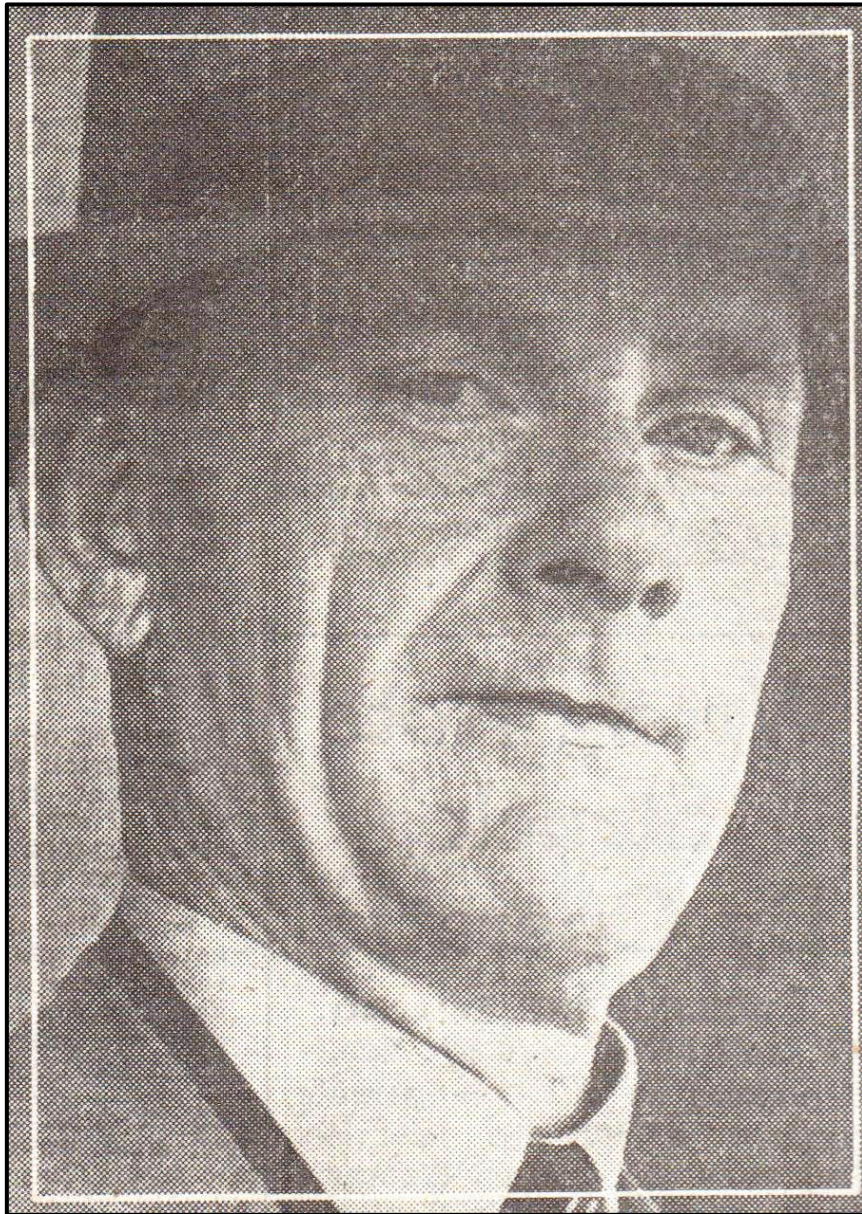


F K 'Darby' Mackay

One of the most outstanding pan-pastoralists to emerge from the Upper Hunter during the 20th century was the late F K 'Darby' Mackay. He was a man of intellect and vision excelling in many areas of production including thoroughbred horses, working stock horses and stud beef cattle. He was also an esteemed administrator in thoroughbred racing achieving high office as the Vice-Chairman of the Australian Jockey Club (AJC).

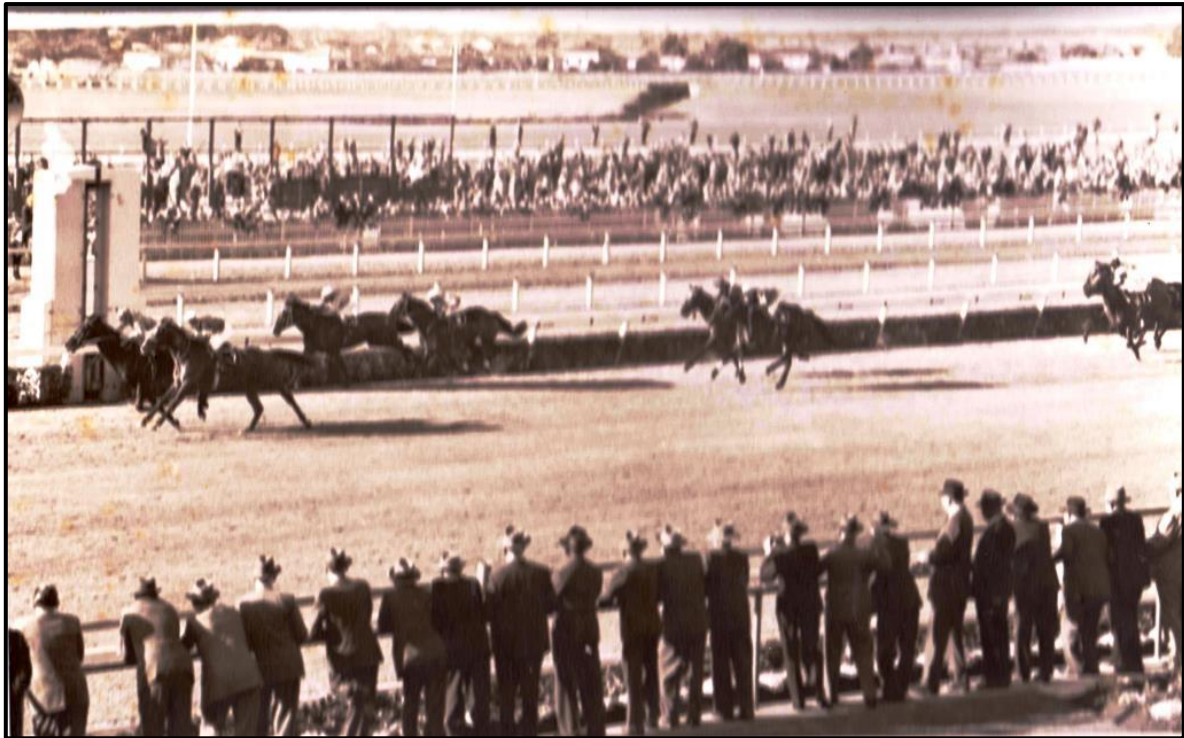


The **featured image** shows **F K 'Darby' Mackay** at Canterbury Race Course when he was standing for the AJC Committee. He was an intensely private man and shunned publicity. There are few photographs of him.



Meeting (Appeal Hearing) of the AJC Committee in the early 1950s; probably held @ Bligh Street Office (Ray Alexander)? Sir Alan Potter is in the Chair. F K Mackay, (Sir) Brian Crowley and Dr Tom Street are sitting to his right. R F Moses is in the far back corner.

It appears F K Mackay forged an enduring friendship with Sir Alan Potter? Together they raced the very good stayer "Valerius" which was bred by 'F K'. Among many other races 'Valerius' triumphed in the QTC Brisbane Cup of 1960.



Sir Alan Potter & Mr Keith Mackay's br.h. "VALERIUS" 4 years. 8 – 12
 Delville Wood (Imp.) – Eternal City (Imp.)
 Winning the QTC Brisbane Cup 2 miles 13 – 6 – 60 Time: 3 – 21 2/10th
 Trained by F J Dalton Ridden by J Thompson Essayist 2nd. Dow Street 3rd.



Sir Alan Potter leading winner to scale



Mr Keith Mackay & Sir Alan Potter holding Cup

F K Mackay returned from WWI as 'damaged goods'. He had excelled in active war service on the Western Front but was gassed in the trenches which affected his lung capacity for the rest of his life. It severely compromised his health leaving a 'chronic cough' to his dying day. He was also chosen in General Dunsterville's ('Stalky' in Kipling's Stalky & Co) elite 'Dunsterforce' for the ill-fated foray into northern Persia in late 1917 – 1918 to resist the Bolsheviks.

F K's properties in the Hunter included 'Scrumlo' at Upper Rouchel and 'Mullee' (now Kilwinning) near Scone airport. The Scrumlo 'Saladin' stock of dun-coloured horses was legendary. They all had a characteristic black line marking down the spine. It was at Scrumlo that F K bred some of the outstanding thoroughbred racehorses in post-WWII Australian racing. 'Royal Sovereign' by Chatsworth II out of Sabah (by Empyrean) won the triple-crown AJC, VRC and QTC Derbies all in 1964. F K had the vision to send Sabah to NZ to visit Chatsworth II. This prescient initiative was well before its time. He was a great student of breeding and amateur genetics plus a devotee of Bruce Lowe's Figure System. He had noted his great mares Sabah and Pella were both chestnut with silver mane and tail. His research revealed they traced back to 'Canterbury Pilgrim' twice in the 4th remove ('double cross'). This ancestor mare was similarly coloured. F K also bred the outstanding sprinter Nebo Road (Wilkes Fr. ex Juani) who won the VRC Newmarket at Flemington in 1966. Nebo Road was the first and best of Stan Fox's racehorses.

The yearlings from Scrumlo were prepared for sale at 'Mullee' on the outskirts of Scone just past the airport and bordering 'Sledmere Stud'. Peter Snowdon's father Ross was in charge of the draft in 1968. Bruce Martin managed the Poll Hereford Stud for F K. This stud was perhaps the best in the State if not the country in the late 60s and early 70s. The foundation sires were 'Milton Rebel' and 'Kildrummie Iosta'. Many of the cows were from the 'Moreduval' herd of the Simson family from Spring Ridge. 'Mullee David' was a champion bull bred at this time winning the coveted blue ribbon and supreme championship at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. He was sold for the then astronomical sum of \$30,000:00. He has been proved to be an outstanding progenitor of the breed himself.

F K was someone for whom excellence was barely good enough; perfection was his goal. He spent long hours in the paddocks simply watching where, when and how an individual cow grazed and how she looked after her calf. His powers of observation were exquisitely honed. Information gleaned was always put to good use in the breeding herd. Detail was paramount.



The following obituary was printed in the excellent "BINGHI" publication of the Armidale School (TAS) in October 1990 written by Mr Paul Johnstone.

<http://archive.as.edu.au/community/archives/binghi/073-Binghi-1990-No73.pdf>

In the last edition of "BINGHI" we reported the death of Keith Mackay – one of the School's great benefactors. We acknowledge with appreciation this article contributed by Mr Paul Johnstone.

Francis Keith Mackay was born on 7th April 1895 at Maitland and died in Sydney on 5th June 1990 aged 95 years. Known affectionately as 'Darby' Mackay, he was the son of W H Mackay of 'Anambah', West Maitland and was brought up there in early years and later with his grandfather, J. K. Mackay, at 'Dungog'. He was educated at Barker College in the years 1909 – 1911 and at The Armidale School from September 1912 to Easter 1913, having entered in Form IV. In the swimming sports in February 1913 he was placed first in the 25 yards Onback Championship, second in the 100 yards Senior Championship and first in the 100 yards Senior Handicap. Keith was a member of the Cadet Corps. He joined the Old Boys' Union as a Life member in 1919.

A letter in 1913 mentioned he had enlisted in England in King Edward's Horse and the School magazine confirmed that in December 1915 he was a Lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery. As a Captain, he was a member of the elite 'Dunsterforce' which included 200 picked Officer and NCO's mainly from the Colonial Forces, 20 Officers and 20 NCO's of whom were Australians. This force moved into the northern part of Persia at the end of 1917 to link up with the Russians and Armenians to stop the Turkish forces penetrating further and threatening the northern part of India.

He married Kathleen Brodie in 1922 and lived at "Scrumlo" east of Aberdeen. After her death in 1954 he married Dorothy Abbott who survives him. There were no children from either marriage. He was involved with the Mackay properties including 'Lawn Hill', 'Cuplacurapa', 'Mantuan Downs', 'Boonaldoon', 'Branga Plains' and 'Scrumlo' during his life. 'Darby' Mackay, as a boy and throughout his life, loved and was most interested in, birds and animals and this interest was still most evident right up until the time of his death. He was respected as having good judgement with sheep and cattle and their management, and as a breeder of stock horses, notably Scrumlo Creamies. He was a member of the AJC and Vice-President for some time. He was also a member of the Union Club and somewhat shortly before his death was informed he was the oldest living member so promptly resigned. He was a supporter of the Police Boys Club movement.

In 1961 he contacted the late J. L. G. Johnstone in Armidale regarding setting up a trust for scholarship, to include The Armidale School and the University of New England. Subsequently he set up the 'Keith and Dorothy Mackay Trust Fund' with funds to be used to assist boys with more than average ability to attend The Armidale School or to assist boys already there, who, for financial reasons, may have been prevented from continuing. Funds were also to be used for Travelling Scholarships for postgraduate students at the University of New England. Although not restricting scholarships to country boys, he had indicated that, because of his family's great interest in the land and the fact that they had succeeded on the land, country educational institutions were preferred so they catered more for country boys and young men.

'Darby' Mackay was known to have been very generous to people in less fortunate circumstances than himself and in being so, shunned publicity so the full extent of his generosity in his life will never be known. (*His Scrumlo manager Bert Griffith was a luminary early founder of the Australian Stock Horse Society. He had a very fine tutor.*)

Many boys and their families have reason to be very grateful to the late Keith Mackay and his wife, Dorothy.

The BEST ones win the BIG ones!

It seems slightly out of character but this was the headline in a promotional pamphlet for the Reay Pty. Ltd. "Scrumlo", Aberdeen, NSW 2336 draft of yearlings presented for the Wm Inglis & Sons Summer Yearling Sale Monday 10th – Wednesday 12th January 1972. Do you recall the forerunner of Magic Millions? I think it's likely Dan Lee Warner had something to do with the composition? Dan was married to F K Mackay's niece Anne (Walker) and found himself in charge of affairs at Scrumlo. The prose is somewhat flamboyant; certainly not redolent of 'FKM'! It does however emphasise his commitment to 'line breeding' and the family of Sappho?

The story of 'Sappho'

The origin(s) and history of the Colonial Taproot Mare 'Sappho' has been brilliantly documented in the online resource 'Thoroughbred Heritage'.

See: <http://www.tbheritage.com/HistoricDams/ColonFoundMares.html>

See: <http://www.tbheritage.com/HistoricDams/ColonMares/C1.html>

See: <https://sconevedynasty.com.au/colonial-foundation-mares/>

Family C-1: Sappho

This is a prolific and successful family with descendants still winning stakes races throughout Australasia. The taproot mare, **Sappho**, was a grey, born in 1847, by the native-bred Marquis (1837), and out of a **grey mare** by the grey Zohrab (1832), the latter a son of the imported bay Rous' Emigrant (1822, by Pioneer) and from the grey mare Gulnare (1822, imported 1830), by Young Gohanna (by the sturdy [Gohanna](#)). Zohrab was an important early thoroughbred stallion with significant influence as a broodmare sire.

Sappho's dam, by Zohrab, and *her* dam, identified only as a **brown mare** whose pedigree was lost, were probably born around 1840 in the Camden Park Stud of the Macarthur family. [John Macarthur](#), a pioneer sheep breeder, imported a number of horses from England. He also owned Washington, an important early sire thought to be from a shipment of Spanish-Eastern bloodhorses sent from New England (USA) to the Cape of Good Hope at the close of the eighteenth century, and imported into Australia in 1800. According to *Barrie*,* by the 1820s Camden Stud had over 100 horses derived from English thoroughbred and arabian ancestry, but records of these "beautiful and valuable horses," if kept, were lost.

Sappho's sire, Marquis, was bred at the influential Hunter valley stud, Glendon, operated by the brothers Robert Scott and Helenus Scott. He was out of the native-bred My Lady, (1832, by imported Trumpet), and by Dover (1832, by Patron-Maid of Kent), who had been imported by the Scotts in 1836. Marquis became a foundation stallion in the famous Bylong Stud owned by the Lee family. Marquis also figures prominently in the Colonial families of the [Steeltrap mare](#) (C - 16), [Adeline](#) (C - 6), [The Young English mare](#) (C - 9), and [Jewess](#) (C-31), and indirectly in several other colonial families developed at the Lee studs.

Sappho herself was born at the Bylong Stud of William Lee, one of the first settlers in the Bathurst district of New South Wales, whose holdings, upon his death in 1870 covered over 18,000 acres, excluding the tens of thousands of station acres held by his various sons. In the ASB, the then thirteen-year-old George Lee, his sixth son, is credited as the breeder of Sappho. Both George and his elder brother, John, became among the most influential of NSW thoroughbred breeders in the mid and late nineteenth century, and three other brothers, Thomas, James and Edward had an interest in bloodstock breeding and racing.

Sappho apparently did not race, and was used as a hack by her young owner-breeder before entering the breeding shed. Her first three foals were by the native-bred Little John II (by imported St. John; St. John was a stallion at the Rouse Hill stud of Richard Rouse, Snr). **Forester** (1859) and **Premier** (1860), both gelded, were both winners of the Queensland Brisbane Cup over 18 furlongs.

The third Little John II - Sappho foal was the grey filly **Paraguay** (1861). Paraguay's daughter, **Perfection** (1874), bred **St. Lawrence** (1880), a winner of the VATC Debutant Stakes and the AJC Doncaster Handicap several years later. Paraguay's grey filly **Maid of Athol** (1876, by Maribyrnong) was sold to the Auckland, New Zealand stud of Samuel and Thomas Morrin, where she established a long-lived branch of the Sappho family still winning races in the 1980s. Some descendants of this branch included New Zealand Derby winner **Scot's Grey** (1886, by Musket), the great staying mare **Queen of Trumps** (1887, Wanganui Derby and Wellington Racing Club Autumn Handicap and Handicap Stakes), the 1960s steeplechaser **Fleeting Moment** (see below), and, more recently, **Spanish Star** (1983, winner of the 1990 Trustbank Bay of Plenty Ltd. Handicap), and **Chief Tango** (1986), winner of the WRC Wellesley Stakes, among other races.

The next Sappho foal was **(Young) Sappho** (1872) by Sir Hercules, from whom the bulk of the family descends. After this were **Chancellor** (1863), **Constance** (1864), **Adventuress** (1867) and **Jocasta** (1871). Jocasta, by The Fop (1866), established a branch of the Sappho family active through the early 20th century. The Fop was bred at the Lee stud and was later a stallion at the Widden stud of John Thompson, not far from Bylong. Jocasta's grandson, **Rabato** (1896, by Gozo) won the Brisbane Cup, and her granddaughters, **More Pork** (1885) and **Hannah** (1890) both produced a succession of stakes winners in Western Australian Turf Club races, most of them by Gozo (imported in-utero, 1882, by Wild Oats-Maltese Cross) in the Tucka Tucka stud of J.R. Smith, at Yetman, NSW.

(Young) Sappho's sire, the native-bred Sir Hercules (1843, by imported Cap-a-pie-imported Paraguay), who had spent some years in New Zealand, was purchased by the Lees in 1861, and served his remaining years at stud at Bylong. Unraced, he was an extremely influential colonial stallion, sire of [Yattendon](#), and grandsire of [Chester](#) and Grand Flaneur, all great racehorses and leading sires.

(Young) Sappho ran unsuccessfully, but her best distance was half a mile; at one point she ran for a price of £20, including saddle and bridle, at the Bathurst racecourse. Unsold, she was established as a broodmare at George Lee's Leeholme stud at Kelso, near Bathurst, where she bred a succession of winners and important broodmare daughters. First was **Tarquin** (1868, by imported Kingston), a modest runner and sire. Next were three more colts by Kingston: **Lecturer** (1869, unbeaten as a juvenile, his only season); **Kingsborough** (1871, AJC Derby and other wins, moderately successful sire, see below); and **Savanaka** (1874, Sydney Cup and Australian Cup, moderately successful sire, see below). After that came daughter **Emily** (1875, by imported [Tim Whiffler](#), winner of 3 races and second in the Hawkesbury Guineas and the VRC Oaks); AJC Derby winner **Nellie** (1876, by imported [Tim Whiffler](#)), through which the family descends; **Bertie** (1877); the filly **Spinningdale** (1878, by Maribyrnong, winner of good AJC stakes races) that bred on; the unraced **Dorothy** (1880, by Maribyrnong), that bred on, and finally, **Phaon** (1882, by King of the Ring), who won the AJC Epsom Handicap.

Spinningdale, **Emily** and **Dorothy** all had descendants that won good races through the early twentieth century, but the line continued through **Nellie**, who won the Maribyrnong Plate and the AJC Sires' Produce Stakes at age two and the AJC Derby at age three, placing second in the AJC St. Leger and third in the VRC Oaks, in eight starts. Retired to Lee's stud, she bred twelve foals between 1882 and 1884, missing only one year. Like her dam, she produced winners and successful broodmare daughters.

Nellie's daughter **Wilga** (1887, by imported Epigram), won three races as a juvenile, including the AJC Champagne Stakes, and at age three won two handicaps. She, in turn, bred two good winners

and daughters that bred on, with descendants that included Perth Cup winner **Scorcher** (1902, by Simmer) and Queensland St. Leger winner **Loyal Shepherd** (1921). **Yarran** (1888, by Epigram) won the VRC Maribyrnong Plate, as did Nellie's next foal, **Etra Weenie** (1889, by [Trenton](#)). Etra Weenie, also winner of the VRC Oaks at age three, became the fourth mare in succession in this family to produce good racehorses and outstanding producing daughters, and was classed by many as the "greatest of Australian brood mares" [along with Frailty]. Nellie's daughters **Athata** (1891, by Trident) and **Lady Helena** (1892, by Trident) both established successful branches of the Sappho family.

Etra Weenie, who raced for Sappho family enthusiast Herbert Power under a lease arrangement with George Lee, returned to the Lee stud for her broodmare career. She bred a succession of good running sons and daughters, many of which were sold for top dollar to and raced by the Melbourne-based sportsman Herbert Power.

Diffidence (1895, by Pilgrim's Progress), runner for Power, won the 16 furlong AJC Sydney Cup, and bred three winners: **Lady Diffidence** (1904, by imp. Grafton), who won the VRC Alma Vale STakes and the VATC Anniversary Handicap for Herbert Power, and placed second in the VRC Oaks; son **Gold Brew** (1909, by imp. Maltster), winner of the Maribyrnong Plate and the RRC Railway Stakes and his half-brother **Andelosia** (1910, by imp. Fortunatus), winner of three races at age two, including the VATC Caulfield Guineas, and of the Moonee Valley Cup at age five. Her 1916 daughter **Reticence** (by Wallace) bred on, with descendants including Canterbury Guineas and December Stakes winner **Ensign** (1937) and **Nebo Road** (1963, see below).

Etra Weenie's black 1896 colt, **Merriwee** (by Bill of Portland, see below), won the Melbourne Cup and other races, and became a sire in New Zealand. His sister, **Wigelmara** (1897) won the VATC Debutant Stakes. One of her later foals, the colt **Posadas** (1908, by Positano) won the AJC Champagne Stakes. Etra Weenie's son **Leeholme** (1898, by Haut Brion) was only a moderate performer on the turf, but became a stallion in Tasmania.

In addition to Diffidence, Etra Weenie had four more distinguished broodmare daughters: **Murna** (1899, by Haut Brion), dam of the excellent race mare **Wilari** (see below) and her sister, who bred on; **Lady Joan** (1904, by Sir Foote), dam of AJC St Leger winner Sir Andrew; **Simmerette** (1906, by imp. Simmer), winner of three races and dam of the "flying" **Traquette** (see below), who in turn produced the good stallion **Powerscourt** (see below). **Wigelmara** (1897, by Bill of Portland) developed a highly successful branch of Sappho's family through her 1905 daughter, **Cleis**. Wigelmara was also the dam of Caulfield Guineas winner **Master Foote**, who Lee had sold for the top price of 1600 guineas at the first William Inglis and Sons yearling sale at Randwick -- despite his colonial roots -- and the AJC Derby winner and sire **Beragoona** (see below).

George Lee died in January of 1912, and with him the great Lee breeding dynasty. The Leeholme stud was dispersed; Etra Weenie had preceded Lee in death the year before, but her daughters, and those of Wigelmara's, retained by Lee, were purchased by many of Australia's most prominent breeders, and their descendants became winners and produced successful progeny throughout Australia.

*Douglas Barrie, *The Australian Bloodhorse* (Angus and Robertson, Sydney: 1956)

Notable Descendants



Basha Felika

Basha Felika b.g. 1947

(The Buzzard - Perfect Morn)

Bred by C.E. Barnes, at Canning Downs, Queensland, he was a prominent Brisbane runner, and best three year old in the state, winner of the QTC Queensland Derby and JHS Barnes Stakes, the QTC St. Leger, the VATC Caulfield Cup, and the QTC Moreton Handicap. After the QTC St. Leger in 1951, he was deliberately aimed at the Caulfield Cup by his trainer, E. Fisher, who moved him from Brisbane to Toowoomba, in the mountains, to acclimate him from tropical temperatures to the Victoria climate; it paid off when he won the Cup, despite having strained a shoulder several days before the race. After he returned from the war, C.E. Barnes, a son of noted horseman J.H.S. Barnes, was offered a free service to The Buzzard (1926) by the stallion's owner, J.G. McDougall of Lyndhurst Stud, and sent his homebred mare **Perfect Morn** (1935) by his father's stallion, Rivoli, who had run second in the 1923 Melbourne Cup. The resulting foal was Basha Felika, the name for lightning in Egyptian.



Beragoon

Beragoon b.c. 1910

(Multiform - Wigelmor)

Bred by George Lee and purchased as a yearling for £700 by trainer J.E. O'Brien, he was a cracking good, "well-balanced, short-legged English type" juvenile, winner of the AJC Breeders' Plate, the AJC Gimcrack Stakes and the VRC Maribyrnong Plate, called the smartest two-year-old performer at Australian Spring Meetings; the next year he won both the AJC Derby and the VRC Victoria Derby. His dam, sister to **Merriwee** (see below) won the 4 furlong VATC Debutant Stakes, showing a great deal of speed, but went wrong "in the wind," and was retired; she continued the family line through her Wallace daughter **Cleis** (1905); her other offspring included **Master Foote** (1904, Caulfield Guineas. later proving unsound "in the wind"), and daughter **Gidgiel** (1908), who also bred on. Beragoon retired to O'Brien's Kingsfield Stud near the Hunter River, where he stood next to imported Rossendale. He got six stakes winners, including a couple of good juveniles, and the gelded Royal Present, winner of the 12 furlong AJC Avondale Cup . He died at age 15.



Cordale



Fleeting Moment

Cordale br.c. 1940

(Conspirator - Lady Rossendale)

By the Irish-bred Conspirator, a son of Blandford, he was a high-class stayer, winner of the AJC Sydney Cup (16 furlongs) and the AJC Metropolitan (13 furlongs). Was not a success at stud.



Lawrence

Fleeting Moment b.g. 1958

(Golden Souvenir - Lambo Lux)

By a top-class stayer, he was a tough, long-running steeplechaser in New Zealand, winner of the WRC Parliamentary Handicap (flat race), the Awapuni Winter Cup and the Wellington Steeplechase. His placings included a second



Merriwee

to the good mare Falada in the 1969 Great Northern Steeplechase, and third in the 1966 New Zealand Cup to Fieldmaster and Eiffel Tower.

Kingsborough b.c. 1871

(Kingston - (Young) Sappho)

One of the early good stayers, bred by George Lee and raced by Sir Hercules Robinson (governor of NSW), he won twice in seven starts at age two, including the AJC Sires' Produce Stakes; at three he won six of seven starts, his one loss to the great race mare Lurline. His wins at three included the AJC Champagne Stakes, and the AJC Derby and St. Leger. At ages four and five he won the AJC Spring Stakes (12 furlongs), the AJC Craven Plate (10 furlongs), the AJC Cumberland Stakes (12 furlongs), and the VRC Melbourne Stakes. Long-lived (died at age 25 at Mudgee, NSW) modest sire of three good stakes winning stayers, and dam's sire of some good stayers, a top steeplechaser (Workmaster) and a speedy New Zealand sprinter, Machine Gun, that became a sire. His full brother **Lecturer** (1869) was unbeaten at age 2 (his only season) and was later dam's sire of the good matron Duenna (dam of Amberite and second dam of George Frederick), and brother **Savanaka** (see below) was a top stayer. Half-sister **Nellie**, VRC Derby winner, continued the family line.



Nebo Road

Lawrence br.c. 1940

(Law Maker - Gay Element)

Bred by Leslie Aldridge of South Australia, Lawrence was a better colt than his already solid record indicates: Raced by A.H. Griffiths (leading owner in 1943-44), he improved steadily as a young three year old, winning the VATC Caulfield Guineas at Flemington, but in the W.S. Cox Plate over 1-1/4 miles injured the inside of his off hind leg by falling over the rails, and still sore, only placed third in the Victoria Derby. He went on to win the VRC St. Leger Stakes (14 furlongs), the VRC C.M. Lloyd Stakes, the VATC Caulfield Stakes (9 furlongs), the C.F. Orr Stakes (12 furlongs), and the VATC Memsie Stakes in 1944, and in 1945 the VRC Melbourne Stakes (8 furlongs) and the VATC Caulfield Stakes a second time. A good stayer, he was also second to Counsel in the 1944 Caulfield Cup by a neck. His half-brothers **Pageant** and **Gayness** were also stakes winners. As a stallion he got some winning stayers and milers, but nothing anywhere near as good as himself.

Merriwee blk. c. 1896

(Bill of Portland - Etra Weenie)

Owned by Victorian sportsman Herbert Power, who favored Sappho descendants (see **Savanaka** below), Merriwee won the VRC's C.B. Fisher Plate, Victoria Derby, and the Melbourne Cup at age three. He was one of four stakes winners from his dam, **Etra Weenie**; his full sister, **Wigelmar** (winner of the 4 furlong VATC Debutant Stakes) was the conduit through which the family descends to the present. A half-sister, **Diffidence**, won the AJC Sydney Cup in 1899 became dam of Maribyrnong Plate winner **Gold Brew** and

Caulfield Guineas winner **Andelosia**, and bred on through the 20th century. Merriwee was purchased as a stallion by the well-known owner and breeder E.J. Watt of Sydney and Auckland, New Zealand; he was sent to stud in New Zealand, where he proved a useful sire of classic winners, and particularly of big Cup and handicap winners.

Nebo Road br.c. 1963

(Wilkes - Juani)

Won the AJC Breeders' Plate as a juvenile, and went on to become a fast sprinter; his other stakes wins were the STC Winter Handicap (7 furlongs) and the VRC Newmarket Handicap (6 furlongs) in 1967.

Powerscourt br.c. 1929

(The Night Patrol - Traquette)

Son of the excellent race mare **Traquette** (see below), he won four of his twenty-five starts, including the VRC Ascot Vale Stakes as a juvenile (6 furlongs) and the VRC Royal Handicap. He was owned and trained by J.M. Cummings, who was forced to sell him during the war, when racing was abandoned in Adelaide. Purchased, with the mare Witty Maid (later dam of his best son, Comic Court) for £150 by the Bowyer Brothers at Normansville, sixty miles from Adelaide, where from limited opportunities he became a useful stallion of sprinters, milers and some stayers. His best were all out of Witty Maid, three of which were purchased and raced by the Lee brothers: Comedy Prince (1944, top sprinter); Gay Comedy (1948, winner of SAJC Oaks and St. Leger Stakes), and the great Comic Court (1943), the latter winner of 17 races in, including the VRC Derby and St. Leger Stakes, the Melbourne Cup and many other prestigious races at varying distances up to 16 furlongs. A fourth sibling, St. Comedy (1946, good juvenile and three year old, winner of ARC Adelaide Guineas and six other races), was owned and raced by A.J. Lee.

Savanaka gr.c. 1874

(Kingston - (Young) Sappho)

Raced by Herbert Power, an original member of the Victoria Racing Club Committee and one of the founders of the Victoria Australian Turf Club, who had "great faith in members of the Sappho family." Trained by James Wilson for Power, "little Sava" won the VRC Flying Stakes as a juvenile, and at age 3, intentionally unraced until the Melbourne Cup received a featherweight of 6 st-2 lb, resulting in record heavy betting on him as favorite -- he lost at least ten lengths after being caught in a ruck-up when a horse fell, and failed to win by a neck to [Chester](#). Still, he was a legitimate stayer and in 1879 won both the AJC Sydney Cup (16 furlongs) and the VRC Australian Cup (18 furlongs). Power also owned **Merriwee** (see above) and **Wilari** (see below). Savanaka retired to St. Albans Stud, then owned by J. Crozier, and got some winners from limited opportunity, including the gelded The Lawyer, winner of the S.A.J.C. Adelaide Cup (13 furlongs), and the dams of some good stayers. Died

early, age 14, after breaking his neck.

Traquette br.f. 1911

(Traquair - Simmerette)

A top class race mare owned by J. Mills, she was known as the "flying Traquette," earning £10,016 in her fifteen wins: at two she took the VRC Maribyrnong Plate, "gaining one of the easiest victories ever seen in the race," and at age three her wins included the VATC Memsie Stakes, the VRC Linlithgow Stakes, Melbourne Stakes (10 furlongs), C.M. Lloyd Stakes, and the VATC Caulfield Stakes. In the stud she produced **Powerscourt** (see above), his half-brother **Salatis** (1918, VATC Futurity Stakes), and half-sister **Brakette** (1917), the latter second dam of VRC Australian Cup winner **Wise Counsel** and his brother, stakes winner **Tuckout**. Traquette's dam, **Simmerette**, won three races.

Wilari b.f. 1908

(Wallace - Murna)

Bred and raced by Herbert Power, an influential Victoria-based owner and breeder (see **Savanaka** above). Wilari won the VRC Sires' Produce Stakes at age two, and was a champion runner in Victoria at age three, winner of the VRC "triple crown" --the VRC Victoria Derby, the VRC Oaks Stakes and the VRC St. Leger Stakes. She did not breed on, but her full sister, **Wilari's Sister**, did, dam of two stakes winners, and second dam of four others, all good stayers, including **Lawrence** (see above) and his half-brother, **Pageant** (VRC Australian Cup).

Descent Chart

Bold=winners of stakes races and important handicap and weight-for-age races

Mare by Zohrab
 Sappho (gr.f. 1847) by Marquis
Forester (gr.g. 1859) by Little John II
Premier (ch.g. 1860) by Little John II
 Paraguay (gr.f. 1861) by Little John II
 | Perfection (f. 1874) by Yattendon
 | | **St. Lawrence** (b.c. 1880) by Glorious
 | Maid of Athol (gr.f. 1876) by Maribyrnong
 | Kotuku (f. 1885) by Musket
 | | Eider (f. 1894) by Quilt
 | | Duckshot (f. 1900) by Torpedo
 | | Caligo (f. 1914) by Tribulation
 | | Prima Lux (f. 1922) by King Soult
 | | Stella Lux (f. 1935) by Lord Quex
 | | Lambo Lux (f. 1946) by Lambourn
 | | **Fleeting Moment** (g. 1958) by Golden Souvenir
 | **Scot's Grey** (gr.c. 1886) by Musket
 | **Queen of Trumps** (f. 1887) by Leolinus
 | Merry Maid (f. 1892) by Hotchkiss
 | | Happy Maid (f. 1904) by Soult
 | | | **Ladoga** (b.c. 1909) by Sir Laddo
 | | | **Bonnie Maid** (b.f. 1914) by Boniform
 | | Jolie Fille (f. 1907) by Soult
 | | Maveelish (f. 1921) by Prince Merriwee
 | | Mahkill (f. 1928) by Kilbroney
 | | Belle Renarde (f. 1938) by Foxbridge
 | | Jiemba (f. 1947) by Massowa
 | | Marquita (f. 1955) by Peter Nelson
 | | **Safe** (f. 1967) by Cracksman
 | | Spanish Wave (f. 1972) by Crest of the Wave
 | | **Spanish Star** (g. 1983) by Star Way
 | Lula (f. 1895) by Cuirassier
 | Old Lu (f. 1917) by Gazeley
 | Helga (f. 1935) by Commandant
 | Helga Fox (f. 1946) by Brer Fox
 | Miss Halo (f. 1957) by Avocat General
 | Our Silver Halo (f. 1975) by Serenader
 | **Chief Tango** (g. 1986) by Last Tango
 Sappho (gr.f. 1862) by Sir Hercules
 | **Lecturer** (gr.c. 1869) by Kingston
 | **Kingsborough** (b.c. 1871) by Kingston
 | **Savanaka** (gr.c. 1874) by Kingston
 | **Emily** (br.f. 1875) by [Tim Whiffler](#)
 | **Nellie** (br.f. 1876) by [Tim Whiffler](#)
 | | Epi (f. 1886) by Epigram

| | | Epithet (f. 1903) by Hymettus
 | | | Sporting Life (f. 1913) by The Castaway
 | | | **Crown Seal** (br.c. 1923) by Green Seal
 | | **Wilga** (br.f. 1887) by Epigram
 | | | **Miss Carbine** (f. 1893) by Carbine
 | | | Lebel (f. 1894) by Carbine
 | | | **Scorcher** (br.c. 1902) by Simmer
 | | | **Belah** (blk.c. 1900) by Havoc
 | | **Yarran** (br.c. 1888) by Epigram
 | | **Etra Weenie** (br.f. 1889) by [Trenton](#)
 | | | **Diffidence** (b.f. 1895) by Pilgrim's Progress
 | | | | **Lady Diffidence** (br.f. 1904) by Grafton
 | | | | **Gold Brew** (br.c. 1909) by Maltster
 | | | | **Andelosia** (br.c. 1910) by Fortunatus
 | | | | Reticence (blk.f. 1916) by Wallace
 | | | | Reserved (br.f. 1927) by Magpie
 | | | | **Ensign** (br.c. 1937) by Andrea
 | | | | Rezan (b.f. 1942) by The Buzzard
 | | | | Juani (f. 1947) by Midstream
 | | | | | **Nebo Road** (br.c. 1963) by Wilkes
 | | | | Sabah (ch.f. 1951) by Empyrean
 | | | | **Royal Sovereign** (br.c. 1961) by Chatsworth
 | | | **Merriwee** (blk.c. 1896) by Bill of Portland
 | | | **Wigelmar** (br.f. 1897) by Bill of Portland
 | | | | **Master Foote** (b.c. 1904) by Sir Foote
 | | | | Cleis (b.f. 1905) by Wallace
 | | | | | Monodia (ch.f. 1910) by Curtain Lecture
 | | | | | **Outlook** (b.g. 1915) by The Welkin
 | | | | | **Nautical** (ch.c. 1917) by Sea Prince
 | | | | | **Perspective** (b.f. 1919) by The Welkin
 | | | | | Delicious (f. 1929) by Dignity
 | | | | | Delice (f. 1936) by Gay Lothario
 | | | | | Delettante (f. 1948) by Sirius
 | | | | | Delmac (br.f. 1958) by Macarthur
 | | | | | Kornong Kate (ch.f. 1974) by Idomeneo
 | | | | | **Inchedony** (br.f. 1983) by Galway Bay
 | | | | | **Snaabelle** (b/br.f. 1983) by Snaadee
 | | | | **Spica** (b.f. 1911) by The Welkin
 | | | | **Lesbos** (br.f. 1912) by The Welkin
 | | | | | **Midilli** (b.f. 1917) by Tressady
 | | | | | Greek Girl (f. 1922) by Comedy King
 | | | | | Spear Girl (f. 1927) by Spearhead
 | | | | | Thrust (f. 1940) by John James
 | | | | | Bold Thrust (f. 1948) by Bold Ben
 | | | | | **Royal Thrust** (br.c. 1957) by Royal Comet

| | | | | Rebel Maid (f. 1933) by Windbag
 | | | | | Borough Maid (f. 1942) by Emborough
 | | | | | Prim Glance (f. 1954) by Passing Glance
 | | | | | **Competition** (br.c. 1965) by Belle Sauvage
 | | | | | Perfect Night (b.f. 1923) by All Black
 | | | | | **Splitting Head** (b/br.f. 1932) by Highfield
 | | | | | Streak (f. 1938) by Rivoli
 | | | | | **Spellman** (br.g. 1946) by Courtcraft
 | | | | | Mayrah (f. 1955) by Dalray
 | | | | | Smokey May (ch.f. 1963) by Smokey Eyes
 | | | | | **Tattenham Lad** (ch.c. 1973) by Tattenham
 | | | | | Morning Star (f. 1965) by Wilkes
 | | | | | August (f. 1976) by Sovereign Edition
 | | | | | Augustine (br.f. 1983) by Black Zephyr
 | | | | | **Bulldog Yeats** (b.g. 1991) by Yeats
 | | | | | **Foolish** (br.c. 2002) by Iglesia
 | | | | | Morning Order (f. 1979) by Bismark II
 | | | | | **Lord Relic** (g. 1986) by Zamazaan
 | | | | | **Princess Dram** (b.f. 1981) by Vice Regal
 | | | | | **Bogan Rea** (br.f. 1966) by Bogan Road
 | | | | | **Hailraybo** (br.c. 1975) by Hail to Success
 | | | | | Perfect Morn (br.f. 1935) by Rivoli
 | | | | | Dark Morn (f. 1943) by Mr. Standfast
 | | | | | False Light (f. 1949) by Guiding Light
 | | | | | Senorita (f. 1954) by Maytown
 | | | | | Valanos (f. 1964) by Valbridge
 | | | | | Princess Babylon (f. 1973) by King of Babylon
 | | | | | **King Chabylon** (br.c. 1979) by Charlton
 | | | | | **Basha Felika** (b.c. 1947) by The Buzzard
 | | | | | Lanky Lass (ch.f. 1951) by Highland Laddie
 | | | | | **Grand Garry** (br.g. 1955) by Dalray
 | | | | | Dalrayne (f. 1957) by Dalray
 | | | | | Fiction (f. 1971) by Bold Tale
 | | | | | Poetic License (f. 1981) by Flagrante
 | | | | | **Alias Comberbach** (b.c. 1988) by Habituate
 | | | | | **Condor** (ch.g. 1937) by The Buzzard
 | | | | | Lero (f. 1919) by Cyklon
 | | | | | **Bronze Hawk** (b/br.g. 1929) by Brazen
 | | | | | **Air Queen** (br.f. 1930) by Brazen
 | | | | | Hawah (f. 1935) by Windbag
 | | | | | Waaf Girl (f. 1942) by Hua
 | | | | | Manx Lea (f. 1924) by El Golea
 | | | | | Maybrook (f. 1955) by Filipino
 | | | | | **Kaytello** (gr.f. 1963) by Martello Towers
 | | | | | **Blue Amber** (br.f. 1951) by Woodruffe

| | | | | | | No Saint (f. 1960) by Arctic Explorer
 | | | | | | | Belle Arctic (f. 1966) by Our Boy
 | | | | | | | **Eschied** (gr.f. 1978) by Theus
 | | | | | | | **Aerofoil** (c. 1947) by Beau Son
 | | | | | | | Land and Sea (f. 1935) by Rivoli
 | | | | | | | **The Diver** (b.g. 1942) by The Buzzard
 | | | | | | | **Flying Knight** (br.c. 1937) by Medieval Knight
 | | | | | | | **Heliofly** (br.c. 1945) by Helios
 | | | | | **Cielo** (b.c. 1915) by The Welkin
 | | | | | Silver Lining (f. 1921) by The Welkin
 | | | | | **Vista** (b.g. 1929) by Rossendale
 | | | | | Gidgiel (br.f. 1908) by Challenger
 | | | | | Etramalt (f. 1918) by Malt King
 | | | | | Redmyre (f. 1923) by Redfern
 | | | | | | Bronze Head (f. 1933) by Bullhead
 | | | | | | Bronzora (f. 1942) by Oro
 | | | | | | Kayora (f. 1950) by Elysium
 | | | | | | **Buon Giorno** (gr.f. 1967) by Arivederci
 | | | | | | **Troilus** (b.g. 1925) by Redfern
 | | | | | Lady Rossendale (blk.f. 1922) by Rossendale
 | | | | | **Cordale** (br.c. 1940) by Conspirator
 | | | | | **Beragoon** (b.c. 1910) by Multiform
 | | | | | Leeholme (b.c. 1898) by Haut Brion
 | | | | | Murna (b.f. 1899) by Haut Brion
 | | | | | Wilari's Sister (br.f. 1907) by Wallace
 | | | | | **Burrabadeen** (b/br.c. 1911) by Bobadil
 | | | | | Karunda (b.f. 1914) by Planudes
 | | | | | Gay Element (b.f. 1921) by Comedy King
 | | | | | **Pageant** (br.c. 1934) by Windbag
 | | | | | **Lawrence** (br.c. 1940) by Law Maker
 | | | | | **Gayness** (b.c. 1941) by Caithness
 | | | | | **Blackadder** (b.c. 1918) by The Welkin
 | | | | | Miss Yarrien (br.f. 1923) by All Black
 | | | | | **Peerage** (b.c. 1933) by Chivalrous
 | | | | | **Wilari** (b.f. 1908) by Wallace
 | | | | | Lady Joan (b.f. 1904) by Sir Foote
 | | | | | **Sir Andrew** (ch.c. 1919) by Woorak
 | | | | | Simmerette (br.f. 1906) by Simmer
 | | | | | **Traquette** (br.f. 1911) by Traquair
 | | | | | Brakette (f. 1917) by Brakespear
 | | | | | Zaire (f. 1926) by Comedy King
 | | | | | **Wise Counsel** (blk.c. 1935) by Stand By
 | | | | | **Tuckout** (c. 1940) by Stand By
 | | | | | **Salatis** (br.c. 1918) by Shepherd King
 | | | | | **Powerscourt** (br.c. 1929) by The Night Patrol

| | | **Ettefred** (br.f. 1913) by George Frederick
 | | | **Posadas** (br.c. 1908) by Positano
 | | Athata (f. 1891) by Trident
 | | | Maisie (f. 1897) by Lonsdale
 | | | | **Atora** (b.g. 1907) by George Frederick
 | | | | Mottee (f. 1809) by Andria
 | | | | Mottola (f. 1917) by Piquet
 | | | | **Red Javelin** (b.g. 1925) by Spearhead
 | | | | **Ray Rivers** (b.g. 1919) by All Black
 | | | Nak Our (f. 1901) by Pilgrim's Progress
 | | | | Mittalla (f. 1910) by Grafton
 | | | | Gunroom (f. 1917) by George Frederick
 | | | | **Queen of the Air** (f. 1928) by Eastern Monarch
 | | | Nooroo Pina (f. 1903) by Harmonist
 | | | | Evelyn B. (f. 1910) by Bobadil
 | | | | **Gambler's Gold** (b.c. 1916) by Powhatan
 | | | | Strelsa (f. 1911) by Bobadil
 | | | | Tessier (f. 1922) by Red Dennis
 | | | | **Glentor** (br.g. 1933) by King of Mirth
 | | | | Burning Sappho (f. 1913) by Powhatan
 | | | | **Sapilly** (ch.g. 1922) by Chipilly
 | | | Oomoo (f. 1911) by Bobadil
 | | | **Oomir** (b.c. 1923) by Cooltrim
 | | Lady Helena (f. 1892) by Trident
 | | | Loch Lena (f. 1900) by Lochiel
 | | | | Sybil Eckford (f. 1909) by Simmer
 | | | | Sybil Bar (f. 1919) by Bardolph
 | | | | **Scalpel** (f. 1928) by Treclare
 | | | Lady Foote (f. 1903) by Sir Foote
 | | | **Post Laddie** (ch.g. 1914) by Post Town
 | | | Green Lady (f. 1915) by Green Mountain
 | | | | Lady Perseus (f. 1925) by Perseus
 | | | | Treseus (f. 1935) by Treat
 | | | | | Maritana (f. 1939) by Agrion
 | | | | | Kalderi (f. 1947) by England's Glory
 | | | | | Trevanna (f. 1956) by Filipino
 | | | | | **Cooperstown** (g. 1963) by Rhythmonic
 | | | | | Endwell (f. 1964) by Rhythmonic
 | | | | | **Golden Centre** (br.f. 1971) by Bernguard
 | | | | **Kimra** (br.f. 1938) by Agrion
 | | | **Neatfoot** (b.g. 1921) by Jolly Beggar
 | | Kangulandai (f. 1883) by Trident
 | | Albin (f. 1901) by Lochiel
 | | **Albius** (b.g. 1919) by Contino
 | **Spinningdale** (gr.f. 1878) by Maribyrnong

| | White Star (f. 1887) by Atlantic
 | | **Mora** (ch.f. 1893) by Malua
 | | **Heiro** (b.c. 1902) by Ruenalf
 | | Lady Robinson (f. 1892) by Robinson Crusoe
 | | **Rosemead** (br.c. 1901) by True Blue
 | Dorothy (f. 1880) by Maribyrnong
 | | Marjory (f. 1884) by Gipsy Cooper
 | | Sylvia (f. 1894) by Gozo
 | | **Romulus** (br.c. 1904) by Mural
 | **Phaon**(ch.c. 1882) by King of the Ring
 Jocasta (f. 1871) by The Fop
 Johanna (f. 1878) by Maribyrnong
 More Pork (f. 1885) by Moorthorpe
 | **The Tola** (c. 1894) by Gozo
 | **Auburn** (ch.g. 1896) by Gozo
 | **Little Mary** (b.f. 1899) by Gozo
 | **Thigen Thu** (ch.g. 1905) by Gaulus
 | **Owlet** (f. 1908) by Murillo
 Hannah (f. 1890) by Bandmaster
 | **Possum** (g. 1894) by Gozo
Plutus (c. 1893) by Gozo
Rabato (gr.g. 1896) by Gozo

“Horses gallop with their heads”

F K Mackay sent a typed letter to my spouse Sarah and I dated 25/6/76. This was in response to an article I had sent to him ‘The Genetic Pool’ written by journalist Ken Mclean. F K ‘Darby’ replies that it approximates to his concept of the ‘Gene Pool’.

“After many years listening to arguments about the question of brilliant versus unsound racehorses I have decided that horses gallop with their heads. Heads show nervous and mental capacity. Good horses have something one can only see in their heads. e. g. ‘Nasrullah’”. ‘Bull’ Hancock of Claiborne Farm, Lexington, KY would agree. The scion son who selected Princequillo, Round Table, Nasrullah and Bold Ruler stated that you look at the head first. If you don’t like what you see, go no further?

The Breeding of (Thoroughbred) Horses

Unusually for his genre and generation F K Mackay was a great proponent of the theories of genetics, inheritance and what he called the ‘Gene Pool’. He was unable to successfully transmit his thoughts to his contemporaries and in his own words eventually ‘gave up’. However he did leave a typed treatise on his theories for his successor at ‘Scrumlo’ Dan Lee Warner. He titled it ‘The Breeding of Horses’. What Bruce Lowe called the concentration of *vitality* or *nervous force* in the animal FK referred to the ‘**electric spark**’ factor. My late father-in-law R T Mackay of ‘Tinagroo’ kept a copy. This is his (FKM’s) legacy.

Line breeding, inbreeding, cross breeding and the rest; naturally the proponents make a case for their arguments and we never know how often a pet theory does not work out. Experts are now becoming more and more technical in the light of modern genetics and their theories less and less practical, simplified or intelligible. No expert tries to peg down what it is that makes the very good horse, everyone knows the horse has it when it has demonstrated the fact. We all know that ability is the sum of genetic and environmental factors. The experts do not support each other's theories to any great extent so we must assume that if they are experts each one must know something, but a great deal is not known. They "gallop in all shapes", mechanical, accuracy should be a help, but well-made or ill made they give conflicting results on a race course or at stud as with Poseidon and his full brother Orcus – a top and a bottom. Wilkes did not win at 6 of 7 furlongs and his stock mostly do not go his distance – 10 furlongs – he won at 7½ and 10 furlongs.

The "race course test" was said to be all important but we find sires and dams without much, or any, of this becoming pre-potent; e. g. Dark Jewel, and dams which never won a race, breeding classic winners. Pre-potency in a sire or dam is a big help and should be exploited when it appears. Drak Jewel is pre-potent for speed and this is doubled with sires like Rego, Wilkes and Star Kingdom. One reads and hears that top horses have something unusual about them; generally bad track worker, full of brains, highly strung, and so on. These attributes point towards "what makes a horse good" – a hollow back did not stop Tulloch, nor did Varrich's good shape and pedigree make him worth owning. Some have everything but the ability, others have the ability and very little else and we must accept that these things are as they are and look for fundamentals:

1. The breed keeps on evolving;
2. English, French and American strains tended to form groups and produce each its own outstanding individuals and at that stage it would have been as to breed a class horse from other than a classic pedigree. This was basic but now all this is changing with the exchange of sires and dams between these countries – genetic re-combinations, environmental change etc.;
3. It may well be that a new mean in the thoroughbred is coming into being and that the experts will be hard put to find explanations other than the recombination of efficient genes

In the past good racers and/or sires have cropped up from unattractive pedigrees, but not often, and they have, or have not "gone on". It may be that the better the "crop up" the more likely he is to "go on". (We must assume that any reasonably well-bred horse has a certain pool of genes and any similar mare has the same). With extreme "luck in the draw" a progeny may get the best (or the worst) from both sides and result in a top horse etc.

With the "gene pool" the better it is the better the draw is likely to be. It was doubtful for a time if 'Ribot' would be as good a sire as a racehorse, now it seems that he will be a tremendous influence in producing top horses – for whatever the reason. A first trouble is that top horses – or bulls – don't come as often as we expect them to (Poseidon and Orcus – more 'Orcuses'). Often enough a fortuitous combination of genes resulting from a second rate pedigree has gone on for a long long time. This may have been such and such is not practical policy but when it does occur and is confirmed in progeny it should be made use of. There seems to be no better way breeding than building up the gene pool in definite directions – speed, middle distance, staying, the best overseas sire lines have sprint, middle distance and stamina branches.

George Moore said there are any number of bad horses in England – “bad enough for Bourke” – which most of us have realised, but also, we attach too much to the (imp). At every facet of the game there is need for discrimination and with (imp) horses we are unable to know much about them other than performances as published, those of their dam and sire lines. With sires, hindsight is most valuable; they may or may not be successful but more often are not, so pedigree is the starting point.

- A classic pedigree – the safest
- A classic pedigree means a mile to two miles in best company
- A classic pedigree means a successful sire by results
- A classic pedigree means a dam line which produces classic winners as often as possible. (Three generations back is far enough).
- Ideally the sire is pre-potent.
- Dam, Great Dam and Great, Great Dam by successful “broodmare” sires. (Often sons of such sires are also “broodmare” sires)

“Nicks”

This term seems to be very elastic, though often breeding to a known “nick” continues to be successful. Some sires keep on showing up in the top or bottom lines. E. g. ‘Hurry On’ in 2nd and 4th quarter, ‘Prince Palatine’ in the top line and ‘Son in Law’ in the 4th quarter etc. These instances are not considered nicks but rather as the support of solid classical basic background.

“Classic Horses”

This means “class” and class means something extra in the sum make up of horses, something which even the handicapper takes time to catch up with and the justification for the weight-for-age scale when he does catch up. This class horse, by virtue of his class, often is able to beat class 2-year-olds at 5 furlongs even though his real distance (at 3 to 4 years) is 12 to 16 furlongs. Normal 2-year-old winners may have degrees of this class or they may be precocious and at their best at 2-years-old. Certainly such a precocious 2-year-old, in October, will beat other better class horses, but will not beat them after December and will never, or rarely, beat the classic 2-year-old. Thus, broadly, class includes the ability to win 2-year-old races and because of this fact enables such a horse to run or finish fast in his races – 8 furlongs plus. Without this speed the stayer would go further, slower, and not be classic standard. “Class” applies also to horses at any age or distance; but classic applies to winners of the classic races – 8 furlongs up.

Generally, 2-year-old winners come from spring pedigrees which often put a limit of 5 or 6 furlongs on the progeny. Stamina is not hard to breed but classic stamina is extremely difficult to come by. Class sprinters occur often enough and some such sires can reintroduce speed to deteriorating classic pedigrees. Generally, when sprinters are bred together they go no further but may go faster and often 5 furlongs down. There are several sire lines producing speed only, e. g. Orby, but occasionally one of these becomes significant for speed in a classic pedigree. ‘Panorama’ is a case; he is showing up in the bottom half of some good horses’ pedigrees and therefore, it seems, that he had something more to him than most sprinting sires have. In any case these sprinters sell well as yearlings and are important but the classic or near-classic type (handicap horse) is more important in the long run.

“Matings”

A few things are fairly clear: stayer x stayer = stayer, often getting slower. Stayer x sprinter = often a sprinter, speed dominating stamina. A time always comes when a staying line needs and infusion of speed to make faster stayers. This may take a couple of generations with the progeny indicating the progress being made; a technical operation.

‘Devil’s Island’ and ‘Argentina’, both by ‘Le Filou’, and ‘Proper Pride’ are bad looking horses 0 very plain and common looking. (‘Le Filou’ and ‘Proper Pride’ have no common ancestry). T J Smith said he passed them (‘Le Filou’ progeny) by for years t they are such good gallopers he that he “had to go with them”. All ‘Le Filou’s’ get are not this way but Smith seems to have seen plenty that are and avoided them because they did not reach even minimum accepted standards as to appearance. ‘Devil’s Island’ is a better sort than ‘Argentina’ and may become a better horse but in each case they are far better than they look – they seem to have that something which ***“makes a good horse”***.

Contemporary Georg Ryder (‘Monograph’ coming; ‘Father’ of the Golden Slipper) had a different set of values and overarching philosophy:

“There are no ‘looking races’”

“Put the best to the best and hope for the best”

“Put speed to speed and prey they stay”

“We need horses that fly around saucers” (Small racetracks; short race distances)

WPH 16/08/2021

Preview

Every yearling from Scrumlo for this summer sale belongs to the most successful branch of this outstandingly successful female line in Australasia – the Sappho family.

This family has a continuing story of big race successes. The line has a unique and singular ability to produce good winners in each generation; an ability never more evident than it is today. At Scrumlo we have concentrated our breeding on top class mares of this line. Any that do not quickly produce good racehorses are culled; while all the best branches of this great line are retained.

The result is that each of our yearlings has the closest possible relationship to BLACK TYPE winners. These yearlings will be the BLACK TYPE winners in future catalogues! They are either out of mares which have produced important winners, or are out of important winners – or even a combination of both! Such as Lot 56 – a colt who is out of Sabah, a classic-winner, and is a half-brother to 5 winners including Royal Sovereign (triple Derby winner) and Talahi.

Go back step and see that Sabah is also a sister to another big winner in Prince Rezan. Nowhere else in the catalogue will you find such an outstanding group of yearlings from one Stud.

The original Sappho was bred in 1847, before Randwick and Flemington became our racing headquarters. Sappho the younger was bred in 1862 – two years after Randwick was reborn or the first Melbourne Cup was run. Her progeny included 'Lecturer', never beaten; 'Kingsborough', AJC Champagne Stakes, Derby, Sire's Produce, St Leger, VRC Melbourne Stakes; 'Savanaka', Sydney Cup, Australian Cup; 'Nellie', VRC Maribyrnong Plate, AJC Derby; and 'Spinningdale', AJC Champagne Stakes and December Stakes.

'Nellie's daughter 'Etra Weenie' became even greater. She produced 'Diffidence', Sydney Cup; 'Merriwee', Victoria Derby, Melbourne Cup and Sire; 'Wigelmair', VATC Debutant Stakes and another classic broodmare; 'Leeholme', good performer and Sire; 'Murna', another classic ancestress; 'Roycroft', big races in Melbourne; 'Simmerette', a winning dam of big race winners and ancestress of 'Comic Court'; and 'Posadas', AJC Champagne Stakes.

Throughout Australasia the Derby winning mare Nellie and her descendants have won 14 Derbies, 10 St Legers, 7 Champagne Stakes, 4 Oaks, 4 Sire's Produce Stakes, 12 Guineas, 3 Sydney Cups and 3 Australian Cups; besides the Melbourne Cup, Queensland Cup, Brisbane Cup, Adelaide Cup, Caulfield Cup, Williamstown Cup, Comfort Fund Cup, Gawler Cup and Grafton Cup; 3 Maribyrnong Plates, 3 Breeder's Plates, 2 Oakleigh Plates, Cropper Plate and Craven Plate; 3 Debutant Stakes, 3 Futurity Stakes, 2 Ascot Vale Stakes, 2 Eclipse Stakes, December Stakes, Gimcrack Stakes, Melbourne Stakes, Challenge Stakes, Hobartville Stakes, Canonbury Stakes, Linlithgow Stakes, Camelia Stakes, Alma Vale Stakes, Brunswick Stakes, Hopeful Stakes, Memsie Stakes, Spring Stakes, Stradbroke Stakes and Carrington Stakes; 2 Metropolitan Handicaps, Epsom Handicap, Doncaster Handicap, Newmarket Handicap, Winter Handicap, December Handicap, Royal Handicap, Stand Handicap and Windsor Handicap, and many, many more richly-endowed races in Australia and New Zealand.

A century after the original Sappho was foaled, the family had even more multiplied in strength, still producing top horses, such as 'Basha Felika', QTC Derby, St Leger and Caulfield Cup etc.; 'Lawrence', a great performer and good sire; 'Cordale', AJC Sydney Cup and Metropolitan. Now **'Royal Sovereign'** and 'Nebo Road'; and today all these tops of the line come from Scrumlo.

The 1964 A.J.C. Derby field and race conditions appear in the table below by Ian Ibbett:

See: <https://www.kingsoftheturf.com/1964-a-pretender-crushed-a-sovereign-crowned/>

Run Saturday, October 3rd, 1964

A race of £10,000; second horse £2,000; third horse £1,000 from the prize; Entrance fee of £2 each; For colts, geldings and fillies, three-years-old at time of starting: colts and geldings 8 st. 10lb; fillies 8 st. 5lb. Nominations of horses not scratched before 3 o'clock pm on Monday, 14th September, 1964, will be liable for a second payment of £5 and if not scratched before 12 o'clock noon on Thursday, 1st October 1964, will be considered acceptors and held liable for the second and third payments totalling £48. (No allowances for apprentices). One-mile-and-a-half

1st: £7,000 and British Exhibition Cup valued at £625; 2nd £2,000; 3rd £1,000.

Track Good

1st	Mr & Mrs L. Agini's	br. c.	ROYAL SOVEREIGN	Chatsworth II - Sabah	8-10	R. Selkrig
2nd	Mr R. W. Miller's	b. c.	STRAUSS	Pipe of Peace - Orchestra	8-10	W. Camer
3rd	Messrs G.R., G.A. & J.A. Whitford's	br. c.	PARK LANE	Summertime - Ladyship	8-10	G. Moore
4th	Mrs N. Aboud's & Mr A.A. Luciano's	ch. c.	Bunyula	Hidalgo - Satara	8-10	W. A. Smith
5th	Messrs A. S. Clugston's & J. W. Barker's	b. c.	Royal Keys	Faux Tirage - Langpris	8-10	D. Lake
6th	Mr E. Norton's	ch. c.	Sun Prince	Sabaeen - Sunbride	8-10	G. Podmore
7th	Messrs P., C. & B. Galea's	blk. c.	Eskimo Prince	Todman - Chicquita	8-10	A. Mulley
8th	Mr & Mrs P. A. Reberger's	b. c.	King Kraal	El Ziet - La Pirouette	8-10	R. Jensen
9th	Mrs F. R. Selkrig's & Mr A. Still's	blk. f.	Light Rhythm	Rhythmic Light - Brimsong	8-5	D. Sullivan
FTF	Mr & Mrs D. G. Colling's	br. g.	Cranleigh (NZ)	Dogger Bank - Dixie Leigh	8-10	K. Banks

Betting: Evens Eskimo Prince; 3/1 Park Lane; 4/1 Strauss; 14/1 Royal Sovereign, Bunyula; 66/1 Sun Prince; 80/1 Royal Keys; 250/1 King Kraal, Light Rhythm; 100/1 Cranleigh

Margins: Short neck, 2 lengths.

Time: 2 minutes and 33.5 seconds.

Breeder of Winner: Relay Pty Ltd, NSW.

Trainer of Winner: Mr J. B. Page, Randwick.

Winning Colours: Lilac and white hoops, lilac cap.



'Royal Sovereign' returns to scale after winning the AJC Derby. Ray Selkrig aboard.

Today our broodmare strength traces through unraced 'Rezan' or her winning half-sister 'Reselli'. The pedigree is unique in that every sire in her tail female was in turn leading Australasian sire; 'Rezan' by 'The Buzzard*'; 'Reserved' by 'Magpie*'; 'Reticence' by 'Wallace*'; 'Diffidence' by 'Pilgrim's Progress*'; 'Etra Weenie' by 'Trenton'; 'Nellie' by 'Tim Whiffler*'; 'Sappho' the younger by 'Sir Hercules'.

This policy of mating each generation with top-class sires has persisted; check them in your catalogue; 'Sostenuto*'; 'King of Babylon*'; 'Minor Portion*'; 'Wilkes*'; 'Empyrean*'; 'Midstream*'; 'Delville Wood*' etc. They are all here in the pedigree of these yearlings.

From 'Reserved' (1927) descend such modern day performers as 'Royal Sovereign', 'Nebo Road', 'Prince Rezan', 'Brave Borderer'; all from the same branches of this great family as this season's yearlings.

And these are our very cream, sold in January, with nothing held back until Easter.

These yearlings are now being prepared at Yarraman Park, Scone, where they may be inspected by contacting Mr Cliff Ellis. They will arrive at Newmarket on 6th January.

REAY PTY. LTD. "Scrumlo", Aberdeen NSW 2336

No. **A 746**

CERTIFICATE OF
REGISTRATION OF RACEHORSE.

This is to Certify that the following particulars have been duly Registered for the

Racehorse named **"Reticence"**

Color and Sex **Black mare**

Age **Four years**

Brands and Distinguishing Marks (in full) **A** near shoulder, **09** near ribs
stripe, snip, little white off hind foot.

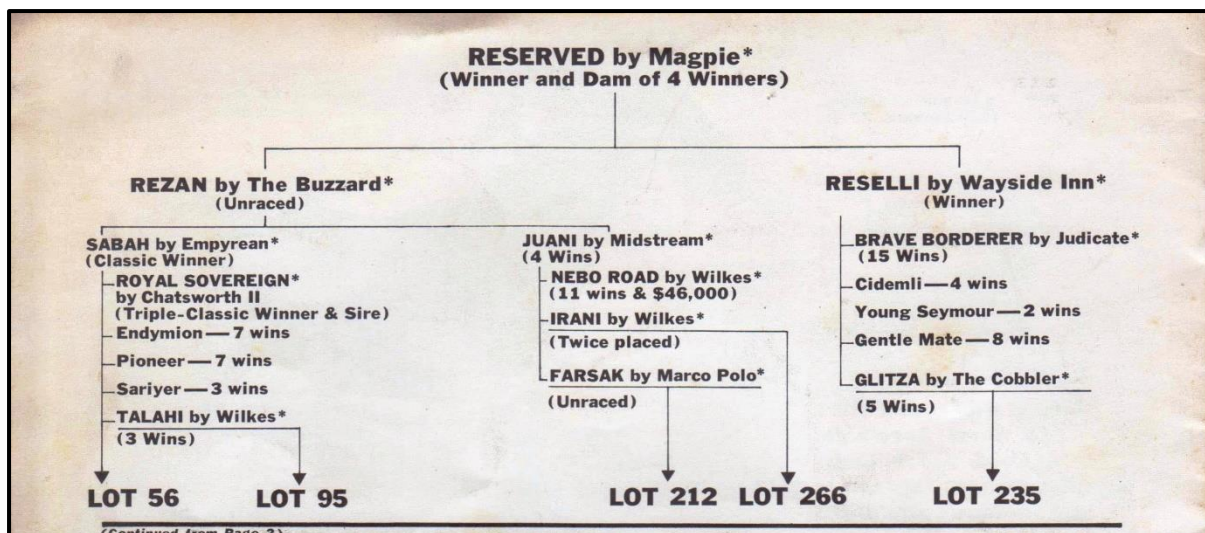
Pedigree (Sire) **"Wallace"** (Dam) **"Diffidence"**

Name and Address of Owner **J. K. Mackay,**

Cangon. Dungog.

S. L. Dawson
Deputy Registrar.

Date **January 12th 1921**



See
Lot 56 — to be sold 1st Night,
Monday, 10th January, 1972

CHESTNUT COLT
by SOSTENUTO* from SABAH,
by Empyrean*

Five times over this Oaks-winning mare has proved she can and does reproduce her own great merit — not only winners; but top-class winners of rich races. For she is the dam of (1) Royal Sovereign — triple Derby winner, narrowly beaten in Caulfield Cup, Champagne Stakes, also placed in Canterbury and Rosehill Guineas; and now a successful sire. (2) Talahi (by Wilkes*) winner on Sydney's main tracks, both at Randwick and at Rosehill. (3) Talahi's sister Sariyer — 3 wins. (4) Endymion — 7 wins and \$10,888 — at Caulfield and at Sandown and one of Bluescope's best. (5) Pioneer by Marco Polo II — 7 wins. Sabah herself won 5 races all in Sydney. Sabah has produced winners to each different stallion — her 5 progeny to race all have won. Now here is:—



A Potential big-race winner and a great sire Prospect!

This colt must win big races! His classic-winning dam is also dam of a triple-classic winner and is half-sister to Prince Rezan (9 wins, including the Queensland Cup) and to the dam of the great sprinter Nebo Road. His sire's progeny already includes Regal Rhythm, Rumeroso, Palatial, Windsor Park, Sospel, Constant Rhythm etc. When this colt is done racing what a great sire prospect he must be! His half-brother, Royal Sovereign is already a successful sire — of the W.A. Oaks winner Sovereignito, Paper Gold, Currency Belle, Abbot, Mallet, etc.

⁹³
Lot 65—to be sold 1st Night,
Monday, 10th January, 1972

CHESTNUT COLT
by KING OF BABYLON* from TALAH, by Wilkes*

Another product of the mating of the most successful King of Babylon* with the best branch of this great Sappho family. His dam, Talahi, won as a two-year-old both at Randwick and Rosehill and next season again at Randwick. She was half-sister to Royal Sovereign, and sister-in-blood to Nebo Road; while her dam Sabah, won the A.J.C. Oaks and produced 5 winners—all her progeny to race. This is Talahi's first foal. It's not gambling when you bet on a certainty like this one.



Will he too wear that Golden Horseshoe?

First foal of his dam—what will they pay for the others from Talahi that follow him? For you may be sure this colt will continue the family tradition and win. This could be early because his sire gets fast two-year-olds and Talahi herself was a good two-year-old. In the short history of the Golden Slipper the Sappho family has yet to score although it has scored nearly everything else. Perhaps here's the one to add that rich race also to the family records.

²¹⁰
Lot 212—to be sold 2nd Night,
Tuesday, 11th January, 1972

BROWN FILLY
by MINOR PORTION* from FARSAK, by Marco Polo II

Studmasters will want to snap this one up. We don't sell too many fillies as we value this great family so highly. Even so, none lack in quality and this filly especially so. When we arranged Farsak's mating for 1969 we forecast Minor Portion* would be a sire success. Right! He was leading sire of two-year-olds in his first season (1970-71) with progeny such as Fairy Walk, Staid, Beau Portion, Minor Control and already this season with Light Praise and others.

So here's a filly by the sire of Fairy Walk and out of a half-sister to Nebo Road—and closely related to Royal Sovereign and all the recent good winners from this great family.



Racecourse potential—plus Broodmare prospects!

Farsak was unraced, but her dam won races at Randwick, Rosehill and Canterbury—all the main Sydney tracks. Farsak is strongly-bred for stoutness. Her sire, Marco Polo II, got Macdougall, Ark Royal, Travel Boy, and such winners of 2-mile Cups, Derbies, St. Legers and Guineas; while the next two sires in her tail female were Midstream* and The Buzzard*. Minor Portion* gives that extra dash of speed to Farsak. Here is real racecourse potential—plus a most valuable broodmare prospect.

233
 Lot 235—to be sold 2nd Night,
 Tuesday, 11th January, 1972

BROWN COLT
 by NOTORIOUS* from GLITZA,
 by The Cobbler*

Like the rest of the offering from Scrumlo, this yearling's pedigree is studded with recent stars—like Royal Sovereign, Nebo Road, Sabah, Endymion, Ensign. This colt is by Notorious, sire of the very speedy Natal Lass, (winner of the Gimcrack and Flight Stakes and 3rd in V.A.T.C. Guineas), and Change Alley (wins at Flemington, Caulfield and Moonee Valley, etc.), and out of a winning mare that was sister to four other winners!*



His dam a winner from this prolific-winning line.

His dam, Glitza, won 5 races. Her dam, Reselli, also won and produced winners of 32 races. The next dam, Reserved, had four progeny to race and all won—and on metropolitan courses! This is the story of the Sappho line at Scrumlo—producing numerous, good winners in every generation. At Scrumlo the family has never lost this essential vigour.

264
 Lot 266—to be sold 3rd Night,
 Wednesday, 12th January, 1972

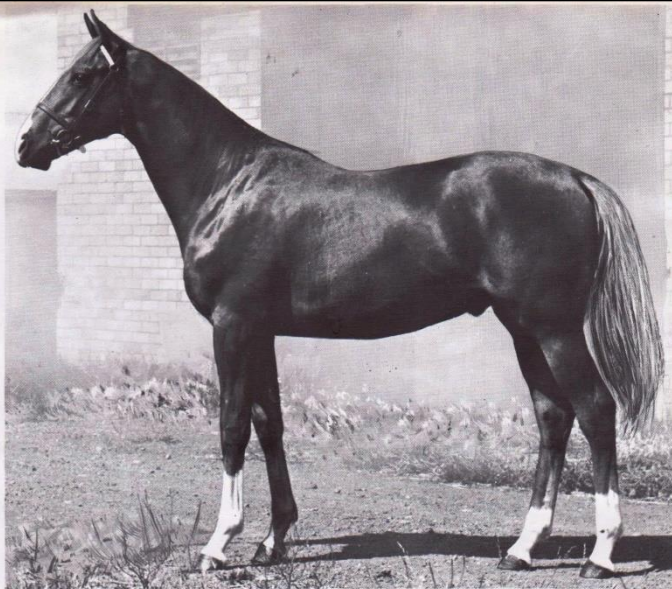
CHESTNUT COLT
 by KING OF BABYLON* from IRANI
 by Wilkes*

A great colt by King of Babylon, leading first season sire of 1968-69, and the sire of Beau Babylon, Eleazar, Royal Treat, Laughing, Prince of Babylon, Native Copper, Regal Star, Royal Intent, Babalina, etc.*

His dam is a daughter of the great Wilkes and is a sister to Nebo Road (11 wins and \$46,900; VRC Newmarket in 1.9 3/10; AJC Breeders Plate, etc.).*

The next dam, Juani, won on all main Sydney courses: Randwick, Rosehill and Canterbury.

Second foal of his dam; her first foal is now a Two-year-old named Mitra and shows great promise. The family's winning ability continues!



A Superb Speedster for any Distance!

This colt should really rocket. But, will he be sheer speed only? True his sire gets them young and fast, and also he is out of a daughter of Wilkes that is a sister to speedy Nebo Road. But the second dam is sister to Cup and classic-winners, as well as to the dam of others; and was by Midstream—out of a good producing mare by The Buzzard*. We predict he'll win big ones—but whether the Slipper, the Newmarket, Epsom or Derby is for you to find out!*

Mackay Racing Colours

The following Racing Colours now registered in my name were both formerly registered to members of the Mackay Family. My spouse Sarah (nee Mackay) inherited both from her parents Mr & Mrs R T Mackay of 'Tinagroo'. They will be returned to another branch of the family at the next interchange.



F K 'Darby' Mackay

W H Mackay

“Are Horses Better Today”?

See: [Max Presnell: Champions of the past leave up-and-comers behind \(smh.com.au\)](https://www.smh.com.au/sport/horses/max-presnell-champions-of-the-past-leave-up-and-comers-behind-20210813)

Max Presnell: August 13, 2021 — 3.30pm

The class of Saturday's group 3 Up And Coming Stakes, featuring the weight of Tiger Of Malay, is what takes the edge off this once inspiring pre-spring meeting rather than its provincial venue, Kembla Grange, a switch from Royal Randwick due to COVID-19.

Yes, three-year-olds can always sprout a top-liner due to improvement but so far this line-up has lacked the awe factor or buzz of a really top youngster on the way.

Tiger Of Malay has the racing services of James McDonald, who makes light of handicap hurdles and is the current major attraction of Sydney and its outskirts.

Looking at the history of the set weight and penalty event, the question again arises whether current horses are as good as their predecessors?

Since its start in 1979, the sprint boasts an honour roll including Golden Slipper winners Marscay (1982), Sir Dapper (1983) and Star Watch (1988); as well as top-liners Best Western (1981) and Mahogany (1993).

More recently Snitzel (2005), Fastnet Rock (2004) and Exceed and Excel (2003) scored. Since then, the quality has dropped considerably. Last year North Pacific triumphed following True Detective (2019).

Not that Caulfield's corresponding Melbourne major - the group 2 PB Lawrence, formerly the JJ Liston and once the launching pad for spring majors - upholds its previous status.

Smart mare Savatiano was successful last year while Streets Of Avalon, one of the major candidates today, came seventh. It also lacks the possibility of young horses hitting new heights like the Up And Coming. The former West Australian Superstorm, a five-year-old with only 13 starts, and possibly Non Conformist are the only Lawrence acceptors on the rise.

“Are horses better today?” Ron Taylor, one of Melbourne's best turf scribes of the past 50 years, asked in his memoir *Racing Ron*. “The simple answer would be to say ‘yes’ they are but I really don't know. How would you measure it? By times? If you look at track records, not much has changed in the past 20 years. Yes, Winx set a record for the Cox Plate in 2017. Yet no horse in the past 30 years has been able to better Kingston Rule's record for the 1990 Melbourne Cup.

“You would think times would be a good barometer to compare horses past and present. But there have been so many changes to the way tracks are prepared, it's a different ball game today. Tracks have a different profile now, a different type of grass, different surfaces.

“For my part I am just happy to reflect on some of the great horses of the past and wonder whether a modern-day champion like Winx would have beaten them. Winx makes an indelible impression, probably because she is the most recent, but Tulloch will always remain my favourite horse.”

In many instances, ***horses are now bred for cheap speed rather than durability*** but those that ride them, headed by McDonald, compare with the greats.

With 61kg, Tiger Of Malay will be out to establish a weight-carrying record for the Up And Coming (1300m). Winners like Snitzel and Fastnet Rock had only 56.5kg.

McDonald was superb on Harpo Marx at Royal Randwick last Saturday, humping 62.5kg, rare indeed for a stayer to win under such an impost over 2400 metres at headquarters.

Footnote: 'Tiger of Malay' did indeed win the Up And Coming Stakes conceding 8kg and 7kg respectively to placegetters 'Coastwatch' and 'Construct'. Time will tell?