

VOL 6 : ISSUE 3
SEPT 15, 2022



EVEREST DIARIES



THIS ISSUE

INTERVIEWS: ADRIAN BOTT | JAMES KENNEDY | NIC CERRONE

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This issue we interview three people that will be leaving a long lasting legacy, trainer Adrian Bott, watches and jewellery retailer as well as the world-renowned master jeweller Nic Cerrone.

We also remember HH Queen Elizabeth II, who had a lifelong passion for horses, was a keen racegoer as well as a successful owner and breeder who enjoyed many notable triumphs.

She attended several race meetings in Australia during her 70-year reign and the Gr.3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes, held every autumn at Flemington is one of Australia's most popular races.

Royal Ascot will be bereft of their most passionate Royal.

Despite not having the budget of some of the giants of the sport such as Irish breeding powerhouse Coolmore Stud or the Maktoum family of Dubai, the British monarch celebrated more than 1800 winners.

In October 2021, she was recognised for her decades-long contribution to the sport by being inducted into the British Champions Series Hall of Fame, the first person to gain membership as a "special contributor".

Her racing philosophy was simple, "I enjoy breeding a horse that is faster than other people's."

"To me, that is a gamble from a long way back. I enjoy going racing but I suppose, basically, I love horses, and the thoroughbred epitomises a really good horse to me," she said.

She will be missed.

We hope you enjoy reading this fortnight's issue and look forward to meeting again in two weeks.

Pallavi Shevade

Editor's Note

EVEREST DIARIES MAGAZINE



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POST BOX 124609,
DUBAI, UAE

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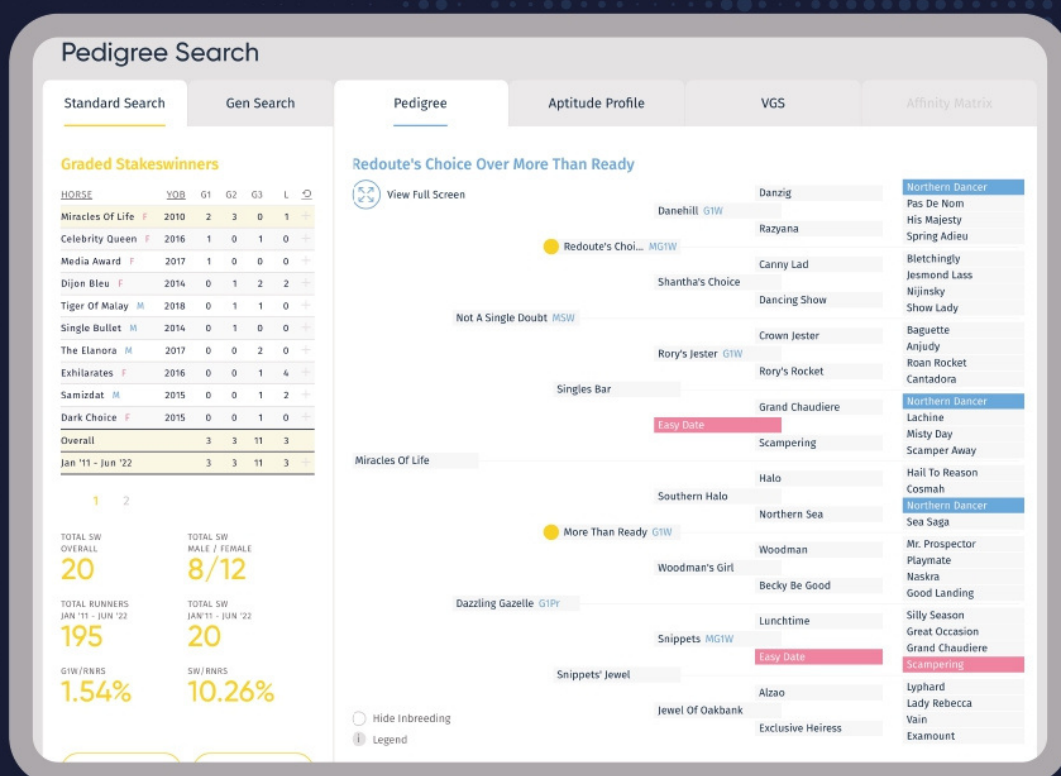
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TRAINING GENIUS ADRIAN BOTT ON STAR SPRINTER, IN THE CONGO

Adrian Bott has watched In The Congo carefully, as the son of Snitzel navigated the biggest of challenges with ease, giving him the assurance needed that his charge was ready to climb The Everest.

In The Congo ran a top-class field of 3YOs into the ground in the A\$1,000,000 Gr.1 Golden Rose. Racing in the colours of the Newgate Farm syndicate, In The Congo kept up a powerful gallop under jockey Tim Clark to defeat the favourite, Godolphin's Anamoe, by a long-head with one and a quarter length back to Coastwatch in third.

Although it was an emotional moment for connections of Rothfire, who returned to the winner's circle for the first time in two years in the Gr.2 McEwen Stakes, the popular choice, In The Congo, finished sixth to the chagrin of his trainer and connections.

“Obviously, I think it's important to analyze the race and what unfolded. Were there any things on the day we could have done differently or changed with our approach to the race or the preparation?”

“You can dwell on so many different scenarios, you go through so many variables, and you can really overanalyze things.

“I think it's important to reflect and work out if there were things within your control that you could have done differently.

“And I think that's important that these things are addressed,” he said reflecting back on the day.

“Moonee Valley is one of the trickiest and tightest tracks we would have in Australia. It's very much a specialist course. And obviously, in Melbourne, they're racing in a different direction to here in Sydney. So that was his (In The Congo's) first look at Moonee Valley.

“He drew awkwardly in barrier seven of seven, even though it was a small field. We just landed in a tough position out wide with a number of quick horses inside us.

“We were in no man's land, covering plenty of ground and doing plenty of work. He got a little bit lost around there the first time and it was hard for him to get his balance with the frenetic speed over the 1000 metres. So yeah, things didn't quite work out.

“We know he's a good horse. We know he's a Group 1 sprinter, capable of winning those races so we've just got to get him back on track.

“And now he's had that experience at Moonee Valley, I think we can go back with a bit of confidence. But we're most likely to see him over 1200 meters there the next time.

“And that's just a completely different style of racing to the 1000 meters,” said Bott.

Born on Segenhoe Stud, Bott has had a life-long love affair with racing. He currently trains in partnership with Hall of Famer, Gai Waterhouse who followed in the footsteps of her legendary father, TJ Smith, and took over in 1992. Waterhouse made her own enormous mark on racing, with Alligator Blood – potentially bound for Ascot next year – last month providing her with a 150th Group 1 win.

“It's been an amazing journey”, said Bott, “Sometimes you don't get enough time to stop and actually think back and reflect on what's happened, or what's been achieved, or how the partnerships evolved over so many years. It is always about looking ahead and just working hard at it day to day.”



Adrian Bott and Gai Waterhouse

“I am in such a fortunate position to be given that opportunity by not just anyone, a Hall of Fame trainer who's got some amazing history behind her. She's obviously broken all the records here, and her father was an amazing trainer, Australia's best ever. He won the premiership for 33 consecutive years.

“It just puts into perspective how dominant he was at the time. And, she's had to come out of his shadow and prove herself.

“And there's a number of records that she's equalled, and in some cases bettered. Just to be working for someone like that is an honor, but then to have that opportunity to be in partnership and have her as a mentour has been phenomenal.

“As you continue to be successful, you want to see that Waterhouse-Smith-Tulloch Lodge name forever being associated with winning these big feature races.

“I think it's (their partnership) a very good balance, in that sense. And maybe that's why I feel there are great aspects where the partnership works, and each of us can provide different insights.

“And the most important thing is how are we going to move forward. It is equally as important to not dwell too long on things, and that's where Gai is very good,”

The son of famed Bloodstock Manager, Tony Bott, perhaps could have done many things, but racing was never far from the agenda.

“I think it was such an advantage having that upbringing. Without even realizing it, you're absorbing so much from such a young age, whether it be every conversation at dinner you're listening to with your family, seeing the interaction with owners, clients, or whatever it may be. I grew up around the horses, and it really opened my eyes to what's possible within the industry.

“It was hard not to be engaged with it. But my family never pushed me by any means. It's not an easy industry to make a career out of. It's certainly very time-consuming and absorbs every aspect of your life. So you really do have to love it.

“From a parent's point of view, you're certainly not pushing your children into that space. And that was the case for me, I think they really wanted me to find my own feet. You know, if there were dreams they had for me, they just wanted to try and provide me with the best education I could get in life.



In The Congo In Gr.1 All Aged Stakes

“And let me experience as much as possible and see the world. This is what kept drawing me back.”

Adrian Bott and his co-trainer Gai Waterhouse have been pushing the case for crack colt, In The Congo, to gain a start in The Everest (2022).

“He's a Group 1 winner at the high pressure 1400 meters, and I think you need that to win an Everest.

“The Everest, even though it's only 1200 meters, it's at Randwick, which is traditionally a tougher track. Just the natural speed of that race, the pressure is on from the minute that they jump. So even though it's 1200 meters, you really need to be a tough horse.

In 2021 Bott ruled out a start in the A\$15 million feature for the Golden Rose winner, and instead followed a traditional career for the then-3YO with the Gr.1 Coolmore Stud Stakes with a firm look ahead at the 2022 Everest.

“The phone was certainly ringing very hot after his Golden Rose victory. He really profiled up like a serious Everest contender.

“Certainly, he was good enough to be there and be very competitive. But this time 12 months ago, he was in his first campaign and had only had a handful of starts. It just would have been a very big ask on the horse at that point in his career.

With only five horses being selected by slot holders, tensions run high, but Bott has a sharper perspective on the world's richest race on turf.

“Unfortunately, we are probably a little bit light on the sprinting ranks at present. It's something that we're going to have to try and maybe change the way we look at a couple of things.

“We have traditionally looked at tried horses for the staying feature races. Whether there's an angle that we can look at bringing some international flavour over for the Everest, is something we may explore over the coming year. Trying to find a horse like Nature Strip, it's hard. When he goes on the world stage and does what he does, he's the best in the world.

“But I have every faith in In The Congo. He is our leading chance,” said the world-class trainer.

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THE EVEREST TROPHY: A CERRONE MASTERPIECE INSPIRING RACING

Given all Nic Cerrone has accomplished materially as a master Australian jeweller and designer, it's still the other partner in a transaction that steers his ship.

"A designer has to connect with a customer," Cerrone said. "My master, who had a German background, would always say to his customers, 'You came to the base, I'm going to do the best piece of jewelry for you.'

"Today, that doesn't work, because the customer is your goal. You need to listen to your customer and understand your customer. What are your customers' likes? How do they like to live? How do they enjoy their food? How do they enjoy their music?"

"So in that way, you get to understand what sort of jewellery (he/she) really likes to wear.

And it's really listening to your customer, making your customer be connected with you, and making them feel that you are one of them.”

When NSW chief executive Peter V'Landys created the idea for The Everest race, he looked no further than Cerrone to design and produce hardware representative of what has become the world's richest turf race.

And why not? Cerrone had come a long, long way to establish himself globally.

Cerrone, whose father migrated the family to Australia from Italy during the 1950s, had dabbled in art by hand after making a tough decision during his schoolboy years.

“The most beautiful thing in life is you have to be honest to yourself,” Cerrone said, “I was really bad at school. I couldn't concentrate. I found it very hard to read a book or to write a letter. It just wasn't me.

“So, I got to a stage where I virtually told my parents ‘I cannot stay at school anymore, I needed to do things with my hands. We started to look at, you know, being a tailor, being a hairdresser, anything to do a shape ... anything to do with my mind, because I had a very open mind.

“That's when I really realized that I had to become an artist, having that ability to be able to express what I had inside my body and on my mind.”

An apprenticeship in jewellery followed before Cerrone set sail on his own and established himself worldwide.

Cerrone in 1998 captured the De Beers Diamonds International Award in Paris, the jewellery industry's equivalent to the Academy Award.

“That still gives me goosebumps today,” Cerrone recalled. “That's a way for you to feel confident, and belief that what you are thinking or what you feeling, that you're on the right track. You are virtually being appreciated. And you've been accepted as an international designer. It made me very comfortable. It made me realize that whatever ideas I was going to take, I was a lot more confident with myself.”

Cerrone's reputation also got a boost when he provided former model/actress Kate Fischer with a diamond-studded top that wowed the paparazzi worldwide.

“I mean, the Australian continent is probably one of the oldest continents in the world,” Cerrone explained. “So that reflects in the silicon of the diamonds, which means that they would be the hottest diamonds in the world. And then we decided to go have a beautiful woman like Kate Fischer try the top. She made the papers all over the world.”

Fast forward back to Cerrone's Everest challenge in 2017, where V'Landys was going full throttle to accompany the massive purse, letting Cerrone know he wanted to reward the winning connections with the world's most impressive and richest trophy during its inaugural running in 2017.

By any means was this to be no easy task: Cerrone was charged with not only

developing a stellar work of art representative of a horse race that had yet to be contested, but he and his staff had to think beyond a piece of jewelry.

As in eight — yes, eight — pieces.

“It was very challenging because there were a lot of things to achieve,” Cerrone recalled.

“There was the (horse) muscle structure to achieve the veins to achieve, Jewelry is not used to working with big pieces like that.

“That's why we have to divide it into eight sections. It's a lot easier for you to put details on a piece of jewellery — there was the only way we could achieve our goal was to make it in small pieces.”

Refining a diamond-studded replica horse supported by silver plating and surrounded by a gold-plated arc, Cerrone needs about a year's time to tweak the craftsmanship for the next event. The current Everest trophy specifications call for up to 8,000 white and black diamonds with the thoroughbred having two ruby eyes.

“That was a lot of team effort a lot of back and forward,” Cerrone said of the first endeavour. “Money was not a problem, it was about the excitement, the energy of the trophy. That's what we wanted, and it took us a long time to achieve that. It does take almost a year to conclude one trophy for the next year. “





In 2017, when Cerrone's world-class team revealed the finished product, emotions flowed.

"When I finished the piece, there was all my staff and my family and my wife, who had tears in her eyes when they first saw it.

"I said, 'Well, this is a deep winner,' because you know, when it brings emotion out, that means it's touching people's hearts. That's really what we live for, getting to have that amazing feeling.

"An artist only lives for that."

Cerrone says the race day itself is an exciting fabric of life not only in and around Sydney's Randwick Racecourse, but of the continent itself.

"The Everest now it's becoming a very exciting part of life because it's not just the horse owners that are involved, he said. "There are a lot of young people who are involved, there are politicians, and it's a great day of meeting everybody at the same level.

"Australia gives you this great opportunity, that you feel we are united, we are very strong as an ethnic country.

"It doesn't matter where you come from, we all accept you. And we are all accepted as equal, human beings."

When it comes to the race itself, Cerrone gets to sit back and take in and watch the fruits of his labours unfold before him as the Everest is decided in less than 90 seconds. Then the winning connections hit the winner's circle and view the expansive and elegant prize.

"There is an amazing feeling when you're at the racetrack, and you see these people winning and crying tears of joy when they see the trophy," Cerrone says. "I just cannot believe it, because it's not just a trophy. It's an extravaganza, it's amazing, and it's history."

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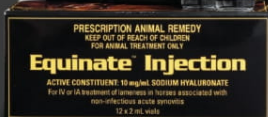


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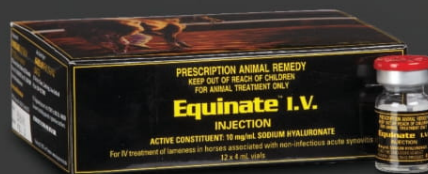


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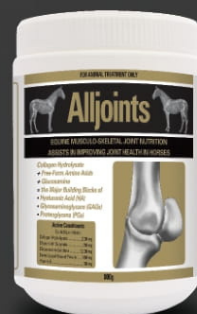


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James Kennedy At The Committee Room

"I THINK IT'S THOSE FAILURES OR CHALLENGES THAT ARE THE EVENTS IN LIFE THAT WILL DEFINE US," SAYS SLOT HOLDER JAMES KENNEDY ON THE VALUE OF SUCCESS

As a youngster, James Kennedy had a few years of successful punting when it came to the Melbourne Cup.

"I must have won six or seven years in a row, with no skill involved. It was pure luck," he claims.

As a successful businessman in both running a racing operation and operating an expanding luxury watch and jewellery industry bearing his name, Kennedy's intestinal fortitude is hardly driven by basking in good fortune.

Rather, Kennedy is more focused on correcting mistakes and avoiding future pitfalls.

“I don't think success measures all that much,” he said. “I don't think we reflect as much on our successes as we might have failures. So, when we talk about reflection, we're talking about learning and about experiences.

“I think it's those failures or challenges that are the events in life that will define us. I always tend to think that if you don't make a mistake, you don't know what to do right the next time around.

“There's a saying by Confucius: ‘Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.’

Kennedy is one of 12 slot holders for the 2022 Everest. It's his second time through the process, selecting Rothfire last year. However, an injury prevented the son of Rothesay from competing in the 2021 Everest, as it did in 2020.

Kennedy knew picking Rothfire was a dicey proposition.

“I took a bit of a gamble in selecting Rothfire, who — if you take the injury out of the equation — was a favorite to that race the previous year,” Kennedy noted. “He'd come back from injury. He was as good as he ever was.

“You know, he's gonna give the race a shake, or his body wasn't going to hold up.

“Unfortunately, it was the latter.”

Kennedy settled on Embracer, trained by Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott. He finished 11th behind Nature Strip.

“Getting a horse like Embracer is not to say he's not a great horse, and that he wasn't so competitive,”

Kennedy said. “He had some good races leading in.

I was caught behind an 8-ball a little bit towards the end there (with Rothfire's late defection).

“Last year, I thought it wasn't the right thing to make a (slot decision) early, to let everything play out and let all the horses that are in the mix, run their races and sort of pick the ‘best of the best.

“But I think now if you don't go a little bit earlier, you might not be left with enough talent that can compete,” Kennedy said.

Kennedy certainly knows a bit about early chances and risk, having to jump back into the family jewellery business after his father died. With a career in finance in hand, he aggressively took a prestigious retail business with two stores and expanded it to a dozen on the continent.

And Kennedy Luxury Group did it rapidly, by industry standards. From Rolex to Longines, Patek Philippe and Cartier, James Kennedy is trusted by top-shelf players in the timepiece industry.

“I have an obligation to those brands to represent them in the market and the Australian market,” he said.

“We extend the quality of the manufacturing into the service and experience that we can provide our customers.”

“And that comes very much from building a very strong infrastructure. That's probably what I bring to the racing industry, and particularly to Kennedy Racing. “

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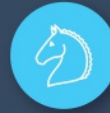
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all the way through to the moment that it has its first start, and then as it races through its career, and even its post-racing career.”

Whereas he was able to build on his family's success, he built Kennedy Racing from the ground up. Either way, he knows his father would be pleased.

“I think, he'd be very proud of what I've been able to achieve — whether it's taking the foundations of an existing business and making something of it or starting from the ground up.

“I think the pressure of making a mess of something you've been handed, really brings a lot into the equation as opposed to if you start from nothing, then you're sort of playing with the idea of what you have to lose.

“I take comfort in the fact that I've been able to take what was left and build it and take it to the next level as a business. And I'm proud of it and I suspect if he was here today, he would be as well.”

Kennedy won't pass any of his stable to other operations. In Kennedy's thought process, it's about

“Getting the most out of the horses that want to be racehorses and finding the right solutions for the ones that don't.”

“We find homes; we don't give horses away, ever,” he said. “We don't sell horses off to others to race anywhere else. If they don't want to race for us, (then) they don't want to (race). We'll find them homes, whether that be in dressage and equestrian for varying facilities across the country. We work with great partners to provide a sort of retraining and re-homing for each of the horses.”

While Kennedy stresses happy horses are the best athletes, he realizes that opportunities like selling slots and entering \$15 million races such as The Everest. Chances must be taken. He's even considered an entry from his own barn.

And that barn spends plenty on the welfare of the horses, in terms of equipment.

“It's going to be no secret how much it costs to be in racing, and particularly in the manner in which I run my own operation end to end,” he said. “It costs a fortune and we need to get the return on investment as much as we can.

It's still a business and I've got to pay trainers, assistant trainers, foremen, stable hands and vets — plus food for the horses.

“If we can't find a way to make (racing) at the very least revenue neutral, it makes it hard.” Kennedy offers sound advice when dealing with risk, be it in business or on the race track.

“People can think that winning, being successful, being wealthy, can be luck, (that it) can be just handed to you. You have to be willing to lean into the risk that you're preparing to take on and be prepared to accept if you get it wrong.

“Not everyone's built for it. Not everybody wants that. Wealth is a by-product of success. It's not why you become successful. I know a lot of wealthy people who are unhappy, lonely and depressed because of the years of this survival instinct to get there.

“Then you've got people who have a good life and a good family and a nice home and are just happy with what they have. On the other end, the other thing to think about is if you really believe you want to do something, then you should do that. And the other thing I'll say is, there is never a good time. Too often I hear ‘Not yet. Now's not the time, you've got this happening, you've got that happening.’ “

To which Kennedy responds: “I'm going to save everyone the suspense, there will never be a good time. Don't die wondering if there's something you really want to do. There's never a good time. If you want to do something, go ahead and do it, if you think it's the right thing to do.”

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James Kennedy owned Plucky



Eduardo / The Star Moments

GROUP 2 BOWERMANS SHORTS PREVIEW: THE SHORT AND LONG OF IT.....

Saturday's running of the A\$1,000,000 Gr.2 Bowersmans Shorts (1100m) could have more bearing on the upcoming A\$15m Everest (1200m) than any other race we have seen so far this season.

To date, the Everest has been run five times and of the four winners of the race, two are no longer racing, having either been retired (Redzel) or are at stud (Yes Yes Yes), the remaining two winners Classique Legend and Nature Strip have both accepted to contest Saturday's race, while second through fifth from last year's Everest look also set to take their place.

Add into the mix Bjorn Baker's exciting Gr.2 winner Overpass, a winner of his two trials this time in as well as Gr.1 Galaxy winner Shelby Sixtysix, and we have a mouth-watering clash that will more than likely see the winner of this year's Everest in the race.



Nature-strip / just horse racing



Mazu / Thoroughbred News

While it's hard to go past Chris Waller's Horse of the Year and nine-time Gr.1 winner Nature Strip, who will race in the slot of his trainer, it is worth noting that he was beaten into second in this race last year behind Eduardo as the race favourite.

From barrier two, Nature Strip will likely go forward with James McDonald in the saddle, and although he has only had one trial leading into his first-up run, he has shown with his fantastic first-up record that he will be forward enough for the run.

Jumping out last Saturday between races at Rosehill Gardens, Nature Strip looked in outstanding condition and has the credentials to further cement his Everest favouritism post Saturday's race.

A winner of the Gr.2 Shorts two years ago, Les Bridge's Classique Legend has certainly had an interesting time since that win.

Winning the Everest two starts after his Shorts victory, the Legends Racing-owned gelding transferred to the Hong Kong stable of Caspar Fownes where he had his first start in the Hong Kong International Sprint, failing to impress and finished in the eleventh position.

Unfortunately suffering a bleed and banned from racing for 3 months as he was being readied for the Gr.1 Sprint Prize at the end of April 2021, Classique Legend was sent back to Australia where he's subsequently had only one start, finishing a gallant fifth in last year's Everest behind Nature Strip.

Bridge has always been adamant that if he turns up ready for this year's Everest, the only horse capable of beating his grey gelding is Nature Strip, so one would expect Classique Legend to prove hard to beat come Saturday.

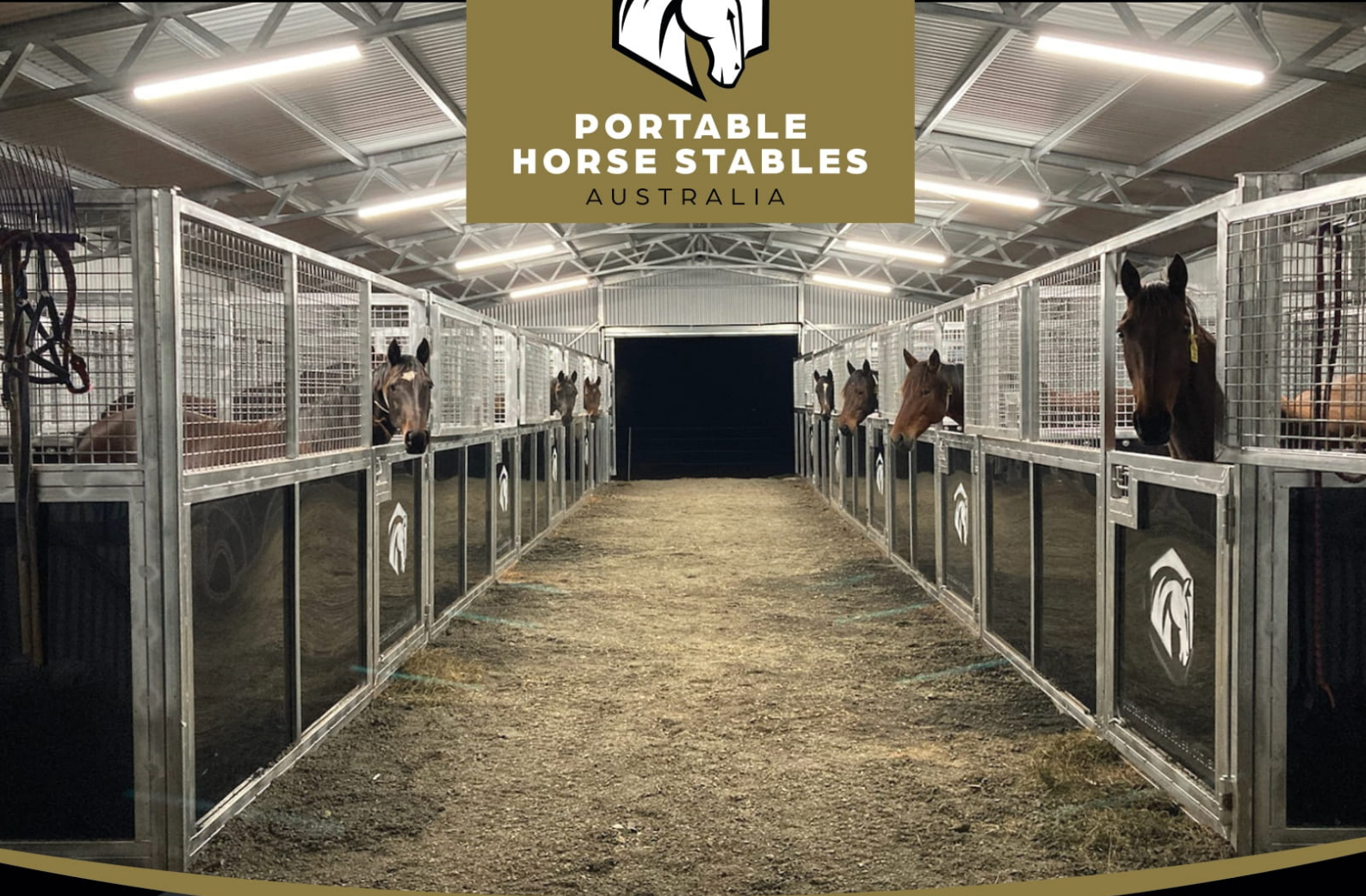
Winning first-up in the Gr.3 Concorde Stakes, scoring by more than two and a half lengths over Athelric and Handle The Truth, both of which have been accepted for Saturday, the Joe Pride-trained 9yo Eduardo was simply a class above.

Second in the 2020 Shorts before winning the 2021 edition, the Yulong Investment allocated slot holder Eduardo has race fitness on his side, and come Saturday he will have the services of Brenton Avdulla with regular jockey Nash Rawiller on the sidelines due to a suspension.

Arguably the most interesting runner, who is on his first quest to conquer Everest is the Peter and Paul Snowden-trained Mazu.



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JANUARY 2023 EVENTS GUIDE

<p>4-9 WEDNESDAY-MONDAY</p> <p>MAGIC MILLIONS YEARLING INSPECTIONS</p>	<p>10-13 TUESDAY-FRIDAY</p> <p>MAGIC MILLIONS YEARLING SALE DAY 1 – DAY 4</p>	<p>14 SATURDAY</p> <p>THE STAR GOLD COAST MAGIC MILLIONS \$11.75M RACEDAY Gold Coast Turf Club</p> <p>\$2 MILLION THE STAR GOLD COAST MAGIC MILLIONS 2YO CLASSIC (RL) PLUS \$500,000 MAGIC MILLIONS RACING WOMEN'S BONUS</p> <p>\$2 MILLION GOLD COAST MAGIC MILLIONS 3YO GUINEAS (RL) PLUS \$250,000 MAGIC MILLIONS RACING WOMEN'S BONUS PACIFIC FAIR FASHIONS ON THE FIELD</p> <p>MAGIC MILLIONS YEARLING SALE – DAY 5</p>	<p>15 SUNDAY</p> <p>MAGIC MILLIONS YEARLING SALE DAY 6</p>
<p>7 SATURDAY</p> <p>AQUIS RACEDAY</p>	<p>10 TUESDAY</p> <p>THE STAR GOLD COAST MAGIC MILLIONS BARRIER DRAW Surfers Paradise Beach</p>		<p>16 MONDAY</p> <p>MAGIC MILLIONS YEARLING SALE DAY 7</p>
<p>8 SUNDAY</p> <p>PACIFIC FAIR MAGIC MILLIONS POLO & SHOWJUMPING</p>			

*Dates and times are subject to change. Visit www.magicmillions.com.au for the latest information.

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GOLDCOAST.



PACIFIC FAIR



The son of Maurice has won his past six starts, ending his most recent campaign with success in the Gr1 Doomben 10,000, a race won by former Everest winner Redzel. The similarities don't stop there, with the gelding not only also trained by the father and son duo but was purchased and raced by Michael and Chris Ward's Triple Crown Syndications.

With two barrier trials in readiness for his campaign debut, the Sam Clipperton-ridden gelding has drawn ideally in barrier four, which will see him go forward and settle not to far off the leaders.

Mazu is set to race in the slot of Arrowfield Stud, the southern hemisphere base of his sire, as well as The Star Sydney with the duo teaming up with the Snowden-trained runner for the 2022 and 2023 Everest, clearly highlighting their faith in the Inglis Classic yearling sale graduate.

Set to jump from barrier 11 and 12 respectively, the up and comer Overpass and the proven Gr.1 winner Masked Crusader both look to have a show first up, with Bjorn Baker's 4yo stallion prospect likely to try and go forward while the Hawkes Racing trained son of Toronado is likely to go back to last.

A winner of the Gr.2 Expressway Stakes first-up last campaign defeated Forbidden Love and Anamoe, Overpass went on to finish second at his next run behind Lost And Running.

Fifth in both the Gr.1 Galaxy behind Shelby Sixtysix and Gr.1 TJ Smith Stakes behind Nature Strip during the Autumn, the Darby Racing syndicated Overpass is yet to secure a slot, but with seven slot holders still yet to select a runner, a forward showing here by the son of Golden Slipper winner Vancouver could highlight himself.

Racing in the slot of Max Whitby and Neil Werrett in this year's Everest, like he did last year, the Gilgai farm bred and sold Masked Crusader missed the start last year and charged home with phenomenal speed to go down narrowly to Nature Strip.

Given two easy trials, jockey William Pike will need to work his magic from the outside barrier, but if the speed up front is frantic, it would be no surprise to see Masked Crusader produce a 'Chautauqua' like effort and come up from the clouds.

With three wins from four first-up performances, the John O'Shea and Hugh Bowman combination will team up with Lost And Running, one of the final leading contenders come Saturday.

Beaten just over two lengths in last year's Everest, the 6yo gelding has had four runs since that day, finishing second to Eduardo in the A\$1m Classique Legend Stakes before winning two including a victory over Overpass in the Gr3 Southern Cross Stakes.

Likely to be there when the whips are cracking, the TAB secured slot runner looks to be just a length or so off the better chances, but there is no reason things can't fall into place.

No matter what the result is on Saturday, the race will be a key indicator for the upcoming A\$15m Everest on October 15, and the form to come out of this race should be studied closely.

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In Secret / Racing and Sports

RUN TO THE ROSE REVIEW: NOTHING SECRET ABOUT HER QUALITY!

Could Saturday's history-making winner In Secret be a contender for this year's Everest??

Only time will tell, but the manner in which the James Cummings-trained filly won the Gr.2 Run To The Rose over 1200m, defeating the colts and geldings, clearly highlights her above-average ability.

While not many fillies have contested the Run To The Rose, I Am Invincible's In Secret is the first filly to win, and her two-length romp, emphatically classes her as a high-quality performer, leaving in her wake, last season's Gr.2-winning, Gr.1 Golden Slipper runner-up Best Of Bordeaux.



Best of Bordeaux / Thoroughbred News



Best of Bordeaux / HorseBetting



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"As I said to you before we came on air just, wow. She just takes your breath away. She was just so relaxed and so calm where in a couple of her earlier starts, she really wanted to chase the speed. It shows she's really maturing now," stated jockey Tommy Berry.

"The way she reeled them, boys, in, I think she might have created history. I don't think a filly has ever done that before. Correct me if I'm wrong, but she wouldn't be a bad one to stick with."

With owner Godolphin having not yet announced their slot contender, the pressure would be on to find the best candidate to deliver them the elusive prize, with the global powerhouse having trained Bivouac, Osborne Bulls and Trekking to fill minor places in the past.

Interestingly, not many three-year-olds have come through the Gr.2 Run To The Rose to contest the Everest with the likes of Graff (who finished 5th in the Everest), and Yes Yes Yes who finished second in the Run To The Rose before sensationally winning the Everest.

So, while she has plenty against her, the fact that she's the highest rated 3YOso far this season would see her a chance if Godolphin took the leap of faith with their Segenhoe Stud sold filly.



James Cumming / Hawkesbury Gazette



Eduardo / Racenet

SOUTHERN CROSS STAKES REVIEW: EDUARDO SIMPLY OUTSTANDING IN SOUTHERN CROSS STAKES

Racing first-up in the Gr.3 Concorde Stakes, Joe Pride's warhorse Eduardo (Host) gave his Everest rivals a warning that comes Saturday, October 15, the 9yo will be ready to run the race of his life and look to improve from his narrow third-placed finish 12 months prior.

Clearly the class runner of the Southern Cross Stakes field, Eduardo cleared out to score by over two and a half lengths, and while none of the other runners in the field are currently considered as Everest contenders, it was great to see the Nash Rawiller ridden gelding charged to the line to score.

"I kept thinking, 'how could this horse get beat?' I couldn't see how he could get beat - he's a different level," stated Pride post-race.

"But doubt starts to creep in, you have all week to think about it. I just believe in this horse's ability, he is an amazing horse."

Rawiller was able to have Eduardo racing up outside leader Malkovich (Choisir) and the experienced jockey was confident he had the race won a long way from home.

"I don't think he has travelled like that in a race for a long time," Rawiller said.

"He was fit and well and he wanted to show them who was boss. He's going as good as ever. He is due for things to fall into place in a big one, so maybe this is his year."

With three of the past five winners of the Concorde Stakes going on to win the Everest, connections would be confident of a forward showing in his main aim this preparation.

Likely to now meet Mazu, Nature Strip, Lost And Running, Classique Legend and Masked Crusader in the Gr.2 The Shorts on September 17 at Randwick in what will be a mini-Everest clash, the winner of that A\$1m, 1100m sprint will likely go into the Everest as the favoured runner.

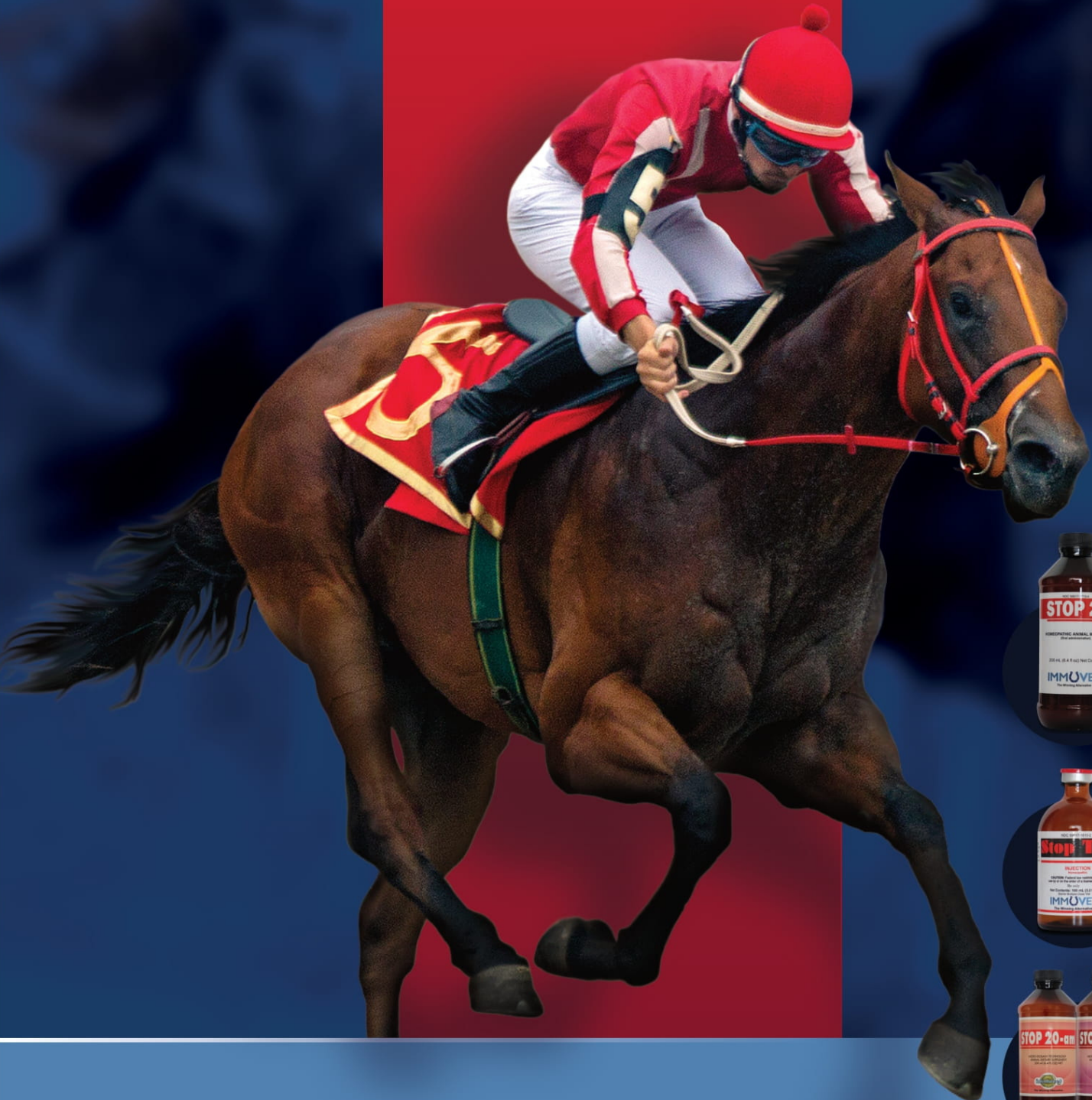


Joe Pride / The Canberra Times

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“I think it was really good knowledge from various perspectives of understanding the animal a little bit more and what the jockey might be reading from their behavior within a race, then also just having a bit more understanding as to what both horse and rider are going through.”

But clients come first for Mills. He says leadership qualities in other businesses are essential but are by no means guaranteed in the sports of kings.

“I do believe that good management of horses is just like any other business,” he said.

“I’ve noticed with my most successful clients that they’re that successful in their business ventures, that most of them have very process-driven businesses that they’re too icy and everybody down the line is well aware of how this is supposed to play out.

“Since I’ve really focused on applying those principles to horses, as in where they’re bought, who breaks them, who pre-trains them, where they spell, how long they spell for, I’ve found, the more that we manage, the better our results have been. And the more that we have established a process, the results have improved. So, I’ve been lucky that I’ve got a couple of really good clients.”

But ...

“In horse racing, successful guys and other industries, struggle with — I would say the number one theme that sort of doesn’t translate — is just the luck side of things. With horse racing, breeding,

and the whole bloodstock game, the results can be fantastic.

“But it can also be a hard thing for them. They can have everything in place, can control everything every other principle they can apply can go great...”

“Then one of their horses chips a knee or one of their horses goes in the wind, there’s just that element of surprise that is uncontrollable — that rarely happens with their other investments.”

Mills’ skill set is also effective in breaking down scenarios involved in the slot procedure of The Everest.

“So, there are sort of two ways of approaching it,” Mills reasons. “The beauty I suppose of Everest is — to a certain extent — you can buy your way in by doing a deal with the owners of a horse that you think is capable of winning it obviously as a slot holder.

“So, you have to have the money for the slot first, which is sizable but for most of the guys who have been involved, it has been a good investment.

“Then as far as the horses go, though, it’s quickly become the pinnacle of the sprinters in Australia. So, you really got two pools, you’ve got the established stars. And given the time of year, it is you’ve got the returning 3-year-olds, which really add that sort of entry to the mix.”

Mills can also advise both the sides of ownership and the horsemen who may be trying to fill a need in terms of selling slots over several months’ time leading up to the race.



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Athelric / Godolphin



Handle The Truth / Races

“It’s a really interesting part of the whole equation and probably what makes that mystique of The Everest last for a sustained period of time, because of course, you’ve got the people who get in early trying to grab what they think is the best horse and then you’ve got the season to play out after that. So, you’ve got some people who are jumping in early and say trying to fill their slot then and then you’ve got these 3-year-olds, who often turn out to be the “on the day”, the horse that you wish you had. I think it is a matter of holding your nerve, whether it be early or late. If you think that the deal you’ve done with nature strip would be obviously the number one seed. Then I think the deal you’ve done with the owner is viable, and not a stretch,” said Mills.

“As far as the financials and so on go, by all means, dive in. But as I said, the opposite can be true as to hold your nerve. And as you get closer to the race, some horses’ form really jumps out of the ground. Then I’m sure there will be some slot holders wishing they hadn’t fired the bullet so early.”

Regardless of the carnival-style competition surrounding the race, Mills thinks the sustainability of the race during the previous five running’s seals The Everest’s legitimacy.

“I guess the main thing the people were talking about was sustainability when it first came out, Mills said. “Do the concepts stand the test of time? You know, it’s hard when you’re comparing them to Melbourne Cups and Cox Plates and Australian Derby and races like this everyone’s got to start somewhere.

“Now look ... the concept of certainly proven sustainable so far. The interesting thing about it has been that it’s brought a new generation of fans. Whilst a lot of the purists and older guys perhaps don’t have that respect for it, they should, because it really pulled a new audience in.

“And when you look at the audience, both on the day, and those who participate in the purchase of tickets and so on, there’s it’s certainly a new generation. So, look, the race from a public relations point of view race has done a fantastic job. You only need to look to see that, from a rating point of view, it certainly holds its own.”

In terms of PR, Mills’ meal ticket rides on sustaining clients willing to wager on success.

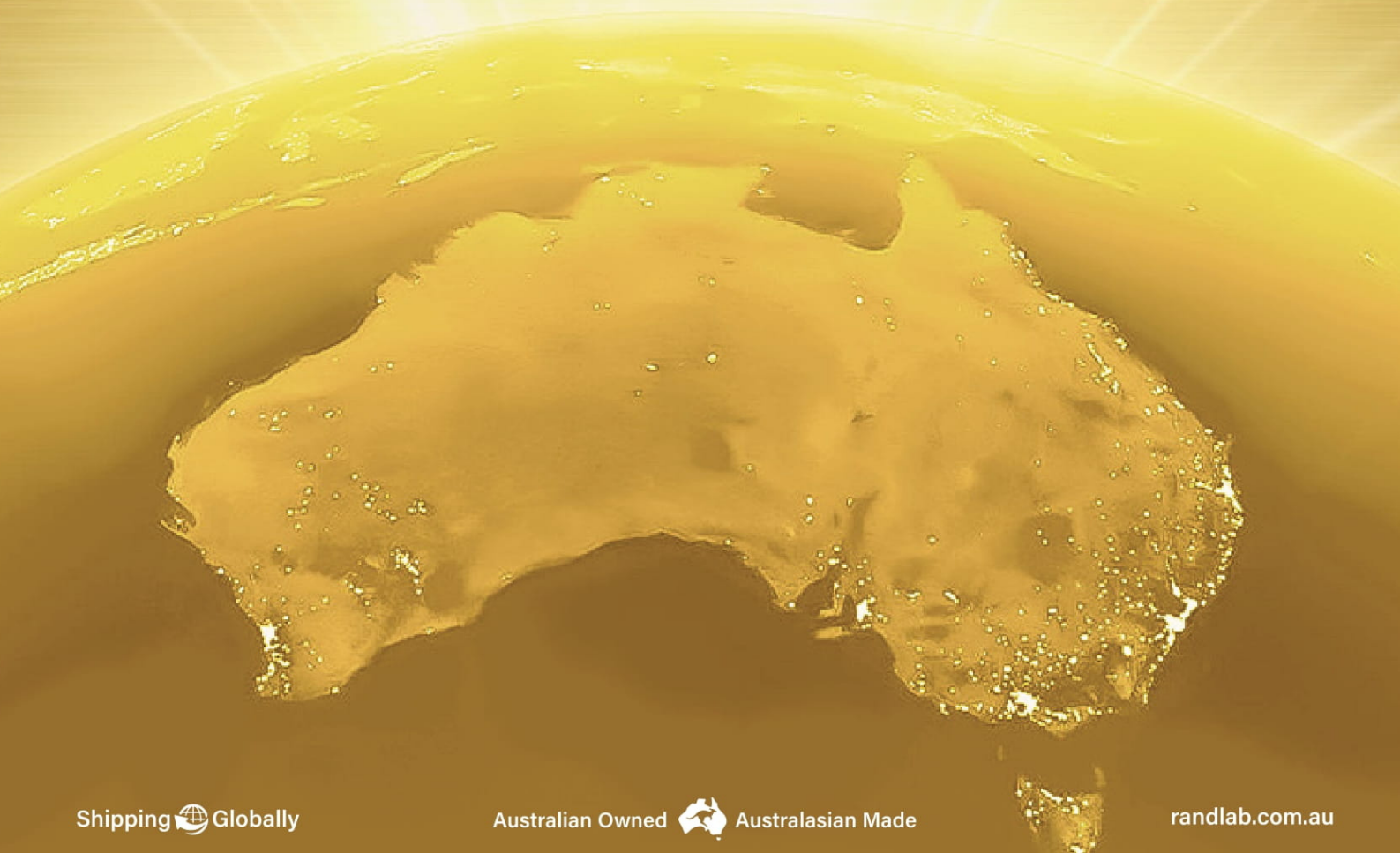
“I used to do all sorts of advertising and really tried to promote my name,” he said. “I’ve since found that word of mouth is really the only way in Australia that you get (PR), it’s very much a results-based game.

“If you get results, you get clients. You can sustain some clients for a little while, but even a loyalist of those will eventually probably drift away if you’re not getting results.



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