



## **Marwina Prefers Aussie Sheilas**

Undisputedly a Champion Sire and a Champion Broodmare Sire, Marscay has had the odds against him in achieving the trifecta of also becoming a top Sire of Sires.

While he has had several sons whose track performances merited a career at stud, fate and fashion have in the past, conspired against them.

A combination of the premature death of entires March Hare and Great Command still in racing, and the early gelding of racehorses such as Sharscay, Masked Party, Burrito and Kidman's Cove meant that few of Marscay's Group winning sons have retired to stud.

More hard luck stories prevail - Maizcay and Rave Report, who each went on to produce Group One winners, were prematurely exported overseas. In addition, Blazing Sword, a son of Marscay whose progeny included Group One winners Arctic Scent, Lazing About, Cut Up Rough and Zuccherino, died after only five seasons at stud. His Group 2 winning son Blazing Reality is now a sire himself.

Stay Tuned won the Listed Gosford Classic and finished third to Danewin and Brave Warrior in the Group One Spring Champion Stakes. His first three stud seasons were severely affected by his owner Baramul Stud Ltd's protracted wind-up and he is currently standing in New Zealand, having so far produced very few runners.

Weasel Clause, who stood in Tasmania for eleven seasons before his death last year, carried the banner in Australia for several years, producing stakes winners such as My Sienna, Wexford, Nova Clause, Father Floyd, O'Donnell, Escapada, Sky Boat and SP Weasel Will and Stonehaven Star.

Encores, a Group 2 winner, is a more recent addition to the stallion ranks and is sire of the stakes placed Leather Lane.

Reenact, a Group One winner, may be the last of Marscay's stakes winning sons to enter stud duties. His first year was 2002, when he covered 74 mares at Baramul Stud.

The love affair many Australian breeders have had with shuttle sires in the past decade saw Jetball commence his stud career in New Zealand. He followed Paris Opera there, who was proving a valuable, if not fashionable, member of the sire roster.

With renewed interest in Australian bred sires in the last few years however, Jetball, whose several stakes winners include a Group One winner in South Africa and the NZ Bloodstock Filly of the Year, was brought back to Australia to stand at Eliza Park Stud, Victoria. His oldest Australian bred progeny are yearlings.

Jetball is a full brother to Marwina, a dual Group 3 winner and Group One place getter who retired to stud in 1996.

Standing at Riverdene Stud, Wagga Wagga - initially for \$3,500, he has covered 100-plus books in most of his seasons and with his increasing success, his stud fee has gradually crept up to \$5,000 plus GST.

Marwina has produced two stakes winners to-date, Marwin Gold (AJC June Stakes) and Sweet Marmalade (Hawkesbury Guineas). Coincidentally, both are under the care of Warwick Farm based trainer, Gary Portelli.

"Marwina's stock are typical of the Marscay line and what I really like about them is that they're very tough and sound," said Gary. "Marwina hasn't attracted good quality mares in the past and I think if he got some decent mares he'd really give the shuttle horses a push. I'm concerned that by ignoring our homebred sires and using the northern hemisphere bloodlines so much, our racehorses are going to lose the ability to handle the tight and hard tracks we have in Australia."

Analysis of Jetball and Marwina's stud success is interesting. Jetball's runners to-date show that he has an affinity with Sir Tristram, as 7 of his 21 stakes performers are out of his daughters.

With a different mare pool, Marwina has had just as distinctive success with the Star Kingdom line. This is rather unusual, as he himself is inbred to our Australian stalwart.

Like many of the best racehorses inbred to Star Kingdom however, Marwina carries both a son and a daughter, thereby creating a desirable 'sex balanced' duplication. Adding more Star Kingdom, especially if through other sirelines, is generally regarded as creating horses more adapted to longer distance racing, however Marwina continues to produce sprinters on this pattern. Sweet Marmalade's dam is by Brigand, by Star Kingdom's son, Noholme II. The stakes placed Marbiton is inbred to Biscay (although this is sex balanced). SP Winning Spirit carries another line to Biscay through his son Bletchingly. The full siblings Blue Wina and Blue Marwina, while not stakes winners, have each earned around \$120,000 to-date over sprint distances. They are out of a Blue and Gold mare, a stallion who is inbred to Star Kingdom 2m x 3m, once through Biscay. Their dam also carries Coakliff, another son of Star Kingdom, making five presences in this mating! My Czech Chick and Marwina Lass, city winners who have both earned around the \$90,000 mark, both carry a son of Star Kingdom through their dams.

Is it the fact that there is also a daughter of Star Kingdom in Marwina's pedigree that has allowed the successful reinforcement of more male blood from this line? Or is it perhaps that Marwina's dam Orwhina is inbred to Wilkes (sex balanced), changing the dynamics of her influence?

Whatever it is, it's working. And it will be very interesting to see whether his brother Jetball also follows this pattern and welcomes Star Kingdom-line broodmare progeny into his already impressive list of stakes performers.