An Introduction to Tasmanian Breeding

AHEAD OF THE YEARLING SALE ON FEBRUARY 15

AUSHORSE • TASBREEDERS
Dear Reader,

On behalf of TasBreeders welcome to our brochure on the Tasmanian breeding industry. Here on the Apple Isle we are proud of the way we raise our horses in a fantastic environment that gives each animal the opportunity to develop naturally. As well as the horses that have performed at the highest level, such as Mongolian Khan and Palentino, our upcoming yearling sale consistently produces tough, sound horses that we believe you will be happy to own or train.

This year we are also excited to announce our new TasBred bonus scheme, which we believe will prove a massive boost to our racing and breeding. From next season some 72 local races will carry a bonus of $20,000 if the winner is registered for TasBred. In addition, we will host a two-year-old and three-year-old race for $50,000 which is restricted to locally bred runners that have been nominated for the scheme.

We also appreciate how important our interstate buyers are to breeders here, so any horse which is sired by a Tasmanian stallion and registered for TasBred will, if it is taken to Victoria, receive bonuses.

The Cleaner, the best horse Burles has trained and right up there with Malua, Sydeston, Mongolian Khan, Piping Lane and Palentino as one of Tasmania’s best, was born on one of Armidale’s hilly slopes.

“Tasmania punches above its weight, particularly in the world of thoroughbred racing and breeding. Relative to horse and breeding population, no state produces more Group One winners, highlighted in recent seasons by Mongolian Khan’s wins in the ATC Australian Derby and Caulfield Cup and two-time Flemington Group One hero Palentino.

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“Tasmania has some of the most fertile land in Australia and the climate is more temperate and cooler than mainland Australia,” he said.
Tassie born and bred

The day The Cleaner left Longford for a second tilt at the Cox Plate, there was a town parade. Mountain men rode into town and joined locals and visitors who lined the streets as The Cleaner was floated to Devonport to be bundled onto the ferry for the mainland.

The Cleaner finished down the track that year, 2015, just as he had the previous year but his inability to win Australia’s greatest weight-for-age race did not diminish from his towering achievements both at home and across Bass Strait.

The Cleaner cost Nick Burles just $10,000 at the 2010 Tasmanian Magic Millions yearling sale, only one year after a client of David and Scott Brunton paid just $2100 for a colt who would later become Banca Mo.

The Cleaner would win two straight Dato Tan Chin Nam Stakes’ at Moonee Valley – among other feature wins, including a JRA Cup – and $1.3 million in stakes-money.

Banca Mo would win the Mornington, Warrnambool and Pakenham Cups and net $812,000.

The Cleaner’s trail to Melbourne, via float and boat before being temporarily housed at a harness racing stable near Tullamarine airport, was probably unique but The Cleaner was no trail blazer.

Tasmanian horses have been winning big races on the mainland for over a century.

As The Cleaner prepared for that second Cox Plate bid, it was debated if he was both Tasmania’s most popular-ever racehorse, and it’s greatest.

He had stiff competition. Banca Mo, for one, wasn’t far inferior, a tough, enduring stayer who, like The Cleaner, was a prime example of Tasmania’s reputation for producing horses with depth and constitution.

Being Melbourne Cup winners, Piping Lane, Sheet Anchor and Malua are the most famous horses bred in Tasmania. Piping Lane was trained by the legendary Ray Trinder – father of Michael, grandfather of Adam – before being transferred to George Hanlon, who trained him to win the 1972 Cup.

Malua was the quintessential Tasmanian horse, so tough and versatile that he won the Oakleigh Plate, Newmarket Handicap and Melbourne Cup all in the same season (1884), a year before Sheet Anchor provided Tassie with consecutive wins in our greatest race, and four years before Malua won the Grand National Hurdle.

Sydeston might well be the best-ever Tasmanian-bred; a near-champion in a mainland era of champions.

As son of champion Tasmanian sire St. Briavels, Sydeston won 19 of his 65 starts and over $3.3 million.

He was an early 1990s contemporary of Super Impose and Better Loosen Up whose wins include the 1990 Caulfield Cup, as well as a Sandown Cup, BMW, Liston Stakes and Caulfield Stakes.

Historian Rhett Kirkwood rated Sydeston as second only to Malua as the greatest-ever Tasmanian horse.

Beer Street was a top-class Tasmanian of the 1960s and in more recent times horses such as Alpha (Caulfield Guineas), Bow Mistress (Liston Stakes), Lady Lynette (14 wins, over $1 million), Weasel Will (dual MV Waterford Mile winner) and Palentino, a former $85,000 Magic Millions graduate who won the Australian Guineas and Mahayke Diva Stakes, have flown the Tassie flag.

Mongolian Khan, a stallion that brought an international flavor to the Caulfield Cup when winning for Kiwi trainer Murray Baker and Chinese owners Rider Horse Group, is another recent star for Tasmania.

Recent graduates of the local Magic Millions sale have become successful on both sides of the Bass Strait.

Local stallion Needs Further beat his much heralded first-season rivals Pierro and All Too Hard to sire a stakes winner. "Local stallion Needs Further beat his much heralded first-season rivals Pierro and All Too Hard to sire a stakes winner."

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OTHER SUCCESSFUL MAGIC MILLIONS TASMANIA YEARLING SALE GRADUATES IN RECENT YEARS

 Jerildorie Letter Sold to Adam Trinder for $11,000 in 2014, won the Tasmanian Guineas/Derby double.
 Smart Coupe Sold to Matthew Ellioton & Simon Zahra for $22,000 in 2016, Sandown winner over 1000m.
 Hot Dipped Sold to Brendan McShane for $33,000 in 2015, winner of 8 from 13 starts, including Tasmanian Guineas & Strutt Stakes.
 Banca Mo Sold to Terry O’Sullivan for $14,000 in 2013, Moonee Valley winner of 4 races and $274,000 in Victoria.
 Like A Carousel Sold to Ken Keys for $10,000 in 2011, Winner of 10 races including the Swanerton Stud Lord Stakes and $706,000.
 Genuine Lad Sold to Robert Smerdon for $6000 in 2012, Winner of the Launceston Cup and $286,000.
 Kenjarwood Purchased for $41,000 in 2011 and sent to Darren Weir, Winner of 10 races including the Swettenham Stud Lord Stakes and $706,000.
 Royal Rapture Purchased for $16,000 in 2011 and sent to Darren Weir, Flemington winner of 15 races and $578,000.

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NEW TASBRED SCHEME

Eligibility: Horses can be enrolled in the scheme if they meet the following criteria:

Category A
The horse is by a stallion that resides in Tasmania

Category B
The horse’s dam visits a Tasmanian sire a year after visiting a mainland stallion, and

Category C
The horse is raised in Tasmania.

A minimum of 72 Tasmanian races per season will carry a bonus of $20,000 for registered winners. 80 per cent of the bonus will go to the winning owner and 20 per cent to the breeder.

The Tasbred scheme will match SuperVOBIS bonuses (Excl VOBISGold Scheme) for any Tasmanian sired horse that wins a SuperVOBIS race in Victoria under the eligibility of Category A.

Each season there will be a $50,000 race for both two year-olds and three year-olds restricted to TasBred registered horses.

TasBreeders are excited to announce a new breeders’ incentive scheme which we believe will be a huge boost to the Thoroughbred industry in the state.

The scheme will see some 72 local races carry bonuses of $20,000 for eligible horses. This means that a winner of such a race will earn a minimum of $30,000 once the bonus is added.

“We appreciate that prizemoney is vital to the health of our industry and keeping owners involved and the new TasBred program gives people a chance to pick up a big cheque in our local races,” said TasBreeders president, Jenny Watson.

“When you include the bonus, horses will be running for prizemoney well in excess of country races in Victoria and we believe this will encourage owners to support locally produced yearlings.”

In addition to the 72 bonus races, there will be a two year-old and three year-old race – each worth $50,000 – restricted to eligible horses.

We also recognise that buyers from the mainland – particularly Victoria – are crucial to ensuring breeders get a return for their product, as well as doing a great job by showcasing our horses in one of the most vibrant racing jurisdictions in the world.

Because of this, we have worked with TasRacing to put in place a condition whereby any Tasmanian Sired horse which is eligible for our scheme will also receive bonuses as if it were registered for SuperVOBIS. To clarify, if you buy a Tasmanian Sired and TasBred registered horse and it wins a SuperVOBIS race then the TasBred Scheme will pay you the bonus as if your horse was in the Victorian scheme.

“Our aim was to really try to encourage the breeding industry down here – we believe we’ve got a good thing but this will really be a big incentive for buying our horses,” said David Whishaw of Armidale Stud.

“There has been a trend of trainers and owners choosing to buy a tried horse from the mainland to race on our tracks, but this scheme makes it financially much more attractive to buy locally. We hope that increasing demand for our horses and having more of them broken-in and pre-trained here will put more money into the local economy and create more horse related jobs.”

TasRacing chief executive Vaughn Lynch said he was extremely pleased with the scheme and the benefits it would ultimately deliver.

“When you consider that eligible horses will be running for a $20,000 bonus (in a bonus race) on top of the prizemoney already on offer, these races are worth winning,” he said.

He also stated that a healthy breeding industry was a must for the Tasmanian racing industry.

“Providing incentives for the breeding industry in the state is important to ensure the local breeding industry can continue to be the major supplier of racing stock,” he said.

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There are three criteria which allow a horse to be registered for the scheme: if a horse is Tasmanian sired, is from a dam who visits a Tasmanian sire a year after visiting a mainland sire and, finally, if it is Tasmanian reared. The nomination costs are $440, $880 and $1320 respectively.

TasBreeders / AUSHORSE

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When it comes to commercial standing there is nobody who would confuse Tasmania’s breeding scene with the Hunter Valley.

We don’t have the biggest industry and there is certainly an upper limit to what local mare owners are willing to spend on service fees,” explains Armidale Stud’s David Whishaw.

But that has not stopped Whishaw and fellow stalwart of the Tasmanian industry, Greame McCulloch of Grenville Stud, from reinvesting in new bloodlines. Last breeding season both Grenville and Armidale introduced exciting prospects with Lionhearted and Alpine Eagle.

Lionhearted boasts one of the finest pedigrees in the Stud Book, being a 3/4 brother to leading Victorian sire Magnus, and being a half brother to Helsinge, the dam of the champion mare Black Caviar and All Too Hard.

Meanwhile had the electric Alpine Eagle lunged and won the 2015 Australian Guineas, instead of running a narrow second to Wandjina, the son of High Chaparral won the 2015 Australian Guineas, instead of running a narrow second to Wandjina, the son of High Chaparral.

The grandson of two of the world’s greatest sires (Mr Prospector and Nijinsky) would have proven too expensive for studs on the mainland. But champion – and now promising sire – All Too Hard in the Group One Doomben Cup, that was narrowly defeated in top-level company by All Too Hard. He has meanwhile had the electric Alpine Eagle lunged and won the 2015 Australian Guineas, instead of running a narrow second to Wandjina, the son of High Chaparral.

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NEEDS FURTHER

Needs Further’s first crop included star filly Patena Arena, winner of the Elwick and Gold Sovereign Stakes and already two of his second crop youngsters, Triple Strip and Mystic Journey, have hit the ground running, winning on debut in Tasmania prior to Christmas last year.

It’s little surprise the popular sire has a staggering 22 youngsters to go under the hammer at the upcoming Magic Millions sale. Needs Further retired to Armidale Stud in 2013 after a highly promising career on the mainland, which saw him post three victories, including the Carbine Club Stakes (1600m) at Randwick, from just five starts.

He is a son of Encosta De Lago out of former Golden Slipper winner-up Crowned Glory, dam of the 2014 Golden Rose Stakes winner Hallowed Crown. Needs Further’s yearlings sold up to $90,000 and averaged $26,421 at the 2017 Tasmanian Magic Millions yearling sale.

MAWINGO

The second season sire will be represented by 16 yearlings at the sale. Imported from Germany (where he was a Group Three winner) and trained by Anthony Freedman, Mawingo showed his class by winning the Group One Doomben Cup (2000m), but he also had a stunning turn of foot, beating all but champion – and now promising sire – All Too Hard in the CF Orr Stakes (1400m).

“He showed amazing speed and with any luck at all should have won” – Jockey Craig Williams after the Orr, where victory was narrowly defeated in top-level company by All Too Hard. He has meanwhile had the electric Alpine Eagle lunged and won the 2015 Australian Guineas, instead of running a narrow second to Wandjina, the son of High Chaparral.

Mawingo is a son of globetrotting Tertullian, a winner of Group races in three countries. A son of Miswaki, Tertullian is a ½ brother to legendary race and broodmare Urban Sea, winner of the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe and dam of champion racehorses and outstanding stallions Sea The Stars and Galileo.

His first crop of yearlings sold for up to $180,000.

TOUGH SPEED

One of the leading European milers of his generation, Tough Speed has become one of the great Tasmanian sires; as of January, his 141 individual runners had yielded 83 winners (winners to runners 59%), including 4 stakes winners, most notably Banca Mo. Other progeny include Black ‘n’ Tough (Listed Newmarket Handicap), Lyle (Tasmanian Guineas) and Tough Chik (Sturt Stakes).

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He is represented by 10 yearlings at the Magic Millions sale and is the sire of current local Cup favourite Speed Force.

WORDSMAITH

Wordsmith was a successful racehorse, winning The Debonair (Group Three 1200m) and running third in the Sandown Guineas (Group Two 1600m), but he has been a sensation at stud.

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The Tasmanian yearling sale may not challenge many of Australia’s biggest sales in terms of dollars grossed or average prices, but it has built a reputation for outstanding value. And it is this reputation which each year brings a group of buyers who do buy at the most expensive auctions to also make their way to Launceston.

**SIMON ZAHRA**
“When you buy horses in Tasmania, they all seem to get to the races; they’re reared well, they’re not over-fed, they don’t deflate once you get them home from the sales; basically they’re tough, sound horses.

“I love going down there buying horses; the sale is fantastic, great value. If you like one there doesn’t seem to be as much competition as other sales. We bought Smart Coupe down there for $22,000 and we’ve had others as well. We were actually the under-bidder for Palentino. There are some really nice horses down there.”

**KEN KEYS**
“I’ve had a lot of success out of Tassie; I like the horses. They’re not over-prepared for yearling sales. They’re naturally grown and that tends to make them more sound for their racing careers. It means you get some longevity out of them. They’re very professional down there. I reckon I’ve probably had a half a dozen stakes horses out of Tasmania. Mallow Chateau was bought on the mainland but was born there. She was a Group Two winner. First Course came from there, Like A Carousel. Good, tough, inexpensive horses.”

**SI* TERRY O’SULLIVAN**
“They’re a bit tougher, I reckon, the Tassie horses. They’re patiently reared.

“You get some horses home from mainland sales and they fall apart because they’re too pampered, but you bring a Tassie horse back and you put them in the paddock and they thrive.

“I’ve had quite a few nice Tasmanian horses: Dandy Gent, Happy As Hell – both tough stayers. Bunchloch has been in town but he’s won the Hamilton, Murtoa and Colac Cup. There’s always good Tassie horses coming here (Victoria) and winning; blazes like Scott and Dave Brunton and Adam Trinder always have a nice horse that comes here and takes our money.”

**DENISE MARTIN**
“Tasmanian breeders produce strong, sound horses which over recent years have performed at the highest level of competition. From a relatively small foal crop, Group winners including Palentino, Mongolian Khan and The Cleaner have been reared in the state; an outstanding record for a small breeding community. The Tasmanian Magic Millions yearling sale has traditionally been one of the great value sales on the calendar each year. It’s the perfect sale to find an inexpensive good quality yearling.”

**DARREN WEIR**
“I’ve had a lot of luck down there. Lake Sententia was a really good horse, more from Tasmania, and of-course Palentino. Kenjorwood and Royal Rapture weren’t bought by me they came from down there and I was lucky enough to get them to train.

“I don’t really know the secret but there are some really nice farms in Tassie and some pretty smart breeders. There’s no doubt a good horse can be born and raised in Tasmania. I’ll be back there for the Magic Millions sale and I’ll be looking to bring a couple home.”