

RICHARDSON EVENTING UPDATE



WINTER 2010

THERE'S been so much happening at Vantage Hill in 2010 that we've hardly had time to update our fantastic sponsors, clients and owners – a hectic competition schedule, lessons, clinics, and we've played a direct role in the early education of more than 80 thoroughbred youngsters this season.

Here's our latest news!

*BLAIR AND SPEND UP IN ACTION
AT ADELAIDE INTERNATIONAL
4*****



BLAIR AND WALLY HAVE WEG IN THEIR SIGHTS

BLAIR Richardson has his sights set firmly on the World Equestrian Games in Kentucky from September 25 to October 10 with talented gelding Spend Up.

The combination finished ninth overall at the Adelaide International 4**** Event last November in trying conditions.

“It was ‘Wally’s’ first attempt at that level and he didn’t have the best of preparations for Adelaide as he had a splint that fractured and had to have it removed under general anesthetic five weeks prior to Adelaide,” Blair revealed. “Ninth position was a great effort.”

Adelaide 4**** is the most coveted Eventing prize in the southern hemisphere and one of only six events globally held annually at this elite level.

The relatively inexperienced gelding was unsettled in dressage but the combination was fifth after cross country. A total of 12 jumping penalties and three time penalties resulted in the pair finishing ninth.

Blair was thrilled to get around a cross country course that took its toll on much more seasoned horses, with many incurring faults or not finishing at all -- only 16 combinations completed the event, with the other 15 being eliminated or retiring throughout the three days.

Spend Up will next compete in Sydney on July 24, with Blair opting to carefully manage the ultra-talented horse.

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RICHARDSON EVENTING PTY LTD

P: 02 6545 3194

F: 02 6545 3013

M: 0427 225 352

E: info@richardsoneventing.com

427 Middlebrook Road

SCONE NSW 2337

www.richardsoneventing.com



'Wally' aimed for WEG

(from page 1) Blair is also competing at 3*** level on Helen Goddard's imposing Thoroughbred-Percheron cross Kilburi Mambo.

Helen was a working pupil at Vantage Hill, finishing 14th at Adelaide International at 2** before embarking on tertiary study this year. Mambo has remained at Vantage Hill.

"He was eighth at in the 3*** at Scone in March at our first competition together, then we went to Berrima CIC 3*** where he won, and then he placed eighth at Albury," Blair said.

An interesting 'up-and-comer' is homebred Sailor Sam – the grey is proving very consistent at pre novice level.

"He started in Prelim and was fourth at Scone and he has since placed at pretty much most of his pre-novices, he is looking a very promising young horse," Blair said.

Blair's sister Heidi has sent the bay gelding Hedge over and thus far Blair is far from disappointed.

"He was third in preliminary at Quirindi and he is looking like he is going to be a lot of fun to compete, hopefully he will be as good as Ngamatea Beer – he is bred similarly and both are from New Zealand," said Blair, referring to another horse owned by Heidi and campaigned with great success by Blair.



JUST NO STOPPING NIKKI...

While Blair has been clocking up some miles in the truck competing around NSW and interstate, Nikki Richardson has wasted no time planning her comeback following an anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) reconstruction completed on February 4.

Within a very short space of time Nikki was back swimming and cycling with sons Oscar and Charlie and within two months she was back in the saddle. Four and a half months after surgery, she will compete at Denman's inaugural One Day Event on Knightrider at Pre Novice level and on the newly-gelded Rudolf at Intro.

The Richardsons purchased Hoc's Rudolf as a foal and he is now a very imposing horse. He is by Regardez Moi out of a Brilliant Invader mare, and also carries Souvenir lines. Naturally the attitude of this charismatic chestnut has improved since being gelded and Nikki is delighted with the way the young horse is progressing. "He is much quieter now, and I am quite excited about him," she said.

"I'm aiming to do a three day event either at Sydney or Lakes and Craters in Victoria later in the year with Knightrider," she added. Nikki has also been busy with private and group lessons including a regular session with very enthusiastic equestrian students from Scone Grammar School.



YOUNG Singleton rider Kirstin Waller, pictured with Nikki, won the Richardson Eventing local rider prize at the March 2010 Mt Arthur Coal Scone Horse Trials. Richardson Eventing continues to support up and coming local riders through sponsorship and has committed to continuing the 'local rider prize' at Scone for the lowest scoring rider from within the Scone, Muswellbrook and Singleton local government areas.

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THE VANTAGE HILL TEAM

Rounded up for a photo session on an autumn day were (back, from left) Bede Logan (aka 'Bucking Bede' - so named by young Charlie and Oscar Richardson), Jeremy Ayton, Blair, (front) Grace Knight and Nikki.



As well as educating thoroughbred racehorses to maximise their potential, Vantage Hill aims to develop young equestrians.

"People know when they send their horse here that they are getting the best care from top riders – both Nikki and I have represented our country and we know how important horses are to their owners. Our goals are so important to us, just as the goals of owners, breeders and trainers are important for their racehorses. But we also want to give our working pupils the best foundation as well to reach their goals and I'm really proud to see these young people develop and progress," says Blair.

EXCITING NEW IMPROVEMENTS AT VANTAGE HILL



A bloke and his shed...

When not on a horse these days, Blair is often found with builder's tools in hand as a number of significant improvements have been made to Vantage Hill.

More than 12 brand new stables have been erected – with brilliant support from Priefert -- along with an eight-horse walker.

And where is a bloke without a shed? The shed that seemed to appear overnight at Vantage Hill is a massive four-bay shed that houses, among other things, the blue tractor that Blair is very partial to.

"We had planned these things but we've brought things forward to enable us to cope with our ever expanding thoroughbred business," Blair explained. "We have had an influx of horses after the Magic Millions, Easter and Scone sales, and we enjoy it."



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Here's a glance at just some of the blue-blooded babies who have been educated under the tutelage of Blair and the Vantage Hill team:

Redoute's Choice – Pravda filly – out of multiple stakes winner Pravda, herself a full sister to Group 1 winner Cronus, this filly is a half-sister to Listed winner Pravana. Offered by Willow Park Stud as agent, She was a \$700,000 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale for Shadwell Stud.

Redoute's Choice – Rewaaya filly – Named Asheerah, this is the first foal of Shadwell's outstanding racemare, whose beat champion sprinter Miss Andretti in the Group 1 Rupert Clarke Stakes among five wins and a slew of placings at racing's elite level. Like her dam, Asheerah will be trained by David Hayes.

Nadeem – Kapchat colt – Yet another Inglis Easter graduate purchased by Angus Gold for Shadwell, this colt is a half-brother to Swettenham stallion Kaphero out a Group 1 winning mare who has produced Wasimah (Danehill), a \$1.2 million yearling who is stakes placed, and stakes placed Keeneland, as well as Hidden Energy among six winners to date.

Anabaa - Rose Archway filly – A full-sister to recent Inglis Guineas placegetter Widden Valley, this filly is out of AJC Australian Oaks winner Rose Archway, who retired with five wins and almost \$1 million stakes. Her two named foals are both winners.



Redoute's Choice – Volte filly – (pictured above at Reavill Farm ahead of the Easter sale) A \$500,000 Inglis Easter purchase for Shadwell, this filly is closely related to luminaries such as multiple Group 1 winner Grand Armee, Group 1 SA Oaks winner Anamato, Group 1 Oakleigh Plate winner Drum and champion Hong Kong sprinter Absolute Champion.

Vantage Hill has put the initial polish on youngsters out of such well known names as Tycoon Lil, Twitter, Timbourina, Isle of Pines, In The Pink, Park Heiress, Toast of the Coast, Arctic Scene as well as the Choisir-Canada colt sold for \$62,000 at the recent Inglis/HTBA Scone Yearling Sale.

Busy breaking and pre-training ...

LEADING Australasian trainers continue to provide positive feedback to Vantage Hill on youngsters sent to them after breaking and pre-training – and Vantage Hill has been privileged to have the opportunity to educate some royally-bred thoroughbred juveniles.

Blair is also delighted to have a role educating horses for leading Australian breeders and yearling consignors Yarraman Park Stud as well as Widden Stud, among other leading thoroughbred nurseries. Both Australian family-owned operations based in the Upper Hunter have a long history of producing outstanding racehorses.

“It is very satisfying when top trainers ring me to say that they are really happy with the way the horses sent to them have been educated as well as with their fitness level and their overall condition,” Blair said.

Vantage Hill welcomed a special guest in autumn when Angus Gold, the well known bloodstock manager for Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum's globally successful thoroughbred breeding and racing operation Shadwell.

As well as having bases in Ireland and Kentucky, Shadwell has a select band of broodmares and racehorses in Australia, having long enjoyed success racing with the Hayes family, with horses such as Melbourne Cup winners Beldale Ball, At Talaq and Jeune, Caulfield Cup winner Fraar, Cox Plate winner Almaraad, and a host of other outstanding horses. In more recent times these have included Group 1 winner Rewaaya and the David Hayes trained Group 1 Blue Diamond winner Nadeem, who defeated Miss Finland and Wonderful World in the 2006 edition of the race.

Nadeem now stands at Sheikh Mohammed's Darley Stud and Shadwell has purchased several of his first crop yearlings. The son of Redoute's Choice was leading first season sire by average at the elite Inglis Easter Yearling Sale in Sydney this year, with 12 yearlings averaging \$122,333. One Nadeem yearling that Vantage Hill has hosted is a bay colt out of Group 1 winning mare Kapchat. The colt is half-brother to stakes performers Kaphero, Princesa, Hidden Energy, Keeneland and Wasimah, and he was knocked down to Angus Gold, acting on behalf of Sheikh Hamdan's Shadwell Stud, for \$240,000. Shadwell racemare Rewaaya's first foal Asheerah, by Redoute's Choice, was educated at Vantage Hill ahead of being sent to David Hayes.

Being located just outside Scone in the heart of the Horse Capital is handy for stud farms and local trainers as well as close neighbour Russ Lazarus, whose immaculate property Sutton Park is opposite Vantage Hill on Middlebook Road.

Mr Lazarus is sending horses including smart racemare Sutton Princess, trained by Luke Griffith, to Vantage Hill. He has had a lot of success with horses that he has bred carrying the Sutton prefix. They include the Youthful Legs winners Sutton Review, Sutton Friend and Sutton Miss and the Beautiful Legs products Sutton King and Sutton Crown. Mr Lazarus first came into prominence in racing when he raced Kensei, who beat Empire Rose in the 1987 Melbourne Cup.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

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ROOM WITH A VIEW...
The new stables at Vantage Hill
are ideal for young
thoroughbreds

Blair and Nikki Richardson would like to sincerely thank sponsors and supporters including Ariat, Bates, Horseland Tamworth, Mitavite, Capricorn Soiltex, Priefert, Spectravet, Weatherbeeta, and all of the businesses and individuals who help us to pursue our passion.

Horseland Tamworth and Blair Richardson will stage a Show Jumping and Cross Country school on August 7 and 8 at Nundle, which offers great facilities. Phone Nic at Horseland Tamworth on 0429 851 040 or 67851028 for more info!



IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE....

CONGRATULATIONS to Scone trainer Luke Griffith on the recent win of two-year-old Zedi Warrior, who overcame a wide barrier to score by a decisive two lengths at Tamworth on May 24 after being runner-up in the Inglis 2YO Challenge on Scone Cup day. Zedi Warrior was pre-trained at Vantage Hill, as was the Tim Martin-trained Monton – winner of the Group 2 Hobartville Stakes during the Sydney autumn racing carnival.

ONE TO WATCH?

Among many lovely young horses sent to Vantage Hill was a fetching Anabaa colt out of Punchess, a mare that has an impressive international pedigree. The colt is a half-sibling to three winners from four named foals, including Group 2 placegetter Fantene (Fasliyev) and the highly-exciting South African dual Group 1 placed Exclaim 'n' Exclude (Exceed and Excel).