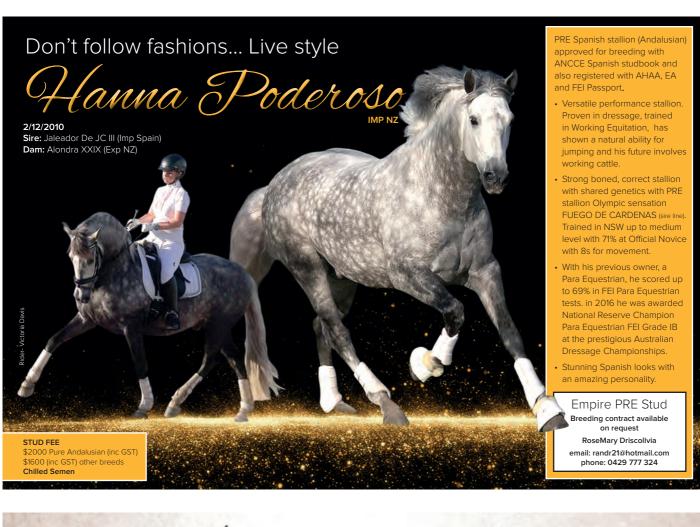




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Armageddon - Rich Meadows	Armageddon - Rich Meadows	Quiran - West Coast Veterinarian Services
Noran Arabians	Noran Arabians	Uriko - West Coast Veterinarian Services
ARABIAN WARMBLOOD Deveron Di Maggio - Kentucky Fields	ARABIAN WARMBLOOD Deveron Di Maggio - Kentucky Fields	NP Caretino's Boy - Lyngarie Park
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Heez Zippin Hot - Karen NicolettoInside front National Dmac A Tee - Moray Quarter Horse Stud		
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Clarimo - West Coast Veterinarian Services	Clarimo - West Coast Veterinarian Services 19	K and M Herbs19







Courtesy of College of Veterinary Medicine, Murdoch University.

SPERM RECOVERY

with Dr Anne Barnes



The loss of a stallion to accident or illness can be devastating to owners, both emotionally and financially.

Not only does the death of a stallion mean the loss of stud fees for the future, but there could also be a commitment, that cannot be fulfilled, for re-breeding mares that have not carried foals full term.

The trend to have stallions collected and semen stored to preserve the bloodlines and the financial future of the stud has alleviated the risk for many breeders, but what options are available if this has not been done?

We talk to Dr Anne Barnes, Associate Professor, Theriogenology at Murdoch University Animal Hospital Reproduction Clinic where a procedure called epididymal sperm recovery is performed on a regular basis.

"It is possible to recover spermatozoa from stallions that sustain life-threatening medical conditions and either die unexpectedly or need to be euthanised," said Anne.

"It is a technique that has been used successfully for a long time, and it is good to remind people of this possibility.

"Spermatozoa could survive and maintain fertilising capacity for 12-24 hours after the testes are removed from the stallion. In the unfortunate case where a stallion

dies, sperm can be harvested from the epididymides and be processed for freezing and preserved. The epididymis is a highly convoluted tubule (see photos on the right) connected to the testis, through which spermatozoa travel and are stored before ejaculation out the vas deferens.

"For a mature large-breed stallion, approximately 15-20 billion sperm can be recovered. To give you a bit of an idea, this translates into about 10-15 breeding doses of frozen semen.

Depending on the age, history and health status of the stallion, more or less sperm may be harvested. Recovery and sperm quality may be poor in stallions with a chronic medical condition or those that have had exposure to certain medications.

"When harvesting the testes, it is very important that all the epididymides and as much of the associated vas deferens should stay intact. Then the testes and associated structures can be placed in a clean plastic bag, wrapped in a thin towel, and transported to the laboratory in an esky with a cool pack. The quicker the testes arrive at a facility that is able to process them, the better — within 12 hours is definitely recommended, however viable sperm may be recovered up to 24 hours after removal if the organs have been kept cool. If the stallion is to be euthanised, it is best to harvest the testicles first as it is unknown what affect the euthanasia solution might have on the epididymal spermatozoa.

"It is important to realise that frozen-thawed epididymal spermatozoa have lower fertility rates as compared to 'regular'

frozen semen. One of the reasons is the absence of seminal plasma, the fluid produced by the stallion's accessory sex glands. This fluid contains many chemicals that help with maturation and activity of the sperm, and as it is normally added to the spermatozoa to form the semen at ejaculation, it is missing from the sperm harvested straight from the epididymis.

"It is good for stallion owners to realise that the above is possible and it may be a good idea to discuss this with your local vet and figure out where the closest processing and freezing facility is. The unexpected death or euthanasia of your stallion would be a horrible

thing; however, it's good to know that his genetic material can be preserved.

"When choosing to castrate your stallion, (for reasons other than that he is not a suitable breeding prospect!), it is of course also possible to harvest and freeze spermatozoa from the epidiymides post-castration. The sperm can be stored and sold or used for your own mares in the future. This can also be an option for those with a younger animal who wish to castrate but who are uncertain whether they want to retain any breeding

potential; the sperm can be preserved while you decide if his genetics are something you wish to pass on. It is important to ensure the colt is mature and producing sperm for this procedure to be useful."

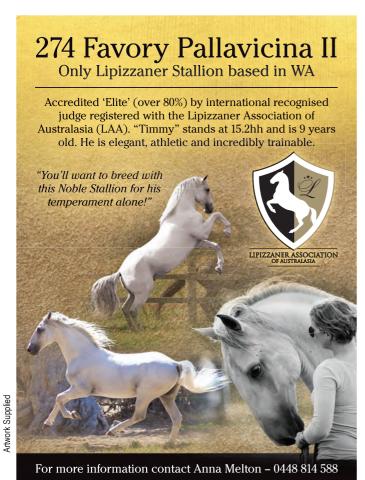
Left: Gelding a stallion out of a clinic environment.

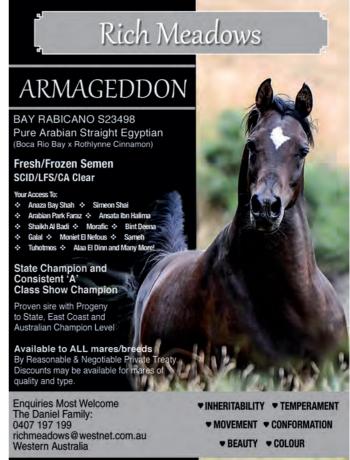


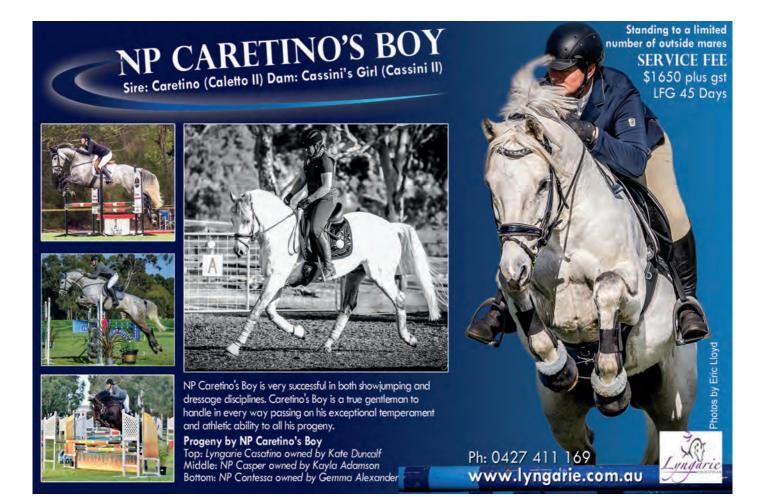


Top: Testes, with epididymides attached, have been removed from a stallion. Centre: The epididymides (left) is then flushed through to collect the semen.









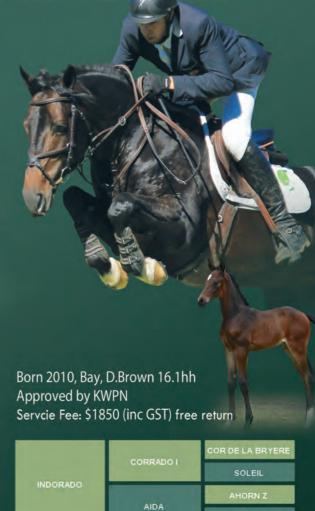


CONFIANCE	CONTENDRO I	CONTENDER		Carinjo	Cascavelle	Cantus
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		LANDGAEFIN				Grossfuerstin
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		RABANNA VAN COSTERSVELD				Folia
	ANNA	ACORADO			Otane	Cardinal
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		NIMMERDOR pref	
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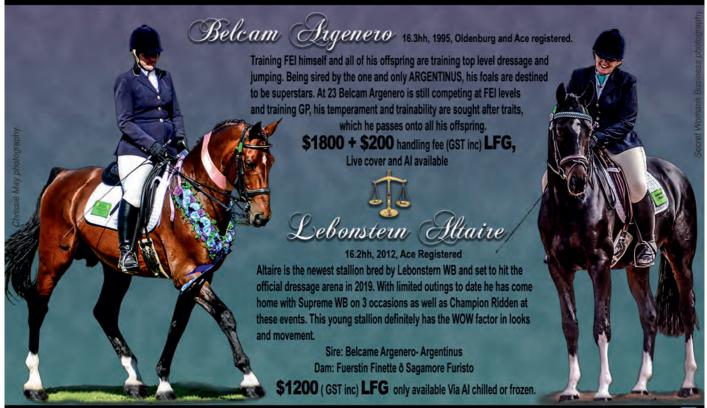


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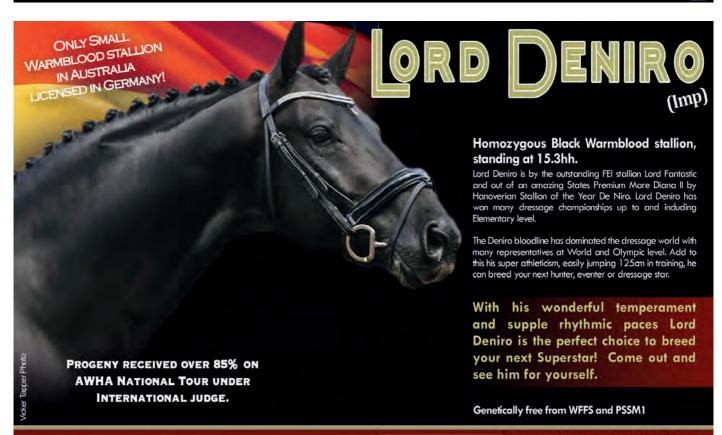
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\$2,000 incl GST LFG (transport fees are extra)

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TOP CLASS EMBYRO TRANSFER WEANLING FILLY - \$18,500

Sire: Yalambi's Confidant Dam: Oaks Dreamtime Elegant, modern filly for top level sport and breeding. Rare opportunity to purchase a filly from this great line.

DANZASTAR

14 Year old, Thoroughbred. Danzastar has been competing at Grand Prix level for many years with wins and placings at Sydney Royal, Equifest, and the Aquis Champions Tour. He is also a Perth Royal Show Grand Prix winner and World Cup placegetter. Danzastar is a very sound and willing horse that requires a soft ride. \$30,000 +GST

Youngstock to Grand Prix horses for sale contact: Caitlin Bolger 0411 957 757 or visit facebook.com/Riverwoodlodge.com

Glitter N Cream GF

German Warmblood



Photos by Miakodah Photography

INTRODUCTORY FEE:

\$1100 for fresh or chilled
Solid colour mares only
(no dilutes or coloured mares)
Excluding collection/delivery,
vet and agistment fees.

Stands at 166cm. We are privileged to own such a soft, gentle soul. He shows his elegance, power and beauty to all who meet him and has exceptional movement and a captivating jumping style. With 87.5% Thoroughbred blood he refines the heavier breeds perfectly and produces a very versatile, quality, modern performance horse.

His sire, Glitter of Gold, is a stunning palomino Thoroughbred who is a son of the famous Glitter Please (dec) who competed FEI at Prix St. George Seneta, his dam, has one of the best lines in Czechoslovakian breeding with the bloodline of Sonata. She has produced three licensed sons with PrH Glitter N' Cream GF being the second and approved by two associations, the Royal Belgian Palomino Sporthorse and ZfdP.

Mr Hans Britze, ZfdP breeding director and elected member of the Trakehner stallion grading commission, commented that Glitter N' Cream GF was the best Cremello Warmblood he had been presented to assess at licensing.



Nicole & Paul Wooroloo Ph: 0429 133 339 owanlea@hotmail.com www.owanlea.com.au









Stud Olews - around Western Australia

EVALE GYPSY COBS



Evale Gypsy Cob Stud, situated in Jingalup, 280km south of Perth, has the young stallion HS The Rocking Horse Colt at stud. Some foals now due this season, one of which is sired by the Buckskin stallion Hermits Masquerade, and some of these will be for sale.

Owner Evie-Ray Hersom is looking at having the numbers to comfortably show, ride and drive a selection of horses and still be able to breed foals, without breeding the mares every year. This will allow the stud to advance the breed in different aspects of performance.

HS The Rocking Horse Colt, a rising 4 year old, has had a busy year with his harness training culminating with placings at the State Championships against seasoned competitors. The next step is cart training and then he starts his under-saddle work.

The stud is currently setting up a 'Paddock Paradise' track and paddock system that includes varied height hay stations, logs across the track and river rock areas for healthy hooves and the overall health and well-being of the horses. "As a hoof trimmer qualified with ACEHP we have a holistic approach to horse care and have monthly body work with Whole Herd Therapies."

Left: Hermits Masquerade, owned my Watermark Gypsy Cobs, is the sire of our first foal this season from our blue roan gypsy, Spirit. See ad page 15.

NEW STALLION... HANNA PODEROSO

The arrival of Hanna Poderoso - an imported Andalusian stallion - to the newly created Empire PRE Stud in Narrikup heralds the first step towards achieving owner RoseMary Driscoll's aims of producing quality horses



with trainability and great work ethics. Andalusians, known as the Pure Spanish Horse or PRE (Pura Raza Española), have that 'Look at Me' quality, which is combined with movement and the proven temperament and versatility of the breed.

The PRE Stud is just being established on the Driscoll's small cattle farm, and welcomes Hanna Poderoso as their foundation sire. Although he has a solid dressage background he will be working cattle, attending clinics and becoming involved with Working Equitation this year. As RoseMary says, "I became interested in breeding the Andalusian as it is my vision to breed horses that have all the attributes and genetics for a performance horse yet have a temperament that will suit the everyday amateur rider."

Any horse that was used to conquer kingdoms, was given as gifts to royalty and can maintain its composure in a fighting bull ring, as well as show-off the art of classical equestrianism and then put in a day's work on the farm is worth looking in to when planning to breed a foal with a great future. See ad page 3.

RIDING PONIES AND FRIESIAN WARMBLOODS

Treelea Park, located in the Shire of Serpentine, is a small stud and agistment property where the Riding Pony and Australian Pony, Willowcroft Soprano, stands. Brought over from the east as a 2 yr old, the stud only breeds 1-3 foals a year themselves but he is available for public stud.



"We have also started breeding a few Friesian Warmbloods, "said Michelle Willems, "and are a bit excited about my Friesian mare going to Royal Oak 11 (Al) this year. We are also expanding our agistment size, after purchasing 50acs across the road from the stud." See ad page 16.

IMPORTED GERMAN - PERFORMANCE STALLIONS WITH COLOUR FOR OWANLEA

Owanlea Performance Horses in Wooroloo are setting a trend with quality performance horses imported from Germany that also offer breeders the option of that bit of 'bling'.

When Paul and Nicole Nathan were looking for a palomino Warmblood their search ended in Germany, where they found Win the Gold. Nicole had seen him years before as a 2 year old and realised that he would now fit their breeding program perfectly, as he met their stud's criteria of producing quality horses from the breeding background for performance, and progeny that have the temperament to suit riders of all levels. The colour offered breeders the option of having all this, plus the added bonus of something a little different.

So Win the Gold joined their senior imported Oldenburg stallion, Sterntänzer, who has progeny competing at Grand Prix level in the USA and Europe and is producing stunning foals from their small band of six mares

The more recent addition - from the same stud as Win the Gold - was the cremello Glitter N' Cream. This stallion's Thoroughbred and Warmblood lines bring more colour to the table, as well as his ability to lighten the heavier Warmbloods, while his temperament enhances the stud's aim of producing performance horses for higher levels, as well as amateur level riders.

Nicole previously worked full time in mining, which she found was not conducive to preparing horses for competition. Now based in Wooroloo she plans to become more involved with competing in showjumping and eventing and working with the young stock, some of which are now going under saddle and are available for sale.

Although not advertised, Owanlea also stands the cremello Australian Stock Horse stallion, Springdale Solitaire. See ad pages 10,11.



THE ONLY LIPIZZANER STALLION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

This is the first time 274 Favory Pallavicina II (Timmy) will stand at stud. He is the only Lipizzaner stallion here in Western Australia and is one of a handful of stallions accredited in Australia, let alone of an elite scoring.

He's had a beautiful mix of liberty and classical training and is now ready to start showing his capabilities to the world.

Owner, Anna Melton, has just had a baby, so this is an ideal time for Timmy to learn how to court and take his lady friends out on dates. His breeding paddock is based in Gidgegannup where he is in with a part-Lipizzaner mare at present and he is a true gentleman. His experience with another mare, taught Timmy the rules of courting and he is now perfectly mannered. This minimises the risk with breeding as his main purpose is to be a ridden dressage horse - he's too naturally gifted not to pursue this career. When in work he is based in West Swan where he is available for viewing and cuddles for those who bring apples! See ad page 5.



SUCCESS FOR WELSH COB PROGENY



Rowen King William - owned and ridden by Shannon Bray. Photo by Vicki Photos

Rowen Stud has had a successful 12 months in the show ring with 2 year old Rowen Princess Daenerys, by their imported Welsh D stallion, Gwynfaes Madoc, and out of Cwmkaren Dancing Queen, winning the Welsh Cob Championship at Perth Royal 2017 and going on to win Supreme Welsh Youngstock Exhibit at the Youngstock Show in February 2018. Rowen Goerjeana, also by Madoc and out of the imported mare, Penstrumbly Blue Jean Baby, took out the Best Welsh Yearling at the May Welsh Foal Show.

Rowan Stud always love to see Cobs being successful with their new owners,

especially under saddle, out and about jumping, in dressage, carriage and show hunter - showing the versatility of their stallion's progeny.

Currently there are some youngstock available and they are expecting two foals this season. The stud also hopes to introduce new Cob bloodlines using AI with international semen this season. Visitors always welcome to drive down to meet the 'Cobbies'. See ad page 16.

SECOND STALLION FOR BELROSA PARK

Since moving to 82 acres at Boyanup four years ago Fay Zilco has been busy setting up the facilities at Belrosa Park Stud. As they offer agistment this includes a safe riding area, an arena and an enclosed wash bay.



Twelve months ago they purchased a second Quarter Horse stallion, Command Performance, to join their senior stallion, Wyben Toucha Carisma. With their criteria of only breeding to selected mares they are producing versatile, show quality QH's that will excel in most disciplines and be suitable for a range of riders. Firm believers in breeding quality not quantity, this year they have just the one foal, which will be offered for sale in 2019 (Command Performance x Miss Classic Gold).

Currently, also for sale are: Belrosa Park Kentuckygold, rising 2yr old palomino gelding; Belrosa Park Montana Gold, rising 3 yr old palomino gelding, broken in and going well; Show No Caution, palomino brood mare, has had three filly foals; and lastly, an unnamed palomino rising 2 yr old filly, out of a TB mare. See ad page 18.

BML TOTALITY - (WITH TOTALIS AND REGARDEZ MOI) BLOODLINES

When Tracey Diederich, Corrie Andrew, Oriel and Neal Douglas from BML Performance Horses announced they had a colt foal born in 2014, it created interest from the dressage community across Australia. They had purchased a Regardez Moi mare, in foal to the dressage stallion Moorlands Totalis - a Dutch Warmblood stallion considered to be one of the most outstanding competitive dressage horses in the world. One of a very few colts by this stallion in Australia, BML Totality, a rising four year old, is now working under saddle and is showing the experessive paces one would expect from his sire and dam bloodlines. With such a colt one might expect him to be kept wrapped in 'cotton wool' but as Tracey says, "He has an amazing temperament and he is just one of the horses on our Oakford property. We have agisters, young horses in work, as well as the competition horses and we are also training racehorses now, so he has always had to deal with all the activity. He is going well under saddle and is ridden by Tayah and Corrie Andrew and Tracey Strommer, depending who has the time to work him. We are just taking it slowly and will see what his future holds as he matures."

Totality's first foal is due in September from the dam of BML Sandriah, a Multi Champion Hack and Horse of the Year winner. He has seven foals due this season, most of which are on the east coast.

BML Performance Horses breed competition horses and have a select few for sale as, while Tracey still loves her teaching and the performance horses, she is now making a name for herself as a racehorse trainer with seven wins so far and some good horses in work. See ad page 3.





TOP BLOODLINES AT KINTORE

Kintore Paints and QHs have been breeding for 20 years, and are proud to produce horses that have the versatility to halter as youngsters then go out and compete under saddle in a large variety of disciplines.

Although they have not been breeding or competing for the last few years due to time constraints they are looking forward to getting some stock out later in the year.

The stud's mare lines include some of the best halter and ridden horses, both imported and local sires... OHK Krymsun Zip, Loots Image, TQ Skippa Clu, Ford Shameless Cowboy, Shining Priority, Corporate Raider, Docs Cool Widower, Cooscenario, Extreme Colors, Good Prophecy, Colonels Gold, The Duke, Im A Cool Seeker, An Obsession, Tall Dark N Radical, Is It True, Spot Of Grand, Mr Pale Face.

The stud has select young stock, ridden horses and mares available at most times. See ad page 18.

FOR THE SMALLER WARMBLOOD...

Foxleigh Stud is a small Warmblood Stud breeding dressage horses for over 15 years.

Focused on using top quality proven bloodlines from mares and stallions, they like to breed smaller sized elegant Warmbloods. When they could not find any top quality smaller stallions to use in Australia they took their search overseas. Importing the licensed 15.3hh stallion, Lord Deniro, from Germany they continued their goal of providing easy to train, bold, correct Warmbloods for all riders, and to give breeders an alternative to the GRP or taller Warmbloods for their mares. Foxleigh Stud breeds both Hanoverians and AWHA registered stock with many successful horses out competing, including FX Scimitar, FX Mr Darcy and FX Seraph. With top scoring Platinum AWHA and Gold award Hanoverian foals those buying a Foxleigh Warmblood will not be disappointed. Youngstock and ridden horses are currently for sale.

See ad page 8.



Missed the deadline for the WA Stallion Directory??

Include your 'boy' in the Oct/Nov issue

DEADLINE
30th August

Ph: 08 9397 0506 graphics@hoofbeats.com.au

LIKE FATHER LIKE SON

Lebonstern Warmblood Stud has relocated from Boyanup to a property on Nicholson Rd, Forrestdale (south of Perth). This year they are introducing a new addition to their stallion lineup, with Lebonstern Altaire joining his sire Belcam Argenero at stud.

This young, black stallion has just started his showing under saddle and has already impressed the judges with Championships, wins and placings at the limited shows he has attended to date. He will be shown lightly this season and then in 2019 his agenda is the Stallion Classification with ACE, prior to starting his official dressage career.

While this young horse has created a lot of interest on his limited outings he does have big boots to fill in the quest to follow in his 23 year old sire's hoofprints. See ad page 8.



EXCITING ADDITIONS TO RIVERWOOD LODGE

Riverwood Lodge, in conjunction with Oaks Sporthorses (NSW), welcome two new additions to the stables. As Riverwood's Caitlin Bolger explains, "We are excited to welcome these two to our Australian breeding program. Yalambi's Messiah (Cardento x Heartbreaker), a rising two year old colt bred by Yalambi Farm Stud and Yalambi's Monte Carlo, imported in utero, who is by the famous Cristallo I from a Toulon mare. Riverwood Lodge is also expecting some world class stock due this season by leading sires Casall Ask and Clarimo". Oaks Sporthorses also recently imported the Catoki son Casting who is now standing in NSW and open to public stud. See ad on page 9.



SUCCESSFUL PROGENY

Linda Page from Lyngarie Stud congratulates the successful performance progeny by NP Caretino's Boy and their owners.

Kate Duncalf - Lyngarie Casatino (Beau) has the loveliest nature and

temperament, he's an absolute pleasure to own and easy to handle in every way. Very trainable, he learns incredibly quickly, and has a powerful, scopey jump. He is just moving up to jumping 1.15 and is very rideable on course. He has a powerful, scopey jump and I am excited about his future! Gemma Alexander - Contessa (Caretinos Boy x Collins) is an 8 year old mare, who while only small has a huge jump! She has recently stepped up to 1.35m classes with great success. Some recent achievements include: *Swan River YH Championship Show, High Flyer Mini Prix - 5th place *Bunbury Classic 1.35m - 2nd place *Bunbury Classic Bunbury Cup 1.30m - 5th place *Bunbury Classic 6 Bar - 1st Place *Yalambi Silver Series Final - 2nd place. Contessa is a lovely mare who is well known for her scopey jump. See ad on page 5



Contessa - Eric Lloyd photo



KAREN NICOLETTO SHOW HORSES

When Heez Zippin Hot came into Karen Nicoletto's life as a youngster nearly 18 years ago little could she have known the incredibly successful future that lay ahead for him. Over the years he's won multiple Championships and has been shown successfully in Western Australia and on the East coast. He's won American High Point awards and numerous classes and awards in Western and English. Incredibly versatile, he has a kind and willing temperament. Prior to purchasing a new 10 acre property in the Swan Valley late last year 'Chip' was well cared for at friend Brian Cramp's property. Plans are to provide mare and foal after-care for clients as required. The property

is also ideal for Karen's plans to establish a learning centre with weekend clinics and private lessons on offer. As Equine Manager at Edmund Rice College (formerly Catholic Agricultural College, Bindoon) Karen's students have campaigned a number of Chip's progeny, their excellent temperaments proving ideal for students and highly sought after for their many positive attributes. With two frozen embryos and frozen semen Karen has taken steps to ensure Chip's legacy is protected and long lasting. A few home mares will also be bred this season, this small scale breeding fitting in with a busy work schedule at the College, teaching, training and working with young horses for in-hand classes and starting under saddle before they're sent off to outside trainers to further their education in english and western disciplines. See ad on inside front cover of national Hoofbeats.

HS The Rocking Horse Coll Pure bred Gypsy Cob stallion DNA verified Australia's only progeny from legendary world esteemed stallion

DNA verified Australia's only progeny from legendary world esteemed stallion SD The Rocking Horse (UK) DECEASED and Dam Clononeen Lulu (UK) IMP

EMH 15+

Triple registered stallion
Upgraded APSB, AGHS, PINTO
Stunning Blagdon stallion
Born Sept 2014
DNA tested Heterozygous Sabino nSb1,

Homozygous Black EE.

DNA tested negative for PSSM1

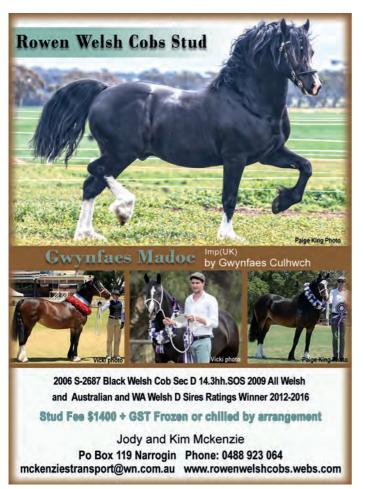


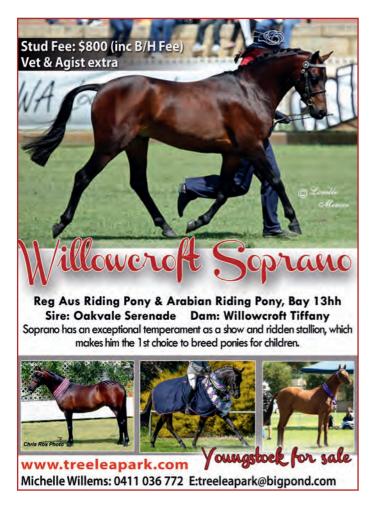


Photos by Vicki Tapper



LIMITED TO 5 OUTSIDE MARES ONLY. LIVE COVER ONLY WITH LFG Evale Gypsy Cobs Contact Evie: Mobile 0448 881 932 or Home 98336349, Email: EvaleGypsieCobs@hotmail.com





Stallion Listings

Easy access for a listing of stallions standing at stud in WA.



Charisma Pony Stud Presents

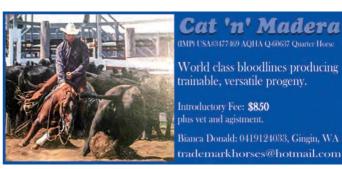
Imperial Tennessee

Welsh B Stallion Winner of Victorian Sires Rating. Sire of Champion and Medal Winning Stock

Stud Fee \$880 PH: 0418 905 486 Type, Temperament, Movement. Trainability











Deveron Di Maggio

ARABIAN WARMBLOOD 16 hh, AHSA, ACE, AWSH

- Trainability
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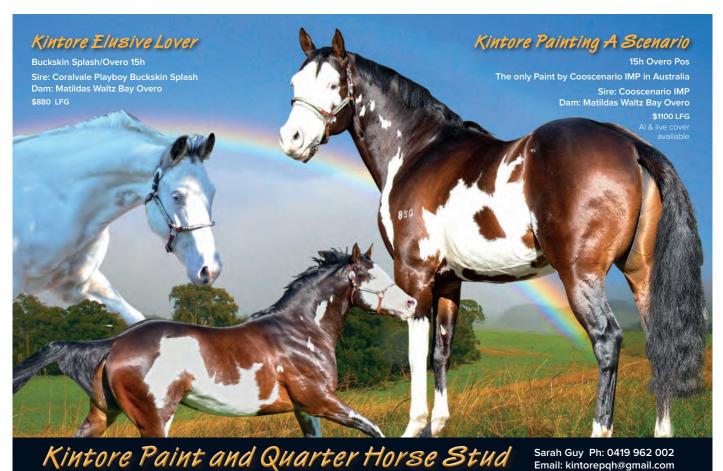
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There are many reasons people decide to breed their own horse, including sentimental reasons for some who may have visions of their much loved mare producing a champion and creating the horse of their dreams.

Then there are those who breed horses for commercial reasons, either with a small scale 'boutique' set up, producing a couple of foals a year with a sense of enjoyment and accomplishment with the process, and hopefully some profit. And those with the expertise and means to produce a greater number of horses destined for the competitive arena with the demand for their stud's offspring ensuring their ongoing commercial viability and meeting a demand in the market place.

Whatever the reasons you're considering to breed it's important to know breeding horses is not a cheap exercise and it has the potential for risks and upsets along the way. Getting it right involves more than starting with a good quality mare and matching her to a stallion that will hopefully compliment any faults to produce a

vet

foal of superior conformation and performance ability to both the sire and dam.

For those weighing up the pros and cons of breeding your own foal versus buying one from an experienced stud, or those who have done their homework and are now preparing to embark on the breeding journey for the 2018/2019 season, these local vets with years of experience dealing with novice and experienced breeders alike share with us a few questions that could be considered when making the decision to breed a foal.

Dr Paula Bell-Cross from VALLEY EQUINE VET CENTRE answers a few questions owners should be considering when contemplating breeding their mare.

Should I have my mare checked by a vet prior to breeding?

Absolutely. This is particularly important if your mare has never been bred before or if you don't have personal experience with her previous reproductive history. Older maiden mares, mares who have had many foals and mares with a history of reproductive issues can sometimes be challenging cases to get in foal, and there may be additional costs involved with achieving and maintaining pregnancies in these mares.

It is important to ascertain that your mare is a good candidate for breeding, with an apparently normal and healthy reproductive tract.

Ideally you should aim to have a pre-breeding check done early on in the season so that any identified problems can be addressed before your mare is prepared for breeding. Your vet will assess your mare's physical health and body weight, and her vulval conformation. It is important to be aware that there are limitations to the pre-breeding check as your vet cannot fully evaluate your mare's overall reproductive health based on a single examination, and further evaluation or diagnostic testing is often required. This

may include serial ultrasonographic evaluation at a different time during your mare's cycle, sampling of the uterus for cytology and/ or culture, or taking a biopsy for uterine histopathology. Uterine endoscopy may be indicated. There are many different aspects to your mare's reproductive health, and the pre-breeding check can be invaluable when it comes to making decisions about how best to approach the upcoming breeding season.

When do you recommend testing to detect a pregnancy?

It is possible to detect a pregnancy using rectal ultrasonography as early as 10 days after ovulation, but we recommend scanning your mare for pregnancy between 13 - 15 days post-ovulation. At this stage the embryos are still mobile within the uterus, prior to fixation, which takes place on days 16 - 17. Pregnancy testing at this time allows identification and resolution of twin pregnancies if they are present, although your vet may recommend further evaluation of the uterus a few days later in order to rule out twins. This is particularly important if multiple ovulations are detected on scan without finding the same number of pregnancies, and when the timing of at least one of the ovulations is not known.

We recommend that you have your mare scanned again between day 22 - 32 to ensure that a heartbeat can be detected. If your mare if found to have lost her pregnancy at this stage, and if it is not too late in the season, then she will cycle again and you may choose to rebreed. A final pregnancy ultrasound is usually performed between 45 - 60 days to confirm that your mare is still pregnant and to assess fetal viability.





Can you test the sex of the foetus and at what stage of the pregnancy can you test for it?

Foetal sex can be determined in utero by transrectal or transabdominal ultrasound between days 57 and 220 after ovulation. To achieve satisfying accuracy this procedure should be performed by a veterinarian with experience in transrectal examination of mares and fetal gender determination.



The optimum time for testing the sex of the foetus using transrectal ultrasonography is between 55 - 75 days of gestation, and again between 100 - 150 days. However, this procedure can be easier said than done, particularly in fractious mares, and some vets prefer to use a transabdominal approach between 4-5 months of pregnancy. It is possible to perform fetal sexing trans-abdominally beginning on 90 days of gestation up to term. However, the optimal time is between 140 – 150 days of gestation.

In order to get the best images of the fetus, the mare needs to be very calm and relaxed as her excitement will influence the fetus. As long as a good image is obtained the accuracy of fetal sexing can be quite high. However, fetal movements deteriorate the view and complicate the ability to determine the sex of the foal.

The use of technology in horse breeding is nothing new, Artificial Insemination and Embryo Transfer now popular for a number of reasons. More recently the use of frozen embryos has become more practical.

Dr Rebecca Bell from BELVOIR EQUINE CLINIC AND BREEDING CENTRE discusses the option of frozen embryos.

What are the benefits to equine embryo freezing.

The major benefit to embryo freezing is the reduction in the up-front costs of an embryo transfer program by delaying the recipient charges. This allows owners to budget their breeding program and consider all options for their potential foal such as sale of the embryo or preserving their mare's genetics. The second major benefit is the ability to source your own recipient mare to mother your special foal. This mare must pass a breeding soundness examination prior to implantation of the embryo. A practical reason for embryo freezing is the ability to obtain an embryo on a year where you have been unable to get your mare in foal at a suitable time. You can continue to flush her and freeze an embryo for implantation in a recipient mare immediately or in the following season. This can help alleviate lost production.

Are there any drawbacks to consider when going ahead with embryo freezing?

An embryo freezing program requires access to enough good quality semen and an appropriate semen contract. When freezing embryos, it is critical that the quality of the semen is excellent and the dose is appropriate for high fertility. Using fresh or chilled semen is optimal, however most owners prefer using frozen semen to access worldwide genetics. Frozen semen varies considerably in its fertility and owners must be aware of this. Owners should find out the conception rates of the semen they are purchasing. There is a trend for dose rates to be reduced, which applies high expectations on veterinarians to produce pregnancies with semen of reduced fertility. Average and poor quality semen is not suitable for embryo freezing programs. Using expensive semen purchased by the straw is not an economical option for embryo freezing.

Negotiating semen contracts for embryo transfer is fairly new territory for many stallion owners. However, there can be benefits to the stallion owner if more than one embryo is frozen and has potential for a service sale. Discuss with the stallion owner or semen agent the options for using the semen for an embryo transfer program. You may be able to customise a contract or as a minimum obtain the semen in packages of three doses. This will ensure that the standard three rounds of embryo flushing can take place efficiently without hold ups on semen.

What client's situation would be most particularly suited to using this technology?

Clients who have the resources to access enough good quality semen are most likely to achieve the best results in an embryo freezing program. Clients who have a high value mare they wish to sell but still would like to access her genetics at a later time can find embryo freezing technology useful.

Any drawbacks/considerations for those planning on purchasing/using a frozen embryo?

A frozen embryo does have a lower implantation rate compared to a fresh embryo, however the timing of recipient mares do not present a challenge in the implantation of a frozen embryo. Sometimes the synchronisation of recipient mares for a fresh embryo program is the challenge and this can also lead to lowered conception rates. Freezing embryos gives the advantage of not requiring a recipient mare synchronised with the donor



because the embryo is frozen immediately after being flushed. The embryo can then remain suspended in time until the owner is ready to attempt the implantation into their chosen recipient.

Why has this method taken longer to perfect/use than fresh embryos?

Freezing equine embryos is not a new technology however is does require specialised laboratory equipment and technician skills that take time

to learn and perfect. Freezing embryos also adds another level to the already complex set of steps in an embryo transfer (ET) program. Embryo freezing adds many benefits to the standard ET program, yet it does have a reduced conception rate.

Whichever method of breeding you finally decide upon, it is well worth doing extensive initial research into exactly what procedures will be required to prepare and achieve a positive outcome for your breeding venture and the ongoing care and maintenance of your in-foal-mare.



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