

BREEDING NEWS ...QLD



ZABEEL STALLION SET TO MAKE HIS MARK IN QUEENSLAND

CARRINGBUSH FARM (formerly known as Vatana) spreads across 400 acres of prime grazing country in Queensland's Darling Downs. Its owner is former Insurance specialist, Wes Hutchins.

Paradoxically it was a medical emergency at 35,000 feet, not his lifelong passion for horses combined with two decades in the industry, that convinced the Australian Director to purchase the Darling Downs stud from its Thai owners.

On a routine flight back from Bangkok in 2001 Wes suffered a heart attack. Whilst many may have taken the warning on board and assumed a quieter lifestyle, Wes fully recovered and became even more committed to bringing the Stud "home" to its Australian roots.

On May 1, 2004 Wes' dream became a reality when he took ownership of the property.

He is particularly excited about the prospects of a stallion returning for its second season, after arriving late in 2003.

The horse in question is Moon Rocket, a Zabeel stallion out of a stakes winning Danehill mare.

Moon Rocket's dam, Sky Rocket raced for Lee Freedman and won 5 races including the VRC Rising Stars Stakes (LR), VRC Let's Elope Stakes (LR) and was runner up in the SAJC Veuve Clicquot Stakes (LR).

Owned by the Japanese breeding superpower, Shadai, she was mated with Zabeel before being sent to Japan where she has since produced two progeny by Sunday Silence.

The mare's pedigree contains many familiar names to Australia, none more so than the 2 year old Triple Crown winner Dance Hero, who appears under the third dam. Dual Group 1 winner Grand Armeec appears under the 4th dam.

A 50 million yen yearling (AUD\$700K), Moon Rocket raced only three times before his career was curtailed by injury.

He won his newcomer race by 9 lengths at just outside track record time. To put this in perspective, out of 8874 2-year olds registered in Japan in Moon Rocket's year, only 251 won a newcomer race and only 7 won by 9 lengths or more.

Demonstrating the possibilities had injury not intervened, one has to only look at Moon Rocket's half-brother, Meteor Burst, a Listed winner at 2 who was rated among the leading three year olds in Japan after his 3rd placing in the high level Group 2 Yayoi-sho (2000 Guineas trial over 2000m) in mid-March.

Hutchins says Moon Rocket's pedigree "gives breeders a two-in-one package" in that it offers 2-year-old sprinting capability favoured by the market place with the promise of staying ability

through the classic year thanks to the Zabeel influence.

Standing at a shade over 16.3hh, Moon Rocket is a richly coloured bay, shows exceptional depth through his chest, shoulder and girth, a long length of rein, a short back and a powerful hindquarter.

The sheer size and scope of the stallion suggests he has the potential to not just upgrade his mares on pedigree but also donate their offspring plenty of size and bone – something the Queensland buying bench seem to favour.

Moon Rocket arrived late for the 2003 breeding season yet he still covered an initial book of 29 mares. These included Windscape (dam of G3 winner Baal Yabba), Donnatelle (multiple stakes placed winner of 11 races), Idle Hour (Winning half sister to G2 winner Butternut), Watagan Lass (winner of 12 races), and Chantique (4-times winner and half sister to Savarin– 4th in the AJC Breeders Classic).

Moon Rocket will stand at a service fee of \$4,400 (incl. GST).

He joins Forty Niner's son Inflate, Storm Of Indya (by A.P. Indy), Chesapeake Sound (also by A.P. Indy), a Danehill stallion in Dantibes and the super tough Rain Gauge at Carringbush Farm in 2004.

- KATRINA PARTRIDGE