

It's In The Blood

“Buy the horse you dream about,” the Inglis advertising said.

But for a couple of shrewd breeders, the one they sold turned out to be the horse of their dreams this Easter.

Kerrie Tibbey, the septuagenarian owner of Goodwood Farm, went “a little bit naughty” three years ago in paying \$25,000 for an unraced and empty mare, with a poor breeding record, who looked rather plain on her Inglis Digital photos.

Her three co-investors had set a limit of \$20,000. We're not talking sheep stations, but Tibbey did go 25 per cent beyond budget to secure the mare, named Mandalong Snitjess (Snitzel).

On Sunday, the mare's first foal since that purchase, a strapping son of Written By (Written Tycoon) known also as Lot 129, fetched \$700,000, bought by Singapore-based Aramco Racing, with a likely destination of Chris Waller's stable.

It was a new high for Goodwood in the 20 years since Tibbey bought the Murrurundi farm, eclipsing her previous best of \$650,000. It also smashed the record for a Written By, with the current second-season sire's earlier peak being just \$410,000.

Just ten lots earlier, a beautiful chestnut filly by Justify (Scat Daddy) out of Irish-bred mare Luminous Eyes (Bachelor Duke) sold to Lord Lloyd Webber and Johnny McKeever for \$550,000, from Willow Park Stud's draft. Luminous Eyes had won a Group 3 in Ireland, and had thrown a dual Melbourne Group 2 winner in Lumosty (Fastnet Rock), but the owners had bought her in-foal to Justify - taking a punt on the then new stallion - for just \$52,000.

As always, there are theories or reasons as to why the buyers of Mandalong Snitjess and Luminous Eyes, through good fortune or planning, could pick them up so cheaply timely



Lot 129: Written By ex Mandalong Snitjess colt

INGLIS

reminders ahead of next month's broodmare sales.

Mandalong Snitjess perhaps wasn't the most photogenic of eight-year-olds, but moreover, her record as a broodmare might have been what prompted her NSW-based owner Jessica Tanner to move her on.

A \$70,000 buy at the 2015 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale for Mandalong Stud, she was unraced due to a hind leg injury as a yearling, which hastened her entry to the breeding barn.

As a three-year-old, she missed to Dissident (Sebring) in 2017, then wasn't served the following year. She bore a foal by Charge Forward (Red Ransom) in 2019, but it died after birth. She wasn't covered in 2020 or 2021, and thus presented empty at an Inglis Online sale in August, 2021, catching the eagle eye of one of Tibbey's long-term clients,

Canberra hobby breeder Guy Orbell.

“Guy rang and said, ‘Hey look at this mare,’” Tibbey tells It's In The Blood. “I was extremely busy at the time, so I didn't get around to it, until the last minute. I saw her photos and she looked pretty average, but then I looked at her pedigree.”

Tibbey was entranced to see not only that Mandalong Snitjess had the proven strength of Danehill-Redoute's Choice-Snitzel as her sireline, but the damsire clout of Zabeel (Sir Tristram) to Octagonal going into her mother Bon Fire.

Better still, Bon Fire, a Newcastle winner at 1400 metres among only three starts, was the dam of Heat Of The Fire (Strategic), who'd thrown Godolphin Group 3 winner Furnaces (Exceed And Excel), plus one Listed winner and the dam of another, the now five-year-old mare Scorched Earth (Nicconi).



Written By

WIDDEN STUD

The cherry on top was that Bon Fire was out of the stakes-winning Pampas Fire (Prince True), which made her a half-sister to Cloister (Marauding), herself a Listed winner but best known as the dam of dual Group 1-winning sprinting mare Melito. And Melito had a similar sireline to Mandalong Snitjess, being by Redoute's Choice.

With so many well performed females about, Tibbey went chips-in.

"I was probably a bit naughty and went past the budget, but my co-owners are all still fantastic friends and great people," Tibbey said.

After Sunday, they're no doubt even better friends.

"It was just this pedigree with so much depth to it, with a lot of good racehorses in it. It was one of these really old families full of the names you know and trust, that I'd known for a million years, and I think Snitzel mares are just wonderful," she says.

"The thing that probably scared buyers off was her breeding record. Yes, it wasn't great, but I did think that she had at least produced one foal, even if it had died. At the price, it was worth a go, although the price we paid was as far as I wanted to go."

It was Orbell the pedigree buff who pushed for a first cover from the untested Written By, the Blue Diamond (Gr 1, 1200m) winner then in his third year at Widden Stud for \$24,750.

Lot 129: Written By ex Mandalong Snitjess colt pedigree

ARION PEDIGREES

Lot 129 (With 30% GST) BAY COLT

(Branded NT nr sh. $\frac{14}{2}$ off sh. Foaled 17th September 2022)

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| SIRE | Written Tycoon | Iglesia | by Last Tycoon (Ire) |
| WRITTEN BY | Yau Chin | Party Miss | by Kenmare (Fr) |
| DAM | Snitzel | Toboug (Ire) | by Baratheia (Ire) |
| MANDALONG | Snitzel | Tilla's Daughter | by Umatilla (NZ) |
| SNITJESS 2013 | Bon Fire | Redoute's Choice | by Danehill (USA) |
| | | Snippets' Lass | by Snippets |
| | | Octagonal (NZ) | by Zabeel (NZ) |
| | | Pampas Fire | by Prince True (USA) ... |

WRITTEN BY (AUS) (Chestnut 2015-Stud 2019). 6 wins at 2, MRC Blue Diamond S., Gr.1. Half-brother to SP C'est Magique. Sire of 59 mrs, 21 wns, inc. SW The Novelist (BRC BJ McLachlan S., Gr.3), Ripcord, SP Straight Charge, Gangitano, Scorsese and of Instagood, Nosie by Nature, Sunday Mail, Written Melody, Zimo, Solutionist, By the Book, Diamond Lucy, Fairytale Bliss, Not Written Off, Pacific Commander, etc. His oldest progeny are 3YOs.

1st Dam

MANDALONG SNITJESS, by Snitzel. Unraced. Half-sister to **Heat of the Fire** (dam of **FURNACES, VOLCANIC ROCK**). This is her first living foal.

2nd Dam

BON FIRE, by Octagonal (NZ). **Winner** at 1400m. Half-sister to **CLOISTER** (dam of **MELITO**), **Our Webster**, Summary (dam of **SHIKOBA**). Dam of 11 foals, 8 to race, **5 winners**, inc:-

Heat of the Fire (f *Strategic*). **Winner** at 2 at 1150m, AJC Ad Alta 2YO H., 2d AJC Keith Mackay H., **L**, 3d AJC Silver Shadow S., **Gr 3**. Dam of 6 winners-**FURNACES** (c *Exceed and Excel*). **3 wins**-2 at 2-at 1100m, \$475,950, ATC Kindergarten S., **Gr 3**, Primo Moraitis 2YO P., Hawkesbury RC XXXX Gold Rush P., 2d ATC Todman S., **Gr 2**, MVRC Ian McEwen S., **Gr 2**, ATC Lonhro P., **L**, 3d MVRC Ian McEwen S., **Gr 2**. Sire.

VOLCANIC ROCK (g *Hinchinbrook*). **2 wins** at 2 at 1000m, 1500m, \$134,950, BRC The Phoenix S., **L**, 2d ATC Rosehill Bowling Club 2YO H. Scorched. Unraced. Dam of 4 winners-

SCORCHED EARTH (f *Nicconi*). **4 wins**-2 at 2-1000m to 1200m, \$489,450, MVRC Valley Pearl S., **L**, 2d MRC Blue Diamond Prelude (f), **Gr 2**, Kevin Hayes S., **Gr 3**, 3d MRC Quezette S., **Gr 3**, MVRC Typhoon Tracy S., **Gr 3**, 4th MRC Thousand Guineas Prelude, **Gr 2**.

Fantasy. **3 wins** at 1200m, \$613,649, HKJC Lai Kok H., Cumberland H., Chevalier Aluminium Engineering H., 2d HKJC Graham H., Tai Yau H.

Red Roses Too. **2 wins** at 1100m, 1300m, 3d ATC Turf Club H. Dam of 4 winners-**Jip Jip Rock** (f *High Chaparral (Ire)*). **2 wins** at 1400m, 1500m, AuRC Barfoot & Thompson H., 2d AuRC Trevor Eagle Memorial S., **L**.

3rd Dam

PAMPAS FIRE, by Prince True (USA). **2 wins** at 2 at 900m, 1000m, VATC Debutante S., **Gr 3**, Bounding Away H., **L**, 2d VRC Maribyrnong Trial S., **L**, 3d VRC Maribyrnong P., **Gr 2**. Half-sister to **ZEDITAVE, ALANNON, ZEDAGAL** (dam of **UNISON**), **SQUARE DEAL, Druid's Lodge**, Great Verdict (dam of **GREYS INN**), True Verdict (dam of **VEROCATIVE**), Zest (dam of **ZESTFUL**). Dam of 7 foals, all raced, **5 winners**, inc:-

CLOISTER (f *Marauding (NZ)*). **Winner** at 2 at 900m, VATC Debutante S., **L**, 3d AJC Gimcrack S., **L**. Dam of 6 winners-

MELITO (f *Redoute's Choice*). **5 wins**-1 at 2-1100m to 1400m, \$1,934,050, AJC TJ Smith S., **Gr 1**, Old Tatt's RC Winter S., **Gr 1**, ATC Apollo S., **Gr 2**, AJC Furious S., **Gr 2**, STC Silver Slipper S., **Gr 2**, 2d ATC Queen of the Turf S., **Gr 1**, AJC All Aged S., **Gr 1**. Producer.

Summary. Started 3 times. Dam of 5 winners-

SHIKOBA (f *Chief Bearhart (Can)*). **Champion 3YO filly in NZ. 7 wins**-3 in succession-1200m to 2000m, \$283,333, AuRC Eight Carat Classic, **Gr 2**, Royal S., **Gr 2**, Waikato RC Sir Tristram Fillies Classic, **Gr 2**.

Tibbey's farm has reared track stars including Dance Hero (Danzero), Manawanui (Oratorio), Rebel Dane (California Dane) and Private Eye (Al Maher), but she was happy to defer to Orbell.

What the match-up brought was a double-up of the outstanding US blue hen Best In Show (Traffic Judge), with her super-producing

granddaughter Dancing Show (Nijinsky) present at 5m x 5f.

Dancing Show was the dam of Group 1 winners Hurricane Sky (Star Watch) and Umatilla (Miswaki), the latter of whom is the sire of Written By's second dam. Dancing show also threw Shantha's Choice (Canny Lad), dam of Redoute's Choice.

Written By has sired three stakes winners and one - Group 3 victor The Novelist - is out of a Snitzel mare. Written By's sire, Written Tycoon (Iglesia), over Snitzel mares has yielded 14 winners from 22 starters including two in black type, at nine per cent to runners. With fine timing, one is Velocious, who won Ellerslie's Sistema Stakes (Gr 1, 1200m) a month ago after taking the rich Karaka 2YO Million (RL, 1200m) in January.

"Guy has been associated with some good ones himself, and he's very good at matings, so we all went with Written By," Tibbey said. "It's turned out to be absolutely the right mating.

"What I know is it produced an absolutely amazing type, one of the nicest balanced racehorses I've seen for a long time, whatever nicks and crosses went into him.

"Plus he has the right attitude to be a really good horse. Often they have a good brain but can go off their heads, or be a bit colty. But this boy, you could throw a saddle on him and take him to a barrier trial tomorrow.

"He got lots of looks and X-ray requests, and I think everyone could see quality. It's not often really nice horses like this come along. I was thinking we might get \$400,000 for him. When it went past \$500,000 I thought, 'Oh my God!' So to get \$700,000, we were just ecstatic."

Tibbey, at pains to thank the team behind her at Goodwood, said Mandalong Snitjess had other attributes to compensate for her lack of track exposure and patchy breeding history.

"She's a good mum, throws nice foals, is easy foaling, plenty of milk, the colostrum's good - uncomplicated," she said.

"But she also just has a presence about her. She's pretty high in the pecking order in her group, and foals from mares like that are usually confident and forward and happy within themselves. Mares teach their foals to be assertive, confident and high in the pecking order."


Impressed by the look of the Written By foal, Mandalong Snitjess's owners stumped up the \$44,000 for a cover from Darley shuttler Too Darn Hot (Dubawi), on Tibbey's suggestion, and now have an impressive weanling colt to show for it. They then went a sizeable notch

Lot 119: Justify ex Luminous Eyes filly pedigree

ARION PEDIGREES

Lot 119 (No GST)

CHESTNUT FILLY

(Branded  nr sh. $\frac{23}{2}$ off sh. Foaled 28th September 2022)

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| SIRE | Scat Daddy | Johannesburg (USA)..... | by Hennessy (USA) |
| JUSTIFY (USA) | Stage Magic | Love Style..... | by Mr. Prospector |
| DAM | Bachelor Duke (USA)..... | Ghostzapper..... | by Awesome Again |
| LUMINOUS EYES (IRE) | Mood Indigo | Magical Illusion | by Pulpit |
| 2006 | | Miswaki..... | by Mr. Prospector |
| | | Gossamer | by Seattle Slew..... |
| | | Indian Ridge | by Ahonoora (GB)..... |
| | | Glowing Ardour | by Dancing Brave |

JUSTIFY (USA) (Chestnut 2015-Stud U.S.A. 2019, Aust. 2019). 6 wins 7f to 1½m, Kentucky Derby, Gr.1. Leading First Season Sire in Aust. in 2022-23. Sire of 247 mrs, 119 wns, 25 SW, 6 G1 wns. His oldest SH-bred progeny are 3YOs and inc SW Learning to Fly (ATC Reising S., Gr.2), Storm Boy, Air Assault, Star of Justice, Legacies, SP Scentify, etc. His NH-bred progeny inc SW City of Troy (Newmarket Dewhurst S., Gr.1), Opera Singer, Just F Y I, Hard to Justify, etc.

1st Dam

LUMINOUS EYES (IRE), by Bachelor Duke (USA). 2 wins at 2 at 7f, €136,315, Leopardstown Silver Flash S., Gr 3, 2d Fairyhouse Brownstown S., Gr 3. This is her seventh living foal. Her sixth foal is an unraced 3YO. Dam of 3 foals to race, 1 winner, inc:-

LUMOSTY (f by Fastnet Rock). 5 wins 1000m to 1600m, \$482,100, Moonee Valley Fillies Classic, Gr 2, MRC Caulfield Sprint H., Gr 2, VRC Straight Six H., L, All Victorian Sprint Series Heat H., 2d VRC Cap d'Antibes S., L, MRC Blue Diamond Preview (f), L, 3d Qld Tatt's RC Tattersall's Tiara, Gr 1, MRC Blue Diamond Prelude (f), Gr 3.

2nd Dam

MOOD INDIGO, by Indian Ridge. Winner at 7f, Leopardstown Waterford Lismore S., 2d Leopardstown Monaloe S., 4th Leopardstown Silver Flash S., L. Half-sister to **GOT A CRUSH** (dam of **PALMILLA**), **Gotablush**. Dam of 13 named foals, 12 to race, 6 winners, inc:-

LUMINOUS EYES (f Bachelor Duke (USA)). 2 wins. See above.

Janaab. 4 wins at 7f, 1m, 2d Haydock Walsh IBS H.

Indigo King. Winner at 2200m, 2d Chantilly Prix du Chemin du Viaduc, 3d Chantilly Prix du Mont Cesar, 4th Grand Prix de Clairefontaine, L.

Michikabu. Winner at 1m, 4th Gowran Park Victor McCalmont Memorial S., L.

Katoom. Started 3 times. Dam of 4 winners-

Intisaab (g Elnadim (USA)). 11 wins 1200m to 1408m, £310,965 in Great Britain, Ireland and Qatar, York Coral Sprint Trophy, Curragh Scurry H., 2d Newcastle Chipchase S., Gr 3, Lingfield Golden Rose S., L, 3d Newmarket Hopeful S., L, 4th Lingfield Cleves S., L, Golden Rose S., L.

Moody Blue. Unraced. Dam of 2 winners-

New Endeavour (g New Bay). 2 wins-1 at 2-at 7f, \$363,001, to 2023, 2d Newbury Hungerford S., Gr 2, 3d Newmarket Sir Henry Cecil S., L.

3rd Dam

GLOWING ARDOUR, by Dancing Brave. 3 wins-2 at 2-at 7f, 1m, Leopardstown Silken Glider S., Gr 3, Newmarket H&K Commissions H., 4th Goodwood Oak Tree S., L. Half-sister to **PILSUDSKI**, **FINE MOTION**, **BRIOLLETTE**, **BARAKA**, **PEACH OUT OF REACH**, Honey Bun (dam of **PROUD BEAUTY**). Dam of 4 foals, all raced, 3 winners, inc:-

GOT A CRUSH (f Allen's Prospect). 5 wins-1 at 2-at 5f, 6f, \$127,489, Meadowlands Phoenix S., L, 3d Philadelphia Park Race Street H., L, 4th Meadowlands Phoenix S., L. Dam of-

PALMILLA (f Crowd Pleaser). 4 wins 8½f to 11f, \$384,320, Delaware Park Robert G Dick Memorial H., Gr 3, 2d Saratoga Glens Falls H., Gr 3, Keeneland Dowager S., L, Delaware Park John W Rooney Memorial S., L, 3d Philadelphia Park Caught in the Rain H., L. Producer.

Gotablush (f Nashwan). 2 wins-1 at 2-at 1600m, 1911m, Saint-Cloud Prix Belle Sicambre, 2d Longchamp Prix Finlande, L. Producer.

higher, going to Darley's \$121,000 new boy Anamoe (Street Boss).

"We were a bit nervous paying so much money for Anamoe," Tibbey said. "It's just as well the Written By made us money!"

Willow Park's Justify filly was the result of another leap of faith.

When the 16-year-old Luminous Eyes was presented in the draft of Coolmore Stud, as agents, in-foal to their shuttler Justify at the Inglis Australian Broodmare Sale in May, 2022, that Triple Crown-winning stallion hadn't had a runner in Australia, and his US juveniles were just starting to debut.

In fact, it would be eight months before Justify's first Australian star, Learning To Fly, would debut, winning her first three to up to Group 2 level, plus the rich Inglis Millennium (RL, 1100m). Justify now has six elite-level winners across the US and Europe, a champion Australian first-season sire title to his name, and is second among second-season sires this term, with Storm Boy bearing his flag.

"Our client had a lot of faith that Justify was going to make it," said Willow Park's Glenn Burrows. "He was a very well credentialed horse, but he was a totally unknown option at that time. So when you consider something like 80 per cent of stallions fail at stud, buying Luminous Eyes was still a punt. He backed a winner."

Why so cheap, at \$52,000? Luminous Eyes had thrown that dual Group 2 winner Lumosty, but she was her first foal, in 2011. Of her next five - all Lumosty's siblings by



Justify

COOLMORE

Fastnet Rock (Danahill) whose yearling prices included \$850,000 and \$600,000 - one was unplaced and four were unraced.

Luminous Eyes missed twice, then had two more foals. One is unplaced and the second is as yet unraced, a now three-year-old gelding by Justify. Now named Dino, he's a \$170,000

yearling who's shown some pretty plain trial form and is now with his second trainer in Kris Lees.

With Luminous Eyes' sire Bachelor Duke (Miswaki) little known here, there are no readily apparent golden nicks to Justify over the mare, though there is a 4f x 4m of Mr. Prospector (Raise A Native).

Whatever it was, the sister who fetched more than triple Dino's price tag on Sunday appears to be out of a different cast.

"This goes to show there's always opportunities in broodmare sales," Burrows said.

"Luminous Eye was a Group 3 winner, but she'd had seven foals when our client bought her, for one winner, albeit a good one. But the sellers probably just thought she was of an age where if you don't sell her, you might not be able to later.


"But the Justify filly is just a terrific type. The sire and dam are both huge individuals, and the filly is just beautiful - well grown, plenty of length, and a wonderful, easy action to her.

"The positive inspections were just phenomenal. She had great X-rays, great scope. I'm not sure she'll be a two-year-old, but I reckon she'll be a magnificent three-year-old."



Lot 119: Justify ex Luminous Eyes filly

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