

AN OVERSEES SMOKEY FOUNDS A DYNASTY By Ross Prowd

Lyndhurst Stud obviously holds a special place in Queensland breeding. Originally established as a horse stud by the McDougall family, whose patriarch is honoured with one of Queensland's first Black Type races for juveniles, the current owners, in the Kruger family, ensure that Lyndhurst continues to be one of the State's leading studs.

Sometimes though we forget just how big the contribution is, and this month I would like to focus on a stallion, and indeed his family, and the impact it has made on breeding.

Not all that long ago you could not see a race program in Queensland that was not dominated by the progeny of Smokey Eyes. The stallion certainly is not one that we read all that much about today, but he remains a critical part of Australasian breeding.

Smokey Eyes was the foundation sire for the Kruger brothers, Percy and Ted who purchased Lyndhurst in 1956. The stallion had been imported to Australia and was standing in Victoria before being bought by the Krugers in 1958. It proved to be an astute move with two of Smokey Eyes' Victorian born progeny winning Stakes races the following year.

Wheat King won the VRC Cantala Stakes, while Smokey Jane was to win the Toorak the same season.

Rather surprisingly, his first couple of Victorian crops needed some time to develop. His first Stakes winning two-year-old though was to come from his last Victorian crop, when Ivanhoe won the 1961 Queensland Sires' Produce. Ivanhoe later went on to win the Queensland Guineas and the Doomben Stakes. He was actually a grandson of the great mare Tranquil Star, winner of 20 Stakes races including two Cox

Plates, a Caulfield Cup and three Mackinnon Stakes in a career that rates her among our best ever race mares.

The Victorian crops of Smokey Eyes continued to impress with Stakes winners like Highmara, Tobacco Leaf and Red Smoke all keeping the stallion's name in the news.

Undoubtedly New Statesman was the best of his Victorian produce winning six Stakes races, including the 1961 VRC Derby and the Williamstown Cup both over 12 furlongs, as well as the George Main and Moonee Valley Stakes over a mile, and both the William Reid and Oakleigh Plate over six furlongs underlying the versatility of the sire.

It was in Queensland though that Smokey Eyes was to establish himself as a household name in the breeding industry. His first local crop produced the Queensland Oaks winning filly, Aspalita to cement his growing reputation.

The following year saw him produce the McDougall Stakes winner, Eye Shadow who was also to go on to win the Queensland Oaks the next season, as well as a Doomben Newmarket before the finish of her career.

Eye Shadow was to become an excellent broodmare, producing a favourite Queensland son in Ima Shadow who won nine Stakes races locally during the 1970s.

For many, Smokey Eyes will be best remembered for the wonderful filly, Eye Liner who is honoured by a feature race at Ipswich where the Kruger's had such a long and successful heritage.

Eye Liner was a wonderful two-year-old, winning eight consecutive races including again the McDougall Stakes. On seven of these occasions, her winning margin was

over six lengths. She went to Sydney and took on Australia's best two-year-old's winning the 1965 Champagne Stakes.

In total, Eye Liner won only four Stakes races, but won 14 races in all. Her other Stakes victories came in 1967 when she won the Delaney Quality and the QTC White Lightning Stakes.

Eye Liner went on to become a good broodmare, producing nine winners including the Stakes winning Pacific Ruler and Pacific Prince.

Perhaps most notably, Eye Liner is the grand dam of the dual Oaks winning filly, Grand Archway who won both the AJC and VRC Oaks.

Another of Smokey Eyes' most popular progeny was the great Queensland galloper of the early 1970s in Charlton Boy.

Charlton Boy won 20 races from five furlongs to a mile including six Stakes races.

Perhaps his best win came in the Group 1 Doomben 10,000 while he also travelled to Sydney to win the Tramway in 1972.

Charlton Boy also won the QTC Sires' Produce as a two-year-old before taking out the Queensland Guineas at three. He also was twice runner-up in the Doomben 10,000 as well as the Stradbroke.

Charlton Boy twice placed in the White Lightning Handicap, a race that had been won by Eye Liner.

Smokey Eyes was a son of Stardust, in turn a son of the great Hyperion.

Stardust is of course noted as the sire of the fabulous Star Kingdom. He had won 10 races from 46 starts in the UK including the Wykeham Handicap, Salford Borough Handicap, and the Stewards' Cup.



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the time with his stock winning some three thousand races. He was champion stallion of Australia in terms of races won for 12 consecutive seasons from 1961/62 to 1972/73.

With such a record, it comes as little surprise that his influence continues strongly especially in Queensland. His son Scotian had won the Bernborough Handicap and at stud produced the good galloper, Scomeld in a short career.

Scomeld, who herself won eight Stakes races including the VRC Oaks, produced the stakes winning Scollata.

Another son of Smokey Eyes who went to stud was the little known Small Time who was to become the damsire of another of Queensland's prolific sires in Mighty Avalanche.

As a damsire himself, Smokey Eyes appeared in the pedigree of another local stallion called Lord Diere.

Lord Diere, who won the Listed 4BC Handicap, was a son of another Lyndhurst stalwart in Grand Chaudiere.

Smokey Eyes also appears as the damsire of Red Tempo, a stallion who was born in New Zealand and who won seven Stakes races including the Futurity and Newmarket.

At stud in NZ, he produced 13 Stakes winners including Allegro, Red Baron, Red For Go and Sir Alberton.

Best Western was among Australia's most expensive thoroughbreds at one point, and he too is another who owes his heritage to Smokey Eyes, with his female line tracing to the Smokey Eyes mare, Salma. Perhaps the best source of Best Western in current pedigrees is as the damsire of another excellent racehorse, and now outstanding broodmare in Staging, and also of the underrated stallion Redding.

The list however is very long of horses continuing the Smokey Eyes influence and these include the likes of Testafiable, Top Marc, Zagreb, Siderius, Duporth and the stakes winning full siblings by Show a Heart in Crossyourheart and Gotta Have Heart.

As an aside to Smokey Eyes' continuing presence, he appears to have had considerable success with the stallions Sir Tristram and his son, Zabeel in spite of limited access to these lines which may be of interest to breeders with mares carrying Smokey Eyes.

In spite of Smokey Eyes being resigned by many to the wonderful history of the local thoroughbred, there is little doubt that his influence is enduring and will continue to be found in the pedigrees of some of our leading racehorses for many years to come. <<

ABOVE:

Smokey Eyes progeny Charlton Boy shared the 1974/75 Queensland Horse of the Year honours with Dalrello
Noel Pascoe photo

Smokey Eyes' dam was the Donatello II mare, Celestial Light. Donatello II may have only sired five Stakes winners, but these included two of the 20th century's greatest stallions in Alycidon and Crepello.

Donatello II was a half sister to Donatella who is the second dam of the great Australasian broodmare, Donna Nook who produced another Queensland stallion in Mister Kwila.

Celestial Light herself was the foundation of a number of breeding dynasties, with her daughter Latest Edition producing the very good stallion, Sovereign Edition. He alone produced Abdul, Analie, Mr Illusion, Penny Edition, Plush, and one of Australia's best fillies in Surround. Many branches of this

female line continue throughout the world, but perhaps there are few places it remains as active as in Australia. Among the top horses locally that stem from the same female family as Smokey Eyes are Ivory's Irish, Catnipped, Consular, Robian Steel, Steel Blade and Follow The Till. Internationally, we see that stallions Tolomeo, Three Legs and Princely Gift all hail from this wonderful line.

In terms of pedigree, Smokey Eyes saw the stallion Sunstar duplicated in the fourth generation through his daughter Etoile, the second dam of Stardust, and his son, Galloper Light, the damsire of Celestial Light. Delving further into the pedigree, we see the presence of half brothers, Chaucer and Swynford, while St Simon and his son, St Frusquin appear through a number of ancestors.

Smokey Eyes was reputedly the most prolific sire of winners in world bloodstock history at

2010 LOOKS BRIGHT FOR THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS

By Bob Frappell – President, Thoroughbred Breeders Queensland Association

The economy is obviously recovering which should lead to good results at the sales, the first of which, the Gold Coast Magic Millions, is nearing commencement as you read this article.

I believe this sale will always maintain its place as Queensland's premier event, and with our more buoyant economy the first four sessions this month should be sensational.

In addition, the prestigious Magic Millions raceday is growing in popularity each year, and is like the Sunshine State's version of the Melbourne Cup.

The first season sires are starting to make their presence felt, so the raceday on Saturday, January 9 should be fantastic and I look forward to seeing which stallions will make their mark this year.

Breeders will hardly have time to catch their breath before we head to the second annual March QTIS 600 Sale. Last year's sale was such a success I have no doubt that this years will be bigger and better.

The QTIS 600 scheme is really gaining momentum. Owners will certainly be glad they have purchased those yearlings as the QTIS 600 bonus prizemoney is starting to go off in great amounts. It is certainly one of the reasons I am confident this years sale will be well patronised.

April sees the revamped Capricornia Sale. Central Queensland Thoroughbred Breeders Association (CQTBA) have been very courageous taking on this event. It has been running for 30 years now and is vital for the central Queensland racing industry and local breeders alike. I wish CQTBA all the best, and am sure their endeavours will be well supported and worthwhile.

The interesting twist to all sales this year is the effects of Equine Influenza (EI).

This is the first "EI racing year" since the outbreak in August 2007. Coverings in Queensland were down 17 percent, so it is likely yearlings will be harder to come by this year. That could have positive spin-offs for breeders.

When you consider the basic rule of supply and demand, there is every chance breeders will get more money for their yearlings, because there are not as many to offer.

This is all coinciding with the controversial EI vaccination debate. This issue is once again coming to the fore with thoroughbred breeders urging the Federal Government to provide vaccination for our stock.

Despite the backlash we have had from the pleasure horse industry, I believe it is essential the racing/breeding industry is looked upon separately. Racing plays a vital role to this country's economy and we cannot afford to risk another devastating EI outbreak. Prevention is always better than cure.

Another controversial topic that is hotting up is Artificial Insemination (AI).

I foresee at this point that this will only be resolved in the courts. Most of the industry is against AI, as it is looked down upon overseas and there are realistic fears that AI could spell the end of our international racing prospects.

With that in mind, a very interesting seminar the Queensland Thoroughbred Breeders Association is planning for later this year is on reproduction. We will have a number of guest speakers and cover a variety of topics relating to breeding. I attended a similar seminar a few years ago and found it very worthwhile, so I hope this event will be well supported.

And on the subject of breeding, planning is already underway for the 2010 QTIS Stallion Directory. This is always a very successful publication and there has been great interest shown for the new edition already. If you are interested in advertising, either in general or a stallion, please give me a call.

I hope you have a happy and prosperous New Year. «

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