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## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!

One of our most common sayings is "a week is a long time in politics" but after the recent VRC Melbourne Cup Carnival, I think another will be foremost in the minds of the Australian racing fraternity – "What a Difference A Year Makes!".

Few can, or will ever, forget the horrendous period in the spring of 2007 when equine influenza reached our shores and struck down the New South Wales and Queensland racing industries.

NSW horses in the peak of condition and trained to the minute for the respective carnivals were in "lockdown" unable to travel.

There was no Sydney Spring Carnival and Victoria had "shut the gate" over the Murray River to their carnival. It goes without saying that it was a complete disaster for all concerned.

Thankfully the horror that was the 2007 season has well and truly past and the 2008 carnival period has seen the return to dominance of NSW-trained horses.

At the STC and AJC spring carnivals held during September and October 2008, NSW-owned and trained horses were successful in some 31 Black Type races including all of the five Group One events on offer. The Group One winners were:-

- **MENTALITY** (Flying Spur-Synaesthesia (USA)) trained by John Hawkes – AJC George Main Stakes
- **THESEO** (Danewin-Ozone Sand (USA)) trained by Gai Waterhouse – AJC Epsom Handicap
- **NEWPORT** (Encosta de Lago-Sibellenne (GB)) trained by Paul Perry – AJC The Metropolitan
- **SOUSA** (NZ) (Galileo (Ire)-Liberty Song (Ire)) trained by Peter Snowden – AJC Spring Champion Stakes
- **SAMANTHA MISS** (Redoute's Choice-Milliyet (NZ)) trained by Kris Lees – AJC Flight Stakes.

But it was at the four-day VRC Melbourne Cup Carnival when NSW-trained horses showed their class and dominance.

Day One of the carnival, Derby Day,



**Honest gelding Theseo (Nash Rawiller) steams home to capture the Gr 1-LKS Mackinnon Stakes for NSW owners**



**Classy NSW-based mare Forensics (Kerrin McEvoy) wins the Gr 1-Myer Classic in dashing style**

had 10 Black Type events on the card with four of those races Group One events. NSW-trained horses recorded wins in eight out of the 10 events (80%) including three of the four Group One events (75%) on offer. The winners on that day were:-

- NORTHERN METEOR (Encosta de Lago-Explosive (USA)) trained by Gai Waterhouse – Gr 1-Ascot Vale Stakes (Coolmore Stud Stakes)
- THESEO (Danewin-Ozone Sand (USA)) trained by Gai Waterhouse – Gr 1-LKS Mackinnon Stakes
- FORENSICS (Flying Spur-Prove It) trained by Peter Snowden – Gr 1-Myer Classic
- ROCHA (Encosta de Lago-Larrocha) trained by Guy Walter – Gr 2-Wakeful Stakes
- HOT DANISH (Nothin' Leica Dane-Hot 'n' Breezy) trained by Les Bridge – Gr 2-Salinger Stakes
- MOATIZE (Danehill Dancer (Ire)-Shezabeel (NZ)) trained by Bart Cummings – Gr 3-SAAB Quality
- ALL SILENT (Belong To Me (USA)-Lisheenowen) trained by Grahame Begg – Gr 3-AAMI Stakes
- OUR JOAN OF ARC (Beautiful Crown (USA)-Bright Heroine) trained by Clarry Conners – Gr 3-Maribrnyong Plate

Day Two of the carnival was Melbourne Cup Day with five Black Type events on offer – one of which was the Group 1-Melbourne Cup. NSW-trained horses recorded two wins on the day including the Melbourne Cup with Viewed (Scenic (Ire)-Lover's Knot (NZ)) trained by the master J.B. Cummings and the Listed-

Herald Sun Handicap with Neroli (Viscount-Dalquarren) trained by Peter Snowden.

Viewed is owned by longstanding NSWROA member Dato Tan Chin Nam. Readers would be well aware of the wonderful record Dato Tan Chin Nam has in the Melbourne Cup having won the coveted trophy on four separate occasions.

He first tasted success with Think Big in 1974 who also gave him consecutive victories in the race by saluting again in 1975.

The Australian Horse of the Year Saintly, who was often referred to as the "Horse from Heaven", provided his third trophy in 1996 and Viewed his fourth trophy this year.

If memory serves me correctly, Dato Tan Chin Nam would be the most successful owner in history of the Melbourne Cup with those four wins.

Day Three of the carnival was Crown Oaks Day with four Black Type events conducted including the Gr 1-Crown Oaks.

Whilst it was only one win for NSW on the day it was nevertheless the highlight of the day – Samantha Miss (Redoute's Choice-Milliyet (NZ)) trained by Kris Lees taking out the Group One event with the greatest of ease.

Day Four and the last day of the carnival was Emirates Stakes/Age Classic Day with five Black Type events (including two Group One races) on the card. NSW-trained horses were successful in the:-

- Group 1-Emirates Stakes with All Silent (Belong To Me (USA)-Lisheenowen) trained by Grahame Begg, and
- Listed-Hilton International Stakes with

Drumbeats (Redoute's Choice-Delicate Choice) trained by Peter Snowden.

And there was also the "de-facto" win with Swick (NZ) (O'Reilly (NZ)-Crème Anglaise (NZ)) trained by Bart Cummings in the Group 1-Age Classic.

All Silent, who is owned by yet another longstanding NSWROA member Neville Begg, was the only horse during the four day carnival to score two Black Type wins.

He saluted on Day 1 of the carnival in the Group 3-AAMI Stakes and then won on Day Four in magnificent fashion in the Group 1-Emirates Stakes.

All Silent has only faced the starter 11 times for five wins (including 3 at Group level) and a third placing.

Dato Tan Chin Nam and Neville Begg are only two of our members who recorded wins during the carnival.

Unfortunately, due to space restrictions, I cannot list everyone but I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all NSWROA members, and indeed all owners, who recorded wins during the carnivals. The industry cannot survive without you, the owner – so well done.

As any owner will surely confirm, owning a racehorse is an exciting experience. So why not give it a go!

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful sport and becoming a member of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association, simply visit our website - [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) - or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299. Membership applications are now being taken for the 2009 membership year.