



**MAKYBE DIVA  
1 December 2005**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I move:

That this house congratulates Tony Santic, his family, Lee Freedman and Glenn Boss on the fantastic record win by Makybe Diva in the 2005 Melbourne Cup.

When Tony Santic's Makybe Diva won her third Melbourne Cup, the first time such a feat had been achieved in the 145 years in which this race has been held, an Australian legend was born. At the parade in honour of Makybe and the Santic family held recently in Port Lincoln, I was not the only one in tears and not really understanding why. We have had a tough and very emotional year on Eyre Peninsula, with the Wangary fire in particular but also with shark attacks, people lost at sea and even murders. So, that beautiful summer day on the green lawns by the sparkling blue sea, celebrating a fantastic win with thousands of cheering people and happy children, was emotionally overwhelming for many of us.

Makybe certainly captured the imagination of the nation, but particularly so on Eyre Peninsula. I think the people feel that she is one of us because, like us, she is a bit of an outsider who has proved to be a winner. She symbolises the success of the fishing industry and the people who took the risks and responsibilities of developing it, making the sleepy town of Port Lincoln renowned for its fishing industry and its wealth. Drawing attention to the town and the region in a very positive way that no marketing guru could ever do, it was just what was needed for the morale of the people from the region who have been through so much recently. I thank the city council, the Forster family and all who helped to organise that fun day.

Makybe Diva now joins Phar Lap in the psyche and racing history of our great nation. The mare has a massive girth which is considered a sure sign of extraordinary heart and lung capacity. Phar Lap's large heart was considered a significant factor in his winning ability. Jockey Glen Boss rode his favourite flawlessly, holding back in the field, as is his custom, then racing to the lead past all other contenders to fly past the winning post in a thrilling heart-stopping style that brought a roar of jubilation across Australia and abroad. Carrying equal top weight of 58 kilograms, the mare ran 3 200 metres in three minutes and 19.17 seconds.

What does a jockey do in those all important three minutes? If you are Glen Boss, you talk to your horse. The result proved that the horse and rider understood each other perfectly. In describing the race, Glen Boss said, 'I was giggling at the mile. I've never enjoyed a race so much. She was cruising and she did it all.' In a tribute to the Santic family at the Port Lincoln celebrations in front of a packed crowd, Glen made a heartfelt presentation to Tony. In his speech, thanking the family for their faith and commitment in him to take Makybe to the heights, Glen presented Tony with a golden whip, the trophy awarded to the jockey winning the Melbourne Cup. Glen said that he was fortunate to have won three of these prestigious trophies with Makybe, so he has kept one each for his children and the third he wanted to give to Tony. But he did quip that one day he would love to win another one for his wife.

Lee Freedman took over as the mare's trainer when the initial trainer, David Hall, accepted an invitation to move to Singapore and then Hong Kong. Makybe Diva's success is a tribute to their abilities as trainers. Lee described Makybe Diva as the best thing since sliced bread. He said, 'What she's done for me, the people and for Australia is history.' In the short walk to the winner's podium, he and owner Tony Santic confirmed what they had discussed earlier—Makybe Diva's retirement from racing. Mind you, at the recent celebrations in Port Lincoln, Lee jokingly implored Tony to reconsider Makybe's retirement,

saying that the mare still had more in her as a racehorse. Tony said that if he never had another win in his life, he would not complain, but it is hard to envisage a man with his vision and drive standing still.

Makybe Diva's swansong season contained many highlights such as the winning of the Cox Plate in October—a race that many purists rate above the Melbourne Cup as a test of a racehorse's greatness. The mare's story is an encouragement to all who are written off as being of little value. Tony Santic bought the mare's dam, Tugela, in foal to Desert King, at a bloodstock sale in Great Britain. Tugela foaled at Britton House Stud in England in March 1999. Tony was advised to sell the foal, a filly, because it would always be six months behind the other horses she would race against. At auction the foal did not even get a bid, let alone reach the reserve, and Tony refused to give her away, so he brought her to Australia with Tugela. Tugela produced a colt by Redoute's Choice that fetched an Australian record of \$2.5 million at this year's Easter sale.

The Diva's bloodlines contain many champions. Her dam, Tugela, a dual Group 1 winner in France, was sired by Riverman who was twice champion sire in France. Her grand-dam's sire, Roberto, was an English Derby winner whose progeny includes Cup winner Al Talaq. Other winners in her ancestry were Katsura by Northern Dancer, a five-time champion sire in England and the USA, and mare Noble Fancy by dual UK sire and Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe winner Vaguely Noble. The Diva's sire, Desert King, won the Irish Derby and has proven a good sire of stayers including Desert War and Lachlan River. Now Makybe Diva will take her place, hopefully, as a breeder of champions alongside Tugela and Tony's Smytzer's Lodge Stud near Geelong, although I would love to see her in Port Lincoln.

I recognise and thank the government for its pledge of funding to put towards a memorial in Port Lincoln to this wonderful mare. The depth of feeling and emotion attached to Makybe Diva will be captured in history and part of that folklore will include that this incredible horse, while never having set foot in Port Lincoln, is truly one of ours. Tony and Chris Santic have announced to the world that Makybe's sentimental home is Port Lincoln. Port Lincoln is their home and that is where the cups and the Cox Plate live. I am delighted that a trust fund will be established, through the council and the Eyre Regional Development Board, to accept donations so that anyone in the broader community can contribute to this historic memorial. I am also hopeful that this memorial will provide the stimulus for, and be part of, a bigger memorial perhaps in the form of a hall, wall or floor of fame (maybe all three) that can commemorate the other great success stories that we have accumulated in the region over very many years—somewhere, where the young can go and think, 'If they can do that, then so can I' and where their elders can reminisce about days gone by. The old court house that has been suggested may be just the place as it is so central and accessible, and it would be very appropriate to have the local history group as the custodians.

The 2005 Melbourne Cup also saw the birth of another Eyre Peninsula legend with three of the first four placed horses connected with Eyre Peninsula. Second place horse, On A Jeune, is owned by Phillip McEvoy and Kevin and Graham Moroney, all of Streaky Bay and now of Strathalbyn, and trained by former Streaky Bay identity Peter Montgomerie, also formerly of Streaky Bay and now of Strathalbyn. Phillip said that he and his partners were very happy with the way their horse ran. 'He finished 11th in the Melbourne Cup last year, so to come second on only his second try was a big call', he said. It is predicted that On A Jeune will continue to improve. Phillip's son, Kerrin McEvoy, rode fourth placegetter Leica Falcon. He was just beaten into the position by the third placed New Zealand horse Xcellent. Kerrin rode the 2000 Melbourne Cup winner, Brew, and was then snapped up by the world's biggest stable, Godolphin. He is currently based in England and rode more than 80 winners last season. A number of these were over two miles—the same distance as the 3 200 metres of the Melbourne Cup.

Victoria does not have all Eyre Peninsula's glory. Some of it attached to South Australia when Chickaloo won the \$50 750 Listed Mistral Classic at Morphettville on the same day. Chickaloo is owned and trained on the West Coast. He was bred and is raced by Gerald Schlink, originally from my home town of Lock, and trained by Darryl Carrison. The five year old will go back to Port Lincoln where he will be freshened for the Christmas Handicap at Cheltenham on 26 December.

Meanwhile, along with Tony Santic, we will all settle back into the humdrum of daily living. Tony says he enjoys horse racing and breeding, but his passion is fishing, and he will be going back out there again to work. Congratulations to Tony, his wife Chris, Glen Boss and Lee Freedman for creating a piece of Australian history with Makybe Diva's third Melbourne Cup win. We are all proud to be associated with them and their success.

**Tony Santic**  
**10 February 2005**

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** South Australia, particularly Port Lincoln, has been put on the world racing map with Tony Santic's 2003 and now 2004 Melbourne Cup win with the mare Makybe Diva. Few mares have won

consecutive Melbourne Cups, but Makybe Diva has an even greater claim to fame. She created Melbourne Cup history by being the first mare to win two Melbourne Cups in 144 years of staging the event. Only four other horses have won the Melbourne Cup more than once: Archer in 1861 and 1862; Peter Pan in 1932 and 1934; Rain Lover in 1968 and 1969; and Think Big in 1974 and 1975. Makybe Diva also carried more weight than any other mare—two kilograms more than Empire Rose in 1988. Perhaps one of the best tributes was given by the owner of second place Vinnie Roe, an import from England, who said:

I thought I had the best stayer in the world. Now I know I've got the second best.

Tony has shared his win with his trainer, Lee Freedman, jockey Glen Boss and the people of Port Lincoln. At the public reception given by the City of Port Lincoln in his honour, he said a number of times, that his win was a win for the city, not just for himself. That is a very true statement. It is a measure of his generosity that a few hundred people can claim to have held the gold cup, reported to be valued at about \$38 000. These range from those at the public reception and children attending local kindergartens to patrons in the local hotel bars and, closer to home, my staff, and even my mother-in-law, who is in Pioneer Village. Several people can claim to have held two Melbourne Cups at the same time, including members of my staff—in this case, the 2003 and 2004 cups—and there are photographs to substantiate the claims. Few people in Australia could make such an extraordinary claim, but those who can, attribute it to Tony's generosity and his amazing openness in maintaining that his wins are wins for all of Port Lincoln. He was generous in his praise for his trainer Lee Freedman and jockey Glen Boss. They in turn greatly appreciated the way in which Tony included them in the celebrations, because that is not generally done.

The civic reception was a time for rejoicing, again, due to Tony's generosity. On the afternoon, the race was replayed several times on a giant outdoor screen imported from Flemington in Victoria. Some 5 000 caps and kilograms of lollies were thrown to the crowd, while several hundred helium-filled balloons added colour. The caps were embossed with the 2003 and 2004 Makybe Diva wins, plus the Smytzer Lodge logo (Tony's stables at Geelong).

Makybe Diva has brought fame to the trainers and the jockeys as well as Tony. The trainer for the 2003 win was David Hall, who received several overseas offers after the race, including one from Singapore, which he accepted. David suggested that Lee Freedman take his place, and that also has proved a success for the Santic stable. There has been talk of taking Makybe Diva to France, but her first international venture will possibly be the Dubai Sheema Classic in March 2005.

Eyre Peninsula has many connections with the Melbourne Cup. In fact, we had another horse in the 2004 race, On A Jeune, owned by Phillip McEvoy and Kevin and Graham Moroney, all of Streaky Bay, and trained by former Streaky Bay identity Peter Montgomerie, now of Strathalbyn. Jeune, the sire of On A Jeune, won the 1994 Melbourne Cup. Phillip McEvoy is also the father of jockey Kerrin McEvoy who won the 2000 Melbourne Cup on Brew. Kerrin now rides for Godolphin stables in Dubai in the Arab Emirates. In 2000, when Kerrin rode the Melbourne Cup winner, few though Eyre Peninsula's racing prowess could rise higher. It has, with the 2003 and 2004 wins by Tony Santic's Makybe Diva. Makybe Diva's story is an object lesson for all who think themselves not quite good enough. Tony bought the mare's dam, Tugela, for \$180 000 at a bloodstock sale in England on the recommendation of his bloodstock manager, John Foote. Tugela was in foal to Desert King and eventually had a filly. The dam was brought to Australia for stud purposes. John and Tony's racing manager, Kevin Williams, urged him to sell the foal, because she would always be six months behind the other horses she would race against. But, at the sale, she did not even get a bid, let alone any concern about reaching the reserve price. Tony refused to give her away, so he brought her to Australia, and a racing legend has emerged. The sport of racing is not for the faint-hearted.

Currently, Tony has 200 horses on his books, although he has owned many more over the years. He has won just three Group 1 races: the Melbourne Cups and the Sydney Cup, all with one horse, Makybe Diva. But Tony has other horses that are winners. Marvine, trained by Ross Lyons, has raced at Port Lincoln and, in October, won by 9½ lengths. Port Lincoln Race Club secretary, Ian McLeery, said Tony has other horses that can win at Port Lincoln and can then make Australian and world history like Makybe Diva taking out the Melbourne Cup for the second time. He said that one of the most positive things about the win is that millions of people in Australia and overseas were talking about Port Lincoln, and no money can buy that amount of free publicity. Congratulations to all who have had a part in this magnificent win that has put Port Lincoln and the Eyre Peninsula firmly on the world racing map. Once more, it has been proved that we are the greatest. I support the motion.

**MR T SANTIC**

13 November 2003

**Mrs PENFOLD (Flinders):** I move: That this house congratulates Mr Tony Santic and his team for the fantastic win by Makybe Diva in the 2003 Melbourne Cup.

The win by Mr Tony Santic's horse, Makybe Diva, in the 2003 Melbourne Cup is possibly the highest point in the cup's racing history in South Australia. I congratulate Tony, his trainer David Hall, jockey Glen Boss, and all the stable team who had a hand in this great win. The background to this win would make a compelling film, and I acknowledge the media, particularly *The Advertiser*, *Port Lincoln Times* and the ABC, for much of the information I have found.

Tony, who was born on the small island of Lastova between Croatia and Italy, came to Australia with his family in 1958 when he was six. His parents worked at Geelong in Victoria before moving to Port Lincoln, where they fished commercially for 30 years.

Tony started with a leaky boat fishing for the prized orange roughie in Tasmania, then gained initial success in tuna fishing at Port Lincoln. Times were exceedingly tough in the early 1990s, when tuna quotas were reduced twice, sending a number of related businesses into financial hardship and shutting down others. It was a struggle for Tony to prevent the bank evicting him, his wife and their five children from their Port Lincoln home only 12 years ago. Tuna farming turned around the economics of tuna fishing about seven years ago, thus reversing the fortunes of the Santic family. Now Tony's Tuna International is the second biggest tuna farming operation in Port Lincoln.

With better times in the tuna industry, in 1997, Tony decided to pursue his interest in horses and racing, which, at first, was just a hobby but is now a business. The colours of his forebears' countries gave him the colours for his livery—royal blue and white stars and red and white checks.

Tony went to New Zealand to buy a mare. However, he came home with 30 horses, and it has gone on from there. Now he has 60 horses either racing or preparing to race, and 50 mares in foal. Makybe Diva came from England, where Tony bought an in-foal brood mare called Tugela at the Tattersall sale. The subsequent foal, a filly, failed to attract a bid at Newmarket, so Tony decided to bring her to Australia and eventually sent her to David Hall. Tony asked his staff at his Port Lincoln office to name the foal. The women took the first two letters of each of their Christian names and Makybe Diva was born—thanks to Maureen Dellar, Kylie Bascomb, Belinda Groske, Dianne Tonkin and Vanessa Parthenis.

Tony's base for his horse racing business is Smytzer's Park near Geelong in Victoria. The name 'Smytzer' owes a lot to Australian humour. The story goes that fellow fisherman Sime Sarin working with Tony on a tuna poling boat in the early days of tuna fishing coined the name for Tony's car, an old Valiant Pacer or Bitzer, hence 'Smytzer'. Former bookmaker and Port Lincoln business man, Ron Forster, introduced Tony to Morphetville trainer, Joe Hall, which, in turn, led to Joe's son David. Tony's introduction to the Hall family has forged a friendship that is more than a business operation. David was engaged in 1997 as Tony's principal trainer, although this is not the first connection that the Hall family has with Eyre Peninsula and horses.

David's uncle, Ron Hall, trained horses for Bill Schlink, who owned a horse stud on Glenross, a station property near Elliston (and not far from my home town of Lock on Eyre Peninsula) from the 1920s to the late 1950s. Bill's yearlings topped the Adelaide sales in 1942, 1944 and 1948. Chatham was one of Bill's notable horses. Chatham's win in the Australian Jockey Club's Doncaster Handicap carrying 10.4 stone (about 65.5 kg) on a heavy track and having lost six lengths at the start is generally considered to be the best mile performance of all time at Randwick.

David Hall was born into a racing family and he loved it. It was always his ambition to train racehorses, so it is not surprising that Bart Cummings was his idol. David's skill as a trainer is shown in Makybe Diva's win in the 2003 Melbourne Cup. The horse was being prepared for this race for the past 12 months, just an insight into the long and detailed preparation that goes into champion horses. Understanding horses at this level is something that is innate, not acquired. Then there is the amazing story of jockey Glen Boss's recovery from an injury that could have left him a quadriplegic. Glen suffered what looked to be a harmless fall shortly after the start of a race in Macau in June 2002, but he soon realised that something was not right. He broke the C2 vertebra in his neck and was only three millimetres away from being paralysed from the neck down. He was lucky that one of the best neurosurgeons in the world was in Macau at the time. Glen was put in a halo brace that he had to wear for three months, staging a

complete recovery and returning to riding in four months, instead of the 18 months that the doctors originally predicted. Glen had his choice of the two best fancied David Hall runners in the cup, selecting Makybe Diva over Pentastic.

Tony Santic's Melbourne Cup win, which has brought Port Lincoln, Eyre Peninsula and South Australia into the world's focus, is another victory in a long line for Port Lincoln. Last month (October 2003), Port Lincoln High School drew world attention during the World Solar Cycle Challenge. The school team, Yurno, was the first Australian across the line, the winner of its section and fourth overall in the world behind three international entries. In August, *The Australian* newspaper put Port Lincoln at the top of the list of boom towns in Australia.

Talking about the Melbourne Cup brings to mind that Kerrin McEvoy from Streaky Bay rode Brew to win the 2000 Melbourne Cup. At the time, most of us thought that this would not be beaten by a South Australian.

Tony has acknowledged in one of his interviews that it is also timely to remember the magnificent feat of Dean Lukin in winning a gold medal in weight-lifting at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Yesterday (12 November 2003), the City of Port Lincoln honoured Tony Santic with a public reception at which he was given the keys to the city. Tony is only the third person to be honoured in this way, the other two being Dean Lukin for the Commonwealth and Olympic gold medal wins and Sarah Kelly for being awarded a Rhodes scholarship. Tony's generosity and pride were evident in the easy-going manner in which he signed autographs and allowed everyone who wanted to do so to touch the Melbourne Cup, which in itself is quite a valuable item.

*Mr Brokenshire interjecting:*

**Mrs PENFOLD:** I was not there, unfortunately. I was sad that, as parliament was sitting, I was not able to be present to enjoy the fun and witness a historic event. It gives me much pleasure and also pride to move this motion congratulating Tony Santic and his team for winning the 2003 Melbourne Cup with Makybe Diva.