

GROUP 1 STARS HIGHLIGHT PERTH MAGIC MILLIONS

Magic Millions is ready to deliver more Group 1 stars like Black Heart Bart and Great Shot at the 2018 Magic Millions Perth Yearling Sale.

To be held at Belmont Park on February 19 and 20, the Sale has brought together a quality catalogue of 302 lots.

With other graduates the calibre of Group 1 winners Silent Sedition, Scenic Blast, Moment of Change, Magnifisio, Eagle Regiment and Scenic Shot, the Perth Yearling Sale is regarded as one of the best producing auctions in Australasia.

Among the pedigree highlights are half, three quarter or full relations to group winners including Playing God, Moccasin Bend, Lamasery, Clueless Angel, Lucy Mae, God Has Spoken, Lords Ransom, Dainty Tess, Shining Knight, Showy Chloe, Vampi Lass, Graceful Anna, Ma Ma Machine and Poor Judge.

Yearlings from Group winners including Arabian Lass, Moccasin Bend, Born Priceless, Translate, Heptonstall, Moodometer, Native Song and Spirit Lady are also catalogued.

The variety of stock on offer is another feature with no fewer than 62 individual sires represented with strong interest set to surround the stock by 8 freshman sires including highly credentialed locals God Has Spoken, Safeguard and Sessions.

In a great boost for local buyers, 79% of yearlings catalogued are eligible for the rich Westspeed Platinum scheme and 95% eligible for either Platinum or the standard Westspeed schemes. All lots offered are eligible to be paid up for the \$11 million plus Magic Millions Race Series.



Black Heart Bart

TAKING A SHOT AT GROUP 1 GLORY

Claremont owner Frank Edwards considers himself a lucky man. Lucky for buying G1 Railway Stakes winner, Great Shot, and lucky for not selling him.

Frank and his wife May, both retired anaesthetists, got into racehorse ownership around 20 years ago and have enjoyed cheering on the occasional winner, but all that changed at the 2014 Perth Magic Millions Yearling Sale.

“We had a look at what was on offer, particularly any youngsters by Magnus who had sired Magnifisio to win a G1 Winterbottom Stakes,” Frank recalled. “The first Magnus that went through the ring was out of our price range but as we were leaving the auditorium, I heard the auctioneer selling a Magnus colt out of Satin Covers.”

When bidding stalled, Edwards decided to shoot up the finger, despite only having seen the colt for the first time when he was in the ring. Great Shot was ultimately knocked down for \$31,000.

“When I had a good look at him, I noticed he had swollen fetlocks but Scenic Lodge told me the swelling would go down in a couple of days and they were spot on.”

Great Shot would win or place at his first eight outings, including a four-length romp in the LR Belmont Guineas. Not surprisingly, given the nature of the victory, Edwards was soon fielding seven figure offers from Hong Kong and was faced with the age-old dilemma ... the money or the box?

“I spoke to Craig (Staples), who asked me: ‘Do you need the

money? The million dollars would allow you to buy more horses which means more rides for me, but what are the chances of getting another one like Great Shot?’

“So, we decided to keep him.”

That was a wise move. Great Shot’s Railway victory sent his prizemoney tally to \$1.21 million with plenty more to come in 2018.



Great Shot

YARRADALE YOUNGSTERS WINNING WITH JORDAN

Trainer Paul Jordan has jumped the gun with his 2yo graduates from Yarradale Stud.

Precocious colt Fire And Rain (Oratorio) gapped a field of early-season juveniles at Bunbury last month. Sent to the lead by Craig Staples, he was pestered in front before putting three-lengths on Jedaffair (Trade Fair) and Apparition (My Admiration).

Jordan's 2yo colt Carolina Reaper had been a very impressive winner at Ascot. A son of Frost Giant (USA), he was purchased by Jordan and Harvey Crossman's Lima Syndicate for \$32,000 at Yarradale Stud's yearling sale in May.

Fire And Rain races in the same colours and was a bargain \$15,000 buy from Yarradale at the Perth Magic Millions in February. He's by Sunspeed champion Oratorio and is bred to win better races through his dam Girl In A Storm (Metal Storm).

Belhus Racing owned Girl In A Storm and she completed a hat-trick at Ascot in 2006 prior to being sold off the track to Yarradale owner Ron Sayers. Fire And Rain is her fourth winner following Flash Black (Moonee Valley), Storm God (Ascot) and Storm Girl (Sunshine Coast).

Another daughter Frizzled was retained by Yarradale and her City Place (USA) filly was purchased as a foal earlier this year by Tony Marwick.

Sayers leased Girl In A Storm to Santo Guagliardo this season and she's in foal to Rommel.

Yarradale has catalogued 33 yearlings for the Perth Magic Millions in February. The quality draft commences with Lot 11, an Exceed And Excel three-quarter brother to Sydney Group 2 winner Lamasery.



Paul Jordan

DOUBLE-BLOW FOR SUNSPEED STALLIONS

Western Australia has lost stakes winning stallions Danehill Express and Kendel Star in a double-blow to the industry.

Danehill Express (Danehill) succumbed to a heart-attack, aged 16, at Mungrup Stud. "He was a real character," Mungrup's Ann Croucher said. "He was here for 9 years and was part of the family."

A Listed winner of the Gothic Stakes at Caulfield for trainer Brian Mayfield-Smith, Danehill Express was also Group 1 placed behind Al Maher in the 2005 Australian Guineas at Flemington.

His stud career was delayed by a severe leg injury that required surgery at Murdoch University. Recovering from the life-threatening paddock accident, he covered his first mares in 2008 and was still active, albeit over smaller books, in recent years.

His stakes winners included Cougar Express (Kalgoorlie & Bunbury Cups), Dream Lifter (Cyril Flower Quality), Express Service (Challenge Stakes) & Stagnite (South-West Breeders' Classic).

He also sired Properantes (G3 R J Peters Stakes) just days before his death and Wichita Linesman (G1 Macau Star Of The Sand Stakes) a week later.

Kendel Star was one of Australia's oldest active sires when he passed away died at Rivercrest Park in Stratham.

"He had a good innings and went peacefully at night," Rivercrest owner Steve Hoare said. "But he hadn't been crook so it was a bit of a shock."

The 27 year-old son of Kenmare didn't get any positives from the mares he covered this season, however, he does have five foals on the ground including a full sister to Candlelight Star who won three races at Ascot last season.

Hoare guided Kendel Star's career in WA after he arrived from stud duties in Queensland. "Greg Maclou purchased him to stand over here in 2002," he recalled. "I looked after him at Cromartry Park and Fernville Stud before we bought Rivercrest Park.

"He was a lovely horse who wouldn't bite or kick. We're going to miss him."

Kendel Star was a tough campaigner for several seasons in Melbourne winning 9 races and was also stakes placed in the 1993 Bill Stutt Stakes at Moonee Valley.

He was the last son of Kenmare at stud in Australia and the sireline had been especially popular in Western Australia with Metal Storm, Verglas, Tribu and Kenvain.

The best of his progeny has been He Or She who won five in a row at the 2015 Ascot summer carnival before transferring to Lindsay Park for a career-high victory in last year's G2 Blamey Stakes at Flemington.



Danehill Express