

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 for winning SuperVOBIS nominated races. With this incentive it now means that nearly all horses in the Tasmanian sale, which will be held on February 15, are eligible for state bonus schemes.

We hope this brochure gives you a good understanding of what makes our horses special and we look forward to seeing you here soon.

Warm regards,

JENNY WATSON
PRESIDENT, TASBREEDERS

Breeding by nature

In a newspaper article in 2016, Tasmanian trainer Mick Burles was asked the secret to Longford's knack of producing notable horses and humans.

Two rivers, the Lake and South Esk, meet at the town bridge, which is located in the Meander Valley, a short drive south-west of Launceston and just south of Tasmania's most storied stud, Armidale.

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.

"There must be a fair bit of electricity in the water. That's what some reckon," Burles said to explain the success of horses born in the Meander Valley, a list that includes The Cleaner, Caulfield Cup winner Mongolian Khan, born at nearby Grenville Stud, Palentino, and even champion pacer Beautide.

There are many rivers in Tasmania and they must be "electric" too because Australia's smallest state is also its most fertile. 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.

From a band of just eight broodmares, Jenny Watson bred Palentino, winner of the 2016 Australian Guineas and Makybe Diva Stakes. The flashy colt, who was "just striking right from the word go" according to Watson, was sold for \$85,000 at Tasmania's 2014 Magic Millions sale.

The secret to Tasmania's success is in the pasture, the hills, the climate, Watson says. Armidale's David Whishaw and Graeme McCulloch, owner of Grenville Stud, agree.

"We breed really good, tough, sound racehorses that can race at the highest level," Watson said.

Whishaw said four generations of family commitment is a key to the decades-long success of Armidale – but the setting is key.

"Tasmania has some of the most fertile land in Australia and the climate is more temperate and cooler than mainland Australia," he said.



"It's more like Ireland or New Zealand. Horses here do very well, they're probably slightly slower-maturing, they have plenty of "bone" and are normally very sound.

"The stats don't lie. We might not have the best genetics down here but we must be doing something right. We're punching well above our weight."

Tasmania's leading trainer Scott Brunton said successful horses have been bred not just in one particularly fertile pocket, but "from north to south."

The state's two leading commercial studs, however, are both in the north, just southwest of Launceston.

Armidale is currently host to Alpine Eagle, Needs Further and Tough Speed and Grenville, just a handful of kilometres to the west, is home to Lionhearted and Mawingo.

Freshman sires Alpine Eagle and Lionhearted are arguably the best-performed, best-bred prospects to have embarked on stud careers on the Apple Isle.

The land that surrounds both farms is lush and hilly. The climate, as Whishaw says, is more like Ireland, one of the world's great thoroughbred nurseries.

"It's fantastic country to rear horses and I think that's our biggest asset."

McCulloch says Tasmanian horses are "a bit tougher."

"It's fantastic country to rear horses and I think that's our biggest asset. It's probably not broadcast enough, really, that our country we rear out horses on enables us to breed tough, sound horses down here in Tasmania."

Brunton, who trains on the endless Seven Mile Beach not far from the Hobart international airport, says Mother Nature has been kind to Tasmania, which has been vital in its status as the breeding world's mouse that roared.

"We've got a beautiful thing going on down here in Tassie," he said.



Malua



Hot Dipped



Banca Mo



Palentino



The Cleaner

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 Mick Bures 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.



Mongolian Khan

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

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 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.

OTHER SUCCESSFUL MAGIC MILLIONS TASMANIA YEARLING SALE GRADUATES IN RECENT YEARS

Jerilderie Letter Sold to Adam Trinder for \$11,000 in 2014, won the Tasmanian Guineas/Derby double.

Smart Coupe Sold to Matthew Ellerton & Simon Zahra for \$22,000 in 2016, Sandown winner over 1200m.

Hot Dipped Sold to Brendan McShane for \$33,000 in 2015, winner of 8 from 13 starts, including Tasmanian Guineas & Strutt Stakes.

Dandy Gent Sold to Terry O'Sullivan for \$14,000 in 2013, Moonee Valley winner of 4 races and \$274,000 in Victoria.

Genuine Lad Sold to Robert Smerdon for \$6000 in 2012, Winner of the Launceston Cup and \$286,000.

Kenjorwood Purchased for \$41,000 in 2011 and sent to Darren Weir, Winner of 10 races including the Swettenham Stud Lord Stakes and \$706,000.

Like A Carousel Sold to Ken Keys for \$10,000 in 2011, Winner of 2017 Pakenham Cup and \$660,000.

Pateena Arena Sold to William Ryan for \$22,000 in 2016, multiple stakeswinner in Tasmania with \$180,000.

Royal Rapture Purchased for \$16,000 in 2011 and sent to Darren Weir, Flemington winner of 15 races and \$578,000.

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 Makybe 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 when his daughter Pateena Arena, a 2016 sale graduate, won the Elwick Stakes.

Two of last year's graduates by the exciting young sire, Triple Strip (sold for \$30,000 to Mathew Bosworth) and Mystic Journey (\$11,000 to Adam Trinder), are already debut juvenile winners to help Needs Further maintain that momentum.

Bonus to be a benefit for breeders

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.

"When you include the bonus, horses will be running for prizemoney well in excess of country races in Victoria.."

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.

"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.

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.

Bonuses: 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.



Star power

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 Helsing, 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 would have proven too expensive for studs on the Apple Isle.

Another who joins the list of promising young Tasmanian stallions is Mawingo, a German-bred winner of the Group One Doomben Cup, that was narrowly defeated in top-level company by All Too Hard. He has his first yearlings at this Magic Millions sale.

Meanwhile locals sires are already producing the goods: Wordsmith has proved a revelation, and his owners have fielded offers from mainland studs for the son of Testa Rossa whose winners to runners ratio stands at almost 70 per cent.

Armidale's Needs Further has also made a more than promising start to his second career by being the first stallion from his generation to sire a stakes winning juvenile (ahead of Pierro and All Too Hard) and following up with a flow of winners.



NEEDS FURTHER

Needs Further's first crop included star filly Pateena 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 runner-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 may have seen him priced out of Tasmania.

Mawingo is a son of globe-trotting Tertullian, a winner of Group races in three countries. A son of Miswaki, Tertullian is a ¾ 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 includes Black 'n' Tough (Listed Newmarket Handicap), Lyell (Tasmanian Guineas) and Tough Chik (Strutt Stakes)

The grandson of two of the world's greatest sires (Mr Prospector and Nijinsky) won the Park Stakes (Group Three) and ran third in the prestigious Queen Anne Stakes (Group Two) at Royal Ascot and earned a Timeform rating of 123.

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



WORDSMITH

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.

Paul and Elizabeth Geard, who stand Wordsmith and race the swarms of Tasmania's "Gee Gees" horses, paid just \$26,000 for Wordsmith at the conclusion of his racing career. “We got him by chance,” Paul Geard said.

From initially small books of mares, Wordsmith has become Tasmania's dominant sire. The stats are phenomenal; almost 70 per cent winners to runners – “unheard of,” Geard says – and six to seven per cent stakes winners to runners. “I know there have been some good stallions in Tasmania but none has come up to that (statistical performance),” he said.

His best progeny include Geegees Golden Girl (Strutt Stakes, Tasmanian Oaks), Gee Gees Top Notch (10 wins, Elwick Stakes, Tasmanian Stakes), Geegees Classicboy (Tasmanian Derby) and Geegees Double Dee (Carbine Club Plate).

Wordsmith is represented by 16 yearlings at the Magic Millions sale.

SHOW STOPPERS

Magic Millions' Tim Brown lists his star lots at the sale from a catalogue which includes progeny of WRITTEN TYCOON, STARSPANGLED BANNER, DUNDEEL, EPAULETTE AND TORONADO.

LOT 4 Chestnut filly

War-Whitemore Dynasty,
dam of three-time winner Sentinel

LOT 7 Bay colt

Smart Missile-Zarifa,
unraced half-sister to Group 3 winner Nayeli

Lot 10 Bay colt

Needs Further – Abbadena, multiple stakes winner and dam of HK Group 3 winner & Group One placed Packing Ok.

Lot 15 Bay colt

Needs Further – Backwhereibelong,
winner of 7 races and dam of Shelley Beach Road.

LOT 21 Bay colt

Mawingo-California Wish,
winner of 6 races and half-sister to Jerilderie Letter

LOT 33 Bay colt

Fighting Sun-Crystal Castles,
closely related to Group 3 winner Viminaria

LOT 36 Bay colt

Dundeel-Dineeta,
closely related to stakes winner Cathay Lady

Lot 49 Chestnut colt

Starspangledbanner – Gathering Gold,
winner of 5 races.

LOT 52 Bay colt

Reward For Effort-Grisbi,
dam of Havana Stash and Grisbi's Run

LOT 61 Brown colt

Anacheeva-Jeune de Couer,
winner of 8 races from 1100m to 1600m

LOT 75 Bay colt

Magnus-Morell,
half-sister to 8 time winner and stakes placed Royal Work

LOT 113 Black filly

Cluster-Speedy Sky,
stakes placed winner of 6 races

LOT 121 Brown filly

Wordsmith-Tap It In, winner of 6 and half-sister to Macau stakes winner Club House

Lot 130 Bay or Brown filly

Needs Further – Tycoon Sali, winner and half-sister to Group Three winner, Group One placed Bank Robber.

Testimonials

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."



DARREN WEIR

"I've had a lot of luck down there. Lake Sententia was a really good mare 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."



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 had probably a half a dozen stakes horses out of Tasmania. Mellow 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."



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 hasn't won in town but he's won the Hamilton, Murtoa and Colac Cup. There's always good Tassie horses coming here (Victoria) and winning; blokes 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."





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