

# Breeding influence Frosty Again passes By Tony Logan

Members of the Lewis family shed a quiet tear recently, when they buried their old mare Frosty Again, under the pines that line the driveway into their property at Quantong.

Pictured: Terry and Jenny Lewis reflect on the deeds of their wonderful matron Frosty Again



Photo courtesy of Paul Carracher, Wimmera Mail-Times

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It’s a truism that Father Time waits for no-one and with their 28 year-old matron suffering severe arthritis, the Lewis clan made the difficult decision to have Frosty euthanised humanely, rather than put her through another, long cold winter.

“She was a beautiful mare and part of the scenery here for more than twenty years,” reflected Jenny Lewis. “Frosty was great to handle and a wonderful mother. She always loved a cuddle up. It’s sad to see her go.”

## Backtrack

In the spring of 1984 a newly born bay filly takes her first awkward steps, at Alan Sword’s Glenlyon property in the Daylesford district.

On to the autumn of 1988 and the daughter of Muckalee Strike and Sunny’s First makes her debut in a 3YO Handicap at Wedderburn. Frosty Again gallops badly from behind the tapes then is badly checked and retired from the race by her driver.

It’s November 1988, and Frosty Again has her brief moment in the spotlight when she streets the opposition in a Hamilton Beginners Pace then repeats the dose nine days later in a Horsham Improvers Stakes.

Twelve months pass and the, then-out-of-form, five-year-old mare is purchased from a paddock in the Maryborough district by David Lewis, Wayne Krause and Paul Trembath. “Paul and I were looking for a horse to

work,” explained David. “She was put up for sale after the passing of her owner-trainer Bill Hawke.”

To May 1990 and Frosty Again comes off the track after contesting a lowly, seven horse contest at Finley. She’d finished at the tail of the field, in similar style to her two previous starts at Wangaratta and Charlton.

That was her final trip to the racetrack and the moderately performed mare was retired to the breeding barn as the winner of just two races and \$3,985 in stakes.

Around this time Trembath decided to follow the sun and head north to Queensland. He sold his share in Frosty Again to Terry Lewis, for the princely sum of \$500.

When the curtain closed on her racing career, little did anyone know that another was set to open, and on a much brighter stage. It was the beginning of a wonderful dynasty.

The Lewis brothers and Krause sent their maiden mare to Tarzan Blue Chip and in early November 1991, Frosty Again delivered her first foal. The filly was a plain, small type and was sold as a yearling. Not My Idea became Frosty’s first winner when she saluted for the Lenaghan stable at Kilmore in February 1996, with the late Barry Alford in the sulky.

Next to arrive was a colt by Young Dancer which won five races including a country front at Moonee Valley. ▶

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“Supreme Again was your average, honest country class horse,” Terry said. “He won five from 50 or so and was a consistent placegetter – 14 times runner-up in fact.”

In 1994 Frosty Again produced a filly foal by Echelon, which was later to grace the racetrack as Jolaura.

In a brief career that spanned just on 11 months, this highly talented pacer won six of her 14 starts including a heat of the 1998 Victoria Oaks at Moonee Valley.

On the strength of that effort, Jolaura stepped out as equal third elect in the prestigious Final but she unfortunately suffered a tendon injury and never raced again.

The winner and runner-up that night, Tailmade Lombo and Under Cover Lover, went on to become Australasia’s premier racemares of the era and Jolaura may well have reached similar heights.

“She had great speed and was very tough,” Terry said. “On sheer ability she still rates as the best mare we have ever raced.”

At stud, Jolaura has already produced three winners including the very smart Island Fantasy filly, Lewisienna Jo which became Frosty’s first winning grandchild when she scored at Geelong in September 2008.

Lewisienna Jo’s best racing performance came arguably in the 2009 Group 1 SA Oaks, when she ran down the brilliant Great Western filly Ananz in the shadows of the post to claim victory.

Frosty Again delivered her third filly foal in 1995. The youngster, by Three Wizzards, was also to have her racing career restricted by injury but not before the very exciting Frosty Lady won seven of her 25 starts and earned \$66,396 in stakes.

Her standout performance was in the 1999 Vicbred Super Sires Final when she came from the extreme outside of the second row and produced a scintillating sprint to round up the entire field. “That was our first Group 1 success as owners and breeders and a night we’ll never forget,” Terry recalled.

Frosty Lady’s ability is reflected by the quality of the beaten brigade that night. The records show that those nine mares finished their racing careers with a collective tally of 152 victories and \$1,495,000 in stakemoney.

And like so many times previously, Frosty Again enjoyed a few extra special pats from Terry and Jenny when they congratulated her on another win, by one of the family.

On Christmas Day 1997, Frosty Again produced an impressive black colt by Troublemaker, which was to race as Frosty Bulldog. His racing career included a couple of tough staying victories at Moonee Valley along with the 2003 St Arnaud Cup over Mindful and Sokyola. The stallion was retired due to injury with a record of 12 wins, 15 placings and \$76,721 from 50 starts. Bulldog still enjoys running around a paddock on the Lewis’ property.

Shortly after the Sydney 2000 Olympics, Frosty Again delivered a filly foal by Soky’s Atom. Unraced due to tendon troubles, Frosty Mattina has made a name as the

dam of the classy four-year-old gelding, Abettorpunt.

‘Punter’ has successfully mixed it against the best of his age group since scoring on debut at Terang in July 2010 and is the winner to date of 16 races and \$189,932 from only 34 starts.

His CV includes victories in a Breeders Crown 2YO semi-final, a heat of the Victoria Derby and the 2012 Charlton Pacing Cup in track record time.

While the ‘big one’ has proved elusive to date, there’s certainly no questioning ‘Punter’s’ courage and ability, shown last season when runner-up to Sushi Sushi in the Australasian Breeders Crown Final and the likes of Excel Stride, Caribbean Blaster and Mustang Mach following the pocket powerhouse home.

Frosty Again left a D M Dilinger colt in the springtime of 2002. Frosty Adonis was a useful performer on the racetrack and notched up eight wins, 14 minors and \$33,594 from 47 starts, including ‘four in a row’ on the Western Victorian circuit in the autumn of 2007.

New Year 2004 saw the arrival of the Armbro Operative filly, Frostyana which raced on 33 occasions for five wins, 10 placings and \$30,150 in stakes.

Her best result was in a semi-final of the 2007 Vicbred Super Sires Series when she raced without cover throughout to finish a close up third behind Fususi and Elysees Crest.

The following week those two also fought out the finish of the rich final, while Frostyana never saw daylight at any stage of the race and crossed the line hard held, less than nine metres from the winner.

Frosty Again produced the last of her offspring on the first day of summer in 2005. While the colt by D M Dilinger had only limited ability, Frosty OReilly gave his connections a mighty thrill when successful on Horsham Pacing Cup Day in January 2010.

It was a memorable occasion. The last of Frosty Again’s progeny alongside Terry, David, Wayne and their families, nearly 20 years after their journey began.

Forward to June 2012 and the Lewis family bid their old favourite farewell.

To date the progeny of Frosty Again – daughters, sons, grandsons and granddaughters have won 78 races and \$517,785 in stakemoney.

Not bad for a mare that could win only two races from 28 starts.

With the Lewis team now breeding from Frosty Again’s granddaughters, the matriarch’s influence is likely to be prominent through the record books for many years to come.

“Old Frosty was a special part of our life for nearly 25 years,” Terry said fondly. “She saw our kids grow up, gave us a host of memories and hopes for the future. She put our family stamp firmly on the harness racing scene.”

Vale Frosty Again.