

## *Primo Valentino Can Prove A Dane-Winner*

*by Jane Henning*

While there's no denying that there are certain sire lines that are excelling world-wide, the consequently high level of representation at stud here in Australia is a little overwhelming for those shopping for a mate for their mare.

Broodmare owners must be experiencing the feeling of 'déjà vu' while flipping through the pages of advertisements in thoroughbred magazines and sire books.

Top of the list of representation is the Danzig branch of the Northern Dancer sire line. His superstar son Danehill out-represents his sire, last year being represented in the Stallions 2001 book by 29 sons.

Many of his sons, such as Danehill Dancer, Danewin, Danzero and Flying Spur have daughters of breeding age and suitable outcrosses must be found for them.

One such outcross is the new Victorian stallion, Primo Valentino (Ire). Standing at High Lane Farm, Euroa, he was a top class two-year-old, winning five consecutive starts including the Group One Middle Park Stakes, a race in which his sire, the outstanding juvenile Primo Dominie finished third – the only one of his six juvenile starts in which he did not triumph.

Primo Valentino is a son of Primo Dominie who, like his sire Dominion, was a leading sire of two-year-olds. This is a branch of the Nearco sire line via Dante – Darius - Derring-do (sire of Dominion).

A line known for its toughness, courage and precocity, there's no denying that these attributes will go down well in Australia.

Primo Valentino's dam Dorothea Brooke is a daughter of the outstanding racehorse Dancing Brave. Blessed with amazing acceleration, his wins included the Dorking Stakes and Soham House Stakes as a two year old and the Craven Stakes, Two Thousand Guineas, Eclipse Stakes, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe as a three year old. Dancing Brave stood in England for only five seasons, producing several stakes winners including the English and Irish Derby winner Commander-In-Chief, the Irish Oaks winner Wemyss Bright, the Ascot Fillies Miles Stakes winner Ivanka, the Italian Derby winner, White Muzzle and the Champion Sprinter, Cherokee Rose before being exported to Japan. The English mares by Dancing Brave represented him well at stud, producing many stakes winners and putting him high on the list of leading broodmare sires..

Dorothea Brooke is a daughter of Connaught Bridge, a Yorkshire Oaks winner and Co-Champion Three Year Old Filly in the UK.

Primo Valentino carries several individuals who will be very welcome in matings here.

His sire Primo Dominie is out of a mare by My Swanee, a son of Petition. Another tough racehorse, My Swanee will ring a bell with breeders here as the sire of Danewin and Commands' dam Cotehele House.

Matings with daughters of **DANEWIN** (and later, those of his brother Commands) bring about some nice pattern repetitions. My Swanee is duplicated 4f x 4f. His sire Petition works very well with Court Martial, who is bred on the same Fair Trial / Gainsborough cross. Court Martial is present in Primo Valentino via Lyphard, sire of Dancing Brave. Danewin has two lines to Petition, as Danzig also carries this individual as his second damsire.

Relic is duplicated in this mating – via a daughter (Primo Valentino's fourth dam Riva) and a son, Danewin's second damsire Pieces of Eight.

Another sex balanced duplication is Dante – tail male ancestor of Primo Valentino and damsire of Pieces of Eight in Danewin.

A broodmare sire who reinforces similar elements is **RORY'S JESTER**. Relic is sex balanced as is Court Martial, prominent in Rory's Jester as sire of **Wilkes** (damsire of Crown Jester) and adding to the Fair Trial / Gainsborough crosses present via Petition and Court Martial in Primo Valentino. Rory's Jester is a direct descendant of **PARAFFIN**, who happens to also be the ancestress of Primo Valentino.

Another Victorian-based sire whose daughters should work well with Primo Valentino is **RUBITON**. A common 'cluster' of important ancestors exists on both sides of this mating. Primo Dominie's dam Swan Ann is bred on a Petition / Fair Trial / Vilmorin cross, while Queen's Hussar, sire of Rubiton's damsire Seventh Hussar, is bred on a Petition / Vilmorin / Fair Trial cross. This can significantly add to the impact of the mating. Primo Valentino carries four lines to **PRETTY POLLY** via St. Paddy, Nearctic and a duplication of Donatello II. Rubiton adds to this strength by contributing Seventh Hussar. Baroda (second damsire of Rubiton's sire Century) traces to Pretty Polly's half sister Veneration II.

Primo Valentino is rather strong in the **LADY JOSEPHINE** family. His dam is inbred to the speedy Fair Trial 3m x 3m, while Abernant, Nasrullah (twice), Royal Charger and Mahmoud (twice) are also present. Rubiton contributes Badruddin, Nasrullah, Tudor Minstrel and a duplication of Fair Trial.

The **LADY JOSEPHINE** family is a great favourite of **KENMARE** and his sons. Kenmare also likes reinforcement of his great grandsire Grey Sovereign, who also appears in Primo Valentino. In addition, Kenmare is a descendant of **PARAFFIN**, tail female ancestress of Primo Valentino. This looks particularly positive for Victorian based sires **KELTRICE** and **KENVAIN**, who also carry Court Martial's son Wilkes as the sire of their damsire, Vain. With Keltrice, an unexpected pattern is also created in that both Dancing Brave and Keltrice's dam Vain Display are bred on a Court Martial / Matrice cross. How did Dancing Brave cop a dose of the Australian-based Matrice? His son Pago Pago was exported from Australia to stand in the US, where he completed a

very successful stud career, including siring Dancing Brave's second dam Olmec.

Once Primo Valentino arrives at High Lane Farm, he will find himself looking over the fence at the perennially successful sire, **RUSTIC AMBER**. A son of Thatching, his daughters, as well as those of other sons of Thatching such as **ARCHWAY** and **SHALFORD** will also find favour with Primo Valentino. Thatching's dam Abella is by Abernant out of a Darius mare. This is in direct reversal to the pedigree of Primo Valentino's great grandsire Derring-do, who is by Darius out of an Abernant mare. Primo Valentino's LADY JOSEPHINE family strengths are boosted by Aristophanes, Fair Trial, Abernant and Nasrullah in Thatching.

**DESERT STYLE** must have at least 100 daughters in Australia and his pedigree provides us with the biggest opportunity of reinforcing that tough, precocious tail male line from which Primo Valentino springs. His damsire High Top is a son of Derring-do and much in the family mould, being a stakes winning juvenile (and three year old) who was tenacious and genuine. Desert Style's dam Organza carries a repetition of Primo Dominie's pedigree, being bred on a Derring-do / Petition / KONG cross. KONG is the dam of Grey Sovereign in Primo Dominie and of Nimbus in Organza. In addition, Desert Style's sire Green Desert is bred on a Northern Dancer / Sir Gaylord cross, echoing that pattern in Dancing Brave. It's also worth noting that **BARATHEA**, who is out of Organza's half sister, Brocade, also carries a Petition / KONG cross and offers reinforcement of Northern Dancer and Sir Gaylord.