



NEWSLETTER

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\$\$\$ Coming your way....

As put forward by RWWA at the recent Harness Racing Consultative Group meeting, the following funding initiatives are on the way:

- Westbred Bonuses will have the much anticipated increases, with the Bonus being increased to \$5,000 for races from \$6,001 and \$14,999, and \$7,500 for races from \$15,000 to under \$21,000. Races with stakes below these amounts will continue to receive the current Westbred Bonus levels.
- There will be a first start bonus (in WA) for WA bred horses having their first career start, to encourage owners and trainers to bring more horses through to racing. This does make the structure around the Westbred Bonus seriously good for owners of WA bred horses, and does encourage you to do the best you can to give your horse a decent chance to race.

These initiatives are part of the suite of initiatives that WASBA has worked hard to have implemented.

Also expected is increases to \$8,500 races and \$5,000 races. The timing of all these changes will be in your inbox very soon!

A big thank you to our Harness Code representative Bob Fowler who worked tirelessly to support our breeders and the industry to achieve these outcomes.

We can also confirm that RWWA has brought forward by a year the first running of the \$225,000 Westbred 2YO Classics! These will definitely be run in 2022 (currently scheduled for September), with qualifying heats 10 days prior. Spreading it further, breeders will continue to receive \$10,000 from the stakes (\$5,000 first, \$3,000 second and \$2,000 third) with 50% of the remaining stakes going to the winner.

2YO, 3YO, MARES and WESTBRED OPPORTUNITIES



2yo	\$25,000 Western Crown 17 June – separate divisions for fillies and colts/geldings
	\$25,000 2YO Westsired (separate races) 1 July
3yo	\$25,000 3YO Westsired 8 July
	\$30,000 3YO Fillies Daintys Daughter Classic at Pinjarra 11 July
Mares	\$30,000 Harry Capararo 4Y0/5YO Westbred Mares 3 June (non Group winners)
	\$30,000 The Lombardo 24 June
	\$30,000 The Lewis 22 July
Westbreds	\$30,000 Kerry Clarke 4Y0/5YO Westbred Final 8 July (non Group winners)

2022 Ladies of Pacing Awards

The Award function was held on Thursday 5 May at Frasers in Kings Park. As always, there was quite a number of worthy nominees. Some fantastic winners this year, as has been the case in previous years.

The winners in each of the categories in 2022 were:

- Administration – Pat Abbott, Secretary and Treasurer of the Busselton Trotting Club
- Dedication to Harness Racing – Lil Adam
- Leadership – breeder, owner and trainer Karen Young
- Welfare – joint winners Standardbred retrainers Hannah Griffiths, and Leonie Morrone, President of the Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of WA.

Pat has been involved with the Busselton since 1983, and Karen's involvement and contribution extends over 40 years.

Breeder Lil Adam, along with her family, have made a significant contribution to harness racing through breeding (Inter Dominion champion Preux Chevalier), club administration and social support and racing initiatives such as the introduction of flexible pegs instead of the inside running rail, to make racing safer for horses and drivers.

Hannah is an official RWWA retrainer and has been working from her Bunbury base to support the rehoming of Standardbreds, while Leonie has worked tirelessly to support retired Standardbreds through her role with Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horse Association of WA. The recent Dual Code Spectacular is just one example of the efforts of Leonie and her team to support Standardbreds off the track.

You can read more about these wonderful ladies at <https://www.rwwa.com.au/blog/outstanding-women-of-the-wa-harness-racing-community-celebrated/>



Pictured (L-R): Kristie Morrone (for Leonie Morrone), Pat Abbott, Karen Young, Loretta Eddy (for Lil Adam) and Hannah Griffiths.

A big thank you to RWWA for supporting this event and for ensuring that those people who represent the various facets of the industry outside of RWWA have an opportunity to be rewarded.

Spectacular Off The Track– May 2022

The Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association of WA (SPPHAWA) held their DUAL-CODE SPECTACULAR & OTTWA CLASSICS at the Perth Polo Club Guildford on that stormy Sunday – almost got the full schedule completed before the storm arrived.

SPPHAWA with Leonie Morrone, Alex and the amazingly dedicated team do a magnificent job in setting out these shows, arranging sponsors, advertising, judges, garlands, prizes, sashes and a myriad of other things to make this show (and their other shows) so spectacular and so helpful for our retired Standardbreds. We are proud to be associated with SPPHAWA and sponsoring their organization.

WASBA subsidised entries to the Show for mares and SPPHAWA members, and sponsored the garlands presented to the Supreme Led winner and Supreme Ridden winner (both President Hoylake). Our representative on the ground, Denise Trobe, assisted with presentations to owner Kerry Davey. Denise also stepped in for presentations to the Supreme Elementary Hack won by Zarak, and Supreme of Supreme.

Both President Hoylake and Zarak are WA bred and both raced and won. However, you don't have to be a former race performer or winner to be successful in the many and varied Off The Track programs and other pursuits like adult riders or even babysitters may be just as suitable.!



Pictured above – Denise with President Hoylake, owner Kerryn Davey and NSW judge Jenni Cesnik (Vicki Photos)

Everyone with an Off The Track Standardbred take notice – **the Royal Show will be showcasing Standardbreds** in the show with led, ridden and harness classes (race cart and carriage classes) on Thursday 29 September, so **MAKE SURE** you have your best friend ready when the classes and timetables are announced! Some timetables are out already, but stay tuned for the full range. Entries will close at the end of August and we want to see big numbers nominated!

It's not a WA site, but here is another interesting Standardbred rehoming site if you are looking for inspiration – its "Raising the Standards at <https://raisingthestandards.com.au/>

That race

Harness Racing Australia has announced that the \$2 million Slot race, named The Eureka, will take place in 2023, around September. The race is restricted to ten 3YO or 4YO Australian bred (mare served in Australia, foal born in Australia) progeny. It is unquestionably being funded predominantly by breeders, with the import fee (previously distributed to states) and the new stallion levy providing (an anticipated) \$1.7 million per year for the stakes and ancillary activities to support the race.

HRA were advised that breeding bodies across Australia were unanimously opposed to the component of the funding mechanism that involved the levy. The impact on stud fees or available stallions is yet to be seen, as is the impact on sponsorship from studs.

The rush for slots is apparently an avalanche, including interest from WA, so no shortage of people wanting to take advantage of the funding model (only \$100,000 per slot per year for 3 years, with minimum placing of \$45,000 for last). There are also no shortage of funds in Club Menangle's kitty – an \$11.2 million profit for the year ended 30 June 2021. The race will be run at Club Menangle for the next 3 years, and they are clearly the greatest beneficiary of the race.

We absolutely preferred the NZ model (100% funded by slot holders, sponsors and the clubs) which is an unrestricted race and any horse is eligible. However, The Eureka will undoubtedly go ahead and we can only

suggest that if you get a chance to take advantage of the race (through participation in a slot or provision of one of the 10 horses), that you do so.

All applicants for a Slot need to provide support for their proposal in the form of a business case citing how they will promote and support harness racing in Australia. That is one of the good things that can come from this race – getting people who aren't involved in harness racing to promote harness racing over the next 3 years. For anyone who is thinking of putting forward a proposal to HRA – please consider how you can support the many people involved in the breeding industry at the various levels, not just yourself.

We have again asked that HRA reconsider the funding model and for exporting (shuttle stallion and frozen semen owners) studs to assist breeders. There are other funding mechanisms and ideas that could be explored, and some of these have already been put to HRA.

There are plenty of comments on Facebook – don't forget when using this medium to abide by the rules of engagement - personal attacks certainly didn't help in the recent Federal election.

Snippets from the USA and Canada.. (and Sweden)

☑ The French horse Etonnant wins the 2022 Elitloppet, the worlds richest "the Elite Race", at Solvalla in Sweden on Sunday 29 May. Sixteen horses were split into two heats with the top 4 from each heat going into the final 3 hours later. The overall stakes on offer was around \$1.6m. The last French horse to win Elitloppet was Timoko, the sire of Etonnant, in 2014. You just have to watch the finish – spectacular driving style and no wonder people are enthused. Go to Youtube <https://youtu.be/C5dnMcDQ6go> . What can we learn? (1) The very best races are run with Heats, and (2) skillful drivers can show enthusiasm and excitement, no penalty.



☑ A new trend, **Bulldog Hanover** (Shadow Play) will race and breed this season, following in the footsteps of a number of other stallions who continue to race while they serve. Bulldog Hanover is one of 6 stallions standing their first season in Ontario to make the most of the lucrative Ontario Sires Stakes program. **Betting Line** has also moved to Ontario, with **Cattlewash** (Somebeachsomewhere) – who raced and bred in 2021- and the lesser known but \$1.5 million earner **Century Farroh** (Mach Three) winner of the 3YO O'Brien Award.

☑ Some US initiatives. The USTA has a point system and prizes for participation in Off The Track events. They also have a Legends Day for all the retired greats of the industry – food for thought.

☑ A US bred horse by name of **Alilthundadownunda** has 5 wins in 12 starts this season, and career earnings of \$233,594. After a stellar campaign in Minnesota in 2021, he was named harness horse of the year in that State. What's so special about that? His sire is **Malak Uswaad NZ**, a New Zealand bred entire by Bettors Delight from the Black Watch family with career earnings of \$566,058 and best time of 1:49.4. Great to see that the North American connections thought enough of him to give him a chance at stud, and not a bad result. Alilthundadownunda is now racing in top company in Minnesota. From such a good family, Malak Uswaad would have been a great addition to the stallion ranks in Australia!

☑ Racing once as a 2yo and missing his 3yo season, **Linedrive Hanover** (Betting Line) broke the track record at Flambora Downs, Ontario in the C\$273,500 Charles Juravinski Memorial Cup (previously the Confederation Cup but now named after the founder of Flambora Downs) for 4-year-old pacers, in 1:49. The previous best 1:49.2 was set by the great Somebeachsomewhere. In winning, Linedrive Hanover beat some of the best horses racing in Desperate Man, Bulldog Hanover and Charlie May. He now has 11 wins from 13 starts. Unfortunately he is a gelding.

☑ Former New Zealand mare **Watch Me Now (Hes Watching)** has recorded an upset victory at the Meadowlands. A Group 1 Breeders Stakes winner in NZ (beating Amazing Dream), Watch Me Now defeated amongst others the Horse of the Year Test Of Faith and multiple Group One winner Amazing Dream. Watch Me Now was driven by former NZ champion driver Dexter Dunn, rating 1:49. Australian bred **No Win No Feed (A Rocknroll Dance)** finished third. Fantastic that the southern hemisphere mares are doing so well up north, but so very sad they have left. One can only hope they produce a colt that we can import, when they go to stud.

And New Zealand....

☑ .after a 2nd, a 7th and a win (against Self Assured) in NZ and \$181,000 in stakes, Majestic Cruiser (Art Major USA) has returned to Australia.

☑ Champion NZ 6yo gelding Self Assured (Bettors Delight USA) won the \$400,000 Auckland Cup, after being successful in 2019. His stakes are now \$1.8 million. Another champion 7yo Spankem (Bettors Delight USA) finished second to Self Assured, with his stakes tally also \$1.8 million. Self Assured reached his tally from 43 starts, with Spankem having 60 starts. Both lightly raced by Australian standards

☑ Top price at the 2022 National Weanling Sale was Lot 92 – a filly by Captain Crunch USA out of Princess Arts, sold by Alabar to Stonewall Stud for \$55,000. Second highest prices was a colt by Captain Crunch USA out of Presidential Affair (\$46,000) making him a half brother to Maczaffair NZ and Golden State NZ.

WASBA King-Lethbridge

A great day out at Pinjarra for the annual \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge Memorial for Westbred Mares, along with wonderful hospitality from the Pinjarra Club, President Barry Warwick and wife Julie. The race is named after Chris King-Lethbridge, who was a terrific contributor to country harness racing. It was also Anzac Day, so in part a solemn day to remember those who fought for our freedoms, many not returning.

Another well contested race, with plenty of nominations so unfortunately not everyone could get a start. Equal favourites for the race were Bettors Destroya from 3, who was unlucky enough to win the breeze position in running, and American Arma from the back line. Run at a good pace throughout, the eventual winner Areu Talkin (Well Said USA) settled one out four back behind American Arma, before following that mare in a 3 wide move down the back before going 4 wide at the top of the straight to run down the leaders and win by 3.3m in 1:58.3, last qtrs 28.2 and 28.3. With no owners on course to accept the trophy, driver Kyle Symington was an admirable replacement and accepted the trophy while trainer Ryan Bell saddled up his starter in the next race. A great performance both on and off the track by Kyle!



Kyle Symington with WASBA President Jeanine Diederich, and winner Areu Talkin

By Well Said USA out of Isabella Jane by Sportswriter USA and bred by Jeneen Johnson, Areu Talkin is from the illustrious family of Like A Dame (Golden Greek USA), with Isabella Jane a half sister to David Hercules (Artesian USA) 1:52.7 \$1,263,159.

The Laurie Kennedy Race For Roses

The Group 3 Race For Roses over the stand journey of 2503m is one of the important suite of races run at this time of year for the mares and sits between the Empress Stakes and the Breeders Stakes.

Now named in honour of the late Laurie Kennedy, its always a top race to recognise the achievements of yet another great contributor to harness racing in WA, and particularly to WASBA and Gloucester Park. With close friends and brother David watching the race, it was 7yo breeze mare Purest Silk NZ (Rocknroll Hanover USA) who was the eventual winner, overcoming race leader and favourite Our Shooting Star down the straight to go on and win by 1.9m from Vivere Damore and My Prayer. Owned by Barry, Linley and Jimmy Howlett and Trevor Lindsay, and trained by Barry, Trevor and Colleen Lindsay were on course to accept the trophy, adding to her 2022 Pinjarra Golden Girls Mile trophy.



Friends of Laurie, along with brother David and race night sponsor Bob Fowler at the rear, and Dylan Egerton-Green and Trevor and Colleen Lindsay

RECENT MEMORABLE MOMENTS

- ♣ Congratulations to the Wagin Trotting Club for their fantastic \$30,000 donation to support their local community with the funds to purchase a new ambulance.
- ♣ Mighty Ronaldo trialling at Menangle for the first time, giving him a practice run to adapt to the different style of racing and size of track. Great effort to run 1:51.7 in the 4YO APG Final;
- ♣ Vale Josh Dunn, another shining light lost.



BREEDER OF THE MONTH – April 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.

Recent months have seen the youngsters take out the award, but this month it's an old stager but one of the most worthy recipients you can imagine.

Its **congratulations** to our **Breeder of the Month** for **April 2022**, **Phil and Denise Costello** for being the breeders of champion 11yo gelding **Vultan Tin (Dawn Ofa New Day USA** out of Ellevarrac by **Pacific Fella USA**). **Vultan Tin** started the month on a high after a very close second in the \$50,000 Bunbury Cup, just shy of his million dollar dream. Stepping out at his next start in the \$30,000 Narrogin Cup, he went to the line a millionaire and a winner – what a great way to get your million dollars!. There is more on Vultan Tin under the Westbred winners section, but suffice to say we are all so proud of Vultan Tin reaching this level.

Vultan Tin is one of only two foals from his dam Ellevarrac (Pacific Fella USA) who was also bred by Phil and was a race winner in 1:59.3. Her dam Carravelle (Armbro Intercept USA) was also bred by Phil, and produced 3 winners from 4 foals. This is an old colonial family stemming from Hesperia Monarch, who was the dam of Frosty Monarch and King Frost one of the first 100 horses in Australia to break the \$100,000 barrier.



Phil and Denise epitomize the faith that many of us have in our horses and broodmares and have maintained Vultan Tin in sound condition throughout his 8 years of racing. Lots of praise should go to the Costello family for the manner in which they have raced Vultan Tin, as well as being the breeders.

Congratulations to **Vultan Tin**, owner breeder Phil and Denise, (current) trainer Daniel and all involved with Vultan Tin throughout his career.

WA BASED SIRES – APRIL 2022

Local sire Fly Like An Eagle led the way in April with 8 winners of 13 races, followed by former companion sire **Follow The Stars** with 5 winners of 5 races and Renaissance Man with 4 from 4. Overall there were 29 individual winners of 38 races, with 12 sires represented.

There were 6 multiple winners included in the tally – dual winners **Ronald Scott** (Bonavista Bay) **I Am Pink** (Cams Fool USA) both won at Pinjarra and Narrogin. **Infinite Sign** (Indomitable Saab) won at Pinjarra and Gloucester Park and **Endoftheroad** (Parsons Den USA) won at Bunbury and Wagin. The triple winner for the month was **Northern Gaze** (Fly Like An Eagle) who won at Wagin and twice at Bunbury, and the flying filly **Wonderful To Fly** (Fly Like An Eagle) won 4 races, all at Gloucester Park.

There were a much improved 10 first time winners in April 2022:

- 2yos **Allaglow**, **Feeling Empathy**, **Reddy To Fly** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **Ronald Scott** (Bonavista Bay)
- 3yos **Flying Rumour** (Fly Like An Eagle) and **Ta In Advance** (Advance Attack NZ); and
- 4yo **Star Of The Bay** (Follow The Stars), **Classnsmart** (**Renaissance Man**) and **Endoftheroad** (**Parsons Den USA**), and 5yo **Just Like A Star** (Follow The Stars).

Nine of the first time winners received \$11,700 on top of stakes. Two of the first time winners were dual winners!

Westbred progeny received over \$175,000 in Westbred and First Win Bonuses for April 2022 compared to \$96,000 in March 2022 and \$136,000 in April last year. An excellent result for the month and a definite boon to owners of Westbred horses!

In April 2022, 5 metropolitan races were won by Westsired progeny. Excluding the filly, the remaining 2 very impressive Westsired winners were:



- ▲ **Infinite Sign (Indomitable Saab)**, breeder part owner Lancaster Lodge, another very nice 3yo just starting out. Trialled in November before stepping out for the first time in March. Three consecutive wins and a place in the country then started 2nd favourite from 6, quickly out to lead and hold out the favourite, fast lead time and easing first half, still clear at the 400m, raced away entering the straight and extended his lead to win the \$20,250 3YO Pace by 6.8m in 1:58.1, last qtrs. 29.4 and 28.3; and



Infinite Sign winning with Dylan Egerton-Green



- ▲ **Swingband (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder Karnup Racing, one of the best 3yos racing. Easily won the \$50,000 3YO Sales Classic in February, the \$40,000 Caduceus Club Classic in March, blotted his copybook in a Heat of the APG with an inglorious display but stepped out 10 days later as favourite from 5 in the \$50,000 3YO APG Colts and Geldings Gold Bullion Final. Settled in the breeze over the 1730m journey, raced to the front in the back, rocketed away at the 400m and went on to an dominant win by 15.5m in 1:54.3, qtrs in 27.6, 28.1, 29.1, 30.3.

At Wagin, 5yo Westsired gelding Desiderio (Advance Attack NZ), bred by Mal and Tanya Hancock and Tracey Massimini, won the 2022 Wagin Cup.

WESTBRED WINNERS – APRIL 2022

Westbreds won 118 (61.8%) of the 191 races run in April 2022. This is very difficult to compare to previous years due to the complete turnaround of the feature races which would normally be run in April, but anything over 60% is a great month. There were 101 Westbred winners in April last year so in number terms it's a much higher number of winners, off a similar number of races.

The 118 Westbred winners represent 43 sires (including the 12 WA based sires), again reflecting the open minded approach taken by WA breeders in selecting a stallion for their mare. Best of the sires based outside WA was **Shadow Play** with quite an amazing 7 winners of 10 races (he also did well in the US. **Art Major USA** was next with 5 winners of 7 races followed by **Sportswriter USA** with 5 winners of 6 races. Unfortunately for those looking for two of those 3 sires, they were not brought to Australia last season.

There were 19 multiple winners in April 2022. Excluding the Westsired, they were dual winners **Sir Belvedere** (Allamerican Ingot USA) at Northam and Pinjarra, the Art Major USA pair **Little Darling** (Gloucester Park and Wagin) and **Two Bob Cracker** (Gloucester Park and Pinjarra), **Adda Something** and **Chumani** (Bettors Delight USA) both won their pairs at Pinjarra, **Caruba** (Caribbean Blaster) at Northam and Wagin, and **Flametree** (Huntsville USA) had a pair of Gloucester Park wins. The threesome by Shadow Play USA – **Gregarmy** and **Lively Shadow** (doubles at Pinjarra) and **Paroquet** (a pair of Gloucester Park wins) – and Gloucester Park dual winners **Eldaytona** (Somebeachsomewhere USA) and **Nevermindthechaos** (Sportswriter USA) rounded out the dual winners. That left the mare **Areutalkin** (Well Said USA) the remaining multiple winner with 3 wins.

61.8% of wins
\$1.3 million in stakes
\$318,000 in Bonuses

Eldaytona and Nevermindthechaos both featured as dual winners last month, and unfortunately Nevermindthechaos has gone amiss.

There were 21 first time winners in April 2022 compared to 22 last April – another good result for owners (and breeders) and an improvement (by 5) on March 2022. Excluding the 10 Westsired recipients of the First Win Bonus, the winners were



- 2yos **Hotly Pursued** (Huntsville USA)
- 3yo **Luhrsy** and **The Dark Knight** (A Rocknroll Dance USA), **Boston Blue Chip** (Heston Blue Chip), and **Stromless** (Shadow Play USA);
- 4yos **Sir Belvedere** (Allamerican Ingot USA), **Lively Shadow** (Shadow Play USA) and **Capricorn Joe** (Grinfromeartoear USA); and
- 5yo **Bathtime** (Village Jolt USA) and 7yos **Special Jack** (Artistic Fella USA) and **Justa Reaction** (Auckland Reactor NZ)

Two of the 4yos were dual winners and all first time winners in the above list were in the right races to win the full Westbred Bonus.

Total Bonus payments in April 2022 were \$318,409 (\$28,000 higher than April last year).

As expected, the number of 2yo starters is significantly down on previous years, with the majority of the feature races moved to the end of the year. There were 38 individual 2yo starters in April 2022 compared to 50 in April last year. The decrease is more substantial with colts and geldings – down by a third. All up there were 63 race starts in April 2022 compared to 96 last year, with Westbreds providing over 90% of starters and race starts.

Westbred 2yos won 11 of the 12 2yo races including both 2yo APG \$50,000 Gold Bullion Series Finals.

Incredibly, Bonus money received by 2yos in April 2022 (\$85,000) was up on April last year (\$81,000) and was also higher than March 2022 (\$69,000). So it is still attractive to be racing your Bonus eligible 2yos at this time of year.

In April 2022 there were 18 3yo races run (22 programmed), a much better outcome this month for the 3yos. There was also an increase in the number of 3yo starters (90) compared to March 2022 (78), although it is understandably less than April last year (121). There was a much smaller reduction in the number of Westbred 3yos racing, with fillies maintaining their racing numbers compared to April last year. Westbred 3yos provided over 90% of individual starters and race starts.

We approached RWWA to extend the Westbred Bonus to 3yos in 3YO and over races where horses have first preferenced to a cancelled 3YO race. They have advised us that it isn't achievable under the current software. In lieu of that option, we have asked for more certainty for 3yo races, which they have agreed to review.

Overall 3yos won 31 races including 13 (8 Westbred) in the 3yo and over category. Westbred 3yos won all the 3yo races – impressive! Bonus payments to 3yos in April 2022 was an excellent result - \$133,000 compared to the previous month (\$97,000) and April last year (\$85,000).

For the older horses there were 21 races available as 4yo and older, as well as a \$50,000 Group 2 for the 4YO and 5YOs. Four of these races were for maidens. A mix of race stakes were included – 10 at \$5,000 and 8 at \$8,500 along with 2 \$10,000 races – which is more supportive of this age group.

There were 19 maiden races run in April 2022 (2 less than 2021). This month, all the winners were WA bred horses. *We believe maiden races should exclude non Westbred horses that have not had at least one prior race start in WA, to avoid those really short prices from imported, ready to run horses.*

Bonus payments to 4yo and older Westbreds (\$100,000) was up by over \$32,000 on the previous month, but fell short of the \$124,000 paid in April 2021.

Of the races won by Westbreds, 26 wins were in the \$5,000 races, 4 at \$7,250 at Community tracks, 66 in \$8,500 races, 6 at \$10,000 level, 10 standard metro races and 5 at Group level. There was also the \$14,000 WASBA King-Lethbridge run at Pinjarra. Quite a positive all round result.

Not as good as last month, however WA bred horses won 15 of the 49 races run at prime Gloucester Park meetings in April, as well as a \$30,000 feature at Narrogin. Five of the wins were by Westsired progeny, and another 4 wins were by Westbred fillies or mares. The remaining 6 winners were:

- ◆ **Eldaytona (Somebeachsomewhere USA)**, breeder Kevin Charles. Resumed in January after a 13 month absence, collected 5 wins and 2 places from 8 starts in the country before starting favourite from 5. No hurry early before going forward to the breeze after half a lap. Got cover after another lap with second favourite Nevermindthechaos going to the breeze during the better than even time first qtr, travelled well down the back and right behind the new leader. Grabbed the leader on the corner and kept on going for an excellent win by 4.6m in the \$20,250 2536m mobile in 1:57.3, last half 58.7;
- ◆ **Know When To Run (Roll With Joe USA)** breeder Steve Johnson. Classy lightly raced 6yo who hasn't been unplaced in 6 starts this season His second metropolitan win for the season in March in the Group 3 the Clarke, then placed after that before started favourite from 2. Came out fast enough to lead over the 2536m journey, slower than even time lead and first half. Stepped up the pace in the back and a length clear into the straight, went for home going like a winner and moved further away to win the \$20,375 Pace by 6.2m in 1:58.9, last qtrs. 28.5 and 27 flat;
- ◆ **Lethal Edition (Bling It On)**, owner/breeders Denise Trobe and Adrian Staltari. Another very nice 2yo, won first up then 3rd in the Champagne Classic. At his 3rd lifetime start began from the outside of the field of 5, happy to settle last, fast lead and fast 28.2 1st qtr, fast middle qtrs with the leader under challenge. Made a 3 wide move from the back at the 600m, moved up quickly to be 3rd at the 400m, still 3 wide and 3rd into the straight, swept up to grab the lead in the last 20m to win the 1730m 2YO \$20,250 Pace by 1.6m in 1:57.9, last half an exhausting 61.6 after a lot of work done early;

Lethal Edition (Michael Ferguson on board) winning for owner breeders Denise Trobe and Adrian Staltari



- ◆ **Talks Up A Storm (Artspeak USA)**, breeder Harry Capararo, 2020 2YO Group 1 Sales Classic winner resumed in April off a short let up and gaining confidence. First up second midweek, then started favourite from 1, quick out to lead then steadied the pace to slower than even time, quickened considerably down the back last time, scooted clear coming off the back and went on to a resounding win in the \$8,500 Pace by 7.2m in 1:57.1, last qtrs 27.5 and 28.2;
- ◆ **Twobob Cracker (Art Major USA)** breeder Kody Charles, has got better with age - \$32,000 last season and close to that already this season. Won at Pinjarra 4 days earlier then started from 2 in the 2503 stand, did well to get behind the leader with the early speed before the breaks were applied, slow first qtr, even time 2nd qtr and under a tight hold at the 400m, got the opening at the top of the straight and flashed home to win the \$20,250 Pace by 3.0m in 2:02.5, last half 57.2; and
- ◆ **Valedictorian (Art Major USA)** breeder Kevin and Annette Charles, brilliant 2yo but bubbled in the Group 2 Champagne Classic before running second in the Heat of the 2YO APG Gold Bullion. Started 2nd favourite in the \$50,000 Final from 5, settled for the breeze, better than even time first half, tackled the leader down the back and swept to the lead by the 400m. Got the break on the challengers and went to the line easing down to win by 6.0m in 1:55.5, last qtrs. 28.5 and 28.2.

At Narrogin, 10yo **Vultan Tin (Dawn Ofa New Day USA)** breeder owner Phil and Denise Costello and trained by Daniel, reached that magnificent \$1 million milestone at start 199 by taking home his third Group 3 \$30,000 Narrogin Cup (quite an achievement in itself) after starting from 3 on the front, getting to the lead after half a lap and resisting all challenges to win by 3m in 2:00.4, last qtrs. 28.7 and 27.9.

An amazing career and worthy of noting is \$490,000 of that money has come since January 2020 when he was an 8yo. Born in 2011, he started his career as a 3yo and won a grand total of \$23,680 in his 3yo season (2014/15). His season tallies after that were \$32,195, \$110,039 (including his first Narrogin Cup), \$167,827 (including 4th in the 2017 Perth Inter Dominion, and \$165,757 in 2018/19. His remaining earnings were \$38,661 from September 2019 to December 2019. His first metropolitan stakes win was in February 2017, and until his Narrogin Cup win in April 2017 he had not won a single Group or Listed race

The lesson to be learnt is – don't despair if your 2yo or 3yo hasn't won a Group race before he or she turns 4.

After winning the \$50,000 Bunbury Cup in March, 4yo gelding **Mighty Ronaldo (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder Trevor Lindsay, went into the Heat of the APG Gold Bullion for 4YO males and won as expected. Heading to Menagle for the Final in May, his performance to run 3rd was very credible and shows that our good horses should not be discounted when competing over the border. If not for having to chase hard down the back, he was very likely to move up at least one place. He would have been very competitive in the Queensland Winter Carnival.

Total stakes paid in April 2022 was \$2.27 million (advertised stakes for races run of \$2.34 million). Of the total stakes paid, Westbreds earned \$1.27 million – quite a good result considering the lack of features, and similar to April 2021. Stakes paid to the first 6 place-getters was \$2.2 million (\$1.2 million for Westbreds).

Overall Westbreds provided 68.8% of individual starters and race starts, and 61.8% of race wins for 56.0% of stakes. We are steadily making progress.

How did the FILLIES AND MARES GO (April 2022)



Fillies and mares won 64 (33.5%) of the 191 races run in April 2022. This is one of the best results in percentage terms since June 2015, and the highest number of wins since May 2019 (66)!

Of the wins, 27 were in races restricted to fillies and mares and the remaining 37 (19.4%) were in open races. The WA 12 month rolling average for filly and mare winners just took a slight turn upwards on the back of that good result – now sitting at 31.7%, compared to the national average (calculated for 2021) of 32.2%.

There were 47 individual filly/mare winners from 28 sires, with the leading sire Fly Like An Eagle with winners of races followed by Sportswriter USA with 4 winners of 5 races and Shadow Play USA (3 for 5).

WA bred dual winning fillies and mares were **Little Darling** (Art Major USA), **I Am Pink** (Cams Fool USA), **Caruba** (Caribbean Blaster) **Flametree** (Huntsville USA), **Endoftheroad** (Parsons Den USA), **Lively Shadow** (Shadow Play USA), **Paroquet** (Shadow Play USA) and **Nevermindthechaos** (Sportswriter USA) rounded out the dual winners. The triple winner was **Areutalkin** (Well Said USA) with **Wonderful To Fly** (Fly Like An Eagle) stepping out 4 times for 4 wins. Other multiple winners from fillies and mares Special Lady (American Ideal USA), Booraa NZ (Mach Three CA) and Ark Of Rock (Pet Rock USA).

For the girls there were 13 (11 Westbred) wins in \$5,000 races, 34 (23 Westbred) wins in \$8,500 level races, 1 win (a Westbred) in a \$14,000 race, 8 in standard metropolitan level (5 Westbred) and 4 wins (2 Westbred) at Group level. The remaining wins were in either \$7250 or \$10,000 races. Westbred fillies and mares won 46 (71.9%) of the 64 race wins by fillies and mares – anything over 70% is a good result – and 67.6% of their stakes.

Not as many first time winners but still very pleasing for the connections of the 6 fillies/mares who had their first career win in April 2022, the result being consistent with the results for April last year. The winners were 2yos Allaglow and Feeling Empathy (Fly Like An Eagle), 4yos Star Of The Bay (Follow The Stars), Endoftheroad (Parsons Den USA) and Lively Shadow (Shadow Play USA) and 5yo Bathtime (Village Jolt USA).

Three of the first time winners were Westsired so collected \$11,700 on top of stakes with the remaining two collecting an additional \$8,900. There were no first time winners amongst the 3yo fillies.

There were 4 races for 2yo fillies, with the fillies winning 5 of the 12 2yo races. While we recognize the difficulties in programming races, the numbers of fillies racing suggests a slightly higher number of races restricted to fillies is desirable. Sixteen of the 38 2yo starters (42.1%) were fillies. Revision of the feature race program to provide more targets at this time of year would help make racing more attractive and keep more 2yos in the pool, including fillies.

Four of the 18 3yo races were restricted to fillies, a much better result than the previous month but still not reflecting the racing numbers – especially when two of the races were restricted to APG graduates. Fillies won 7 of the 3yo races (only 4 individual winners), as well as 3 3yo and older races. This compares to 16 wins in April last year, although the 2 months cannot really be compared due to the major feature races being moved out of April this year. There were 38 3yo fillies racing in April 2022, comprising 42.2% of 3yo starters. On that basis we are looking for more races restricted to 3yo fillies.

Race wins by mares in April 2022 (49) was significantly better than the previous month and April 2021 (both 36). Mares won 13 of the 16 races restricted to fillies and mares 3yo and over, as well as 3 wins in races restricted to mares and another 33 open races. Four of the wins were the first career win for the mare – a welcome result!

Amongst the mares there were 25 wins by 4yos, 15 by 5yos, 6 by 6yos, and 3 by 7yo and 8yo mares. The majority (73%) of the wins were at the \$8,500 level and above.

A much better result for fillies and mares this month, with 49 races run at the Gloucester Park prime meetings, and fillies and mares winning 14 (28.6%) of these races. Some nice money as well with Group race wins. Eight of the wins were in fillies and/or mares races, highlighting the importance of these races. We are aiming for 30% winners each month in the city.

City winners included NZ filly **Candy Apple (Sweet Lou USA)** who won a 2YO Fillies Pace, 4yo NZ mare **Booraa (Mach Three CA)** won an \$8,500 Open Pace and a \$20,250 Fillies and Mares, and 4yo **Unconditional NZ (Bettors Delight USA)** won a \$8,500 Pace; 5yo NZ mare **Bettor Get It On (Bettors Delight USA)** won the \$50,000 Empress Stakes, and 7yo mare **Born To Boogie (Rock N Roll Heaven USA)** won a \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA. 7yo mare **Purest Silk NZ (Rocknroll Hanover USA)** appears in the list in successive months, this time winning the \$30,000 Laurie Kennedy Race For Roses.

Congratulations to the connections of all the April filly and mare winners – every win is an achievement. The 5 WA bred winners of 7 metropolitan level stakes' races were:

♥ **Alta Cinderella (Alta Christiano NZ)** breeder Clinton Hall, resumed with a trial win in March then second start back started short priced favourite from 1, straight to the leaders role, well clear early over the 2536m mobile, solid qtrs, quicker down the back, led into the straight and moved away to a comfortable win by 8.6m in the \$18,500 Pace, mile rate 1:59.6 and last qtrs 28.2 and 29.2;

♥ **Flametree (Huntsville USA)** breeder Ed Dewar and Geoff Groenenberg, made it three on end after winning the \$30,000 2YO Fillies Gold Bracelet, then the Heat of the 2YO Gold Bullion for Fillies, then started favourite in the two horse race to lead and win the \$50,000 2YO Fillies Gold Bullion Final rating 1:58.5 and winning by 21.3m;

♥ **Nevermindthechaos (Sportswriter USA)** breeder Mike Howie, won two midweek races in March, before a solid win from the breeze in a Heat of the APG Gold Bullion for 4YO Mares. Then started favourite from 2. Quick out but happy to settle for the breeze and control the race. Slow lead then increasingly quicker quarters. Almost level at the 400m, just in front at the top of the straight and a closer battle than expected but toughed it out to win her 4th in a row in the \$26,000 Fillies and Mares FFA by a head in 1:56 flat, last qtrs 28.6, 28.5 and 28.4;

♥ **Sports Package (Sportswriter USA)** breeder Terry Ferguson. 2020 Country Oaks and Group 1 WA Oaks winner just starting to find her feet again. A 2nd and a mid week winner in March before starting from the awkward 4 barrier as second favourite. Fast out but had to settle for the breeze, fast lead before a slow first, then even time second. Quicker down the back and making ground on the leader. Lost some ground on the turn but still there, a hard fought battle down the straight and showed class to get the last stride win in the \$18,500 Pace by a half head in 1:56.9, last qtrs 28.2 each; and

♥ **Wonderful To Fly (Fly Like An Eagle)** breeders Kevin and Annette Charles. Continuing on her winning way with 4 straight wins in April. Could have fitted in a 5th race but fortunately for everyone else, didn't. Started in a \$20,250 2536m 3YO race from barrier 9, with this the only race that the market, at 3/1, has taken a slight chance on her. Moseyed out and initially last before making a move just short of 2 laps to

go and burst to the lead, picked up the pace substantially to run better than even time for the first half, before scooting home the last half to win by 15.7m in 1:59.3, last qtrs 28.4 and 27.9. Next up won the Heat of the 3YO Fillies APG before a start 3 days later in another open \$20,250 3YO Pace. Straight to the front from 4, slow lead and first qtr before another stylish win by 5.4m in 1:57.6, last qtrs. 28.1 and a stunning 26.9. Her final start in April was in the APG \$50,000 3YO Fillies Final, starting from 2. Straight to the front over the 1730m journey, with the field in Indian file. Even time first qtr slightly faster second qtr before stamping her authority and raced away down the back, dominant win in a stunning 1:53.6, last qtrs 27.3 and 27.7;



Shane Young and Wonderful To Fly

She's a stunning filly and who knows – perhaps a Slot holder will select Wonderful To Fly for the 2023 Eureka.

Total stakes paid to fillies and mares in April 2022 was \$725,000, about \$172,000 more than the previous month and on a par with April last year - which included the \$150,000 WA Oaks, so a brilliant result. Westbred fillies and mares earned \$490,000 of this and additionally collected \$117,000 in Westbred and First Win Bonus money.

The percentage of stakes paid to fillies and mares in April 2022 was 32.0% - substantially up on March 2022 (27.3% and April last year (30.3%). After the first 4 months of the season, fillies and mares have earned \$2.6 million – up by \$200,000 compared to the same months in 2021.

Fillies and mares are definitely holding up their end, with the number of individual starters (213) only 6 less than April last year and 4 more than March 2022. While there is a decline in race starts, it isn't substantial. Owners and trainers are showing an interest when the right races are there for their horses and the attraction for maiden races (sometimes 3 at a meeting) is evident.

WA mares contributed 71.1% of the racing mares, with Westbred 2yo fillies comprising 88% and Westbred 3yo fillies comprising 97% of fillies racing. All up, Westbred fillies and mares make up 77% of the racing females, and are very, very important to the future of the industry.

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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 :

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YOUR COMMITTEE

If you have a genuine interest in promoting breeding and harness racing in WA, have been a financial member for at least one full calendar year and have relevant experience and time to contribute to a Committee position involving meetings and undertaking various projects, please forward a brief profile to the WASBA Secretary.

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
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Don't forget to check out the facebook page and website from time to time for news, breeding information, links to various items of interest and contact information. The WASBA website is www.wasba.com.au

And Facebook <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 **1 June 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:

- 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.

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