



# PRIME DISPATCH

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I started to think



**Reneged was terrific at Grafton when an unlucky third in the Cup!!!**

Reneged topped off a good week on the track when he ran a gallant 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Grafton Cup over 2350m. Craig Newitt put him in a nice place heading out of the straight the first time, with the eventual winner putting him in a pocket from about the 1600m and kept him there until they turned for home which probably cost us the race.

Our other notable performances were Casa De Lago was second in the Rivette Final at Flemington and Annaman looked the winner at Morphetville only to be grabbed on the line. Kissing Game ran home strongly for 3<sup>rd</sup> at Warwick Farm and isn't far off a win. Husson Eagle ran his usual honest race in the Sprint Final. Hussy's Glow didn't have much go right in the Leilani Final and was doing her best work late.

Chalmers had a day to forget in the Grafton Guineas. He was stirred up before the race and was never in the hunt. He is a nice horse and heads for a break. He still has some growing to do.

## **Strategic**

When I heard Strategic had passed away I started to realise just what a big impact he had along with his sire Zeditave and another son of Zeditave in Magic Albert had on our business.

One of our first purchases from the Gold Coast Magic Million's January Sale was Calming which went on to be our first good horse. She was by Zeditave as was Zelady and Zedatzi which I purchased a year or so later. I was lucky enough to purchase just one of Calming's foals. Her name was Calming Influence and she was by far the best performed horse out of the mare. Zelady wasn't in the same class as Calming on the track but proved to be a very good brood mare throwing a couple of stakes winners. I was the under bidder on I Am Zelady who won over \$900,000 in stakes money but never got 'black type' which I find quite extraordinary.

When Strategic went to stud it was a no brainer he would be a success. Like his sire Zeditave he was an imposing horse possessing a great turn of foot. He was very unlucky not to win the Golden Slipper, beaten by a poor barrier but was a Group 1 winner when he retired. We had great success with his progeny racing Lord Monty, Captain Chaos, Terra Amata and probably the most talented horse I have syndicated in Horrocks who never reached the heights he should have due to injury.

Magic Albert has done a great job for us with the best I purchased by him being the stakes horses Too Many Reds, Greenmount Belle and I Am Magic. I was the under bidder on Sizzling Belle which was placed in this year's Black Opal Stakes. She is out of Greenmount Belle. Magic Albert is also the dam sire of our very good horses Flying Jess and Invincible Al.

These results help reinforce the fact the speed is the name of the game in Australia where 95% of our races are run up to 1600m. Each of these three sires were fast horses and stood at great studs with Zeditave being at Newhaven Park, Strategic at Woodlands and later Darley and Magic Albert at Yarraman Park and now Koorringal Stud.

## **Why not stick with Australian Bred Sires?**

There has been a bit of banter between a couple of our big studs over what makes a successful sire in Australia. The Sire's Lists tell a simple story with the results available to everyone.

It should be no surprise that top three sires on the Australian Sires Lists in the General, First Season, Second Season, Third Season, Two Years Old, Three Years Old and Four Years Old categories see 19 of the 21 places filled by Australian bred sires with each of these being from speed families. The two sires not bred in Australia are So You Think who is placed 1<sup>st</sup> on the 3<sup>rd</sup> season list and his sire High Chaparral, 2<sup>nd</sup> on the three years old's list.

These Australian bred horses in the main have a mix of our old colonial families with shuttle or international sires such as Danehill, Royal Academy and Invincible Spirit which have worked so well here. Other notables to make their mark here include More Than Ready, Last Tycoon, Hussonet, Shamardal, Street Cry and the list goes on. Breeders in this country have been very fortunate to have access to so many highly successful international sires. It has seen our industry go from strength to strength over the past 20 years.

As you are probably aware I almost exclusively purchase yearlings that are by Australian bred sires although I will support a proven international horse particularly if the foal is out of a well related Australian bred mare. I love finding nice yearlings by first season sires that are affordable and we have had great success on the track when purchasing youngsters by these new sires.

I was interested to read a press report put out by Henry Field from Newgate Farm highlighting the following statistics which were taken from Breednet.com.au:

*89% of all 2YO Stakes races this season were won by horses sired by Australian bred stallions!!!*

*80% of Australian Champion Sires in the past decade are Australian Group One winning Sprinters!!!*

*91% of the top 10 sale prices at the Magic Millions and Inglis Easter Sales over the past 5 years were by Australian Bred Sires!!!*

*85% of Australian Top 10 Sires since 2010 are Australian Bred Sires!!!*

I read Henry's observations after I started writing my piece on the incredible job the Colonially bred horses do here in Australia. We race in conditions which are amongst the most diverse and harshest of any country in the world and our horses have been bred to handle and raced successfully at the highest level in these difficult environments.

When I first started in the industry with the market was flooded with shuttle sires I had a rule that if I purchased a yearling by a shuttle stallion it had to be out of a locally bred mare and vice versa, if I purchased a yearling out of an imported mare it was to be by a local sire. These simple guidelines made a lot of sense to me then and still do.

The breeding landscape in Australia is extremely interesting and dynamic and by following the lead of our best breeders who invest huge amounts of capital standing stallions you can get a feel for the lay of the land. People like John Messara, the Mitchell family, Antony Thompson, Peter Orton, Gerry Harvey and Vin Cox have earned their success and know the industry.

### **Grafton Carnival**

Congratulations to the committee of the Clarence River Jockey Club, Michael Beattie and the hard-working staff of the club for hosting another great carnival. These country carnivals are so very important to our industry. For many young people living in the rural areas these big race days are the only opportunity for them to experience the atmosphere of a major race day. I know from my experience that Weetwood Day was a big occasion in Toowoomba and I loved attending the meeting to watch our local horses compete with the visitors from Brisbane.

### **On The Track**

Our runners over the next few days include Invincible Al at Flemington, Casa De Lago at Morphettville, Hussy's Glow at Sandown, Annaman, Honolulu Lass, Eiffel Star and Zelsignoret at Echuca, Not Surprising at Gosford and Five Star Gal at Pakenham. Good luck to them.