



# NEWSLETTER

Vol 321 February 2025

## WASBA Awards/APG Sales Classic Night 28 February

Once again our WA breeders are receiving awards for the 2024 results of the progeny they bred. It's our way of showing our breeders how important they are to the industry as a whole. And what better night than the Sales Classic night when the best of the 2023 and 2024 Sales graduates race in their respective Sales Classic Finals - \$125,000 for the 2yos and \$100,000 for the 3yos. Who wouldn't want to be there!

Our award winners have all been invited to the function in Quinny's, and the invite list for our other guests have been drawn up from representatives from some of the finalists, as well as registered buyers. It will be a great night of racing accompanied by complimentary finger food and drinks for all the guests.

If you are a registered buyer heading for the 2025 WA Yearling Sale on Sunday 2 March, drop us a line and we will see if we can fit you in to the function - if there is any space we will find a place!

## APG WA Yearling Sale Sunday 2 March

While it would be much better to have one in your hand right now, there will be catalogues available at the main clubs leading up to the sale, as well as at the Sales Classics/Awards night function at Gloucester Park.

The "not to be missed" annual yearling sale parade held on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> of some of the major vendors was another event and opportunity for buyers to have a look at their prospective purchases, ask questions and generally have a good time along with the superb catering after the KTC Bloodstock Parade at Hopeland. If you missed the parades you can contact any of the vendors directly - check the details in the catalogue.

Sales graduate wins Group 1 WA Oaks



There are over 170 lots available covering the "who's who" of world best sires and world best bloodlines, as well as Group 1 winning dams and Group 1 producing dams. There is sure to be a yearling for every budget. The online catalogue is available from the APG website, or click [here](#). Photos of most of the yearlings are available online.

All the yearlings are eligible for the lucrative Westbred Bonus that pays first start, first win and placings down to 4<sup>th</sup> in every WA 2yo or 3yo race less than \$22,000. For information on the Westbred Bonus payments, click [here](#). Remember, Westsired progeny earn double win bonuses every time they win one of the above races.

**The Sale is on Sunday 2 March at the Magic Millions Sales Complex, Middle Swan with an early 11AM start after a complimentary BBQ and happy hour compliments of RWWA.**

Two sires with their oldest progeny racing in 2025 - **Captain Ahab**

**USA and Ultimate Sniper NZ** - will have Westsired representatives in the WA Sale.

The current breeder snippets in this table have been provided by Harness Historian and WA Racing Inductee Alan Parker (figures correct at time of analysis and only include horses bred by the breeding entity).

The figures show just how successful our commercial WA breeders have been/are, on top of new breeders starting to make a name and the many successful owner breeders in WA that provide the horses for our racing pool. You can buy a yearling from the WA Sale with confidence.

Breeding Entity	Wins	Perth Wins
Allwood Stud Farm	1739	482
Ed Dewar	1190	436
Patrician Park	852	335
Steve Johnson	836	392
Harry Capararo	762	241
Mike Howie	564	208
Kevin and Annette Charles	543	282

**Don't let a Lavra Joe or Wonderful To Fly pass you by - two lots that were passed in and have earned over \$1.5 million.**

## 2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES



2YO	the \$125,000 APG 2YO Classic Finals are on 28 February
3YO	The \$100,000 APG 3YO Classics are scheduled for 28 February
Mares	Watch for the Heats and finals that are now being programmed

### Sales Heats success for first season sire...

A great start to his siring career for WA based stallion **Captain Ahab USA (Captaintreacheroous USA)** - on the board with winning filly **Chefs Kiss** in a Heat of the WA Sales Classic. Despite a mid-race bubble the filly recovered well to win her Heat and make her way to the final. She was bred by David Simmonds of Westbred Pacing and sold for the bargain price of \$17,500. Another sire **Ultimate Sniper NZ**, now based in WA but with a winner on the east coast from his first crop, has a qualifier through to the final from a WA crop of just 5 foals.

Other Heat winners included the filly **Wishing Belle** by another first season sire **Bettors Wish USA** out of Golden Nugget winner **Libertybelle Midfrew**, sold for \$55,000 by KTC Bloodstock.

For the boys, the Heat winners were **Fear The Storm (The Storm Inside)** who was passed in but later sold by KTC Bloodstock for a great buy at \$20,000. Fear The Storm was impressive in beating the previously unbeaten **Cease To React (Soho Tribeca)** who was sold by Copper Lodge for \$17,000. The final Heat winner was the also impressive **Ideal Beach (American Ideal USA)**, bred by Karnup Racing P/L and Steve Johnson, and sold for second top price in the sale of \$130,000.

The early showing by the newer sires and the talent of their 2yos, along with the variety of price ranges, should encourage buyers at the 2025 Sale to have a good look at all the sires, not just the "popular" ones, and assess each horse on its merits.

### The 2024 National Awards

Some were foregone conclusions (like Broodmare of the Year Luttucereason, dam of Leap To Fame and Swayzee) following brilliant seasons, bearing mind only Australian performances are taken into account.

It could have gone either way, but recently retired **Just Believe (Orlando Vici FRA)** was crowned The Australian Trotter of the Year for the second successive year following his 10 wins from 12 starts. He also won the Aged Horse/Gelding Trotter of the Year, as well as previously being awarded the New Zealand Trotter of the Year and New Zealand 5YO and Older Horse/Gelding Trotter of the Year. He retires just short of \$2 million in earnings, and has really put Australian trotting back on the world map.

Just missing out was 3YO Trotting Filly of the Year, the unbeaten **Keayang Zahara (Volstead USA)** who also won the New Zealand award for that category. For her efforts, Queen Elida NZ was awarded the Australian Aged Trotting Mare of the Year.

The tustle for Australian Horse of the Year was won by **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)**, who was also awarded the Australian Pacer of the Year and the Australian Aged Horse/Gelding of the Year. Leap To Fame won close to \$1.5 million for the season.

The Australian 3YO Colt/Gelding of the Year went to Chariots of Fire contender Bay Of Biscay (Somebeachsomewhere USA) while Miracle Mile contender **Aardies Express NZ (Always B Miki USA)** was awarded the Australian Aged Pacing Mare of the Year.

In New Zealand Merlin NZ (Art Major USA) was awarded the 4YO Pacing Entire or Gelding Of The Year and the Pacer of the Year.

For a complete list of awardees go to the Australian list [link here](#) and New Zealand list [link here](#)

### Snippets from the USA and Canada..

☑ Meadowlands has a new starting gate which has increased the "outside advantage" compared to the previous starting gate. The new gate provides a 14' advantage for the horse in the outside barrier, whereas the previous starting gate allowed for a 12-foot advantage. The gate attempts to level the chances of the horses going forward from outside barrier positions. Along with their "go forward and its yours" racing style it is two points of difference between racing in the northern and southern hemispheres.

☑ Along with trotting champ Volstead (his fee is still very reasonable at \$7,500), pacing sires with full 2025 books in the US are Captaintreacheroous (Somebeachsomewhere), **Lous Pearlman (Sweet Lou)** and **J K**



**Endoranera (Art Major)** 1:48.2 \$2,140,101 in Indiana. As a stallion, the majority of J K Endofanera's first 2yo crop lost their racing opportunity due to Covid shut downs. Two stallions with their first crop racing in 2025 that will create a lot of interest are champions **Bulldog Hanover (Shadow Play)**, who combined service with racing and was available in Australia in 2023 via frozen, and **Perfect Sting (Always B Miki)** who unfortunately has not been seen in Australia in any form.

☑ 2024 Dan Patch Older Pacing Male **Abuckabett Hanover (Betting Line)** will receive his award in coming days. Still listed as a stallion, and with over \$2 million in earnings, BMR 1:47.2 on a seven-eighths track, a sound racing career, 21 sub-:26 last quarters in his career and just like Sweet Lou, by an underrated sire, it will be interesting to see if there is any interest in his stud career in Australia or New Zealand. He is still racing exceptionally well so no hurry from his owner and trainer perspective.



☑ The (US) Dan Patch winners have been announced and now the Canadian O'Brien awards have been announced by Standardbred Canada - horses must race at least 3 times in Canada to be eligible. Somewhat of a surprise to some but definitely worthy, the unbeaten 9 win 2yo filly **Chantilly (Big Jim)** was named the Somebeachsomewhere Horse of the Year as well as the O'Brien 2YO Pacing Filly of the Year after winning \$761,000 for the season. Being by an unrated sire Chantilly has not been paid up for the big races. The O'Brien 3YO Filly of the Year went to **It's a Love Thing (Bettors Delight)** winning 7 from 14 including the Grade 1 \$425,000 Fan Hanover in 1:48.2 to finish with \$844,000 for the season.

O'Brien 2YO Colt of the Year was **Stonebridge Wizard (Dancin Lou)** winning 5 from 9, and the coveted 3YO Pacing Colt of the Year went to North America Cup winner **Nijinsky (Bettors Delight)** 1:47.3 - winning \$1.7 million for the year including the North America Cup – ahead of stablemate Legendary Hanover.

The O'Brien Pacing Mare of the Year was a foregone conclusion, going to Grade 1 Breeders Crown and Roses Are Red winner **Twin B Joe Fresh (Roll With Joe)** earning \$1.2 million for the season and setting a lifetime best 1:47.3. With 11 wins in the season including 9 consecutive, 5yo gelding **Taurasi (Racing Hill)** was named Older Pacing Horse of the Year.

Trotting awards went to 2YO Filly Monalishi (Green Monalishi), 3YO Filly Willys Home Run (Archangel), 2YO Colt the dominant Maryland (Chapter Seven), and 3YO Colt Highland Kismet (Father Patrick). Interesting snippets here are that Maryland with his \$1,675,697 is the highest earning 2yo trotter of all time, Willys Home Run successfully defended her 2YO title in winning the 3YO title, and Highland Kismet was unraced as a 2yo. Taking the older trotting categories was Call Me Goo (Googoo Gaagaa) and the recently sold Logan Park (Archangel) who had his most successful season winning \$940,000.

☑ Speaking of awards, the 2025 elections for the Harness Racing Museum Hall of Fame have resulted in champion trotters **Ariana G (Muscle Hill)** 1:50.2 \$2,465,459 and **Marion Marauder (Muscle Hill)** 1:50.2 \$3,392,609, and champion pacing mares **Put On A Show (Rocknroll Hanover)** 1:47.3 \$2,406,628 and "our" own **Shartin NZ (Tintin In America NZ)** 1:46.4 \$2,555,629 being chosen as inductees. Marion Marauder is one of only 9 trotters to win the trotting Triple Crown. Put On A Show retired in 2012 as the fastest female pacer in history. Shartin was the first Horse of the Year recipient (2019) to be bred outside North America and is the fastest female pacer in history.



☑ Grassroots Ontario racing is being boosted by increased purses in their "Ontario Sires Stakes" programs including \$300,000 Super finals and increased race opportunities to get to the pointy end. Good to see this sort of encouragement for locals.

☑ One of the best organisations in the world for their work in equine health and welfare, the University of Guelph, has expanded their online programs to include students from outside the US. They offer a wide range of courses to provide education and information to support Equine Welfare, Nutrition Behaviour and Functional Anatomy. Everyone should take a look to see if there is something that you can learn. The courses aren't necessarily recognized outside the US but that doesn't mean they aren't useful - [Equine Guelph](#)

☑ The 2025 breeding season has just started in the US and Canada, running from mid February to early July. Any stallions shuttling to the southern hemisphere have to be whisked away quickly for quarantine to allow them to start serving mid/late September in Australia.

✚ Passing of two treasures, with **B Js Squall (Artspace)** passing at the age of 27. Not only is she the dam of World Champion and fastest horse in history **Bulldog Hanover (Shadow Play)** 1:45.4m \$2,419,000 she was a daughter of Hall Of Fame Immortal **Lady Ashley Ann (Camtastic)** and is therefore a sister to millionaires **Betterthancheddar (Bettors Delight)** 1:48f \$1,634,314 and **Courtly Choice (Art Major)** 1:47.1m \$1,345,754 BJ's Squall's progeny earnings total \$3,192,084 while the progeny earnings of her dam were \$5.1 million. Bulldog Hanover was the 14<sup>th</sup> foal of B Js Squall at the age of 20, while Little Brown Jug winner Courtly Choice was the 15<sup>th</sup> of Lady Ashlee Ann, who was 22 when she foaled him. Such longevity.

US 2011 Living Hall of Fame gelding **Gallo Blue Chip (Magical Mike)** also passed, at the age of 28. In his 3yo year he won over \$2.4 million (wins included the North America Cup, Meadowlands Pace and Breeders Crown) and was named both O'Brien and Dan Patch 3YO Pacing Colt of the Year, becoming the richest single season money earner of all time (only Somebeachsomewhere surpassed that record). In 2003 he became the first pacer in history to break \$4 million in earnings. On retirement he was the richest pacer in harness history, holding that record until 2012 when Champion Foiled Again passed that mark.



Both B Js Squall and Gallo Blue Chip enjoyed a life of retirement until the end, BJs Squall at Hanover in the retirees herd, and Gallo Blue Chip with his trainer Mark Ford where he made appearances at fairs and equine events as an ambassador of the sport. Caring for the champion retirees, and giving back to them, is as important as their time on the track.

☑ We would all like to own one. **Shark Week (Vertical Horizon)** has won 26 of his last 27 starts in Canada, with his latest streak being 9 wins. He has won 51 of his 86 lifetime starts. Not quite there yet is Aussie bred Humble (American Ideal) and NZ bred Big Skewy (Sportswriter), who nevertheless have performed above expectations, with Big Skewy winning 15 from 25 in his first year abroad and will be aimed at the Borgata Series, while Humble loves the smaller Yonkers and won 8 from 9. So smart of the ownership and trainer group to work with the horses and find their strengths to give them the greatest chance of success.

☑ What a good idea to pick up. The Harness Racing Museum & Hall of Fame in Goshen, New York is running a free family fun day of for families and horse lovers as part of their mission to introduce young people and families to the world of harness racing, equine education, and hands-on learning. Their will be an opportunity to participate in fun horse-themed crafts and activities, watch demonstrations and interactive exhibits, learn about harness racing history, including their involvement in the Civil War when many standardbreds were stolen as mounts – sadly, one of the great sires died in this process

## And elsewhere....

☑ New Zealand's 5yo **Merlin (Art Major USA)** stepped out for the first time since his 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Auckland Cup to Republican Party on New Years Eve and ran 2nd to another **Art Major** in 5yo **Don Hugo**, with great finishing runs from both in a Menagle FFA. Both stallions are starters in the Miracle Mile qualifiers on Chariots of Fire night, a week before the Miracle Mile on 8 March. Inter Dominion winner Don Hugo's previous run was a 5<sup>th</sup> to Swayzee in the Hunter Cup.



☑ **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)** became the first confirmed Miracle Mile runner when he brilliantly won the Group 2 Newcastle Mile, the only 'golden ticket' to the Miracle Mile, running 1:49 flat to take 1.6 seconds off the track record. Leap To Fame will be defending his title, but with probably the strongest field in recent history. Leap to Fame will head to New Zealand after the Miracle Mile, targeting one lead up race before the \$1m Race by Betcha at Cambridge on 4 April. Two horses that are unlikely be going to New Zealand for that event are Don Hugo and Swayzee, who will both be racing in Perth in the Nullarbor on Anzac Day.

Leap To Fame's half brother Swayzee will go to the Miracle Mile qualifiers, as will Captain Ravishing and 6yo mare **Aardies Express (Always B Miki USA)** - winner of the Ladyship Cup - for trainer Jason Grimson.

Leap To Fame worked very, very hard to hold out **Dont Stop Dreaming NZ (Bettors Delight)** in the Cranbourne Cup, a week after his second in the Hunter Cup). Dont Stop Dreaming was 7<sup>th</sup> in the Hunter Cup from an awkward barrier and won the \$30,000 Terang Cup a week after the Cranbourne Cup. Kate Gath has been on board Dont Stop Dreaming for the last 2 races but may have to choose on Miracle night if her stable runner **Catch A Wave (Captaintreacherous USA)** also gets through to the final, after he had a strong win at Terang in a minor race. The Terang Cup is prominent for a number of other champion horses – horses like Arden Rooney, Sokyola, Blacks A Fake – using it as lead ups for the Miracle Mile.

☑ Millionaire **Oscar Bonavena (Majestic Son CA)** followed his 3rd and 6th in the Great Southern Star with stylish wins in the Group 1 Trotters Cranbourne Cup and the Trotters Mile, with the drive in the latter taken by Just Believe's regular driver Greg Sugars. His target is the Group 1 Hammerhead Trotters Mile on Miracle Mile night, where he is likely to meet Inter Dominion winner **The Locomotive (Muscle Mass USA)** – second in the Great Southern Star after a track record in his Heat - and Inters runner up **Keayang Chucky (Love You FRA)**, who was a classy winner of the recent Group 3 Australasian Trotters Championship at Melton. In all likelihood, Oscar will be back in New Zealand for the \$650,000 Cambridge TAB Trot in April, where he may meet recent Melton winner **Queen Elida NZ (Love You FRA)** who is potentially aiming for a start. Queen Elida has been running against the top trotters with no barrier advantage, which she will rightly get in the TAB Trot. Wake up Australia. To cap off a great season, Queen Elida NZ has been named the 2024 Australian Trotting Mare of the Year.



☑ Credit to young driver Angus Garrard winning the inaugural Ultimate Drivers Challenge at Albion Park. The win in his home state was set up by a good start on the opening night and was followed by 2 wins on the second night to take the championship ahead of WA's Gary Hall Junior. Dexter Dunn and Sweden's Bjorn Goop finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> which was a very good effort considering differences in rules that apply to driving in Australia. Apparently it's very hard to break old/new habits with the "staying within the confines of the cart" providing a challenge for some of the internationals.

The whip action dictated by our racing rules is also unpleasant vision compared to the northern hemisphere race vision, and it's something that administrators could stop for a moment and take a look at what others do.

☑ Well, Harness Racing NSW will be breathing a sigh of relief after the gallant defeat of **Swayzee (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** in the 4<sup>th</sup> leg of the Country Cups Carnival Series at Albury. With \$250,000 Bonus already in the bank, he still gets a total bonus of \$500,000 if he wins the 5<sup>th</sup> leg. The winner **Captain Hammerhead (Captaintreacherous)** had to run a track record 1:57.1 – taking 5 seconds off the previous record - over the 2570m to keep out Swayzee who lost ground on each turn of the smaller track. The final leg of the Carnival of Cups is at Penrith in the Renshaw Cup on 15 March, a week after the Miracle Mile. Swayzee has then booked a birth for the Nullarbor Slot in Perth. For those who are interested Albury is 804m with 180m home straight and 63m radius turns. Gloucester Park is 804.5m with 143m home straight and 82m radius turns.

Captain Hammerhead – who won then lost the Shepparton Cup on a protest by the stewards - is no slouch when it comes to breeding as his dam is a half sister to multiple Group 1 winning champion mare **Make Mine Cullen (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1:53 \$874,178. His granddam **Intrude** was unlucky not to win the Winona Australian Broodmare of the Year award for her progeny performances.

Swayzee was a surprise entrant for the Hunter Cup – which he brilliantly won, defeating half brother and arch rival Leap To Fame. Following his Albury defeat, he is a sort of surprise entrant for the Miracle Mile, given that some regard him as a stayer. But those who know, know that a mile race is a stayers race.

☑ Running 8<sup>th</sup> in the Hunter Cup – but only 7.2m behind – was 9yo veteran and millionaire **Max Delight (Bettors Delight USA)**. A fortnight later he followed up by a top win in a Menagle FFA in a lifetime best of 1:48.8, before beating everyone else except Leap To Fame in the Newcastle Mile, run in 1:49. Don't rule him out for the Miracle Mile.



☑ The Chariots of Fire is fired up with the final field including early qualifiers **Miki To Success (Always B Miki USA)**, Bay Of Biscay and **War Dan Buddy (Art Major USA)** from the Emma Stewart Stable along with Qld Derby winner **Major Hot NZ (Art Major USA)** and visitor **Better Knuckle Up NZ (Bettors Delight USA)**. With the Group 3 Paleface Adios being the last chance to qualify there was a hot field, with Vicbred 2YO Final winner **Our Luciano (Sweet Lou USA)** proving the better with a late run to overcome the early speedsters. Lessons for the future. Some finalists may thank their lucky stars but as long as you are in you can win.

**Bay Of Biscay (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** earned his place by a convincing

win in the \$50,000 Hondo Grattan at the MM course in a lifetime best 1:49.8, whereas Miki To Success earned his place by winning the 4YO Bonanza at Melton. War Dan Buddy and Major Hot NZ were the other placegetters in the Hondo Grattan.

Good news is that Bay Of Biscay is still a stallion and one of the last of the entires from that line. He is also out of a great dual hemisphere winning racemare **Nike Franco (McArdle USA)** 1:48 \$913,870. McArdle is of course the sire of champion **McWicked** and speedster **Tintin In America NZ**, the sire of **Shartin NZ**.

☑ First crop 3yo sires with winners so far include **McWicked (McArdle USA)**, **Poster Boy (Somebeachsomewhere USA)**, **Soho Tribeca (American Ideal USA)** and **Captain Crunch (Captaintreacherous USA)**. Of note is that no foal levy is due on the 2025 crop of Captain Crunch as he remained in Australia, while Poster Boy and Soho Tribeca are Australian bred and no levy to pay either. McWicked did not return for the 2024 breeding season but it would be a surprise if he doesn't shuttle for 2025.

WA based sire **Captain Ahab USA (Captaintreacherous USA)** had his first winner from his first crop, while **Ultimate Sniper NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** has his first winner from his Victorian based first crop. Ultimate Sniper moved to WA after the 2022 breeding season. Also with his first winner was former Alabar stallion **Bettors Wish USA (Bettors Delight USA)**.

☑ Likely to live up to her family's top record is 2yo filly **Miss Red Velvet (Always B Miki USA)** who was purchased for \$15,000 from the New Zealand Yearling Sale by the previous owner of her half sister **Maczaffair NZ (Mach Three CA)** and half brother, the unfortunate **Golden State NZ (Big Jim USA)**. One can only assume that the age of her dam **Presidential Affair NZ (Presidential Ball USA)** – 21 at time of foaling – influenced the decision of other buyers. Congratulations Albert – fortune favours the wise.

☑ Some very positive vibes coming out of the New Zealand yearling sales with \$360,000 paid for the top pacing lot and \$240,000 for the top trotting lot at Auckland, and \$270,000 paid for the top pacing lot at Christchurch, a Bettors Delight colt out of Imagine Me that was sold to Kentuckiana Lodge. There was also an average of over \$62,000, at Auckland and \$52,000 at Christchurch, making it difficult for the "ordinary folk" to get in. However, plenty of yearlings available in WA for purchase AND with terrific bonus payments for racing success.

☑ The first 2yo winner in New Zealand for 2025 is on his way to Perth. **Showmethetanlines (Downbytheseaside)** trialed impressively to qualify and followed up with the first up win. Another by Downbytheseaside USA, the filly **Lady Macandrew** qualified over the mile distance in a very impressive 1:56.2 so no shortage of "seaside" success in New Zealand in the current crop. The dam of Showmethetanlines is a half sister to **Ohoka Nevada NZ (Sands A Flyin USA)** 1:51.0 \$505,757.

☑ New Zealand harness racing is introducing another grass track to its list, with Taupo in the North Island set to run its first meeting. The thoroughbred club were very keen to get on board when approached by HRNZ. Who



knows, with all the Purdons now in the North Island – Nathan Purdon is now on the move north – it could be a game changer for harness racing on grass.

☑ In a very positive move HRNZ are seeking to reimagine the current club funding model by introducing an incentive component whereby clubs can be rewarded for growing some commercial measures. In other words, looking to ensure clubs are working for the industry's future. HRNZ are still going through the consultation process on this initiative, with some outcomes due in March 2025. Something WASBA has been suggesting.

## RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ Finally we have pref draw for mares in some feature races. Truly a no brainer in an industry which otherwise doesn't have a mechanism to handicap horses other than by barrier
- ♣ The naming of **Water Lou (Sweet Lou USA)** as 2024 Australian 3YO Filly of the Year - What an honour for breeders KTC Bloodstock.
- ♣ Interesting comment from trainer David Moran after his charge Captain Hammerhead defeated Swayzee in the Albury Cup - *"It's tough when you're coming up against these champions. Like I said the other day these little tracks bring them all back to earth. We naturally had to stay in front of him."*



## BREEDER OF THE MONTH – January 2025

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.

Its not often that a breeder produces the winners of two 2yo winners on the same day, and on the first day of 2yo racing in the new season. Its **congratulations** to our **Breeder of the Month** for **January 2025**, the first award for the new season, to Mike Howie as the breeder of **Cease To React (Soho Tribeca out of Orphan**

**Reactor by Auckland Reactor NZ)**, unbeaten in his first two starts and taking his place in the final of the \$125,000 2YO Colts and Geldings Sales Classic. Cease To React was impressive in his first race win in Pinjarra in 1:57.9 with a last qtr of 27.4 and followed that with his next start the following month in the \$30,000 Western Crown. Picked out at the 2024 Yearling Sale for his athletic looks he was sold for just \$17,000.

From just the second crop of champion **Soho Tribeca (American Ideal USA)** 1:53.8 \$1,103,854, who despite some of his phenomenal wins including the 2018 Pacing Cup against Chicago Bull NZ, Vultan Tin and My Hard Copy NZ, in all likelihood the most memorable and courageous run of his career was just getting caught near the line after breezing for the race in the 2018 Miracle Mile run in 1:46.9.



Cease To React is the second foal and second winner from **Orphan Reactor (Auckland Reactor NZ)** 1:58.9, who is a half sister to Blissfull Cullen (Blissfull Hall USA) 1:57.2 \$32,384 and Suspicious Life (Life Sign USA) 1:55.6 \$60,419.

Congratulations to breeder **Mike Howie** of Copper Lodge, and to **Cease To React** and his connections.

## WINNERS - WA BASED SIRES JANUARY 2025

With the limited 2yo and 3yo races made available in the calendar it was not the start to the season that we would have liked. Nevertheless there was \$81,000 paid in Bonuses in January 2025 for Westsired runners, which is two-thirds of the amount paid in 2024 but surprisingly, double the amount paid in 2023.

With just the 2 2yo races it wasn't going to be great for first time starters either, but that should be made up for in February with the APG Sales Heats and Finals. This year sees the 3yo finals up to \$125,000, which should create a lot of interest.

Ten WA based sires were represented by winners in January, with 31 winners of 36 races. **Fly Like An Eagle** led with 8 winners of 8 races. Even though he left the state some years ago, **Follow The Stars** was next with 6 winners of 6 races, then **Rock N Roll World** (5 of 5).

There were 6 Westsired progeny with their first career win in January – 2yo **Little China Girl** (Fly Like An Eagle), 4yos **Hold Your Fire** (Advance Attack NZ), **Im Graftor** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **The Whizzer** (Rock N Roll World USA), 5yo **Blind Edition** (Follow The Stars) and 7yo **Things Change** (Tinted Cloud USA).

Four different sires were represented by multiple winners – Alta Christiano NZ (**Extinction**), My Hard Copy NZ (**Copy Of Paris**) and Rock N Roll World (**Marledie**) were dual winners. **Whoz This** (Cams Fool USA) won a treble, winning 3 times at Busselton.

There were 43 races run at metropolitan premium meetings, with one Westsired winner breaking through for a well deserved win:

- ♠ 6yo **High Price** - Alta Christiano NZ o/o Harriet Price NZ (*Grinfromeartoeat USA*) breeder A Merrington, M A Howden. Started 2nd favourite from 1 in the second FFA of the night, with driver Stewie McDonald keeping the lead comfortably from the barrier, a scrimmage mid race unsettled the field but left the leaders untouched, scooted down the back and had the favourites measure down the straight to win the \$31,000 FFA by 3.1m in 1:57.7, final qtrs 28.4 and 28.1



Stakemoney won by Westsired progeny in January 2025 was \$384,00 (an increase on the previous month) plus bonuses.

## WESTBRED WINNERS – JANUARY 2025

Westbreds started the year with some good results for overall winners, with 98 individual winners of 118 races, or 67.8% of the 174 races run. Its one of the highest January results, and one of the highest month results overall, in percentage terms. While not the worst result for bonus payments, the lack of 2yo and 3yo races did impact the bonus payout for the month which was \$172,000, including 15 first time winners – 2yo **Cease To React** (Soho Tribeca), 3yos **Blitzar** (Follow The Stars), **Capture The Moment** (Control The Moment USA), **Ciganda** (Poster boy), **Pinjarra Rocks** (Rock N Roll World USA), 4yos **Alta King** (Alta Christiano NZ) and **Elizabeth Aitch** (Sweet Lou USA), 5yos **Idealincider** (American Ideal USA) and **Whoopsadaisy** (Shadow Play USA) on top of the 6 Westsired progeny as well

There were 40 sires represented by winning Westbred progeny in January, with local sire **Fly Like An Eagle** on top, followed by American Ideal USA (6 winners of 7 races as the leading sire based outside WA. Follow The Stars also produced the winners of 7 races and unfortunately the next 3 sires on the least are all deceased.

It was a good month for multiple winners with 16 in total including **Jaxs Ideal** (American Ideal USA), **Princess Mickayla** (Art Major USA), Busselton Cup winner **Bet On The River** (Betting Line USA), **Chumani** and **Thenu Came Along** (Bettors Delights USA), **Our Lady Jen** (Captaintreacherous USA), **Capture The Moment** (Control The Moment USA), a treble for **Machlani** (Mach Three CA) with new trainer Michael Young, **Lavra Joe** (Roll With Joe USA), **Hillview Bondi** (Somebeachsomewhere USA), **Princess Katie** (Vincent) and three times winner **Kolisi** (Western Terror USA).

Westbreds won the only 2yo races run in January 2025, and provided all starters. We are supportive of more non-feature lead up races prior to the Sales Classics and supportive of feature races after the Sales Classics to support the entire 2yo crop, both Sales and non Sales eligible. We will continue to request more work done in collaboration with industry on the juvenile feature race calendar to provide clear timeframes for successfully



running these events, along with lead up races, allowing for a better grouping of these races, *subsequent to* the Sales Classics and prior to the winter period.

Westbreds won the only 3yo races run in January 2025 (3), as well as 8 of 16 other wins by 3yos who unfortunately missed their bonus opportunities with the lack of races. Westbreds provided 31 of the 40 3yo starters for the month.

With January being the first month of our new handicapping system and program, there were a few new initiatives tried – heats and finals in different classes, double concessions etc – so not really a month in which the 4yo and over race pool was specifically targeted. Unfortunately there was a significant drop in the pool of horses in this age group (although it did increase from 485 in December to 509 in January) – unfortunate because the new program probably would have been of benefit to many if they had remained. The early feedback – apart from 2yos and 3yos – has been good. Perhaps next year the program can be made available much earlier to alleviate the concerns of those looking for the right opportunities for their horses. Westbreds were 70% of the 4yo and over race pool, which was slightly better result than January 2024.

In January 2025 169 races were restricted to 3YO and over and with the new program format (based on NR and win number and type) there were no races restricted to the 4yo+ age group. Westbreds won 105 of the 153 races won by the 4YO+ age group. These wins included 35 by 4yos (29 Westbred), 41 5yos (24) and 26 6yos (18 Westbred). There were 34 wins by Westbreds older than 6yo amongst 51 wins by this age group.

At premium meetings in January there were 19 Westbreds winning 21 of the 43 available races, including Westsired High Price and 4 wins by fillies/mares. The remaining 15 winners of 16 races – including 3 winners from last month – were:

- ◆ 3yo **Blitzar - Follow The Stars o/o Momentous (Blissfull Hall USA)** breeder Alan Norman. Lightly raced 3yo in the \$21,000 Maiden Final. Started well out of the betting at 19/1 from 6 with driver Mitch Miller. Allowed to drift back at the start to settle one out 4 back, taken wide at the 600m and making up good ground, challenging the leaders coming to the turn, had to fight off a late challenge and a top effort to win by 1.5m in 2:00.2;
- ◆ 8yo **Chumani - Bettors Delight USA o/o Storm Cat (Mister Big USA)** breeder Terry Ferguson, Ron Groves. From a family that produces trotters. Started favourite from 1 in the Trotters Stand with Chris Voak, got away beautifully but not fast enough and settled behind the leader, moved to the breeze with a lap to go and had a clear lead at the 400m, going on to win the \$21,000 2503m Trot by 2.8m in 2:04.6;
- ◆ 9yo **Cordero - Western Terror USA o/o Innocent Eyes (Safely Kept USA)** breeder Tarsao Investments Pty Ltd. The 6<sup>th</sup> winner from a wide barrier from 7 races. Started favourite from 7 to record his first win of the season. Allowed to mosey out from the barrier by regular driver Kyle Harper and eventually settled one out 2 back once the field settled, shaken up in the back straight to go 3 wide at



the 400m, powered home off the back to be a nose in front at the 100m and moved away to win the \$31,000 FFA by 4.8m in 1:57.5, last qtrs 28 and 28.8;

- ◆ 7yo **Eldaytona - Somebeachsomewhere USA o/o Hearty Franco NZ (Artsplace USA)** breeder Kevin Charles, hasn't won since September but back on top. Started at 11/1 from 1 with trainer driver Donald Harper on board, beaten for speed from the barrier and settled behind the leader, fenced in and on a tight hold behind the leader coming to the home bend, got clear at the top of the straight and finished the better to win the \$31,000 \$L5 by 2m in 1:56.1, last half 57.5.
- ◆ 7yo **Hillview Bondi - Somebeachsomewhere USA o/o Maid For Life (Safely Kept USA)** breeder part owner Lisa Bendotti. Great start to the season. Started favourite from 4 with a claim for Joseph



Suvaljko, some interference early from Jnr but moved forward to take the lead with 2 laps to go, controlled the race to go on and win the \$21,000 NR70 by 1.7m in 1:56.7, last qtrs both 28.7. Two weeks later took a trip down to Albany with claimer Liam Elliot and won the \$20,000 Albany Cup.!

- ◆ **7yo Lavra Joe - Roll With Joe USA o/o Lavra Florence NZ (Live Or Die USA)** breeder Kevin and Annette Charles. \$830,000 to his name. Won a metro double last month and repeated it this month. Started favourite from 8, sent to the front with 2 laps to go, going well down the back and never going to lose taking the \$31,000 FFA by 5.8m in 1:56.8, last qtrs 28.7 and 27 flat. A week later with Maddison Brown again on board, started favourite from 2 over the 2536m, straight to the front from the barrier, just too classy and went to a 11.7m win in the \$31,000 FFA in 1:57.5, last qtrs 28.3, 27.8, 28.1;



- ◆ **5yo Lord Titanium - Control The Moment (USA) o/o Betshes Precious (Bettors Delight USA)** breeder KTC Bloodstock. 2022 Champagne Classic winner. Won at Bunbury on New Years Eve then 2 starts later started equal 3rd favourite from 6 with Stewie McDonald on board, had the lead before the home turn in a quick lead, even time first half then sprinted down the back to take control of the race and well clear into the straight to win the \$21,000 Pace by 5.1m in 1:55.8, last qtrs 28 flat and 28.5;
- ◆ **9yo Machlani - Mach Three CA o/o Leilani Lombo (Million To One USA)** breeder Kevin and Annette Charles. New lease of life with new trainer Michael Young. Won twice at Albany before starting 3<sup>rd</sup> favourite from 2 with a claim for junior Tom Nally, not hurried out and settled 4 back the pegs, fast 28.5 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr with the favourite pulling hard in front, smart move off the pegs with a lap to go but well back, running on solidly from the 400m and flew down the straight to catch the tiring leader and win the \$21,000 NR60-70 by 1.2m in 1:56.6;
- ◆ **7yo Horse Machnificent - Mach Three CA o/o Honorable Daughter (Northern Luck USA)** breeder Allwood Stud Farm. Resumed in October after a lengthy break from injury. First win this prep after starting 16/1 from 4, settled 2<sup>nd</sup> last in the one wide line after favourite Lavra Joe got to the breeze, suited by the fast middle qtrs and making up ground fast with 550 to go to be 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4 wide off the back, finished very strongly to win the \$31,000 FFA by 1.8m in 1:55.5, fast middle qtrs 28.1 and 28.5;
- ◆ **6yo entire Maungatahi - Betterthancheddar USA o/o Poppy Maguire NZ (American Ideal USA)** breeder R Tomlinson, K Howson, P Morris. Went over \$100,000 in career earnings with his win. Started favourite from 4 with trainer driver Dylan Egerton-Green, fast out to take the lead, solid pace over the last half to try to shake off a brave Showpony and had enough in the tank to hold that gelding out and win the \$21,000 Pace by 1.4m in 1:57.5, last qtrs 28.2 and 27.7;
- ◆ **10yo Rock Me Over - Rock N Roll Heaven USA o/o Benjor Maddy Lombo (Perfect Art USA)** breeder Mike Howie. Continues to produce the goods. Started at 16/1 outside the back line with the favourite starting outside the front line. Settled last early with the speed on, good move by Aiden de Campo to move 3 wide when the pace slowed in the 2nd qtr, one wide but looking beaten at the 400m before fighting back with a withering run down the straight to win the \$23,000 NR70-90 by 4.2m in 1:56.0, last qtrs 28.4 and 29.3
- ◆ **6yo Rockandrollartist - Rock N Roll Heaven USA o/o Artists Impression (Perfect Art USA)** owner breeder Adrian Shanks. Won a metro race in December then 2 starts later started 3<sup>rd</sup> favourite from 7 with trainer driver Aiden de Campo, came across quickly at the start to be in front at the home turn the first time, quick middle section and skipped away off the back in a smart move to have the race in his keeping and win the \$23,000 NR70-90 by 3.7m in 1:55.8, middle qtrs 28.4 and 28.2;
- ◆ **6yo Soho Santorini - Sunshine Beach USA o/o Hannah Isabella (Jeremes Jet USA)** breeder Steve Johnson. Five places from his previous 6 starts then started 3<sup>rd</sup> favourite from 4 with Mitch Miller on board, driven out to burn to the front from the barrier, solid lead before a dawdling first qtr, picked up the pace and well rated over the remainder to win the 2536m \$31,000 FFA by a half neck in 1:59.2, last qtrs 28.6 and 28.4;





- ◆ 4yo **Thelittle Master - Vincent** o/o **Anna Faye NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd. Resumed in November and 2 country level wins in December followed by 2 places, then started favourite from 7, driver Deni Roberts in no rush at the start and settled one out 2 back, moved 3 wide at the 400m to sweep up to the leaders and quickly take control of the race to an easing win in the \$21,000 Pace by 8.7m in 1:56.0, last half 57.5; and
- ◆ 4yo **Thenu Came Along - Bettors Delight USA** o/o **Arconite NZ (Art Major USA)** breeder the late Harry Capararo. Four placings before a win at Pinjarra then 4 days later started 3<sup>rd</sup> favourite from 7, dawdled out over the 1730m and let the others go hell for leather in a 26.4 first qtr, settled a long last before moving up to one out 3 back at the top of the straight when the dust settled, followed a 4 wide move down the back and moved up quickly to gather them in coming to the home turn and sail home to win the \$23,000 Pace by 5.5m in 1:53.3. Great drive Deni Roberts;

Stakes won by Westbreds in January 2025 were \$1.4 million, or 61.1% of stakes, plus bonuses.

## How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (January 2025)

The first month of the new season was an early test for the new system, which was in its first month of operation. While some aspects of the program were disappointing (2yos and 3yos), the results for fillies and mares overall were in our target range.

During January 2025 31.5% (55) of wins were by fillies and mares. This is below the level of the last 3 years. However, with a new program the opportunity is there for improvement. The double concession has made a difference in the open races and a modest increase to fillies/mares races (just 2 additional races would have made a difference) would make for a better result. January 2025 saw 23 races restricted to fillies/mares, lower than the previous January programs. We aim to achieve a result consistent with or above the national level, so we need to go higher.

There were 48 individual mares winning in January. Westbred fillies and mares accounted for 46 of the 55 wins and \$451,000 out of \$611,000 of stakes won by fillies/mares, plus \$56,000 in bonuses.

Leading winning sire for fillies and mares for January 2025 was American Ideal USA with 4 winners of 5 races followed by Fly Like An Eagle (4 of 4).

First time winners for fillies and mares included 2yo **Little China Girl** (Fly Like An Eagle) who won one of only two 2yo races run in the month. Other first time winners were 3yo filly **Ciganda** (Poster Boy) and **Capture The Moment** (Control The Moment), 4yo **Elizabeth Aitch** (Sweet Lou USA) and 5yo **Whoopsadaisy** (Shadow Play USA).

Dual winning fillies and mares included 3yo fillies **Jaxs Ideal** (American Ideal USA and first time winner **Capture The Moment**, 5yo **Our Lady Jen** (Captaintreacherous USA). 4yos **Copy Of Paris** (My Hard Copy NZ), **Marledie** (Rock N Roll World USA) and **Princess Katie** (Vincent) all found the venture into their 4yo year a successful one with 2 wins in the month, while **Princess Mickayla** (Art Major USA) followed her dual December wins with another two in January.

Opportunities for fillies in January 2024 were very limited;

- 2YO – there was just one 2yo fillies race in January, with no other race for which the fillies were eligible. There were 8 starters for the month.
- There were no 3yo fillies' races run in January. Fillies won one of the 3 3yo races run in the month and 8 other races, with Westbred fillies accounting for 8 of the 9 wins. Unfortunately, this did mean no Bonus money for most of these fillies. There were 16 3yo fillies starting in the month, 13 being Westbred, out of a total of 40 3yos racing in January.

On the bright side mares won 45 races in January 2025, which was a significant increase on the previous month. The number of mares racing (156 in total including 129 Westbred) was also higher than December, but was substantially lower than January in previous years. Some uncertainty about programs with the change to the new system may have impacted the results, so an upward change is desirable once everyone becomes better acquainted with the racing opportunities under the new system. Certainly at this stage many of the comments have been favourable for this group.

Fillies and mares won 9 (20.9%) of the 43 races run at Gloucester Park premium meetings, so some way to go to get to the level we are trying to achieve. Winners included 6yo **Montana Glory NZ (Always B Miki USA)** who won a \$23,000 NR 60-85, 7yo **Luvafair (Love You FRA)** won the \$31,000 Trotters Sprint and 7yo **Freyja (Betterthancheddar USA)** won a \$23,000 Fillies and Mares Pace. WA bred winners were:

♥ 6yo **Champagne Everyone - Shadow Play USA** o/o **Sovereign Faith NZ (Live Or Die USA)** owner breeders Oz-West Pacing, P Morris, P Eaton, P Richards, approaching \$100,000 in earnings with nearly half of that since April 2024. First city win after starting favourite and bolting out from 2 after a scratching, well in charge throughout, started to clear away down the back and never let up to go on to a win in the \$25,000 Summer Series Mares by 15m in 1:59.8, last half 57.2;

♥ 3yo **Jaxs Ideal - American Ideal USA** o/o **Jacinta Jones NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd. Has really hit her straps, won her previous two starts including one earlier in the month before stepping out with Gary Hall Jnr in the \$21,000 Fillies and Mares Summer Series. Started a short priced favourite from 3, worked to the lead, a two "horse" race from the 400m well clear of the field, got the better of a valiant Elizabeth Aitch over the final stages to win by 2.8m in 1:59.3; and

♥ 5yo **Our Lady Jen - Captaintreacherous USA** o/o **Our Lady Luxury NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** owner breeder David Anderson. Beautifully bred mare now with 11 wins including 2 metro. Started favourite from 5 over the 1730m, caught wide early before going to the breeze then taking cover to be one-one, looking for room at the 400m before squeezing through a space coming off the back to be tackling the leader at the top of the straight and going to a 5.4m win in the \$21,000 Fillies and Mares in 1:56.1. A week later started inside the back row with trainer driver Dylan Egerton-Green on board, settled 3 back the pegs, got an opening near the 600m to move 1 wide then 2 wide to be a chance, 4<sup>th</sup> into the straight and flew home to just grab the lead near the line and win the \$30,000 Mares Summer feature by a head in 1:56.9, last half 57.8.



The number of fillies and mares racing in January 2025 was unfortunately impacted by the lack of 3yo race opportunities for the 3yos, and uncertainty about what the program would provide. Communicating this information via the provision of a much longer race program (the 6 weeks is simply inadequate for a horse that takes 3 months to bring up to racing) and timely advise about new initiatives – like the double concession that was applicable with the new program - would have produced huge benefits. As it was, the number of fillies and mares racing in January (180) was the lowest in 6 years. There is every likelihood with the right information available, the numbers would improve over this premium racing period.

Fillies and mares contributed 32% of the overall starters for January. Westbreds share of the female racing population in December was 83%.

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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](http://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.

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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](http://www.wasba.com.au)

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*Bank Details for payment of Membership and other:*  
**Bank: Westpac; BSB 036 043; Account Number 129810**



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 **26 March 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](mailto:info@wasba.com.au) .
- Write to WASBA at PO Box 3237 EAST PERTH WA 6892.
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