

The Chairman's Sale

Inglis
Est 1867

by Glen Latham

FAIRHILL FARM

The upcoming Chairman's Sale and the Australian Weanling and Broodmare Sale promises to be one of the busiest ever weeks experienced by Mike and Deb O'Donnell of Fairhill Farm. A strategic decision two years ago to focus on selling the farm's foal crop as weanlings, and a more recent call to have a one-off reduction in breeding stock this year has ensured a bumper Fairhill consignment heading for Riverside.

There came a point during the last foaling season when Mike and Deb O'Donnell said "enough is enough". Offering a very hands-on, personal service at their Fairhill Farm at Mulbring came at a price, and with success and expansion walking hand in hand the O'Donnells had to make a decision. "Last season, we found the work in foaling down around 50 mares almost too much for us", says Mike. "Deb and I do all the foaling and I take most mares to stud myself so Spring is full on for us. We want to spend a little more time at the races and as we are a "hands on" management farm, we have taken the decision to sell some of our mares to assist in achieving our goal," and that leads us to the upcoming Inglis Chairmans' and Australian Weanling and Broodmare Sales.

"When Deb and I came to Australia in 2002, we were hobby breeders with a goal of breeding good horses. Our approach to that has evolved gradually and the results have been very satisfying. However, through that 17 year journey, I have tended to be a gatherer and find it very hard to sell my mares because I fall in love with them and their pedigrees. Now I've decided to bite the bullet and will let some of them go."

"While it is a reduction sale it is anything but a cull of unwanted stock. Instead, we consulted many people about which ones to sell but, surprisingly, couldn't get consensus on which to offer, so the selection is almost random. It gives prospective buyers the opportunity to purchase some good mares in foal to quality sires in various price brackets. If it was a straight out cull we wouldn't be offering the likes of Fiesta's dam Now Now and Conclusive."

Over that first week in May Fairhill will consign 21 mares of which 15 are Mike and Debs', with Now Now and Conclusive leading off in the Chairman's Sale on May 3rd. In an elite session of broodmares Now Now stands out as one of the prime lots thanks to the deeds of her bonny daughter Fiesta. The Star Thoroughbreds raced filly has been at the top of her crop since she stepped out in the season opening Gimcrack Stakes before winning the Gr.3 Widden Stakes at two. She has trained on, winning the Gr.2 Silver Shadow Stakes and the rich Inglis 3YO Sprint this season while she also went desperately close to breaking her Gr.1 duck when nosed out in the Flight Stakes by Oohood (I Am Invincible). Her prizemoney total at time of writing is nudging \$1.2 million while her I Am Invincible full sister Reprimand continues to race with zest recently scoring a fourth success. The O'Donnells have retained Fiesta's winning half-sister Consolari (Haradasun).

Now Now is out of the Hennessy mare Brandy Cocktail making her a half-sister to the Gr.2 placed Rock Cocktail (Rock Of Gibraltar) while her dam's half-siblings were the Group winners Stick Around



NOW NOW
Danehill Dancer (IRE) - Brandy Cocktail

(Twig Moss), Charm Scene Land (Brocco) and Kingsgate (Danzero). Now Now's colt by Capitalist will sell as part of the Fairhill consignment at the previous day's Inglis Weanling Sale while the mare herself will go through carrying to Pierro (Lonhro) whose reputation continues to grow.

While Now Now will be offered with an enviable record, Conclusive is a young mare rising five with

just one season at stud behind her during which she visited this season's outstanding young first season sire Brazen Beau. A daughter of Not A Single Doubt, she is a full sister to three winners, the Listed placed Desert Fox, Diamond Master and the four-time winner Yuma Desert who will continue to roam the Fairhill paddocks.



CONCLUSIVE
Not a Single Doubt - Sandy Desert (USA)

The Australian Weanling & Broodmare Sale

Without exception the rest of the Fairhill offered mares bring plenty of pedigree to each page, the Choisir mare Venus Amoris being an excellent example. She is a twice-winning half-sister to the recent Listed Takeover Target Stakes winner Tactical Advantage (Bel Esprit) out of the Gr.3 Adrian Knox Stakes placed Above Perfection (Encosta De Lago). She will be offered in foal to Exosphere (Lonhro) while her filly first foal by Shooting To Win has been retained by the farm.

While the majority of the consignment will be offered in foal, the young Dream Ahead mare Dreams Of Paris comes to auction off the track having been Listed placed at her last start over Christmas. A Caulfield winner over a mile, she is a half-sister to the Gr.2 Brisbane Cup winner Benzini (Tale Of The Cat), is out of a half-sister to the Gr.1 winning sprinter Hot Snitzel (Snitzel) who in turn is out of a Blushing Groom half-sister to the Gr.1 Moyglare Stud Stakes winner Park Appeal (Ahonoora) mother of Champion sire Cape Cross (Green Desert).

For the second year running Mike and Deb will offer the entire Fairhill foal crop of 31 babies in the Australian Weanling Sale along with another five youngsters from valued clients. When quizzed on why they have adopted this policy Mike believes selling early benefits both the buyer and the vendor. "At a time when yearlings are becoming very expensive, there is the opportunity for trainers and owners to buy early at a very competitive price."

Mike and Deb won't compromise the future development of the foal by over-preparing them just to pass muster. "The foals are all prepared naturally with minimal time in the box so as to ensure that they go forward after sale. It will be noted that Fairhill weanlings do not look like they are prepared to the minute which we do deliberately. We are of the opinion it is important to be mindful that their main preparation will be for their new owners at yearling sale time. Fairhill Farm places a lot of weight on this point. Weanlings that are prepared too well, often go backwards after the sale. Their later development can be compromised by too much pressure early in life. Our foals are given as much time in the paddock during preparation as they need to ensure they are not put under that pressure." Not that the Fairhill foals are under educated when they make their way into the ring. "Our foals are handled first while still on mum, some being taught to lead in the first weeks of life."

Like the broodmares, Fairhill's foal draft is a rich mix with something there for every taste. While there are lots by established sires like Choisir, Pierro and Foxwedge, there is a strong flavour of the exciting wave of young stallions in the marketplace. Of course, the first crops of stallions like Rubick, Deep Field, Shooting To Win and Dissident have all been successful and have unearthed some promising Stakes winners and the stock of Vancouver, Pride Of Dubai, Exosphere and Outreach have been popular as yearlings this year as have the first Australian conceived crop of No Nay Never, a big hit in Europe. This sale also gives the market the first chance to appraise the opening crops of the likes of American Pharoah, Capitalist, Defcon and Odyssey Moon with stock by all of these exciting sires, and several more, making up the Fairhill draft.

This will be the first opportunity for the market to assess the progeny of Gr.1 Coolmore Stud Stakes winner Flying Artie (Artie Schiller) and the Fairhill draft contains his colt out of Lazuli, a winning half-sister to the Gr.2 winner That's Not It (Foreplay). "There are certain duplications of blood I like in pedigrees and this colt is by a grandson of El Prado with his fourth dam being a half-sister to El Prado's dam," said Mike. "I can see that cross proving highly potent."

When looking through the catalogue for crosses that have worked before Mike points out that the filly by Foxwedge out of the Sadler's Wells mare Mofajah replicates the cross of two of the sire's Gr.1 winners. "Both the Gr.1 Railway Stakes winner Volpe Veloce and the Gr.1 Queen Of The Turf winner Foxplay are by Foxwedge out of Sadler's Wells line mares."



Deep Field x Caesarissa 2018 colt



No Nay Never x China Road 2018 colt



Choisir x Crazyonyou 2018 colt

The Australian Weanling & Broodmare Sale

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Fairhill Farm *cont.*

Another stallion whose first foals come up for sale is the Golden Slipper winner Capitalist and Fairhill is set to offer his half-brother to Fiesta. With the Slipper having now been won by fillies three years in a row, it will be interesting to see how the market reacts to the likes of this colt given it will be some time before we see another freshman crop from a Slipper winner.

Another successful cross Mike has identified is that of putting Danehill line mares to Pierro with 13 of the stallion's 15 Stakes winners to date a result of that policy. "Pierro's two Gr.1 winners, the Australian Derby winner Levendi and rising star Arcadia Queen who won the Kingston Town Stakes at Ascot, are both out of granddaughters of Danehill. We've replicated that sending Sweet Maggie, the dam of a Gr.3 winning juvenile Vinnie Eagle (I Am Invincible) to the Golden Slipper winner." By Danehill Dancer and the dam of three winners to date, Sweet Maggie is a three-quarter sister to the dual Gr.1 winner Nashville (Darci Brahma) and a granddaughter of the multiple English Group winner Hawajiss (Kris).

Mike also points out that another of his weanlings has similar strength in his bloodlines. "Our colt by Shooting To Win out of the Don Eduardo mare Touch Of Greatness has four crosses of the highly potent Bruce Lowe Number 9 family, that of Eight Carat." The colt is a half-brother to the Listed placed Hair Trigger (Smart Missile) now plying his trade successfully in Hong Kong.

Anyone who has inspected some of the offerings from Vancouver's first crop will know what smashing types the Golden Slipper winner has been able to get. Fairhill have a second crop daughter of his very much in the same mould, out of Stratance (Stratum) a daughter of the dual New Zealand Gr.1 winner Love Dance (Kaaftstad). A half-sister to two winners she comes with the bonus of an early foaling date.

This Australian Weanling Sale will own a small piece of history as never before has an Australian conceived crop of an American Triple Crown winner been offered. Fairhill will send American Pharoah's colt out of Yuma Desert to Riverside and he's sure to make an impact. Any mare that wins four and is placed a further eight times from just 21 starts deserves to be called dependable and that's the case with Yuma Desert.

Mike and Deb will also offer a Pride Of Dubai colt from the same family, his dam Sandy Desert being the mother of Yuma Desert. Fairhill also has another of her daughters in Roman Sandals by Holy Roman Emperor, a stallion Mike has often said will make it as a broodmare sire. Roman Sandals' offering is a smashing colt by Dissident.

In the short time Fairhill Farm has been in existence, three Gr.1 winners have come through the system, Glorious Days, Good Project and Choice Bro. Next month Mike and Deb will offer a Flying Artie filly out of the Gr.1 Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes winner Choice Bro's three quarter sister in blood Exceed And Excite and a Foxwedge filly out of Grand Lodge's daughter Bezzera from the same family. Also, they'll have on the truck a Wandjina colt out of Ultima Carta, a half-sister to the Gr.1 Railway Stakes winner Good Project who carries an 8th August foaling date.

There are several mares and weanlings not mentioned here that Mike believes are worth an inspection when the sale starts. The Fairhill consignments will be easily found in the prestigious Big Barn at Riverside. ■



Flying Artie x Exceed & Excite 2018 filly



Capitalist x Now Now 2018 colt



Pride of Dubai x Sandy Desert 2018 colt

The Chairmans Sale draft

| | | | | | |
|----|-----|---|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 17 | Ch. | M | Now Now | Danehill Dancer (IRE) | Brandy Cocktail |
| 42 | Ch. | M | Conclusive | Not a Single Doubt | Sandy Desert (USA) |

Weanling & Broodmare Sale draft

| | | | | | |
|-----|--------|---|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6 | B. | F | | Exosphere | Kawakawa |
| 8 | B. | C | | The Factor (USA) | Kitty Leroy |
| 17 | B. | C | | Flying Artie | Lazuli |
| 26 | Ch. | F | | Pride of Dubai | Mallard (NZ) |
| 44 | B. | F | | Foxwedge | Mofajah (GB) |
| 48 | Ch. | C | | Capitalist | Now Now |
| 52 | B. | C | | Pierro | One More Tequila |
| 81 | B./Br. | C | | Dissident | Roman Sandals |
| 84 | B. | F | | Wandjina | Rose Red |
| 86 | B. | C | | Pride of Dubai | Sandy Desert (USA) |
| 90 | Ch. | C | | Shooting to Win | Satirical Lass |
| 94 | B. | F | | Bull Point | Senseless War (USA) |
| 106 | B. | F | | Vancouver | Stratance |
| 111 | B. | F | | Pierro | Sweet Maggie |
| 123 | B. | F | | Rubick | Tiger Eyes |
| 125 | B. | C | | Shooting to Win | Touch of Greatness |
| 129 | Ch. | C | | Wandjina | Ultima Carta |
| 131 | B. | F | | Outreach | Via (USA) |
| 134 | B. | C | | Rubick | Wasimah |
| 140 | B. | C | | American Pharoah (USA) | Yuma Desert |
| 152 | B. | F | | Super One | Anastasia Girl |
| 154 | Br. | F | | Pride of Dubai | Antarctic Dream |
| 168 | Ch. | F | | Foxwedge | Bezzera |
| 171 | B. | C | | Vancouver | Blowin in the Wind (IRE) |
| 177 | B./Br. | C | | Deep Field | Caesarissa |
| 181 | B. | C | | Deep Field | Catastrophe |
| 189 | B. | C | | No Nay Never (USA) | China Road |
| 195 | B. | C | | Odyssey Moon | Consolari |
| 198 | B. | C | | Choisir | Crazyonyou |
| 202 | B. | C | | Dissident | Curvaceous |
| 208 | B. | C | | Defcon | Dazzling Girl |
| 215 | B. | C | | Exosphere | Dubai Me Diamonds |
| 223 | B. | F | | Flying Artie | Exceed and Excite |
| 229 | B. | F | | Rubick | Flying Strike |
| 240 | B. | C | | Outreach | Heavensentme |
| 269 | B. | M | Dreams of Paris | Dream Ahead (USA) | Paris Perfume |
| 278 | Ch. | M | Kontiki Dane (NZ) | Danewin | Eebie Pop (NZ) |
| 308 | B. | M | Mallaco Princess | Monaco Consul (NZ) | Mallard (NZ) |
| 309 | Ch. | M | Mallard (NZ) | Falkirk (NZ) | Quack |
| 350 | B. | M | One More Tequila | Onemorenore | Tequila Knowledge |
| 390 | B./Br. | M | Sandy Desert (USA) | Line in the Sand (USA) | Desert Royal (USA) |
| 425 | B. | M | Stratance | Stratum | Love Dance (NZ) |
| 430 | B. | M | Sweet Maggie | Danehill Dancer (IRE) | Royal Kiss (IRE) |
| 435 | B. | M | Teasing | More Than Ready (USA) | Turned On |
| 445 | B./Br. | M | Ultima Carta | Choisir | Euchre |
| 447 | Ch. | M | Venus Amoris | Choisir | Above Perfection |
| 448 | Ch. | M | Via (USA) | Southern Halo (USA) | Teocratica (ARG) |
| 471 | B. | M | A Spotte of Magic | Magic Albert | Spottswode (NZ) |
| 494 | Ch. | M | Bezzera | Grand Lodge (USA) | She's God's Gift |
| 514 | Br. | M | Catastrophe | Tale of the Cat (USA) | With Love |
| 531 | B. | M | Court Flying | Flying Spur | Court House Lane |
| 537 | B. | M | Dazzling Girl | Red Dazzler | That Kind of Girl |
| 548 | Ch. | M | Djinda | Exceed and Excel | Alkimiya (USA) |
| 572 | B./Br. | M | Fusaichi Rose | Fusaichi Pegasus (USA) | Rose of Tralee |

Big Barn, Barn B

Stables 33-37, 41-72



Shooting to Win x Satirical Lass 2018 Colt



Rubick x Tiger Eyes 2018 filly



Wandjina x Ultima Carta 2018 colt