

Thoroughbred Breeding History in the Upper Hunter Valley

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.

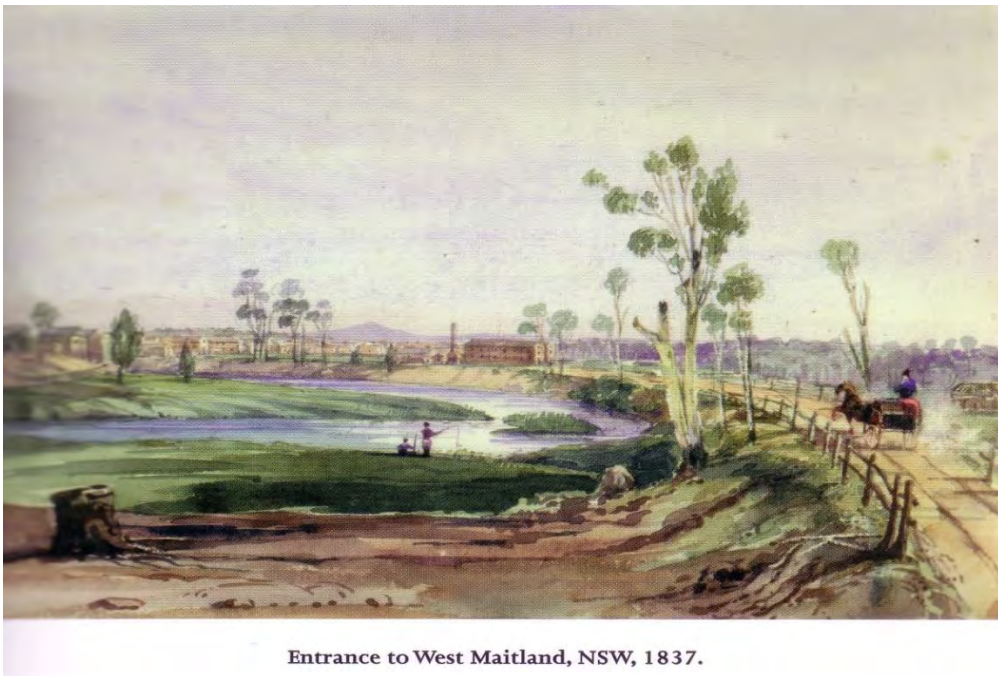
The Hon James White was the pioneer leviathan owner-breeder in the early days of metropolitan racing in both Sydney and Melbourne. His trail blazing forays included Epsom Derby assault on the august Jockey Club establishment in England. During the latter part of the 19th century the Thompson family of 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

Early Days in the Lower Hunter



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

Hon James White

<http://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/white-james-4837>

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

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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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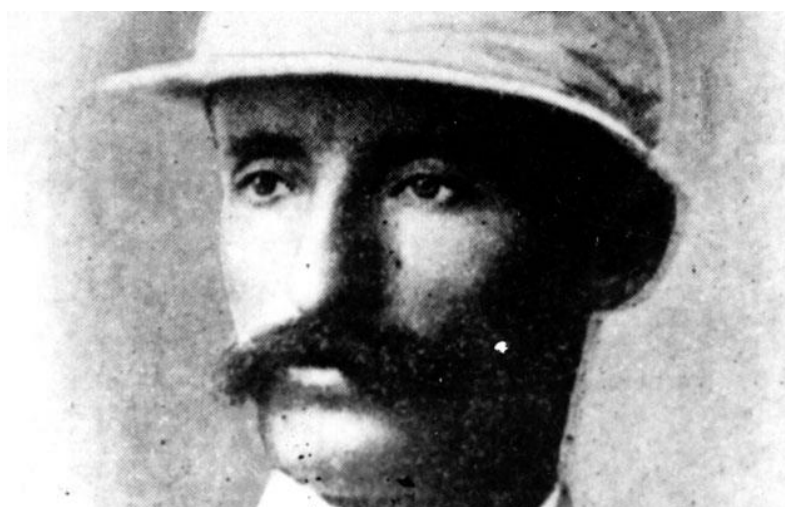
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- *Maitland Mercury*, 9 July 1853, 18 Aug 1860, 6, 15, 20 Dec 1864
- *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 May 1875, 12 Apr, 14 July 1890
- *Town and Country Journal*, 6 May 1875, 19 July 1890
- *Bulletin*, 30 Apr 1881, 10 Nov 1883 *Argus* (Melbourne), 7 Feb, 14 July 1890
- *Australasian*, 19 July 1890.

White, James (1828–1890)

From *Sydney Morning Herald*

Citation details

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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 Boorooma, 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)

Maitland Mercury (NSW): *Maitland Mercury* (NSW) 15 July 1890, p 4

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



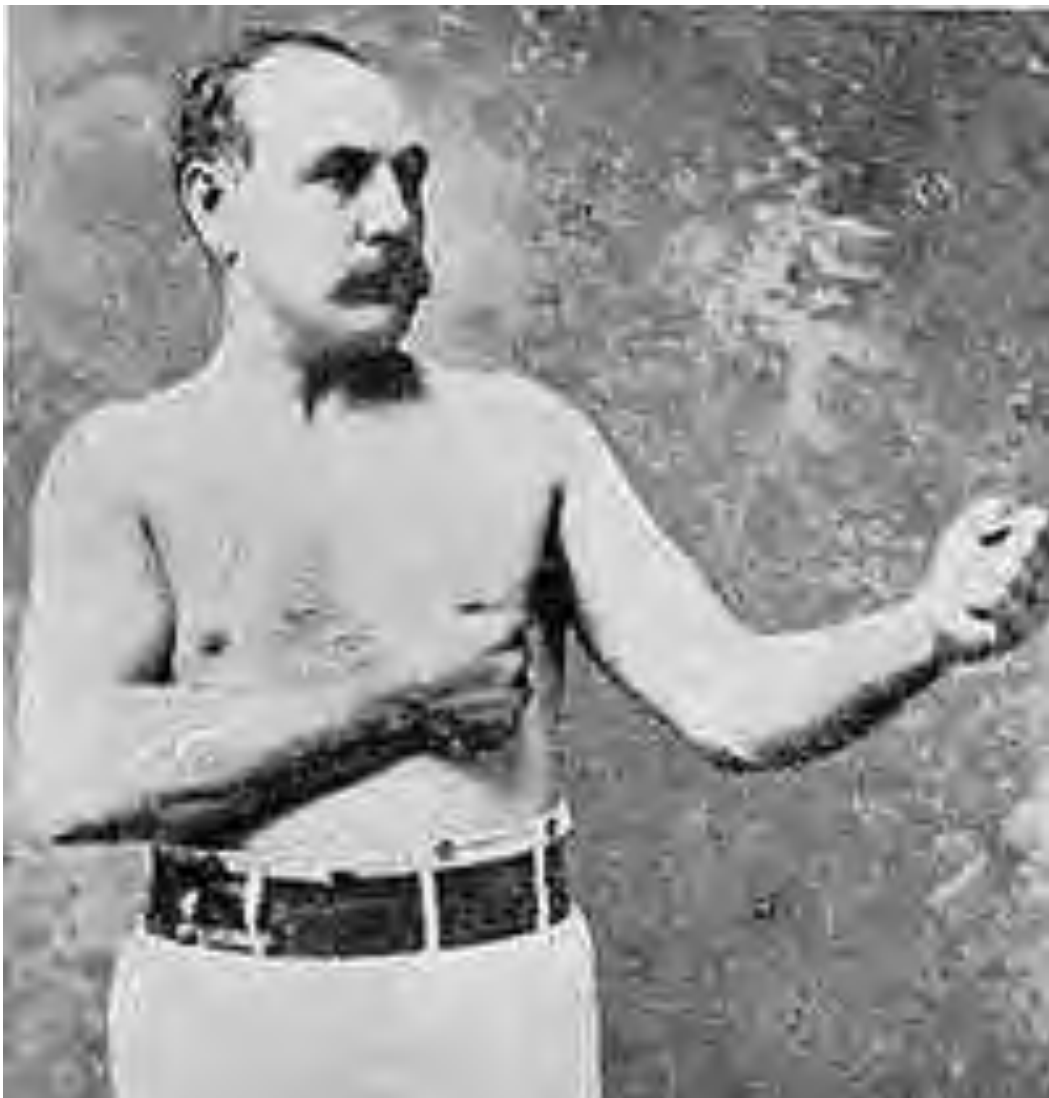
"Line-up" Sydney Cup 1889.

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)

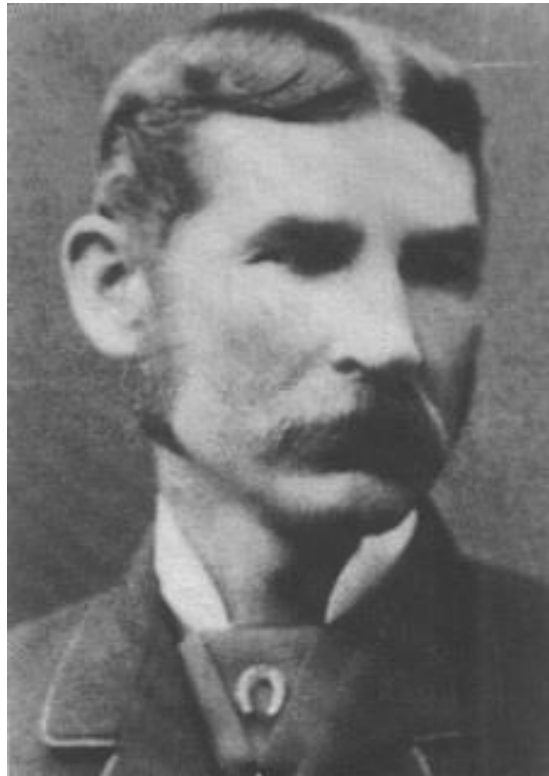


Jem Mace

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.

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 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

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 (2)
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)
<u>Total</u>		<u>68 times in 117 years</u>
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	9 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.

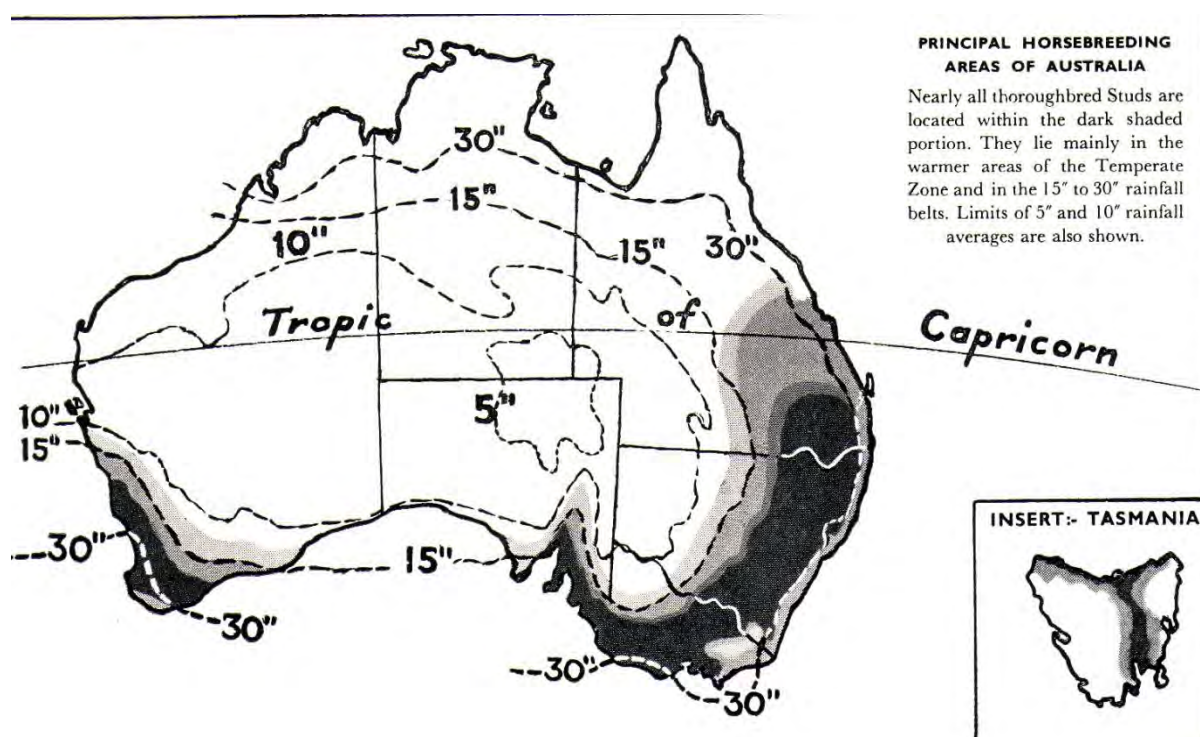
Geographical Clusters of Upper Hunter Thoroughbred Studs



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
• Clifdale	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



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.

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



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

'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.



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

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 – 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 an 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)



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 unlike. 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.

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)



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

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)



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.

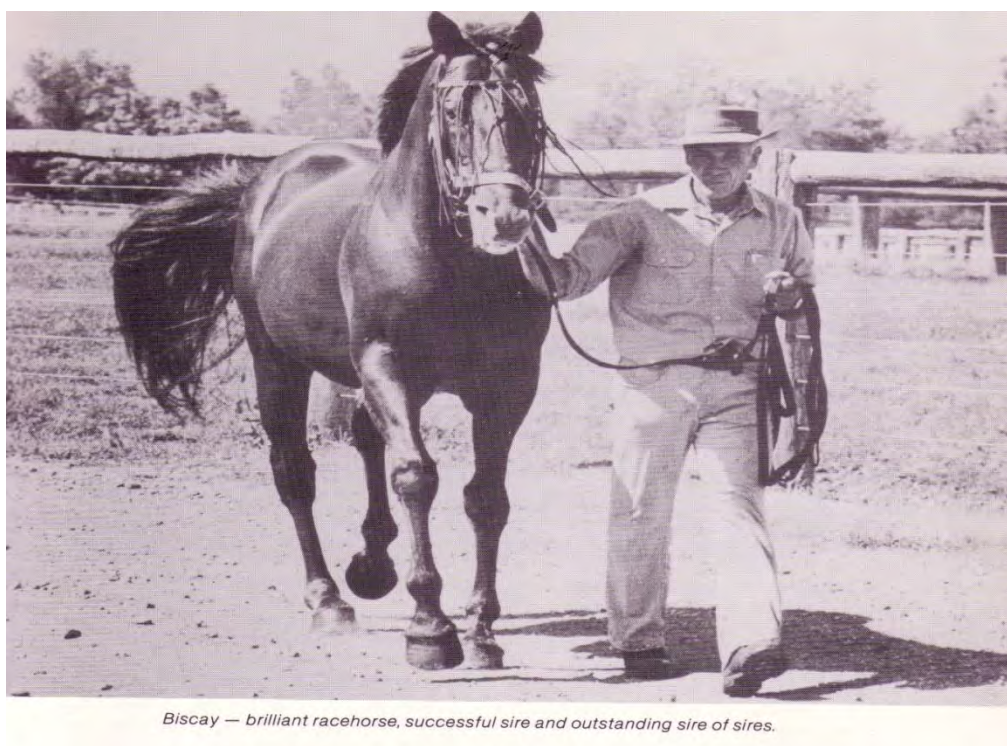
A. O. Ellison owner of 'Baramul'

(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)



(Courtesy of Peter Pring & the Thoroughbred Press)

Dark Jewel was owned by the Tait Family



Biscay (Star Kingdom ex Magic Symbol by Makapura by Big Game)

Bred and raced by Stanley Wootton

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 Dundee (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 & Dundee 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

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 Marybyrnong 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 Mormon 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 guttural 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 and 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).

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 1977 when 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.

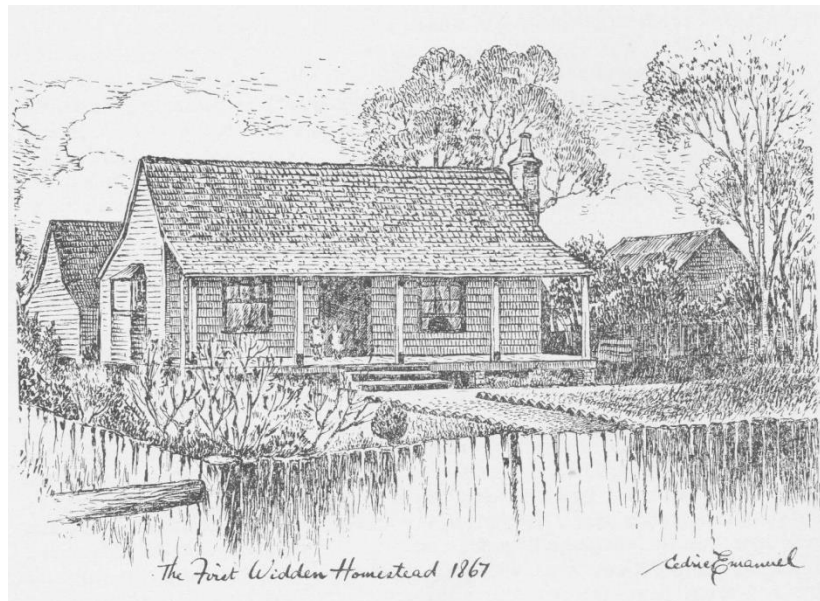
Yarraman Park has been a family owned and run operation for 45 years and is now under the charge of brothers Arthur and Harry Mitchell who bring to the stud a lifetime of international and local experience in the industry.

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.

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.



Widden homestead 1885

(Courtesy Douglas M. Barrie: Valley of Champions)

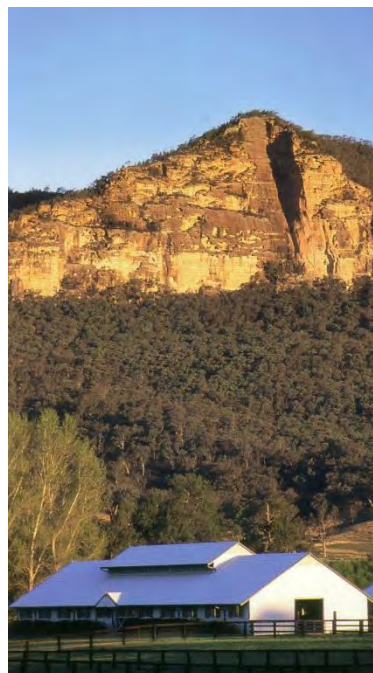


WIDDEN

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.



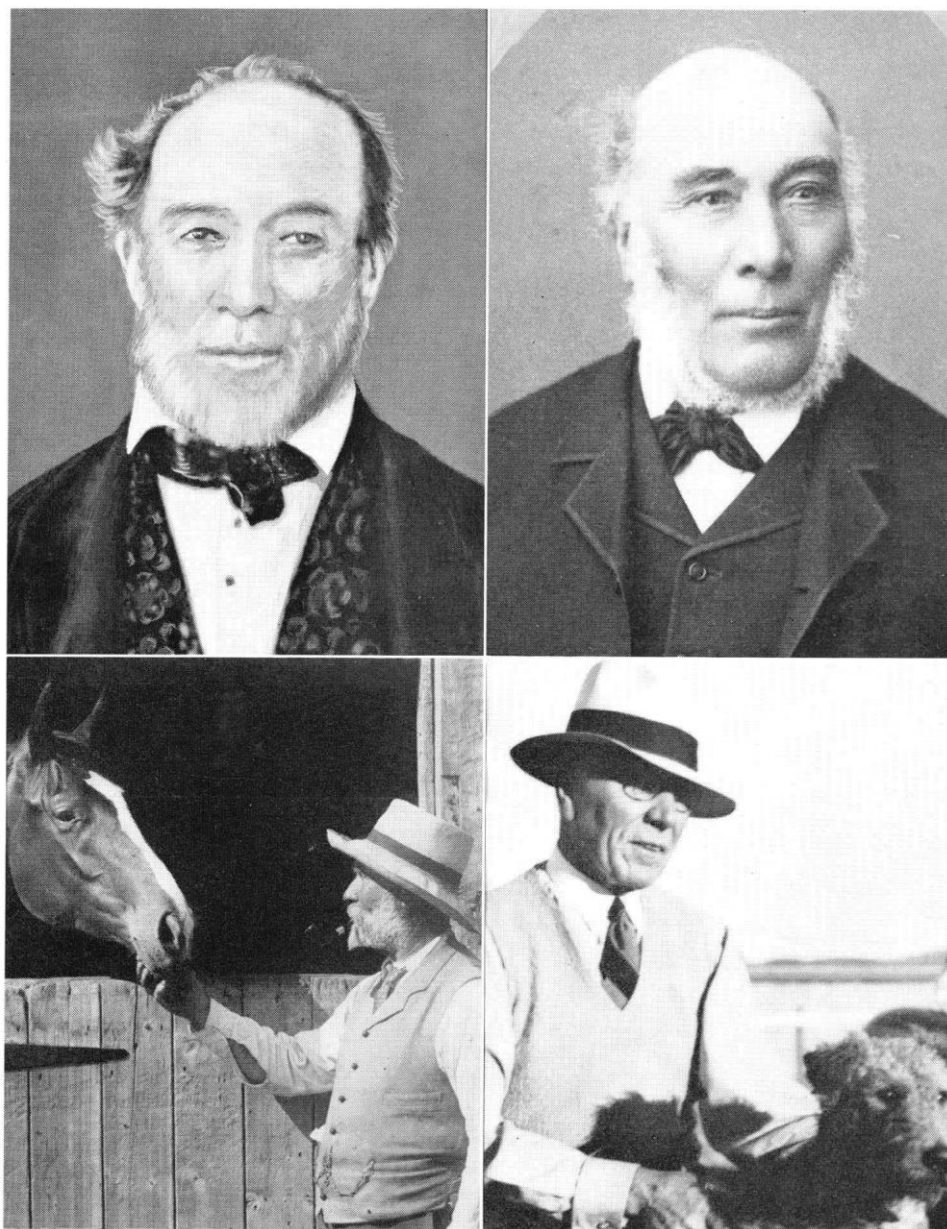


PLATE 2. PIONEER STUDMASTERS. *Above left:* John Thompson (1796-1873), brought the family to Australia. *Above right:* William Barber Thompson (1821-1899), pioneer of Nullo Mountain and Widden Valley. *Below left:* James Thompson (1851-1911), a most successful thoroughbred breeder. *Below right:* His 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

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

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.

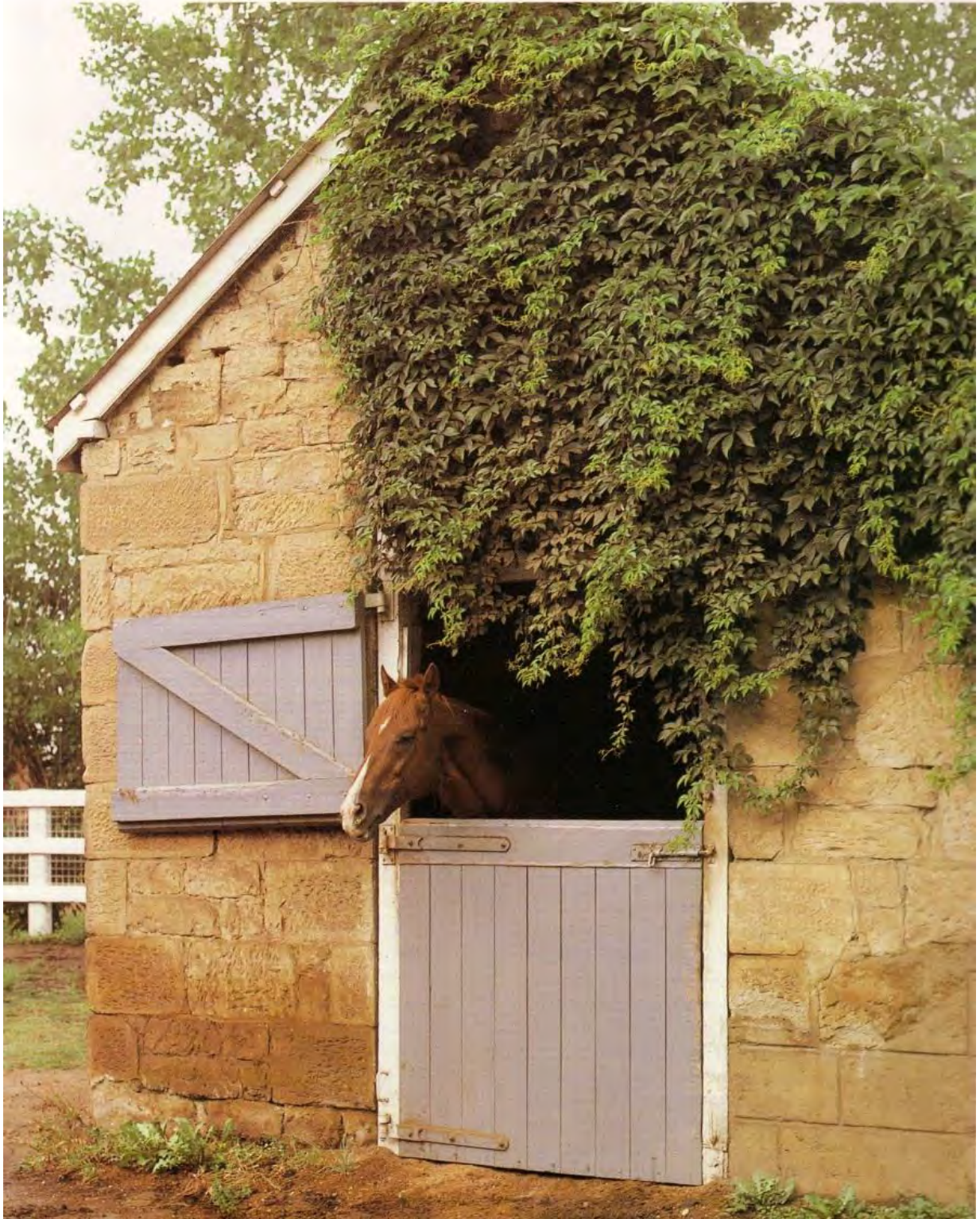
Champion mares Sun Classique & Samantha Miss have provided recent highlights for Widden Stud when consigned under our banner for the Inglis Australian Broodmare Sale on behalf of their respective owners; Sun Classique being purchased for \$2 million & Samantha Miss fetching \$3.85 million.

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.

WIDDEN



Vain in the historic sandstone stallion box



'Bletchingly' with Henry Plumptre c. 1980



'Marsday' in 1989



His Excellency Nasser Lootah

The two-state Emirates Park operation is the vision of His Excellency Nasser Lootah, a Dubai-based businessman introduced to Australian thoroughbred racing and breeding in the mid-1980s.

His Excellency Nasser Lootah's initial foray into the domestic bloodstock industry was the purchase of a long-established thoroughbred property located at Murrurundi directly on the New England Highway in the Upper Hunter Valley. Previously known as Blandford Park Stud, the property had been home to a succession of successful stallions including Twig Moss (Fr), the Champion Sire of Australia in 1985/86.

Emirates Park has long since gained a reputation for breeding outstanding racetrack performers. These include the likes of FAT AL, THESEO, SHAMEKHA, COUNTY TYRONE, DASH FOR CASH and ELEGANT FASHION, racehorses which were conceived, foaled and reared by the stud before triumphing at the very highest level of thoroughbred competition.

The past two decades have laid the foundations for a very bright future waiting ahead and the Emirates Park breeding and racing operation appears certain to prosper for many more years to come. His Excellency Nasser Lootah's son Hussain is taking a very keen interest in all of the outfit's affairs and has become a regular visitor to these shores.

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.

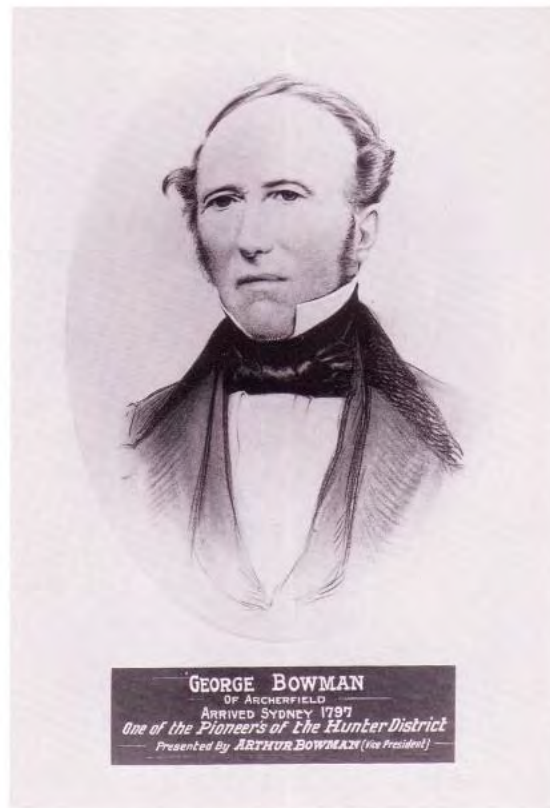


Henry Field is the great grandson of R. F. Moses of 'Fairways'

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.



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

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



'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



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 Quigley c.1750/60)

© Courtesy of the National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket



A detail from Fathers of the Turf by John Beer which features the Byerley Turk

© Courtesy of the National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket

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.

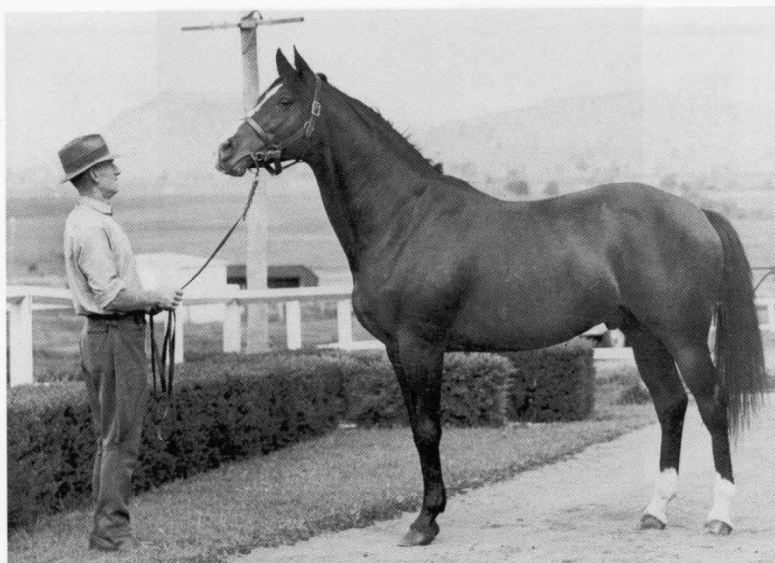


Kelvinside Homestead

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 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 Pherooshah, 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).



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 joining 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

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.

TELEPHONED 13-10-88

REQUEST TROPHY "MURRAY BAIN
SERVICE TO INDUSTRY AWARD"

ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO: P.O. BOX 822 BONDI JUNCTION N.S.W. 2022

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 all 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:

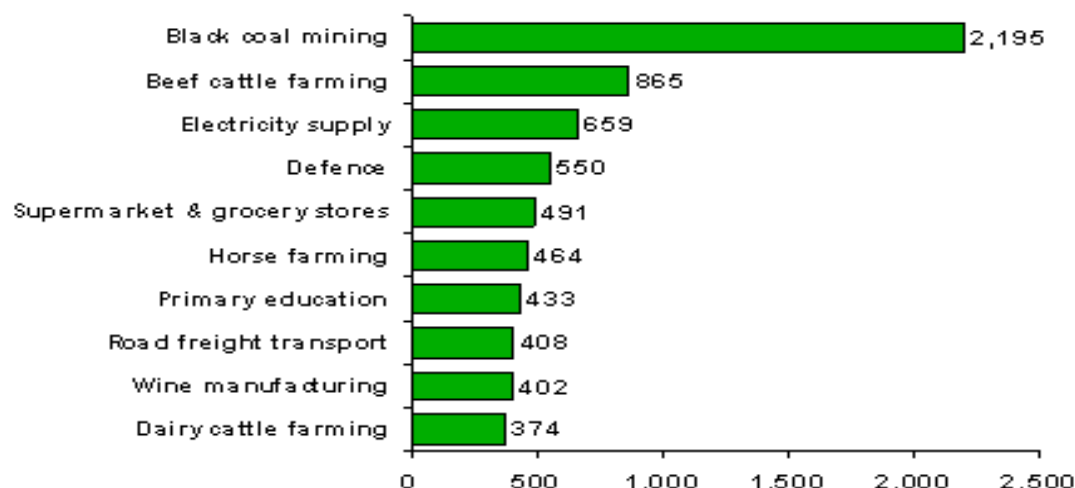
- responsible whole of government actions so that our industry can invest with confidence
- sustainable industries
- sustainable long-term jobs
- sustainable land management
- protecting our environment – particularly our water supply and air quality
- protecting the health of our people and livestock
- 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

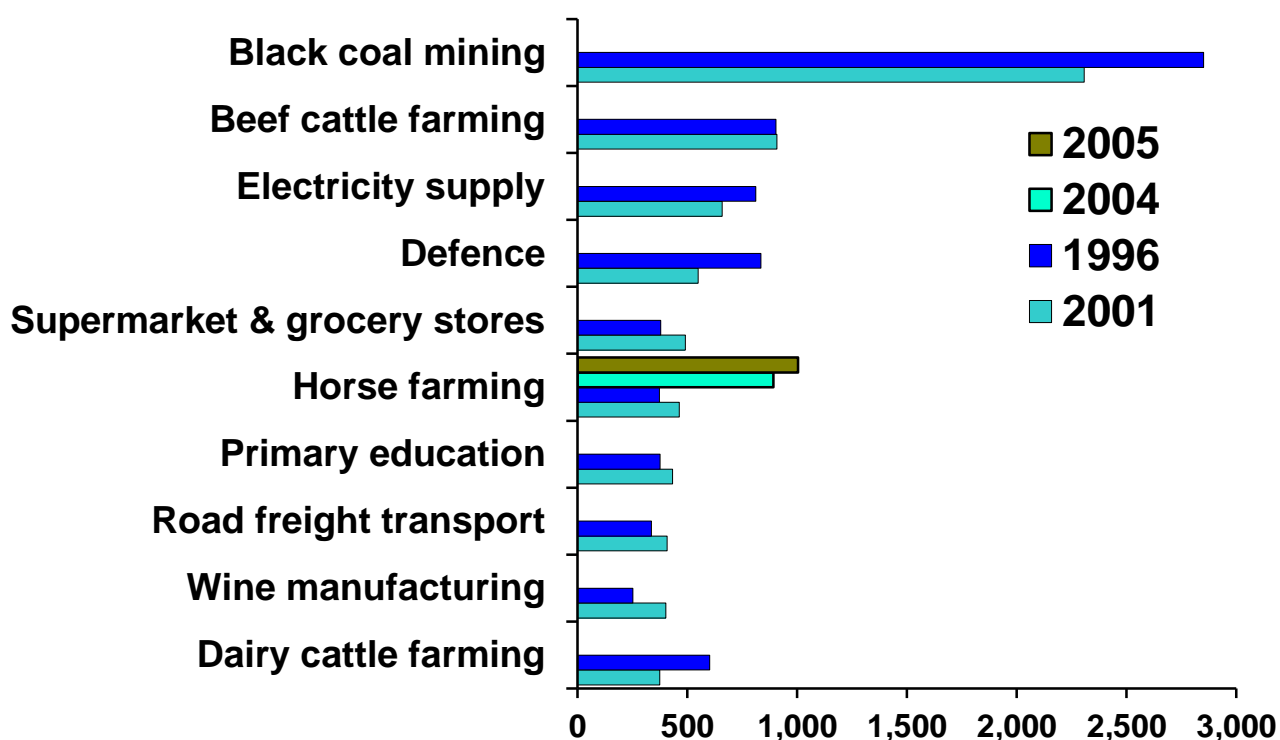
Upper Hunter – Top 10 Employing Industries 2001



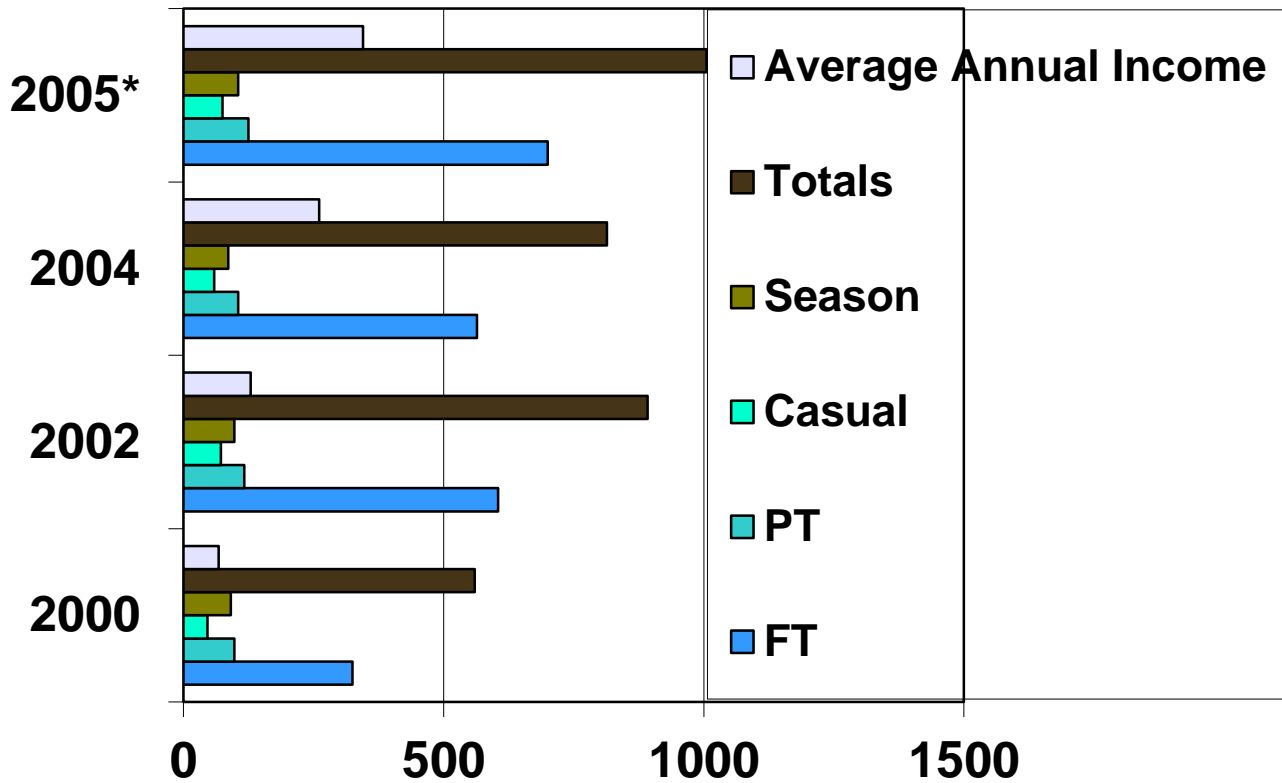
Research
Foundation

Upper Hunter – Top 10 Employing Industries

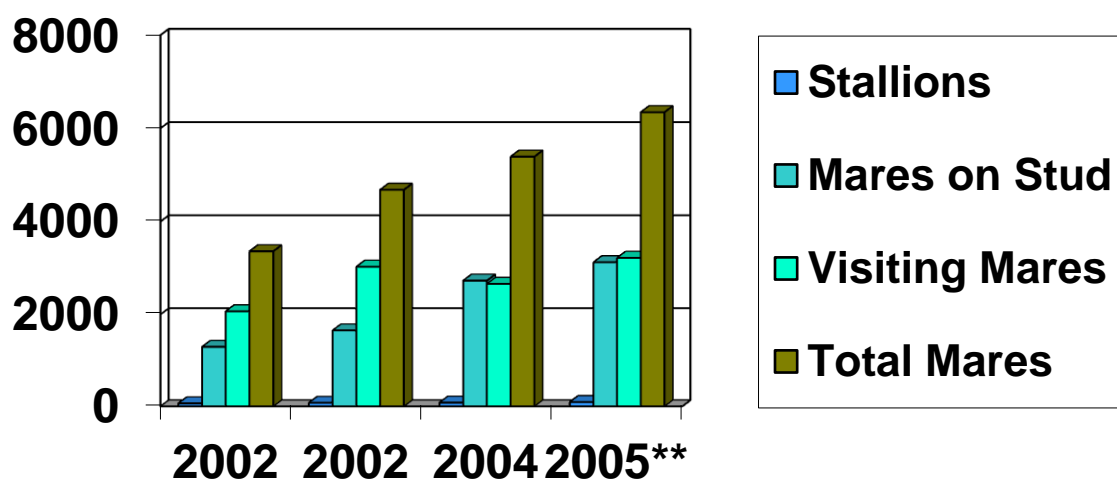
1996 – 2001 – 2004 – 2005**



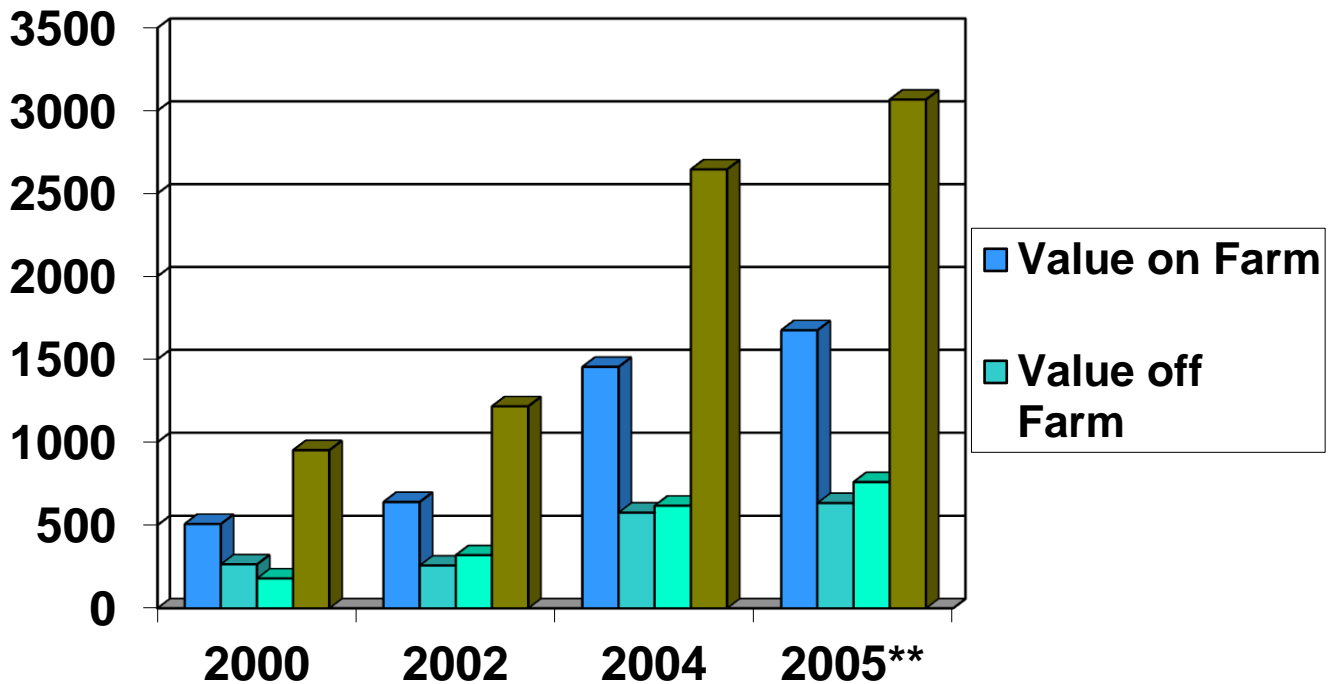
Employment on Studs in the Upper Hunter



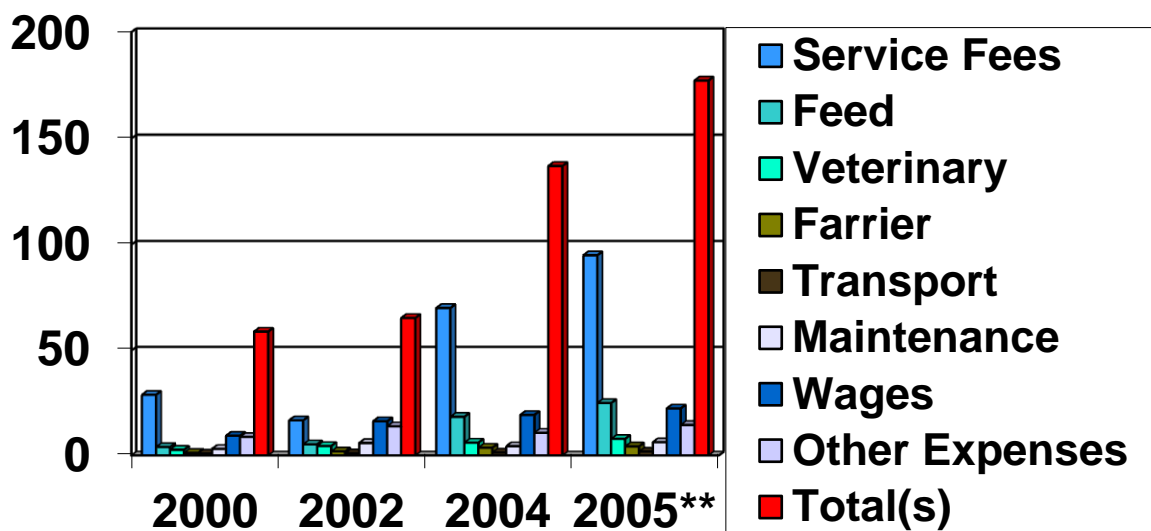
Number of Stallions and Mares on Studs in the Upper Hunter



Value of Capital Items on Studs in the Upper Hunter



Value of Expenditure and Proportion Spent in Upper Hunter



William Inglis & Sons

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.

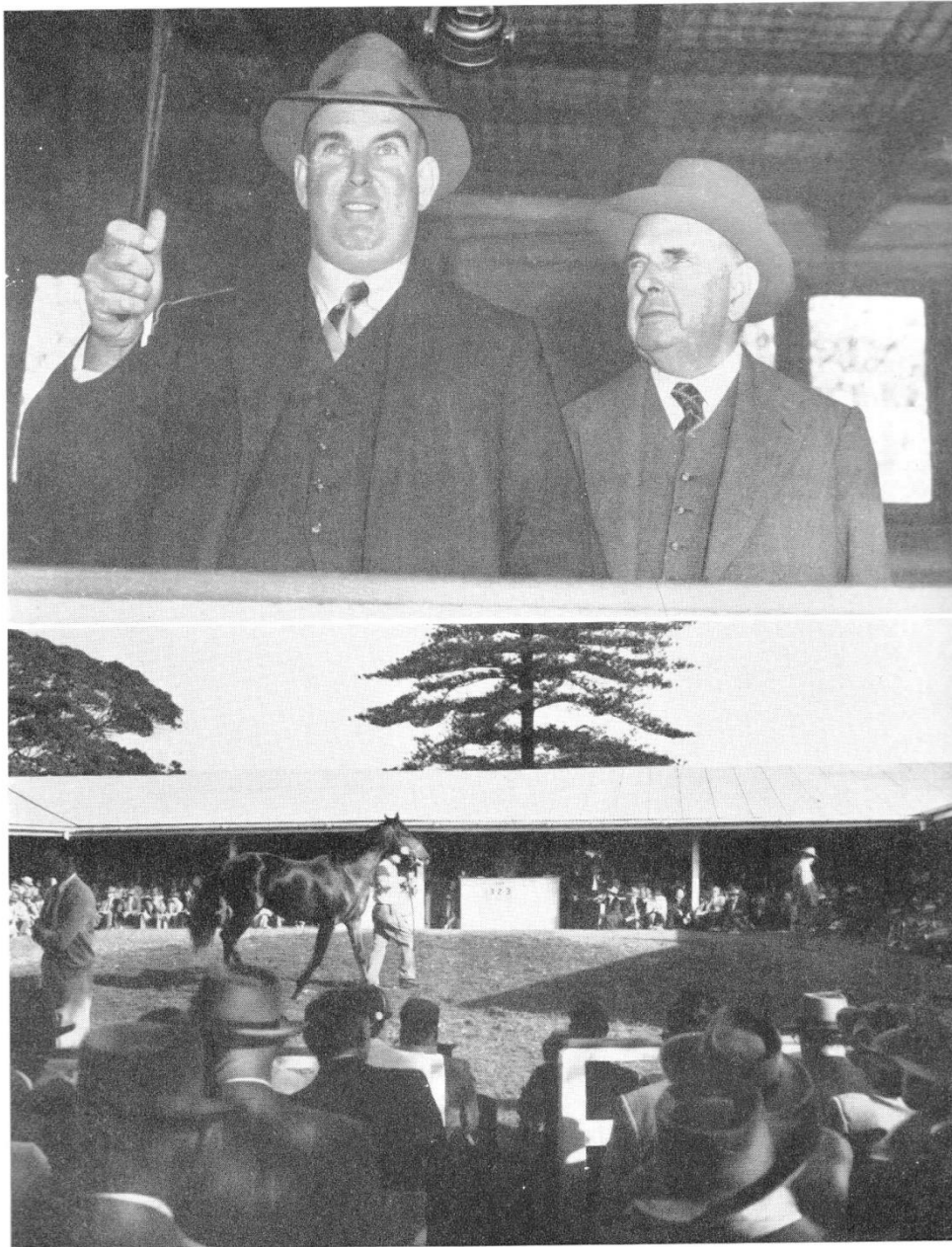


PLATE 39. THE SYDNEY YEARLING SALES. *Above:* Mr John Inglis cajoles buyers, under the watchful eye of veteran auctioneer Mr Reg Inglis. *Below:* View of the sale-ring, showing the top-priced yearling of the 1954 sales in the ring. This brown colt by Delville Wood (imp.) from Best Wishes brought 6500 guineas.

(With acknowledgements Douglas M. Barrie: 'The Australian Bloodhorse')

John and Reg Inglis at the top and the traditional sale ring with the famous fig tree below

Keepers of the Australian Stud Book

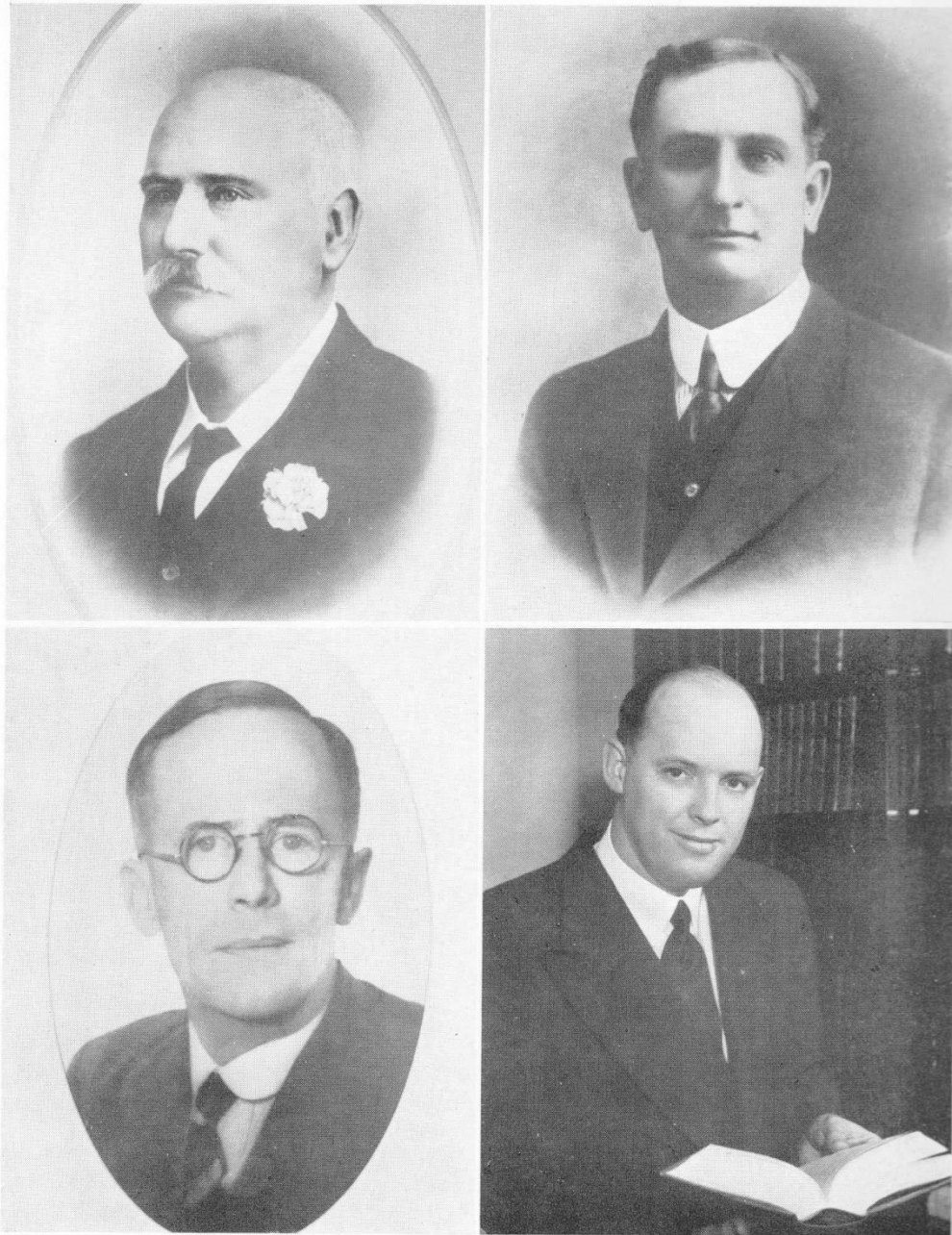


PLATE 32. KEEPERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK. *Above left:* Mr A. Yuille, compiler of the first volume (published in 1878) and of the next eight volumes. *Above right:* Mr L. G. Rouse, Keeper of the Stud Book from 1914 until 1927. *Below left:* Mr G. Loddon Yuille, the Keeper from 1927 until 1949. *Below right:* The present Keeper, Mr W. J. McFadden, who was appointed in 1949.

(With acknowledgements Douglas M. Barrie: 'The Australian Bloodhorse')

The Australian Studbook was administered conjointly by the Australian Jockey Club (AJC) and the Victorian Race Club (VRC). The headquarters were/are at Randwick Racecourse.

Acknowledgements:

Dr Judy White AM of 'Belltrees'

Keith R. Binney: *'Horsemen of the First Frontier (1788 – 1900) and The Serpent's Legacy'*

'Racehorses in Australia' 1922 edited by Dr W. H. Lang, Ken Austin & Dr Stewart McKay

Peter Pring: 'The Star Kingdom Story' & the Thoroughbred Press

Douglas M. Barrie: 'Valley of Champions' & 'The Australian Bloodhorse'

Jessica Owers: 'Shannon': Ebury Press 2013. Published by Random House Pty Ltd)

<file:///C:/Users/Bill/Documents/equine-profile-upper-hunter-region.pdf>

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<http://www.sledmerestud.com.au/>

Dedication:

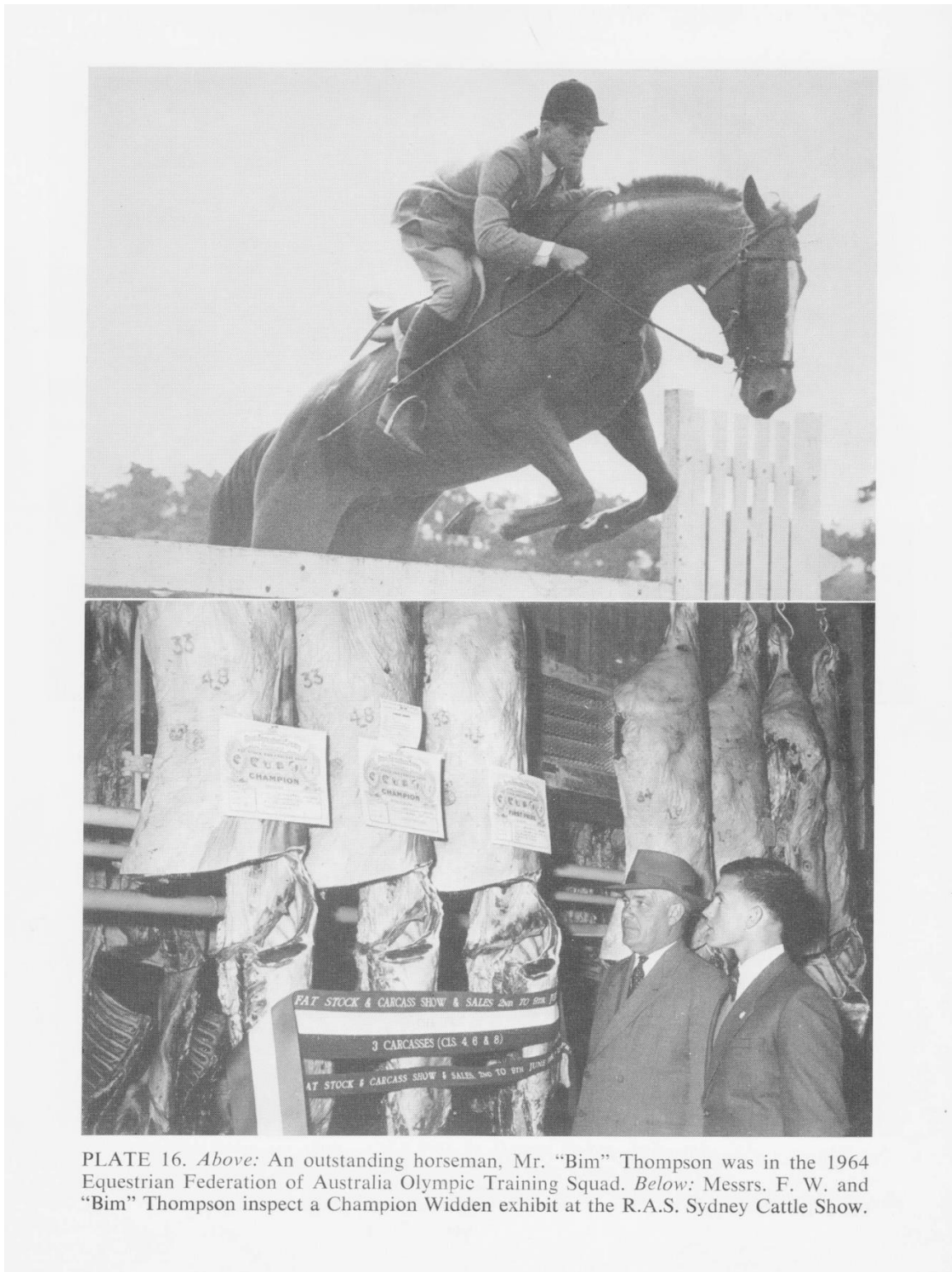


PLATE 16. *Above:* An outstanding horseman, Mr. "Bim" Thompson was in the 1964 Equestrian Federation of Australia Olympic Training Squad. *Below:* Messrs. F. W. and "Bim" Thompson inspect a Champion Widden exhibit at the R.A.S. Sydney Cattle Show.

The late J. W. 'Bim' Thompson

Appendix I

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. *“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.

'Toss' @ Glendon 1828



**TO COVER THIS SEASON,
AT GLENDON, HUNTER'S RIVER.**

TERMS,
For each Mare, 10*l.* Stg. Groom's Fee included.
**THE BAY HORSE
TOSS;**

15 bands 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 lbs. 2

Lord Darlington's Abion, 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 10*l.* 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, 7 st. 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. Westcote'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.

Appendix III

Golden Slipper Princess 1969

Among George Ryder's most innovative, audacious and flamboyant promotions was the concept of a 'Golden Slipper Princess'. This was to modelled on the 'Gorgeous Goose Girl' of the famed Hollywood Park Racetrack in Los Angeles CA. The first ever competition was held in 1969. The genuine and classy popular winner was a true Upper Hunter Valley filly in Jean McPherson from Baerami Creek then working as a pre-school teacher in Scone. Beating a select field of local talent Jean represented the Scone Race Club and forever holds the unique honour of being the inaugural STC Golden Slipper Princess.



Jean McPherson with champion STC Golden Slipper Winner 'VAIN' @ Rosehill in 1969

The prize included a fully expenses paid around the world air ticket to Hollywood Park and select racing venues in the UK. It was agreed unanimously that Jean was a most deserving first winner and an admirable ambassador for the Upper Hunter Valley, Scone Race Club, Sydney Turf Club, Australian Racing and Australia.

Appendix IV

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

(With acknowledgement Jessica Owers: 'Shannon': Ebury Press 2013. Published by Random House Pty Ltd)

Appendix V

'A Century of Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Excellence'

By Brian Russell

Two of the colts walked from 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.

Dedication:

I also wish to dedicate this modest tome to my good friend Brian Russell as well as to 'Bim' Thompson. Brian has written more about the Hunter Valley Thoroughbred than any other author or journalist.

Appendix VI

Delville Wood



111. Delville Wood was imported from England by Percy Miller to his Kia-Ora Stud in Scone in 1947 and later sold to Ray Bowcock at nearby Alabama Stud for 12,000 guineas at the dispersal sale of Kia-Ora's bloodstock on 11 May 1959. He stood for 9 years at Alabama. Delville Wood was the sire of Hydrogen. Lent by *Turf Monthly* photograph collection.

In his book, *The Australian Bloodhorse*, (1956) the equine historian, Douglas M.Barrie, writes that in the 1950s 'The hub of Australian breeding [of racehorses] was in the Hunter Valley'. He praised the studs of Kia-Ora with its stallions Magpie (imp), Midstream (imp) and Delville Wood (imp) and Judicate by Hyperion. He praised the Thompson family at Widden at Kerrabee who had been breeding great horses since William Barber Thompson pioneered the Valley in 1866. Baramul stud was owned by A.O. Ellison, who syndicated the imported stallion Star Kingdom in 1951 and the Harris family bred racehorses at nearby Holbrook. Lionel Israel was at Segenhoe stud and had the French stallion Pan, a top class stayer in England. M.V.Point was at Sledmere stud and the industrialist W.J.Smith at St Aubins. The imported stallion Wayside Inn stood at W.H.Mackay's Tinagroo stud and George Christmas at Oak Range stood Emperor (son of Djebel). Prince Goldsborough (imp.) stood nearby at R.M. Bowcock's Alabama Stud. Woodlands, near Denman was controlled by a syndicate which included 'the energetic George Ryder'. He bought Woodlands stud in 1946 and imported stallions and mares from Europe. He then sold Woodlands and bought Kia-Ora in 1971