



NEWSLETTER

Vol 320 January 2025

It's a New Year and a new beginning

We are now into the new world of our hybrid National Rating System, so let's give it a go. There will certainly be some hits and misses as everyone adjusts to looking at things differently. We want to be working with the new program to make things better for our WA bred horses and mares, which makes for a better industry in WA, with better opportunities. We also want to see a juvenile racing calendar that provides trainers with guidance for at least 3 months ahead, to enable them to make good racing decisions on behalf of their owners.

Just to be clear though, WASBA along with the other participant bodies were not aware of the changes to the 2yo feature race program prior to them being announced. We certainly made the effort to redress the changes, given the short notice, and will always work towards addressing unfavourable decisions.

In good news we hope for most, RWWA agreed to move the 2025 2YO Westsired Classics to Saturday 12 April at Bunbury, giving more time to be able to achieve that date with their 2yo and their chosen driver.

2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES

2YO	The first 2YO race in 2025 is on 27 January at Pinjarra. This is the only scheduled race before the \$35,000 Western Crown Classics scheduled to 7 February. Go figure. Heats for the APG 2YO Classics are on 18 February, the \$125,000 Finals on 28 February
3YO	The first metropolitan stakes 3yo races are scheduled for 14 February The \$100,000 APG 3YO Classics are scheduled for 28 February
Mares	the \$50,000 Laurie Kennedy Mares is on 7 February Heats for the next Summer Series start 10 February at Pinjarra (2 or less metro wins excl 2yo)

Notice Board

APG WA Yearling Sale first Sunday in March

The online catalogue is available from the APG website, or you can click [here](#). There are 180 lots available and some are out of our very best racemares, Oaks winners, multiple Group 1 winners etc and full and half siblings to Group 1 winners.

Yearlings by the best sires in the world are available in the WA Sale, as well as stand out locally based and some first time sires. If you want Westbred, no problem as they are all Westbred. If you want Westsired for that double win bonus, they are also available. For information on the Westbred Bonus payments, click [here](#). Remember that all placings first to fourth in 2yo or 3yo races less than \$22,000 receive a Westbred Bonus payment for both breeder and owner.

The Sale is on Sunday 2 March at the Magic Millions Sales Complex, Middle Swan. Hardcopy catalogues are available now for ordering if you don't already have one.

The first Westsired crop of **Captain Ahab USA** will be racing in 2025, while the first Westbred crop of **Ultimate Sniper NZ** will also be racing.

Don't forget the **annual KTC Bloodstock Yearling Sale parade** on Sunday 23 February – don't miss it!

APG Sales Graduate Water Lou, one of many graduates with over \$350,000 in earnings



Don't forget to claim your Epona credits...

It's the start of a new racing season, but it is also the time when you hopefully have a positive test for your mare. Don't forget to claim your Epona credits if she is a race winning mare with credits "in the bank".

If you aren't sure about the status of your mare, then check the list of mares [here](#) who have earned credits. You can submit a claim for the credits by completing [this form](#). The information and form can be accessed at the RWWA website under <https://racingwa.com.au/industry-essentials/breeding-incentive-schemes>.

Mares can now accumulate up to \$10,000 in Epona credits and they earn those credits any time they win a race in WA. The credit is equal to 10% of their winning stake.

The credits stay with that mare until they are claimed as a result of a positive test result from a vet.

And don't forget to register your foal – preferably within the first 35 days (WA born foals) of birth to get the cheapest registration fee. The online process is available for all studmasters and managing owners, provided you have a Harnessweb account. Apply [here](#) for a Harnessweb account if you don't already have one. If you don't want to complete the form online you will need to contact RWWA or your state body to access a hardcopy form. If you are a WASBA member we will try to assist you.



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 for the first time in their career [here](#).

Snippets from the USA and Canada..

☑ Best laid plans of mice and men. Both **Karl (Tactical Landing)** and **Captain Albano (Captaintreacherous)** are racing on in 2025 after being assessed as unable to fulfill full books of mares. This may be temporary – the late great Cam Fella also retired twice after his fertility was initially an issue. A few championship years later he was good to go and look at his legacy. Karl is the 2023 2YO Breeders Crown and Dan Patch Trotting Colt of the Year as well as being the winner of the Grade 1 Hambletonian and \$2.4 million in stakes. Captain Albano is the 2YO and 3YO USTA Dan Patch Pacing Colt of the Year, with \$1.1 million in 2024 season earnings and wins in the Grade 1 Adios Pace and Little Brown Jug, and Grade 2 Progress Stakes.

☑ Hanover Shoe Farms was named the Dan Patch 2024 Breeder of the Year. Their highest stakes earners were 2024 Dan Patch 2YO Trotting Colt of the Year and Breeders Crown winner **Maryland (Chapter Seven)** \$1,227,695 and 2024 Dan Patch Older Pacing Male **Abuckabett Hanover (Betting Line)** \$833,022 for the season. They also bred 3yos **Mirage Hanover (Bettors Delight)** and **Legendary Hanover (Huntsville)** 1:46.2 \$1.1 million. Hanover won Pacing Broodmare of the Year with **Lillian Hanover (Well Said)**, the dam of **Linedrive Hanover** 1:47 and his half brother **Legendary Hanover**, who is standing his first season at stud in 2025.



Legendary Hanover winning the Meadowlands Pace

While Trotting Sire of the Year was a foregone conclusion with **Chapter Seven** leading the 2YO, 3YO and All Age Trotting Sire list, Dan Patch Pacing Sire of the Year was a dead heat between **Bettors Delight (Cams Card Shark)** and **Sweet Lou (Yankee Cruiser)**. Bettor's Delight topped the money list for all-age and 3yo performers that included Nijinsky, Mirage Hanover and It's a Love Thing. Sweet Lou produced two of the USTA Dan Patch champions in 2024 in 2YO Colt **Louprint** and 3YO Filly **My Girl EJ**, both Breeders Crown winners, and was among the top three North American stallions for money in the 2yo, 3yo and all age ranks.

New Zealander **Dexter Dunn** won the Dan Patch Driver of the Year for 2024, something he has done on 4 previous occasions in his short Northern Hemisphere career. Dexter won an unprecedented six Breeders Crowns in 2024, driving Twin B Joe Fresh, Abuckabett Hanover, Miki And Minnie, My Girl EJ, Winner's Bet, and Mirage Hanover – the first five of whom selected as 2024 Dan Patch champions. **Twin B Joe Fresh (Roll With Joe)** was named 2024 Dan Patch Aged Pacing Mare, Three Diamonds winner **Miki And Minnie (Always B Miki** out of the Roll With Joe mare That's The Ticket) was named Dan Patch 2YO Pacing Filly of the Year, **Winners Bet (Walner)** was named the Dan Patch Older Male Trotter of the Year.



Trotting colts **Winners Bet** and Breeders Crown winner and Dan Patch 3YO Trotting Colt of the Year **Sig Sauer (Muscle Hill)** are both standing their first season at stud in 2025, while multiple Grade 1 winner and 2024 Dan Patch Older Trotting Mare of the Year **Jiggy Jog S (Walner)** retired to the broodmare ranks not long after her win in the \$1 million MGM Yonkers International Trot.

☑ Canada's annual awards, the O'Brien Awards, for horses that raced in Canada at least 3 times in the season, will be awarded on 8 February. While the Aged Mare of the Year is a certainty to go to **Twin B Joe Fresh (Roll With Joe)**, the Canadian 2YO and 3YO O'Brien Award winning Pacing filly **Sylvia Hanover (Always B Miki)** still had a top year, winning \$492,000 for the season and taking her overall stakes over \$2 million, as well as setting a lifetime mark of 1:47.3.

Sylvia Hanover will race on in 2025 as a 5yo but two of her equally classy opponents have run their last race in 2024 as 5yos. The 2022 O'Brien 3YO Filly Pacer of the Year **Silver Label (Bettors Delight)** 1:47.3 retired with 26 wins and \$1.6 million in stakes, while the 2021 O'Brien 2YO Filly Pacer of the Year **Prohibition Legal (Big Jim)** retires with 13 wins and \$1.1 million in stakes. Silver Label will be bred to Always B Miki, while Prohibition Legal will go to Sweet Lou.

☑ **Big Jim** features as the sire of 2yo filly **Chantilly**, who is the likely winner of the O'Brien 2YO Pacing Filly of the Year with an unbeaten 9 starts 9 wins and victory in the Grade 1 Shes A Great Lady. Not up for an award but tough 8yo mare **So Much More (Big Jim)** scored her 75th win to take her career stakes to over \$1.7 million.



O'Brien 3YO Filly of the Year is between two **Bettors Delight** fillies, **It's A Love Thing** – winner of the Grade 1 Fan Hanover and \$843,000 in stakes – and **Odds On Platinum** – winner of the Grade 3 Courageous Lady and \$751,000. The O'Brien 3YO Pacing Colt/Gelding of the Year will be a fascinating contest between 2YO O'Brien winner **Legendary Hanover (Huntsville)** - winner of 9 from 14 and \$1.1 million including the Grade 1 Meadowlands Pace and Grade 2 Cane Pace - and **Nijinsky (Bettors Delight)** who did much of his racing in Canada and was rewarded with 11 wins including the \$1 million North America Cup and \$1.7 million in stakes.

Having the best season of his career – and the previous seasons have been very good – 6yo stallion **Abuckabett Hanover (Betting Line)** is the likely O'Brien Older Pacing Horse of the Year, with victories in the Grade 1 Fan Duel and Grade 2 William Haughton.

☑ The USTA and Standardbred Canada have released a schedule of Graded and Restricted Graded Stakes races (our Group and Listed equivalent) for 2025. The races were selected by the Graded Stakes Committee created in 2023 with representatives from the USTA, Standardbred Canada and the Hambletonian Society.

This will clarify the level of race that we hear about but aren't sure of its status, especially with the different values of the US and Canadian dollars and different stakes won depending on the country reporting the event.

During the inaugural year of the program, there will be a total of 171 Graded Stakes, including 47 Grade 1, 47 Grade 2 and 77 Grade 3 races. From 2025 on, Graded Stakes will be included in yearling sale catalogues beginning with the 2021 racing season. As part of the grading, minimum stakes have been set - \$350,000 for open Grade 1 (\$250,000 for females), and \$75,000 up to \$175,000 for Grade 3 (up to \$125,000 for females). We hope Australian administrators note this as we have repeatedly asked for group races in Australia for fillies and mares to be assessed at a lower stakes level, given the quantity of available races and dollars.

The Breeders Crowns, Metro Pace, Adios Pace, Little Brown Jug, North America Cup, Fan Duel, Meadowlands Pace, Borgata, Shes A Great Lady, Three Diamonds, are some of the Grade 1 races

State and province races have a different set of stakes levels and conditions and are Restricted R1, R2 or R3.

☑ If anyone is interested, Woodbine Mohawk Park is now accepting entries to purchase a slot in the 2025 Mohawk Million (a Grade 1 race) for 2yo trotters. The price per slot is \$50,000, with a total of 10 slots available for a purse of \$1 million. As you would expect, competition for Slots was intense in 2024 and they were drawn by ballot. Winner of the 2024 Mohawk Million was the Dan Patch 2YO Trotting Colt of the Year **Maryland**. The race is scheduled for 20 September at Mohawk Park.

☑ Brittany Farms in Kentucky has been selected to receive a President's Award (ie from the President of the USA). Brittany Farms ceased operations at the end of 2024 following the sale of its final crop of yearlings.

☑ A winner of 3 2yo races and two 2024 3yo races, for about \$40,000 in career stakes, arrived in the US in September and has won 8 in a row including his last win at the Meadowlands in 1:50.3. Rated as a 4yo in the US, **Humble (American Ideal)** has added \$80,000 to his earnings.

And elsewhere....

☑ A disappointment to many, but retirement of champion **Just Believe (Orlando Vici FRA)** has been announced. The 9yo has done everything that anyone had a right to wish, and so much more. The winner of 10 Group 1 races, including 2 Inter Dominions, a Great Southern Star, New Zealand Dominion Trot and Rowe Cup, Just Believe won 38 races in all and \$1,929,253 in stakes, second only to champion **Lyell Creek** \$2,256,724 whose exploits were phenomenal given he was born over 30 years ago. While Just Believe is entirely internationally bred (his American bred dam was bought by Yabby Dams' Pat Driscoll for \$10,000 at a dispersal sale of successful breeder Kevin Riseley in 2009, after producing only one live foal in 6 seasons), Lyell Creek was sired by New Zealand bred pacing champion **Roydon Glen NZ (Smooth Fella USA)** and out of unraced NZ mare **Kahlum (Noodlum NZ)**. Lyell Creek's half sister is the granddam of top NZ trotter **Marcoola (Sundon USA)** who was a multiple Group 1 winner including the 2018 Dominion Trot.

☑ Champion trotter **Oscar Bonavena (Majestic Son CA)** who defeated Just Believe at his very last race start, has joined an illustrious band of what would be merry men - apart from the mare **One Over Kenny NZ (Sundon USA)**. He became a millionaire after winning the Cambridge Flying Trot earlier in January. Lyell Creek leads the very short list of 12 millionaires, but with a little

luck **Queen Elida (Love You FRA)** with \$945,000 in earnings, should join the list soon. Of course with the money available in Slot races even for a place it does skew the results for the new brigade of trotters. Worth noting is that the progeny of One Over Kenny have won over one million, which is also an incredible effort.



Oscar Bonavena winning from Just Believe in the Group 1 NZ Trotting FFA

Oscar Bonavena has mixed stud duties with racing this year so perhaps there is a chance in the future for "Oscar" and One Over Kenny to produce a champion together.!

☑ Those who are gunning for the Hunter Cup, to be run on 1 February, will be met by recent New Zealand \$250,000 Auckland Cup winner **Republican Party NZ (Bettors Delight USA)**, who will also aim for the \$100,000 Cranbourne Cup a week after the Hunter Cup. Other likely NZ trained runners will be **Don't Stop Dreaming NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** and **Tact McLeod (Sweet Lou USA)** - who was meant to be an Inters runner but was a late withdrawal. Republican Party defeated Merlin (Art Major USA) in the 2024 Auckland Cup on New Years Eve and followed that with a win against Don't Stop Dreaming in the Cambridge Flying Stakes. He is probably in career best form.

Recently arrived **Tact McLeod NZ** has been showing some top form in lead up races including a first up win, a second in the \$75,000 Bendigo Cup and 5th in the Shepparton Cup after galloping out.

Winning the Bendigo Cup was evergreen 10yo **Bulletproof Boy (Art Official USA)** who is racing better than ever and has 4 in a row including the \$100,000 Ballarat Cup, where he beat amongst others **Kanena Provlina (A Rocknroll Dance USA)** who won the \$50,000 Shepparton Cup after the stewards disqualified first past the post Captain Hammerhead. Another sure thing is Eureka and Inter Dominion winner **Don Hugo (Art Major USA)** who will certainly answer a few questions in attempting to carry his previous performances into this grand circuit event. What makes this race more exciting is the new – and old – blood mixed together, not the same horses running against each other.



Bulletproof Boy (10) winning the Bendigo Cup

Also heading for the Hunter Cup after his impressive first up win at Albion Park is champion **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)**, winning by 14m with last qtrs in 27.3 and 26.6. He may meet arch rival and Miracle Mile winner Catch A Wave (who hasn't raced since November and will find it tough under the circumstances), with both horses scheduled to run in the \$30,000 Casey Classic a week prior to the Hunter.

☑ Of equal importance, just a different group of top class competitors, is the upcoming \$250,000 Great Southern Star on 1 February which will see heats run on the same night as the final – going back to tradition. Coming across for the event will be **Oscar Bonavena NZ**, who will meet dual Knight Pistol and Group 1 Maori Mile winner **Arcee Phoenix (Trixton USA)** along with new kid on the block, the 2024 Inter Dominion winner **The Locomotive (Muscle Mass USA)**. Inter Dominion runner up **Keayang Chucky (Love You FRA)** who was super impressive recently in winning by 11m from his 50m handicap, may also put his hand up for the event. He took 3 seconds off the track record in winning the Hamilton Trotters Cup. Last year's quinella Just Believe and Callmethebreeze are both out of action this year.

Regardless, The Locomotive will target the Group 1 Hammerhead on Miracle Mile night and he is currently fielding some interest for the \$650,000 TAB Trot at Cambridge on 4 April.

☑ Well, Harness Racing NSW may need to find the \$1 million to pay **Swayzee's** connections if he wins the final two Carnival of Cups events. He already has a \$250,000 Bonus for winning the Parkes, Young and Tamworth Cups. If the son of **Rock N Roll Heaven USA** wins the 4th leg, he gets another \$250,000 and if he wins 5 legs (the final two are at Albury and Penrith) he gets a total bonus of \$1 million. No wonder he isn't worrying about "minor races" like the Hunter Cup. Nobody should be complaining about Swayzee dominating the betting in these races - watching a horse as good as he is at a country track should be enough. Nobody would mind Leap To Fame starting odds on and doing the same so just be grateful for the opportunity to watch him.

☑ Based on stakes, leading 2024 2YO Sire in Australia was **Sweet Lou USA**, followed by Captaintreacherous USA, Art Major USA, Always B Miki USA, Bettors Delight USA and Downbytheseaside USA.

First season sire **Poster Boy (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** finished a very credible 7th, with other first season sires Stay Hungry and Captain Crunch also doing well with around \$500,000 in earnings. Rounding out the top 5 first season sires were McWicked, Soho Tribeca and The Storm Inside. Except for Stay Hungry (48) the top 5 first season sires all had crops above 60 which is important when trying to get your name at the top of the list.

☑ **Sweet Lou USA** was also the leading 3YO Sire in Australia in 2024, followed by Art Major USA, American Ideal USA, Always B Miki USA, Bettors Delight USA and trotting sire **Volstead USA** – the \$397,000 in earnings that his unbeaten 3yo filly Keayang Zahara earned in New Zealand is not included in his \$1.1 million tally.



The top overall trotting sire was Majestic Son CA (\$2.3 million) who continues to do a brilliant job with his progeny while being overlooked by many. Volstead was second overall with \$1.4 million earned in Australia.

In North America Volstead also sired the leading Ohio 3YO Filly **Sugar Instead**, who was undefeated in Ohio and won 15 of 17 starts and \$541,739 for the season, including the Ohio Triple Crown.

☑ **Bettors Delight USA** was leading sire in New Zealand and North America in 2024 so not surprising that he was also overall top sire in Australia in 2024, and for the 13th time.

Art Major USA was not far behind, for the 13th time. With most of the best horses bred in New Zealand being by Bettors Delight and most of those racing in Australia, it has made the efforts of Art Major even more credible as an Australian based sire. He has led the 2YO Sire list 8 times, and the 3YO Sire list on 5 occasions.

Sweet Lou USA, Captaintreacherous USA and American Ideal USA rounded out the top 5, but really the sire list for Australia is the who's who sire list for the world.

We are very lucky to have had the opportunity to breed to the best sires available in the world. That may become more difficult in the future.

☑ A great effort from the smaller country clubs across the country, especially over the Christmas New Year period. In WA it was Busselton and Albany attracting top on course attendance, in Victoria it was Echuca. The club concentrated on the M0-class horses coming through the ranks (yes we are still allowed to use that terminology!) and added prizemoney across all the races rather than loading up their cup race.

☑ The Victorian kindred bodies met with new Harness Racing Victoria HRV Chairman Bernard Saundry to state their case for the future of the industry in Victoria. Along with other discussion items, the removal of the stallion levy was a very clear demand. That action is certainly on the list of every breeding organisation in Australia. New Zealand has been able to revive their racing without tapping a single breeder. The kindred bodies have also requested additional concessions for 2yos and 3yos under the National Ratings System.

☑ In contrast to actions in Australia, Harness Racing New Zealand will implement their new regulations on Handicapping, Programming and Ratings on 26 May. In a novel approach they will publish programs and dates for feature races and race series so that owners and trainers can better plan the race program for their horses.

All this is based on consultation with industry representatives of the Utilisation Reference Group, who provided a report with recommendations that were endorsed by HRNZ in September 2024.

Under the new system they will publish tentative race programs at least two months in advance. They are dropping qualifying times altogether, and are updating processes for nominations, acceptances, scratchings etc.

RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ A thriving Busselton round – with great work by the Busselton Committee, sponsors and friends
- ♣ The 2YO Westsired Classic participants have a little more time to prepare
- ♣ New Zealand looks like they have their mojo back with their collaborative approach to solving problems.



BREEDER OF THE MONTH – December 2024

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.

Coincidentally we have another breeder of the month gelding related to a previous winner, but different breeder, owner and trainer. This Westbred won a mid week November race and next start won a December metropolitan stakes race in a lifetime best 1:56.5, last qtrs 28.3 and 28.4. He followed that up two starts later with a win on New Years Eve at Bunbury, with junior driver Lachlan Kennelly breaking through for his first win at just his second attempt.

Congratulations to our **Breeder of the Month** for **December**, breeder, part owner and trainer Jemma Hayman as the breeder of 3yo gelding (now 4yo) **Petes Honour (Sweet Lou USA** out of Arousing by **Western Terror USA**) for his first win in December at Gloucester Park in the \$21,000 3YO Pace with Chris Lewis on board.

Chris was also on board back in September 2023 when Petes Honour won the second race of his career at Pinjarra. It was a momentous occasion as it was the 6000th win in the career of master driver Chris Lewis. Only two other drivers – Gavin Lang and Chris Alford – have reached 6000 wins.

Petes Honour won 4 races and over \$45,000 in 2024, bringing his career results to 6 wins and over \$58,000.

Petes Honour is the 5th foal and 5th winner out of **Arousing (Western Terror USA)** 1:56.6 \$119,663, the winner of 11 races. He is a half brother to metropolitan winner **Run For Mercy (Pet Rock USA)** 1:54.7 12 wins \$132,581. His dam Arousing is a full sister to **Just A Horse** 1:57.5 \$77,334 and half sister to **Rumour Has It (Roll With Joe USA)** 1:53.7 \$166,842 and **Loving You (Art Major USA)** 1:55.7 \$97,229 the dam of Riverina Championship Regional Final winner **Brooklyn Bridge (Sweet Lou USA)** 1:49.4 \$170,334.



This is the extremely successful maternal family of the 1930 mare **Queen's Treasure (Rey De Oro)**, a granddaughter of the imported mare **Norice (Charles Derby)**. The types of horses that have come through this family include Holmes D G, Nicotine Prince, Saab, Monkey King, etc with more modern descendants Lavra Joe, Galactic Star NZ, Turn The Page NZ, Lusaka NZ, Magician, Frankie Ferocious etc. You might also be surprised to know that Arousing is a direct line descendant of 1952 trotting mare Forenoon NZ the half sister to the dam of one of the greatest pacers to race in Western Australia in **Mount Eden NZ**.

That's a wrap for the Breeders of the Month for the 2024 season. Congratulations to all winners. Awards will be available at the WASBA Awards/APG Sales Classic night event on 28 February. All WASBA Award winners for 2024 will receive an invitation to attend.

The full list of 2024 Breeder of the Month winners:

Jan-2024	Debra Lewis	Rumour Has It	Jun-2024	Barry Howlett	Lil Happy Fella
Feb-2024	Allwood Stud Farm Bob and Marilyn Fowler	Diamondsareforever	Jul-2024	Steve Johnson	Sebastian James
			Aug-2024	Kim Tuckey	Miss Hepburn
Mar-2024	Ed Dewar	Dourado	Sep-2024	Paula Petricevich	Paroquet
Apr-2024	Karnup Racing Pty Ltd Trevor Lindsay	Bet The House	Oct-2024	Tonia and A Stampalia	Chaco Eagle
			Nov-2024	Bianca and Errol Ashcroft	Fleur du Maquis
May-2024	Mike and Sharron Howie	Waverider	Dec-2024	Jemma Hayman	Petes Honour

WINNERS - WA BASED SIRES DECEMBER 2024

Last month of the racing year! Twelve WA based sires were represented by winners in December, with 25 winning sires represented for the 2024 season. In December, **Rock N Roll World** had 6 winners of 7 races, with **Fly Like An Eagle** next on 5 winners of 6 races. For the full season, **Fly Like An Eagle** had 49 winners of 100 races, while **Follow The Stars** (42 winners, 74 wins) and **Rock N Roll World** 27 winners, 59 wins) were next.

For the season, 76 horses received a first career start bonus of \$500, and the Westbred Bonuses for December (\$306,000) contributed to the season tally of \$1.5 million for Westbred (including First Win) Bonuses for Westsired horses. The top 4 Westsired bonus earners in 2024 were Noble Thorondor, Maximum Rock, Last Hard Copy and Iseeubaby, all earning over \$35,000.

There were 5 Westsired progeny with their first career win in December – 2yo **Sir Willoughby** (Fly Like An Eagle), 3yo filly **Shoal Bay** (Bonavista Bay), 5yo mare **Bonnie Sweetapple** (Bonavista Bay), 6yo mare **My Sweet Addiction** (Artesian USA) and 8yo **Songster** (Tinted Cloud USA). Great to see the oldies featuring!

In total there have been 76 Westsired progeny winning for the first time, coincidentally the same number as their were first time starters.

Four different sires were represented by dual winners – Bonavista Bay (**Del Bocavista Bay**), Fly Like An Eagle (**Chaco Eagle**), Follow The Stars (**Trunkey Mon Star**) and Rock N Roll World (**Maximum Rock**).

There were 39 races run at metropolitan premium meetings, with Westsired Swingband hitting \$400,000 in career earnings with his December win:

- ♠ **5yo Swingband - Alta Christiano NZ o/o Bettors Gem (Bettors Delight USA)** breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd. Resumed late October, hadn't won since June 2023 but earned \$140,000 from his good 3rd in the Nullarbor so having a positive season. Started odds on favourite from 1 with regular driver Kyle Symington, straight to the lead with 2 laps to go, solid 28.7 2nd qtr, even faster down the back and holding all the aces. Briefly challenged coming off the back but plenty in hand for a strong win in the \$25,000 Pace by 11.5m in 1:54.8, last qtrs 27.9 and 28 flat.



Stakes won by Westsired progeny in December 2024 was \$356,000 for a season tally of \$4.5 million plus bonuses.

WESTBRED WINNERS – DECEMBER 2024

With \$306,000 in Bonuses for December, the season tally of \$3.75 million is just \$50,000 short of the 2021 record for the highest bonus payments for a season. Outstanding!

The season also saw 265 Westbred first time starters, which is “bonzer” as well!. This means that 48% of the 2021 2yo crop and 64% of the 2020 3yo crop have raced, along with 32 horses older than 3yo starting for the first time in 2024.

Westbred winners in December 2024 continued the solid trend, resulting in 106 wins (57.6% of races). It's a good finish to the year, with Westbreds winning 1332 races (60.4%) for the season.

There were 39 sires represented by winning Westbred progeny in December, with local sire **Rock N Roll World USA** on top (8 winners of 9 races) followed by **Vincent** 5 winners of 7 races.

For sires of Westbred progeny for the season, **Fly Like An Eagle** (50 winners, 101 race wins) finished on top, his progeny winning \$12.7 million in WA. **Sweet Lou USA** (32 winners, 90 wins \$12.4 million in stakes) was next best. In terms of stakes, **American Ideal USA** and **Rock N Roll Heaven USA** Westbred progeny earned

over \$9 million each while in terms of wins, **Follow The Stars** and **Rock N Roll World USA** both recorded over 70 wins by their Westbred progeny.

In addition to the 5 Westsired winners, there were 10 Westbreds winning for the first time in December:

- 2yos **American Major** (American Ideal USA), **La Schiuma** and **Up And Alive** (Lather Up USA), **Official Rock** (Rock N Roll World USA), **The Khukri** (Ultimate Machete);
- 3yos **Oh Miki** (Always B Miki USA), **Back On Line** (Betting Line USA), **Daisy Jones** (Million Dollar Cam USA), **Ninety Mile Beach** (Sunshine Beach USA), and
- 5yo **Internal Waves** (Sunshine Beach USA).

There was a significant number of Westbreds winning 2 races in December, many chasing those final bonus dollars. In addition to the 4 Westsired they were **Allzfairnluvnwar** and **Nase Vira** (Alta Christiano NZ), **Princess Mickayla** (Art Major USA), last month's dual winner **Mister Piccolo** (Betterthancheddar USA), **Elsamay** (Betting Line USA), last month's first time winner **Its Maa Time** (Captain Crunch USA), **Wicked Lover** (McWicked USA), **Lavra Joe** (Roll With Joe USA), **Petes Honour** and **Soho Skyfall** (Sweet Lou USA) and Vincent duo **The Little Master** and November first time winner **Sheza Sassy Lassy**.

Westbreds won 11 of the 15 2yo races run in December 2024, along with 51 of the 60 starters being Westbred. We certainly see opportunities here for early 3yo races in 2026 if owners and trainers are provided with a calendar that supports keeping the late 2yos in work in readiness for early 3yo races. Certainly some early 3yo features would help this group and provide incentives to owners of sales graduates as well as others.

Westbreds won 18 of the 19 3yo races run in December 2024, as well as 15 of the 32 3yo and older races won by this group. Westbreds also provided 99 of the 122 3yo starters for the month, while Westbred 3yo starters for the season were up by 13 compared to 2023. The total number of 3yo starters for the season (249) was only 2 less than the previous year despite the lower numbers in the latter part of the season.

The number of 4yo and over starters increased from 472 (November) to 485 in December, resulting in a season tally of 1085, just one short of the total for 2023. The Westbred numbers were also almost identical for the 2 years, with 683 in 2024 compared to 686 in 2023. Both years are higher than the previous years under the extended calendar year racing season.

In December only 8 races were restricted to the 4YO+ age group, making a total of 118 races that this group was eligible to race in on an age basis. Westbreds in this age group won 62 (52%) of the races for this age group. Wins for the age group included 35 by 4yos (17 Westbred), 37 5yos (21) and 20 6yos (12 Westbred). There were 12 wins by Westbreds older than 6yo amongst 26 wins by this age group.

For the season 2yos averaged a win every 7.5 starts, 3yos averaged a win every 6.8 starts, 4yo and over horses average is 9.8 starts.

At premium meetings in December there were 19 Westbred wins including 1 Westsired and another 5 by Westbred fillies/mares. Excluding Westsired and wins by fillies/mares, the remaining winners were:

- ◆ 6yo **Caliente** - **American Ideal USA** o/o **Innocent Eyes (Safely Kept USA)** breeder Tarsao Investments Pty Ltd. Two wins and 2 places in his last 5 starts then started favourite from 1 in the 2506m stand, best away to go straight to the lead, on full rein by Chris Lewis down the back and headed to the turn, fought back to lead into the straight with the inside running and went to the line well to win the \$21,000 Stand by 1.7m in 2:01:3, last qtrs 28.7, 27.9 and 28.9;



Chris Lewis on Caliente

- ◆ 5yo **Goodfellaz** - **American Ideal USA** o/o **Shes Innocent (D M Dilinger CA)** breeder Debra Lewis. A win and a top 2nd at his previous 2 starts, then started favourite from 1, beaten for speed from the barrier and had to settle in behind the stablemate race leader, travelled very well throughout, driver Chris Lewis squeezed through a small gap coming off the back to get the nose in front at the 100m and move away to win the \$21,000 Pace by 6.2m in 1:55:3, last qtrs 28.9, 28.6 and 28.9;

- ◆ **8yo Im Spiderman - Auckland Reactor NZ o/o Caseys Best NZ (Tylers Best USA)** owner breeder D and R Smith. Good to see this one pop up for a win. Started from 4 as favourite in a fairly open race, quickly out with new regular driver Jocelyn Young on board and straight to the lead, only the breeze horse to contend with at the 400m, clear into the straight and held his own to win the \$9,360 Pace by 1.5m in 1:58:1, last qtrs 28.8 and 29.3;

- ◆ **6yo Lavra Joe - Roll With Joe USA o/o Lavra Florence NZ (Live Or Die USA)** breeder Kevin and Annette Charles. Previous win a \$31,000 FFA in March but collected \$90,000 for 4th in the Nullarbor so no complaints here. Started favourite from 5 with Maddison Brown taking her second drive on him. Settled one by one in a 35.9 lead before going forward to take up the running with 2 laps to go, travelled well down the back and a full length clear into the straight, going on to a convincing win by 3.6m in the \$31,000 FFA in 1:54:7, last qtrs 28.5 and 28.1. A week later started at 2/1 from 6, settled last and had a good look before going around to the breeze with 1400m to go, a clear 2nd at the 400m but moving up to the leader before tackling the leader from the home turn, just hitting the front near the line to win the \$31,000 FFA by 1.2m in 1:56.1, last qtrs a pair of 28.7;

- ◆ **4yo Mikis Beach - Always B Miki USA o/o Coopers Beach NZ (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** breeder Steve Johnson Lightly raced 4yo who commenced his career as a 3yo. Made it 6 wins this season and 2nd in a row starting short priced favourite from 4 with Gary Hall Jnr driving, settled quickly in the breeze then tackled for the lead with 1200 to go, in the lead with a lap to go after a 27.4 2nd qtr, well clear down the back but being gathered in, had enough left to win the \$9,360 L5 Pace by 2.5m in 1:55.7, last qtrs 28.2 and a paddling 31;



- ◆ **5yo entire Paul Edward - Always B Miki USA o/o Like A Dame (Golden Greek USA)** owner breeder Steve Johnson. David Hercules half brother and a tidy \$50,000 for the season. Started from 6 as 2nd favourite in an open race, quick out to win the battle for the lead over the 1730m journey for trainer driver Dylan Egerton-Green, even time first half and full of running down the back in 27.9, well clear on the turn into the straight and bolted home to win the \$19,000 L5 by 8.2m in 1:55:3 last qtr 28.1;

- ◆ **5yo Navy Street - Hes Watching USA o/o Life Of Bryne (Life Sign USA)** breeder Kim Tuckey. Has won half of his career stakes this season. Started 3rd favourite from 5, streeted out from the barrier to take the lead inside the first 100m, even time first half, sprinted down the back to be a length clear at the 400m, bolted clear into the turn, gobbled up near the line but a good drive from Emily Suvaljko to win the 9,360 Pace by 1.8m in 1:57:3, last qtrs 28.8 and 29.4;

- ◆ **3yo Petes Honour - Sweet Lou USA o/o Arousing (Western Terror USA)** breeder trainer part owner Jemma Hayman. A 3yo quietly having quite a good season. Won midweek then started 2nd favourite from 4 with Chris Lewis on board, quickly out to go to the lead, kept an even pace before scooting down the back at full pace to lead into the straight and pull away over the final stages to win the \$21,000 3YO Pace by 4.7m in 1:56:5 last qtrs in 28.3 and 28.4. Had a country win in the month as well;

- ◆ **5yo Rockandrollartist - Rock N Roll Heaven USA o/o Artists Impression (Perfect Art USA)** owner breeder Adrian Shanks. Second prep and second metro win for trainer driver Aiden de Campo, started equal 2nd favourite from 8, flew out to dash to the lead, kept the pace on throughout to be over a length clear at the 400m, cleared away to win the \$19,000 Pace by 12.6m in 1:56:3, last qtrs 29.1 and 28.5;

- ◆ **5yo Showpony - Sweet Lou USA o/o Bethany Aitch (Four Starzzz Shark USA)** breeder Nathan Turvey, David Young, Tracey Sermon, Peter Ensel. First start with new driver Aiden de Campo, 3rd favourite from 4 and back at the barrier to settle in 3 back in the moving line, 1st to move 3 wide with a 1000 to go, hit the front at the 400 and waltzed away to a stunning win in the \$9,360 L5 by 17.6m in 1:56:4, last qtrs 28.7 and 29.1;

- ◆ **3yo Thelittle Master - Vincent o/o Anna Faye NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd Resumed in November and 4th start back started a surprising 2nd favourite from 7, 3 wide early before moving to the breeze with 2 laps to go in a slow lead, raced strongly down the back to be almost a length clear at the 400m, moved well clear over the final 400m before driver Deni Roberts easing to win in the \$9,360 \$L5 by 14.9m in 1:57:7, last qtrs slick at 27.8 and 28.8 ; and



- ◆ 5yo **Tricky Miki - Always B Miki USA** o/o **Harriet Elisabeth (Modern Art USA)** breeder Steve Johnson. Second FFA win since resuming in September, started favourite from 1 with Hall of Famer Gary Hall Jr on board over the 2536m journey, fought on well under reins when challenged over the final stages and a solid win in the Pat Cranley Memorial for the Golden Slipper, Derby and Golden Nugget winner, on Golden Nugget night, margin 1.1m in 1:57.4, last qrs a speedy 28.1 and 27.7.

For the 2024 season, connections of WA bred progeny have received \$20.6 million including \$16.8 million in stakes, with the balance in bonuses (not including Epona bonuses).

How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (December 2024)

While the results for Westbreds overall for December 2024 was top of the range, you have to go back to December 2019 to get a lower December result for fillies and mares. We are definitely seeking improved results overall for 2025 to make a path with this pool of horses.

In December 2024 there were 48 wins (26.1% of races) by fillies and mares, with 40 individual winners. It's a shame to finish the year on a low after 5 solid months, with the result for the season being 318 individual winners of 686 races, which equates to 31.0% of available races, compared to the national average (33.5%).

With a new handicapping system and a new race program model, we aim to help reset the outcomes for fillies/mares, targeting 35% winners. We are already seeing results with the double allowance for juniors and mares.

Westbred fillies/mares accounted for 36 of the 48 wins and \$398,000 in stakes (out of a total of \$572,000 won by fillies and mares), plus \$150,000 in bonuses. The season total for fillies and mares is \$8.8 million in stakes plus \$1.8 million in bonuses.

Leading winning sire for fillies and mares for December 2024 was Art Major USA with 4 winners of 5 races followed by Vincent and Alta Christiano NZ, both with 4 race wins. For Westbred fillies and mares only, the season leader was **Sweet Lou USA** (26 winners of 77 races), **American Ideal USA** (20 winners, 42 wins) and Fly Like An Eagle (25 winners, 39 wins).

Amongst the fillies and mares there were 120 first time starters for the season, and 99 with their first career win. First time winners in December were – 2yos **Up And Alive** (Lather Up USA), **Official Rock** (Rock N Roll World USA), 3yos, **Shoal Bay** (Bonavista Bay) and **Daisy Jones** (Million Dollar Cam USA), and 5yos **Bonnie Sweetapple** (Bonavista Bay) and **My Sweet Addiction** (Artesian USA)

Dual winning fillies and mares were also prominent in December - **Allzfairnluvnwar** and **Nase Vira** (Alta Christiano NZ), **Princess Mickayla** (Art Major USA), **Elsamay** (Betting Line USA), **Its Maa Time** (Captain Crunch USA), **Wicked Lover** (McWicked USA) and **Sheza Sassy Lassy** (Vincent). Both Sheza Sassy Lassy and Its Maa Time won their first career race last month so have 3 wins in the space of less than 5 weeks!

Opportunities for fillies in December 2024, noting that only around 20-25% of the races are for fillies:

- 2YO – there were 6 wins by fillies – including 2 in open races – from 15 2yo races. Fillies provided 25 (42%) of the 60 individual 2yo starters.
- 3YO – fillies won 9 of the 19 3yo races including 5 open 3yo races. They also won another 7 races for 3yo and over. Of those 16 wins, 14 were by Westbred fillies. The 3yo fillies contributed 56 (46%) individual 3yo starters and warrant more of their own races.

Mares won 26 races in December 2024, the lowest December tally for the last 6 years. While the racing numbers for the month (140) were similar to 2023 (144) the number of races for mares was lower and provided less opportunity for success. Encouraging more mares to stay in the racing system would improve the outlook all round for participants and the overall industry. The new program does include more barrier preferences to mares and juniors, so a refreshing start.

Fillies and mares won 7 (17.9%) of the 39 races run at Gloucester Park premium meetings.

Winners included 5yo **Steno (Sweet Lou USA)** who won the Group 3 \$50,000 Christmas Belles and 5yo **Montana Glory NZ (Always B Miki USA)** who won a \$23,000 Fillies and Mares. The remaining 4 WA bred filly/mare winners of 5 races at premium meetings were:

- ♥ 5yo **Little Darling - Art Major USA** o/o **Fay Darling NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** owner breeders Barry, Lynley and Jimmie Howlett, Geographe Tree Services Pty Ltd. In form mare with a win and 3 seconds from her previous 7 starts in top company. Started 2nd favourite from 2 after a scratching with Chris Lewis aboard. Driven out to take the lead with the favourite in the breeze, even time 1st qtr then solid

pace throughout, held on tenaciously in a tight finish to win the \$27,000 Fillies and Mares FFA by a half head in 1:55:8, last qtrs 28.4, 28.4 and 28.6;

- ♥ 3yo **Nase Vira - Alta Christiano NZ** o/o **Sovereign Faith NZ (Live Or Die USA)** owner breeders Oz-West Pacing, P Morris, P Eaton, P Richards. Having a late flurry of good wins. Won metro level in November then 4 weeks later started 2nd favourite from 6 over the 1730m with trainer driver Dylan Egerton-Green, 3 wide early before settling in the breeze after half a lap, almost level pegging at the 400m, had a length to make up in the straight and a very credible performance to win the \$21,000 3YO Fillies by 1.6m in 1:55:2, last qtrs 28.2 and 29. A fortnight later good enough to start favourite from 8, no speed from the barrier but moving forward to the breeze with just under two laps to go causing a change of leader, sat back while the speed was on then went forward to take the lead with 950 to go, under attack coming off the back but fought on well after doing a lot of work to win the \$21,000 3YO Fillies Pace by 2.0m in 1:57:6, last half 58.4;

- ♥ 6yo **Secret Reaction - Auckland Reactor NZ** o/o **Secret Operative (Armbro Operative USA)** breeder Mike Howie. A very special mare who had a year taken out of her life through no fault of her own – or anybody else. Two places from her previous 3 starts then started 4th favourite from 3, got away fast for driver Aiden de Campo to go to the lead then eased off the pace, easy first half before quickening the pace down the back, a length clear into the straight and had their measure to win the \$30,000 The Coulson Fillies and Mares by 3.1m in 1:59:7, last qtrs 28.6 and 29.7; and



Secret Reaction wins for Aiden de Campo

- ♥ 2yo **Wicked Lover - McWicked USA** o/o **Another Cover Lover NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd. Won consecutive races then 3 starts later started 3rd favourite from 4, burned to the breeze with a bit of a hurry up, steady first qtr then better than even time to have the field spread out down the back the last time, clear into the straight but had to withstand a strong challenge before taking the win and a trainer driving double for Ryan Bell and Kyle Symington in the \$21,000 2YO Fillies Pace by a half neck in 1:58:8, last half in 59.4.

The number of fillies and mares racing (221 in December) is marginally higher than the December 2023 which is promising going into a new racing year and race program. The total racing in the 2024 season (542) is an increase on 2023 and just needs to have that little bit of extra encouragement to make for better prospects for the mares and fillies.

Westbreds share of the female racing population in December was 80%, which was the same percentage as for the 2024 season. For the season, Westbred 2yo and 3yo fillies both provided 89% of their respective age groups, while Westbred mares provided 74% of racing mares. Fillies and mares contributed 35% of the overall starters for the season.

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We thank our sponsors for their support and contribution to our industry. They make it possible for us to provide incentives such as stakes, awards, rugs, trophies, garlands and breeding vouchers. **They also assist greatly with donations for rehoming.** Please support your sponsors by purchasing their goods and services.

Alabar Farms, Allwood Stud Farm, Woodlands Stud and Gloucester Park are our great long term supporters. **Australian Pacing Gold (APG), KTC Bloodstock, Grange Bloodstock Services and Westbred Pacing**, are welcome additions along with Bells Pacing Stable.

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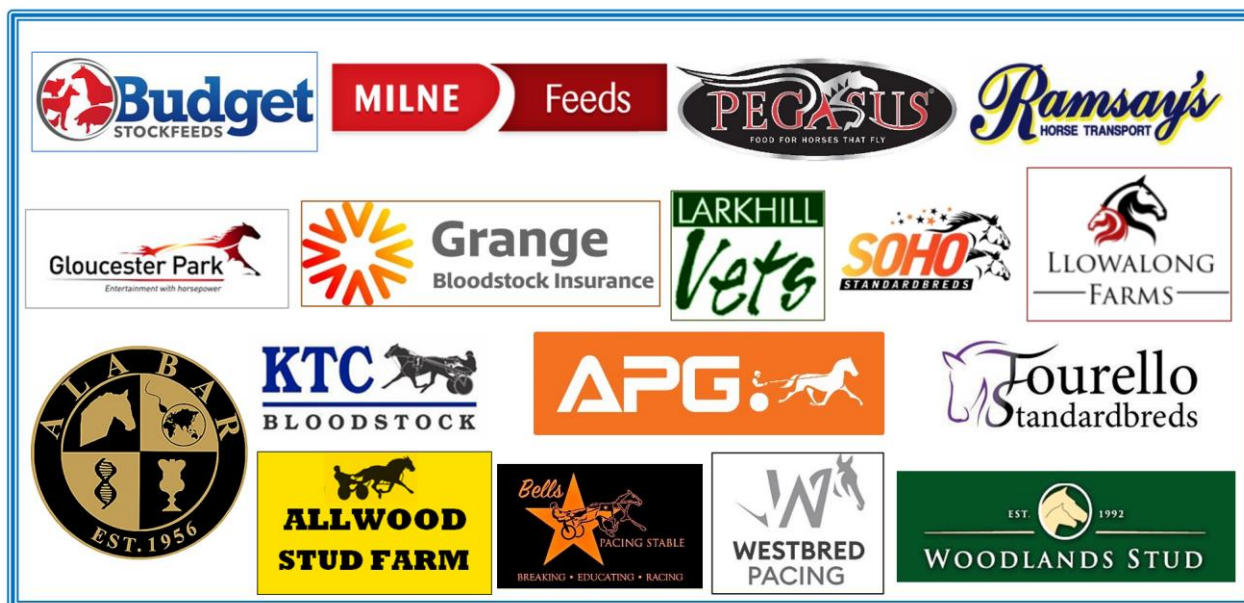
If you have a genuine interest in promoting breeding and harness racing in WA, have been a financial member for at least one full calendar year and have relevant experience and time to contribute to a Committee position involving meetings and undertaking various projects, please forward a brief profile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

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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

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The WASBA AGM (for the 12 months ending 31 August 2024) was held on **Friday 29 November 2024**. Financial members have received the 2024 AGM records.

The **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** has been scheduled for **29 January 2025**. 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.
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