

Preferment comes full circle

Zabeel's four time Australian Group One winning son Preferment has, says Brighthill Farm's Nick King, made it full circle; beginning his life at Cambridge Stud and now retired just ten minutes down the road - back where he belongs in New Zealand.

Describing the handsome and high class Preferment as "the embodiment of the New Zealand thoroughbred," King is extremely proud to be standing the well related six-year-old who was syndicated quickly upon his retirement last year.

Racing through from the Sydney autumn to the Brisbane winter, Preferment was a bit behind the eight-ball in terms of retirement announcement but still Brighthill managed to secure him a quality book of 116 mares.

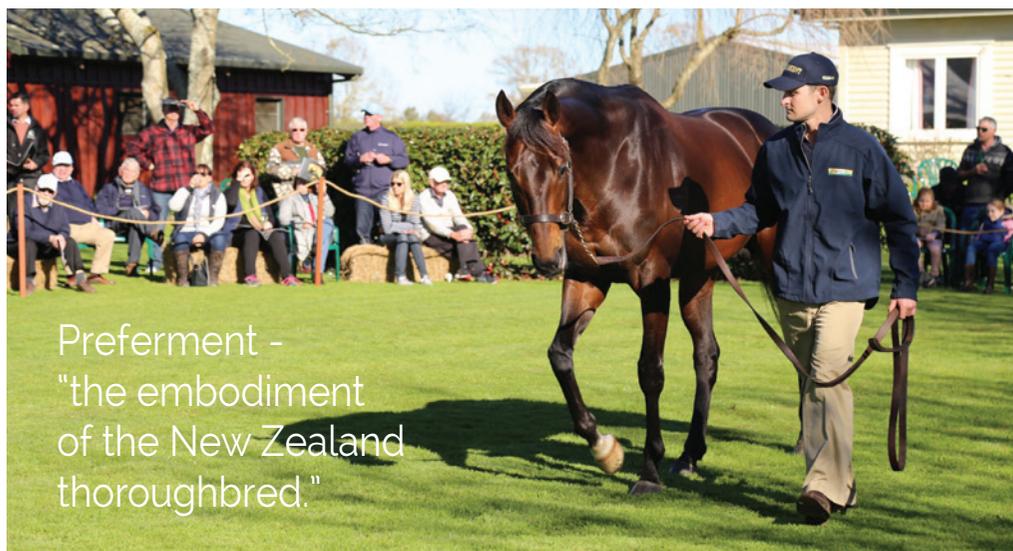
With several owners including Debbie Kepitis, and the Huddy and Cook families remaining in the ownership, Preferment proved popular with local breeders who were keen to support him by purchasing shares. And there has also been international interest with Yulong Investments a major shareholder.

"Other stallions had a bit of a jump on him last spring," King said, "but he well and truly made up for lost time and we are rapt that he attracted such a good book in what is a highly competitive market."

A Karaka graduate purchased by the Chris Waller stable, Preferment showed enough early to race a couple of times (including a Sandown third) at two but he was of course best known for his form at three and beyond; his 29 starts yielding five wins from 2000m to 2500m.

The winner of over \$3.4 million, Preferment was seen at his best with victories in the Victoria Derby-Gr.1, 2500m, the Turnbull Stakes-Gr.1, 2000m, The BMW-Gr.1, 2400m, the Australian Cup-Gr.1, 2000m and the Hill Stakes-Gr.2, 2000m.

"The last major son of Zabeel to retire to stud," Preferment is one of that legendary stallion's 166 stakes winners and 47 Group One winners. A brother to Group Three winner Rezoned out of a Flying Spur half-sister to Group Two galloper Dances On Waves, Preferment hails from a versatile



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family; one that also produced the Group One sprinter Ancient Song.

Zabeel's sixth highest prize money earner (no mean feat considering the quality of his progeny), Preferment was adaptable on the track; winning races from well back and on pace and King is confident that he will fare well from his Brighthill base.

"He has let down beautifully and you can still that real racetrack quality in him."

The acquisition of Preferment has been part of a big 12 months for Brighthill who, despite never dealing with big numbers (around 30 or so youngsters making their way from birth to the sales each year), has been represented by three high class performers this season.

A home-bred for His Highness Sheikh Mohammed Bin Khalifa Al Maktoum (also breeder of the Brighthill born and raised South African Group One winner Rumya), Eight Carat's great granddaughter Hiyaam enjoyed big race success

when claiming the Vinery Stud Stakes-Gr.1, 2000m at Rosehill in March.

Third in that high quality race was Aloisia, another Brighthill born and raised filly who was so impressive taking out last spring's Thousand Guineas-Gr.1, 1600m at Caulfield.

Meanwhile in New Zealand Scott Base has led the way earning the distinction of being the country's highest rated three-year-old male having won four of his last seven starts including the inaugural running of the Karaka Million 3Y0 Classic-Listed, 1600m (impressively swamping his rivals from the rear having struck trouble in running) and the Wellington Guineas-Gr.2, 1400m.

"You will see him in Melbourne in the spring," King said, excited by stable reports that the son of Brighthill's regally bred Group Three winner Dalghar is back in work and thriving.

Also the sire of dual Listed winner Astara, the half-brother to the multiple Group One winners Daylami and Dalakhani from one of the Aga Khan's great families is joined at Brighthill by Aloisia's dam sire Perfectly Ready, More Than Ready's Goodwood Handicap-Gr.1, 1200m winner whose six stakes winners include the Telegraph Handicap-Gr.1, 1200m winner Signify.

The success that Brighthill has been enjoying is testament to the hard work by everyone involved at the stud, something which brings a smile to Nick King's face, especially when he looks back at the Group One first/third for Hiyaam and Aloisia.

"That was a big day for a boutique stud like ours and we are extremely proud of that result, especially as it means we can look back on how we prepared those horses and know that we've been doing things right, that we have the right staff and the right systems in place."

"It is very important for studs like ours to have good race track results in New Zealand and Australia as it gives the market place confidence," King added, noting that success on the track leads to success in the sales ring.



The King family celebrate Scott Base's victory in the Karaka Million