

SENDING RAINBOWS

THE WINDERMERE FARM MONTHLY UPDATE



Happy New Year!

Dear valued clients and friends,

We hope you all shared a wonderful Christmas and enjoyed the Lords gift of thirst quenching rain on the day. How sweet it was and because Wade insists on the hot traditional lunch, the weather was certainly a blessing.

Now we shall take this opportunity to wish you all the very best in 2013. May you experience many winners and many happy memories, mixed with good health.

HAMBERG was the reigning champ of the month. Just when we think the old boy has had enough, he grows another leg. An unlucky 5th over 1500mts at Hawkesbury saw him back up for another crack at them on the 9th, once again at Hawkesbury over the same distance to run a very good second. When you are on a roll and showing no signs of tapping the mat, what do you do? Take him to Royal Bathurst on the 15th, where he contended his first 1800mt race and WON, looking as pretty as his rider, young Clare Nutman. I think he's fallen in-love with Clare and it's a shame she is unable to ride down town as

yet, being a new apprentice. The Stewards are in charge of that decision and so we have another apprentice riding him at Rosehill on the first of January. Whilst this race will be a lot harder, we are hoping for a good show in the straight.

SACRED JOURNEY was the improver of the month, gathering back his form after blinkers were used on him at Bathurst on the 15th. He at least took the opening through the pack to take the lead, he seemed then, to slow and look around for the others, which cost him the win. He consequently ran second. We are working on the catch em, pass em and beat em technique on the track. In other words change his herd mentality. When he shot past them in his first win at Bathurst, you can count on that being from fear, rather than the previous explanation. You could say the penny has not quite dropped and the well of talent has not yet been tapped. He shows this when he pulls up from his race. Not a breath out of him. Kembla Grange on Saturday the 5th/1, will be his next start.

2013





Fluffy, the cat, getting into the spirit of Christmas

SHADE OF GREEN has had more tests done on her than a rocket Ship at Cape Canaveral. The mission has not been aborted, due to all systems go. Our riders say she works like a champion, although she is never let off the bit in her gallops she clocks remarkable times. We follow all common sense methods with her training, just keeping her on the simmer ready for the expected win. However, she has failed recently to produce her brilliance in her races. She is now in the paddock near the barn for an entire week to freshen. We will drop her right back in distance (1250) at Canterbury on the 11th/1.

TALES TO TELL made her debut in fine style at Bathurst on the 15th. The Stewards made a point of talking to owner Sandy after the race, to say just how unlucky she had been in the running and that she looked to them as if she had a real future ahead. She was not beaten far at all. Sandy is delighted with her work since that race and is looking forward to racing her at Kembla next Saturday the 5th/1.

Our not too distant winners are coming along nicely. BLACK PIRATE has shown some sense and sensibility in his work and he looks magnificent! He came into work on the 10th and shall be looking for a trial in, or just after the first week of February.

AUSBRED BENZ is also behaving like a gentleman after his gelding. He's working extremely well; the end of January should see him at the trials.

APPLIANCE is a new comer to our racing team. He looks the goods and should be trialling this month to show us he hopefully will make the team proud.

LORD ROW is at the water walker after a setback, but will resume fast work this month.

VENCEDORA is having shyness problems, of which we are tending to. In one week of up close and personal with other horses, plus pacifiers on, he is coming around to trust and relax in his work. He will hopefully have a jump out and maybe have one trial before spelling. This prep is all about educating, one really good thing is, he accepts the barriers like an old soul.

SNIPAROSE and TOO CHIC have enjoyed a holiday in the paddock together and shall now return to work this week. To have a strong bond between youngsters in their first racing prep is invaluable, they seem to convey messages to console each other or to boast their victories. No I'm not imagining it!

"I'm here to exchange this jockey for one in a smaller size..."



On the following pages is a copy of an article which appears in the Jan 2013 edition of Racing NSW. [Click here to view the pdf version](#), which is much clearer, on our website.

May you all be blessed with good health and good fortune!!

Sending rainbows,
Dor & Wade





A beaming Doreen Slinkard with jockey Grant Buckley following a victory

MORE CHAPTERS REMAIN IN SLINKARDS STORY

DOREEN & WADE SLINKARD MIGHT HAVE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TRAINING TECHNIQUES BUT THEY BOTH POSSESS A STRONG PASSION FOR RACEHORSES WORDS: BEN FLORES PICTURE: BRADLEY PHOTOGRAPHERS

For Wade and Doreen Slinkard, their love affair with horses began a long time ago in different circumstances, but for the pair, a chance meeting in Conargo Pub, 20 miles west of Deniliquin sealed their fate.

As a six-year-old, Doreen watched her mother as she ironed every Saturday, listening to the races in the background. Her mum would have the occasional bet with the local SP bookie in Ashburton, Victoria where Doreen grew up.

She can remember her mother's ironing quicken as the horse she'd backed went faster, which Doreen found amusing.

"I can remember one day looking behind the radio to see where the horses were," Doreen said. "My mum laughed and said 'Dad and I will take you next Saturday to see them race.'"

That next Saturday was the beginning of Doreen's love of racing.

The other half of the Slinkard duo, who hails from West Pennant Hills in NSW, was a young jackaroo working for a prominent family in the Riverina region of NSW where, among stock horses, the family also bred Thoroughbreds.

Wade had his eye on a two-year-old Thoroughbred and talked the family into letting him break it in and train him for the picnic races.

NAMED VAN GLOW, HE WENT ON TO ANNIHILATE HIS PICNIC RIVALS AND FINISHED HIS CAREER WINNING 11 TAB RACES.

Deniliquin trainer Tom Loy took Wade under his wing and officially trained Van Glow, however, the experience was just the beginning of Wade's foray into racehorse training.

Partners in everything but their professional lives, Wade

and Doreen Slinkard have been both opponents and allies at different stages in their careers.

Now both winding down their training practices, the pair is content training a few horses at a time, with Doreen's new found career as a children's book author and novelist requiring her undivided attention.

Doreen began writing stories for her children around 30 years ago. They usually centred around life on the farm and training racehorses, but contained subtle moral underpinnings.

Doreen thought it would be a novel way to keep the memories alive for her children and grandchildren but never took to finding a publisher.

There is an interesting dichotomy with Doreen's dual careers. On reflection, Doreen has no qualms with acknowledging she has no claims to racing fame, but delights in the winners she has trained.

"Des Hoysted interviewed me after Shenanigan (one of the best horses Doreen trained) won at Canterbury and asked 'How many do you train Doreen?'"

"I replied 'Oh they just give me a couple to shut me up.'"

"I do feel though that I've gotten the best out of every horse I've trained and I'm so satisfied in just having these beautiful animals around me."

On the other hand Wade achieved probably his greatest success early on in his career with Cheval De Volee.

Cheval De Volee ended up rated among the top 10 two-year-olds in Australasia after winning the Tiny Tot Stakes by five lengths; a Golden Slipper prelude race and the Pago Pago by five.

Unfortunately, Cheval De Volee never made it to the Golden Slipper but did go on to beat the great Manikato home in the Sires' Produce, claiming fourth place.

More recently, the Slinkards have become well-known for their connection with the 'Ausbred' horses.

TRAINING AROUND 15 BETWEEN THEM, THE MOST FAMOUS AND SUCCESSFUL OF THE GROUP WAS A GELDING OUT OF A STORMY ZEPHYR MARE WHICH WAS RACED BY CHRIS LAWLOR, WHO BEGAN THE AUSBRED DYNASTY.

Ausbred King amassed over \$420,000 in prizemoney in his career with his finest moment coming, rather symbolically, on Golden Slipper day in 2009 when he won the Listed-Neville Sellwood Stakes in heavy conditions with Kathy O'Hara aboard.

You would expect some similarities in training styles after decades spent working together, with Wade acknowledging the pair shares traits – although Doreen

would have us believe that it is because she successfully "trained Wade."

Wade describes his style as more of the "old school." He prefers to let his charges have one to two days off with a hand pick of grass – a luxury afforded for the pair that lives on the picturesque Windermere Farm, in Sydney's Hawkesbury region.

DOREEN FINDS WADE'S STYLE TO CONSIST OF BRINGING HORSES UP TO CONDITION SLOWLY BY TRAINING THEIR LEGS TO WITHSTAND THE PRESSURES OF RACING AND BY DEVELOPING THEIR LUNG CAPACITY WITH INTENSE SHORT BURST TRAINING.

Swimming assists as well; and it also helps that Wade and Doreen have a swimming channel on their farm.

As a young woman, Doreen worked with Angus Armanasco, whom Wade attributes to influencing Doreen's training regimen as well as her philosophy.

Although their styles differ slightly, the pair seems to have a more bipartisan relationship, with each party dispensing advice (although this can lead to heated discussions) to the other.

The one thing they are unequivocal about is their mission to keep their horses as happy and as close to their natural environment as possible.

Doreen has begun a new chapter in her story though, and only has time to manage a couple of horses these days.

She has published five of her children's stories, conducted a tour of Beijing and is in the process of having her books adopted by the Chinese Education Department.

Only recently Doreen completed her first novel – *Women, Horses and War*; a story which follows an orphan's journey through to his time as a light Horseman during the First World War.

Already working on a sequel, Wade likes to think he's had a hand in compelling Doreen to write for adults, but confides that she needs no help with ideas.

In his spare time, Wade likes to cook and calls himself a shearer's cook, or a short order chef but there are rumours he's quite a deft hand in the kitchen.

Wade has 10 horses in work at the moment and is looking forward to training some nice yearlings in the future; but if the pair starts looking to make the move to a professional partnership, what about a cook-book?

Doreen can be contacted at - www.doreenslinkardauthor.com.au **RNSW**

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CONTACT US

Here at Windermere Farm we love your feedback. If you have any questions about your horse's training or the newsletter, don't hesitate to get in contact.

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Doreen Slinkard

AUTHOR



Sales have been up online at and before Christmas, so the good word is slowly but surely being passed around.

Thank you everyone for your support and interest in my Wicky Wacky Farm series.

You can purchase my books at:

www.doreenslinkardauthor.com.au

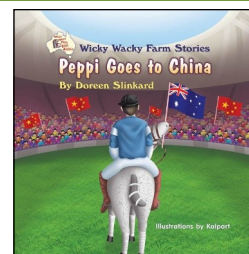
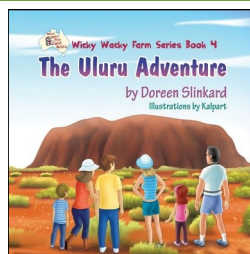
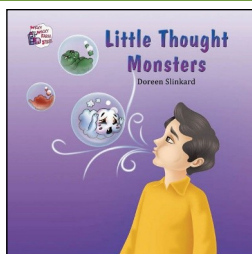
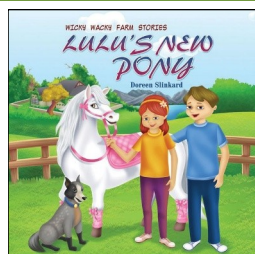
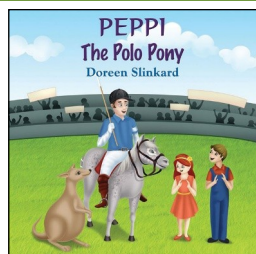
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