

John Inglis

The following histoire could almost have been written specifically for John Inglis himself?

**William Inglis & Son Limited - Established in 1867**

***William Inglis & Son Ltd was founded on the basic principles of honesty and integrity, its great success and longevity attributed directly to these simple but all-important ideals.***

This is a company where every detail matters and superior client service is of the utmost importance.

The Inglis family are still involved in the day to day running of this business, with both Jamie and Arthur Inglis, within the firm.

Managing Director Mark Webster brings an extensive knowledge of print and digital media to the firm, having previously held a senior position with News Limited.

**A History of Excellence**

William Inglis & Son Ltd is a family owned company that commenced operations in 1867 selling farm produce. Soon after the company expanded into selling a wide range of livestock, horses, vehicles and other machinery at a number of sites throughout Sydney, the most notable being the auction house situated on Pitt Street in the Sydney CBD.

The bloodstock operation commenced in 1906 in rented premises known as 'Newmarket' at Randwick. In 1917 William Inglis & Son purchased Newmarket for 50,000 pounds.

It remained the company's headquarters and primary auction house for 112 years, before moving to Riverside Stables in Warwick Farm, Sydney, in January 2018.

Set on 29 acres, Riverside Stables is located at 155 Governor Macquarie Drive, 40km from Sydney's CBD.

Inglis purchased the land, adjacent to the Warwick Farm racecourse, in 2009 before construction began in September 2016.

Riverside Stables opened in January 2018 and the first sale there was the Classic Yearling Sale in February that year.



NEWMARKET SALE PADDOCK: ANNUAL PARADE OF YEARLINGS IN PROGRESS



Sold by the Firm.  
The highest priced Yearling for 1922.

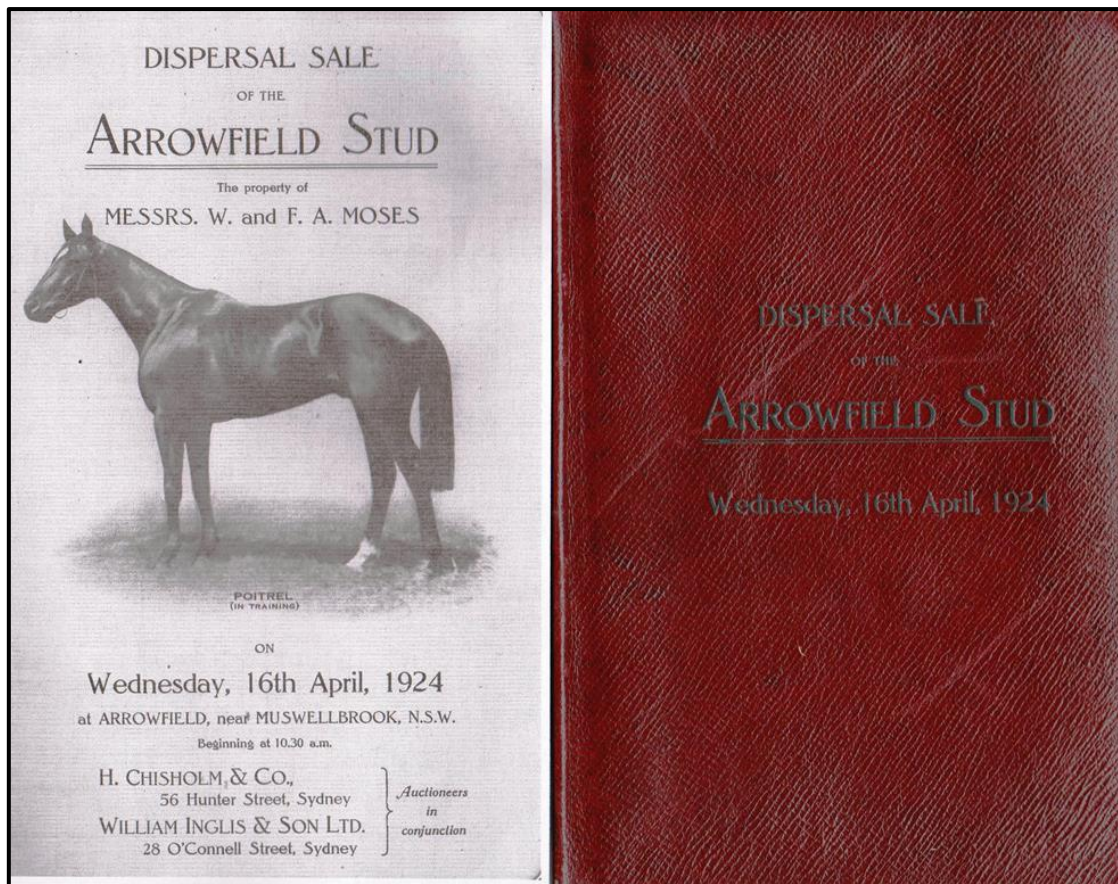
OUR premises at Newmarket, Randwick, are the most extensive and up-to-date in the Commonwealth. They cover seven acres and comprise some 400 Yearling Boxes, numerous exercise sand yards and paddocks, and include the magnificent training stable formerly the property of the late T. Payten.

## William Inglis & Son Ltd.

"The largest firm of Blood-Stock Salesmen in Australia"

28 O'Connell Street, Sydney





The famous 'Arrowfield Stud' dispersal in 1924 was conducted by William Inglis & Son Ltd in conjunction

**Complete Dispersal Sale**  
OF  
**BARAMUL STUD**  
On Account of Mr. A. O. Ellison,  
Kerrabee, N.S.W.

TO BE HELD AT  
Newmarket Stables,  
Barker Street,  
Randwick,  
ON  
**TUESDAY, 15th APRIL,**  
1958.  
Commencing at 2 p.m.

*Star Kingdom (imp.)*

**William Inglis & Son**  
**Pty. Limited**  
Bloodstock Salesmen  
28 O'Connell Street, Sydney.

The 'first' Baramul dispersal sale was conducted by William Inglis & Son Pty Ltd





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.

I was going to call this blog 'The Rock'. I should have done; it would have been apposite. Almost 50 years ago Harold Baldwin told me the reason he stayed in the thoroughbred breeding industry was one man: John Inglis. Harold was a business man well used to the vagaries and vicissitudes of everyday commercial and barter transactions; occasionally encountering the recusant, fraudulent and serially mendacious. John Inglis represented the very pinnacle of integrity, honour, honesty, decency and reliability. Harold trusted him implicitly. I quickly learned to do the same. The industry does not always engender implicit trust.

In the encomium reproduced below there is reference to 'hoaxers'. I was once the unwitting victim of a serious hoax. John was my salvation. I had just sold a yearling by 'Bletchingly' for the then enormous sum of \$105,000:00 in about 1970 knocked down to champion trainer T J Smith.

My brown colt out of 'Beyond All' was lot number 13 in the Easter Catalogue. 'Beyond All' was a sister-in-blood to champion mare 'Lowland'. 'Kingston Town' was at his peak and 'Bletchingly' was champion sire. Angus Armanasco had inspected him and declared "he was the most like 'Bletchingly' he had seen". The planets were aligned. I was floating on air as I descended from the vendor's box. I almost knocked over cold, grey-eyed George Freeman who had the next lot in the ring. From there things started to go awry. The supposed purchaser, a Mr. Prosser, came back to the stables with us and discussed possible names. The same buyer also bought a Biscay colt from Sir Tristan Antico's 'Baramul Stud' for \$80,000:00. I conducted an interview with a commercial TV station. The portents were excellent; until Mr. Prosser turned out to be a complete fraud! John Inglis tried to chase him down including through a local Synagogue but the man was a charlatan without any money, capacity or intent to pay! John came to see me. He looked me in the eye and said: 'Don't worry Bill; Tommy (T J Smith) and I have been doing business for 50 years. You'll get your money'. He was as good as his word. My colt raced as 'Norseman' and won a midweek race at Rosehill for c-owner Mrs. Darby Munro. Sir Tristan's Biscay colt was more successful racing as 'The Challenge'.

When I accompanied the Baramul horses to the USA in 1970 my immediate boss was Jack Flood. Jack worked for 'Mr. Inglis'. He always called him that and was full of lavish praise. On another occasion Hugh Munro from 'Keira', Bingara turned up late one winter Sunday afternoon with a float-load of cull broodmares for sale. Who helped him unload and provide stabling; none other than J. A. Inglis 'as soon as he'd finished feeding the pigeons'. Racing pigeons were his relaxing passion. We used to host release for his club at our Scone Cup Race Meeting. It was a very popular feature. The winning pigeon used to take little over an hour reaching its loft in Randwick. As always John and the firm William Inglis & Sons were the best friends we had in Scone. They sponsored races and invested significantly in building sales boxes at White Park. There were myriad other courtesies and kindnesses. Not many are recorded.

Cliff Ellis and I attended Tom Flynn's (Oakleigh Stud) Memorial Service in the beautiful Heber Chapel in Cobbitty. John delivered the eulogy but was overcome with emotion. He was an extremely sensitive man. On another occasion a close family member had passed away. I wrote to Mr. and Mrs. Inglis. The next time I saw John he took my hand in his and held it firmly. Tears poured down his cheeks. No words were necessary. Mrs. Inglis had been a close school friend of my late mother-in-law. It always felt like 'family'. With John Inglis his word was his bond. There aren't many who can justifiably claim this honour.

## An eye for horseflesh and hoaxers' Hush Puppies

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/obituaries/an-eye-for-horseflesh-and-hoaxers-hush-puppies/2006/07/27/1153816316050.html>



John Inglis ... was his unit's SP bookie during the war.

Photo: *Barry Chapman*

July 28, 2006

### John Inglis, 1917-2006

THE Australian turf is awash with people known, sometimes fondly and more often euphemistically, as "colourful racing identities". But, says the writer and broadcaster Max Presnell, true gentlemen of the turf are thin on the ground. John Inglis is generally regarded to have been one of the few.

Inglis, whose funeral was held in Randwick yesterday, left a mark on the thoroughbred industry, not least through his role as auctioneer at the sales under the Moreton Bay fig at Newmarket. He would begin the sale every day with a cry of "Sale O! Sale O! Sale O!" then sell through to lunchtime, eat a pie, then sell to dusk.

He retired as William Inglis & Son managing director and chief auctioneer in 1988, although staying on as chairman and then a director. Yet, at 88 and in failing health, he attended this year's Easter yearling sale and the Randwick autumn carnival and was pleased with the result - a record turnover of \$117 million in four days of selling.

John Alan Inglis was born into the family of stock and station agents founded by William Inglis, the son of Thomas and Catherine, who migrated from Scotland in 1830. William started the company in 1867 with Joseph Butler. It was an auctioneering and produce agency in George Street, Sydney. Butler left the partnership after 10 years and, in 1882, Inglis began a "horse bazaar" between Castlereagh and Pitt streets.



The family conducted its first yearling sale at rented premises in Newmarket in 1906 and bought the property in 1917, the year John became the first of three children for Reg and Bubbles Inglis. The house on the Newmarket property became home for John, Dick and Diana, and John was to live there for 75 years.

Educated at Coogee and Shore, he began work at 15 for William Inglis in the company's O'Connell Street headquarters as an office boy. John and Dick would wander the trainers' stables, talking horses and seeking tips. One of John's early passions was pigeon showing and racing.

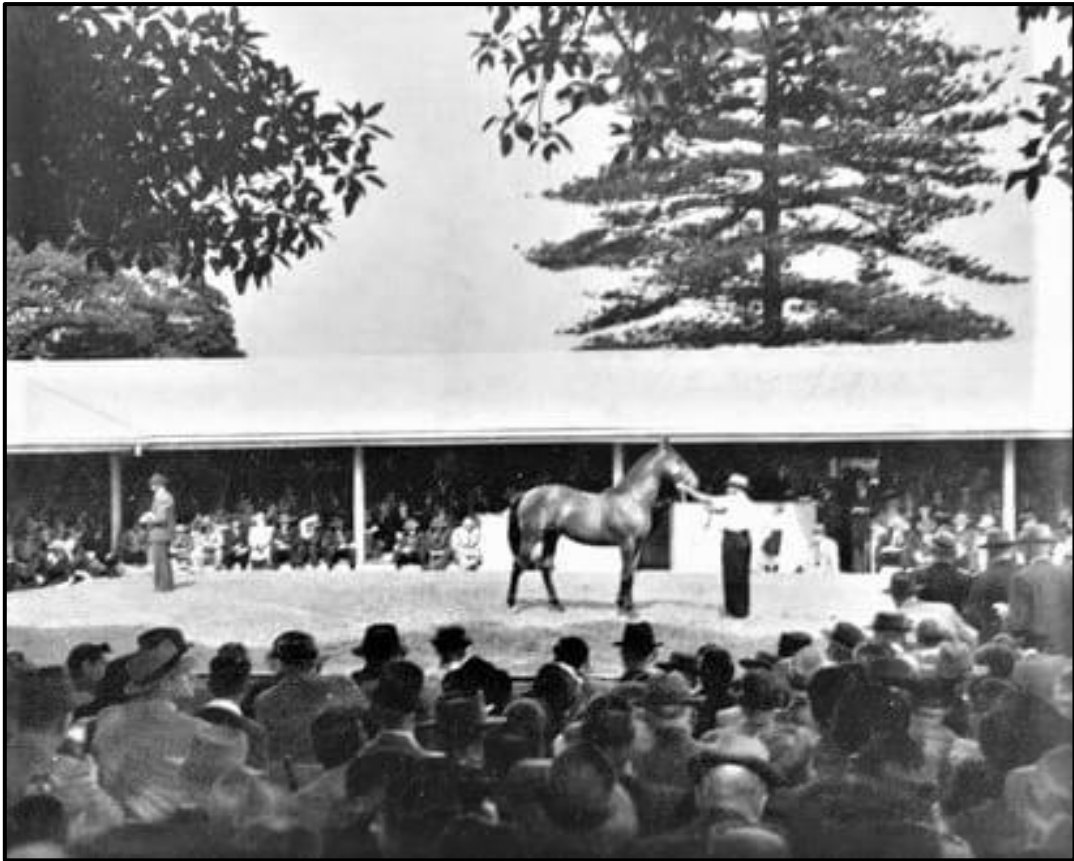
Trained as a gunner, Inglis was stationed near Toowoomba during World War II, making friends with Bernie Byrnes, who was to become his trainer. Inglis became the unit's illegal SP bookmaker, cleaning up the company's loose change every week. He and Byrnes also ran a two-up game. At Toowoomba races he saw a two-year-old horse, Bernborough, which he said later was the best horse he ever set eyes on.

Back in Newmarket after the war, Inglis bought a colt with two unhealthy looking legs from Percy Miller, of Kia Ora stud. Inglis called the animal Meteor and gave it to Byrnes to train. Meteor won 10 races and Inglis was hooked. "The Boss", as Inglis became known, had a knack of selecting a good horse by an unfashionable sire.

The Miller family later gave Inglis their familiar racing colours - light and dark blue diamonds and red cap. The best horse to carry them was Shaftesbury Avenue, which Inglis owned with trainer Bart Cummings and which won six group one races. Disorderly, a two-year-old gelding, carried them to victory at Newcastle two weeks ago.



Inglis Sales 1950



Inglis Sales 1950



Cliff Ellis, Old Sale Ring Newmarket 1962  
 Yearling Colt by Pirate King ex Debonaire owned and bred by Cliff.  
 Sold to Bart Cummings for 3,000 guineas.

This was a very good sale for a 'battler' in 1962. John tried hardest with this category



Inglis took over the company reins from his father in 1957. He developed friendships with breeders and paid annual visits to studs to see the young horses. He would watch them walk off the floats when they arrived to be sold. His eye for a horse was such that he remembered them when they came up for sale. The best bargain he ever saw was Flight, bought by Brian Crowley for 60 guineas (\$126) in 1942. Flight won 24 races and over \$60,000, making her the highest money-winning mare.

His judgement in other areas was sometimes tested. A hoaxer masquerading as a blind man bought yearlings one year before it was discovered he had no money to pay. After wealthy Arab racing enthusiasts took an interest in Australian horseflesh, John Singleton had a couple of men dressed in Arab clothing strike fear into the hearts of other buyers, until the Hush Puppies under their white robes were noticed.



Cliff Ellis and Ross Flynn (Oakleigh Stud), Old No. 1 Stable Block, Newmarket, Easter 1962. Yearling Colt by Pirate King ex Canvas Back.

No 1 Stable Block was considered 'prime position'. No one knew this better than Tom Flynn!

Some young trainers had their start after Inglis allowed them time to pay when owners were hard to find. The Inglis company ran into trouble after Cummings, one of the leading trainers, owed the firm \$7.5 million in 1991 for horses bought in 1989. The matter was resolved.

There were also problems with Brian Yuill, who bought 15 per cent of William Inglis with hidden interest-free loans. Before serving four years in jail from 1994 for defrauding Spedley Securities, Yuill was a director of Tulloch Lodge Ltd, a syndication company based on the stables owned by the trainer Tommy Smith.

Legend has it that Inglis said to Smith: "Tommy, racing has been good to you. Why don't you pay it [the money owing]?" Smith replied: "You must be mad. Why don't you?"

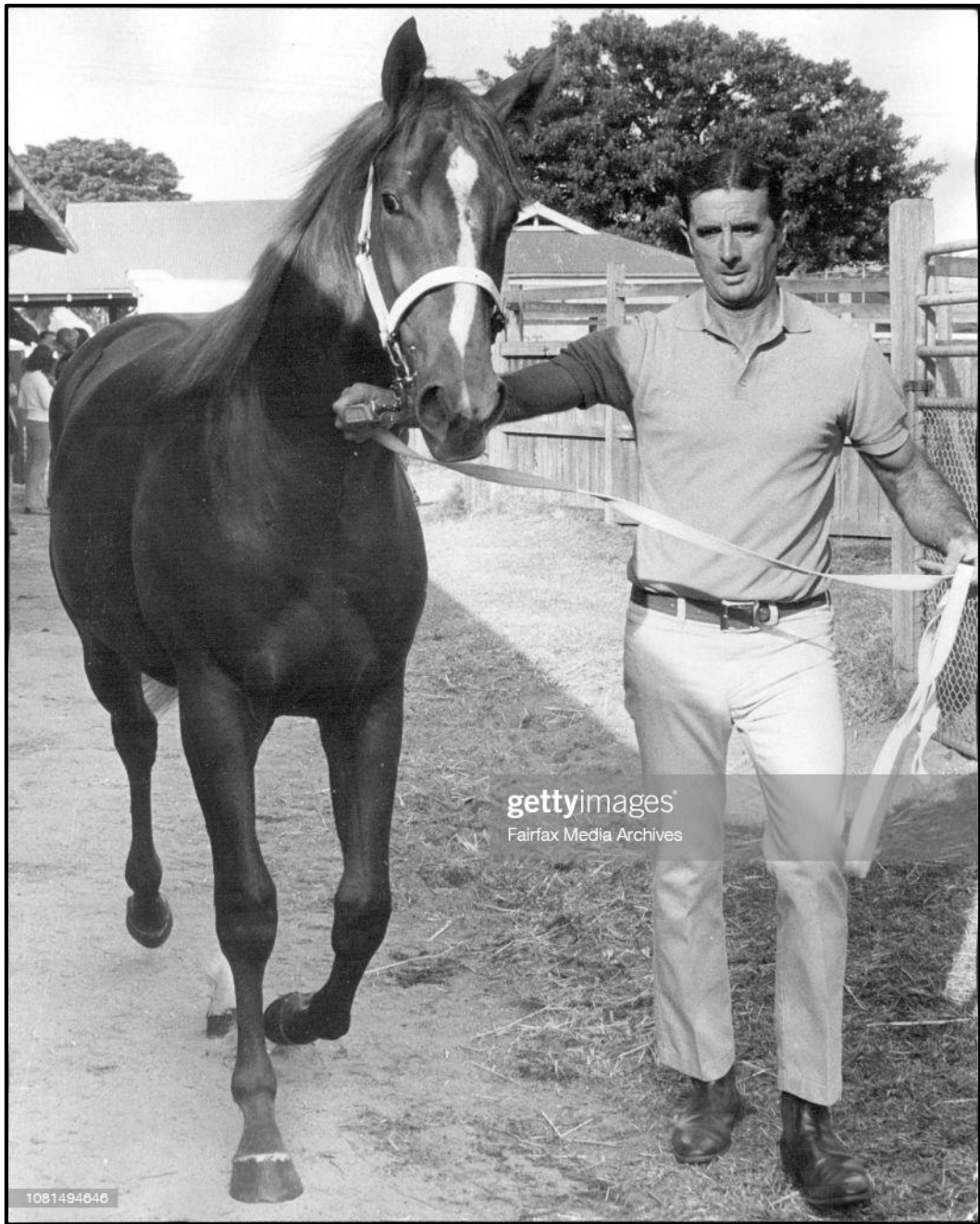
John Inglis married Margaret Whitford in 1950. They had three children, William, Jan and Arthur.

He is survived by Margaret, Arthur, Jan and seven grandchildren. His nephew, Reg, is managing director of William Inglis & Son.



Cliff Ellis at No. 2 Stable Block, William Inglis & Sons,  
Newmarket January 1999.

Cliff Ellis had been taking yearlings to the Inglis Sale for over 50 years!



1973 Thoroughbred Yearlings auction sale at William Inglis and Son Pty. Ltd., at their Newmarket Stables, Randwick. Lot 203, Chestnut Colt by 'Dignitas' out of 'Red and White' with Manager of Dawson Stud, Grose Wold, Mr. Ray Kirkup at the Newmarket Stable



**Tony Stephens**

**John Inglis, thoroughbred auctioneer, gentleman and scholar, dies at 88**

**By John Holloway** 21 July 2006 — 10:00am

<https://www.smh.com.au/sport/racing/john-inglis-thoroughbred-auctioneer-gentleman-and-scholar-dies-at-88-20060721-gdo0a5.html>

JOHN Inglis, the doyen of Australia's thoroughbred auctioneers, passed away after a lengthy illness in Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, on Wednesday night. He was 88.

Inglis, whose family's thoroughbred and cattle operation dates back to 1867, was regarded by peers as a gentleman and a scholar. He loved racing and had been honoured with life memberships by the Australian Jockey Club and Sydney Turf Club.

Inglis had been ill for several years but still attended the races quite often with his wife, Margaret.

Apart from selling horses, Inglis also raced successful gallopers, with the Bart Cummings-trained chestnut Shaftesbury Avenue the best by far. He also had a successful association with Ron Croghan, a friend of more than 50 years, selecting yearlings for the pair to race, buying them at modest sums.



**'Shaftesbury Avenue': Winner of the VRC Newmarket Handicap in 1991**

"The Boss", as he was affectionately called, was always close by when the floats arrived at the Newmarket stables at Randwick with the yearlings to sell at the respective auctions. He would watch the yearlings come off the floats and his eye for a horse was so outstanding that he could remember which ones he liked and invariably bought one or two at each sale.

A great number were trained by his close friend Bernie Byrnes, who lived on the Inglis Newmarket complex for a number of years.

Inglis saw many ups and downs during his thoroughbred selling career and possibly the most disturbing event concerned two of Australia's greatest trainers, Tommy Smith and Cummings. Both trainers experienced financial problems in paying for their yearling purchases some 20 years ago and, as a result, Inglis's arranged a sale, called the Night of the Stars, where the yearlings were re-sold to try to recoup some of their outstanding debts.

Inglis stuck by both trainers and remained great friends with the pair through the ordeal.

Woodlands Stud general manager Trevor Lobb, who began his working career with Inglis's in 1965, recalls many a sale when Inglis would auction every yearling from the catalogue.

"He was an amazing person," Lobb said. "He'd start the sale off in the morning and sell through to lunchtime where there was a recess for about an hour, join the vendors in having a hot pie for lunch, and then going through all afternoon and back up again the next day until all lots were sold."



All the way from Ireland was Peter O'Brien (right), of Coolmore Stud, and Woodlands representatives (from left) Trevor Lobb, Peter Flynn and Nickie Cramsie.

#### Scone Cup Races

Inglis is survived by his wife Margaret, son Arthur and daughter Jan. Arthur is now Vice-President of the Company.



## White Park Horse Boxes & Sales

### Historical Perspective

Since 1947 Thoroughbred Sales had been conducted at White Park, Scone under the auspices of Scone Agency Pitt Son & Keene Pty Ltd and William Inglis & Sons of Sydney. According to local intelligence this was driven by agent Stan Keene. Simultaneously the recently constituted Scone Race Club held its first cup meeting on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 1947. Doug Robertson of historic 'Turanville' was the inaugural chairman. Mr Reg Inglis of William Inglis & Sons donated £50 towards the building and construction of the Judge's Tower. The transaction was handled by SRC Committeeman Laurie Morgan of 'Redbank'.



Early Bloodstock Sale: John Inglis (with gavel) and Stan G. Keene (with pen) taking a bid from a prospective buyer. Claud Megennis of the Inglis staff is at far left.

Pitt, Son & Keene and William Inglis and Sons combined for the annual May Sale

The annual May Thoroughbred Sales were established as a pivotal component of what was to emerge as Scone Thoroughbred Week held during the second week of the month every year. Traditionally the sales were conducted over two days on Monday/Tuesday with the Cup Races following on Wednesday/Thursday. The carnival rapidly built momentum in the 25 years 1947 – 1972. It was firmly established as one of the leading country racing festivals in the State. Initial patronage was richly fuelled by the massive transient workforce imported for the construction of Glenbawn Dam. This created a tradition which still exists today (although much diminished) of cadres of original workers returning to the fray for a 'good time'. The sons of the original proponents now in their 60s book the Golden Fleece Hotel for convivial reunion each year.



## Horse Box Construction

Track Redevelopment and construction of the Horse Boxes at White Park gathered more momentum in the early 1970s. The original concept was the brainchild of the fertile mind of local veterinarian Murray Bain. Thoroughbred sales peaked in the late 60s with some very lucrative dispersal sales conducted at White Park. The original component of about 70 tie-up stalls, parade ring and yards was inadequate to accommodate the growing consignments to both races and sales.

Murray Bain composed personal letters to most if not all the stud masters in the area to secure funding for the new concept of horse box construction. Murray Bain and Associates contributed the first \$1000:00 to establish the embryonic fund. Douglas Alger Staff QC of Baerami House Stud quickly followed up with \$100:00. This was matched by John Kelso (Timor Creek), Frank Thompson (Widden) Vivian Bath (Bhima), Alec Terry (Tarwyn Park), James Mitchell (Yarraman Park), Lionel Israel (Segenhoe), Carl Powell (Brooklyn Lodge), Stanley Wootton and many others. The Scone Shire Council as trustees of White Park was a strong supporter vigorously backed by then extant Scone Shire President David Macintyre (Kayuga).

The concept of horse boxes marched in tandem with the redevelopment of the White Park Race Track. This was all made possible by the donation of three-and-a-half acres of adjacent land in two blocks by Mr & Mrs A M Bain ('Chivers') and Sir Alister & Lady Thelma McMullin (St Aubins). The former was Vice-President of the Scone Race Club and Sir Alister the Patron. A new 1400 metre (7 furlong) chute was constructed on the new acquisition. This allowed for construction of horse boxes on land which had been the original 7 furlong chute and start right next to the public enclosure.

The Scone Advocate, Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 1974: Front Page Lead Article

### ***Plans drawn up for "Horse Hotel"***

The project to build 220 high standard loose boxes for the stabling of horses at White Park is now underway. Plans for the boxes have been drawn up by Mr John Kirshaw and were shown to Scone Shire Council by Deputy Shire President Cr T V Bowd on Wednesday (13<sup>th</sup> March 1974).

The total number of boxes built will eventually be 220, but Stage I of the project, for which plans have been drawn up, will see the building of 110 loose boxes and the relocation of the present exercise ring to allow for positioning of the horse boxes.

The plans have already been approved by the committee in charge of the project and tenders for construction of the boxes will close on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.

Cr D Macintyre, seconded by Cr E Barton, moved that Council approve the plans and the motion was carried unanimously.

Cr Bowd told councillors that a recommendation on the letting of the tender would be presented to the April meeting of Council.

### **Iron and Timber**

The plans for the boxes envisage construction of timber and corrugated iron, with concrete floors and bitumen lanes between each row of boxes.

Cr Bowd added, however, that there was provision for tenderers to submit a tender based on the cost of concrete block construction of boxes.

The boxes will be of 10 feet x 10 feet, with six 12 feet x 12 feet.

## **Stage 2**

Stage 2 of the project will see the old horse stables at White Park demolished to allow construction of another 110 modern boxes and added car parking space.

Cr Bowd said there was no time limit on Stage I because of the expected shortages in the building industry.

Apart from donations of \$26,000 the venture will be financed by a Council loan of \$30,000 repayable over 10 years from a levy of 1 per cent of all horse sales in White Park.

***Donations so far have been \$20,000 from William Inglis & Sons and \$6,000 from local stud owners making a total of \$26,000.***

Cost of both stages of the project is currently estimated at \$102,000.

The first sales where the 1 per cent levy will be paid are expected to be the thoroughbred sales in May.

The minutes of the Scone Shire Council of 10 April 1974 record the tender of Concast Pty Ltd for the construction of 110 boxes costing \$69,771:00 was accepted "subject to satisfactory arrangements being made to provide additional finance of \$14,000:00".

The first series of 90 boxes were built at a cost of \$60,000:00 solicited through donations from industry secured by the Murray Bain inspired fund with the Scone Shire Council as trustee. \$10,000:00 each from Pitt Son & Keene and William Inglis and Sons added enormous impetus to the project. I think it is fair to claim it would not have proceeded without? The caveat was a binding guarantee from Scone Shire Council that the combined agents had exclusive rights to sell Thoroughbred Horses in the local government area covered by Scone Shire Council for 20 years from November 1974 to November 1994. This was agreed with celerity and alacrity. Armed with this backing the Scone Shire Council raised a loan of \$40,000:00. The boxes were first used for the 1975 May sales.

The second stage of the three-stage program to build a further 80 boxes were completed by December the same year at a cost of \$87,800:00. Further donations were received from William Inglis & Sons (\$1000:00), Scone Shire Council (\$10,000:00) plus a grant of \$73,574:00 from Gough Whitlam's Labour Government Rural Employment Development (RED) Scheme. This came at just the right time.

By 1980 further improvements were made to both the race track and the horse boxes. \$58,000:00 was spent on the grandstand plus amenities block and a further \$10,000:00 on the horse boxes.

The 'new' grandstand was completed early during my (W P Howey) term of Office as President of Scone Race Club. We had received a grant of \$40,000:00 from the Race Course Development Fund of the TAB of NSW. Unfortunately we were about \$30,000:00 short. With some others I/we managed to cajole sufficient funds from Studs and individuals to allow construction to begin. We used the original Murray Bain approach with the addition of debentures (250:00) which could be multiple, redeemable or interminable in perpetuity. Included in donations and debentures were significant amounts from Morgan Howey Fraser (Veterinarians), Widden Stud (Bim Thompson), Bhima Stud (David Bath), Gyarran Stud (Jack Sheppard), Rosehill Stud (Boyd Gageler), Bill Howey (Hepple Farm), Yarramolong Stud (David Casben), Kelvinside (Hilton Cope), Peter Morris (Derby King Ranch, Woodlands). The stand was opened by Mr Ron W Auswild OBE Chairman of the NSW TAB on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1979.



**FIRST ANNUAL  
SCONE  
YEARLING SALE  
1979**



**PROMOTED BY  
HUNTER VALLEY BLOODHORSE  
BREEDERS ASSOCN.  
KELLY ST., SCONE**

John Inglis both supported and conducted this sale although arguably 'in opposition'





Betty Shepherd leading a yearling at Scone Sale was guaranteed to attract attention

John Shaw (Horse Transport) is clearly charmed in the background

### Summary

It would be accurate to claim that the history of both racing and thoroughbred horse sales at White Park 1947-to-date represented a working symbiosis between like-minded people throughout the industry. Progress and development marched in unity. Partners included the Scone Race Club, Scone Shire Council, Thoroughbred Stud Masters and Breeders, Hunter Valley Thoroughbred Breeders Association, William Inglis & Sons, Pitt Son & Keene Pty Ltd, local businesses, individuals and the whole Scone community. There was clarity of vision and unity of purpose; mostly!

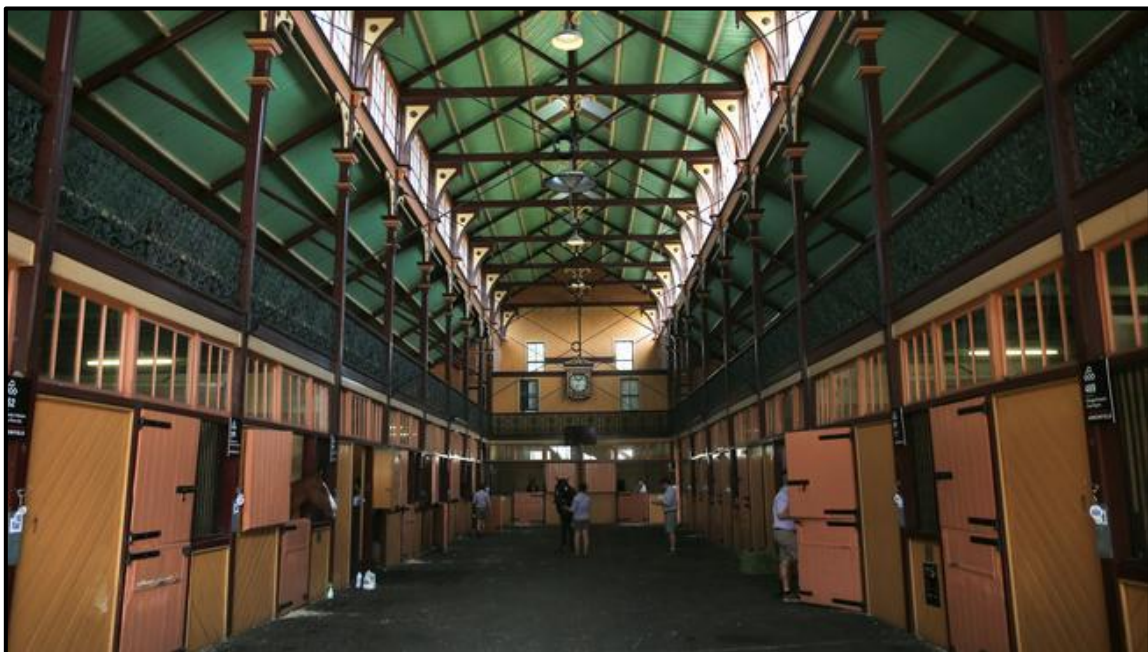
#### Bibliography:

'The Spirit Within': Scone's Racing History	Harley Walden	HVP
'Scone Shire': A Centenary of Local Government'	Audrey Entwisle	HVP
'The Infinitive History of Veterinary Practice in Scone':	W P Howey	HVP



## Big Stable Newmarket

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Stable\\_Newmarket](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Stable_Newmarket)



The **Big Stable Newmarket** is a heritage-listed former Aboriginal land, farm stables, residence, hotel, factory and detention centre and now stables at 29-39 Young Street in Randwick. It is also known as **Cranbrook Stables**; (adjacent to site of Newmarket House; The Sale Ring; Training Stables/old Tramway & Omnibus Co. Stables). It was added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 2 April 1999.

## **History**

### **Indigenous history**

Pre-1780s the local Aboriginal people in the area used the site for fishing and cultural activities; rock engravings, grinding grooves and middens remain in evidence. In 1789 Governor Arthur Phillip referred to "a long bay", which became known as Long Bay. Aboriginal people are believed to have inhabited the Sydney region for at least 20,000 years. The population of Aboriginal people between Palm Beach and Botany Bay in 1788 has been estimated to have been 1500. Those living south of Port Jackson to Botany Bay were the Cadigal people who spoke Dharug, while the local clan name of Maroubra people was "Muru-ora-dial". By the mid nineteenth century the traditional owners of this land had typically either moved inland in search of food and shelter, or had died as the result of European disease or confrontation with British colonisers.

### **Colonial history**

One of the earliest land grants in this area was made in 1824 to Captain Francis Marsh, who received 4.9 hectares (12 acres) bounded by the present Botany and High Streets, Alison and Belmore Roads. In 1839 William Newcombe acquired the land north-west of the present town hall in Avoca Street.

Randwick takes its name from the town of Randwick, Gloucestershire, England. The name was suggested by Simeon Pearce (1821–86) and his brother James. Simeon was born in the English Randwick and the brothers were responsible for the early development of both Randwick and its neighbour, Coogee. Simeon had come to the colony in 1841 as a 21 year old surveyor. He built his Blenheim House on the 4 acres he bought from Marsh, and called his property "Randwick". The brothers bought and sold land profitably in the area and elsewhere. Simeon campaigned for construction of a road from the city to Coogee (achieved in 1853) and promoted the incorporation of the suburb. Pearce sought construction of a church modelled on the church of St. John in his birthplace. In 1857 the first St Jude's stood on the site of the present post office, at the corner of the present Alison Road and Avoca Street.

Randwick was slow to progress. The village was isolated from Sydney by swamps and sandhills, and although a horse-bus was operated by a man named Grice from the late 1850s, the journey was more a test of nerves than a pleasure jaunt. Wind blew sand over the track, and the bus sometimes became bogged, so that passengers had to get out and push it free. From its early days Randwick had a divided society. The wealthy lived elegantly in large houses built when Pearce promoted Randwick and Coogee as a fashionable area. But the market gardens, orchards and piggeries that continued alongside the large estates were the lot of the working class. Even on the later estates that became racing empires, many jockeys and stablehands lived in huts or even under canvas. An even poorer group was the immigrants who existed on the periphery of Randwick in a place called Irishtown, in the area now known as 'The Spot', around the junction of St. Paul's Street and Perouse Road. Here families lived in makeshift houses, taking on the most menial tasks in their struggle to survive.

In 1858 when the NSW Government passed the Municipalities Act, enabling formation of municipal districts empowered to collect rates and borrow money to improve their suburb, Randwick was the first suburb to apply for the status of a municipality. It was approved in February 1859, and its first Council was elected in March 1859.

### **Racing in Randwick**

The presence of Randwick racecourse, where racing was first held in 1833, brought to the suburb trainers, jockeys and stablehands, and from them developed a local racing industry which continues to this day. In 1833 horse racing moved from Hyde Park in the city to a Randwick track known as Sandy Course, because of its sandy soil.

Randwick had been the venue for sporting events, as well as duels and illegal sports, from the early days in the colony's history. Its first racecourse, the Sandy Racecourse or Old Sand Track, had been a hazardous track over hills and gullies since 1860. When a move was made in 1863 by John Tait, to establish the Randwick Racecourse, Simeon Pearce was furious, especially when he heard that Tait also intended to move into Byron Lodge. Tait's venture prospered, however and he became the first person in Australia to organise racing as a commercial sport. The racecourse made a big difference to the progress of Randwick. The horse-bus gave way to trams that linked the suburb to Sydney and civilisation. Randwick soon became a prosperous and lively place, and it still retains a busy residential, professional and commercial life.

Today, some of the houses have been replaced by home units. Many European migrants have made their homes in the area, along with students and workers at the nearby University of NSW and the Prince of Wales Hospital.

### **Newmarket House, the Big Stables & Show Ring**



**Newmarket House was home to the John & Margaret Inglis Family**

Newmarket House was built on the site of the 1861 Newmarket Hotel. It is expected that the house's eastern section incorporates the remains of the original 1861 hotel structure. To this section it is believed that the southern, single storey wing was added in 1880-83 when the Fennelly /James White interests began in earnest the training of thoroughbred horses for racing. The house forms a 2.3-hectare (5.7-acre) precinct bounded by Barker and Young Streets and the adjoining sites of Randwick High School and Randwick Primary Schools. Newmarket House, along with the "Big Stables", Sale Ring, Training Stables on the site of the old Tramway and Omnibus Company Stables (on Barker Street) demonstrates the evolving importance of this precinct from the "Struggle Town" origins of the 1850s.

Newmarket House has remained a residence and managerial centre since that time. In 1976 it provided the host headquarters for at least four major selling events of Australian blood horse stock each year. Horses offered for sale in January 1976 consisted of 500 yearlings and 800 other types, for April 1976 offers were 800 yearlings, 400 brood mares and 200 other mixed types. The Big Stable was built on land at the rear of the original 1861 Newmarket Hotel. The design of the Stables has been attributed by the official history of Randwick's first 50 years (1859-1909) to "an artist named Fowler" (possibly Fowles) and the actual date of construction is not known precisely, c. 1880.



The stables is the most important building in a precinct with four important buildings: Newmarket House, The Big Stables, The Sale Ring and the Training Stables, on the site of the Old Tramway and Omnibus Company Stables (facing Barker Street).

Stabling at the Barker Street (eastern) end of the site has included areas established for the accommodation of Randwick - Sydney coaching horses in 1877-8. This Training Stables is on the site of the Old Tramway and Omnibus Company Stables. The introduction of racehorse training began in 1878 when the noted trainer Michael Fennelly and his patron owner the Hon. James White MLC acquired interests at the site, then named "Cranbrook Stables". Construction of the "Big Stable" appears to have commenced shortly after this date.

William Inglis & Son started selling livestock in 1906 out of rented premises in Randwick. When Arthur Inglis was a boy, trainers would exercise their horses by walking them around the streets near his family's thoroughbred sales complex in Randwick every afternoon. "There were trainers who had stables in the streets between here and Randwick Racecourse", Inglis said. After buying the site in 1917 for £50,000, William Inglis & Son developed the property to include a sales arena and four stables accommodating up to 620 horses. Arthur Inglis is now deputy chairman of the company.

The Sale Ring enclosure is the hub of historic racehorse sales which have been continued without interruption of their direction by the family firm of Inglis & Sons since 1906. The racehorse "Phar Lap" won the AJC Derby at Randwick in 1929. This champion racehorse won 37 of 51 races he ran. A number of prominent racing men including Thomas Payten, Jim Pike, William Inglis and Son and W.J. Smith owned and leased The Stable. During World War II it was used as a Detention Barracks and after the war as a laminex factory.

In 1954 Queen Elizabeth attended the races at Randwick, returning in 1992, when she put the "Royal" into the racecourse's name.

The "Big Stable" was used as a set in some scenes in the box office hit-film, *Phar Lap*. The Stables were restored in the mid-1980s and received a Royal Australian Institute of Architecture Award, the Greenway Award, for conservation. They have been returned to their original use. Some of Australia's top race horses were trained from this stable. A plaque has been erected on the site by the Randwick City Council, detailing the history of the site, the horses and trainers.

Racing royalty and quality thoroughbred horses have walked through Inglis Stables for over 100 years but it has also been the venue for fashion, celebrities and red-carpet events. The Newmarket site is home to internationally-renowned horse sales attended by leading trainers around the world. With The Championships carnival to continue this Saturday and the Schweppes Stakes, the venue's role continues (sic). The heritage-listed buildings on the 11ha site have been the backdrop for photo shoots, fashion shows, charity dinners and TV show launches. Over the years, guests to the complex have included Gracie Otto, TV chippie Scott Cam, models Rachael Finch and Megan Gale and racing ambassador Emma Freedman, daughter of five-time Melbourne Cup winning trainer Lee Freedman. Now the renowned auction centre and function venue will be turned into a residential and commercial development with up to 700 dwellings, and buildings up to 25m high. In 2011 William Inglis and Sons announced it would move its operation to Warwick Farm and sought to rezone the land to develop. The rezoning went through Randwick Council on 4 April 2015 with maximum heights down from 29 to 25 metres (95 to 82 ft) and dwellings reduced from 900 to 700. The Big Stable was recently restored and returned to its original use by its present owners William Inglis and Son.

In April 2017 the final sale was held at the Newmarket complex. The Inglis empire is about to shift to new headquarters near Warwick Farm Racecourse in south-west Sydney, where there will be plenty of space, easy access for out-of-towners, a new auditorium and luxury hotel. 'In simple terms, we've grown out of context with our surroundings', says Arthur Inglis. 'In the early days, Randwick was quite a long way from the city centre, but it was a horse centre.'



The University of New South Wales site used to be a racecourse. Now there isn't a horse between us and Randwick Racecourse'. Developer Cbus property bought the 5 hectare site in 2015 for a reported \$250 million. Next month, the first homes at Newmarket Randwick will hit the market. By the time it's finished, the medium density development will include about 650 residences, more than 2,500 square metres (27,000 sq ft) of retail or commercial space and 5,000 square metres (54,000 sq ft) of public open space. Bates Smart, Neeson Murcutt Architects, Smart Design Studio and SJB architects will be responsible for different stages of the development. Grand old fig trees will be retained. The Inglis family has donated items from its thoroughbred business to be incorporated into the public space. Big Stable will be given to Randwick Council, though its future has yet to be confirmed. The auction ring will become a recreation space.

### **Description**

'The Big Stable' was built c. 1880 behind the Newmarket Hotel. Measuring approximately 40 by 17 metres (131 by 56 ft) on plan, it is of timber frame construction with external walls of painted weatherboard and a roof of painted corrugated iron. The core of the design is a large central space roofed at a high level with clerestory glazed sashes on both sides, for the full length of the building. Stabling boxes open from each side of this space. Above each row of stabling extends a wide gallery space with open balustrading between the posts of the main structure. Galleries give access to service compartments for feed, harness and grooms' accommodation. The atmosphere on entering this building, with its only external light from the glazing between 7 and 9 metres (23 and 30 ft) above floor level, with free standing timber posts, is very impressive. An American influence in the design has been suggested and could derive from familiarity with buildings of similar function in the blood stock states of the Southern Mississippi.

### **Modifications and dates**

- 1939-45: World War II it was used as a detention barracks
- After the war as a laminex factory
- Mid 1980s: The Stables were restored and returned to their original use.

### **Heritage Listing**

The 'Big Stable' is significant on the grounds of architectural quality, unusual function and building type of historic importance. The Newmarket Precinct (Big Stable, Newmarket House, Sale Ring and Training Stables) will assist in the preservation of an historic asset of unusual value to the national heritage and to the municipality of Randwick. The graceful, homely and unpretentious structure of this site survives almost intact from the 19th century amid well-kept trees, lawns and pavements. The occupants of the site continue today the horse breeding and training activities traditionally associated with Randwick and give support to complementary activities in the neighbourhood, in complete harmony with the residential character of the area once known as "Struggle Town". Respect for Newmarket's prestige in its associations with Australia's thoroughbred horse breeding industry also extends beyond national borders.

Big Stable Newmarket was listed on the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 2 April 1999.

## Pigeon Racing

The story of John Inglis would not be complete without reference to his favourite 'other' recreation pursuit. It was pigeon racing! He was an avid lifelong fan and maintained his loft at Newmarket Stables.



Photo courtesy of Central Cumberland Racing Pigeon Federation

The release of pigeons was a very popular feature of the Scone Cup in the late 1960s and early 1970s