

Article from:

Koyuna Stud's show success

Fran Cleland

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ONE of Australia's most successful horse studs shone again in showjumping competitions at this year's Royal Sydney Show.

Koyuna Sunset was awarded the champion section one jumping horse and its stablemates Koyuna Sun Dancer and Koyuna Sun Shine took out the section two champion title and the Kevin Bourke memorial grand prix.

Darren Clark of Koyuna Stud said that despite the death of the stud's famous stallion, Souvenir, 30 years ago, the Clark family had never stopped producing top-class horses.

"After a lot of ups and downs and hitting our heads up against a big brick wall in relation to industry-breeding attitude and expectations, my father (Howard Clark) and I decided to take a step back from the industry and concentrate on what we loved the most. And that was breeding competition horses.

"So for the last eight or so years we have concentrated on line breeding our mares to the Souvenir and Brilliant Invader bloodlines, whilst letting our earlier crops do the talking.

"While we may no longer be a working stud like in the old days, you can call us serious hobbyists," he said.

"Each year we select which of our line-bred mares we wish to send to each stallion.

"Koyuna Quarterback is a 16.3-hand grey stallion closely bred along the same lines as Koyuna Sunset. Both Howard and I think he is as close to Souvenir in type that we have bred since he died 30 years ago.

"Koyuna Genesis is a 16.1-hand liver chestnut stallion by Brilliant Invader, out of Lady Dorothy. Lady Dorothy is a Souvenir-line mare and the dam of two four-star eventers.

"The Sydney success has been just great for my father, when you consider that the first Koyuna-bred horse competed successfully overseas 30 years ago," Clark said.

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Winning ways: Koyuna Sunset in a winning performance at an earlier World Cup qualifier, with Wendy Schaeffer on board.

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