

# nsw racehorse owners

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# THE EXCITEMENT



Owners of AAMI Golden Slipper winner Sebring – they had millions of reasons to smile! Image by Mark Smith

# OF OWNERSHIP

Racehorse ownership – there is nothing quite like it!

It is something that can make you laugh and cry at the same time.

It is something that draws on most of our emotions – from the pits of despair (when equine influenza reached our shores) to an incredible euphoria (watching your horse salute the judge).

Racehorse owners are very special people – are you one? If not, why not give it a go!

A lot of people are under the impression that racehorse ownership is only for the very wealthy – nothing could be further from the truth.

The thrill of owning a racehorse is now readily available to all. There are several types of ownership on offer namely sole ownership, co-ownership or partnerships, syndication or racing clubs and leasing.

For first-time owners, perhaps the best option is syndication. Syndication enables owners to draw on the extensive industry knowledge of not only the registered syndicator, but also the trainer.

With the major yearling sales well underway for the year, there is no better time to either 'dip your feet in' or indeed 'jump straight into' the ownership stakes.

You never know, you might end up being the toast of the town, or indeed the world, as the proud owner of a champion galloper.

I can think of no better way to emphasise this than refreshing readers' memories and writing of one of our most beloved horses of recent times, Takeover Target.

The Takeover Target story can only be described as a 'fairytale'.

The product of a tried stock sale at the William Inglis & Son sales complex at Newmarket (Randwick), Takeover Target was bought by NSWROA member Joe Janiak, then a taxi driver and part-time trainer, for a mere \$1,250.

Takeover Target has faced the starter 37 times for 19 wins (including 14 Black Type victories and six at Group 1 level), 6 second placings and 4 third placings for \$5.5million in career prizemoney to date.

But I digress from the story at hand.

Takeover Target had his first race start at his home track at Queanbeyan on 23rd April 2004. Ridden by Jay Ford who is his regular rider to this day, Takeover Target duly saluted in the maiden event by some seven lengths.

Two weeks later he won a Class 1 event at Wagga Wagga by more than seven lengths and followed up again in two weeks time with his first win in town at Royal Randwick by 2.8 lengths and yet again in another fortnight with a resounding win at Rosehill Gardens by six lengths.

His last two runs in his first campaign yielded two Black Type wins.

Takeover Target's first Black Type win was in the Listed-Pacesetter Stakes at Gosford on 24 June 2004. He then travelled to Grafton to score in the time-honoured Ramornie Handicap on 14 July 2004.

After a short let-up he then recorded his first Group One win in the Salinger Stakes at Flemington on 30 October 2004.

Takeover Target then had a well-deserved break before resuming in Queensland on 30 April 2005 in the Group 2-BTC Cup where he finished fourth.

A win was to elude him for the remainder of this trip although he did finish third in the Group 1-Doomben 10,000 (just under half a length behind the winner Red Oog) and a close second in the Gr 3-Carlton Draught Stakes on 25 June 2005.

Another short let-up followed before he resumed in the Gr 1-Salinger Stakes at Flemington where he finished fourth in a field of 15.

Another unplaced run in the Gr 2-Age Classic at Flemington was next before he hit his straps again with wins in the Gr 3-Summer Stakes (at Doomben on 10 December 2005) by 5.5 lengths and the Listed-Doomben Stakes (at Doomben on 24 December 2005) by 2.8 lengths.

His next run was on 4 February 2006 at Flemington when he recorded a fighting win in the Gr 1-Lightning Stakes and then finished third in the Gr 1-Oakleigh Plate behind Snitzel.

Takeover Target then turned the tables on Snitzel on 11 March 2006 by defeating him in the Gr 1-Newmarket Handicap.

With the world stage beckoning, Takeover Target, together with his trainer and jockey, made their first overseas expedition to England and Royal Ascot and didn't disappoint.

His first start was on Day 1 of the Royal Ascot Carnival with a dominant win in the Gr 2-King Stand Stakes. Despite a wide draw, Takeover Target was able to cross over to the grandstand side of the track and sit just off the pace.

Taking the lead with some 300 metres to go, Takeover Target showed exceptional courage, determination and ability to hold off all challenges to salute.

Takeover Target then backed up on the last day of the carnival (four days later) to run a courageous third in the Group 1-Golden Jubilee Stakes before running a credible seventh, 2.1 lengths from the winner, in the Gr 1-July Cup.

Japan was the next destination for our globetrotter where he finished second in the Group 2-Centaur Stakes before saluting in the Gr 1-Sprinters Stakes on 1 October 2006.

After a break and an unplaced run in the Gr 1-All-Aged Stakes at Royal Randwick, he again ventured to Queensland where he finished second in the Gr 1-BTC Cup before saluting in the Gr 1-Doomben 10,000 on 26 May 2007.

His second trip to England and Royal Ascot in June 2007, yielded

# feature



**Courage personified and an owner's dream. Takeover Target (black & red checks, white sleeves) pulls out all stops to defeat Alverta in the Razor Sharp Quality at Royal Randwick. Image by Steve White**

a fourth placing in the Gr 2-King Stand Stakes (2.6 lengths from the winner) and a second placing in the Gr 1-Golden Jubilee Stakes.

It was so near yet so far for Takeover Target in the Golden Jubilee – beaten by a bob of the head!

Back home again he resumed with a minor race win at Randwick as well as saluting in the Listed-Razor Sharp Handicap.

In controversial circumstances he lost the Gr 2-Villiers Stakes on protest at his next start and then finished third in the Gr 1-T J Smith Stakes.

A third trip to England and Royal Ascot was to follow but on the way it was decided to break the long trip with a stopover in Singapore.

Takeover Target duly scored in the Group 1-Kris Flyer International Sprint defeating compatriot Magnus by half a length.

The 2008 Royal Ascot Carnival netted Takeover Target a second placing in the King Stand Stakes (now a Group 1 event), a mere half length from the winner Equiano, and a fourth placing in the

Gr 1-Golden Jubilee Stakes on 21 June 2008.

Takeover Target completed 2008 at home with wins in Western Australia in the Gr 2-Winterbottom Stakes and the Gr 3-Scahill Stakes.

How's that for inspiration to enter the ownership ranks? It couldn't get any better or could it?

Despite reaching nine years of age, it appears that "age shall not weary him" and Takeover Target will again visit England and Royal Ascot in June after a sojourn again in Singapore to defend his title in the Gr 1-Kris Flyer International Sprint.

Who's to say he can't do it again!

If you are interested in participating in this wonderful sport why not become a member of the NSW Racehorse Owners Association.

Membership applications are now being taken for the 2009 membership year. Simply visit our website [www.nswroa.com.au](http://www.nswroa.com.au) or phone the NSWROA office on **(02) 9299 4299**.