

ATBC Newsletter

August 2011



ATBC

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This publication is the official Newsletter of the

Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Club Limited

The Club, which currently has over 200 members, was formed to assist thoroughbred breeders through the presentation of talks, seminars, stud visits and social activities as well as providing incentive schemes and a Stallion Tender Scheme. New members are always welcome and the membership can be arranged by contacting the Club Secretary. Annual membership fees are \$ 50 for a single member or \$ 70 for a joint membership, which includes families, partnerships or corporate bodies

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Stock Take of Library Books

Ethne Potowski is conducting a stock take of library books. If you have any outstanding items please either return them as soon as practicable or let us know their whereabouts on 4577 6120.

Melbourne Cup Calcutta

The Committee would like to hear Members' views as to when would be the best time to hold this event. In recent years we have had successful gatherings on Sunday lunchtime preceding the event. This seems to suit Members better than the more traditional Cup eve, which we have also tried. Is there any desire for an alternative time, such as Saturday evening ? Let someone on the committee know if you have a strong opinion.

Eureka Award

While writing this I was listening to Andrew McLean who was the guest on Margaret Throsby's Morning program on ABC Classic FM.

Andrew was part of Paul McGreevy's University of Sydney's Faculty of Veterinary Science Lab team that had won the Australian Museum's Eureka Award on the previous evening for their research on the use of whips in horse races.

I believe that the exact name of the \$10,000 Award is 'The Voiceless Eureka Prize for Scientific Research That Contributes

Production Deadline: Please note that advertisements and articles must be received by the third Tuesday of Each month to guarantee their appearance in that month's Newsletter

to Animal Protection' and is awarded to an individual or team for scientific research that has contributed, or has the potential to contribute, to animal protection.

For those that bind back copies of these Newsletters in leather and keep them on your bedside tables, I refer you to the February 2011 edition where details of the research can be found or you can locate the full paper via our website; click on the Newsletter archive, go to 'The Whips are cracking Again' in February and click on the links therein.

Money doesn't necessarily equal success

My attention has been drawn to an article by Tony Arrol in The Australian of August 1, 2011.

Tony tracked the racing careers of the graduates of the 2008 sales that cost more than \$ 1 million. There were a remarkable 32 of them with 28 being by two stallions (19 Redoute's Choice and 9 Encosta De Lago).

They are now 5yo's and have had every opportunity to strut their stuff on the racetrack.

The only Stakes winner was Colour (by More Than Ready) who won the G3 SAJC Breeders Stakes. Two others have won at Listed level.

Eleven have yet to race and presumably now are unlikely to.

The biggest money-spinner was Hus Der Lieften (Hussonet's only entry in this millionaire's club) that has recouped \$480,154 of his \$ 1.2 million price tag to date. He was, as were 9 of the 21 colts, gelded to race and so won't be adding to this total in the breeding barn.

The second most expensive at \$ 2.5 million was retired unraced and covered 10 mares at an advertised fee of \$ 3,000 for his debut season last year.

Collectively the class of 2008 have earned \$2,387,155 from their \$ 38,425,000, or a return of about 6.25%

Breeding Fall Guys still vital *by Bronwyn Farr*

They have the most frustrating job imaginable for a bloke - but in an era of advanced reproductive technology, the role of the teaser stallion remains an integral part of Thoroughbred breeding.

Australia's leading stallion stations and broodmare farms rely on these tough little fellows to tell them how receptive - or not - a mare is going to be to a fair dinkum stallion.

In other words, teasers do the foreplay, before the real deal - a massive Thoroughbred stallion often worth many millions of dollars - sashays in to finish the job.

Not only are teasers routinely rudely interrupted in their amorous endeavour- if the mare is not ready, she is likely to let the teaser know with a swift kick.

"No doubt the teaser has got the worst job on the farm, but they are extremely important to the farms operation because it is very important to see how the mares, especially the maiden mares, react, particularly from a safety point of view," Vinery Stud's Adam White explained.

With the most popular sires covering books of at least 150 mares each season and complet-

ing three to four coverings daily, stud farms cannot afford to have these valuable assets sidelined with injuries from offended mares.

Vinery, with nine stallions, and about 300 resident mares on its 850-hectare property has four teasers including Charlie, who has been on active duty at the farm for 30 years.

“He is probably our longest serving employee and he is well looked after. He takes residence in a stallion paddock,” Mr White said.

Teasers need to have enthusiasm, be easy to handle and just know what their job is - to dominate the mares when they need to.

Darley Australia has 10 teasers and every mare covered by one of its 25 stallions first has a chat, so to speak with a teaser.

“Without teasers we play a lot of guessing games,” Darley’s Woodlands Stud general manager John Sunderland said.

“They are the fall guys, they do all the hard work, and it is risky work.”

The truth is, state-of-the-art ultrasound scanning doesn’t reveal what mood a mare is in.

“Mares might look right on scanners, but they all react differently to males and they might decide to kick the house down.”

Sometimes the vet will say the mare is ready but the teaser tells you otherwise and invariably the teaser is right.”

At Arrowfield, where more than 1000 mares will be covered by stallions including champion sire, Redoute’s Choice, this spring, stud manager, Sam Fairgray, has 11 teasers on duty.

“We want to make sure the big fellows aren’t going to get hurt, and we want an ideal cover where the mare stands still under the stallion so that the sperm he ejaculates goes through the cervix, and if she has already urinated and shows herself to the teaser, that’s what we want, because if she urinates during the cover it could kill the sperm.” he said.

“Good teasers are irreplaceable. There’s a lot to be said for using old horseman techniques.”

But isn’t it ultimately demoralising for the hardworking understudies never to get the main gig?

“Occasionally they do get a bit anxious, so we let them have their wicked way with one of the nanny mares on the farm. It helps them quieten down. Plus we give them a 10 to 14 day break that stops the continual anxiety.”

Every single mare destined to visit an Arrowfield stallion will first flirt - or not - with a teaser.



"Freddy Krueger", mare and Mary Hallett, owner/operator and long time ATBC member (in background), working at River Ridge stud, at Sandy Hollow.

"Obviously the maiden mares are the ones that are a bit tricky, they can be very frigid so the teaser has to introduce them to the idea of having something clamber over them."

Mr. Fairgray has a soft spot for Tigger - a grey pony out of a nanny mare called Piglet - and admires his tenacity and canny knowledge. "Tigger could be kicked 10 times but he will still charge back at the mare until he works her down," He said.

Arrowfield's teasers wear an apron that is effectively a male chastity belt.

"Tigger is a gun teaser. He's really smart, he has figured out he can jump

his way around and is less likely to get kicked," Mr. Fairgray said.

"He is just the right size, and a lovely dapple grey, so the mares think he is pretty sexy.

Story courtesy of Bronwyn Farr (one of The Land's senior journalist), also appeared in The Land's Sires Of The Season Annual (28.7.2011)

Freddy gets 'em frisky at River Ridge by Virginia Harvey

"Freddy Kreuger" has been an "unsung hero" for long time Upper Hunter Valley breeder Mary Hallett at her River Ridge stud, which was initiated in 1986 at Kayuga, and since 1998 at Sandy Hollow.

"I could not have conducted my business without him," said Mary owner/manager of River Ridge stud, a broodmare agistment property. "He was an unbroken three-year-old when I first used him (in 1986), and he developed into the best little teaser and has saved me and my owners (of mares) hundreds of dollars in vet bills."

According to Mary, Freddy has "chatted up" about 1000 mares, and his determination has convinced even the shyest breeding mare to signal that she is "on heat".

"I traded him (Freddy) for a load of hay for my (and his) first River Ridge stud season in 1986, when I first took possession of Pilgrims' Way to stand at Kayuga (a village north-west of Muswellbrook)," Mary said.

Wingen born, Freddy, who stands 12.3 hands high, is a mixture of Welsh, Palouse and riding pony. Slight Palomino in colour, he is a flea-bitten chestnut roan, with a flaxen mane and tail, highly attractive to the opposite sex. (Not reflecting his name, he was named by Mary's children after the character in "Nightmare on Elm Street".)

Mary is very proud to admit that her much loved Freddy has successful pony clubbing "children and grand-children", and is open for any mating opportunities. "He (Freddy) used to get a mare or two most seasons, but recent years have been lean for him, so he's open

for new dates," Mary said.

But his role as a teaser, like many others, has been down-sized in recent years due to veterinary technology. "Now vets want to scan (a mare) as early as 12 to 14 days (after service), instead of Freddy teasing them to see if they are going to come back on heat, at about 17 or 18 days (after service)," Mary said.

Residing permanently at River Ridge from 1986, Freddy has had a "second on farm job" which he relishes as a part-time gardener. "As he does not mind being tethered (tied to a pole on a very long lead), Freddy prunes and tidies up all my laneways, keeping the farm looking neat."

Story and photos courtesy of Virginia Harvey (The Land's Thoroughbred writer) and appeared in The Land's Sires Of The Season Annual (28.7.2011)

Nominations for the Board of ATBC Limited

It is that time of year again when we ask that all Members consider whether they have a little time to become involved in the running of our Club. These are not only difficult times for all involved in the thoroughbred breeding industry but also for community based groups of all ilk. The only way to do something about this is to get involved

Soon I will need to be putting out a Notice of the AGM, to be held towards the end of October. By then I will also need to give notice of who will be standing for election to the Board for the following year.

Therefore, we would like to call for nominations for the positions of executive office bearers and board members for the new board. Under the Club's rules **ALL** board positions become vacant annually.

A nomination form for the Board of the Club is included with this Newsletter. Under the Club's Constitution, written and signed nominations **MUST** be lodged with the **Secretary** at least 21 days before the **AGM** at which the election is to take place.

Many of the existing members of the Board have served for many years and probably might look forward to a break, at the very least. Other than at specific times like the putting together of the STS for the year, it is not a particularly onerous task and is an opportunity for you to better influence the direction of your Club.

There are three nominated positions; President, Vice President and Treasurer. In addition there is provision for 8 other members to join them as Directors on the Board.

There are eleven meetings a year at the Club House, on the third Tuesday of each month, except December. There is usually a slice of pizza and a glass of wine as a perk of the office.

Please consider if you are able to help in the management of the Club in this way and then fill out the form, cut it out and send it to **ATBC Ltd., P.O. BOX 821, Windsor NSW 2756**

Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Club Limited
Nomination Form

I,....., being a financial member, wish to **Nominate**
 (insert your name)

....., for the position of
 (insert name of the person you wish to nominate)

President/Vice President/Treasurer/Director

(strike out whichever are not applicable)

Signed.....Dated this.....Day of.....2011

I,....., being a financial member, wish to **Sec-
 ond**
 this nomination

Signed.....Dated this.....Day of.....2011

I,....., being a financial member, wish to advise that I **Accept
 the Nomination** for the position of.....

on the board of the **Australian Thoroughbred Breeders Club Limited**

Signed.....Dated this.....Day of.....2011

Nursery News



The Tuckfield's 'Hector' at 4 days with mum, Brahms And Liszt (Hennessy -Royal Accord (Imperial Prince).

This is her second Lord Of The Manor (Grand Lodge) colt.

Older brother 'Archie' continues to thrive at Piplyn Lodge



Colleen Goth's Botswana (Lion Hunter - Final Colony) colt out of her Commands mare, Tiddlywink, greets the world on 30th August.

He is aptly named 'Leo'

Horse Paintings to Order

Treat your owners, friends or trainer - or even yourself - to an original painting of their pride and joy!

Sizes vary:	16 x 20 inches	\$225
	18 x 23.5 inches	\$295
	29.5 x 39 inches	\$495

All I need is a good photograph, with the racing colours detail clearly visible. Allow approximately 21 days for delivery. Prices do not include P&H

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Would that person who has (almost) everything like a themed gift item of a horse,

A dog, a cat, a frog, a pig or even an owl?

Visit our website and/or our EBay store and view some of the unique items that are available. (you will find the majority of other animal items on the EBay site)

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