



# NEWSLETTER

Vol 324 May 2025

## Narrogin \$14,000 Westbred and Westsired races

Yes they are back this year and ongoing. The \$14,000 WASBA Tribute to Color Glo Westbred Mares is on 14 June for the Westbred mares who have not won more than one race with stakes greater than \$15,000. While many of us would like to see the return of the old M/C/R handicapping system (with some tweaks) we don't have that system today so, to try to keep the race as achievable as possible, winners of races with stakes greater than \$21,000 are also excluded.

The race is for mares -so at least 4yos, and you must be Westbred.

A few weeks later on 5 July the \$14,000 Narrogin salutes Red Vicar Westsired Pace is scheduled – you must be at least a 4yo and be Westborn and Westsired to be eligible, with a preference draw to mares.

We really appreciate the support of Narrogin Race and Pace in providing support for both of these races, as well as financial support for the Red Vicar to give you a \$14,000 race, so make sure you give your support to the Club and provide full fields.

We will be reviewing the condition of our \$14,000 races on an ongoing basis to try to ensure the races are there for those Westbreds that they are intended for.



Last years winner Champagne Everyone with trainer driver Dylan Egerton-Green

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

2YO	races continue to be programmed, no features until July
3YO	races continue to be programmed, no features until July
Mares	\$30,000 Harry Capararo Westbred 4YO & 5YO Mares (mares who have not won a race with stakes over \$30,000) is on 30 May The \$14,000 Color Glo is at Narrogin on 14 June – for Westbred Mares, conditions as above the \$50,000 Kerry Clarke Mares FFA is on 20 June
Westsired	\$14,000 Narrogin Salutes Red Vicar Westsired Pace is at Narrogin on 5 July – Westsired 4yo+ who have won no more than one race with stakes over \$15,000 (you must also be Westborn)



## RWA Call for Submissions -WA Feature Race calendar

This is a last reminder to provide RWA with your feedback and suggestions on timing of WA feature race events as well as race programming, prizemoney distribution, race conditions and scheduling in general.

You can provide your comments by email to [industryfeedback@rwwa.com.au](mailto:industryfeedback@rwwa.com.au) by 31 May 2025.

Outcomes from the review will be provided in late 2025 with the feature race calendar in 2026 to be implemented from the results.

Don't be silent if you want change - you can also provide comment to WASBA to enable your comments to be forwarded anonymously, or for collation with other comments received.

## \$50,000 WASBA Breeders Stakes

Nothing wrong with repeat feature wins and 5yo **Penny Black NZ (Sweet Lou NZ)** is making a habit of it, having won the Group 3 \$50,000 Lombardo Fillies and Mares in March, the \$35,000 Race For Roses in April and the \$50,000 Group 3 WASBA Breeders Stakes in May. Also a great night for driver Emily Suvaljko who drove 4 winners on the night including the two feature wins. It was a very good drive from Emily to go to the lead with just under 2 laps to go, and almost impossible for any of the mares to catch her with her final two qtrs in 27.4 and 27.6 and a mile rate of 1:55.1.



Emily and lucky part owner  
Dom Perrella

For those who missed last month's Newsletter, Penny Black is a very black impressive looking mare who was overlooked in the 2021 NZ Yearling Sale and was passed in for \$10,000. Subsequently she had 6 NZ starts with her last start being her first win, before her sale to connections of WA trainer Michael Young, including some who were lucky enough to spot the advertisement.

Penny Black's dam Tessa Rocks NZ is a full sister to another good WA racemare in **Crystal Sparkles NZ (Rocknroll Hanover USA)** 1:53 \$233,000. Their unraced dam **Taylor Kate NZ (Artsplace USA)** is a half sister to champion filly and 2008/09 NZ 3yo Pacing Filly of the Year **Lauraella (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1.55.9, \$649,946, with her wins including the Northern Oaks, Group 1 NZ Oaks, Ladyship Stakes, Group 2 Harness Jewels 2yo Diamond and Group 1 Queen Of Hearts.

## Double Diamond

Some pre race excitement that we can all do without and a few relieved owners when 3yo filly **Ruby Lovera (Sweet Lou USA)** won her second Diamond Classic after being successful in the \$100,000 2YO event last year.

Bred by Debra Lewis and sold to the Justin Prentice ownership group at the 2023 WA APG Yearling Sale for \$70,000, Ruby Lovera has won 3 of her 4 starts this season including both a Heat and the Final of the 3YO Diamond Classic. From just 12 starts she has earned \$115,000 plus \$22,000 in Bonuses.

Ruby Lovera is a half sister to 2012 Diamond Classic winner **Eagle Rox (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:55.2 \$225,656 and 3 other winners including the multiple Group 1 and WA Oaks winner **Artemis Belle (Artiscape USA)** 1:56.1 \$359,559. The sire of Artemis Belle is the grandsire of Sweet Lou USA.

Ruby Lovera's dam was the unraced **Lovera NZ (Badlands Hanover USA)** which clearly didn't impact her performance as a broodmare. Lovera's dam and granddam both only won a single race, but granddam Emerald Franco NZ (Holmes Hanover USA) is a half sister to Queensland and Australian Derby winner and NZ Group 1 winner **Franco Enforce NZ (OK Bye USA)** 1:50.6 \$593,738.



3YO Diamond Classic winner  
Ruby Lovera and Gary Hall Jr

Other members of the close family include NZ Messenger winner **Franco Emirate NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1:53.8 \$332,830, Group 2 Daintys Daughter Classic winner **Eden Franco NZ (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1:54.1 \$192,757, Group 1 Pearl and Golden Slipper winner **Franco Edward NZ (American Ideal USA)**, Redcliffe Cup winner **Aroda NZ (Art Major USA)** 1:51.8 \$286,754 and champion **Akuta NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:51.8 \$1,137,165, Smoken Up Sprint winner **Rishi NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:50.2 \$253,942 and Group 2 winner **Our Corelli NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:50.6 \$494,840.

It's a good family with one of the most noteworthy facts being the number of top producing mares that were either unraced or had minimal success on the track.

## **\$14,000 King-Lethbridge**

Another great race – for our Pinjarra \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge Westbred Mares Pace, the first of the WASBA races run under the National Rating system and the first attempt to get the conditions right for the mares that are being targeted.

Thanks again to the Pinjarra Club, with great support on course from Manager Dale Putland and Board member Geoff Fuller.

The race was exciting from go to whoa with the final strides determining the winner – Gary Hall Jnr on 4yo Princess Katie (Vincent) 1:56.7 \$106,979 - with the winning margin being a nose. Great effort by second placed Remarkable Rock who has gone on to win two other races.

Bred by Colleen and Trevor Lindsay's Karnup Racing Pty Ltd, Princess Katie is having her most successful season so far with \$46,000 in stakes. She is the first foal of **Rockroll Dreams (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** 2:01 \$18,121 who is a half sister to two other winners including Champagne Classic, Caduceus Classic and 3YO Westbred Classic winner **Bet The House (Betting Line USA)** 1:52.8 \$178,983.



The granddam of Princess Katie is the one race win **Katesplace NZ (Artsplace USA)**, a daughter of **Kates First NZ (Holmes Hanover USA)** 1:57.2 \$624,023 whose wins included the NZ Sire Stakes, NZ Ladyship Stakes, NZ Oaks, Queensland Oaks as well as being 2nd in the Victoria Cup and winning the 1997 Auckland Cup as a 4yo. Kates First NZ was named NZ 3YO Filly of the Year and NZ 4YO Pacer of the Year.

If that wasn't enough Kates First NZ is a half sister to one of the greatest southern hemisphere products of all time in **Christian Cullen NZ (In The Pocket USA)** 1:54.1 \$1,249,151. There are quite a few other topline in the family including **Heez Orli Black (In The Pocket USA)** 1:51.0 \$665,699, **Real Lucky (Real Desire USA)** 1:51.4 \$502,800, **The More The Better NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:49.0 \$851,689 and Chariots of Fire and Miracle Mile second placed **Sooner The Bettor** 1:53.5 \$549,404 - as well as one of our great trotters in **True Roman (True Duane USA)** 2:02.2 \$532,177, the winner of all 3 Heats and the Final of the 1988 Inter Dominion Trotters Championship.

## **Snippets from the USA and Canada..**

☑ The 3yos are back in action and Canadian Horse of the Year **Chantilly (Big Jim)** continued her winning way in the \$133,500 SBOA 3YO Fillies Stakes at Woodbine Park, even after locking wheels in the strong winds, to take her unbeaten tally to 10. The filly is on her way to either the Pepsi North America Cup – the first filly ever nominated – or the Grade 1 Fan Hanover for fillies on the same day.

☑ At Pocono Downs Pennsylvania, Dan Patch 2YO Pacing Colt of the Year **Louprint (Sweet Lou USA)** made it 2 from 2 for the season with another sire stakes victory following his previous victory in 1:49.3 at The Meadows, taking his earnings to \$778,000. Louprint currently leads the rankings for both the Pepsi North America Cup on 14 June, and the Meadowlands Pace on 12 July.



☑ Meanwhile the fastest mile of the year 1:49.2 is currently owned by 3yo filly **Found (Always B Miki)** who set the time on a track upgraded from sloppy to good in testing conditions. The dam of Found is **Geothermic (A Rocknroll Dance)** who is the dam of champion **Confederate (Sweet Lou)**.

Another 3yo filly, 2024 Dan Patch 2YO Filly of the Year **Miki And Minnie (Always B Miki)** returned to racing with a win at Pocono Downs in an impressive 3 length win in 1:51, taking her lifetime stakes to \$849,086.

☑ With two starts - two wins this year 4yo stallion **Gem Quality (Captain Crunch)** is back, aiming to add to his impressive career earnings to date of \$668,441.

☑ Winbak Farm has purchased a share in **Nijinsky (Bettors Delight)** 1:47.3 \$1,287,445. Nijinsky was the highest money earning pacer in North America in 2024, winning 11 races including the \$1 Million North America Cup, \$250,000 Monument Circle, \$167,000 Simcoe Stakes, \$83,000 Somebeachsomewhere Stakes, and Ontario Sire Stakes Super Final. He was second in the Meadowlands Pace, Breeders Crown and Progress Pace. Winbak Farm was previously a thoroughbred stud under a different name, and was where champion (thoroughbred) Kentucky Derby winner **Northern Dancer** stood for part of his career. The legendary thoroughbred Nijinsky was from the second crop of Northern Dancer (Flaming Page, the dam of thoroughbred Nijinsky, is buried in the cemetery of champions at Winbak).

Repeating history, Bettors Delight is one of Winbak's greatest graduates from the same farm, and they look forward to the new Nijinsky standing at their farm following in his father's footsteps.

☑ A new lifetime mark for 2022 WA Oaks winner **Taking The Miki (Always B Miki)**, who won at Plainridge Park in 1:51.1 for her 3<sup>rd</sup> win of the season. Another West Aussie winning was the very popular 10yo **Its Rock And Roll (A Rocknroll Dance)** for his 4<sup>th</sup> win of a 2025 season that has bagged \$100,000, with his 40<sup>th</sup> win overall and stakes over \$650,000. **Miss Worthy Whitby**, the dam of Its Rock And Roll, sold for a bargain \$1,750 at the Dr Ed Dewar Estate Sale.



Photo by Tom Melanson

☑ Big news for strategists, with The Meadowlands reinstating post time drag (when the race starts later than the scheduled time) due to a sharp downturn in turnover during the trial. Lesson learnt.

- ☑ Southern hemisphere success in the \$490,000 Grade 1 Blue Chip Matchmaker (Mares) Series at MGM Yonkers Raceway, with 5yo (4yo in Australia) New Zealander **Aardie B Miki (Always B Miki)** victorious by a length in 1:53.3. In a very competitive race it was the 5<sup>th</sup> straight win for the 2024 Queensland Oaks winner and she remains undefeated in the US, with seasonal earnings of \$345,000 for lifetime earnings of over \$650,000. Aardie B Miki started odds on favourite from the pole position.



- ☑ More Southern hemisphere success in the \$516,000 Grade 1 MGM Borgata Pacing Series at Yonkers, with 7yo NZ bred **Mossdale Ben (A Rocknroll Dance)** victorious by a length in 1:51.2 for trainer Peter (father of Shane) Tritton, who was previously successful in 2016 with New Zealander Bit Of A Legend (Bettors Delight). Mossdale Ben won 3 of his 5 starts (and 2 seconds) in the series. He has won 7 of 9 starts in his first northern hemisphere season, and leads in earnings in North America with \$515,000.

New Zealand bred 8yo Hemsworth (Sweet Lou) won the \$100,000 Borgata Consolation to take his record to 29 wins and \$563,000 in stakes. In between his Borgata prelims he popped up at Harrahs Philadelphia to win a fast class pace in 1:50.4.

- ☑ A return to racing for the impressive 4yo gelding **Funtime Bayama (Hes Watching)** who had an interrupted 3yo career with a serious injury, followed by a long layoff. He, won at his second start for the 2025 season. He has 9 wins overall and \$450,000 in stakes, with wins including an elimination of the North America Cup and a 3<sup>rd</sup> to Nijinski in the Final.



- ☑ Scoring 11 from 11 in a season is the record of 7yo trotter **Chapolier (Chapter Seven)** for \$88,000 in stakes. His latest win, like previous wins, was in a Claimer and with a \$30,000 price tag he started from the outside post. At the end of the race Chapolier was claimed for the 9<sup>th</sup> time, this time by a new player. His previous owner has claimed him 4 times during his winning streak. An eye-watering \$258,000 changed hands in the claim box. Claiming hasn't worked that well in Australia with more rules around the process, but it works very well in the US. Food for thought in offering conditions that people like.

- ☑ It's Eliteloppet time – with 2 Heats and the Final in Sweden on Sunday 25 May. Australian **The Locomotive (Muscle Mass USA)** had a sluggish start to his prep but has been working well of late. Unfortunately he has drawn 7 in Heat 2 against 2023 winner **Hohneck (Royal Dream FRA- Love You FRA)** in 1, 2021 winner **Don Fanucci Zet (Hard Livin USA - S Js Caviar USA)** in 3 and 2023 Prix d'Amérique winner **Hooker Berry (Booster Winner FRA – Love You FRA)** in 2. Canadian entrant **Logan Park (Archangel USA)** starts in Heat 1 from 5 against 2022 winner **Etonnant (Timoko)** in 2. Although The Locomotive is classified as a 6yo, as a 2019 foal he is a 5yo in the Southern Hemisphere and the youngest starter in the race.

## And elsewhere....

✚ What can you say, such a tragic loss. Greg Sugars RIP. Yes there are worse things that happen in the world, but some things touch more than others to make us feel very vulnerable. A memorable quote before he left for Sweden with Just Believe is something we should all take note of:

*"It's the trip of a lifetime, we just had to do it."*



☑ The 2025 Inter Dominion Championship will begin in Brisbane at Albion Park on July 5, with the \$1 million pacing final on July 19. Defending champion **Don Hugo (Art Major USA)** is a starter at this stage, with his return to racing likely in June after taking a break following his hectic Cambridge run. Suggestions he wasn't quite right for that run are not a fair commentary on the run of the winner at Cambridge, **Leap To Fame (Bettors Delight USA)**, who will also resume in June.

☑ Along with Don Hugo, Luke McCarthy will take a strong team to Queensland including 2025 \$200,000 Group 1 Queen Elizabeth II Mile winner **Eye Keep Smiling (Sweet Lou USA)** in 1:49.3, who will defend her 2024 Group 1 Golden Girl title. The Queen Elizabeth was a terrific battle between the winner and **Steno (Sweet Lou USA)** with Eye Keep Smiling having to race outside the leader and Steno having to come from the rear of the field after an awkward draw. Eye Keep Smiling has now won her last 6 on end.

Both mares come from terrific maternal lines. Steno is out of champion mare **Lady Waratah (Walton Hanover USA)** 1:59.5 \$564,770 whose family includes Led Suitcase and champion Inter Dominion winner **Lennytheshark (Four Starzzz Shark)** and champion mare **Frith (Four Starzzz Shark USA)** 1:50.1 who won over a million in her career including wins in the Group 1 Ladyship Mile, Group 2 Sibelia Stakes, Group 1 WA Oaks and dual Breeders Crowns. Her arm of the family includes Miss Paula, multiple Group 1 winners **McRaes Mate (Albert Albert USA)** 1:51.8 \$482,053, Albert Kelly and 2007 2YO Australian Pacer of the Year **Greg Kelly (Presidential Ball USA)**. Eye Keep Smiling's dam **Oh Eye See (Armbo Operative USA)** 1:54.5 \$101,705 is a full sister to the popular **Two Eye See** 1:52.4 \$306,703, while their unraced dam Grace Robinson (Perfect Art USA) was the last foal of champion **Jasmarilla (Tarpport Low USA)** 1:55.2 50 wins \$503,000. Other members of this family include Eye See Diamonds (Rock N Roll Heaven USA) 1:51.6 \$284,875 and 2023 \$400,000 2YO Fillies APG Gold Final winner Eye Believe (Captaintreacherous USA).

☑ New Zealand are unlikely to send a major contender for the Inter Dominion Pacing Series with **Chase A Dream NZ (Captaintreacherous USA)** withdrawn and to be gelded in the hope he can provide greater consistency without the distractions. The Purdon stable will still send **Rubira NZ (Always B Miki USA)** for the Derbies and **Oscar Bonavena NZ (Majestic Son CA)** for the Inter Dominion Trotting Championship. 2025 \$200,000 Rowe Cup winner **Bet N Win (What The Hill CA)** will also head for the Trotters Series where they are likely to meet **Arcee Phoenix (Trixon USA)**, winner of last month's TAB Trot at Cambridge. Despite the two recent good wins by Republican Party in the \$100,000 Group One Roy Purdon Memorial and the \$100,000 Group One Dawson Harford New Zealand Messenger, he is unlikely to make the trip.

☑ Meanwhile, new millionaire **Queen Elida NZ (Love You FRA)** retired after her third to in the Rowe Cup. She is only the second mare to win more than \$1 million. Named Australian 2021 3YO Trotting Filly of the Year and 2022 to 2024 Aged Trotting Mare of the Year, 50 per cent of her 88 starts were Group races, and mostly open races with no barrier concessions. Her Group 1 wins included the Need For Speed Princess Final, Victoria Trotters Oaks, 3YO Fillies Breeders Crown, Sumthingaboutmaori, La Coocaracha, MacArthur Mile and the Bill Collins Mile.

☑ Fourth in last season's TAB Eureka, 5yo Queensland pacer **Wisper A Secret (Huntsville USA)** has 4 impressive Albion Park wins on board for the season with the latest in 1:52.1, beating former WA pacer Pinny Tiger. Wisper A Secret has over \$500,000 in earnings and doesn't have to travel far to get to the Queensland Inter Dominion.

☑ The words of Kevin Seymour, one of Australian harness racing's leading breeders, owners and benefactors and owner of Leap To Fame *"We need to bring even more stallions out from the United States on shuttle duty to keep improving the quality of our breeding."*

☑ Grant Dixon will have some big decisions heading into the Queensland Oaks on 19 July, with New Zealand 3yo filly **Captains Mistress (Captaintreacherous USA)** arriving in Queensland to join the stable for the Queensland carnival. The 2024 New Zealand 2YO Filly of the Year and recent winner of the Group 1 3YO Fillies New Zealand Sires Stakes Final, she will join \$200,000 NSW Oaks winner **Cool and Classy (Captaintreacherous USA)** who is also trained by Grant. Cool And Classy was bred by Kevin and Kay Seymour from their top mare **Charming Allie (Mr Feelgood USA)** 1:53.9 \$232,648 with the family producing quite a few of the Seymour top performers including millionaire Group 1 winner **Colt Thirty One (Mach Three CA)** 1:51.2. Cool And Sassy won 7 of 8 2yo starts, only missing out in the Protostar as the only filly – and no barrier concession.

☑ Another son of **Bettors Delight USA** in 3yo gelding **Marketplace NZ** is creating a lot of hype and some very big offers, which so far are being rejected. Money cant buy happiness. His recent wins have included the \$200,000 Garrards NZ Sires Stakes Final at Addington by 3/4 of a length from **Got The Chocolates (Art Major USA)**, Marketplace has won 10 of 16 starts including 4 Group 1s and \$672,396. He previously won the \$100,000 Group 1 Northern Derby by 7 lengths in a race and age record, beating records previously held by Amazing Dream and Chase Auckland.



Marketplace is actually from an Australian maternal line. He is the 3<sup>rd</sup> foal from **Cullen Who (Christian Cullen NZ)** 1:55 \$51,556 whose dam is **Whos The Bird (Falcon Seelster USA)**, both these mares bred in New Zealand. The next dam is the Australian bred **Donna Who (Golden Greek USA)** 1:57.1 \$244,668. Whos The Bird is also the dam of **Slick Bird NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:55.7 the dam of **Slick Artist (Art**

**Major USA**) 1:52.0 \$404,531, and full siblings **While They Pray (Alta Christiano NZ)** 1:54.7 \$185,868, and **Acharne Girl** 1:55.8 \$209,505. Marketplace was purchased by the Kennards and is bred on the same cross as their other super star Lazarus NZ.

☑ The win by **Cantfindabettorman NZ (Sweet Lou USA)** was a welcome result for connections after he was stripped of his Inter Dominion Consolation win (in December) following a positive swab to a therapeutic substance. That win now goes to Perfect Stride, driven coincidentally by Ryan Sanderson who drove Cantfindabettorman in his latest win. It shouldn't take that long to make a decision.

☑ We all know there is no such thing as a certainty and it takes the monkey off your back when the first loss finally happens, but you don't wish it on anyone. The unusually named 5yo **Susan Is Her Name (Sebastian K SWE)** broke the 15 win streak of 4yo **Keayang Zahara (Volstead USA)** in an impressive performance in the Group 1 \$100,000 Macarthur Mile at Menangle rating 1:51.6, that suggests a lot more wins in store. Susan Is Her Name is likely to head to the Inter Dominion Heats without a lead up.

☑ Just like it was last year for Catch A Wave (Captaintreacherous USA), this year it was NZ bred **Mister Smartee (Always B Miki USA)** who won the Nullarbor – Fremantle Cup double in impressive style. When you are buying ready made horses you are checking the animal not the breeding but nevertheless Mister Smartee NZ does have some breeding credentials. Arriving in WA after 2 starts

including one win in New Zealand (behind him in the win were Dalton Shard and Aroda, winner of the 2024 Redcliffe Gold Cup and 3rd in the 2024 Group 1 Rising Sun) he won 14 of his first 16 starts and his trainer has always held him in the highest regard, as does his driver if anyone wanted to listen.

His unraced dam is by top racehorse but unsuccessful sire Stonebridge Regal USA (Artsplace USA). His second dam **Lento NZ (Peoples Blue Chip USA)** 1:56.4 \$272,110 was a successful racemare and broodmare, but by an unsuccessful Most Happy Fella USA sire. His 3rd dam Orbell was 100% colonial bred, being by Patron Score NZ out of non winning mare Light Chase NZ Good Chase NZ). That's where it gets interesting. Patron Score NZ belongs to one of New Zealand's best maternal families in Tactics, and Light Chase belongs to a family that has produced numerous top earners including some champions from the past in **Master Musician**, Venus Serena, and top Australian **Royal Gaze**. Lento herself is a full sister to **Bella Chip** 1:52.6, the dam of **Bellas Boy NZ (In The Pocket USA)** 1:52.0 \$437,564 and granddam of **Bettors Strike (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:55.7 \$890,201 and **Southwind Arden NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:58.4 \$150,126 the dam of **South Coast Arden (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** 1:49.1 \$682,366.

☑ The \$150,000 Gold Tiara Final winning filly **Ripples NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** returned to her place of birth to test New Zealand's best and came away with a Heat win in the 2YO Fillies Young Guns before missing the win by a nose in the Group 2 Final to **Cool For Cats (Always B Miki USA)**. Proving that the best judges aren't always right, Cool For Cats cost just \$14,000 at the 2024 NZ Sales, while the other feature winner on the night **Fugitive (Downbytheseaside USA)**, winner of the \$100,000 2YO Colts and Geldings Cardigan Bay Stakes, cost just \$21,000 at the 2023 NZB Standardbred Weanling Sale. Ripples is raced by her breeder and is a granddaughter of Harness Jewels, Queen of Hearts and Kaikoura Cup winner **Nearea Franco NZ (Badlands Hanover USA)** 1:54.4 \$440,875, the dam of 6 winners including Nike Franco (McArdle USA) 1:48 \$913,870, the dam of champion colt **Bay Of Biscay** 1:49.1 \$821,580.

## RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ Fillies and mares have preferential draws in the Eureka, in the The Race, in The TABTrot etc yet the only mare in the Fremantle Cup gets to start from barrier 9.



- ♣ Always nice for that maiden win but even nicer when its over \$25,000 in the bank congratulations to the connections of first time winning 4yo Westbred mare Frankensteins Bride
- ♣ Two race wins on Nullarbor night for WA based sire Renaissance Man.



## BREEDER OF THE MONTH – April 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.

This month it's a very nice mare who has always shown she is very talented, but finally got the big one she deserved. *Congratulations* to our *Breeder of the Month* for *April 2025*, **Barry, Lynley and Jimmie Howlett** as the breeders of **Little Darling (Art Major USA** out of Fays Darling NZ by **Bettors Delight USA**). With the writing on the wall a fortnight earlier with one of her usual brilliant finishes just failing to catch the winner, she made up for that with a big win in the \$75,000 Group 2 Empress Stakes. Following that win, this homebred mare's stakes record was over \$260,000.



Little Darling is the first foal from her dam **Fay Darling NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** 1:56.4 \$33,106, who was also raced by the Howlett family for 5 wins. Fay Darling NZ is a half sister to 4 other winners including Southern Supremacy winner **No Doctor Needed NZ (Mach Three CA)** 1:50.2 \$330,085. Their dam **Molly Darling NZ (Christian**

**Cullen NZ)** 1:51.4 \$506,033 was a champion filly and mare winning 24 races including the 2004 2YO Fillies Breeders Crown. She also won two New Zealand Group 1s and was the only filly to beat another champion filly/mare Mainland Banner in a race.

Congratulations to breeder owners the Howlett family and the connections of **Little Darling**.

## WINNERS - WA BASED SIRE'S APRIL 2025

Fourteen WA based sires produced winners of 35 races in April 2025, including first season sire **Captain Ahab USA**. All up there were 31 individual winners, with **Follow The Stars** and **Renaissance Man** both producing 6 winners of 7 races.

Four Westsired horses each won a double in the month – **Elraes Girl** (Captain Ahab USA), **Alexandra The Great** (Follow The Stars), **Longreach Bay** (Renaissance Man) repeated his winning efforts from last month, and **Remarkable Rock** (Rock N Roll World).

There were 7 Westsired progeny with their first career win in April including **Aussie Captain (Captain Ahab USA)** who won at his first race start. Other first time winners were 2yo **Elraes Girl** (Captain Ahab USA) who won a double, 3yos **Basinghall** (Advance Attack NZ) and **Chekker** (Caribbean Blaster), 4yos **Bunjil Man** (Fly Like An Eagle), **Snakey Bay** (Bonavista Bay) and **The Big Kaboosh** (Renaissance Man).

There were 37 races run at metropolitan premium meetings in April 2025 with 4 Westsired winners, as well as two \$30,000 Westsired Classic winners at Bunbury. Excluding the fillies and mares the remaining 4 winners were :

- ♣ **2yo Aussie Captain - Captain Ahab USA** o/o **Triga Disco (Bettors Delight USA)** breeder part owner, Kerry Gibellini, having his first lifetime start for trainer driver Donald Harper. Started 6/1 from 5, initially 4<sup>th</sup> along the pegs before moving to one out two back, perfectly poised at the 600m after a



quick 28.9 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr and a new race leader, 3 wide at the 400m and into the straight, too strong over the final stages to win the \$30,000 Westsired Classic, taking home \$33,000 for his connections!!

- ♣ 4yo **Arionrock - Rock N Roll World USA** o/o **Red Hot Mumma (Albert Albert USA)** breeder Allwood Stud Farm. Having a great season with 9 placings from 12 starts then started favourite from 1 after a scratching, held out the challenge to retain the lead then steadied the pace, easy first half before stepping up the pace down the back, clear into the straight and went to an easing win for driver Dylan Egerton-Green to win the \$21,000 4YO+ NR<70 Pace by 4.1m in 1:57.5, last qtrs both 28.3;
- ♣ 8yo **Longreach Bay - Renaissance Man** o/o **Back In The Black (Armbro Operative USA)** owner breeders Peter and M King, and Barbara Pellick, had won 5 of his 9 starts this season before starting at 12/1 from 8 with junior Joseph Suvaljko on board, hit the gate but still flew across the field to lead very keenly in a high class field, settled back to an even time first half, had their measure down the back and went on to a solid win in the \$27,000 NR 30-80 Final by 2.3m in 1:55.8, last qtrs 28.6 and 28.1; and
- ♣ 8yo **Medieval Man - Renaissance Man** o/o **So Crimsonandclova (Bettors Delight USA)** breeder part owner Graeme Davies. A tough and worthy competitor like part owner trainer Kiara Davies. Started 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite from 4 with driver Kyle Symington deciding to breeze outside the leader for the duration, still second but confident at the 400m, some urgency at the top of the straight but in front at the 100m and held well to win the \$23,000 4YO+ Pace by 1.9m in 1:57.3, last qtrs both 28.7.



A win for Kyle Symington with Medieval Man

Bonus payments for April 2025 for Westsired progeny increased to a much more respectable \$127,000, which was \$53,000 higher than the previous month and \$34,000 higher than in April 2024.

Stakes won by Westsired progeny in April 2025 was \$427,000. While this is below the figure for April last year it is the second highest April figure over the last 6 years.

## WESTBRED WINNERS – APRIL 2025

Still in keeping with above 60% Westbred winners, April 2025 saw 101 Westbred wins out of the 165 races (61.2%), which continues the positive trend for the season. The percentage result is higher than April last year (57.8%). Only April 2022 (118 wins from 191 races) has produced a higher result for the same month in both percentage terms and race wins.

Bonus payments for the month were \$328,000, the highest April bonus payment in the last 6 years.

Stakes payments to Westbreds (\$1,905,447) in April 2025 were the second highest for April over the last 6 years, with the shortfall compared to the 2024 high being almost entirely due to Nullarbor payments.

There were 41 sires represented by winning Westbred progeny in April 2025, with **Alta Christiano NZ**, **Follow The Stars** and **Renaissance Man** all with 6 winners of 7 races, followed by American Ideal USA 5 winners of 6 races) and Foreclosure NZ (4 winners of 6 races).

Another good result for first time winners with 18, including the previously mentioned Westsired. The remaining 11 first time winners were:

- 2yos **Altas Last** (Alta Christiano NZ), **The Sea Siren** (Downbytheseaside USA), **Toby George** (Capt Midnight USA), and **Way Of The World** (Ultimate Sniper NZ);

- 3yos **Spirited Whitby** (Betting Line USA), **Luna Goddess** (Control The Moment USA), **Elite Fleet** (Downbytheseaside USA), **Repossession** (Foreclosure NZ) and **Our Rich Cargo** (Sweet Lou USA);
- 4yos **Altar** and **Frankensteinsbride** (Alta Christiano NZ).

There were also 22 first time starters in April – by 17 different sires - including 12 2yos and 7 3yos.

There were 12 Westbreds with dual wins in the month including **Gaitcrasher** (Always B Miki USA) for the second successive month, and 3yo **Our Rich Cargo** added a second win in the month to his previous first career win. Other dual Westbred winners for the month included **Alta Tribute** (Alta Christiano NZ), **Stapleton** (American Ideal USA), **Caberneigh** (Bettors Delight USA), **Belly Up** and **Marbeechsam** (Foreclosure NZ), and **Delulu** (Poster Boy), along with the Westsired dual winners Elraes Girl, Alexandra The Great, Longreach Bay repeating in consecutive months, and Remarkable Rock listed previously. First time winner Elite Fleet had a treble in the month after starting his career with an unplaced run in March.

Westbreds won all 7 of the 2yo races run in April 2025, as well as providing all 23 starters. We would hope that feedback to RWA regarding the 2yo feature placement will result in a better strategy for 2yos.

Westbreds won 18 of the 21 3yo races and 4 of the 7 other races won by 3yos. Westbreds provided 85 of the 94 3yo starters.

The number of starters in the 4YO and over age group in April 2025 (472) remains the lowest recorded over the last 6 years. This can be partially attributed to moving the 4YO Westbred Classics to later in the year, adversely impacting the racing pool that includes that age group. Without much “attraction and retention” opportunities the 4yos have stayed in the paddock. It will also mean a crowded “W” night with not a lot of space for non-finalists in the 2yo, 3yo and 4yo events. Our preference would be to take the 4YO Westbred Classics to prior to the Nullarbor, to give those horses visibility for both that event and the Eureka, should it continue.

We are requesting that the availability of the race program can be extended to 3 months to provide owners and trainers a better indication of racing opportunities for all their horses.

There were 22 races restricted to the older age group (4yo+), with 137 races available for the age group. Westbreds won 72 of these races, with the 4yo and overs winning 131 races. As a group the average was one win every 9.7 starts, consistent with the previous two months.

With the attraction centred around the Nullarbor, Westbreds won 13 of the 37 available races at premium metropolitan meetings. Excluding wins by Westsired and fillies/mares the remaining 4 winners were:

- ◆ 3yo **Belly Up - Foreclosure (NZ)** o/o **Thats The Spirit NZ (Pacific Rocket USA)** breeder Kevin and Annette Charles, WASBA 2024 2YO Colt/Gelding of the Year out of the 2024 WASBA Broodmare of the Year. Resumed in February and already 2 wins - including a Heat - and 3 seconds from 5 starts before starting 3<sup>rd</sup> favourite from 8 with Deni Roberts, settled well back in last with a 35.9 lead time, first to move 3 wide with a lap to go in a 28.2 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr, still midfield at the 400m but starting to make good ground, 4<sup>th</sup> and 4 wide into the straight and a strong finish to win the \$23,000 Autumn Series Final by a half head in 1:56.5;



- ◆ 4yo **Caberneigh - Bettors Delight USA** o/o **Nivea Franco NZ (Live Or Die USA)** owner breeders Howlett Breeding and Racing, lightly raced 4yo resumed with a 2<sup>nd</sup> earlier in the month at his first start since winning in October. Second up started 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite inside the backline for trainer Jocelyn and driver Madeliene Young, settled 4<sup>th</sup> on the pegs in the 36 lead, no options at the 400m but got right up behind the leader coming to the turn, swung 3 wide into the straight and raced past them to win the \$21,000 NR<70 Pace by 2.2m in 1:57.7;



Caberneigh and Madeliene Young

- ◆ **4yo Ideal Muscle - American Ideal USA** o/o **Delightful Page (Bettors Delight USA)** owner breeder Craig Lynn. Has equalled last season's earnings. Started 2<sup>nd</sup> favourite from 3 for trainer driver Aiden de Campo over the 2503 feature Stand. Got away cleanly to be running 2<sup>nd</sup> but moved forward to take the lead after half a lap, slow lead and first qtr, sizzling 27.7 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr had the race won, well clear at the top of the straight and won the \$50,000 Group 2 Easter Cup by 1.6m in 2:01.5; and
- ◆ **5yo Marbeechsam - Foreclosure (NZ)** o/o **Generally Outspoken NZ (Mach Three CA)** breeder KTC Bloodstock and Kevin Charles. Won Heat 2 then started a short priced favourite from 3 in the \$21,000 Autumn Series 4YO and Older Final, out quickly for regular driver Ryan Warwick and into the lead, a quick 28.2 3<sup>rd</sup> qtr and held off a late challenge before winning by a neck in 1:57.4.

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

With 56 wins (33.9%) of the 165 races it was a welcome result for fillies and mares in April, following the less favourable results in the previous month. It takes the average for the first 4 months of the season to 33.2%, chasing the national target of 33.6% based on the 2024 season, and what we believe is an achievable target of 35%.

There were 48 individual fillies/mares winning during the month, with the leading sire being **Sweet Lou USA** with 5 winners of 6 races, followed by American Ideal USA with 4 winners of 4 races.

Westbred fillies/mares won 41 of the 56 races and earned \$505,000 in stakes plus \$161,000 in bonuses. The total stakes won by fillies and mares was \$684,000 and \$39,000 in Epona credits.

The number of first time (female) starters in April 2025 was 10, with the 4 month total sitting at 48.

Also numbering 10 was the number of first time filly/mare winners including 2yos **Altas Last** (Alta Christiano NZ), **Elraes Girl** (Captain Ahab USA) **The Sea Siren** (Downbytheseaside USA); 3yos **Spirited Whitby** (Betting Line USA), **Chekker** (Caribbean Blaster), **Luna Goddess** (Control The Moment USA), **Repossession** (Foreclosure NZ) and **Our Rich Cargo** (Sweet Lou USA); and 4yos **Frankensteinsbride** (Alta Christiano NZ) and **Snakey Bay** (Bonavista Bay).

Two of the first time winners were also dual winners for the month - **Elraes Girl** (Captain Ahab USA) and **Our Rich Cargo** (Sweet Lou USA). Other dual winning fillies/mares were **Alexandra The Great** (Follow The Stars), **Delulu** (Poster Boy), and **Remarkable Rock** (Rock N Roll World USA). Congratulations to the lucky connections of all those fillies and mares.

There were 4 2yo fillies races in the month, up from just the one 2yo fillies race in the previous month. Fillies won 4 of the 7 2yo races and provided 9 of the 23 starters, a drop from the previous month with lack of opportunity taking fillies out of work.

There were 21 3yo races run (6 for fillies), with fillies winning 10 3yo races and 2 others. Westbred fillies won 10 of the 12 races won by 3yo fillies. Fillies provided 48 (49%) of the 98 3yo starters.

Mares won 40 of the 131 races won by their age group. Although the same number of wins as in 2024, it's a much higher percentage but does show that this pool of horses needs improved opportunities to address the slide (down from 162 in April 2024 to 142 in April 2025) in the number of mares racing.

Compared to April 2024 (221) the total number of fillies and mares racing during April 2025 (199) reflects the lower number of mares racing, with 2yo and 3yo filly numbers very similar to the April 2024 figures. With concessions now applied for mares in many races, we hope these numbers will improve.

We do recommend that if you have comments to make on the features and lead up races, you should put suggestions through to [industryfeedback@rwwa.com.au](mailto:industryfeedback@rwwa.com.au) by 31 May 2025. We are continuing to ask for an extended racing calendar to enable owners and trainers to make sound financial decisions about the racing careers of their horses.

Fillies and mares won 9 (24.3%) of the 37 races run at Gloucester Park at premium meetings, as well as the \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge at Pinjarra and the \$30,000 2YO Fillies Westsired at Bunbury. There is room in the programming for a minimum of two races exclusively for fillies and/mares every Friday and we will be pushing for that to occur, rather than rely on concessions.

Winners included 5yo **Penny Black NZ (Sweet Lou USA)** who won the \$35,000 Listed Race for Roses to follow her win last month in the \$50,000 The Lombardo for Fillies and Mares, 2024 WA Oaks winner **Madam Publisher NZ (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** won a \$21,000 Pace, and 8yo **Nullarbor Navaho (Betterthancheddar USA)** won a \$25,000 NR85+ Mares. The remaining 6 WA bred filly/mare winners at premium meetings, along with the two feature race winners at Pinjarra and Bunbury were:

♥ **2yo El Raes Girl - Captain Ahab USA o/o Quick Sunrise NZ (Washington V C USA)** breeder David Simmonds, C Barr, having her 4<sup>th</sup> race start and already one win on the board. Started favourite from 4 with trainer driver Aiden de Campo, ambled out early before moving to the breeze after half a lap, moved to the lead around the 400m and just too classy, going on to win the \$30,000 2YO Fillies Westsired Classic and over \$33,000 for the winning connections with Bonuses;

♥ **3yo Fakenit - American Ideal USA** owner breeders the late Beth Richardson, Garry Ralston and Karen Hall. First foal from **Fake News (Alta Christiano NZ)** 1:52.7 \$177,412. Started odds on favourite from 4 with driver Gary Hall Jnr on board, slow out but wound up and went to the lead in a 35.5 opening with 2 laps to go, going well throughout to win the \$21,000 3YO Pace by 3.4m in 1:56.7 last qtr 27.6;

♥ **4yo Frankensteinsbride - Alta Christiano NZ o/o Ctheballerina NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** a very big group of connections for her first ever win. Started at 15/1 for trainer part owner Clinton Pearce and driver Kyle Harper, started quickly and keenly to be breezing, close to even time throughout, pulled her way to the front in the straight and a noteworthy win in the \$21,000 Autumn Series Maiden Final by 1.9m in 2:01.4, collecting over \$25,000 for the win!!!;



♥ **4yo Lion Queen - Control The Moment (USA) o/o Lilianna Beauty USA (Walton Hanover USA)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. Trying to catch up to her stablemate Water Lou after missing 18 months from her 2yo and 3yo career. Started favourite from 7 after a scratching with driver Shannon Suvaljko, settled last from the barrier, followed a 3 wide move with a lap and a bit to go and 4 wide down the back, rounded the home turn in 3<sup>rd</sup> and finished strongly to overcome the race leaders and win the \$21,000 4YO and Older Mares by 3.3m in 1:56.3, last qtrs 28.2 and 28.7;

♥ **6yo Little Darling - Art Major USA o/o Fay Darling NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** owner breeders Howlett Breeding and Racing P/L. Second win for the connections on the night. A great finish a fortnight earlier. Two starts later started at 15/1 from 8 driven by Chris Lewis and just like the earlier winner Belly Up from 8, settled a good last over the 2536m while major contenders battled out front in a solid lead. Still last but starting a fast forward move with 500 to go, 6 wide coming to the home turn and despite being "too far back" absolutely flew home in the straight to grab the win in the \$75,000 Group 2 Empress Stakes by 1.1m in 1:56.5 with a personal last half of 56.1;

♥ **4yo Princess Katie - Vincent o/o Rocknroll Dreams (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** breeder Karnup Racing Pty Ltd, going well this season. Won a \$21,000 M0 Mares, aka 0W/15K, in 1:56.8 in March. Two places and 5 starts later started favourite from outside the backline in 11 with Gary Hall Jnr, settled last in the moving line, solidly run middle qtrs in 28.8 and 28.5, still last but very wide with 600m to go, 6 wide and 6<sup>th</sup> into the straight and gradually worked to the front over the final stages to win the \$14,000 King-Lethbridge Memorial Westbred Mares Pace by a half head in 1:56.7;

♥ **3yo Ruby Lou - Sweet Lou USA o/o Betshes Precious (Bettors Delight USA)** breeder KTC Bloodstock Second APG Yearling Sale winner on the night for the Mike Reed Shannon Suvaljko combination, started favourite from 3, straight to the lead then slowed the pace, increased the speed down the back acquitting herself very well amongst the older horses, well clear into the straight and going away to win the \$21,000 NR 50 to 80 by 5.1m in 1:57.4, last qtrs 28.2, 28.1;

♥ **6yo Wonderful To Fly - Fly Like An Eagle o/o Not Now Delilah (Allamerican Ingot USA)** breeder Kevin and Annette Charles. Over \$800,000 in earnings. Started 12/1 from 1 with trainer driver Shane Young, happy to surrender the lead with some slick early speed and 3<sup>rd</sup> on the pegs with 1400 to go, into the one wide in the back and 4<sup>th</sup> with an opening coming to the home turn, lengths to catch up but flew home in a personal 27.8 final qtr to win the \$31,000 FFA in 1:55.9.

Westbreds share of the female racing population in April 2025 was 80%, while Westbred 2yo fillies contributed 100% and 3yo fillies 90%. Overall fillies and mares provided 33.6% of the racing population in the month, while winning 20% of the stakes. Excluding the Nullarbor, the percentage of stakes won by fillies and mares is 32.6%. What a difference one race makes.



## SUPPORT THE COMPANIES THAT SUPPORT YOU

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

- ♣ **Alabar Farms (03) 5859 2201;**
- ♣ **Allwood Stud Farm, Bullsbrook 9571 3777;**
- ♣ **Australian Pacing Gold (03) 5275 1999;**
- ♣ **Bells Pacing Stable, Baskerville 0423 381 916**
- ♣ **Budget Stockfeeds, Oakford 9397 1659;**
- ♣ **KTC Bloodstock 0413 669 474;**
- ♣ **Larkhill Vets Port Kennedy 9295 3838;**
- ♣ **Milne Feeds, Welshpool 9351 0700;**
- ♣ **Northern Rivers Equine (03) 5852 2845;**
- ♣ **Grange Bloodstock Services, 0413 056 364**
- ♣ **Ramsays Horse Transport, 9277 5779;**
- ♣ **Tourello Standardbreds 0412 287 024**
- ♣ **Westbred Pacing 0435 059 777;**
- ♣ **Woodlands Stud (freecall) 1800 615 143;**

## YOUR COMMITTEE

**We do have a vacancy.!**

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, have experience you believe is relevant, want to contribute to a Committee position involving meetings and undertaking various projects even though you may be time poor, please forward a brief profile to the **WASBA Secretary**.

President	Jeanine Diederich	M: 0407 383 256	Committee	Pat Borg	M: 0433 331 087
Vice President and Treasurer	Howard King	M: 0418 207 079	Committee	Joe Schaper	M: 0409 101 540
Secretary		M: 0447 053 040	Committee	Joy Fletcher	M 0417 980 302
		<a href="mailto:info@wasba.com.au">info@wasba.com.au</a>	Committee	Luke Tabbakh	M 0423 299 240
Committee	Michael Holtham	M: 0421 331 586	Committee	Wayne Morrision	M 0416 093 294
Committee	Vacant		Committee	John Coffey	M: 0418 500 211

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)

**And Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbredBreedersAssociation>

*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 **30 April 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.
- 🏆 OR you can PM us on facebook or use Messenger to get in touch.

***Go Harness racing!***