

Bob & Jan's never-ending dream

NOTHING GIVES ME GREATER PLEASURE THAN WRITING ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF MEMBERS OF NSW RACEHORSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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In March 2010, I wrote an article for the April issue of Racing NSW Magazine about Bob and Jan Bergstrom who were having great success at the time with home bred Extra Zero.

In that article a mention was made of "another waiting in the wings is the third foal of Johan's Toy, a colt by Bernardini (USA) who is said to be the "best on type" that the Bergstrom's have produced. Only time will tell."

Well time has certainly told its tale – the colt in question races as Toydini, a multiple Black Type winner and a horse well and truly on the up.

In October, Toydini recorded his fifth win (four at Black Type level) in the Group 2-MVRC Crystal Mile in stunning fashion.

His other Black Type successes have been in the Gr 2-ATC Phar Lap Stakes, Gr 3-ATC Carbine Club Stakes and the Gr 3-NJC Cameron Handicap.

Toydini's race records stands at five wins, two second placings and two third placings from 18 race starts and \$595,700 in prizemoney.

So let's go back to where we left off in that previous article and follow the path of Bob and Jan as owner/breeders in what is currently panning out as "the never-ending dream" of their lives.

Back in 2010 NSWROA members Bob and Jan Bergstrom were the lucky owner/breeders of three Stakes winners out of their wonderful producing and foundation broodmare Extra Bubbly.

The winners being Extra Zero (Gr 2-MRC Autumn Classic, Listed-VRC Anzac Day Handicap and the LR-AlbRC Albury Cup), Johan's Toy (LR-AJC Reginald Allen Quality Handicap & LR-WRC Mona Lisa Stakes) and Operetta Lass (Gr 3-AJC Adrian Knox Stakes).

With their primary focus always being to breed to race, Bob and Jan were one of the very lucky few who struck



Jan and Bob Bergstrom with Christy Johns (left) and this article's author (right)

success with their first breeding venture.

Bob recalled: "Jan and I could never have imagined that our very first broodmare would produce a Black Type winner let alone three Black Type winners. It's like living our dream."

Johan's Toy was the first foal out of Extra Bubbly to race for the Bergstroms and she gave them the thrill of their lives during her race career spanning 26 starts and \$820,700 in prizemoney.

Renowned for her incredible finishing bursts, Johan's Toy recorded four wins (including two at Black Type level, as aforementioned), three seconds (all Black Type including the Gr 1-Doncaster Handicap and the Gr 1-Epsom Handicap) and six third placings (all except one were Black Type including the Gr 1-STC Coolmore Classic).

It would probably be fair to say that Johan's Toy will best be remembered as the horse who was runner-up in the two big Randwick Group One mile races.

She went under by 1.3 lengths in the 2005 AJC Epsom Handicap to the wonderful performer Desert War and in

the 2006 AJC Doncaster Handicap was beaten half a length by the outstanding Racing to Win in a field that included Apache Cat, Bentley Biscuit, Desert War and Niconero.

Since retirement Johan's Toy has produced six foals for the Bergstroms. The first foal was a colt by Starcraft (NZ) named Craft Show who they retained and was trained by David Hayes, but did not meet expectations and was moved on and has subsequently won two races for his new connections.

The second foal for Johan's Toy was by Elusive Quality (USA) who was sold at the 2010 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale for \$50,000.

The colt, named Expedience, had a short career in Hong Kong where he was placed but was retired prematurely due to an injury.

The next and best foal to date for Johan's Toy was the Bernardini colt, Toydini who ticked all the right boxes and Bob and Jan had no hesitation retaining him themselves.

After being broken in and pre-trained,



Toydini (Blake Shinn) in full flight at Rosehill Gardens. Picture by Steve Hart

he was sent to his mother’s former trainer Guy Walter to embark on his racing career.

Toydini faced the starter for the first time on 22 March 2012 at Hawkesbury finishing second in a field of 10. His next run was when eighth in the Gr 3-ATC T J Baillieu Stakes at Rosehill Gardens before recording his first win on Anzac Day in 2012 on the Kensington track.

Toydini’s next run yielded a third placing and then followed a campaign at the Brisbane carnival where he recorded two fourths in the Gr 2-Sires’ Produce Stakes and the Gr 1-T J Smith.

Following a short let-up, he resumed in the Gr 3-ATC Up and Coming Stakes finishing a half a length second to Albrecht.

A sixth in the LR-ATC Ming Dynasty Quality was next before unplaced in the LR-ATC Brian Crowley Stakes. On advice from his trainer and jockeys, it was decided to geld him and this turned him around.

Resuming in the autumn, he was fifth before recording dual Black Type wins in the ATC Phar Lap Stakes and the ATC Carbine Club Stakes before finishing the preparation with a fourth in the Gr 3-ATC Frank Packer Plate.

After spelling, Toydini resumed with a fifth to Veyron in the Gr 2-ATC Warwick Stakes at Warwick Farm before saluting in the NJC Cameron Handicap. He then ran a close third behind Boban and stablemate Streama in the ATC Epsom Handicap before scoring again in the MVRC Crystal Mile in October.

Johan’s Toy has so far produced another three foals following Toydini – a filly by Sebring named Johan’s Joy (retained), a filly by All American (entered in the 2014 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale as Bob and Jan now have too many fillies so they can’t keep them all) and this year a sister to Toydini.

This year Johan’s Toy has visited 2013 UAE Dubai World Cup winner Animal Kingdom (USA) and is in foal.

At present – apart from Toydini – the Bergstroms have Johan’s Joy (ex Johan’s Toy) and Duke’s Lass (ex Operetta Lass) in training with Guy

Walter to carry their dark blue and cerise colours.

Bob remarked: “After the success we had with Johan’s Toy, Operetta Lass and Extra Zero we thought it couldn’t get any better but incredibly it has.”

Who can say to what heights Toydini will climb!

Are you someone interested in racehorse ownership but just haven’t got around to doing something about it?

A lot of people are under the impression that racehorse ownership is only for the very wealthy, but nothing could be further from the truth as owning a racehorse is readily available to all.

If you’re interested in participating in the wonderful world of thoroughbred racing, become a member of NSW Racehorse Owners Association. Simply visit our website www.nswroa.com.au or telephone the NSWROA office on (02) 9299 4299.

As this is the last issue of Racing NSW Magazine for the year, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of the President and the NSWROA Committee, to wish all readers the compliments of the season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014. **RNSW**