



NEWSLETTER

Vol 307 December 2023

We wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

Another year has flown by, not quite as fast as Wonderful To Fly, but pretty quick. We hope its been a good year for you and we will do our best to make it a better year in 2024.

Please get in touch if you are a member and have a question, comment or issue.

APG Catalogues coming soon.....

Cant wait for your catalogue? Well its off to the printers and will be with you soon. If you don't get a copy and want to get a head start on looking through the pedigrees, the online pedigrees are available [here](#) and will be updated regularly. If you aren't sure if you are getting a catalogue, fill out the [form on the APG website](#) or check with your local club to see if they will be getting some copies. They are sure to be available at the main clubs Gloucester Park, Bunbury, Pinjarra and at Byford trials.



All yearlings entered in the WA Sale are Westbred Bonus eligible. There is no payment required to be eligible for Westbred Bonuses. Some are also Westsired – so double Westbred win bonus eligible. A selection of yearlings are also eligible for other schemes, but you may need to make continuation payments for them.

Only yearlings purchased from the WA Sale are eligible, if sustained, for the 2025 \$125,000 2YO Finals and 2026 \$100,000 3YO Finals.

Westbred Bonuses this year so far...

It pays to race a Westbred or Westsired – either your own or one you have purchased. This season:

- **Trainers and drivers have earned \$222,000 in Westbred Bonuses**
- **Owners - you have shared in \$2,273,000 on top of stakes**
- **Breeders have "won" \$822,000 even if you don't still own the horse.**

And if you are a combination of the above, the total Westbred Bonuses, including First Win and First start, totals \$3.3 million, with one month to go for the season.

All Westbred progeny earn Bonuses in 2YO and 3YO races less than \$22,000, for first to 4th place AND receive \$500 on their first race start. Westsired progeny can earn more, with a double win Bonus of \$5,100 to \$10,200, depending on the stakes tier, on all 2yo and 3yo races under \$22,000. Check details, including bonuses for horses older than 3yo winning their first career start [here](#)

Westbreds like Fly To Fame, Lavra Joe, Swingband, Bronzed, Xceptional Arma have all won over \$50,000, while Wonderful To Fly and Black Jack Baby collected around \$100,000 outside of stakes.

Its getting late for a service..

If you still have a mare to get in foal, keep in mind the types of temperature and grass that will be available 11 months from the service date, and plan accordingly. WA is very hot in most areas, but that may not apply to you.

Contact WASBA if you are seeking members service fee discounts from one of our supporting studs (Alabar and Cobbitty), or for a list of sires based in WA. You can also [check out our website](#) for lots of links and info. Included in the 10% discounts is the sire of Swayzee (Rock N Roll Heaven USA) – a saving of \$700 – as well as King Of Swing NZ (Rocknroll Hanover USA) – a saving of \$880.

If you haven't paid your (\$20 Ordinary or \$30 Family) membership, please call **0418 207 079** (Howard) or **0447 053 040** (Jeanine). You can pay by credit card or direct deposit (WASBA Westpac account BSB 036 043 account 129810) using your surname as a reference. You can also complete on online membership form and pay securely by credit card (have your credit card handy when you submit your form).

2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES

2YO and 3YO – races are still running

Mares	\$50,000 Christmas Belles is on 22 December Busselton Sweetheart Series is on from 26 December – fantastic bonuses from the club and their sponsors, as well as WASBA providing \$1500 in sponsorship \$30,000 The Coulson Fillies and Mares (HWOE < \$40,000) is on 29 December
Other	Albany season commences 15 December



Snippets from the USA and Canada..

☑ **Bythemissal (Downbytheseaside)** and the unbeatable **3yo Confederate (Sweet Lou)** both had to lower their colours to a gelding who has been running successfully in top company for a while. For the 3yo it does go to show it is different racing against the older horses. For 6yo **Allywag Hanover (Captaintreacherous)** the win in the \$454,000 FanDuel Championship at the Meadowlands in 1:49.1 was well deserved and takes him to \$2,258,418 as the leading all time stake earner by Captaintreacherous.

They have a FanDuel for the girls too, and this was won by 3yo filly **Twin B Joe Fresh (Roll With Joe)** in 1:50.2. **Twin B Joe Fresh** is now 3rd on the 3yo pacers list with \$842,000, ahead of **Sylvia Hanover** (\$768,000 in 4th, and she is 2nd on the all time stake earning list of **Roll With Joe** at \$1.4 million, behind **Racing Hill** (\$1.8 million).

☑ Off to stud to join a growing list is 7yo millionaire **Workin Ona Mystery (Captaintreacherous USA)** 1:49.4 who will stand in Indiana for a fee of \$4,000. He was 3rd in the North America Cup Final to **Captain Crunch**.

Also heading to the stallion ranks at Winbak Farm in Delaware is **Nutcracker Sweet (Bettors Delight)** 1:50.2 \$520,000. **Nutcracker Sweet** is a half brother to **Sweet Lou** and a full brother to **Bettor Sweet** 1:47.2 \$2.8 million as well as being a half brother to the dams of **Captain Crunch** and \$1.5 million earner **Youaremycandygirl**. His service fee will be \$3,000.

2021 Little Brown Jug winner **Lous Pearlman (Sweet Lou)** 1:47.4 \$1,242,987 is heading to Hickory Lane Farm in Ohio. He was North America's fastest 2yo and 3yo pacing colt. He retires as the 2nd richest and 3rd fastest son of **Sweet Lou**. Winning on all size tracks, he won in 1:48.4 on Pocono's 5/8ths mile track. His full sister is top 2yo and Breeders Crown winner **My Girl EJ**. Their maternal family is that of World Champion **Western Ideal**.



The unlucky **Beach Glass (Somebeachsomewhere)** 1:47.2 \$1,189,416 is heading to Winbak in Ontario. He was probably on the way to being 3YO Pacing Colt of the Year without his throat surgery midway through the 2022 season. He is out of a Bettors Delight mare and his second dam is Hall of Fame mare **Hattie (Abercrombie)**, who is the dam of World Champion **Holborn Hanover** 1:46.4 \$2,070,648 and another millionaire in **Hyperion Hanover**, and his 3rd dam is also a World Champion. He will stand for \$7,500.

Another Little Brown Jug winner in **Southwind Ozzi (Somebeachsomewhere)** 1:48 \$1,132,645 will retire to Cool Winds Farm in Ohio for a fee of \$3,000. Apart from the LBJ, **Southwind Ozzi** won the \$400,000 Adios by 7 lengths in 1:48 on the 5/8 mile track, which remains as the 2nd fastest mile in the history of the event.

Not quite retiring but still heading off to Indiana for service is **Why Not Now (Always A Virgin)** 1:48.2 \$706,880, who has been racing against the top 3yos this year. Unfortunately they have all had to race **Confederate**. **Why Not Now** will breed and race for the 2024 season. His fee has been set at \$5,000

☑ The girls are also retiring at the end of the season, with **Rockin Nola (Rockin Image)** 1:48.4 \$988,000. A \$15,000 yearling sale purchase, she retires as the 3rd richest progeny of Rockin Image, a son of champion mare Kikikatie, with only Freaky Fete Pete 1:47.1 \$1.6 million and Little Rocket Man 1:47.2 \$1.1 million ahead of her. Rockin Image is currently 9th on the all age sire list for 2023 earnings.

Not done yet is recent winning 6yo mare **Racine Bell** 1:47.2 \$1.165 million who is the highest earner from her sire **So Surreal (Somebeachsomewhere)** 1:49.4 \$94,547. So Surreal has been quite successful at stud despite starting just 8 times as a 2yo for (an impressive) 3 wins and 4 places. He is a half brother to Dan Patch and O'Brien Pacer of the Year **Well Said** and has a very successful maternal line through his dam **Must See (Artsplace)** 1:52 \$487,122 a full sister to World Champion **Glowing Report** 1:49.2 \$2.1 million.

☑ The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame's Living Horse Hall of Fame ballots are in the mail, with nominations including champion trotter Ariana G (Muscle Hill), mare Pure Country (Somebeachsomewhere), gelding Wiggle It Jiggle It (Mr Wiggles), stallion Tall Dark Stanger (Bettors Delight) and New Zealand bred mare Shartin (Tintin In America). Only the 4 top point scorers are inducted.

☑ The competition for top trotting colt of the year is intense, with **Karl (Tactical Landing)** and **TCI (Cantab Hall)** having a mortgage on the result. Karl had 10 starts for 9 wins - including the Breeders Crown - and a nose second, while TCI had 12 starts for 10 wins - including the Mohawk Million - and 2 seconds. Both are millionaires, and their personal score is one win each. If its any indication, Karl was 3rd and TCI 7th in the Hambletonian Society Poll.

☑ The competition for top 2yo pacer of the year is more difficult, with a number of 2yos performing admirably without being able to "nail it". The most likely winner is from first season sire **Bettors Wish** in **Better Is Nice** 1:50.3 with \$500,000 in earnings (about half of the trotting colts) from 7 wins and 3 places. Interestingly there are 4 fillies in the top 5 earnings for pacing 2yos. Bettors Wish stud fee has been increased to \$7,500 in 2024.



Better Is Nice with Aus driver Andy McCarthy

☑ Speaking of the 2yo fillies its another hot contest with Breeders Crown winner **My Girl EJ (Sweet Lou)** 1:49.1 \$698,000 from 5 wins and 7 places from 12 starts contesting the title with **Geocentric (Sweet Lou)** 1:49.3 \$556,000 9 wins from 10 starts and **Pass Line (All Bets Off)** 1:49.3 10 wins 3 places from 13 starts and \$548,000. Geocentric was the only 2yo filly in the Hambletonian Society top 10 poll.

☑ Australian 9yo gelding **Idealsomemagic (American Ideal)** is 10th on the season list for aged earnings by pacers, with \$360,000 for the season. The top 3 are Bythemissal, Tattoo Artist and Allywag Hanover, with top mare Grace Hill in 4th with season earnings of \$574,000.

Also having a great first season in the US is **Rocknroll Runa (Rock N Roll Heaven)** who won the Open Pace at Saratoga Raceway to make it 12 wins and over \$220,000 for the season. His dam **Shes A Runa (Jeremes Jet)** 1:55.5 \$291,000 was a NSW Oaks winner.

☑ Another millionaire for Sweet Lou with son **Hellabalou** with his 10th victory for the year and lifetime 1:48.4 for \$1,055,205. If the rising 6yo stallion stays racing he could end up 2nd on Sweet Lou's list, behind Confederate. Sweet Lou retired as a 5yo with \$3.5 million in stakes and an unusual pedigree that has been a big winner.

Captaintreacherous, Sweet Lou and evergreen Bettors Delight lead the 2yo Sires List (earnings) but leading first crop sires are **Captain Crunch** (60 starters \$1.3 million) **Bettors Wish** (24 starters \$1.2 million and **Lather Up** (55 starters, \$850,000).

☑ Leading the 3yo sire list is not surprisingly **Sweet Lou** (\$6.7 million) followed by Captaintreacherous (\$5.1 million) both with 92 starters. As a first crop 3yo sire Lazarus has done a great job to be in 9th position with 72 starters from 92 foals and \$2.4 million in stakes. Between Captaintreacherous and Lazarus are Downbytheseaside, Huntsville, Stay Hungry, Always B Miki, American Ideal and Bettors Delight.

☑ The Cumberland track will present the Au Revoir Retirement Showcase, an event open to 14yo horses that are racing or have retired within the last four years and have local connections. A number of tracks run these events, like Mohawk who conducted a retirement ceremony for one of their favourite horses, the 2017 Canadian Pacing Derby winner Sintra. The Meadowland also held a retirement ceremony for champions Test Of Faith, Bella Bellin, Tattoo Artist and Confederate. About time Australia?

And elsewhere....

☑ **Sanford Bart (Highview Tommy NZ)** breeder owner trainer John Fagg won the Prelude and the final of the Wagin 3YO Westbred sponsored by Spurrs Stud, so also picks up a very nice trophy of his choosing!. Well done Wagin, a very hardworking club.

☑ Well this is something punters of the favourite don't want (but the opposition do) – the favourite about 20 lengths off the gate when the field takes off!. There would have been a few words spoken around the track, as well as on the track but [take a look at the video](#) and see what happened when 2yo **Dreams Are Free NZ (Captaintreacherous USA)** got a bit antsy behind the barrier before the start. Just as well the driver didn't pull him up! Unfortunately he needed another 100m in the 2YO Ace of Spades to catch the Purdon pair.

☑ Champion NZ entire **Copy That NZ (American Ideal USA)** is coming to Australia for a MRI scan to determine the extent of his knee and any other injuries that may impact a recovery from surgery and a possible return to racing. If he is to race, he may still get a chance to win his 3rd New Zealand Cup at the end of 2024

☑ Top (pacing) sires got a share of the spoils on New Zealand's Grand Prix day - **Aardiebytheseaside (Downbytheseaside USA)** won the NZ Oaks by a whisker after surrendering the lead early and using the sprint lane, **Merlin (Art Major USA)** was victorious for Purdon Snr in a faster New Zealand Derby, Purdon Snr had another victory in the 2YO Fillies Ace of Diamonds, winning with **Duchess Megxit (Sweet Lou USA)**, settling midfield before swooping home, while Mark Purdon won the 2YO colts and geldings Ace of Spades on **We Walk By Faith (Bettors Delight USA)**.

Majestic Son CA progeny won 3 of the 4 trotting races (Volstead the other). The Australian entry in the Trotting Derby, the pacing bred Australian 2023 3YO Breeders Crown winner **Not As Promised (Betting Line USA)** could have done with a different drive after being asked to race 3 wide for almost the entire race, and finishing a very credible 4th.

☑ In Europe they don't allow geldings in many Group 1 races.

☹ So disappointing for all connections – champion 4yo mare **Amore Vita NZ (Art Major USA)** only the second mare to make a clean sweep of the Vicbred series by winning the 2yo, 3yo and 4yo legs, inexplicably died during trackwork. It comes as classy NZ trotting filly Isolate NZ also died after becoming seriously ill from unknown causes and misfortune befell **Millwood Nike (Captaintreacherous USA)**, who fortunately only injured a tendon if you can call that fortunate – so will live to race or breed another day. Success can be so fleeting, it needs to be treasured.



☹ Disappointing news for WA breeding, 3yo filly **August Moon (Captaintreacherous USA)** is off to the US to join the Tritton stable. A last minute purchase from the 2021 APG WA Yearling Sale, she has gone on to win nearly \$300,000 after showing enormous potential as a 2yo. Her wins included the 3YO \$50,000 APG Sales Classic, the \$50,000 Daintys Daughter Classic, the \$100,000 3YO Fillies Westbred Classic and the WA Oaks.

⚠ The big news from Victoria is the disqualification of trainer Emma Stewart for 6 months following a race day stable inspection in September. Emma Stewart is by far the leading trainer in Victoria and recently collected 4 Breeders Crowns. She has applied for and been granted a stay of proceedings so can continue to train until such time as her appeal is heard and determined by the Victorian Racing Tribunal. The Emma Stewart trained 2yos **Timmy Rictor (Modern Art USA)** 5 wins from 6 starts and **Very Pretty (American Ideal USA)** unbeaten in 5 starts, and 3yos **Perfect Class (Captaintreacherous USA)** 5 wins from 12 starts this season and **Major Delight (Bettors Delight USA)** 7 wins from 10 starts this season are all November Breeders Crown winners.

☑ Breeders Crown winner **Timmy Rictor** was a \$7,500 bargain purchase from the Bathurst Gold Crown Yearling Sale, joining multiple Group 1 winner **Better Be The Best (Shoobees Place)** 1:52 \$353,237 – purchased for \$17,500 from the Bathurst Sale - in the bargain buy category. For those looking at yearlings, the great granddam of Timmy Rictor is a full sister to champion **Saab (Classic Garry)** and his full brother **Talladega**, with two yearlings from this family for sale in the WA APG Yearling Sale in March.

☑ New Zealand born but Australian raced **Queen Elida (Love You FRA)** will be racing in New Zealand in the inaugural \$575,000 NZ "Trot Slot" in April for Entain, the operators of the NZ TAB. Queen Elida is racing in the Trotting Inter Dominion in Queensland and after the qualifying heats was equal 3rd from a win and two seconds. They say that Just Believe is a "cert", but there is no such thing in racing, as we all know. Queen Elida's granddam is a full sister to champion trotter **One Over Kenny NZ (Sundon USA)** 1:57 \$1,060,000.

☑ After about 5 years, 11 arrests and a 17 month in depth investigation, all charges have been dropped in the investigation into race fixing in New Zealand. No doubt there is more to come and possible compensation.

⊖ The impact of HRA's revised Group racing rules has had the effect of downgrading most fillies and mares races. This is hardly helpful and needs to be redressed. Some Victorian races with recently reduced stakes have been able to retain their intended Group level, and all feature races should be measured on their history, their importance and need, not stake levels, in a tightening economic environment.

☑ Heading towards the end of the season, **Lazarus NZ** leads the 2yo First Crop (pacing) sires list on dollars (\$460,000, 20 starters 14 winners) with **Rock N Roll World USA** leading on winners (16 winners 39 starters, \$303,000). **Ultimate Machete NZ** is next with \$295,000 from 11 winners (19 starters). Both Lazarus and Ultimate Machete have Group winners from small crops. Ultimate Machete has the leading 2yo filly in SA (**Miss Idaho**, who cemented her position with a Melton win), and the leading 2yo colt in Tasmania (Smooth Machete).

The leading first crop sire of 3yos is **Huntsville USA** (133 foals, 82 starters 61 winners \$1.4 million) from **Vincent** (75 foals 51 starters 36 winners \$966,000).

⊖ NSW has revamped its Carnival of Miracles program, with the Chariots of Fire, Miracle Mile Qualifiers (Cordina Group Sprint and Allied Express Sprint) and NSW Derby Heats all to be followed a week later on 9 March by the Miracle Mile and NSW Derby Final. That all seems very hard on the horses?. However, if you win the Newcastle Mile on 24 Feb, you are in the Miracle Mile with an extra week's break.

☑ Any Cup win is a good win, and 1:50.0 \$880,000 earning 7yo stallion **Max Delight (Bettors Delight USA)** left the big city behind to go to Young for the Cherry City Cup, winning the \$60,000 Carnival of Cups event to put on the trophy shelf with his 2021 Victoria Cup win. Max Delight has also won the 2019 NSW Derby and 3YO Breeders Crown. His dam **Lady Euthenia (Art Major USA)** 1:53.3 \$461,285 is also the dam of 2022 2YO and 2023 3YO Breeders Crown winner and full sister **Major Delight**. Lady Euthenia won 5 Group 1 races including the NSW Oaks and is a full or half sister to 8 other winners.

The remaining Carnival of Cups events (with Bonuses still available for 3 or 4 wins in the series) are at Tamworth (January 26), Albury (February 16) and Goulburn (April 28) – all \$60,000 Cups.

☑ Australian driver Cam Hart had a very successful trip to New Zealand, not only winning the New Zealand Cup with Swayzee but also being given the opportunity to drive in a number of other races over the period, resulting in several places and a win in the Group 1 \$130,000 Sires Stakes Final on **Our Shangri La (Art Major USA)**. They don't go like the clappers in NZ and hand up more regularly, which is obviously easier on the horses.

Breeders Crown winner Timmy Rictor



The \$530,000 Inter Dominion – the people's race

What is it about an Inter Dominion that most people like (based on our previous survey results and AGM responses). When its a rotational series, ordinary people have a chance to compete with their horse. Owners, trainers, drivers and spectators in each state get to view the best horses available and a few others who just might surprise those same horses.

While its not a rotational series at present, the Queensland Inter Dominion series is a mix of NZ bred (4) and Australian bred (8) pacers with 23 starters trained in Queensland, 9 NSW and 4 Victoria. The series was not diminished by those that choose not to compete - Queensland put on a great show, giving the locals a great opportunity to be involved.

In the trotters series, the \$265,000 final is made up of Victorian and Queensland trained runners, but unlike the pacers, 8 of the 12 finalists were bred in New Zealand. Just Believe is odds on, but Queen Elida NZ and Ollivici NZ are very classy competitors. Just Believe and Ollivici are by Orlando Vici FRA.

In the pacing series we have the undefeated **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:49 \$1.5 million, Chariots of Fire winner **Better Eclipse (Betterthanneddar USA)** with 2 wins and a second, **Nerano NZ (Tintin In America NZ)** with 2 wins and a 3rd, **Classie Washington NZ (Washington VC USA)** - ranked 32 after the 5th round of rankings - and Leap To Fame's half brother and 2023 New Zealand Cup winner **Swayzee (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** 1:52 \$845,000.



Horses behind them are all quality with the 11th horse to qualify **Turn It Up (Courage Under Fire NZ)** being a NZ Group 1 winner. **Kanena Provlima (A Rocknroll Dance USA)** has made it through after being ranked 24th and with just \$175,000 in career stakes. Other finalists are **Pete Said So NZ (Well Said USA)** \$383,000, **Spirit Of St Louis NZ (Sweet Lou USA)** \$1.3 million, **Speak The Truth (Bettors Delight USA)** \$373,000, **Future Assured (Always B Miki USA)** \$208,000, **Our Money Rocks (A Rocknroll Dance USA)** \$209,000 and Emergency **Cantfindabettorman NZ (Sweet Lou USA)** \$244,000.

Jason Grimson has drawn 1 (Nerano NZ) and 3 (Swayzee) so might just win again. Leap To Fame is in 6 (but might come in to 5), Spirit Of St Louis is in 9 following out Turn It Up NZ in 2, and Better Eclipse drew 11.

The Inters deserved million dollar prizemoney, with significantly more breeders having a chance to be involved, long before a slot race partly made up of money extracted from breeders. Let's get back to a rotational series.

Group 1 Mares Classic and \$125,000 4YO Classic

A bit of deja vue, but a nice win to **Simply Shaz (American Ideal USA)**, overcoming race leader Wonderful To Fly near the post to win the Group 1 \$150,000 Westral Mares Classic.

Simply Shaz arrived in WA as a 3yo. She won \$60,000 in her first two years of racing but has excelled this year with 7 wins including the Group 2 \$75,000 Empress Stakes and the Group 1 \$150,000 Mares Classic. From 40 starts this season, from Albany right through to Gloucester Park, she has won 7 races and been placed 8 times for season stakes of \$190,748. In the Empress Stakes she just held on to beat the fast finishing Wonderful To Fly, and in the Mares Classic she just pipped Wonderful To Fly near the post. Coincidentally, she drew barrier 1 in both events.

The dam of Simply Shaz is a half sister to **Total Defiance NZ (In The Pocket USA)** 1:52.6, one of our top juveniles 15 years ago, who went on to win \$550,000 racing in Australia and the US.

Not to be outdone, Wonderful To Fly (Fly Like An Eagle) stepped out in the (formerly Group 1) \$125,000 4YO Classic from 2 on the back line, quickly dropped to 3 on the pegs, managed to get clear at the top of the straight and raced home to just grab 2nd favourite Hoppys Way on the line. Oaks winner Taking the Miki was a good finishing 5th with the favourite My Ultimate Ronnie fading in the straight after breezing all the way.

It was a great win in open company for Wonderful To Fly and justified the confidence part owner trainer driver Shane Young has always had in her. This was the 9th win for the season for Wonderful To Fly and with 7 places from just 16 starts she has won \$287,000 for lifetime stakes of just under \$700,000. A half brother to Wonderful To Fly by Dan Patch, O'Brien 2YO and 3YO Pacing Colt of the Year Tall Dark Stranger 1:47.2 \$2,020,000 is in the upcoming WA APG Yearling Sale.

The unraced dam of Wonderful To Fly is a half sister to **Jumbo Operator (Armbro Operative USA)** 1:57 \$313,175 who won 19 of his first 23 starts, and to dual Group 1 winner **Getaway Plan (Parsons Den USA)**, but it is Wonderful To Fly that has brought to light the maternal line of one of our greatest mares, **Daintys Daughter**.

RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

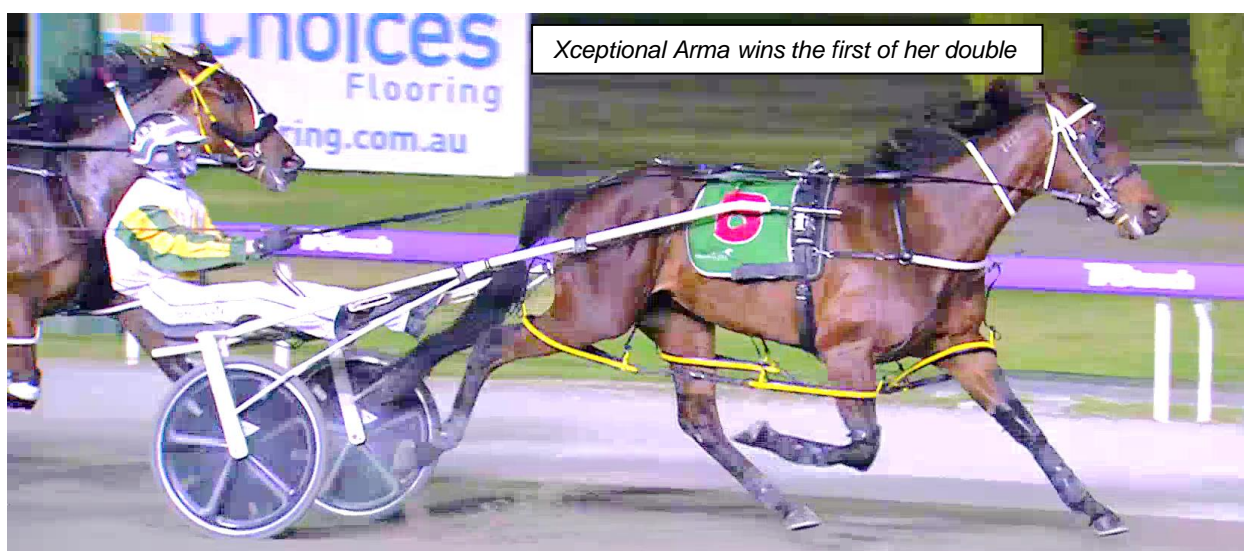
- ♣ Anyone else think that the run by My Ultimate Ronnie was quite ok? Very comparable to Spirit of St Louis prior to the Nullarbor?
- ♣ Some great racing in the Inters by some top horses, some of whom will be sires of the future
- ♣ Four mares in the Golden Nugget was justified and would have made for a great race.



BREEDER OF THE MONTH – November 2023

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

It's another breeder owner this month who have continued their success from their foundation mare. **Congratulations** to Liam O'Connor and Jim Currie, our **Breeder of the Month for November 2023**, for the efforts of 2yo filly **Xceptional Arma (American Ideal USA)** out of Arma Xpress by **Artiscape USA** who followed her two metropolitan wins in October with another two in November, taking her total earnings in her debut year to \$257,772 from 10 wins (including the Group 1 \$215,000 Westbred Classic) and 3 places from 16 starts.



Xceptional Arma is a full sister to American Arma 1:55.8 \$191,118 and Arma Xfactor 1:54.2 \$9399. Their highly successful dam **Arma Xpress (Artiscape USA)** 1:56.5 12 wins \$279,890 was the top 2yo of her year and winner of 11 of her first 12 starts including the 2YO Sales Classic 2YO Westbred Classic, 2YO Gold Bracelet, Champagne Classic and 2012 Golden Slipper. Arma Xpress was the 2nd foal produced from the Jim Currie's foundation mare **Arma Antoinette NZ (Holmes Hanover USA)**, the winner of 1 race and purchased from Nevele R Stud in foal to Live Or Die USA. That first foal Arma Xceptional is the granddam of **Fifty Five Reborn (Renaissance Man)** 1:56.5 \$263,298 and full brother **Arma Einstein** 1:54.9 \$310,129. The family continues to produce high quality winners, you would just hate them to all be in the same race.

Arma Antoinette NZ is a granddaughter of New Zealand Oaks winner **Ar Miss (Armbro Del USA)** the dam of 8 winners including champion **Armalight (Timely Knight USA)** 1:55.4 \$279,560 the winner of the NZ Cup, Auckland Cup NZ Oaks and two Inter Dominion Heats. The extended family is just that, very extended, with winners including **Excel Stride (Aces N Sevens USA)** 1:50.3 \$769,464, **Majestic Mach (Mach Three CA)** 1:53.9 \$796,397, **Soho Seraphine (Betting Line USA)** 1:55.7 \$201,740, **Arma Indie NZ (Well Said USA)** 1:54.7 \$176,865, **Ohoka Punter NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:52.4 \$1,177,323, **American Tour NZ (American Ideal USA)** 1:52.4 \$278,807, **Thumpem (In The Pocket USA)** 1:52.6 \$449,837, **Spankem (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:47.7 \$1,868,078 just to mention a few of the best.

Congratulations to Liam and Jim, the Browns and especially **Xceptional Arma**.

WINNERS - WA BASED SIRES NOVEMBER 2023



There were 34 Westsired winners of 36 races in November 2023, representing 6 sires, with **Fly Like An Eagle** the leading sire with 12 race wins from 10 winners followed by **Follow The Stars** (9 winners of 9 races) then **Renaissance Man** (7 winners of 7 races).

With only one month left in the season the leaderboard hasn't changed. The leading sire of Westsired winners remains as **Follow The Stars**, with 57 individual winners of 102 races, followed by **Fly Like An Eagle** (39 winners, 86 races). Follow The Stars is also in 3rd position overall (all horses raced in WA), behind only Bettors Delight USA and American Ideal USA.

There were 2 dual winners for the month, both by Fly Like An Eagle – metropolitan winner **Flying Rumour** and **Torrevean Amy**.

Appreciating the opportunity, there were 7 first time starters collecting their First Start Bonus, with 2yo filly **Ambitsiya** (Advance Attack NZ) also winning first up to claim the First Win Bonus.

Other first time winners were 2yos **Honour The Eagle** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **Jimmy Rocks** (Rock N Roll World); 4yos **Cutting Roses** and **Debrenika** (Advance Attack NZ), **Our Eagle Bay** (Fly Like An Eagle), **Dispatcher** (Renaissance Man) and 5yo **Zachary Marc** (Renaissance Man).

Congratulations to all our first time winners. Good to see some of our former race mares producing winners.

Westsired progeny received \$160,000 in Westbred, First Win and First Start Bonuses in November 2023 for a season tally so far of \$1.45 million.




There were 4 metropolitan level Westsired winners (1 included under fillies and mares) in November, including the winner of the Country Derby at Pinjarra:

- ♥ 4yo **Flying Rumour** – **Fly Like An Eagle** o/o **Stage Whisper (Armbro Operative USA)**, breeder owner Kim Marsh. Having a good season after resuming with a flourish in November. Started from 5 on the 3rd line of betting, quickly out and straight to the front in a fast 36.2 lead, slow first qtr then stepped it up to a 28.8 2nd qtr, got a break on the field down the back, still clear into the straight, tiring down the straight but held on to win the \$9,360 L5 by a head in 1:57.8, last half 1 minute flat. Eighteen days later led and won a midweek for his second in a row;



To promote and foster the breeding of the Standardbred Horse in Western Australia and to further the interests of breeders.

- ♥ 6yo **Longreach Bay – Renaissance Man o/o Black In The Black (Armbro Operative USA)**, owner breeders Peter and M King and Barbara Pellick, Got the nice draw and didn't waste it. Started favourite from 1 and worked to hold his position before steadying, around even time first half, stepped up the pace significantly down the back and got about $\frac{3}{4}$ length clear at the 400m, led into the straight but 4 across the track, shifted out near the 100m but doing the better to win the \$21,000 HWOE Pace by 2.1m in 1:57.9, last qtrs 27.9 and 29.5;
- ♥ 4yo horse **Mr Montblanc – Fly Like An Eagle o/o Arkareena (Village Jasper USA)**, breeder Allwood Stud Farm, Resumed in October without a lot of luck in the draws. Fourth start back started 2nd favourite from 3, won the race for the lead in a very fast 35.1 lead, not much of a let up in the first quarter and better than even time next two quarters, challenged near the 400m but still going well, led into the straight and a clever drive by Shannon Suvaljko to win the \$21,000 Pace by a half head in 1:56.5, last qtr 28.7;
- ♥ 3yo colt **Skylord – Fly Like An Eagle o/o Southern Legacy** (Northern Luck CA), breeders Ray Grantham and T Schmedje, Started outside the back line and settled midfield in the moving line, too slow up front and made a supe slick move mid race to go to the lead, led into the straight and moved away to win the \$30,000 Country Derby by 9m in 1:59.6, last qtr 27.6. Great drive Jocelyn. 

WESTBRED WINNERS – NOVEMBER 2023

There were 171 races run in November 2023, with 94 individual Westbred winners of 102 (59.6%) races. This is a nice improvement on October, as well as being 3.7% higher than November last year. It's the third highest November figure for the last 12 years.

There were 36 sires represented by winning Westbreds with **American Ideal USA** on top with 7 winners of 8 races for sires standing outside WA. Westsired stallions were 1st, 2nd and 4th on the list.

For Westbred progeny for the 11 month period **American Ideal USA** and **Sweet Lou USA** are well clear of other living stallions standing outside WA, with 69 and 57 race wins respectively.

As well as the two Westsired dual winners there were another 6 dual winning Westbreds – **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA), **Eye Better** (Betterthancheddar USA), **Blockjorg** (Hes Watching USA), **Hotly Pursued** (Huntsville USA), **Hillview Bondi** (Somebeachsomewhere USA) and **Sunpatra** (Sunshine Beach USA).

Exciting for their owners, there were 8 first time winners in November (in addition to the 8 Westsired):

- 2yos **At The Pointy End** (American Ideal USA), **Adda Bitto** (Betterthancheddar USA), and **Covernote** (Sweet Lou USA);
- 3yo **Get Ya Bets On** (Betting Line USA), **Beach Captain** (Captaintreacheros USA), **Sub Mariner** (Sunshine Beach USA) and **Get The Booth** (Sweet Lou USA); and
- 5yo **Tell Itin Heaven** (Rock N Roll Heaven USA).

Westbreds won 28 races at Community level, 59 at \$9,000 level and 17 metropolitan level races including 3 at FFA or feature race level. Total stakes earned by Westbreds was \$1.3 million, or 46.3% of the total stakes pool. For the season to end November, Westbreds have won 55% of the stakes. Nice to have a Westbred

There were 15 2yo races run (3 more than November 2022), with Westbreds winning 13 of these races. The number of 2yo starters decreased by 1 to 50 compared to the previous month, with owners seeing that bonuses are still available along with the reduced 2yo HWOE handicap. Westbreds provided 94% of 2yo starters.

The number of 3yo starters (141) did decline by 9 compared to last month, but mirrored the starters in November 2022. Westbreds provided 72% of the starters and won 18 of the 23 3yo races, as well as 9 of 29 races won by 3yos in the 3yo and over class. There is room for additional 3yo races.

For November 2023, the number of 4yo and over starters (467) did decline compared to November last year (484) but is still quite healthy. Westbred starters in this age group helped that along by increasing to 303 from the 289 that raced during November last year (coincidentally the same number as October this year).

With that in mind, there were two more races restricted to 4YO or over compared to the previous month, but we believe there is room for more. It is encouraging that 2 of the 4yo and over races were maidens.

There were 104 wins (62 Westbred) by horses 4yo and over out of a total 133 races that they were eligible to race in. This included 38 wins by 4yos (27 Westbred), 32 wins by 5yos (22 Westbred), 25 wins by 6yos (10 Westbred) and 9 (3 Westbred) wins by horses 7yo or older. The oldest winner was 10yo Galactic Star.

Westbreds won 18 of the 40 races run at prime meetings at Gloucester Park in November 2023, as well as the Country Derby. Five of the wins were by fillies or mares, another 4 by Westsired progeny and the remaining 8 winners of 10 races were:

- ◆ **5yo American Bullitt – Tintin In America NZ o/o Just Visiting (Barnett Hanover USA)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. Has had quite an exceptional season with over \$70,000 in stakes, Started middle of the betting from 3 on the 10m line, a mile back in 5th after some solid speed out front, a classy drive from Chris Lewis to just set his own pace and gradually move forward to catch the leading 4 after a lap and a half and be midfield in the breeze after 2 laps, moved up down the back and about to tackle the leader at the 400m, took the lead into the straight and fought off a late challenge to win the 2503m \$21,000 stand in 2:01.6, last half 59.4;
- ◆ **2yo colt Arma Believer – Vincent o/o Arma Rich Girl (Bettors Delight USA)** owner breeders Lyn Brown and S Currie. Its another Arma!. Last win in September and lining up for his 16th start as a 2yo. Started favourite from 2, straight to the front which is the place to be, moderate first half, quicker down the back under a good hold, sprinted over the last 400m to win the \$21,000 2YO Pace by 3.5m in 1:59.2, last qtrs 29.1 and 27.9;
- ◆ **4yo entire Dardy Boy (Bettors Delight o/o Isabella Jane (Sportswriter USA)**, breeder Jeneen Johnson. Two places at his previous 3 starts then started favourite from 1 in the L5 \$9,360 pace, held the lead easily after a good start, gentle first half, going steady down the back, good driving Shannon Suvaljko to hold them up to the straight then sprinted away to win by 2.9m in 2:00.5, last half 58.1;
- ◆ **5yo Hillview Bondi – Somebeachsomewhere o/o Maid For Life (Safely Kept USA)** breeder part owner Lisa Bendotti. Back in the winners circle after starting 4th favourite from 5, took a moment to get going then surged to the lead with two laps to go in a very fast lead, fast first qtr and first half with the breeze horse pressuring, steady down the back but going well, just two in it at the 400m, in command at the top of the straight and a strong win in the \$19,000 L5 Pace by 6.9m in 1:55.2, last half 58.7 after the early burn. A fortnight later started middle of the betting from 6, speed out front so waited for the dust to settle before going to the breeze with 2 laps to go, tackled for the lead at the 500m, just in front at the 400m, lost the advantage at the top of the straight but won the battle down the straight to win the \$23,000 HWOE Pace by 1.4m in 1:56.4, last qtrs 27.9 and 29 flat;
- ◆ **3yo Hotly Pursued - Huntsville USA o/o Besos Baci (Blissfull Hall USA)**, owner breeders Murray Lindau and Claire McNaughton. Two wins then 3 successive 2nds before starting favourite from 6, fast out and to the lead in a comfortable lead time, a Kyle Harper length clear at the 400m, had their measure at the top of the straight and bolted home to win the \$21,000 3YO Pace by 5.7m in 1:56.5, last qtrs 28.2 and 27.8. A fortnight later showed his versatility after starting favourite from 9, restrained and settled 3 back and 3rd last in the moving line, followed a 3 wide move with a lap to go, 3 wide and 5th at the 400m, swung wide off the back and 4 wide down the straight, quickly gathered them in and held out Crown Control to win the \$21,000 3YO Pace by 1.2m in 1:57.0, last half 29.7 and 28.7;

- ◆ **5yo entire Machnificent (Mach Three CA o/o Honorable Daughter (Northern Luck USA)**, breeder Allwood Stud Farm. Having a good season even though his last win was in January. Started 2nd favourite outside the backline, settled one out three back, led up the 3 wide line with a lap to go, in second in the breeze with 600m to go, almost level at the 400m, raced away at the top of the straight and an easy win easing down in the \$19,000 L5 Pace by 5.9m in 1:57.4, last qtrs 28.9 and 28.1



◆ **3yo Star Lavra – Captaintreacherous USA o/o Lavra Florence NZ (Live Or Die USA)**, breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. The lightly raced half brother to Lavra Joe. Resumed in October for 2 places then started favourite from 4 in the WA Derby Consolation, worked hard to get to the lead after just over half a lap in the 2536m Derby distance, good pace throughout and stepped it up down the back, a length in front at the 400m but under urging, skipped away at the top of the straight and held off the fast finishing Hotly Pursued for a deserving win in the \$21,000 Derby Consolation by 1.2m in 1:57.7, last qtrs 28.5 and 28.9;



◆ **5yo Talks Up A Storm – Artspeak USA o/o Typhoon Tan NZ (Live Or Die USA)**, breeder the late Harry Capararo. Good success last season and doubling that this season. Won consecutive metro races in October then one start later started favourite from 2 after a scratching in the 1730m sprint, fast out to take the lead, very slow first qtr for a sprint race, under a tight hold at the 400m, bottled them up at the top of the straight, under challenge down the straight but enough in hand to win the \$25,000 Pace by a neck in 1:56.4, last qtrs 28.2 and 28.4.



Total Bonus payments in November 2023 of \$324,000 exceeds the November 2022 result by \$86,000. Of the total, 2yos received \$139,000, 3yos \$115,000, with 4yo and over \$70,000. Breeders received \$73,000 excluding any amounts they received as racing owners. So far this season 200 Westbreds have broken their maiden status, and the 233 first time starters have received \$116,500 in First Start Bonus.

In November 2023, Westbreds earned \$1.6 million in stakes and bonuses (\$18.2 million for the season).

How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (November 2023)

Fillies and mares won 56 (32.7%) of the 171 races run in November 2023. This is an improved result on November last year (50 wins 177 races) and much improved compared to October 2023 (only 46 wins).

The result has improved our season summary (to end of November) which now stands at 30.8% wins against races run, and 33.9% of individual winners have been fillies or mares.

There were 31 fillies/mares races run in November 2023, which is a big improvement on November last year. The balance of winners (25) came from open races. Wins included 9 at Community level, 37 (28 Westbred) wins at mid-tier level, and 10 (5 Westbred) metropolitan, FFA or Group level races. Total stakes paid to fillies and mares in November was \$823,000 (29.3% of stakes), with Westbred fillies and mares winning \$553,000 as well as \$150,000 in Bonuses.

Top of the sires list for winners was **American Ideal USA** with 6 winners of 7 races, followed by locally based sire Fly Like An Eagle (5 winners of 6 races) and Rock N Roll Heaven USA, also with 5 winners of 6 races. For the season to date, **Follow The Stars** continues to lead with 49 race wins (26 winners) followed by **Fly Like An Eagle** (43 wins, 20 winners), **American Ideal USA** (41 wins, 16 winners).

There were 7 dual filly/mare winners in November 2023 – **Xceptional Arma** (American Ideal USA) repeated her double last month, Eye Better (Betterthancheddar USA), Torrevean Amy (Fly Like An Eagle) and Blockjorg (Hes Watching USA), along with NZ bred Sister Cherie, Madam Publisher and trotter Elegant Peak.

Taking home their very first win were 4 fillies – **Ambitsiya** (Advance Attack NZ), **At The Pointy End** (American Ideal USA), **Honour The Eagle** (Fly Like An Eagle) **Get The Booth** (Sweet Lou USA) - and 4 mares – **Cutting Roses** and **Debrenika** (both Advance Attack NZ), **Our Eagle Bay** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **Dispatcher** (Renaissance Man).

Races for fillies:

- 2YO races – a repeat of last month - fillies won 8 (including 4 open) of the 15 2yo races.
- 3YO races – fillies won 6 (including 3 open) of the 23 3yo races, and won 6 of the 29 3yo and over races won by 3yos.

The number of 2yo fillies racing (27) again exceeded the males (23) suggesting a more proportionate number of races for fillies be made available. The same applies to 3yo fillies (48 versus 93 males) where only 3 of 23 3yo races are designated fillies only. A higher number of 2yo fillies and 3yo fillies races need to be programmed.

We do understand that programming is not easy but we need to be encouraging owners to have a fit 3yo filly, in particular, to race at the end of the season and carry through to her 4yo year.

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There were 36 wins by mares (4yo and over) including 7 in 4yo and over races. Mares won 18 open races including 3 in the 4yo and over category. Mares racing in November comprised 30% of the 4yo and over racing population.

Wins by mares included 17 wins by 4yos, 10 wins by 5yos, 7 wins by 6yos - 81% of the wins were \$9,000 and above. The oldest winner was 8yo Adda Paris (A Rocknroll Dance USA) who won a midweek Gloucester Park.

There was only a small decline in the number of fillies and mares racing in November 2023 compared to the previous month, with the biggest drop in 3yo fillies – this could be addressed by providing more same sex races for the 3yo fillies. This is in the interests of the owners and the industry by offering better earning opportunities.

It's the right time of year to be racing the good mares, but the race program needs to be delivering more filly mare winners of mixed classes on a Friday night. However, there were some nice races in November with fillies/mares winning 10 races (25%) at prime metropolitan meetings. Winners included 3yo Castella Dellacqua (Captaintreacherous USA) in a \$21,000 3YO Fillies, 5yo Simply Shaz (American Ideal USA) in the \$150,000 Mares Classic, 5yo Three Rumours NZ (Mach Three CA) in a \$27,000 Fillies and Mares FFA, 6yo trotter Elegant Peak NZ ((Peak DNK) in a \$21,000 Trot, and 8yo Born To Boogie (Rock N Roll Heaven USA) in a \$27,000 Fillies and Mares FFA.

The remaining 4 WA bred winners of 5 races were:

- ♥ 3yo **Between Two Thorns – Downbytheseaside USA o/o Kiwi Rose USA (Western Hanover USA)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. Won the \$50,000 APG Gold Bullion Final in April before resuming

in November. First up started on the 3rd line of betting from outside the backline, just missed some interference to settle one out 2 back, quick lead and first qtr over the sprint 1730m journey, first to move 3 wide at the 600m, almost in the lead at the 400m, very competitive finish down the straight and just did better to win the \$21,000 3YO Fillies Pace by a half head in a slick 1:56.8, last half 59.7;



Aptly named Between Two Thorns (12)

- ♥ 4yo **Beyond The Sea (Sunshine Beach USA o/o Robyns C C NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)**, breeder owners Karnup Racing Pty Ltd. Three seconds from her previous 4 starts then started second favourite from inside the back row. Drove through to get the spot behind race leader and favourite Wonderful To Fly who started in 1, fast lead and even time first half, going well down the back, got the opening coming to the home turn with the leader skipping away, chased down the leader and went on to an impressive win in the \$100,000 Norms Daughter Classic by a head in 1:56.5, last qtrs 28.6 and 29.1;

- ♥ 4yo **Extraordinary Mary – Fly Like An Eagle o/o Has The Looks (Major In Art USA)** breeder Allwood Ststud Farm. Overdue for a win. Started favourite from 2 on the front in the stand, got away fast to go straight to the lead, steady first half, quick down the back and going like a winner, well clear into the straight and easily won the \$21,000 stand by 3.9m in 2:02.3, last qtrs 28.4 and 29.6; and

- ♥ 2yo **Xceptional Arma – American Ideal USA o/o Arma Xpress (Artiscape USA)**, owner breeders Liam O'Connor, Jim Currie. Another really good Arma. A double in October then lined up for her 3rd consecutive win starting favourite from 6. Settled in the breeze from the barrier, made no move until near the 400m, quickly accelerated to the front and ran away down the straight to win the \$21,000 2YO Fillies Pace by 3.8m in 1:58.8, last half 58.2. A fortnight later started second favourite in 5, sat back early while the they sizzled out front in a 7.5 lead and 26.9 1st qtr, before the favourite settled in front after a lap. Good driving from Maddison Brown to go to the breeze with 1100 to go, moved up and looking the winner at the 600m, 2 lengths clear at the 400m, stretched out the lead to a scintillating win

in the \$21,000 2YO Fillies Pace by 16.8m in 1:54.1, last half 58.2. Four in a row to the winner, and good effort from the favourite Water Lou to hold on for second.

Westbreds provided 93% of 2yo fillies, 79% of 3yo fillies and 79% of the racing mares. Fillies and mares contributed 32.7% of starters.

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All our sponsors, including those who assisted us on our Breeders Stakes Night are shown next. For website information and more contact details, go to the Breeding News Page of our website www.wasba.com.au :

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YOUR COMMITTEE

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

President	Jeanine Diederich	M: 0407 383 256	Committee	Pat Borg	M: 0433 331 087
Vice President and Treasurer	Howard King	M: 0418 207 079	Committee	Joe Schaper	M: 0409 101 540
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Don't forget to check out the facebook page and website from time to time for news, breeding information, links to various items of interest and contact information. The WASBA website is www.wasba.com.au

And Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbred BreedersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbredBreedersAssociation)



To promote and foster the breeding of the Standardbred Horse in Western Australia and to further the interests of breeders.

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

The **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** has been scheduled for **17 January 2024**. Meetings are scheduled monthly on the last Wednesday of each month, except on specific occasions and over the Christmas New Year period. If you would like to raise any issues or make comment, contact a Committee member or:

- Send an email to info@wasba.com.au .
- Write to WASBA at PO Box 3237 EAST PERTH WA 6892.
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Enjoy!

