yuille, he was appointed Keeper of the Australian Stud Book and Registrar of Racehorses from 180 applicants. He died in July, 1950.

In 1948 Loddon had views of the benefits of an international stud book committee, whereby officials from the major thoroughbred producing countries could work out an agreement suitable to all, to enable the acceptance of horses. It was not until 1976 that the International Stud Book Committee convened and it has functioned ever since.

Loddon was a prominent racehorse owner, his best being Redditch, winner of the 1933 VRC Grand National Steeplechase, and the 1933 and 1934 Australian Steeplechase, carrying the family colours pink with a black cap. Redditch was a crowd favourite and to everyone's horror crashed to his death during a steeplechase. Loddon had also been connected with the bloodstock sales firm of William Yuille Company for a number of years.

Prior to Loddon, there were three Keepers , AP Wilson (Volume 10), Leslie G Rouse (Volume 11 to 14), and Gordon McKellar (Volume 15). Rouse, an AJC committeeman was renowned for his vast knowledge of pedigrees and remarkable accuracy, and came from a family with long associations with the turf of New South Wales. He introduced, in Volume 11, extended pedigrees of all new broodmares tracing to their approved taproot or colonial mare to assist breeders.

During the 1920s, Rouse introduced a time limit in which to lodge mare returns. Initially, it was to be by 31 July, but this was brought forward to 31 March. Later, the date crept forward another month to 28 February, right up until 1986 when it changed to within 15 days of foaling. As breeders complained this was too burdensome, it was soon extended to 30 days, the current reporting time.

Keepers since 1949

Jim McFadden followed Loddon in 1949 and was Keeper of the Stud Book until he retired in 1985. He arrived at the AJC in 1947 as Deputy Keeper, fresh out of Sydney University with a degree in veterinary science. Born in Brisbane, raised in Sydney and educated at North Sydney High School, Jim's father owned one horse. Jim still enjoys doing his form and attending carnival days at Royal Randwick Racecourse with his wife, Laurie. Jim was also the AJC's official raceday veterinarian so he was very closely connected to the outcome of the many horses recorded in the stud book. Roderick Page took over for three years producing Volume 36 until John Digby became seventh keeper in 1988, producing Volumes 37 to 40.

John Digby brought modern management practices to the organisation combining this with regular communication with industry stakeholders such as the professional breeders and veterinary associations, commercial breeding associations, race club officials, stewards, and any professional whose advice would be useful.

This enabled Digby to bring about significant change to the age-old identification system for thoroughbreds, the benefits of which will be felt more than twenty years down the track.

Michael Ford became eighth Keeper of the Stud Book in 2004 after a twenty-year apprenticeship as Deputy Keeper and has focused on upgrading and extending the online returns system as well as the production of identification cards for unnamed racehorses, and breeders' registered brands.

The achievements of these Keepers will be looked at later.

History of the Australian Stud Book: Part II

By Michael Ford, Keeper of the Australian Stud Book June 2006 ©Australian Stud Book, 2006
http://www.tbheritage.com/Breeders/AUS/ASB2.html

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The joint proprietors: the AJC and the VRC

The Australian Jockey Club and the Victoria Racing Club had unofficially subsidised the Stud Book from 1885 but it was not until 1904 that their work received recognition from the other Principal Racing Clubs in Australia. In 1910 the AJC and the VRC purchased the copyright of the Australian Stud Book from WC Yuille & Company *"for the express purpose of preserving an official record of the breeding industry in Australia and of assisting to improve the standard of the blood horse in the country."* The Australian Stud Book was located at 6 Bligh Street, Sydney from 1910 with the AJC, until it moved to Randwick Racecourse around 1961.

Once an organised central body overseeing breeding records had been established, many horses of doubtful origin were excluded. This was aggravated by the fact that many breeders did not bother to keep breeding records nor submit regular Stud Book returns. The first Keeper appointed by the AJC and VRC, AP Wilson, stated in Volume 10 that many of the yearlings sold at annual sales under the title of thoroughbred did not come within that designation by any stretch of the imagination.

In 1912, the Stud Book Committee, comprising the AJC and the VRC, decided it would accept for inclusion only those new broodmares whose pedigrees could be traced to an accepted taproot and whose sire's pedigree the Committee approved. Because breeders were taking advantage of lenient conditions, the Committee introduced a time limit in which to return broodmares. In due course, various measures were introduced including foaling slips, service certificates and identification of horses at public sales. These measures proved to be of immense value, bringing to light many cases of mistaken identity.

The most notable was the mix-up of the foals of Golestan Nymph and Phoenix Girl which had its origins in Western Australia where the mares were mistakenly identified before travelling to New South Wales. One of the foals, Reisling, won the 1965 Golden Slipper so the ramifications would have been disastrous had it not been resolved. The line might have bred on until today without anyone knowing it was wrong.

In 1921 the Blood Horse Breeders Association of Australia requested that the principal auction houses restrict their catalogues only to Stud Book stock. The growing importance of the Australian Stud Book was emphasised in 1932, when the New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland Principal Clubs agreed to restrict their classic races to horses that were entered, or eligible for inclusion in the Australian Stud Book. The South Australian Jockey Club in 1941 and the Western Australian Turf Club in 1942 also adopted this course of action. The ban was not lifted until 1996 when bloodtyping was able to resolve any identification queries, thereby enabling Non Stud Book horses to compete in the classics as long as their parentage had been successfully established.

The proprietors of the Australian Stud Book have achieved their original aims and the Stud Book now plays a vital role in the breeding and racing industry. While breeders can select matings on the bases of confirmation and performance, only the stud books can provide assurance that the breeding of the horse is beyond question. Prior to bloodtyping and DNA typing, the regulations which had to be followed exactly were:

- A mare or stallion cannot be considered for inclusion in the Australian Stud Book unless its name has been officially registered for it
- A foal cannot be accepted for inclusion unless:
- the owner submits acceptable returns and identifies the foal by the prescribed dates
- the stallion owner has satisfactorily established the identity of the covered mare
- A mare or stallion cannot be considered for inclusion unless it has been entered in the ASB or an approved foreign stud book as a foal
- Returns for a mare must commence for the year in which she was served for the first time and from thereon annually.

The measures also enabled the Australian Stud Book to collect accurate fertility figures of stallions and to publish the full breeding records of mares.

Non stud book horses

Always during the compilation of 'pure bred' animals, those that do not meet the standard will be flushed out. In the case of racehorses, it is those which were not returned to the Stud Book or had one parent not returned to the Stud Book. Prior to 1980, horses could be registered for racing without pedigree, and it was not uncommon to see a horse listed as *"by a station sire out of an unregistered mare."* In 1980 a rule was implemented to prevent horses without registered parents from being officially named. This was to close the records on horses of doubtful origin as the public's expectation of correct identity increased.

There were also many foals by thoroughbreds which were not recorded with the Stud Book and produced generations of horses in the Non Stud Book Register. If the family produced black type performance, and the pedigree could be traced back eight generations, horses could be promoted to stud book status. A notable case was Redelva 1983, whose 17 stakes wins indicated he must have been a thoroughbred. A pedigree check shows that his great-grand-dam Damelsa was not foal recorded but succeeding generations were mated to stud book sires which enabled Redelva's dam, Delvena to be promoted to stud book status.

There were several cases of well-performed racehorses which could not be accepted into the Australian Stud Book because their parents had not been previously recorded. One, Rivette 1933, won the Caulfield,Melbourne Cup double. Another, Aquanita 1956, won 17 stakes races including a Cox Plate, Mackinnon Stakes, Orr Stakes and two Underwood Stakes and stood as a stallion, but none of his progeny could be accepted because his great-granddam, Brilliant Queen, had not been returned to the Australian Stud Book as a foal. In both cases, an accepted method of promotion did not exist at the time.

Achievements of the Keepers

Archie Yuille, compiler, 1878 to 1909

- Produced nine volumes of the Stud Book in a time when communication was basic
- **Leslie G Rouse, Keeper, 1914 to 1927**
- Include new mares traced to their taproot or approved colonial mare
- Introduced time limits for the return of mares
- **Loddon Yuille, Keeper 1927 to 1949**
- Vision of an international racing and breeding community
- **Walter "Jim' McFadden, Keeper 1949 to 1985**

A Sydney University veterinary degree graduate in 1947

Cross referencing matings with studs and breeders by foaling slips 1953, service certificates, 1969
Encouragement of branding before weaning, 1967
Published 'Sires of Australia and New Zealand', 1961
Published 'Thoroughbred Families of Australia and New Zealand', 1969
Joined the initial International Stud Book Committee, 1976
Computerised records, 1977
Bloodtyping of stallions 1978 and mares, 1981
Compiling the Register of Non-Stud Book Mares, 1980

Roderick Page, Keeper 1985 to 1988
A third-year law student.

Bloodtyping all foals, 1986
Revised documentation system, 1986 , First Service Date Declaration
Compulsory freeze branding, 1986

John Digby, Keeper 1988 to 2004

A Sydney University veterinary degree graduate in 1954, gained a Masters of Business Administration from University of NSW in 1973. Born in Ashburton, the South Island of New Zealand.

- Modernised management systems, 1990
- Established stud book records on a website, 1997, the first stud book authority to do so
- Produced a CDROM version of McFadden's *"Thoroughbred Families' and 'Sires' of Australia and New Zealand""* 2001

- Regulated the date of coverings to determine the age of a foal, 2001
- Converted bloodtyping to DNA typing, 2003
- Introduced online mare returns, 2003
- Implemented microchipping, 2003
- Established a National Brands Register, 2003

An example of John Digby's ability to think laterally is the rule to determine the age of a foal. The issue arose with statistics showing an extraordinary number of foals born on 1 August, the horse's official birthday. Rather than bring in onerous regulations to police this or send race officials to visit studs during the last week of July, Digby looked at the problem from the other side, realising that you cannot control the date of foaling but you can control the date of covering. From this an official starting date for the covering season as 1 September was implemented and any mare which was first covered from that date would have her foal accepted with the current foal crop even if it was born in July. Racing and breeding officials agreed this was a pragmatic solution to an age-old problem and although the outcome was initially criticised by northern hemisphere stud book authorities, the rule was quickly established in New Zealand and South Africa.

Michael Ford, Keeper 2004 to date

A Bachelor of Arts (Communication) from University of Technology Sydney (1977) and a Masters of Business Administration from Southern Cross University (1999). Born in Randwick close to the racecourse, he cites horse trainer Albert McKenna as one of his big influences in gaining a love of the racehorse.

- Modernised the website, 2004
- Introduced Foal Identification Card, 2004 and Brand Index Card, 2006
- Implemented online stallion returns and services, 2005
- Rebranded image with new logo and trademark, 2005
- Established an Electronic newsletter, 2005
- Introduced a personal telephone service for breeders without internet access, 2006

Fees

Breeders did not pay stud book fees up to 1949, and the AJC and VRC had provided the equivalent of $1.5 million each towards running the Stud Book assisted by annual contributions from the Principal Racing Clubs. Fees for returning broodmares and registering breeders were introduced in 1950 when the cost of running the Stud Book became too difficult for the Principal Clubs to bear and their contributions ceased. At that time, it cost £1.00 to return a mare ($2.00) or 16% of the basic weekly wage of £6.20. In 2006 mare return fees, at $40, were only 6% of the average wage of $700, whereas the average wage had increased 56 fold and return fees had only increased 20 fold.

The Australian Stud Book fees are still the lowest of all major stud book authorities for the cost of officially identifying a foal. This identification is a virtual guarantee of the pedigree of each horse and means a breeder can sell with assurance while an owner can buy with confidence whether spending one million or one thousand dollars.

Staff

Year	Staff	Broodmares	Foals	Type of Work
1971	8	16,000	9,000	manual receiving, collating, checking, publishing
1984	38	38,000	18,000	computerising the records
1991	27	36,000	17,000	benefits of computerised recording
2002	17	31,000	18,000	benefits of improved systems and management
2006	12	30,000	18,000	benefits of online systems

Modern Technology

Looking back one hundred years, or even fifty years, one wonders how the Keepers and staff managed to compile and publish the enormous amount of information received in hard copy. Service information would have to be filed alphabetically by stallion name and the results manually written on a broodmare card, also filed alphabetically. Later, foaling slips had to be checked and filed under the dam for each season. Then the information passed to the printing company which would have had to composite the type for each piece of information culminating in stud books of up to 1,700 pages.

Today we have the benefit of modern technology which enables a stud book to be produced virtually by the press of a button. A file is electronically sent to the printing company which turns it into a book. Of course there is more to it with data checking between the two processes but basically it is very simple especially compared to twenty years ago. Nowadays, there are no filing cabinets in the Stud Book's office at the AJC's Randwick Racecourse, whereas in 1985 there was a room especially set aside for rows of filing cabinets, with one person dedicated to retrieving and filing records. Foaling slips were kept in shoeboxes, one of which staff have saved from 1962 and which contains, amongst others, the foaling slip for champion mare Citius under her dam Rich And Rare.

The most important relationship the Australian Stud Book has forged since 1980 is with the University of Queensland, which provided a parentage testing service through bloodtyping until 2002. Since then, the University of Queensland's Australian Equine Genetics Research Centre, a world leader in its field, has supplied a DNA typing service for the joint proprietors of the Stud Book. The independence of this parentage testing service and its quality control protocols ensures breed integrity at the highest level, in which Australian breeders can have complete confidence.

Today

Most people access the Stud Book's records through its website at studbook.org.au. However, many breeders and collectors own bound sets of stud books, ranging from 1878 to 2005, which they cherish and which form a handsome background to their libraries. Volume 41, published in 2005, contains many new features including a list of every winner of Australia's major races, plus photographs of the last five years' winners of these races.

Conclusion

An institution which has survived for over 127 years can only do so if it is strong, adaptable, has independent integrity and the confidence of the people it is serving. From its early days, the Australian Stud Book has matured from a bureaucratic regulatory organisation, which was necessary for much of the first eighty years, to an organic body capable of adopting and adapting new technology for the ultimate benefit of breeders. This change only eventuated with the advent of technology in the 1980s with bloodtyping and DNA typing, computers, microchips and the internet.

Until this technology was available, Keepers had no other recourse than the strict regime of paperwork and deadlines in order to verify the breeding details of racehorses. Modern technology enables the Stud Book to streamline the receipt of information by being able to verify it scientifically and produce an easy method of identifying a racehorse. This adoption of technology paradoxically means the Stud Book itself can take on a role of a coach to encourage and urge breeders to lodge the breeding details themselves online rather than as a hectoring bureaucrat. This is reflected in the positive attitude of its staff in their dealings with breeders.

Credit must also be given to the owners of the Stud Book known as the Joint Proprietors, the Australian Jockey Club and the Victoria Racing Club for their vision and support. They maintained the fledgling Australian Stud Book in its early days when owned elsewhere, nurtured it for decades after they bought the publishing rights, and today provide guidance that brings industry confidence to what the Stud Book is doing for breeders by guaranteeing the identity of their foals. Or, as its mission states: ensuring the integrity of thoroughbred breeding in Australia.

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Dedication:

This delightful study of trust between studmaster and stallion pictures James 'Bim' Thompson with the great Victorian-bred racehorse and sire, VAIN, at Widden Stud, Kerrabee, NSW. Vain (Wilkes* – Elated, by Orgoglio*), who covered his tenth book of mares at Widden in the spring of 1979, will top the $2 million mark in progeny earnings in 1980. (*News Ltd*)

The late J. W. 'Bim' Thompson

On Tuesday 7th May 2019 the Thompson Family of Widden was inducted into the Newcastle and Hunter Racing Hall of Fame in the Associate Category. Antony Thompson was present at the sparkling ceremony to accept the award at the Newcastle Jockey Club's Broadmeadow Racetrack. He was accompanied by spouse Kate. I was also there to witness the seminal occasion.

'A Century of Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Excellence'

By Brian Russell

Two of the colts walked form Percy Miller's Kia Ora Stud in the Segenhoe Valley near Scone to the railhead at Aberdeen in 1943 for shipment to Sydney for the Inglis Easter Yearling sales were the Midstream Colts Shannon and Murray Stream. Shannon ranks as one of Australia's greatest milers and overseas exports. After winning races in California in world record times he went to stud and sired good winners before premature death at 14. Shannon and Murray Stream were among hundreds of winners bred by Miller in thirty years in the first half of last century. At the time Kia Ora challenged as the biggest and most successful source of winners in the world and on occasion they took over 100 yearlings to the Easter sales. Sent down several months before the sale they were either led or driven to the rail station and loaded in special horse boxes on trains. Off loaded at Sydney's Darling Harbour they were then led in the early hours of the morning out to the paddocks then encompassed by the Inglis sale yards at Randwick. Besides Shannon and Murray Stream the horses bred on Kia Ora at that time included Windbag (won the Melbourne Cup in Australasian record time), Delta (won Melbourne Cup, Cox Plate, Victoria Derby), Hydrogen (won the Cox Plate twice) and Amounis (won 33 races and for a short time was Australia's leading money earner).

One historic galloper who wasn't sired on Kia Ora although they often get the credit is Peter Pan, winner of the Melbourne Cups of 1932 and 1934. He was bred by Rodney Dangar of Singleton from a mating with Pantheon, the import who finished third in the 1926 Melbourne Cup and stood initially at the Kingsfield Stud. Moved next door to Kia Ora the next year Pantheon got Peter Pan from his one season at the Kingsfield Stud, one which subsequently had much of its country swallowed up by Glenbawn Dam. His dam may have been railed to Aberdeen and then walked to Kingsfield. Kia Ora was part of a 10,000 acre grant in a valley served by the Hunter and pages Rivers provided to English businessman and politician Thomas Potter Macqueen in the early 1820s after it had been surveyed by Rodney Dangar's grandfather Henry Dangar. Established for him by Peter Macintyre the valley was called Segenhoe after Macqueen's birthplace Segenhoe Manor. In 1826 they stood the first thoroughbred sire in the Hunter Valley, and England bred stallion named Crawford. As they were very likely a few mares in the region as early as 1820, the Hunter Valley is on the eve of 200 years as horse breeding country.

One of the greatest Hunter Valley bred horses of early last century was the 1916 foaled Beauford, winner of 17 races. He ran four times against the icon performer Gloaming and beat him twice. He was bred by the Mackay family, owners for over half a century of the Tinagroo Stud northwest of Scone. It is then owned by a branch of the Macintyre family and latterly acquired by locally bred David Paradice. Another branch of the Mackay family produced in the Upper Hunter Royal Sovereign winner in 1964-65 the AJC, VRC and QTC Derbies and second in the Caulfield Cup. One of their properties joined the Sledmere Stud at Scone, the one on which Sailor's Guide was raised. He followed up wins in the Victoria Derby and Sydney Cup by being awarded the Washington DC International in America after being second across the line to Tudor Era. In the same year that Beauford was foaled a horse produced on Camyr Allyn on the southern side of Scone went on to be a giant of Australian racing. He was Eurythmic and he won 31 of his 47 starts including top races in Perth and Melbourne.

A rival of Eurythmic and Beauford was Poitrel a winner of the Melbourne Cup under 10 stone (63.5 kgs). He was bred by the Moses brothers then owners of Arrowfield now Coolmore near Jerrys Plains. They were leading breeders for 20 years early last century and included among the horses they bred was Heroic, an outstanding galloper and seven times champion stallion. Bred on Widden one of his sons Ajax won 18 races straight. One of the early champions raised by the Moses on Arrowfield was Poseidon (1903) but they bought him as a foal at foot with his dam off Rodney Dangar when he broke up the Neotsfield Stud near Singleton in 1904. As a 3-year-old Poseidon won 14 races including the AJC Derby, Victoria Derby, Caulfield Cup, Melbourne Cup and VRC and AJC St Legers. He backed up to take the Caulfield Cup again at four but could only manage to finish eighth under the burden of 10 stone three pounds in his second Melbourne Cup.

In the same decade that Poseidon won the Melbourne Cup the great staying test was taken out by four other Hunter Valley bred horses namely Lord Cardigan (won at three in 1904 and a close second to another Hunter runner Acrasia in 1905), Lord Nolan (1908) and Prince Foote (1909). Lord Cardigan and Lord Nolan were both bred and raced by Maitland identity John Mayo and were by Dangar's imported sire Positano a son of the world's leading of early last century St Simon. Positano also sired Piastre (won the 1912 Melbourne Cup) and Mooltan (second in 1907).

The biggest source of winners in the Hunter Valley in the quarter century 1950-75 was the Woodlands Stud. In that era it was under the stewardship of George Ryder, father of the Golden Slipper, and good sires including Newtown Wonder and Pipe of Peace. For 20 years to the mid-1980s Woodlands in the ownership of the Ingham brothers, became one of the biggest breeding operations in the world. One of the horses they bred and raced was Lonhro, an Australian Horse of the Year and a champion sire.

Several years ago the Inghams sold out their thoroughbred empire to Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, a ruler of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates and one of the world's leading stud, broodmare and racehorse owner for a price reportedly close on half a billion dollars. He had already established the Darley Stud near Aberdeen and is now a huge force as an owner with the former Scone horseman Peter Snowdon as his champion trainer for a while. Darley is one of the big players in a revolution in horse breeding and racing that has elevated the Hunter Valley in the current century into one of the world's greatest thoroughbred regions both in the quality of the products and the showplace appearance of the studs. They include two of the world's biggest ever thoroughbred operations, Darley/Godolphin and Ireland headquartered Coolmore, John Messara headed Arrowfield, Vinery (formerly Segenhoe), Emirates Park (also Dubai owned), Widden and newcomer Newgate Farm.

The Hunter Valley's use of visiting sires took off in 1990 with the debut appearance of Danehill, a champion European 3-year-old sprinter who went on to be the Australian champion sire a record nine times and to become the biggest force in Australian thoroughbred breeding history.