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A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM JOHN MESSARA

2009 has been one of the most challenging years in Arrowfield's history. In addition to the economic challenges posed by the (now abating) global financial crisis, our industry has been under siege with a number of court cases set to determine its future. Issues such as the wagering imbroglio and the ill-conceived AI challenge may be resolved in 2010 and that will be good news for all of us.

That's not all we have to look forward to in 2010, though. The establishment of the National Horse Racing Alliance (NHRA) is a breath of fresh air in my opinion, as it brings together some of the brightest players in the industry, supported by owners, trainers and breeders amongst others and is dedicated to representing the interests of its participants. Its first task was to construct a submission to the Productivity Commission relating to the wagering issue – and if the quality of that submission is to be a guide to the future – the industry will be well served.

Most importantly, it is Christmas – a time for family, friends and reflection. Racing is a game where our friends become our clients and our clients become our friends and so I'd like to wish all our friends the very very best for 2010. I'd like to thank them for their friendship and support in 2009.

In closing, I'd like to extend my personal appreciation to all the men and women of Arrowfield, who love horses and work together to breed the champions of the future. Thank you to all of you for your efforts in 2009 and have a happy and healthy Christmas with your families.

JM

SNITZEL

The formula was always right: a record breaking 2YO, a G1 winner at three, and by a Champion sire. On type, temperament, and performance, Snitzel ticked the boxes, and as a freshman sire he continues to do so. In addition to being the sire of dual metropolitan winner **Intertidal** (ex Miss Rainmaker, by Hurricane Sky), Snitzel is responsible for **Bouzy Rouge** (ex Blurrta, by Bahhare (USA) [who sports a win and two placings from three starts], Bellerive graduate **One More Grand** (ex Lambada Lady (USA), by Seattle Slew) who bolted in at Queanbeyan last week by 5 ½ lengths, and on Saturday **Chance Bye** (ex Rouge Femme, by Red Ransom (USA) made an ultra impressive debut in the \$250,000 Inglis Nursery after winning a Kembla barrier trial by 12 lengths in a lead-up event.



As at 22 December Snitzel has four winners (of five races) from just seven starters who have earned \$333,350 in prizemoney. The young stallion heads the First Season Sire Table for 2009/2010 and his winners to starters percentage of 57.1% also sees him secure second position on this season's 2YO Sires Table.

One to watch: the Gerald Ryan trained **Rock My Heart** will now make his debut at Randwick on New Years Day.

15 Snitzel youngsters are catalogued for the 2010 Magic Millions Yearling Sale and include six consigned by Arrowfield and Bellerive studs.

STARCRAFT

Starcraft has had four starters in Australia for one winner and two placegetters.

In New Zealand an impeccably bred 2YO colt ex Impulsive Rhythm won his trial earlier this month. The time for the 650m was 0.39.47 with the margins $\frac{3}{4}$ length by $1\frac{1}{2}$ lengths. The unnamed colt is trained by John Sargent at Matamata.



DANZERO

In Hong Kong 5YO gelding **Happy Zero** (ex Have Love, by Canny Lad) followed back-to-back wins in the **HK-3 Sha Tin Sprint Trophy** (1000m) and **HK-2 International Sprint Trial** (1200m) by stepping up to a mile and finishing second in the **G1 HKJC Cathay Pacific Hong Kong Mile** (1600m). The gelding who mirrors his sire in looks and turn of foot gave every indication that he will prove difficult to beat over the distance in 2010.



FLYING SPUR

Not simply content with his accrued titles of Champion General Sire, and broodmare sire of the G1 winners Sebring, Grand Journey and Headway, Flying Spur looks to be making a name for himself as a sire of sires as well. Western Australian stallion **Heritage** (Flying Spur ex North Bell, by Bellwater) recorded his first winner with his very first runner on December 6, whilst closer to home Glenlogan Park's freshman sire **Jet Spur** is also attracting notice with the precocity of his first crop runners – four of whom have won from 13 starters.



Flying Spur was also responsible for a stakes double two weeks ago: 6YO mare **Alverta** (ex Grilse (USA), by Rahy (USA)) winning the **Listed QTC Just Now Fillies & Mares H.** (1300m), whilst 2YO filly **Roulettes** (ex Discretion, by Canny Lad) took out the **Listed MVRC St Albans S.** (1000m). As reported by Glenn Davies in *AAP*, the curtain on Alverta's career was to come down after her recent spring campaign in Melbourne but she shunned motherhood at stud.

"She was covered twice by Charge Forward when she got back from Melbourne but she never got in foal," said Paul Messara.

"It became too late to try for a third time so we've decided to keep racing her until next season and I'd like to come back to Brisbane in the winter for the big fillies and mares race."

Messara would like another crack at the Group One Winter Stakes (1400m) at Eagle Farm next June after Alverta finished third to the Danny O'Brien-trained Absolut Glam in last year's feature.

Messara gave serious thought to retiring Alverta following her Brisbane winter campaign last year before deciding to delay her stud career.

Alverta had four starts in Melbourne during the spring but she could manage only fourth in her main mission, the Group Three Tesio Stakes (1600m) at Moonee Valley in October won by Lady Lynette.

"Her Melbourne form was good and she was a bit unlucky in the Tesio Stakes when the jockey went too soon on her," Messara said.

"The form out of those races in Melbourne should stand up as they were the best fillies and mares in the country."

At her last Brisbane appearance Alverta won the Listed Brisbane Handicap (1600m) at Eagle Farm in November last year which enticed Messara into starting her in the Group Two Villiers Stakes (1600m) at Randwick in December.

"She ran fifth and wasn't beaten far in last year's Villiers but she should nearly have won," Messara said.

"I'll give her another start in Brisbane in the Bernborough Handicap then put her away for the winter carnival races next year."

Messara will keep her in Brisbane for the **Listed Bernborough H.** (1630m) at Doomben on Boxing Day.

Alverta has taken her career earnings to \$433,325 with six wins and nine placings from 30 starts.

In Australia, 4YO mare **Zero Rock** (ex Broc 'n' Roll, by Brocco) finished second in the **G3 George Moore Stakes** in Brisbane earlier this month then followed this with a second in the **Listed BTC Australia Lough Neagh S.** (1350m) last weekend.

Also in Queensland, **Startsmeup** raced into contention for the **\$2 million BMW Magic Millions 2YO Classic** (1200m) following a barnstorming 4-length debut win at Doomben, providing an important update for his half-sister by **Hussonet (USA)** who is heading to the Gold Coast in January.

Passed in shy of his reserve when offered by Bellerive Stud at the 2009 Magic Millions Yearling Sale, Startsmeup is the second foal of the lightly raced Bluebird mare, Bluevien.

A daughter of the international Group winner Genevien, Bluevien is a half sister to the stakes performers Alrigead and Thong and Pushbike.

A half sister to Startsmeup, by Hussonet, will be offered as Lot 92 by Bellerive Stud at next month's Magic Millions sale.

NOT A SINGLE DOUBT

The Paul Messara trained **Knot Out** broke the track record but still had to contend with second in the \$100,000 **Magic Millions Stakes** at Wyong on 6 December. Heading for the **\$1m 3YO Magic Millions Race** in early January.



At Canterbury last Thursday 3YO filly **Single Play** (ex Playground, by Nediym) won her debut track appearance a winning one when she scored a 2-length victory over the 1100m journey in a time of 1:04.37 (over a second quicker than the colts and geldings division).

Last Sunday at Moonee Valley, the Peter Moody-trained **Doubtful Jack** looked a gelding of immense promise with an easy win over 1200 metres. Like Single Play, Doubtful Jack comes from the first crop of last season's leading first season sire by number of winners, Not a Single Doubt.

Yesterday at Canterbury, **Judicial** (ex Vitale Beauty, by Octagonal (NZ)) won over 1250m for trainer Gai Waterhouse making it two wins from three starts for the 3YO colt.

Overseas, **Tai Sing Yeh** (ex Precious Lass, by Ashkalani) became the first HK winner for his sire when he scored a stylish win over 1200m in his first appearance in China's Special Administrative Region.

DATES FOR THE RACE DIARY

The Opening Day of the Autumn Carnival at Royal Randwick next year will see the addition of the **G1 T.J.Smith Stakes** and **G1 AJC Sires Produce Stakes**. As a result, Derby Day (April 10) will feature three G1 events and all races on the program will be stakes grade. **The Galaxy** (which was run as the 2nd G1 race on Derby Day earlier this year) has been switched to the 2nd Saturday of the Carnival.

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HUSSONET

Ego's Dare (ex Almond Essence(USA), by Seattle Slew (USA)) added additional black type to his record when finishing third in the **Listed AJC Razor Sharp** (1200m) on 19 December. As a broodmare sire Hussonet also added a Graded stakes winner when **Talien** won the **Grade 3 Clasico Alfredo L S Jackson** (1900m) at Valparaiso on 9 December.



Two for the black book: the Danny O'Brien trained **At The Heads** (ex The Quarewan, by Supremo (USA)) scored a convincing win at Ballarat on 2 December, and **Latin News** (ex Email Me, by Danehill (USA)) is one of the main hopes for the **\$1 million Magic Millions 3YO** race next month. Latin News has accepted for a 1200m race at Randwick this Saturday.

REDOUTE'S CHOICE

In New Zealand, the highest-priced yearling sold at Karaka in recent years notched his 1st win when Australian-bred 3YO colt **Maciano** (ex Popsy, by Sir Tristram) scored over 1600m at Ellerslie in Auckland (following a 3rd on debut) for trainer John Sargent.

John Sargent informs us that the horse is next scheduled to run in the \$250,000 **Karaka Magic Million 3YO Trophy** (1600m) on Jan 31. His long term goals are the **NZ Derby** (March 6) and/or the **G1 AJC Derby** (April 10).

"Maciano is a quality colt who is showing as much promise as any 3YO I have ever trained and is now on line for the Derby in March 2010 having won his 2nd start over a mile very impressively as Ellerslie last week," says John. "He has a lovely low action and the temperament to go with this and will only get better with time."

Pedigree note: 'Derby' is written all over this colt being out of Popsy who won the 1994 G1 NZ Derby.

At Moonee Valley last Friday evening another beautifully bred son of Redoute's Choice by the name of **Master Of Design** trounced his rivals in the \$100,000 0-82 Handicap Final.

Trained by Lee Freedman and bearing the silks of Sheikh Mohammed, the 4YO entire was having just his fifth start and enjoyed the run of the race with Dwayne Dunn in the saddle.

Representative for the Lee Freedman stable Sam Pritchard-Gordon was thrilled with the victory.

"It was outstanding, I'm really pleased with that," Pritchard-Gordon said before adding "Dwayne rode him very confidently and I think our patience is being paid off."

"We're just learning about the horse at the moment.

"He's one of those expensive colts with depth of pedigree and we knew from an early age that he had a lot of ability, it was just a question of persevering and taking our time.

"He relaxes beautifully and he's got a good brain for an entire of his age who's so lightly raced, I'm just hopeful of progression," he added.

Master Of Design is by Redoute's Choice out of Urge To Merge, making him a full-brother to the David Hayes trained **Allied Force** who has also enjoyed success around Moonee Valley.

Urge To Merge also produced South African G1 winner **Suntagonal**.

"I don't like giving horses too much of a wrap but the other morning

when he worked I gave him a pretty good wrap," Dunn said upon dismounting.

"You can tell when he's on song, he takes affect from the run and takes a little while to get over it so it was great that Lee relaxed and we just took him as we could and now try and step him through his grades," he added.

Master Of Design is now likely to contest the \$200,000 **G3 Standish Handicap** (1200m) at Flemington on New Years' Day.

CLIENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Mr Katsumi Yoshida and his wife Kazumi on the win of **Kinshasa No Kinseki** (Fuji Kiseki (JPN) ex Keltshaan (USA) by Pleasant Colony) who won Sunday's **G2 Hanshin Cup** (1400m) in Japan. The 6YO son of Fuji Kiseki was bred at Arrowfield and sold privately to the Yoshida's in 2005. He has now won twice at G2 level and has earned in excess of 420,000,000 yen (A \$5.2m). The Yoshidas also purchased the French Deputy colt out of the same mare at the 2008 Melbourne Premier Sale. Called **Krugist**, the colt is now a 3-time winner.

STUD VISITORS

- Tim Brown & Bill Mitchell
- Rodney Holt & John Habben
- Rick & Garth Worthington
- Peter Wildman
- Kieren Moore
- Steve Brem & Jamie Walter
- Peter Moody
- Dr Percy Sykes AM
- John Hutchinson
- John Foote
- Gerald Ryan & Chris Lawler
- Chris Wallar & Liam Prior
- Tubba Williams
- Vin Cox & Gary Cuddy

STAFF NEWS

• We welcome back from maternity leave sponsorship and events manager Amelia Wilkinson. Amelia, husband Shane and their 6 month daughter Grace are now resident in Scone, and you will spot Amelia's ever smiling face at the 2010 Magic Millions Sale Marquee from Monday 4 January.

Congratulations to:

- o Resident photographer Katrina Partridge (Marketing/PR) whose photo 'Rural Contemplation' received the 'Highly Commended Award' in the 2009 Muswellbrook Local Art Awards. The adjudicator for this year's award was Virginia Mitchell, Director of the Cessnock Regional Art Gallery. Earlier this year in the 2009 Scone Horse Festival Art Awards (Photography Division) Katrina was awarded First Place in the Portrait Division, Highly Commended in the Equine Division, and The Dr Bruce Roberts-Thomson Memorial Trophy for most sensitively photographed subject.
- o Heath Nichols (son of Michelle) on getting such an excellent result in the 2009 HSC. Heath – and sister Abbey – are currently completing vacation employment in the broodmare and yearling divisions respectively at Arrowfield.
- o Zach Johnstone (yearlings) who was awarded a place at the Irish National Stud course. Zach commences the course on 8 February 2010.

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PAUL MESSARA RACING STRIKES THE TONNE

Congratulations to Paul Messara and his team after the stable celebrated its 100th winner on 8 December 2009.

All the Autumn horses are in and the stable has high hopes for a number of its runners including **Brother Patrick, Silver Spur, Rogano, Leicester Square, Beneteau, Knot Out, Lemieux, and Flowerchild.**

Horse of the week: 3YO filly Miss Dodwell (Falbrav (IRE) ex Don't Stop Talking, by Ahonoora (GB)) finished 2nd in a 800m barrier trial this week following a win in a 900m trial earlier this month. "She's a strong, well built filly with a hindquarter you wouldn't miss in a fashion spread," says an [anonymous!] stable source. "Given what she has shown us at home, she looks as if she will get over a mile - maybe even a bit more. It's still early days - she can be pretty pushy and still has a few things to learn. Look out for her in the New Year."

IT'S SALE SEASON

The lure of the Gold Coast awaits and the Magic Millions Premier Sale features 30 yearlings from Arrowfield and 22 from Bellerive.

Yearlings photographs, pedigrees, and sirecam footage is now available on the Magic Millions website:

• **Arrowfield draft:** http://magicmillions.ddm.magsbyme.com/ebook_search/search/ebook_id/72/unique_id/4b3018c194eb2/image_type/png

• **Bellerive draft:** http://magicmillions.ddm.magsbyme.com/ebook_search/search/ebook_id/72/unique_id/4b30194ce6a5f/image_type/png

UPCOMING SALES

The Melbourne Premier Sale catalogue is now online and includes the Arrowfield consigned half-brother to Caulfield Cup winner Tawqeeet, a son of Japanese legend Deep Impact (Sunday Silence).

• The **Arrowfield draft** of 16 yearlings can be accessed at the following URL: http://www.inglis.com.au/sales/info/2010+Melbourne+Premier+Yearling+Sale/?process=1&sale_id=339&sire=&vendor=Arrowfield+Stud%2C+Scone%2C+NSW&x=26&y=15

• The **Bellerive draft** of 15 yearlings can be accessed at the following URL: http://www.inglis.com.au/sales/info/2010+Melbourne+Premier+Yearling+Sale/?process=1&sale_id=339&sire=&vendor=Bellerive+Stud%2C+Scone%2C+NSW&x=35&y=8

LOYALTY PROGRAMME WITH RACING APPEAL

The Sydney Morning Herald reported earlier this month that Racing NSW is putting the finishing touches to a new loyalty program which includes "a deal with Mastercard, Visa & American Express where people can transfer their reward points from those companies to the program" to buy a racehorse or pay to have it trained. The Racing Rewards program "is due to be implemented in January" & Racing NSW chief executive Peter V'landys declared: "This is a new & exciting initiative that will reward people that put money into racing. The "driving force behind the concept" is Racing NSW board member Kim Harding & V'landys revealed a "big factor is Kim has been able to negotiate a deal with Mastercard, Visa & American Express where people can transfer their reward points from those companies to the program. Racing wins because there is \$8 billion worth of unused points out there. Hopefully people will take their accrued points away from these entities & buy a racehorse, use

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their points to get a horse trained; it may cost nothing to have a horse trained." V'landys also said Racing NSW "may regularly program races worth \$70,000 with 50,000 reward points". Apart from trainers, studs & "players in racing being part of the rewards scheme", V'landys is confident "hundreds of commercial partners" will participate. He enthused: "You may buy a horse at a sale & receive points. You may secure a service fee from a stud & receive points. You pay the horse trainer & points are returned. If you have a bet you will be rewarded. Race clubs will also be a part of the scheme. There will be any number of rewards for those investing in a vibrant racing industry. It is a great concept."

ONE FOR THE TRIVIA BUFFS

The Australian Racing Board has released the eleventh edition of the Australian Racing Fact Book, the annual reference guide to the Australian thoroughbred racing industry.

"There is a consistently high level of demand for records relating to the health and performance of the industry. Since first being published in 1999, and with this the 11th edition, our objective for the Fact Book has been to provide the best way to reference key racing industry data" reports Australian Racing Board Chairman, Bob Bentley.

"In providing a statistical and pictorial account of the past racing season the Fact Book gives us the chance to look back on the many great achievements both on and off the racetrack, while the inclusion this year of greater trend analysis will assist decision makers to shape the future direction of the industry".

The 2009 edition assembles a range of useful facts and figures as a handy guide to any person seeking information on major aspects of the industry, including: -

- **Racing** – A total of 2,681 race meetings were conducted in Australia during the 2008/2009 season, with some 31,659 horses running in 19,438 races during the season.
- **Prizemoney** – Prizemoney levels continued to increase across Australia, providing greater returns to owners. Total prizemoney during 2008/09 amounted to \$421 million, whilst the total returns to owners were over \$471 million.
- **Breeding** – There were 28,134 mares returned, resulting in 16,112 live foals born (57.3%)
- **Sales** – Yearling sale results in 2008/09 ended with 4,730 yearlings going under the hammer for a record gross of \$244,733,852. The highest selling yearling at an Australian public auction for the season was an Encosta de Lago / Surrealist colt sold at the Magic Millions on the Gold Coast yearling sale for \$2 million.
- **Ownership** – Sole ownership still remains the most popular form of ownership with over 5,720 horses registered this year with one owner.
- **Betting** – Wagering turnover on thoroughbred racing during 2008/09 amounted to \$14.43 billion.

Copies of the Fact Book can be requested from the Australian Racing Board (jhoward@australianracingboard.com.au) or downloaded from the website (<http://www.australianracingboard.com.au/>).

AROUND THE FARM

David Harrison leads one of the MM colts



Rebecca Musset and 'Dotti'



John Ryan grooms one of the Aga Khan foals



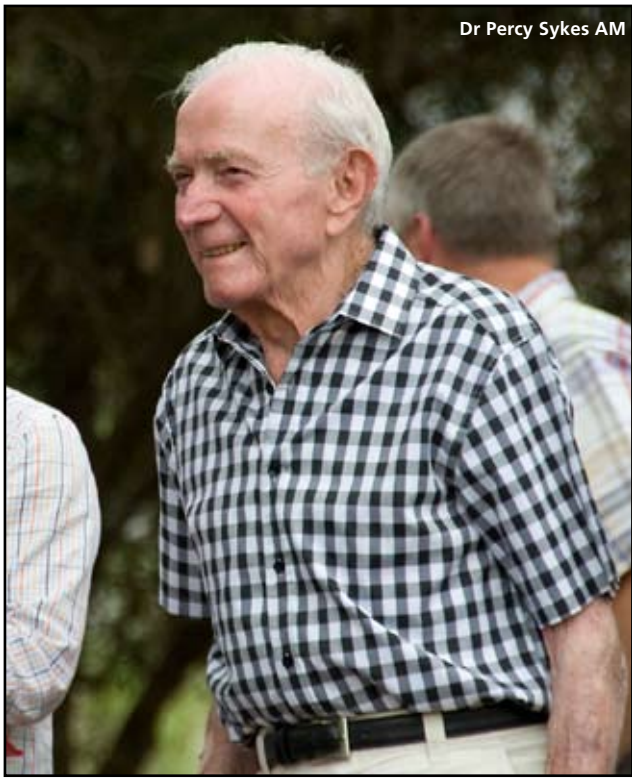
Miss Finland x Hussonet (USA) 2009



The final foal of the season mirrors her sire – Starcraft

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Dr Percy Sykes AM



L-R Sam Fairgray, Martin Story, Brian Gorman



One of the yearling crew pause for a moment's reflection pre-parade



Yearling inspections, Bellerive

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ARROWFIELD, BELLERIVE & ATC CHRISTMAS PARTY

The theme was to come dressed as a horse on the farm. See if you can spot the following: Wild Orange, Starcraft, Freestyle, The Flying Nun, Run To The Moon, Gypsy Dancer, Special, Modave, Made of Diamonds, Hula Here, Flowerchild, Arabian Jewel, Molly (nanny mare), Urge To Merge, Rapture, Battlefield, Nonsensical, (any of the De Belle family mares, Red Hot Mama, Rose O War, Trauma.



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2009 Windermere Yearling crew



Wahroonga Barn team



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