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BEYOND THE CROWN

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Smooth Satin– the Bathurst champion they called “Socks”. (Image credit: Trotguide archives)

Bathurst Blast from the Past

There are some horses whose names sit comfortably in the record books, and then there are those rare ones whose names still seem to echo around the home straight and for Bathurst harness racing devotees, Smooth Satin was one of those legends. To many, he was the champion pacer with the million-dollar bank balance, the Miracle Mile title, the Inter Dominion crown and the kind of race record most owners only ever dream about. But to those closer to home, he was simply “Socks” – the Bathurst gelding who carried local hopes all the way to the big city stage. What makes his story special for Bathurst is not only what he won – but where he came from, who stood behind him, and the pride he gave to our regional harness racing community that know the long road between ordinary mornings and extraordinary nights.

He was bred by Anne Lamb in NSW and foaled down in 1996 at Wayne and Anne’s Golden Gait stud in Canowindra. Socks was sired by Stature USA out of Seafield Ivy. Jack Honan purchased the stallion at the yearling sales in America, paying the highest price for a yearling in 1986 and subsequently imported him back home. Prepared by Steve Turnbull from The Lagoon, near Bathurst, and raced by Laurie and Gwen Paton, Smooth Satin became a horse who belonged not just to his connections, but to the district. He was the sort of horse people followed because he felt local. He had the Bathurst grit, the Turnbull polish, and the kind of honest racing heart that makes harness people lean a little closer to the fence.

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It did not take long for Smooth Satin to become known as the ‘Bathurst Bullet.’

Especially when he was purchased at the yearling sale for a sum he would earn 140 times over. His record tells the story plainly enough: 122 starts, 46 wins, 31 seconds and 17 thirds, with earnings of more than \$1.4 million. But numbers, as impressive as they are, never quite capture the feeling of a great horse in full flight. Smooth Satin was no flash-in-the-pan performer, he was tough, durable and kept turning up. He won as a young horse, developed through the grades, and then stepped onto the Grand Circuit stage as though he had been waiting for it all along.

BEYOND THE CROWN

In 2001, he claimed the Miracle Mile at Harold Park, one of the great jewels of Australian harness racing. That alone would have secured his place in the memory of the sport, but Socks was not finished.

At the 2002 Inter Dominion Pacing Championship Final at Harold Park, a night heavy with expectation, against horses of the highest calibre like Shakamaker and courage Under Fire NZ, Smooth Satin produced the sort of finish that lifts a crowd to its feet. Driven with patience by Steve, the Bathurst gelding came late, chasing down Shakamaker when it mattered most. In the shadows of the post, he surged, the line came and Smooth Satin had done it. The Bathurst horse was an Inter Dominion champion. For any harness racing town, that is a moment to treasure.

For Bathurst, with its deep

racing history and proud local participants, it was one of those nights that became part of the folklore. A horse from near home had gone to headquarters and beaten the best. Being that Steve's father Tony had won back-to-back Inter Dominions with Hondo Grattan, affectionately known as the 'Bathurst Bulldog', it did not take long for Smooth Satin to become known as the 'Bathurst Bullet.'

His achievements would later see him named Australian Harness Horse of the Year in 2002, recognition of a season that confirmed what Bathurst already knew: Smooth Satin was something special.

Mysteriously, Socks was also involved in a foiled abduction attempt, when he was taken from Steve and Jenny's stables one Tuesday night. Luckily Cath Hewitt, who was also living at the property raised the alarm when she

heard a noise, saw a horse loose and her son noticed Socks was out of his stall. Socks had been taken 100 metres up the road and tied to a ute when the amateur horse kidnappers panicked and made their escape - their identity was never known, nor their motive.

The beauty of this story is that it remains grounded, behind the big wins were the early mornings, the quiet miles, the familiar routines, the owners who had waited a long time for a good one, and the trainer-driver who knew how to let the horse become what he was capable of becoming. That is the essence of harness racing, it is not only the roar of the grandstand or the glitter of the feature race - it is the feed tins, the hobbles, the jog miles, the patience, the hope, and the local people who keep believing.

Steve Turnbull sitting quietly behind a champion.



(Image credit: HRNSW)

Smooth Satin gave Bathurst all of that - and his name lives on through the Smooth Satin Cup, a fitting tribute at the Bathurst Gold Crown Carnival to a horse who carried the region's pride with distinction. For newer followers of the sport, the name may appear simply as part of the program. For those who remember him, it means much more.

Socks, who was bred and nurtured from a small foal.

Steve Turnbull sitting quietly behind a champion.

Laurie and Gwen Paton watching a dream unfold.

Bathurst beating with the heart of a Grand Circuit winner.

And it means that every now and then, from a local stable, on a country road, out of the rhythm of ordinary work, a horse can emerge who makes the whole district stand a little taller.

THE PINK BONNET DOMINATED BY BATHURST GIRLS



Pink Bonnet winner – Shes A Delaney (Image credit: Facebook – Club Menangle)

Anyone over the years who has been training a 2YO filly has aspired to winning the Pink Bonnet Stakes.

It was first run in 1978 and the 2026 edition was dominated by Bathurst-trained fillies, with four of the eight runners coming down the mountain to try to take home a Pink Bonnet.

Well, Anthony Frisby did beat his fellow Bathurst trainers in Phoebe Betts, Nathan Hurst and Amanda Turnbull when his filly, Shes A Delaney, gave her rivals a pacing lesson after leading all the way.

“She is going to repay her owners many times over.



Image credit: Facebook – Club Menangle

WHAT'S COMING UP!

JUNE: Members badge draw – 10/6/26

JULY: Meat Raffles – 1/7/26

Members badge draw – 8/7/26

AUGUST: Meat raffle – 5/8/26

Members badge draw – 12/8/26

Nutrien Sale race

HEATS – 19/8/26

Nutrien Sale race

FINAL – 26/8/26

This was just her sixth start in a race and the win took her earnings to \$36,078. Considering she was a \$20,000 purchase from the 2025 Sydney Nutrien Sale, she is going to repay her owners many times over.

Shes A Delaney will become a valuable broodmare in years to come as she is a granddaughter of the 2017 Australian Broodmare of the Year, Amarillen.

She is also a half-sister to Frizza, named after Anthony Frisby, who has won 3 races to date. Her name is derived from Anthony's wife, Caite, whose maiden name was Delaney.

After a horrid draw, she also finished 3rd in the Nutrien Fillies Sales Final and advanced her earnings to \$64,467.

WINNERS ARE GRINNERS

The month of May, in Harness Racing, has been used to raise money for Breast Cancer and has taken on the name of Pacing for Pink month.

On Saturday 2nd May, Club Menangle staged a huge night of racing, most of which was devoted to the fillies and mares, but also included the Group One The Regional Championships State Final.

This \$150,000 race was won brilliantly by the Amanda Turnbull-trained and driven gelding Seaside. He led in the early part of the 2,300 metre journey before handing up to the favourite, Ima Boxa, at the bell with a lap to run.

Seaside sprinted powerfully in the home straight to take over from the favourite and then gamely hold off a swooper to collect and take home the trophy to Bathurst.

Seaside is owned in partnership by Jenny Turnbull and well-known Melbourne participants Harvey and Shelley Kaplan.

Amanda purchased the Downbytheseaside colt at the Nutrien Sydney Sale in 2023 for \$37,000. Harvey Kaplan also took a liking to the colt and was the under-bidder on him.

So after losing that battle, he approached Amanda and Jenny Turnbull and negotiated a deal to buy into the ownership. Wise decision by all parties, as Seaside has now won \$226,980 in his 36 career starts, with the promise of much more to come.



Image credit: Facebook - Club Menangle

DID YOU KNOW - Bathurst Boys Now Dominating the USA



Photo Credit: Vicki Wright Photography "2022 Hambletonian". The McCarthy family, headed by John and Narelle, their sons Luke, Andrew and Todd spent many years of their lives as residents of Bathurst.

Luke McCarthy is today recognised as one of Australia's most elite horsemen in the harness racing industry. He has driven 90 Group One winners, whilst the total earnings of horses he has driven in Australia now exceeds \$44 million. His younger brothers

Andy and Todd are now based in New Jersey, USA and, along with the Kiwi legend Dexter Dunne, dominated the drivers' leader board in North America in 2025. Of the top eight drivers in North America last season who drove in 500 or more races, the number one driver on earnings per start was Dexter Dunne. In second place was Todd McCarthy and his brother Andy finished in sixth position on that list.



Image credit: Facebook - Club Menangle

MCCARTHY FAMILY CONTINUED...

The leading drivers in North America in 2025 with wins in races of \$100,000 or more were number one, Dexter Dunne, with 53 wins in fourth position, Todd McCarthy with 26 wins, and in fifth position Andy McCarthy with 20 wins. This is the first time in the history of harness racing that the drivers' premiership has been dominated by drivers from Down Under. And to think they grew up learning their skills on ponies and horses in Bathurst.

Artistic Lodge Joins the Club as a Valued Sponsor



Raging Bull (pictured) standing at Artistic Lodge

There is something special about regional racing when local people and local businesses get behind it – and this month we are proud to welcome Artistic Lodge to the Bathurst Harness Racing Club's sponsorship family.

Located in Blayney, NSW, Artistic Lodge is run by Jody Bryant and Cynthia Bourke, who bring a genuine connection to the local community and a strong appreciation for the people, horses and hard work that sit behind our sport. The couple are both crazy about harness racing and met at the Bathurst races, back in the Showground days.

“Genuine connection to the local community

When businesses like Artistic Lodge choose to get behind our club, they are not simply putting their name to a race or an event – they are investing in the future of the sport at grassroots level.

Artistic Lodge offers a full service to breeders, with agistment, yearling preparation, jogging up, pre-training, foaling down and breeding mares to any stallion available in Australia. This year they will be standing the impeccably bred son of Christian Cullen in Raging

Bull NZ. Raging Bull's bloodlines combine the very best of New Zealand and the USA, as his dam San Sophia is by the great Artsplace.

Raging Bull was an outstanding 2 and 3-year-old, having 10 starts for 5 wins and 5 seconds. The only two horses who ever beat him were; Smolda (earnings of \$2,415,738) and Christen Me (earnings of \$2,745,747).

Raging Bull's oldest Australian progeny are current 2-year-olds, and he recently sired the impressive winner in Victoria in Nonnas Dream.

We encourage our members, participants and supporters to support the businesses that support our sport. We look forward to sharing a successful season together.

Artistic Lodge can be contacted on 0458 755 580 or via email artisticlodge23@gmail.com



Bathurst Harness Racing Club Celebrates 2025 Award Winners



“A True Love”
Pictured left:
Trent Rue and
Family with
Fran Ovenstone
from Little
Wych



“Windy Hill
Tara”
Pictured right:
Chris Roweth
with Jody Bryant
from Artistic
Lodge

The Club celebrated its 2025 annual awards night in conjunction with the popular Pacing for Pink fundraiser, supporting the important work of the McGrath Foundation.

The evening brought together trainers, drivers, owners, volunteers, families and supporters to recognise the achievements of the past season while also raising awareness and

support for a cause close to many hearts. With the pink theme proudly on display, the night was a reminder of the strength of the harness racing community: competitive on the track, but generous and united when it matters.

The club congratulates all winners and connections who contributed to another memorable year of racing at Bathurst.



Pictured: Jett and Nathan Turnbull
A special congratulations goes to the Turnbull family, with Nathan Turnbull recognised as Trainer of the Year and Jett Turnbull taking out both Driver of the Year and Junior Driver of the Year. Their achievements reflect not only talent and dedication, but the ongoing depth of harness racing in the Bathurst region. Jye Coney was acknowledged as Concession Driver of the Year, recognising an emerging

The 2025 award winners:
Trainer of the Year
Nathan Turnbull
Driver of the Year and Junior
Driver of the Year
Jett Turnbull
Concession Driver of the Year
Jye Coney
Horse of the Year
Windy Hill Tara – Chris Roweth
Juvenile Horse of the Year
A True Love – Trent Rue

driver continuing to make his mark. The equine stars were also celebrated, with Windy Hill Tara named Horse of the Year for Chris Roweth, and A True Love named Juvenile Horse of the Year for Trent Rue. The awards night was also an opportunity to acknowledge the many people whose work often happens behind the scenes – the stable staff families, owners, sponsors, committee members, volunteers and supporters who help



keep the club and the sport moving forward. Bathurst Harness Racing Club extends its congratulations to all 2025 award winners and thanks everyone who supported the Pacing for Pink fundraiser. It was a fitting celebration of racing achievement, community spirit and generosity.

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