

Hussonet sire a new pioneer in NSW central west

WHEN William Cox followed in the path of intrepid explorers Blaxland, Wentworth and Lawson in the early 1800s and constructed a road across the Blue Mountains providing access to the fertile Macquarie river nurtured Bathurst plains, it saw the emergence of a squattocracy that played a big role in the development of the Australian thoroughbred.

On their pastoral holdings located in the regions that are now home for the bustling cities of Bathurst and Orange, the rich graziers stood some of Australia's great pioneer sires and bred some magnificent horses including folklore hero The Barb, one revered by the public as the Black Demon.

Last century, although the region continued to produce good horses on a more restricted scale, the hub of Australian breeding became the Hunter Valley. It is an area that has become so prestigious with the domination of the breeding giants Arrowfield, Darley and Coolmore, that newcomers moving into breeding farm ownership could find it better value to return to the central west.

Leading the way in a renaissance of the central west is former Cowra district grazier and now prominent Orange businessman Peter Ward. A racing supporter for more than thirty years, including being one of the owners of the champion race filly Lotteria, Peter and his wife Jan have established a quality, well watered and timbered stud, Eagle Park, on undulating volcanic soil country ten minutes drive south of the city.

It is stud which attracted a lot of interest from breeders last year when they launched Byblos, a powerfully made 16.0 hands South American bred and raced Group 1 winning a son of the Arrowfield stud based Mr. Prospector former Chilean super sire and now Australian boom sire Hussonet.

They made Byblos available at a fee of \$8,800 in 2008. He is now standing at \$11,000 in 2009 and appears among best value for a yet to represented source of Australian foals by a Group 1 winning son of fashionable sires available here.

His qualifications and modest access fee saw him serve in excess of 100 mares in his first season. Among them were daughters of Danehill Dancer, Anabaa, Quest for Fame, General Nediym, Langfuhr, Canny Lad, Marauding, Grand Lodge, Mister C, Military Plume, Alleged, Testa Rossa, Royal Academy, Bite the Bullet, King of Kings, El Moxie, Covetous, Spectrum, Semipalatinsk, Jeune, Naturalism, Sir Tristram, Marscay, Umatilla, Salieri, Chimes Square and Strategic.

Already represented by winners from a small number of runners got from earlier use in Chile, Byblos could respond favourably to mares by sires who have done well here with Hussonet, including Helisio (sire of the dam of the first crop Hussonet Horse of the Year Weekend Hussler), Danehill (Blue Diamond winner Reaan), Last Tycoon (Wellington Guineas winner, STC Tulloch Stakes second and New Zealand 2000 Guineas third Rios), Danzero (AJC Adrian Knox Stakes winner and Oaks third Miss Darcey), Snippets (VRC Maribyrnong Plate winner and STC Silver Slipper, AJC Skyline Stakes, Breeders' Plate and Gold Coast Magic Millions 2YO Classic second Husson Lightning), Desert King (MVRC Alister Clark Stakes-Gr.2 second), Danewin (AJC Galaxy third placed Gold Trail), Desert King (Melbourne winner and MVRC Alister Clark second Eagle Falls) and Chimes Square (Sydney winner and VRC Ascot Vale Stakes second Fist of Fury).

These runners are among ninety winners that Hussonet, seven times champion Chile sire and their five times lead juvenile sire, already has to his credit in his first two crops, the oldest of which are 4-year-olds, got at Arrowfield. His record out here has confirmed Hussonet as a first class sire and a likely influence in continuing generations.

Astute Australian stud owners have been quick to take advantage of his excellence and last year imported five of his South American bred Group 1 winning sons. Besides Byblos, they are the Hunter Valley based Husson (Patinack Farm, Sandy Hollow) and Trotamondo (Yarraman Park, Scone) and the Victorian acquisitions Host (Swettenham Stud, Nagambie) and El Cumbres (Mornmoot Stud, Whittlesea).

In addition Cromarty Park, Gingin, WA, used his son Seine, a Group 2 winner in South and North America and two times Group 1 second. Both Seine and Byblos, a winner four races

from 1200 to 1900m, are bred on the same cross, being from mares by the powerfully bred Worldwatch, a son of Nijinsky and a Raise a Native mare.

The sire of Mr. Prospector, Raise a Native appears three times in four generations in the pedigree of Byblos. It is a dosage that should be ideal for matching with Danehill influences.

Mare owners interested in Byblos and the Eagle Park stud, can reach Michael Glenn on 0409 068 765 (02) 6365 4491, fax (02) 6365 4493 or michael@eagleparkstud.com.au

Australian Thoroughbred

Brian Russell Bloodstock Media Service

67 Brecht Street, Muswellbrook, NSW 2333 Australia

Phone (02) 6543 3051, Fax (02) 6541 1022, Email brbrian@tpg.com.au April 27, 2009