

SINGAPORE



Kranji racetrack

In Singapore, Australia holds a dominant market share with nearly 50% of the runners being Australian bred. That is augmented by improving performance statistics which show a 200% increase in Australian-bred stakes winners from 2001 versus the past 3 years.

It is not just the Australian horse that is dominating results in Singapore. Of the 24 registered trainers, 8 started their careers in Australia. These include John Meagher (who has finished in the top

5 every season in the 9 years he has been training in Singapore); and Don Baertshiger (who celebrated his 500th Kranji winner last April).

Meagher has been in Singapore since just prior to the new track opening at Kranji in 2000, and feels the performance increase by the Australian bred in that time is a reflection of the level of investment in Australian bloodstock at home in the same time period. Australia now has better stallions, broodmares and is producing the world's best sprinter milers – and this, says Meagher, is the

Horses in Singapore with 5 or more stakes race wins

NAME	COUNTRY	# STAKES WINS	BREEDING
Cordial Spirit - Ninetyfive Emperor (Sing.)	AUS	9	Rory's Jester (AUS) - Entente Cordiale (AUS)
Why Be*	AUS	8	Success Express (USA) - Charybdis (AUS)
Recast*	AUS	6	Thunder Gulch (USA) - Abonnement (AUS)
Smart Bet	AUS	6	Cossack Warrior (AUS) - Quleter Still (AUS)
Que Expression	ARG	5	Lode (USA) - Quebramar (ARG)
Top Spin*	AUS	5	Arena (AUS) - Gas (AUS)

*still racing



style of horse that is needed to succeed in Singapore.

Meagher's move to Singapore was essentially a career move. Although he had been the top trainer in Victoria several times, he was struggling to make the hard work worthwhile "especially after paying the high tax rate in Australia". His move to Kranji coincided with the opening of the new facility there.

"It's state of the art," he says. "The horses live in air conditioned boxes and everything is clean and efficiently run." The set up in Singapore is similar to Australia as trainers are licensed to the MRA and effectively run their own business. Meagher employs 33 staff, including 4 ex-pat Australians. It is relatively difficult to get international staff, as the green card process is quite involved and the government puts a lot of thought into all applications.

The environment in Singapore is clean, but hot and humid.

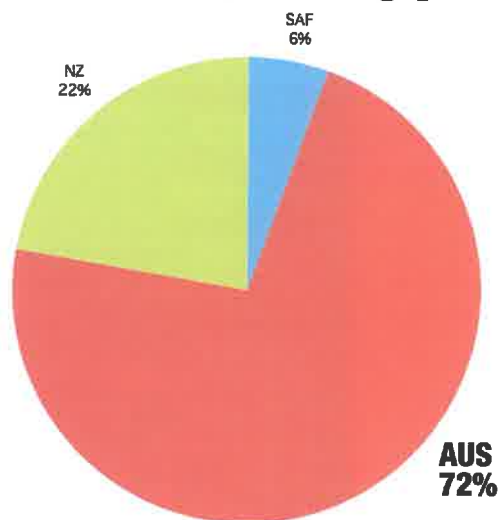
"Australia now has better stallions, broodmares and is producing the world's best sprinter milers."

Singapore is only 6° from the equator, so the weather temperatures are quite constant throughout the year. Meagher loves evening racing in Singapore when the place is slightly cooler (mid 20s) and the surroundings are 'quite beautiful'. Daytime racing can be a bit uncomfortable in the heat of the day.

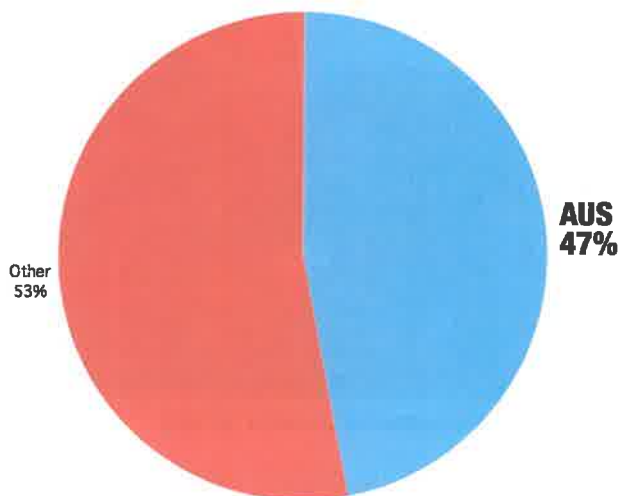
The local population are keen punters and often make decisions as owners based on their gambling. Recently Meagher lost an owner because his horse won a race and the owner hadn't put enough money on it. And it isn't that the owner would make more money gambling, but about the challenge of punting on a winner. Generally Meagher has had a good run with his owners and has only good things to say about his top owner. His latest success is with the Kranji Sprint winner Lim's Fighter (AUS).

Meagher would love to train more Australian bred horses and

Australian bred representation in stakes races in 2008 Singapore



Representation of Australian breeds in Singapore 1999-2008



Australians Michael Lee & Craig Brennan are the Singapore Turf Club's official journalists.

Brennan has only been in Singapore for just over 7 months, and is loving the lifestyle. "My family moved up 6 weeks ago and the kids are loving it," he comments. "The humidity can take a bit of getting used to, but it's a great place for families. I was back in Melbourne in July and couldn't wait to get back to the warmer climate."

With the Singapore stewards panel headed up by Australians Peter Chadwick and John Davidson, and Dale Jeffs doing the honours as the Club's starter, there is a strong Australian flavour about the island nation's racing scene. Brennan says Singapore is a popular destination for Australian trainers because apart from just the 2 days racing a week, there is almost no travel involved. He says the quality of horses is constantly improving in Singapore and that Australian-bred runners have forged a strong reputation with local owners.

SINGAPORE
JOCKEY'S PREMIERSHIP*

Jockey	Wins
J SAIMEE	51
N CALLOW	42
R FRADD	41
D BEASLEY	40
B VORSTER	32
J POWELL	29
DIN AZIS	26
R WOODWORTH	25
R STEWART	19
E LEGRIX	18
M GALLAGHER	17
A PIEZAN	17
M KELLADY	12
KK NG	9
G MCKEON	7

*To 04/08 (season incomplete)

SINGAPORE
TRAINERS PREMIERSHIP*

Trainer	Wins
L LAXON	51
J MEAGHER	48
C LECK	34
S BURRIDGE	32
P SHAW	30
D BAERTSCHIGER	29
S GRAY	27
D KOH	26
D HILL	24
B DEAN	21
L TRELOAR	20
M CLEMENTS	19
H TAKAOKA	19
RB MARSH	16
D DRAGON	15

* To 04/08 (season incomplete)



Aust-bred 2008 Singapore Derby winner Top Spin



Takeover Target winning the 2008 International Sprint

PHOTO: WIN LOWE

points out there are no restrictions on ownership in Singapore and the prize money is great.

The recent Singapore Derby was won by Australian bred Top Spin (Arena-Gas by Strategic) and ridden by Champion 2007 Singapore Jockey Noel Callow. Former Melbourne jockey Callow says it is quite different riding in Singapore as he is independent and is not reliant on one trainer for the majority of his work. Owners are more prevalent in the decision making in Singapore, with many owners having several horses, and so a jockey is more likely to be loyal to a set of owners than a trainer. As to the style of racing, it is similar to Australia, and for a jockey it is like living in an Australian summer all year around. Callow drinks plenty of water and so finds it tough keeping to the right weight, although he says "It's tough anywhere". Racing is usually only two days a week, mostly Friday nights and Sunday afternoons. And as for his latest

star ride, Top Spin, Callow feels that he would be on par with the best in Australia. "It's different though, as horses here don't go for spells. Top Spin has been here about 18 months and hasn't had a spell, but horses are trained differently to cope with that." In that 18 month period, Top Spin has had 21 starts for 13 wins and earnings of S\$1.7million (A\$1.3million).

An independent country since breaking away from Malaysia in 1965, Singapore's racing industry is regulated by the Malayan Racing Association. The history of the Singapore Turf Club is richer and longer than this, with the first race day held in February 1843. Notably, racing was restricted to viewing by members only until 1960. And in 1961, shortly after the public were allowed to take a peek, cross-club betting was introduced between the four clubs overseen by the MRA.

In 1988 the Singapore Totalisator Board was set up by the government and is cur-

rently administered by the Turf Club with off-course facilities added in 1993.

This has allowed the Club to grow and expand with a new track opened at Kranji in 2000. The grand opening was celebrated with the inaugural running of the Singapore Airlines International Cup. Since then, the club has grown in strength and will pay out over \$558 million in stakes money for the 1100 horses racing in 2008.

While the Singapore Turf Club is administered by the MRA, from a practical point of view, it is run as a separate entity. There are only a few races each year where horses trained in Singapore can compete in Malaysia and vice versa.

It is a tough ask to grow from 50% of the market share, but Australian horses are performing and proving they are the best suited for the environment and the best quality performers. This gives the Australian industry a sound marketing base to increase our presence in Singapore. 