



THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS WA

## SESSIONS STRENGTHENS LONHRO SIRELINE

Safeguard and Sessions have got plenty in common apart from standing together at Oakland Park Stud in WA this season.

Bred and raced by Sheikh Mohammed, they were precocious sons of Champion Darley stallions and both won Group sprints under the guidance of trainer Peter Snowden.

Sessions (Lonhro) and Safeguard (Exceed And Excel) have another factor in their favour – Oakland Park owner Neville Duncan.

He bred and part-owned all-time great Northerly but has never been content to keep dining out on past glories. Since the 'Fighting Tiger' farewelled centre-stage, Oakland Park's yellow and black silks have been carried by Marasco (Makybe Diva Stakes), Shirazamatazz (WA Derby), Covertly (Railway Stakes), Ihtsahymn (Kingston Town Classic) and Roman Time (Karrakatta Plate).

Duncan and his wife Susan also bred and part-owned G3 Vain Stakes winner Jukebox. The son of Snitzel has been syndicated to stand at Aquis Farm in the Hunter Valley.

Now there's a new challenge with the first crop of Sessions and Safeguard about to go public in Perth.

"Sessions is an outstanding individual," Duncan said this week. "Peter Snowden believed he was unlucky not have won a Group 1 and said he had the temperament and physique to match his ability."

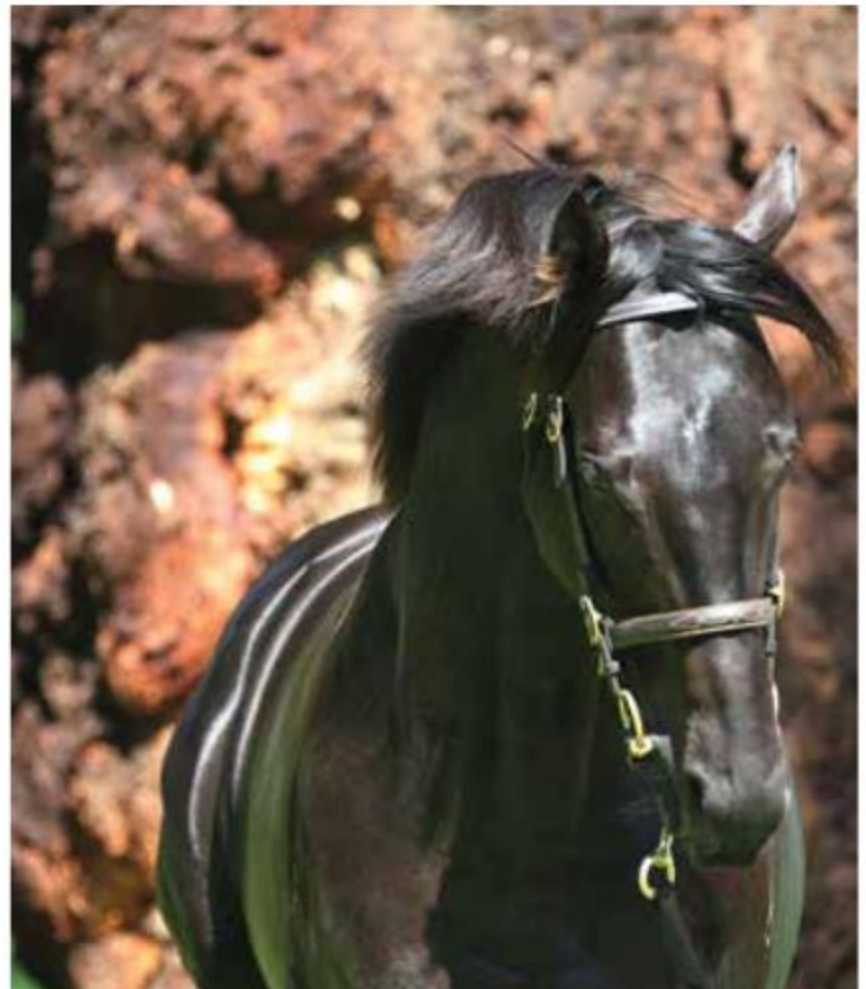
Following 5 wins in his first 8 starts in Sydney, Sessions graduated to a Group 2 victory in The Shorts (1100m) at Randwick beating Spirit Of Boom. "The Lonhro connection also won me," Duncan admitted. "He's really making a name for himself as a sire of sires and was still a Top 10 stallion in the season just gone. When that happens, you're getting into the same territory as Redoute's Choice.

"Pierro was also in the Top 10 and Denman made the Top 10 for winners and wins. Demerit is another son doing a good job for Taunton Vale here in WA."

Besides his Perth-based progeny, Sessions also has a 2yo filly with Ciaran Maher that made \$120,000 at this year's Inglis Melbourne Premier. Duncan bred her from Ihtsatune (Ihtiram) who is a sister to his Group 1 winner Ihtsahymn. "Ciaran received positive news from the breakers. They reckon she's better than good."

Duncan stands Safeguard in partnership with Mogumber Park owners Colin Brown and Fiona Lacey. He alternates between both farms and it's Oakland Park's turn this year.

He jumped the gun this season winning 2yo trials with first-crop fillies Miss West Coast (Belmont) and Marcee A Lady (Lark Hill). They will be favoured when the juvenile season commences with the Initial Plate (1000m) at Belmont on October 6.



Miss West Coast was the top-priced Safeguard at the 2018 Perth Magic Millions. She was a \$145,000 buy for Trevor Andrews who was acting on behalf of owners Robin and Gail Humberston.

The Duncans are also on a winning ride with their tough gelding Pushin' Shapes who won the \$100,000 Coolgardie Cup (1600m) last month. He's a 6yo son of former Oakland Park sire Viscount who was sourced from Darley shortly after the buy-out of Woodlands Stud.

Pushin' Shapes shouldered a record-breaking 59kg under Joe Azzopardi in the Goldfields and he will be set for the \$125,000 Northam Cup (1600m) on October 28.

Safeguard will stand for a \$6,600 service fee this year and Sessions is priced at \$7,700. Oakland Park is also home to Not A Single Doubt's brother Rogano (\$8,800).





## BELMONT TRIFECTA FOR VITAL EQUINE

When was the last time a WA-based stallion sired a trifecta in Perth?

That was the question being asked at Belmont last month when Vital Equine (Ire) provided all three placegetters in the Amelia Park Lodge Hcp (1400m).

His 4yo mare Electric Light completed a winning hat-trick with a half-length victory over his 4yo geldings Rockon Tommy and Turbo Power.

Leading owner-breeder Bob Peters has provided feature race trifectas in recent years using a combination of stallions based in the Hunter Valley. And veteran racegoers would recall Heytesbury Stud champion Haulpak sired a juvenile stakes trifecta in the 1985 Queens Plate at Ascot.

Rosalee Park owners Wayne and Tracy Rodwell don't go back that far but they have been answering calls from breeders enquiring about Vital Equine. "There's been plenty of interest and the numbers are growing," Tracy said. "And knowing broodmare owners, there will be lots of last-minute bookings.

"We stand Vital Equine for Ron Sayers and he will be sending several mares down from Yarradale Stud."

Yarradale transferred Vital Equine (Ire) from Gidgegannup to Serpentine two years ago. "He's at one end of our property away from the mares and that's helped him relax," Tracy explained. "The stallion yards at Yarradale are on a hill overlooking the mares and that made it hard for him to settle down."

Among the Rodwell-owned mares ready to foal or to be covered by Vital Equine are Nip O'Reilly (O'Reilly), Arrasene (Fastnet Rock), Bomberosa (Pins) & Valsala (Kenvain).

Sushi Quatro (Key Business) recently foaled a full-brother to Rockon Tommy who split the Vital Equine trifecta. Bill Doughty owns the mare and has trained Rockon Tommy to 4 wins and \$141,000 in prizemoney.

Vital Equine stands for a \$4,400 service fee alongside Due Sasso (\$550) at Rosalee Park. Tracy Rodwell can be contacted for further info on 0400 011 691.



## STELLA SURGE AT BELMONT

Stella Anne reacted to a perfectly-timed ride by Craig Staples to score a narrow victory in the Events At Ascot Hcp (1200m) at Belmont in September.

The Galah filly beat a wall of horses headed by Maschino Miss (Maschino) and Pletto (Playing God). Front-runner Warzachantz (War Chant) still held a margin a couple of strides from the post but was swamped to finish fourth. Short-priced favourite Morning Song (Bernardini) was only beaten a half-length into fifth.

"There were a lot of horses surging late and I wasn't confident we would get there," Staples reported. "But she stuck her head out right on the line."

Stella Anne is a homebred for Jerry Stelmach and is trained by his wife Christine. Her dam Beautiful Bon Bon (Ron Bon) was a brilliant sprinter for the south-west couple winning a Summer Scorcher and Crawford Quality.

Her sire Galah stands at Rangeview Stud and the Stelmachs won this year's LR Bunbury Cup with Rangeview-bred stayer Couleur Bizarre (So Secret).

"I told Craig she was ready to run a good race," Jerry Stelmach said. "She didn't handle a heavy track last time so we chucked her in the paddock for a quick break. She's been a time-bomb at home and is a favourite of mine. Chris has a lot of time for her, too."

Top-class filly Party Night led Galah's first 2yo crop last season and among his second crop is the colt from Tycoon Cut (Don't Say Halo) that cost the Stelmachs \$40,000 at the 2018 Perth Magic Millions. His dam won five races in Perth for Jim Taylor.

Galah (Redoute's Choice) was trained by Peter Snowden for feature race victories in the G2 QTC Cup and G3 VRC Carbine Club Stakes. He's available for a \$5,500 service fee at Rangeview Stud.