



Tim Breadmore at rear with his staff & the \$210,000 colt

Fledgling Thoroughbred Enterprise Takes Flight in Victoria



KATRINA PARTRIDGE went to the Inglis Premier Sale in Melbourne this year and found Tim Breadmore selling Paringa Park's first commercial draft.

Tim Breadmore is experiencing the highs and lows of overseeing his stud's first commercial yearling sales draft. On inspection day of this year's Premier Sale in Melbourne, he was standing under freezing Melbourne skies chatting about the 360 winners he had educated – one of them, Roman Thunder, having won the previous evening at Moonee Valley – while Clarrie Connors analyzed the Paringa Park sales draft. Today his first Lot enters the ring and is passed in on a rare perfect morning.

"Not a good start," Tim says philosophically on his way back to the stables (the accompanying strapper looking disconsolate in his wake). But for a farm whose high-

est priced lot prior to February was for an End Sweep weanling sold at the June 2004 sale, the efforts of this fledgling enterprise in recent years will, in the next few hours, bear fruit.

There are two versions of Breadmore's reaction when Lot 213 – the bay colt by Encosta de Lago ex La Baronne – is led from the ring later that afternoon.

The first version is suitably media-friendly; something his marketing and PR manager would be proud of: "I was delighted. It was a great result for the fifth foal of a mare and it was a terrific way to launch Paringa Park."

There's a pause.

"I know it sounds weird but I was a little disappointed actually!" He laughs at his

frank admission. "We had \$120k on him when he left home, 30 people looked at him twice, 20 looked three times, and four looked four times. Ok, I admit it – you start to think he is the only horse on the sales ground that anyone wants!"

An hour later that twinge of post-sale regret had faded to be replaced by a smile that reflects the \$210,000 price tag, the fact the colt has just secured the 10th highest price for the sale, plus, has gone to the leading stable of Paul Perry (trainer of former international sprint champion Choisir, Fastnet Rock and 2005 Golden Slipper winner Stratum).

"This is a landmark sale for more than just Paringa Park," Breadmore admits at the

close of the day's trading. "It's also breaking new ground for the Victorian breeding industry. It has showed people that if you produce the right horses the buyers will pay the big money for them. There is an opportunity for the Melbourne Premier sale to really go on and establish itself as one of the big sales in Australia off the back of this."

"We'll put through six Encostas next year – Victorian bred Encostas," he continues. "If it's another good year then the sale will take itself to another level."

Breadmore should know – he is no stranger to horses – or indeed the bloodstock market, having broken-in more than 900 thoroughbreds (including Gr 1 winners Super Elegant, Miss Pennymoney and La Zagaletta) and having spent the better part of 10 years working alongside them in countries spanning the United Kingdom, America, Canada, Malaysia and Australia. His career highlights are as numerous as the countries he's called home and include: syndicating and placing the Gr 1 winner Final Card at stud in 1995, developing a comprehensive international yearling sales database 1997-9 for his company clients, and securing Testa Rossa at Yallambee Stud on behalf of Peter Woodward. Significant bloodstock purchases made under Tim's bloodstock banner MEC include the Gr 1 winner Dance the Day Away in 1992, instigated the sale of Snippets for Arrowfield Stud in 1997, and dams of the Gr 1 winners Grandiose and Alishan, Angst, Isca, Iron Horse, King Marauding, Solvit, You Remember, River Dove, Regal Native, Helene Pillaging and Spartacus.

Thoroughbreds have also played (not surprisingly perhaps) a role in the Breadmore family ancestry. His great grandfather bred and raced 1921 Melbourne Cup winner, Sister Olive. The Cup does not, alas, reside at Paringa Park. "Granddad hit pretty hard times and wasn't spoken of a lot," Breadmore confesses. It wasn't until Tim had been immersed in racing for four years that the secret was revealed. "I guess Mum and Dad realized that the industry was in my blood so they figured they should tell me," he says, adding "it would be nice to think the Cup is sitting on a mantle somewhere in Australia but I rather fear it may have gone with everything else." His laughter is both spontaneous and infectious.

In 2001 the self-confessed perfectionist turned his eye to property. "I'd been in the bloodstock business for a while, was in the pre-training game and had 40 mares under management – it made sense to combine them all under the one roof. I've got great all round exposure to all aspects of the business and understand the needs of vendors and purchasers having been on both sides of the fence and the clients are benefiting from that ... oh, and I make a



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pretty darn good Pimms as well! "

Paringa Park canvasses 900 acres on the river flats of the Goulburn River, 90 minutes North of Melbourne. It commenced operations just three years ago. Its first phase consisted of establishing an agistment facility. That required 40 kilometres of fencing ranging from boxes and yards to a dozen 30 acre paddocks alongside the river. Phase two is currently underway and involves the housing of up to 600 horses (developments include a 20 box broodmare barn, stallion barn, covering barn, and quarantine area for walk-in mares visiting stallions each season.) There are also yearling runs and day yards under construction and general improvements to roads and irrigation systems.

Paringa Park doesn't currently stand a stallion but a syndicate headed by Breadmore and his client Richard Pietrykowski recently purchased young Encosta de Lago entire Delzao for future stud duties. The colt has raced 27 times for six wins and eight placings, earning more than a million dollars in stakes money. In early April he ran second to Grand Armee in the Gr 1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2,000m) at Randwick. His best win is considered the Gr 2 Feehan Stakes at Moonee Valley in 2004 where he beat home Makybe Diva in a photo finish. Paringa Park secured a 25% share in Delzao after his run in the Australian Cup last year. The remaining 75 per cent share in the stallion was purchased just last month.

The stud is home to a number of well-bred mares including: My First Star (dam of Australasian champion Gr 1 sprinter Isca, Gr 3 winner Star Alight and listed winner Slapstick), Lucky Witch (dam of the Gr 3 winner and Gr 1 placed Spirit of Westbury and listed winners Lucky Diva and Duke of

Westbury), Amanusa (dam of Gr 2 winner and Gr 1 placed Delzao), Fine Gem (dam of Gr 3 winner Darbaas and listed winner Bundle of Thanks; the mare currently in foal to the same sire as world champion sprinter Silent Witness, El Moxie), French Twist (dam of Multiple Gr 1 winner Paris Lane), listed winner Gogo Doll, and Honeymoon Suite (dam of Gr 2 winner Flak Jacket).

Breadmore and his staff currently manage 120 horses on the property and admit that it is "very challenging but exciting." They have had some early success too. From the property's first crop of 14 foals, current 3-year-olds include Count Ricardo (winner of Gr 2 Sandown Classic and 3rd Gr 1 VRC Derby), Lucky Diva (stakes winning filly of SA Stakes and winner of four races from 13 starts) and Soi Cowboy (4th in Gr 1 VRC Derby, 2nd in LR Geelong Classic from only 4 starts).

This year the farm makes its entrance in the commercial yearling market. "We have a quality farm with a lot of potential and I wanted to give it some exposure in the marketplace with our draft," Breadmore said.

The stud secured a prime location at Oaklands and to capitalize on the position all stables were prominently marked, staff uniformed, and a hospitality marquee erected "that we even made the wooden flooring for." The photographs used in the stud's banners and brochures are stunning images of the property and the orange used as the main corporate colour was taken from a photograph of a sunset over the stud last year.

"It's a branding exercise, make no mistake about it," He then adds, "Don't do it unless you plan on doing it 110%."

It's good advice and worth contemplating; which I do as I accept the offer of a freshly barbecued sausage sandwich and a glass of wine. No time for Pimms today! 🍷