

## **Yankee Rockstar's decorated family**

The family of our brilliant, young sire Yankee Rockstar received further embellishment with the announcement of the Victorian Industry Awards at a function held in Melbourne recently.

Poster Boy, a half-brother to Yankee Rockstar, was named the Victorian 4YO Entire/Gelding Pacer of the Year for 2018/19 on the back of his successes in the Chariots Of Fire and Victorian 4YO Bonanza.

The Award complimented his Australian and Harness Breeders Victoria Awards for 4YO and Older Horse of the Year, while Aston Villa USA, the dam of Yankee Rockstar and Poster Boy, was named the Australian and Victorian Broodmare of the Year for 2018/19.

Yankee Rockstar's first Victorian crop are hitting the ground and receiving great reviews from broodmare owners.

Among the new Yankee Rockstar arrivals at Northern Rivers Equine have been Ideal Tyson's half-sister Artistic Angel (a colt), Hancock Hero's dam Ima Ritzi Lombo (a filly) and Olivia Rockstar (filly).

Yankee Rockstar has received nearly 40 bookings for the current season.

## **Mel Mara off to flying start**

Northern Rivers Equine's new resident sire Mel Mara is off to a flying start with the first six mares he served getting in foal.

Mel Mara has a book of more than 40 mares to the end of November.

Mel Mara, a 1:47 million dollar winning grandson of the great Cambest, is available throughout Australia and New Zealand in fresh chilled form.

## **American Ideal's USA success**

Fully booked sire American Ideal has jumped into third position on this year's USA Sire premiership following a spate of feature race wins by his progeny in October/November.

Leading the vanguard was the four-year-old entire American History, who dismissed a crack field including champion McWicked in the \$655,000 Breeders Crown Open in 1:48.6 at Woodbine Mohawk Park. He retired recently with earnings of \$1,089,556 and a record of 1:47.

Shake That House, a three-year-old by American Ideal, pushed his year's earnings over the \$500,000 mark when he outfinished his rivals in the \$335,000 Hap Hansen Progress Pace in 1:50.2 at Dover Downs, Delaware.

American Ideal's son Endeavor scored the most important win of his career when he outstayed his rivals in the \$100,000 Potomac Pace in 1:49.8 at Rosecroft Raceway, Maryland.

On the sales front, the American Ideal yearling colt Make My Deo topped the second session of the Black Book Sale at Harrisburg at a whopping \$280,000. American Ideal had 35 head sell at an average of \$40,571.

## **Breeders of the Month – Dennis and Brenda Bice**

Carlsruhe couple Dennis and Brenda Bice, who conduct Yorkshire Park Standardbreds, a boutique breeding and agistment establishment, have been enjoying a golden run with their stock this season.

Undoubtedly the star of their produce is talented trotting gelding Jilliby Babavaska, who has won 12 of his 25 starts to date and \$90,610 in stakes including a Group 3 at Melton and a placing in the Breeders Crown Final. His half-sister Magical has been placed on five occasions and was a finalist in the Breeders Crown and Homegrown Classic.

Promising three-year-old filly She Will Rock, a winner of three of her six starts, Hancocks Hero, a double winner at Mildura, and his half-sister Go Home Jo have been other recent winners bred by Dennis and Brenda.

Rare Courage, winner of the Moonee Valley and Wedderburn Cups, was the first good horse bred and owned by the Bice's.

The couple currently owns eight broodmares including close relatives of Franco Nelson, Soho Lennon, Western Dream, Dee En Ay Macray, Lyell Creek and Marcoola.

The mares are all bred and foaled down and the foals are weaned at Northern Rivers Equine.

## **November foalings**

Northern Rivers Equine has had 74 foals (all breeds) born on the property this season. Standardbred foalings in November were:

National Gallery - Somebeachsomewhere filly

Ima Ritzi Lombo - Yankee Rockstar filly

Miss Potential - Sportswriter colt

Olivia Rockstar - Yankee Rockstar filly

Carlisle Queen - A Rocknroll Dance colt

Artistic Angel - Yankee Rockstar colt

Make Mine Cullen - Bettor's Delight colt  
Aldebaran Deegan - Aldebaran Eagle colt  
Glitterazzi - Art Major filly  
Its Bonus - Sportswriter filly  
Trojan Fire - Captaintreacherous filly  
Whats Emma Got - A Rocknroll Dance colt  
Our Chelsea Girl - Sweet Lou colt  
Top Tempo - Well Said filly  
Speak No Evil - Captaintreacherous filly  
All Finesse – Centurion ATM filly  
Watch The Dream – Art Major filly

## **Large yearling sale draft**

Northern Rivers Equine is preparing its largest ever draft for its clients at the 2020 Australian Pacing Gold Sale at Oaklands Junction on Sunday, February 2.

The outstanding 14 strong consignment comprises five colts and nine fillies by leading sires such as Bettor's Delight, Captaintreacherous, Art Major, Somebeachsomewhere, American Ideal, Sweet Lou, Rock N Roll Heaven, Always B Miki and Sportswriter.

The complete list of yearlings:

Musical Delight - Somebeachsomewhere colt  
Sugarland – Art Major colt  
National Gallery -Bettor's Delight filly  
Limerick Star – Art Major filly  
Smyrna Duruisseau – Captaintreacherous filly  
Kabbalah Karen B – Bettor's Delight filly  
Glenferrie Shuffle – Sweet Lou filly  
Artistic Angel – American Ideal filly  
Philtra Girl – Rock N Roll Heaven colt  
Chloes Daughter – Sportswriter colt  
Somesorta Philtra – Rock N Roll Heavn filly

Just Look At Me – Always B Miki filly

Glitterazzi – Captaintreacherous colt

Arctic Fire – Captaintreacherous filly

**By Peter Wharton**