



NEWSLETTER

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ANZAC DAY 25 April

On Anzac Day we reflect on the sacrifices made by many, both old and young, some of whom returned and some who didn't. Perhaps on the day we can all take a quiet moment to reflect on the brave men, women and animals including horses, donkeys and dogs that gave up their lives so that we could live ours. Some of our own WA bred Standardbreds went to war, and never returned home.

As we go about our lives with the difficulties currently being experienced, let us not forget how we got to be in this fortunate country.



Lest We Forget

The Pinjarra meeting this coming Monday is on Anzac Day as is our WASBA King-Lethbridge Memorial Westbred Mares Pace. The Light Horse will also be at the meeting. Time to say hello, and thank you.

2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES



2yo	\$25,000 Western Crown 17 June – separate divisions for fillies and colts/geldings
3yo	3YO Pearl Classic Heat 3 May, \$50,000 Final 13 May 3YO Diamond Classic Heat 10 May, \$50,000 Final 20 May
Mares	\$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge Memorial 25 April at Pinjarra \$30,000 Laurie Kennedy Race For Roses 29 April (Standing Start) \$50,000 WASBA Breeders Stakes 6 May \$30,000 Harry Capararo 4YO/5YO Westbred Mares 3 June (non Group winners) \$30,000 The Lombardo 24 June
Westbreds	\$50,000 APG Consolation 4YO - APG graduates (includes Eastern States eligible)

2022 Ladies of Pacing Awards

The Award function will be held on Thursday 5 May. Unfortunately nominations have closed, but hopefully your nomination has been put forward by someone else and is in the running for an award. The categories remain the same as previous years – Leadership, Welfare, Dedication to Harness Racing and Administration.

This will be the third year for the awards, with last year's winners of those awards being Skye Bond, Shari Lindo, Denise Trobe and Jenna Saunders (from the Central Wheatbelt Club). Good luck to all this year's nominees.

Snippets from the USA and Canada..

☑ **Shoobee Doo (Shoobees Place USA)** won on the opening night harness racing card at Harrington Raceway in 1:51.2, leading all the way for his 27th career win and surpassing \$300,000 in career earnings.

☑ **Amazing Dream (Bettors Delight USA)** won on debut at the Meadowlands in the \$31,500 Mares Open Pace, first half mile in 56.2 and winning by two and one-quarter lengths in 1:51.1.



✚ Winbak Farm was heartbroken to lose 26yo mare and 2009 USHWA Trotting Broodmare of the Year, **Yankee Blondie** (American Winner USA) during April, following colic. Yankee Blondie was the dam of Muscle Hill 1:50.1 \$3,266,835 (2009 USHWA and O'Brien Horse of the Year, USHWA 2-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year, Dan Patch and O'Brien 3-Year-Old Trotting Colt of the Year), World champion and winner of 20 races including the Hambletonian. Winbak Farm retains and maintains all their elite broodmare matrons without exception.

☑ A 5 year contract has been signed to bring harness racing to the Arizona Downs thoroughbred racetrack

☑ Food for thought – Northfield Park run an “Iron Maiden” Series, separated into male/female Ohio bred. Something similar in our terms would be Westbred non winners of metropolitan stakes races since a set date, or stake earnings less than a set amount over that period, for \$8,500 Heats and a \$20,000 Final. I am sure we could come up with something.

And New Zealand...

✚ Vale **Live Or Die USA** at Nevele Stud. Another of the elder statesmen who have been invaluable to the breeding heritage of Australia and New Zealand. His best performers are numerous, led by millionaire and Miracle Mile winner Divisive, dual NZ Cup winner Just An Excuse, Hunter Cup winner Bondy, Fremantle Cup winner Power Of Tara. As a broodmare sire his best are up with the best in the world – Shartin, Terror To Love and Copy That.

☑ Definitely an exceptional effort. The New Zealand slot race, “The Race by Grins”, took place at Cambridge Raceway on April 14, 2022, for a stake of NZ\$900,000, completely funded by the 10 slot holders (who have purchased their slot for 3 years at \$75,000 per year) and the Cambridge Trotting Club who are providing the other NZ\$150,000 with sponsorship also coming from Grins.

What a great race, with late comers to the field being the Australian bred Majestic Cruiser (Art Major USA), who replaced Spellbound (paddock injury), Alta Orlando NZ, Spankem NZ and Mach Dan.

As is the way with New Zealand racing, the lead changed several times over the 2200m and those with the early lead were left mid field. New Zealand champion and favourite Self Assured (Bettors Delight USA) won from Majestic Cruiser – a terrific effort given the late arrival and ordinary barrier, but all credit to the winner who went to the line in great order rating 1:55.1 last half 56.8 over 2200m. A great pick by the Slot Holders. The last placed horse was only 8.5m from the winner - a credit to the whole field and the New Zealanders.



Self Assured NZ is a half brother to Caviar Star NZ (Betterthancheddar USA). This is the ultimate NZ family of the present, being the family of many of the very best horses and dams including the great Lazarus NZ 1:48.8 \$4,125,988.

The dam of Majestic Cruiser is not to be underrated either, being the dam of another Group 1 winner in Bus To Harland (Safely Kept USA).

Vale Village Jasper....

The champion sire of Australia in 2008/09 and 2009/10 passed away at Alabar Farms where he had been spending his retirement days. He was just short of 28 years of age. By Jate Lobell USA from an Abercrombie USA mare, he set the track record in winning the 1997 3YO Breeders Crown. In one season of racing he won 14 times from 30 starts and earned over \$1 million. Remember this is 1997.

He came to Australia in 1999 after being purchased outright following an accident while breeding in the northern hemisphere in 1998. He recovered fully and it was a great shot in the arm for breeding in Australia.

He sired 771 Australian bred winners who have won nearly \$41 million and 17 Group 1 races, as well as 103 NZ winners. He has the incredible record of 60.2% starters to foals. As a broodmare sire his earnings are over \$23 million. His mares have produced very well with the stallion Sportswriter USA with a 3x3 Jate Lobell cross the result.

In retirement, Village Jasper occasionally "worked" as a baby sitter for some of the Alabar weanlings when not enjoying the paddock with best buddy Presidential Ball USA. This is another big loss for Alabar, with Safely Kept USA passing at age 31 in 2020. Like their other great horses, Village Jasper will be laid to rest amongst many other champions at Alabar like Safely Kept, who coincidentally was by Jate Lobell from an Abercrombie mare.

Alabar Bloodstock have, like Hanover in the US, shown enormous respect for their retired greats and looked after them for life. Alabar has a policy of gelding its stallions upon retirement from breeding to enable them to remain on farm and enjoy a relaxed lifestyle in their twilight years. This is how it should be, but it needs to be said it is not always the case. Congratulations to Alabar and thanks, for being the kind of organization that we can look up to, an organization that has looked after their champions and even the not so special horses, without question.

RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ A new million dollar earner – congratulations to Vultan Tin - who won most of his money as an aged (4yo and older) gelding - and the Costellos;
- ♣ The Race is here to stay. Well done to the New Zealand Harness Racing body;
- ♣ Terrific effort by Australian bred Majestic Crusier to arrive in NZ days before The Race and take on world class horses while starting from barrier 9 of 9. Well done to his trainer and driver
- ♣ US stallion Dancin Lou USA (Sweet Lou USA) will stand in Queensland following the success of their Qbred Bonus system. That isn't to say they have a better bonus (maximum earnings are \$21,000), just better sold.



BREEDER OF THE MONTH – March 2022

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.

Last month it was a Westsired 3yo gelding who earned the award for his breeder, and this month it is also a Westsired 3yo gelding, except that this one is a home bred raced by his breeder.

Its **congratulations** to our **Breeder of the Month** for **March 2022**, **Joy Fletcher's Lancaster Lodge**, as the breeder of 3yo gelding **Infinite Sign (Indomitable Saab)**.

Infinite Sign commenced racing as a 2yo 12 months ago and managed a second from 5 starts. After 9 months and 1 trial, he stepped out in March as a very short priced favourite for Team Bond with Gary Hall Jnr on board, led and won the 3YO Maiden by 23m in 1:55.7, last qtr 27.4. A week later and again at Pinjarra he led and won the 3YO event, this time with Ryan Warwick on board and a 3rd qtr in 27.7 for a mile rate 1:57.3.

That was it for March but since then won his 3rd consecutive race in a 3YO and over, before running a second in another 3yo and over.

Infinite Sign is a full brother to top mare **Infinite Symbol** 1:50.2 19 wins \$223,758 who unfortunately for us was exported to the US in 2020. Both are by the Rod Fletcher bred **Indomitable Saab (Saab)** 1:55.8, with their dam **Never Waver Lombo (Astreos USA)** 1:57.1 11 wins \$109,662 a good race mare, who in turn is out of another good race mare in **Nevabend Lombo (Troublemaker USA)** 1:57.8 8 wins \$119,640, winner of the WA Oaks. This family stems from WA mare (Tarport Boy USA) 1:57.1 \$113,844 who was one of the first 100 horses in Australia to run under 2:00 and whose wins included the Empress Stakes and the WASBA Breeders Stakes.



The late Barry Morrison with Indomitable Saab

Congratulations to **Infinite Sign**, breeder part owner Lancaster Lodge and part owners Hazel and Kelvin Cooper and all the connections of this very promising gelding.

WA BASED SIREs – MARCH 2022

Former local sires **Follow The Stars** and **Alta Christiano NZ** both produced 4 winners of 5 races for the month, with Rich And Spoilt nipping at their heels with 3 winners of 5 races. Just behind them was Renaissance Man with 3 winners of 4 races. Overall there were 25 individual winners of 31 races, with 12 sires represented.

There were a number of multiple winners: **Miss Sassy** (Alta Christiano NZ) at Pinjarra and Narrogin, **Krakka Lightning** (Follow The Stars) at Northam and Narrogin, **Infinite Sign** (Indomitable Saab) at Pinjarra, **Arma Einstein** (Renaissance Man) at Gloucester Park and the triple winner for the month was **Ima Socialite** (Rich And Spoilt) at Narrogin, Northam and Pinjarra.

There were 5 first time winners in March 2022:

- 2yos **Jaycees Eagle** (Fly Like An Eagle)
- 3yos **Alta Allure** (Alta Christiano NZ) and **Infinite Sign** (Indomitable Saab); and
- 4yo **Deviouslyrich** (Rich And Spoilt) and **Krakka Lightning** (Follow The Stars).

All of these winners received \$11,700 on top of stakes.

The next few months are likely to be low for Westbred Bonus payments due to the shifting of most feature races to the end of the year, resulting in most 2yos and 3yos being sent for a spell except some of the APG graduates (who have targeted races in April).

Westbred progeny received \$96,000 in Westbred and First Win Bonuses for March 2022 compared to \$175,000 in March last year and \$114,000 in March 2020.

In March 2022, 3 metropolitan races were won by Westbred progeny. The 3 Westbred winners (in reverse alphabetic order) were:

- ▲ **Swingband (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder Karnup Racing, in super form this season, won a metro race and a dominant win in the \$50,000 3YO Sales Classic last month, then started from 4, settled one out one back without contesting the 35.4 lead, even time first half, took off at the 600m and swept up to the leader and favourite The Miki Taker, looked to have it won but the favourite fought back bravely but couldn't hold out Swingband in the end, with Swingband winning the \$50,000 Caduceus Club Classic by 2.9m in 1:55.0, last qtrs 28.1 and 28.7.
- ▲ **Henggeng (Rich And Spoilt)**, breeder Harry Capararo, did quite well last season with over \$35,000 in stakes. Another with the 1 draw starting favourite, leading and winning, this time taking home the Group 3 \$30,000 The Warwick by a neck in 1:56.8, last qtrs 28.5 and 29.2. Got out fast enough from the barrier and just a tick faster than even time for the first half, quickened down the back and always looked the winner; and

- ▲ **Arma Einstein (Renaissance Man)**, owner breeders Montague, Currie, Farrant and Brown families. Won in January, a midweek win in March. Stepped out 10 days later as favourite with the prize 1 draw over the sprint 1730m journey, close to even time first half, going strongly down the back with the speed on, clear on the turn and came away to win the \$20,250 Pace by 5.8m in 1:54.9, last qtrs 28.4 and 27.9;



Arma Einstein and Colin Brown

With Yirribee Stud closing, let's hope Renaissance Man gets the right chances at a new location.

WESTBRED WINNERS – MARCH 2022

Westbreds won 109 (63.4%) of the 172 races run in March 2022. This is one of our best ever results in percentage terms, although it is one of the lowest number of races run that we have recorded for this time of year. The figure for March 2021 was 62.5% of 200 races.

Again, this is more a reflection on moving the juvenile feature races, resulting in horses being sent for an early spell, which does leave the remaining horses and their connections in a quandary about whether to keep their horses in work and risk races not holding up.

The 109 Westbred winners represent 49 sires (including the 12 WA based sires), which is a remarkable record of the diversity in breeding choices by WA breeders. Best of the sires based outside WA was **Mach Three CA** with 4 winners of 6 races, followed by a quadruple deadheat with **Alta Christiano NZ**, **Betting Line USA**, **Somebeachsomewhere USA** and **Sportswriter USA** all with 4 winners of 5 races. Alta Christiano NZ had a total of 8 winners of 10 races from his combined Westbred/Westsired tally.

Excluding the Westsired multiple winners (5) there were 10 multiple winners during March, all dual winners – **Mighty Ronaldo** (Alta Christiano NZ) at Gloucester Park and Bunbury, **The Miki Taker** (Always B Miki USA) at Gloucester Park, **Rich American** (American Ideal USA) at Gloucester Park midweek, **Rona May** (Badlands Hanover USA) at Pinjarra and Northam, **Alcopony** (Betting Line USA) Gloucester Park midweek and Northam, **Peligroso** (Captaintreacherous USA) at Northam and Narrogin, **Give Us A Wave** (Mach Three CA) at Bridgetown and midweek Gloucester Park and **Sound Wave** (Mach Three CA) at Narrogin and Bridgetown, **Eldaytona** (Somebeachsomewhere USA) and **Nevermindthechaos** (Sportswriter USA) both at Gloucester Park mid week. Soundwave also appeared in last month's list, so 4 wins in two months!

First time winners at this time of year are normally characterized by an abundance of 2yos and 3yos but the change to features means less of those racing. As a result there were 16 first time winners in March 2022 compared to 21 in 2021 and 22 in 2020. All the winners would have greatly appreciated the reward for their first win. Excluding the 5 Westsired, those that earned at least \$8,800 in bonuses for their first win were:

- 2yos **Lethal Edition** (Bling It On), **Wanea** (Foreclosure NZ) and **Zephyra** (Sweet Lou USA)

To promote and foster the breeding of the Standardbred Horse in Western Australia and to further the interests of breeders.

63.4% of wins
\$1.2 million in stakes
\$234,000 in Bonuses



- 3yo **Icy Winds** (Roll With Joe USA);
- 4yos **Lil Delight** (Bettors Delight USA), **Maddy Rocks** (Pet Rock USA), **Octavia** (Heston Blue Chip USA) and **Ziggey** (Artistic Fella (USA)); and
- 6yo trotter **Betty Bootz Off** (Majestic Son CA)

Other first time winners who missed the Westbred Bonus but earned the First Win Bonus were 3yo **Rockandrollartist** (Rock N Roll Heaven USA) and in a quirk of the system, 2yo **Lord Titanium** (Control The Moment USA) missed out on the Westbred Bonus for winning his first ever race in the \$50,000 Champagne Stakes – I am sure the connections didn't mind!

Total Bonus payments in March 2022 were \$234,052, somewhat down on March 2021 (\$336,000) and February 2022 (\$311,000).

March is the third month of the 2yo racing season and follows the intense Sales racing in February, so is often a downward trend in race numbers from February to March. However, the decline is much sharper than usual, with not a lot of major racing to aim for unless you are Sales eligible. March this year (39 starters) is a drop of 22 starters from the previous month, compared to 2021 February to March (58 to 44).

There was however a very exciting 2YO \$50,000 Champagne Classic. Most of the APG races will run in April to qualify for the Eastern States Finals. There were 11 races for 2yos all up, compared to 14 available last year.

Westbred 2yos won 9 of the 11 2yo races including the Group 2 Champagne Classic. There were 63 race starts, giving an average of 5 to 6 starters per race.

Bonus money received by 2yos in March was just over \$69,000 which is well down on the \$134,000 in February 2022 and \$122,000 in March last year.

In March 2022 there were 13 3yo races run, with almost a third of 3yo races cancelled. The impact of the change of feature race calendar has been substantial on this group of horses which would normally show an increase in starters as the major races approached. There were 78 3yo starters in March 2022 (a drop of 8 from February 2022) compared to an increase of 11 from February to 103 in March 2021. While the largest drop was in imported 3yos, the number of Westbred 3yos racing in March also declined. There was a substantial drop in males in this age group.

We will be approaching RWWA to extend the Westbred Bonus to 3yos in 3YO and over races where horses have first preference to a cancelled 3YO race. The intention is certainly not to undermine 3yo races, or to encourage 3yos to go into the 3yo and over races, but to ensure that those 3yos who want to run in 3yo races to access the bonus are not financially disadvantaged when those races are cancelled, provided their first preference was the 3yo race.

Overall 3yos won 25 races including 12 in the 3yo and over category. All of the winners were Westbred – quite an achievement! Bonus payments to 3yos in March 2022 were \$97,000, compared to \$123,000 in March 2021.

For the older horses there was a drop in the available 4yo and older races (14) compared to March last year (18) although this was an increase over February 2022. These races are important to ensure that the older horses receive targeted opportunities for their age group. Most of the races are run for \$5,000 and more opportunities at the \$8,500 level would be appreciated, without reducing the opportunities at community tracks. The recent Bridgetown meeting, with the ravages of fire in the background, demonstrates that these tracks are still suitable for good and fast racing at tracks that are sometimes bigger in circumference than Gloucester Park and support for at least one \$8,500 race at each of these meetings for the appropriate horse pool would be a positive.

There were 15 maiden races run in March 2022 (3 less than 2021) with that number being lower than the number of programmed maiden races due to some 3yo maidens being cancelled. Eleven of the winners were WA bred horses, with the remaining 4 winners starting as short priced favourites in their first race start in WA. *We believe maiden races should exclude non Westbred horses that have not had at least one prior race start in WA.*

Bonus payments to 4yo and older Westbreds (\$68,000) was up by over \$26,000 on the previous month, but fell short of the \$91,000 paid in March 2021.

Of the races won by Westbreds, 19 wins were in the \$5,000 races, 68 in \$8,500 races (including a small number of \$7250 races), 3 at \$10,250 level, 10 standard metro races and 9 FFA or Group races - a good result.

WA bred horses won 20 of the 39 races run at prime Gloucester Park meetings in March, as well as a \$50,000 feature run in the country. Three of the wins were by Westsired progeny, and another 4 wins were by Westbred fillies or mares. The remaining 12 winners of 14 races were:

- ◆ **Alta Rhett (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder part owner David Stringer a 3rd at his previous start then started 3rd in the betting from 2, fast out and into the lead, a steady lead and just slower than even time first half, under a good hold down the back, skipped away approaching the bend and went further ahead down the straight to win the 2536m \$18,500 Pace by 8.2m in 1:58.7, last qtrs 29.1 and 28.1;



- ◆ **Disco Under Fire (Courage Under Fire NZ)** breeder John and Sue Awcock. Previous metro win in December over 2536m. Placed at Pinjarra 11 days earlier then started from 5, good driving the get 3 on the rails, travelling strongly down the back, right up behind the leader at the 400m, looking for clear air coming round the turn, got clear at the top of the straight and raced home to win the \$18,500 Pace by 1.9m in 1:57.3, last qtrs 28.4 and 28.6;

- ◆ **Caveman (Somebeachsomewhere USA)** breeders Mike, Sharon and Ian Howie. A very strong performance to win 2nd up from a spell in a 2503m stand, then very surprising long odds at his next start from the 20m line. A very straggly start from several runners, with Caveman staying out of trouble and settling second last. Securing one out two back with 1200 to go, followed a 3 wide move at the 600m and 4 wide and rounding them up at the 400m, still 4 wide and a nose in front turning for home, too strong and went on to win the \$20,250 Pace by 1.5m in 1:58.5, last half 60.6 after fast middle qtrs;

- ◆ **Know When To Run (Roll With Joe USA)** breeder Steve Johnson. Classy lightly raced 6yo. Won a midweek in December and followed up with a metro win in January. Two more places then started from 1 and held the lead, a comfortable first half then a flat sprint down the back, clear into the straight and went further away to win the \$30,000 The Clarke by 5.5m in 1:56.5, last qtrs 27.6 and 28.0;

- ◆ **Lord Titanium (Control The Moment USA)** breeder KTC Bloodstock, first season sire represented by a lightly raced Sales graduate with 3 starts prior including 2 places. Started at 41/1 from 4 with no expectations. Eased back at the start to settle midfield but last on the rails, while they flew out front with a surprise race leader from the outside of the front line. A 35.0 lead over the 2130m a huge ask. The favourite now tucked in behind the race leader, the eventual winner now last, but on the rails. Still last at the 400m but just about to move with the field quite tight, made his move coming off the back and 4 wide around the turn, flew down the straight to win the \$50,000 Champagne Stakes from a very galant Major Overs, by 2.8m in 1:58.0, last qtrs 30.2 each. Good trips win races;

- ◆ **Mighty Ronaldo (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder Trevor Lindsay, following on from 2 very good seasons. A second up win since resuming, followed by two seconds, then started very short in the betting from 2, no prizes for guessing that he led and won with the small field single file for the first half. A quick burst of speed entering the straight and he went on to win the \$30,000 FFA by 4.8m in 1:59.1, last qtrs 28.2 and 27.1. Proving he is up to the class, Mighty Ronaldo's next start was in the delayed Bunbury Cup, starting

favourite from 3, settling one out and one back and in a sterling finish, overcoming crowd favourite Vultan Tin to win the \$50,000 Group 2 Bunbury Cup in 1:57.4 over the 2536m journey;

- ◆ **Pierre Whitby (Mach Three CA)** breeders Ed Dewar and Geoff Groenberg, resumed in February after a 16 week absence, then second up started from 1 as favourite, stepped out quickly and withstood a solid challenge to hold the lead, walked the first qtr, steady 2nd qtr and stepped it up in the 3rd, scooted clear enough on the turn home and went on to win the \$18,500 Pace by 2.8m in 1:59.4, last qtrs 28.9 and 28.1;
- ◆ **Rich American (American Ideal USA)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, resumed in January off a 7 month absence. Won mid week 3 days earlier then started favourite from 1, held the lead under challenge, got a little keen before settling and heading into the last lap, moved up a gear in the back, led easily into the straight and a good win by 3.8m in the \$8,500 Pace in 1:57.6, last qtrs 28.8 and 27.7;
- ◆ **Rock Me Over (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)**, breeder Mike Howie, a horse that anyone would be proud to own. Three consecutive places in the city then started favourite from 1 with one of the best front running drivers in Australia on board, straight to the leaders role, slow first half, sprinted down the back, led into the straight, held off the late challengers for a good win in the \$8,500 Pace in 1:58.7, last qtrs 28.4 and 28.5;



- ◆ **The Miki Taker (Always B Miki USA)** breeders and part owners Mike, Sharron and Ian Howie. Very good form this season. Easy wins at Albany and 3 places at GP before starting 2nd favourite from 7 in March, settled 5th on the rails early before rounding up the field and going to the front after a lap in a quick 28.8 1st qtr, headed in the back the last time but responded to the challenge, a battle royale down the straight and showed strength to win the \$20,250 Pace in 1:55.6, last qtrs 28.2 and 28.3. Then ran 2nd in the Caduceus before starting 2nd favourite from 2, happy to settle behind the favourite and race leader, an ungentlemanly push out with a just under a lap to go, 3 wide down the back then two wide and chasing the new race leader coming off the back, took a while to catch her after she'd breezed all the way, but hit the front with 20m to go to win the \$20,250 3YO Pace by a half neck in 1:55.6, last qtrs 28.2 and 28.3;



- ◆ **To Fast To Serious (Shadow Play USA)** breeder Ed Dewar, resumed in February off an 8 month absence. Placed at his second start then started a very short priced favourite from 2 after a scratching, easily to the lead, single file early in a slow lead and first half, scooted as expected in the 3rd qtr, clear leader turning for home and went on to win the \$20,375 Pace by 2.4m in 1:59.0, last qtrs 27.9 and 27.3;
- ◆ **Vultan Tin (Dawn Ofa New Day USA)** breeder owner Phil and Denise Costello and trained by Daniel, grand 10 yr old with lots of supporters, finally got a good barrier and the right run. Started inside the back line, settled behind the leader and favourite, fast qtrs all under 29, had to chase hard after the fav got away before the straight and excellent job to grab the leader on the line and win the 2130m \$50,000 Governors Cup by a half head in 1:54.3, last qtrs 28.9 and 28.1.



Total stakes paid in March 2022 was \$1.99 million (advertised stakes for races run of \$2.04 million). Of the total stakes paid, Westbreds earned \$1.22 million. These numbers are going to continue to be lower than in previous years with feature juvenile races moved to the end of the year. Stakes paid to the first 6 place-getters was \$1.9 million (\$1.2 million for Westbreds).

Overall Westbreds provided 67.7% of individual starters and race starts, and 63.4% of race wins (creeping closer) and 61.2% of stakes - still some catching up to do, but in terms of race wins and stakes there has been improvement.

How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (March 2022)



Fillies and mares won 51 (29.7%) of the 172 races run in March 2022. Given the changes to the juvenile feature race calendar it will be difficult to make comparisons with previous years, but in percentage terms this is the highest percentage wins for March since we calculated the figures, but it's also off the lowest number of races.

Of the wins, 28 were in races restricted to fillies and mares and the remaining 23 (13.4%) were in open races. The WA 12 month rolling average for filly and mare winners to races is 31.3%, compared to the national average (calculated for 2021) of 32.2%.

There were 40 individual winners. The results by sire were very widespread, with the leading sires of winning fillies and mares in March 2022 being Alta Christiano NZ with 4 winners of 5 races, and Mach Three with 3 winners of 4 races. All up 30 different sires were represented by filly or mare race winners.

WA bred dual winning fillies and mares were **Miss Sassy** (Alta Christiano NZ), **Special Lady** (American Ideal USA), **Rona May** (Badlands Hanover USA), , **Nevermindthechaos** (Sportswriter USA) and NZ bred **Miss Mucho** (Mach Three CA). **Ima Socialite** (Rich And Spoilt) won a treble.

For the girls there were 6 (5 Westbred) wins in \$5,000 races, 36 (29 Westbred) wins in \$8,500 level races, 1 win (a Westbred) in \$10,250 races, 4 in standard metropolitan level (2 Westbred) and 4 wins (2 Westbred) at FFA or Group level including a Group 1, Group 2 and 2 Group 3 wins.

In a good result, the number of Fillies and mares who won their first ever career start was 9 – the same as March 2021. These winners, collecting their First Win Bonuses, were 2yos Wanea (Foreclosure NZ) and Zephyra (Sweet Lou USA), 3yos Alta Allure (Alta Christiano NZ) and Icy Winds (Roll With Joe USA), 4yos Lil Delight (Bettors Delight USA), Maddy Rocks (Pet Rock USA), Octavia (Heston Blue Chip USA) and Ziggey (Artistic Fella (USA), and 6yo Betty Bootz Off (Majestic Son CA).

All Westbred winners receive \$6,000 First Win Bonus (\$3,000 owners, \$3,000 breeders) on their first career win, regardless of age, provided that win is in WA. They also receive the Westbred Bonus if racing in 2yo or 3yo races under \$21,000 or are over 3 years of age on their first career win.

There were 4 races for 2yo fillies, with the fillies winning 4 of the 11 2yo races – a disappointing outcome, suggesting the fillies need a more even approach to the provision of races. Eighteen of the 39 2yo starters (46.2%) were fillies. Revision of the feature race program to provide more opportunities at this time of year would help make racing more attractive and keep more 2yos in the pool, including fillies.

There was just 1 race restricted to 3yo fillies, which in all seriousness is not sufficient. Fillies won 4 of the 13 races provided for the age group, as well as 7 races in the 3yo and older age group. This compares to 15 wins in March last year which included 9 wins in 3yo events. There were 37 3yo fillies racing in March 2022, comprising 47.4% of 3yo starters. It is clear the the 3yo fillies should have more races run that are restricted to them if we are to encourage their owners going forward.

Westbred 2yo fillies comprised 89% of the 2yo fillies racing, whereas the Westbred 3yo fillies comprised 95% of 3yo fillies racing.

Race wins by mares in March 2022 (36) was consistent with the previous month and March 2021. Mares won 15 of the 19 races restricted to fillies and mares 3yo and over, as well as winning another 21 open races. Five of the wins were the first career win for the mare.

Amongst the mares there were 21 wins by 4yos, 7 by 5yos, 5 by 6yos, and 3 by 7yo mares. Two thirds of the winners were Westbred, and the majority (86%) of the wins were at the \$8,500 level and above – a good sign.

There were 39 races run at Gloucester Park prime meetings, with fillies and mares winning 7 (17.9%), along with a fillies and mares feature at Pinjarra. All the wins were in Fillies, or Fillies and Mares races. This result is far to low to justify the current programming model or to be attractive to the owners of mares in particular.

The racing system must be made more attractive to owners and trainers of mares, particularly at city level.

Please put any ideas forward as to how we can achieve a much better balance to achieve at least a 30% win rate for fillies and mares at city level, to go some way to support the 50% females in the foal crop.

Winners included 5yo NZ mare Alice Kay (Art Major USA) who won an \$18,500 Fillies and Mares, 5yo mare Eighteen Carat NZ (Mach Three CA) won a \$20,250 Fillies and Mares, 6yo mare Miss Mucho NZ (Mach Three CA) won a \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA, and 7yo NZ Purest Silk (Rocknroll Hanover USA) won the Group 3 \$30,000 Golden Girls at Pinjarra.

Congratulations to the connections of all the fillies and mares winning in Mach 2022 – all wins are special.

The 4 WA bred winners of metropolitan level stakes' races were:

- ♥ **Flametree (Huntsville USA)** breeder Ed Dewar and Geoff Groenberg, another new filly with 3 starts to her name (including 2 places) before starting favourite from 1, straight into the leaders role, going well down the back rounded the turn in front and went further away down the straight to a nice win in the Group3 \$30,000 2YO Fillies Gold Bracelet by 6.1m in 1:58.5, last qtrs 29.3 and 27.9;
- ♥ **Sheez Our Hope (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder Aldo Cortopassi and F Minniti, metro wins in January and February including a win in a FFA mares in 1:55.3. Unplaced next start before drawing the coveted 1 barrier and starting favourite, straight to the leaders role, slow lead but quickened in the second qtr with the breeze horse over-racing for a 27.8 2nd qtr, headed going into the back but level pegging at the 400m, a new challenger coming into the straight and quite a brave performance to win the \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA by a neck in 1:55.3, last qtrs 28.6 and 28.4;
- ♥ **Wanea (Foreclosure NZ)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles, 4th in a Heat of the Sales Classic. At her 4th start at long odds, quickly to the breeze from outside the front line, then forward to the lead in the back straight in a solid qtr. Had a rest in the second qtr then a quick 3rd qtr and well clear turning for home, moved further away down the straight to win the \$20,250 2YO Fillies Pace by 8.1m in 1:58.3, last qtrs 28.7 and 28.4; and
- ♥ **Zephyra (Sweet Lou USA)** owner breeders Jesse and Marie Moore and trained by Jesse. First foal from champion Group 1 winning mare Tricky Styx. Second at her first start a fortnight earlier then started at 5/1 from 3, settled 2nd last on the rails after the leaders went for a burn, off and running with a lap to go, 3rd at the 400m, steadily gained ground on the leader and in front when it counted, winning the \$20,250 2YO Fillies Pace by 1.0m in 2:00.5, last half 58.5.



Total stakes paid to fillies and mares in March 2022 was \$518,000, about \$82,000 less than March last year. Westbred fillies and mares earned \$361,000 of this and additionally collected \$114,000 in Westbred and First Win Bonus money.

After the first 3 months of the season, stakes paid to fillies and mares is up by \$200,000 compared to the same 3 months in 2021, due to significantly higher payments in January and February.

The percentage of stakes paid to fillies and mares in March 2022 was 27.3% -slightly down on March last year but fairly consistent with February 2022.

Westbred fillies and mares won 76.5% (39) of the 51 races won by fillies and mares, and 67.9% of their stakes.

For March 2022 the number of individual fillies and mares starting in races has declined compared to March last year, with a significant drop in the number of race starts – as you would expect with the reduced number of races. More work needs to be done to provide attractive races for owners and trainers to retain the racing population. A 10 race Wagin meeting in April indicates that people want to race their horses if the right opportunity presents.

WA bred fillies and mares contributed 76.6% of the racing females. *It would certainly help to improve the numbers racing overall if more restricted races were provided. Females are still comprising 30% of the racing population but have only 15-16% of races restricted to females.*

WASBA MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to everyone who has paid – we appreciate that these things can get overlooked when many other important issues are being addressed. We are still sending reminders, either by text or email, and would appreciate you responding with your payment should you receive a reminder. You can always ring 0447 053 040, text or send an email if you aren't sure.

We will have our Square site set up for payments later in the year, but in the meantime please pay by cheque, direct deposit or credit card – you can ring with your credit card details or complete the form.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR SPONSORS

We thank our sponsors for their support and contribution to our industry. They make it possible for us to provide incentives to our participants such as stakes, awards, rugs, trophies, garlands and breeding vouchers. **They also assist with donations for rehoming (particularly Budget Stockfeeds, Milne Feeds and Alabar).** Please support your sponsors by purchasing their goods and services, or talking to others about them.

Alabar Farms, Allwood Stud Farm, Woodlands Stud and Gloucester Park have all been great long term supporters. **Australian Pacing Gold (APG), Ross Waddell's Pacing WA, Decron Horse Care, KTC Bloodstock, PSC Bloodstock Services** and our newest supporter **Westbred Pacing**, are welcome additions.

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 :

- ✓ **Alabar Farms (03) 5859 2201;**
- ✓ **Allwood Stud Farm, Bullsbrook 9571 3777;**
- ✓ **Australian Pacing Gold (03) 5275 1999;**
- ✓ **Budget Stockfeeds, Oakford 9397 1659;**
- ✓ **Cobbitty Equine Farm, 0417 621 050;**
- ✓ **Decron Horse Care (03) 9213 8000;**
- ✓ **KTC Bloodstock 0413 669 474;**
- ✓ **Larkhill Vets Port Kennedy 9295 3838;**
- ✓ **Milne Feeds, Welshpool 9351 0700;**
- ✓ **Northern Rivers Equine (03) 5852 2845;**
- ✓ **Pacing WA (Ross Waddell) 0417 922 352**
- ✓ **PSC Bloodstock Services, 0413 056 364**
- ✓ **Ramsays Horse Transport, 9277 5779;**
- ✓ **Soho Standardbreds**
- ✓ **Westbred Pacing 0435 059 777;**
- ✓ **Woodlands Stud (freecall) 1800 615 143;**



To promote and foster the breeding of the Standardbred Horse in Western Australia and to further the interests of breeders.

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.

Our newest Committee members Luke Tabbakh and Wayne Morrison are ready to take your calls!

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 info@wasba.com.au	Committee	Joy Fletcher	M 0417 980 302
			Committee	Luke Tabbakh	M 0423 299 240
Committee	Michael Holtham	M: 0421 331 586	Committee	Wayne Morrison	M 0416 093 294
Committee	Peter McAllister	M: 0419 464 842	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

And Facebook [https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbred BreedersAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/WesternAustralianStandardbredBreedersAssociation)

The last WASBA **AGM** (for the 12 months ending 31 August) was held on Friday 26 November 2021.

The **NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING** has been scheduled for **27 April 2022**.

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, please contact a Committee member or:

- Send an email to 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.

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

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