

Emotional final sale for good friends the Leckie family & partners

The late Noel Leckie bred three Group and Listed Winners in the 2018-19 Season, Houtzen, Most Important and Voodoo Lad. Awarding him the Thoroughbred Breeders NSW Presidents Award for Small Breeder of the year 2019 posthumously. Accepting the award was Noel's wife Julie Leckie, who said the award honoured his lifelong passion for racing and would have been Noel's proudest moment in thoroughbred breeding.

Yarraman Park Stud's super-sire I Am Invincible took his personal tally of \$1 million yearlings at the Gold Coast sale to three when Marie Yoshida went to an even \$1 million for the much-admired sister to Houtzen. Fortunately, Noel seeing Houtzen take out the Magic Millions as a 2yo and passing shortly after he has missed the enormity of what was Set To Unleash in the years that followed.

The ninth \$1 million yearling of the sale, the filly is the fourth foal of the winning Reset mare Set To Unleash who has a story of her own to tell.

Purchased for just \$2,500 by Sledmere Stud from the 2013 Patinack dispersal at the Gold Coast, Set To Unleash was back in the same sales ring a year later when purchased by Yarraman Park for \$26,000.

After selling the Group III ATC PJ Bell Stakes, Group III MVRC Champagne Stakes and GCTC Magic Millions 2YO Classic winner Houtzen for \$105,000 to Toby Edmonds 2016 Gold Coast Yearling Sale, Yarraman Park cashed in on Set To Unleash when selling her for \$900,000 to Mitchell Bloodstock at last year's National Broodmare Sale. But she has not left the farm, foaling another filly by I Am Invincible on September 21 and was bred back to the champion.

Mr Leckie spent 23 years on the club's committee, serving as either vice-chairman or chairman for more than two decades. The highly-respected racing identity died in January 2017 following a lengthy battle with health issues. Scone Race Club paid a touching tribute to the late Noel Leckie during the Country Championships Qualifier on Sunday. In a nod to his legacy, Scone Race Club's Function Centre has now been named the 'Noel Leckie Room'.

It was with heartfelt sadness, but the upmost honour, when the May Scone Cup Carnival in 2017 arrived the first annual Noel Leckie Memorial Country Cup was held and the Hunter Thoroughbred Breeders Association (HTBA) President's Award for Life Time Achievement was awarded to Noel's wife Julie. His contribution has made a lasting legacy to the development and promotion of the sport in the Hunter Valley and across NSW country racing.

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