

# Australian THOROUGHBRED NEWS



Aushorse Newsletter

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## 10 from 10 for Better Than Ever

Star Australian-bred gelding **Better Than Ever** took his record to a perfect 10 wins in as many starts with a typically dominant first up win in the Jumbo Jet Trophy (1400m) on August 22.

The win took his earnings beyond the \$S1million mark and brought him within striking distance of **Rocket Man** in being rated Singapore's best galloper. **Better Than Ever**'s rating has been elevated to 117, just two points short of the acclaimed Aus-bred sprint star **Rocket Man**.

Mike Wanklin, the Singapore Turf Club's Vice President of Racing and Head of Handicapping, said the rating in effect put **Better Than Ever** just one point behind **Rocket Man**.

As a four-year-old and allowed one point on the weight-for-age scale it effectively puts **Better Than Ever** just one point behind **Rocket Man**, said Wanklin.

We haven't rated **Better Than Ever** the same as **Rocket Man** as he hasn't raced against, apart from Waikato, international rated company at this stage.

While we recognise the fact that he has won 10 races in a row and is undefeated, **Rocket Man** is also undefeated against local company and has performed on the international stage as well.

**Better Than Ever** is a son of the former Arrowfield shuttler **French Deputy** from the **Unbridled's Song** mare **Songfest**. Trainer Laurie Laxon secured **Better Than Ever** for just \$80,000 as a yearling.

His next run is expected to be the \$S500,000 Kranji Mile on October 3, the same day **Rocket Man** is scheduled to race in the G1 Sprinters Stakes (1200m) at Nakayama, a race won by fellow Australian-bred **Takeover Target** in 2006.



**BETTER THAN EVER**  
(Image: Singapore Turf Club)

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## Major Award for Aussie 2YO

Australian bred filly Mahbooba was crowned champion South African Two Year Old Filly of the 2009/10 season at the Equus Awards in Johannesburg last month.

**Mahbooba** beat fellow Australian-bred **Happy Archer** to take the honours.

The Mike De Kock trained filly is by **Galileo** out of the **Red Ransom** mare **Sogha** and was bred in Australia by her owner Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum.

**Mahbooba**'s season highlight came with a dominant win in the 1450m Group 1 Golden Slipper.

She is from the last Australian-bred crop of **Galileo** and is the first foal of Australian-bred **Red Ransom** mare **Sogha**, who was purchased for \$300,000 by Tim Stakemire acting for the Sheikh at the 2004 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale.



**MAHBOOBA**  
(Image: SAHorse racing.com)

**Mahbooba**'s Golden Slipper success was the eighth Group 1 win in South Africa for Australian-bred horses in the past three years.

Aus-breds make up just 4% of the racing population in South Africa, but export numbers continue to rise with buyers now recognising the potency of horses purchased Down Under.

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## Upcoming Sales

The Magic Millions National Horses in Training Sale will be held on October 27 and 28, with the sessions beginning at 11am each day. Breeze ups will be held from September 20-24.

This year's catalogue includes 400 lots, who are well placed to continue the brilliant run of success graduates of this sale have enjoyed in the past 12 months.

The sale flagbearer is the Melbourne Cup winner **Shocking**, who was snapped up by Laurence Eales for just \$64,000 at the 2007 sale. He is now the winner of almost \$3.9million.

Other Group winning graduates include **Graceful Anna** and **Masquerader**, while star Macau performer **Viva Pronto** is also a graduate of the sale.

Following the Magic Millions sale, Inglis will host its Australian Racehorse Sale at Oaklands on November 14. Nominations are still open for this sale.



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## Second Annual Aushorse Awards Night in Singapore

**Better Than Ever** and **Rocket Man** will fight it out for the second annual Aushorse Marketing Singapore Australian-bred Champion at an awards ceremony to be held on September 7.

The awards will be presented by the High Commissioner for Australia, H.E. Mr Doug Chester. The function is being held at the Goodwood Park Hotel in Singapore.

**Rocket Man** was the inaugural winner of this award 12 months ago. Trophies will be presented to both the winning owner and trainer.

This year, a second award will be presented to the Australian-Bred Winning Trainer. Steven Burridge and Don Baertschiger are in contention, with the award given to the trainer that has had the most wins with Australian-bred horses.

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## Hong Kong Awards Night

Aushorse Marketing has introduced a new award into Hong Kong this year.

The awards night, on September 11, will be held in conjunction with the VRCs 'Celebration of the 150th Melbourne Cup' event.

An award will be presented to the Champion Hong Kong Australia-Bred, with **Sacred Kingdom**, **Happy Zero** and **One World** being the finalists. Again, trophies will be presented to the owner and trainer of the winning horse.

For further information on either event please contact [Anna Zakaras](#). Her details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.

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## Equine Mission to China 14-19 October, 2010 (Shanghai & Beijing, China)

Austrade and Aushorse Marketing are co-organisers of the *Australian Equine Mission to China*, which will focus on the emerging China equine market.

Included in the tour is a networking event at the Australian pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, which will showcase the diversity and strengths of the Australian equine sector. Key Benefits of the Mission include:

- Develop an understanding of the market potential and direction of all equine sectors in China, and to gain valuable information and industry contacts.
- Build awareness and promote products, services and capabilities.
- Identify business opportunities and contacts for long-term sustainable business.
- Leverage Austrade's assistance and in-market experience.

For further information contact the Aushorse office or to register visit: [www.austrade.gov.au/equinemission](http://www.austrade.gov.au/equinemission)

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