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STABLE NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2009

NEWS:

While most of our horses, including all our jumpers, enjoy their holidays, stuffing themselves on lush green grass and lolling in the sun, the stable has basically run dry of runners for the time being. As a result we have no winners to report!

In some unwelcome news to reach us this month, it seems that Gorge actually grabbed a small slice of history with his first-up run for us this year. As Gorge worked home nicely at the end of the Ballarat mile on 20th March, he was actually becoming the last horse on which popular jockey Sam Hyland would ever ride a finish. In the very next race Sam suffered a horrific fall and was catapulted into the turf, sustaining serious neck injuries which have now proved, sadly, to be career-ending. Sam was an extremely polished jockey, and rode to perfection every time he was legged up on one of our runners, no matter what the race venue or the horse's position in the market. We will all miss the extra confidence we derived from having Sam in the saddle.



Sam Hyland drives Onajet on to win at Mornington (Slickpix)

HORSES FOR SALE:

As reported last month, Anthony recently purchased three exciting staying and jumping prospects. People have quickly latched onto the jumping-biased breeding of Sea Town, and no shares remain in him. Shares do still remain in our other two purchases.

Blarney (O'Reilly – Tall Story) is already in full work, and is a super-impressive specimen, long bodied and well muscled in front and behind the saddle. By the sire of star performers Master O'Reilly and Vigor, this fellow has a touch of class – don't miss out!

Leica Vino (Nothin' Leica Dane – Sweet Madeleine) has enjoyed a few weeks break before launching into work for us. He is a seriously big horse with an enormous stride, all over a stayer just like his sire, a horse of such legendary toughness that he won the Group 1 VRC Derby on the day he actually turned 3 years old, and was then 2nd in the Melbourne Cup just 3 days later!

BALLARAT CUP DAY:

Ballarat Cup Day gets bigger every year, and once again Anthony and Beck are kicking off festivities with their famous Ballarat Cup Day Brunch. Copious food and beverages will start flowing from 10 a.m. on Wednesday 18th November. All welcome - please RSVP to help us gauge numbers for catering.



Raucous scenes at last year's Ballarat Cup Day Brunch

HORSES IN TRAINING:

Our focus this month has shifted to our 2yo's, as our very impressive Denon – Desert Mistral filly and our regally-bred and athletic Galileo – Reggae colt have been starting to learn what this training business is all about. Obviously it is early days, especially with both these youngsters bred to get over some ground, but both are a pleasure to handle and they are thriving with work. It is easy to get out of bed for prospects like these!



Our Galileo colt (left) and Denon filly walking home from the track

Our other purchase from the March Premier yearling sale, the ultra-strong filly by Elvstroem out of Diesis mare Target Figure, is on a few months R and R for a freak injury sustained at the breakers. Time is on our side with this filly, and meanwhile her page keeps improving: since we bought her, Elvstroem has started to really hit his straps as a sire and, even better, our filly's $\frac{3}{4}$ brother Noble Conqueror has again won in Hong Kong, shooting his earnings there up over the (AUS) million dollar mark.

More recent updates came further down this filly's page, in her very strong 3rd dam, where her relations include Nufoos, a classy mare by Zafonic and one of Anthony's all time favourite horses from his years working with Mark Johnston in North Yorkshire. So Anthony was doubly delighted this month when Mark and his team produced Nufoos' 2yo son Azwaan to win both the Group 2 Mill Reef stakes at Newbury and the Group 1 Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket.