

Dalby Stock Horse Sale sets 50-year record with \$130K mare and \$70K gelding

The 50th Annual Dalby Australian Stock Horse Sale commemorated its golden anniversary with an outstanding incentive campdraft competition and a record-breaking auction that showcased the finest Australian Stock Horses. This milestone sale shattered a 50-year history, setting records for the top-priced horse, mare, and gelding!

Bidders competed for 279 lots, averaging \$23,162 overall, with gross sales exceeding \$5.9 million and an impressive clearance rate of 92 per cent. All figures showed a distinct improvement compared to previous years, underscoring the thriving Australian Stock Horse market.

The world's largest Australian Stock Horse Sale brought together breeders, buyers, and enthusiasts from across the country, demonstrating not only the enduring strength of the market but also the unforgettable achievement of breaking multiple records on such a historic occasion.

The legacy of Hazelwood Conman, a stallion whose influence continues to shape the stock horse breed, was evident in the auction's top four horses, all sired by him.

Westlake Corina (Lot 148), a five-year-old mare, emerged as the top-priced mare of the sale, commanding an impressive \$130,000 on the first day. Offered by Cameron Parker from Westwood, Queensland, the mare was purchased by the Linneth family from Tansey, Queensland, marking a significant moment in the auction.

Also purchased by the Linneth family was the second top-priced mare, Stareen Confetti (Lot 145), selling for \$80,000 and offered by vendor Nick Stark from Johnstown, Queensland.

The sale's top gelding, Westlake Collusion (Lot 291), made history by achieving the highest gelding price in the sale's 50-year legacy, selling for \$70,000 to purchaser Kate Southern. The gelding, consigned by local vendors Peter and Jess Turich from Dalby, highlighted the strength of local breeders in this prestigious event.

In addition to Westlake Collusion, the Turichs also bred the top-priced mare, cementing their reputation as leading producers of elite horses. Their well-established breeding program is known for consistently delivering top-tier bloodlines, further underscoring the high demand for both geldings and mares bred under their expertise.

There were two second top-priced geldings that sold for \$62,000 each. Say No Moore (Lot 116), offered by the Curtin Family, was bought online through AuctionsPlus by Ken Knudsen from Chinchilla, Queensland. The second gelding, Concealer (Lot 293), was sold by Shannon Maguire and purchased by Mick and Hayley Hughes.

Warregold Rainmaker (lot 243) stood out as the top-priced stallion, a three-year-old sired by Pechey Stud Tradition. Vendor Steve and Ursula Keating from Chinchilla, Queensland saw the stallion sell for \$20,000, with the final hammer falling to Garth Christiansen from Taroom, Queensland, who secured the lot through the AuctionsPlus online platform. Notably, this continues the Keating family's success, having also presented the top-priced stallion in the previous year's 2023 sale.

"It was an incredible event for the Darling Downs Branch and Ray White team," said Rick Young, President of the Darling Downs Australian Stock Horse Society. "We were amazed by the turnout—so many people came from far and wide, reminiscing about the past 50 years. The atmosphere was amazing, especially hearing all of the stories about horses, people, and prices from over the decades was

fantastic. The crowd was like nothing we've seen in years, and even the local pubs said they hadn't seen anything like it for a long time."

"The feedback from vendors and buyers was overwhelmingly positive, with record-setting results across the board—from the number of vendors and horses to the number of attendees and trade sites. It was a roaring success. Ray White did a brilliant job managing the sale, and we couldn't be more pleased with how smoothly everything ran. The whole weekend was a true testament to the passion people have for the Australian Stock Horse, and we're excited to build on this for the future."

"Everyone worked so hard to make this event a success," said David Felsch, Principal of Ray White Livestock Dalby. "It's been a massive effort, not just from us but also from the Branch. These shows take months of preparation, and it's really rewarding when everyone's on the same page, working towards a great outcome. The ladies in the office, the auctioneers, the bid spotters and the whole team—everyone put in a huge effort across the four days, and it's humbling to see the support Amy and I receive."

"I'd also like to extend a special thanks to Arubial Wagyu for their unbelievable 650 Wagyu heifers. This is the second year they've been with us, and their cattle received great feedback from the competitors. Laird has been attending the sale for over 40 years and it's fantastic to have Laird, Sonia, Mandy, and Ryan's continued support. Their cattle elevate the event, giving vendors the chance to show off their horses and we're incredibly fortunate to have them involved."

"This year, we had Paul Campbell from Campbell's Comments conducting interviews for the first time, and our social media presence, led by Laura Tacey, received so many compliments. It's a massive credit to our photographers and media people who helped us showcase the event professionally."

Official Results:

- Total Horses Offered: 279
- Total Horses Sold: 258
- Sale Gross: \$5,976,000
- Sale Average: \$23,162
- Clearance Rate: 92%
- Stallions: 4 offered, 3 sold, averaging \$18,333
- Mares: 113 offered, 106 sold, averaging \$27,495
- Geldings: 162 offered, 149 sold, averaging \$20,177

AuctionsPlus Results:

- **Online Average Price:** \$18,194
- **Highest Online Sale:** \$67,000 (Lot 278)
- **Online Bidder Participation:**
 - 96 active bidders
 - 32 successful bidders
 - 31 lots sold online

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