

Corumbene Stud

📍 ZEB ARMSTRONG *George Altomonte*



George Altomonte and Toby Frazer (stud manager) with Golden Slipper winner Overreach & her dam Bahia

What is your favourite activity outside of racing?

The majority of the Queensland coast is one of the best meetings of land and ocean in the world. From just north of Bundaberg, the 'Coral Coast' really earns its name. The waters are shallow, calm and clear and I much love cruising these waters in my boat. The far reaches of the eastern Pacific Ocean on the inside of the Great Barrier Reef, between the reef and Queensland landmass, has to be the best place to relax on a boat in Australia, if not the world.

What is your favourite piece of music, or song?

Classic Italian songs in the mould of Arrivederci Roma or Mamma or even songs like Io Camminerò still can bring a tear to the eye, what seems like an eternity after I first heard them. Yes Italian classics are certainly my favourites; however I also quite enjoy folk music – popular folk artists like Simon and Garfunkel or Cat Stevens are very nice to listen to. There is a big variety of folk music these days.

What was your first paying job?

I was an apprentice at a Ford dealer, Hastings Deerings, in William Street, Sydney. This was a time when the auto industry in Australia was starting to thrive and they were happy to have an apprentice on. It is a shame that the auto industry is leaving Australian shores. This was unthinkable when I was an apprentice.

Has a particular singular event had a very significant effect on you, either personally or in relation to work?

Winning the Golden Slipper with Overreach in 2013 will be hard to go past. I was in communication with Gai Waterhouse in the summer leading up to

the Sydney autumn carnival this particular year, and Gai, in her usual confident tone, told me she was 'losing the filly.' This was Gai's way of saying this daughter of Exceed And Excel had all the ability in the world, but even Gai was having a hard time getting her right. We pulled the pin on the Blue Diamond, Gai gave Overreach a nice freshen-up, and when she came back in she fulfilled her destiny. In reality, the filly was only 100% right on that great day in April 2013, but it was certainly the most significant event of my racing life.

Will we ever colonise outer space?

I still remember us going to the moon. That was almost fifty years ago! Let's just say if we do (colonise outer space) it won't be in my time, but if people who are alive now do get to Mars, I wish them all the best. The Coral Coast and my boat cruising at a relaxing speed is nice enough for me, without thinking about a 30 year or whatever it is, round trip to Mars in a rocket ship.

How would you summarise your draft this year?

We have some very nice, well bred horses by sires that are at the top of the list this year. We will be offering outstanding yearlings at the major sales this year and I am particularly pleased with this Magic Millions draft.

What are some of the best known mares that reside at your farm?

Golden Slipper winner Overreach, her mother Bahia, the former speedy galloper Bennetta who won a Light Fingers Stakes, and a race at the

Magic Millions, Sebring's mother Purespeed, as well as Wasimah, the mother of multiple Stakes winner Nayeli.

Are there enough opportunities for young people to enter the thoroughbred industry?

Opportunities are definitely there for young people to enter the industry. The industry does offer different types of jobs and a lot of those jobs are career forming and very challenging and interesting positions. But yes, a lot of the people in racing are of the older generation or Baby Boomers, and fresh young eyes will greatly benefit our industry. I believe the opportunities are there and I would love to see younger people filling more and more roles in the future.

2017 draft

Lot	Col/Sex	Sire	Dam
79	Ch. C	Snitzel (AUS)	Hasna (AUS)
144	Br/Blk.C	I Am Invincible (AUS)	Kylie (AUS)
167	B. F	Hinchinbrook (AUS)	Liamena (AUS)
182	B. F	Camelot (GB)	Longlea (AUS)
240	Br/Blk.F	Smart Missile (AUS)	Misshiraz (AUS)
339	Br. C	More Than Ready (USA)	Purespeed (AUS)
392	Br. C	So You Think (NZ)	Romincka (AUS)
540	B/Br. C	I Am Invincible (AUS)	Tropicana Girl (AUS)
634	Br. F	Sepoy (AUS)	Apple Martini (AUS)
669	B/Br. C	Exceed and Excel (AUS)	Bennetta (AUS)
723	B. C	More Than Ready (USA)	Claws (AUS)
883	B./Br. F	Charge Forward (AUS)	Walkway (AUS)
884	B. C	Sepoy (AUS)	Watabout (AUS)
967	B. F	Sepoy (AUS)	Gourmet Garage (NZ)

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