

Celebrity Queen

STARS AT CHAIRMAN'S SALE

Group 1 Oakleigh Plate winner Celebrity Queen became the highest-priced mare ever sold at an Inglis Chairman's Sale when realising \$2.5 million last month.

The Peters Investments mare was one of three millionaires purchased by Coolmore Stud's Tom Magnier. Her maiden cover will be to Coolmore's new shuttler Wootton Bassett (Iffraaj).

Celebrity Queen (4m Redoute's Choice – Celebrity Miss by More Than Ready) was offered as a breeding prospect only by owners Bob and Sandra Peters through Holbrook Thoroughbreds. Her first four dams have all been successful at stakes level.

The record-breaking price-tag exceeded the vendor's expectations.

"I valued her at \$2 million and it's a great result," Peters said. "Look at her page – Redoute's Choice, Danehill, Sir Tristram, Marscay, More Than Ready – all of them champions."

Bidding opened at \$800,000 before pushing through the million-dollar mark and, in typical Magnier fashion, he did not make a move before required.

"She's a quality mare and a lovely physical. We are buying the best mares for Wootton Bassett and she's a standout. We think she's a queen and are just very lucky to have her.

"Anything that Bob Peters is associated with is always of a very high calibre. He's an unbelievable breeder."

Celebrity Queen had won on debut at Belmont in August 2019 and returned as an autumn 3yo win at Pinjarra and Ascot. She graduated to a black-type victory in the LR Colonel Reeves Stakes (1100m) earlier this season prior to a close second to Elite Street in the G1 Winterbottom Stakes (1200m).

Sent to Melbourne in February, she dead-heated with Portland Sky in the G1 Oakleigh Plate at Caulfield before bowing out with an unplaced run in the G1 Newmarket (1200m) at Flemington on March 6.

Celebrity Queen won 7 of her 14 starts under the care of Grant & Alana Williams for prizemoney of \$825,780 including Westspeed bonuses of \$95,840.





Leading Studs

ANNOUNCE FEES FOR 2021

Leading WA studs Scenic Lodge and Darling View Thoroughbreds have announced their service fees for 2021 and both have upped the covering costs of their stallions.

Record-breaking results at the Perth Magic Millions, in line with rising yearling sale receipts around the nation, has given the local industry cause for optimism despite wider community and commercial concerns over COVID-19.

Scenic Lodge has increased the fees of Snippetson and Universal Ruler to \$8,250. Their latest yearlings averaged over 11 times the cost of their service fees in 2018.

"We are delighted with the results for Snippetson and Universal Ruler in the sales ring and on the track in the last 12 months," Scenic Lodge general manager Jeremy Smith said.

"We are always mindful of our service fees and feel even with this moderate increase they are still both standout options for breeders in WA."

Snippetson scored a PB during Book 1 of the Magic Millions with the filly from Pearlesque (Statoblest) making \$200,000 to the bid of trainer Stephen Miller. His Book 2 yearlings also received the tick of approval, averaging \$70,667 off a 100% clearance rate.

Universal Ruler has been the most popular sire with WA breeders in recent years, averaging over 100 mares in his last three books.

In light of those figures, the best is yet to come from the Stakes winning son of Scenic (Ire) who has already made an indelible impact in WA. He was Champion First-season sire

in 2013-14, Champion 2YO sire in 2017-18 and Champion Active sire in 2018-19.

Universal Ruler is the go-to sire for the Westspeed Platinum Scheme. The owners of Military Reign banked \$565,200 boosted by \$180,000 in bonuses. All Scenic Lodge stallions are nominated for the lucrative Westspeed Platinum Scheme.

Darling View Thoroughbreds stallion Playing God commands the highest fee in WA and it has increased to \$16,500 this year. He has led the way with Champion 2yo Ex Sport Man winning the RL Magic Millions Classic and G2 Karrakatta Plate double before a gallant second in the G3 WA Sires.

It's easy to see why Playing God will again be very popular at stud this season. The likes of Kay Cee, Platoon, Son Of A God, Wine Night and Holy Enchantment are performing very well at Stakes level while his 2021 yearlings reached the heights of \$200,000, \$160,000 and \$140,000.

Playing God's book will be reduced for this year following colic surgery last November.

I'm All The Talk has gone to a new level in recent times leading the second-season sires list in Australia during January and February. Watch Me Dance was Champion WA 2YO in 2019-20 and she led home an I'm All The Talk quinella from Em Tee Aye in the G2 WA Guineas earlier this season.

His fee remains at \$6,600 and the Darling View roster is rounded out by Patronize (\$4,400) and Lucky Street (\$3,300).

WA RECRUITS

Hi World & Spirit Jim



Group winning stallions Hi World and Spiritjim (Fr) are the latest additions to Western Australia's sire ranks this year.

Kelstar Park will stand Hi World (High Chaparral) in York and Spiritjim (Galileo) will join the Roselee Park roster in Serpentine.

Hi World won the G3 Carbine Club Stakes (1600m) and G3 Frank Packer Plate (2000m) at Randwick for a Slade Bloodstock syndicate that had purchased him for \$120,000 from Coolmore Stud at the Gold Coast Magic Millions Yearling Sale.

"When Hi World came on the market I had to have him," Kelstar Park's Kelly Davis said.

"He's a beautiful stallion and I love his pedigree and performance record."

Hi World (High Chaparral – Beauty World by Danehill Dancer) impressed trainer Peter Moody with his Group 3 front-running double. "He's a quality colt and an exciting proposition," Moody said after the Packer Plate. "He relaxed nicely for Kerrin (McEvoy) and probably floated a bit in the straight but was still good enough to get the job done again."

High Chaparral (Ire) sired 131 stakes winners world-wide and his sire sons So You Think (NZ), Dundee (NZ) and Toronado (Ire) have all been represented by Group 1 winners in their early years at stud. They're also making an impact in Perth.

Misty Valley Thoroughbreds owner Tony Patrizi opened So Your Think's black-type account over here in 2019 with Beautiful Mind in the LR Jungle Dawn Classic. Dundee sired this season's ill-fated G1 Kingston Town Classic winner Truly Great for Peters Investments and Toronado filly Solaia was an all the way winner of the LR Natasha Stakes at Ascot.

Spiritjim (Fr) has been purchased by Lightning Bloodstock and will cover his first book at Roselee Park alongside Jimmy

Choux (NZ) and Vital Equine (Ire).

A son of Galileo (Ire) and a half-brother to Group 1 racehorse and sire Silver Frost (Verglas), he won four stakes races to Group 2 level in Paris after being purchased for €310,000 at the Arqana Yearling Sale.

He was raced by the late Jean-Michel Hegesippe whose pink and white silks were carried by many black-type winners with the majority having names that ended in 'jim'.

Spiritjim was described by trainer Pascal Bary as having a "formidable ability to accelerate" following an outstanding victory over defending champion Now We Can (GB) in the G2 Grand Prix de Chantilly.

Racing Post reported Spiritjim made all at Chantilly. "Pushed along by Christophe Soumillon when challenged 400m from home. Quickened and stayed on well in the final furlong when strongly pressed but was always doing enough to win a shade cosily."

It was one of his four black-type wins over 2400m that also included the G3 Prix d'Hedouville & LR Prix Lord Seymour at Longchamp and the LR Prix Vulcan at Deauville.

Subsequently sold for €570,000 (AUD 898,235) at the Arqana Arc de Triomphe Sale, he was exported to Australia to be prepared by Chris Waller. Rated an "imposing horse" by Waller, he raced just four times for the champion trainer and, in the last of them, was runner-up in the G2 Craven Plate (2000m) at Randwick.

"Spiritjim oozes quality and has a real presence about him," Lightning Bloodstock's Chris Rosier said. "He's a classic European type that will cross very nicely to the popular WA bloodlines."

