

Home-town Man wins Perth Cup



Material Man

Owner-breeders **Michael and Jill MacDermott** experienced the thrill of a lifetime watching their black and yellow shamrock silks carried to a home-town victory by **Material Man** in the **G2 Perth Cup on New Year's Day**.

Material Man (Vital Equine – Del Lirio by Hussonet) is the end result of the Perth couple buying a handful of yearlings and broodmares through Pedigree Dynamics in 2005.

The yearlings included Del Lirio who won two Sydney metro races before the MacDermotts took her to Perth where she retired to their boutique farm. A mating planned to Danehill-line sire Vital Equine produced the classy Material Man who has now amassed over \$1 million in prizemoney.

The MacDermotts have wound down their racing and breeding operation to a significant degree in recent years with Michael's ongoing ill-health occupying all their attention. Del Lirio was sold earlier this year and her new owners sent her to Newgate Stud to be covered by Wandjina.

MacDermott said his life was almost back to normal after a fight with cancer. "I'm feeling stronger every day. I've won stakes races in Sydney but nothing like this."

Material Man was runner-up to Pounamu in the G1 Kingston Town Classic and G2 Ted van Heemst Stakes before turning the

turning the tables on the grey in the Perth Cup (2400m). "He's the best horse I've ever had," trainer Justin Warwick declared. "Today was probably 100 metres further than he wanted to go but he never runs a bad race."

He's also the best galloper by Vital Equine (Ire) who stands at Rosalee Park in Serpentine by arrangement with Yarradale Stud.

Vital Equine has three yearlings for sale at the Perth Magic Millions starting with the filly from Sweet Apparition (Lot 147) who is a half-sister to G3 Hyperion Stakes winner Local Legend.

Mogumber Park graduate American Joy is the latest 3yo filly to come through the ranks for Peters Investments this season.

The progressive daughter of Americain (USA) is destined for better company after a running double at Pinjarra (1500m) and Bunbury (2000m) in December.

Leading owners Bob and Sandra Peters have any number of options for a staying 3yo filly in the autumn culminating with the G3 WA Oaks (2400m) in April. Their black-type winners in that division this summer have been Perfect Jewel (G2 WA Guineas) and Mikimoto (LR Burgess Queen Stakes).

Mogumber Park owners Colin Brown and Fiona Lacey sold American Joy as a weanling for \$35,000 at the 2015 Magic Millions National Foal Sale. They had paid the same

amount for her dam Newstar Lass at the 2014 Inglis Great Southern Sale.

Newstar Lass (Royal Academy) is a half-sister to G1 VRC Oaks winner Arapaho Miss and was sold in foal to Swettenham Stud's Melbourne Cup winner Americain.

Another Mogumber Park graduate from the 2015 Magic Millions Foal Sale is Gary Moore's 3yo gelding Auchentoman (Denman) who won first-up at Wyong on December 21. His dam Exchanges (Domesday) was a member of Safeguard's first book at Mogumber Park in 2015 and was covered by him again this season.

Safeguard (Exceed And Excel) was a Group 3 winner at Randwick and Caulfield for Sheikh Mohammed. He heads the list of first-season sires at the 2018 Perth Magic Millions and Brown is prepping seven of his yearlings in Bullsbrook.

Snippetson will hold the fort at Scenic Lodge following the death of champion sire Blackfriars.

A former Hunter Valley stallion, he won the WA winners (97) and wins (155) premierships in 2016-17 and cracked \$1 million in earnings this season over the Xmas long weekend.

"Snippetson is a leader in his own right," Scenic Lodge manager Jeremy Smith said on the weekend. "Losing Blackfriars was a terrible shock but Snippetson is a proven sire. And he's been averaging over 80 mares a season since arriving here in 2015."

His most recent city winner Raijinz is a typical Snippetson.

"He's a stable favourite...I can't stop smiling," trainer Jarrod Austin said after the gelding won a two-horse battle with Milwaukee at Warwick Farm. "He always runs well here without much luck and we knew if he ran up to his best he could finish in the top four."

Raijinz is a homebred for Emma Clare and is the first winner from NZ-bred mare Jack's Girl (Shovhog) who won at Rosehill, Randwick and Canterbury. Her half-sister Jasminka won in NZ and added a stakes race at Doomben for trainer Brian Smith.

Snippetson has a half-brother to Group 1 winning mare Silent Sedition being offered as Lot 727 by Berkeley Park (as agent) at the Gold Coast Magic Millions in January. There are another 26 yearlings from his first book at Scenic Lodge catalogued for the Perth Magic Millions in February.