



## MEDIA RELEASE

### Silverdale hoping for a Triple Dead-Heat at Kensington

**SYDNEY, Friday December 31, 2021**

Silverdale, the newly established prestige Southern Highlands breeding operation of Steve and Eliza Grant, is hoping for a victorious start to 2022, with three, 2YOs fronting up for Race 1 at Kensington on Saturday (January 1, 2022).

The Silverdale team is quickly building a reputation for producing stock that performs as early 2YOs.

It's also the home of **Subterranean**, who recently returned from his spell at Silverdale having undergone the ultimate gear change to produce an eye-catching barrier trial at Warwick Farm on Thursday (December 30, 2021).

On Saturday (January 1, 2022), the team has three born and bred Silverdale two year olds in play including:

- **Pantonario**- already G3 placed in Gimcrack Stakes
- **Fireburn** - already a pre-Christmas Sydney metropolitan winner
- **Vanderzan** – impressive barrier trial winner

All were born and bred at Silverdale.

### Home of Subterranean

Last year, the team also had **Subterranean** notch a city victory as a pre-Christmas 2YO, the horse going on to win the G3 Ken Russell Memorial Classic in May this year, beating subsequent Poseidon Stakes winner **Ranch Hand**.

“It is interesting to note that two of the four horses mentioned above were not accepted for any of the major yearling sales,” Silverdale owner Steve Grant explains.

“It's not surprising as they had pretty modest pedigrees, even though we thought they were good enough on type,” Steve said.

“However, we were more than compensated when **Vanderzan** and **Pantonario** both sold well at their respective sales.”



Silverdale Stud Manager Rob Petith said **Subterranean**, in particular, attracted little initial interest.

“Subterranean was an interesting case as we were trying to place our less popular yearlings and he was certainly one of them,” Rob said.

“Steve was somewhat insistent that we needed to give the horse a try, so he sent him and a Maurice filly to his friend, (late trainer) Rick Worthington, to break in in the hope they could show something to assist in placing them.

“Rick was very impressed with both, but loved the colt. Once they spelled, they were both still available, with not many ‘lookers’.

“They were both sent back to Rick with the aim to get them to trial and hopefully get them to show something....anything,” said Rob.

“As they got closer to a trial, we very sadly lost Rick after his long battle with illness. Steve actually named the filly Miss Worthington, after Rick, as she ended up being the last horse Rick actually broke in.

“She is in work with Gai and Adrian and working well since returning from a good spell.”

In the case of **Subterranean**, it was trainer Matthew Dunn and his wife Keira who eventually took a chance on him, much to Steve's delight.

“I sent an email to a very good mate to see if he could get a few clients to take a share in the **Rebel Dance - Caves** colt, but all he heard was crickets – nothing,” Steve said.

“We then sent an email to five other trainers. The only one who showed any interest was Matthew Dunn. Keira went to inspect the horse and they committed to take 50% for \$14,000.

“We were very thankful as we needed horses on the track, not in the paddocks at Silverdale.”

## **Welfare first and foremost**

Steve and Rob are both unequivocal about their approach - the ethos at Silverdale is: “Horses first - every time”.

“Every decision is made to favour the horse, not for financial gain. We're very proud that we're given full opportunity to prepare each horse for life - not just for a sale,” said Rob.

“Every horse that leaves Silverdale is sent off in the hope that they will become the favourite in their respective stables, the one that is easy to handle, a pleasure to work with and able to do their best in every circumstance.”



Recent visitors to Silverdale were astounded to find yearlings waiting patiently for the upcoming parades in the tie-up stalls.

“Most people are surprised, but you need them relaxed on race day, so why wouldn’t you teach them early,” Rob said.

“When they finish their work every morning of the prep, they have to exit the barn to their day yard by walking over the treadmill. It’s obviously not operating, but it teaches them to get used to small, tight spaces just like barriers.

“Everything at Silverdale has been carefully constructed with the horse’s current and future welfare in mind.”

## Looking Ahead

Following Thursday’s trial, **Subterranean** will be looking to target a string of black-type races:

- G3 Eskimo Prince Stakes
- G2 Hobartville Stakes



- G1 Randwick Guineas
- G1 Rosehill Guineas
- G1 ATC Australian Derby

Silverdale also has another three horses racing on Saturday with **Rebel Shadow** and **Acrophobic** at Kensington; and **Witch Day** at Gatton.

## Magic Millions Draft

Lot 327	Chestnut filly	- <b>Justify (USA)</b> – Now Now
Lot 341	Bay Filly	- <b>Deep Field</b> – Ostentatious
Lot 496	Bay Filly	- <b>Snitzel</b> – Sense of Hite (NZ)
Lot 590	Bay Filly	- <b>Snitzel</b> – Sweet Sherry
Lot 668	Brown colt	- <b>Tornado (IRE)</b> – Vigilance
Lot 724	Bay colt	- <b>Deep Field</b> – African Rainbow

*Lot 843*                      *Brown colt*       - **Smart Missile** – *Caves* (note that Smart Missile is now heading to the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale)

## ENDS

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Steve Grant or Rob Petith, please contact:

**Holly Reynolds**                      **Left Field Communications**       **0409 462112** [holly@leftfield.com.au](mailto:holly@leftfield.com.au)