



DEATHWATCH REPORT 2019



Prepared by the
Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses



+ABOUT

Deathwatch Report 2019 is the sixth annual report that summarises all on-track deaths of racehorses around Australia over the past 12 months. Research and production is by the Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses.

This report was initiated because the racing industry does not collate and publish specific information relating to on course horse deaths themselves. From the period 1st of August 2018 to 31st of July 2019 (the 'racing year'), we have monitored every race Australia-wide and gathered data on the deaths of racehorses on Australian racetracks.



The 2018-2019 death toll

The toll for this racing year is **122 horses**
- **3 more than last year.**



In addition to these deaths

Many **thousands of horses die every year** from racing related injuries off the track in training or they are killed prematurely when they are no longer commercially viable known as "wastage" by the racing industry.

SOURCES OF DATA + KEY FINDINGS

Data for the Deathwatch Report has been gathered from each state's official stewards' reports, which are published on the individual state websites, as well as the Australian Racing Fact Book and various media outlets.

It is important to note that most states do not report deaths while training or in trials. It is also important to note that official stewards' reports are not required to list the deaths of horses caused by on track injuries if the horse is removed from the track on race day and killed in the days or weeks later. From this, it can be drawn that if these deaths were disclosed, **the total number of deaths would be far higher.**

122

RACEHORSES WERE KILLED
ON TRACK (OR SOON AFTER
RACING): MOST COMMONLY
FROM CATASTROPHIC FRONT
LIMB INJURY

ON AVERAGE ONE
HORSE WILL DIE ON
AN AUSTRALIAN
RACE TRACK
EVERY 3 DAYS

Of the **122** horses that died on track, the most prevalent cause of death was catastrophic front limb injury with **61** occurrences. Catastrophic hind limb injury was the second leading cause of death with **11** occurrences. Other causes of death were massive bleeds and cardiac failure.

10

HORSES DIED
FROM CARDIAC
CAUSES

5

HORSES DIED
FROM BLEEDS

1

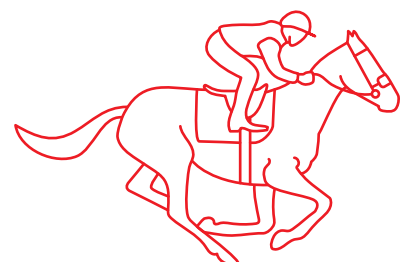
HORSE DIED
FROM NECK
INJURY

1

HORSE DIED
FROM PELVIS
INJURY

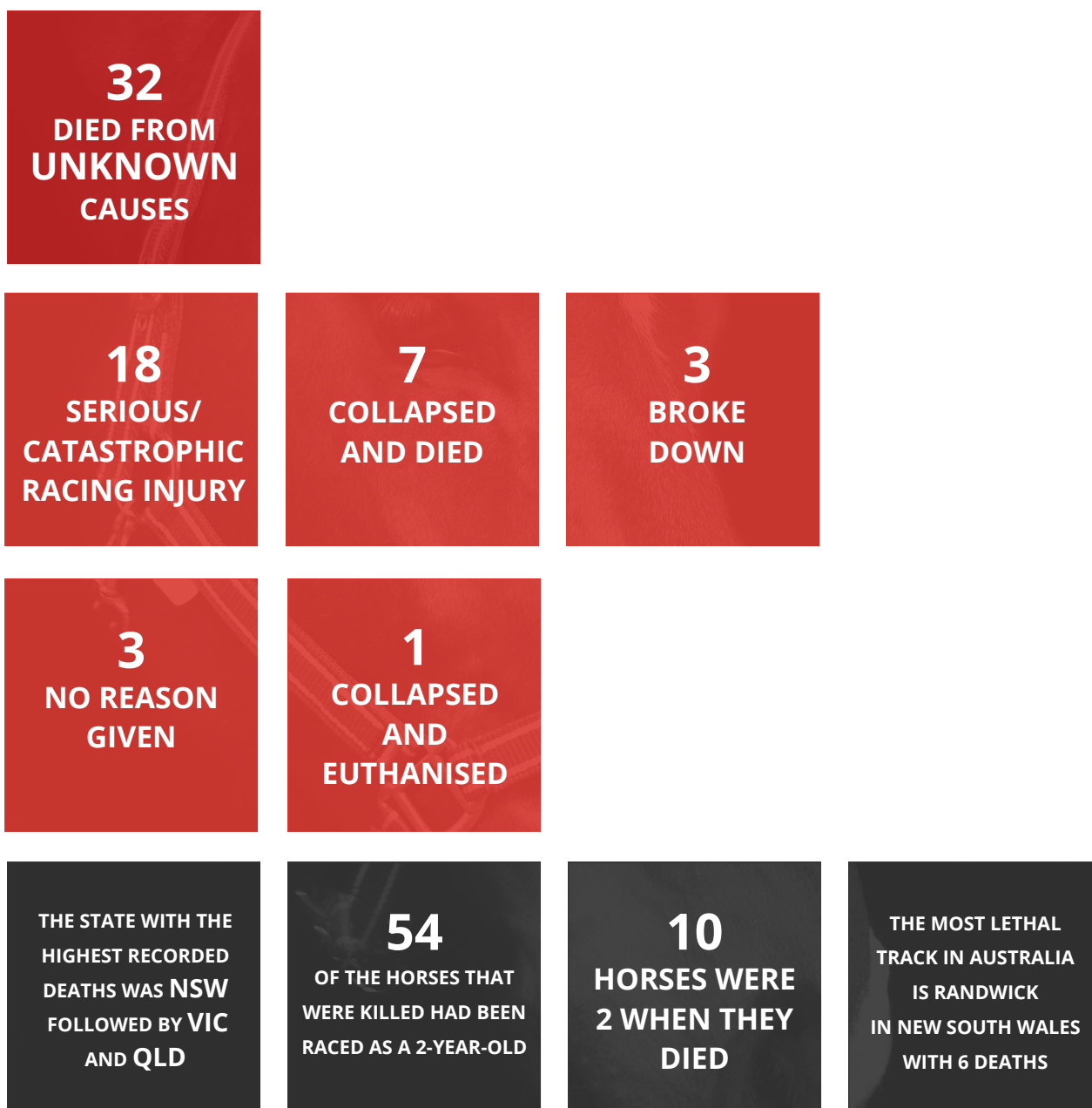
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DROWNING
(during beach
training)



SOURCES OF DATA + KEY FINDINGS

Sub category of unknown causes



Specific injuries include broken pelvis, broken shoulder, severe internal haemorrhage, fracture of the tibia, fracture of the humerus, carpal joint fracture, shattered knee, fractured sesamoid bone, **OTHERS ARE SIMPLY CATEGORISED AS SERIOUS/CATASTROPHIC RACING INJURY, COLLAPSED AND DIED, COLLAPSED AND EUTHANISED OR BROKE DOWN WITH EITHER VERY MINIMAL OR NO DETAILS DISCLOSED.**

CAUSES OF DEATH + COMPARISON TO OTHER YEARS

Comparison to other years

2014

There were **125 deaths**. This is one death every **2.9** days.

2015

There were **116 deaths**. This is one death every **3** days.

2016

There were **132 deaths**. This is one death every **2.8** days.

2017

There were **137 deaths**. This is one death every **2.6** days.

2018

There were **119 deaths**. This is one death every **3** days.



STILL ACTIVE + 'UNNAMED'

STILL ACTIVE

At the time of writing (8 August 2019), several horses discussed in this report are listed as 'active' on the Racing Australia website, despite their deaths being recorded in the stewards' reports.

Surprisingly, some of the 'active' horses have been dead for almost a year. Racing Australia must be more proactive and regularly update horses as 'deceased' to ensure transparency and to avoid misleading the public. Resadowska is just one example.

On the 16th May, 2019, three-year-old filly Resadowska was euthanised due to injuries she sustained during her race.

The Stewards' Report noted: *"Slow to begin. Tightened between runners on jumping. Faltered badly near the 600m and was retired from the race. A post race veterinary examination revealed the filly to have fractured [her] near fore fetlock and in this incident suffered a bleeding attack."*

Due to the extent of the injuries, Resadowska was euthanised on humane grounds, and a swab sample was taken."

Redadowska still being listed as active on Racing Australia's website highlights the inaccuracies in their recordkeeping.

■ Screenshot of Racing Australia report of Resadowska

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AUSTRALIAN STUD BOOK **REGISTRAR OF RACEHORSES** **RACING MATERIALS**

RESADOWSKA
4yo Chestnut Mare
D.O.B: 07-Oct-2015
by REAL SAGA from SKLODOWSKA
[5x Pedigree Report](#)

Status: Active
Owner's Details: Mrs L J Berry, Mr F R Berry
Stewards Embargoes: Current - Nil
Last Gear Change: 12-Jan-2018, Blinkers, On, Comment: Declared - trialed in blinkers.
Trainer: Mr Alwyn Bailey (Cairns)
Racing Colours: Dark Green, Cerise Stars, Dark Green Cap With Cerise Stars
Career Summary: 12-0-0-1 Prizemoney: \$4,500 Total Bonus: \$1,800
1st Up: 3-0-0-0 2nd Up: 3-0-0-0
Firm: 0-0-0-0 Good: 10-0-0-1 Soft: 2-0-0-0 Heavy: 0-0-0-0 Synthetic: 0-0-0-0

| Recent Form | All Form | Embargoes | Gear Changes | Ratings | Noms Wgts Accs |
|-------------|--|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------------|
| 5th of 12 | CRNS 04Aug18 950m Good4-3Y MDN \$20,000 (\$400) Wanderson D'Avila 54kg Barrier 3 1st Roth'n'bell 58.5kg, 2nd Edith Margaret 56kg 0.55.74, 2.15L, 7th@800m, 6th@400m, \$6.50/\$8.50/\$8 | | | | |
| 4th of 8 | CRNS 26Feb19 950m Good4 3Y MDN \$19,000 (\$900) Mr Shohel Kaya 54kg Barrier 5 1st Golden Charles 56kg, 2nd Jack Reacher 54kg 0.54.54 (600m 35.38), 2.35L, 7th@800m, 7th@400m, \$10/\$14/\$13/\$14 | | | | |
| 7th of 12 | ATHN 09Mar19 1000m Good4 2UP MDN-SW \$7,450 Mr Shohel Kaya 55.5kg Barrier 6 1st Miss Celita 56.5kg, 2nd Wee Willie Mac 57.5kg 0.57.08, 5.35L, \$5 | | | | |
| | ATHN 13Apr19 1000m Good4 MDN-SW \$7,450 Mr Shohel Kaya 55.5kg Barrier 4 | | | | |

STILL ACTIVE + 'UNNAMED'

14% of the 122 horses that have died on the track are still listed as "active" on the Racing Australia website despite their deaths being recorded in the steward's reports

Once Were Warriors
Hamada
Royal Butterfly
Snitzelway
Maitre Dee
Egotist

Magnapal
Resadowska
Lord Arthur
Someday One Day
Dark Cove
Super Haze

Holey Gadoley
Hero's Honor
Mulk
Duble Meaning
Lonely Orphan

For screenshots of deceased horses still listed as active at the time of writing this report go to horseracingkills.com

NOTE: THESE HORSES HAVE BEEN RESEARCHED AND CHECKED FOR THE FINAL TIME ON 8 AUGUST 2019. THEIR STATUS MAY HAVE BEEN UPDATED BY THE RACING INDUSTRY FROM 'ACTIVE' TO 'DECEASED' SINCE THIS DATE TO DISPLAY THE TRUTH.



STILL ACTIVE + 'UNNAMED'

'UNNAMED' HORSES

Occasionally this report refers to a horse as 'unnamed'. In those cases, the horse died before being given an official racing name, usually during trackwork or training. Currently New South Wales is the only state to disclose these figures, making it difficult to form an accurate record of racing deaths. The Coalition for the Protection of Racehorses continues to call for all deaths during trackwork, trials and training to be included in stewards' reports nationwide.

1 Unnamed Filly Killed Following Trackwork

On the 26th November 2018, a two-year-old filly fractured her right shoulder during trackwork at the Murrumbidgee Turf Club. The unnamed horse was simply identified by her parentage: *"The Brothers War x Jesse's Miss"*. Despite the unnamed horse having *"no pre-existing condition that had caused or could have contributed to the breakdown,"* the stewards' report concluded that *"the filly injured [her] right shoulder whilst working on the slow work track and after pulling up was non-weight bearing on that limb."* She was subsequently euthanised.

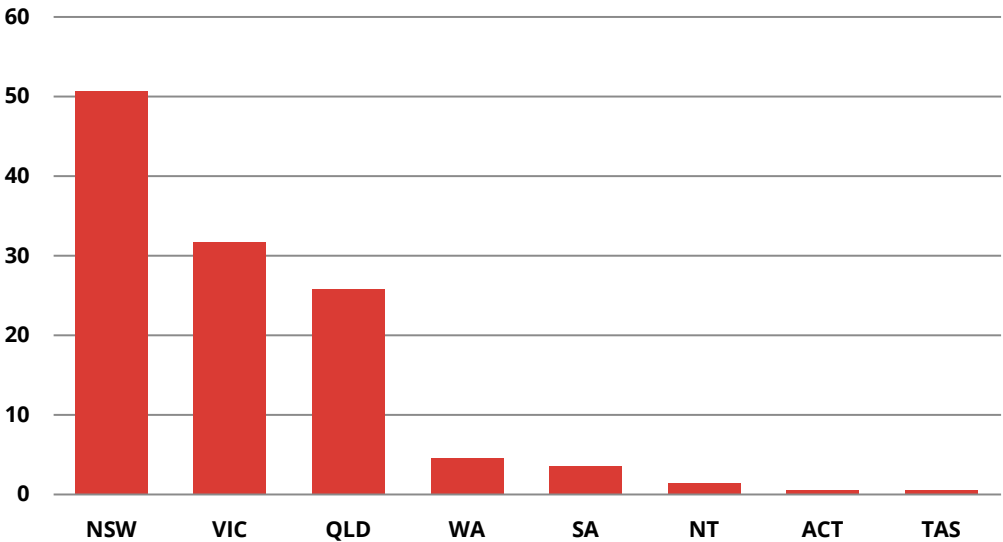
2 Unnamed Horse Fractured Shoulder in Fall

On the 2nd May 2019, a two-year-old unnamed filly *"suffered an injury to [her] upper near-foreleg and fell,"* dislodging her rider, *"approximately 100m after the winning post on the sand track"* at Sapphire Coast Racecourse. She was identified in the steward's report by her parentage, *"Whittington - Point One,"* and as *"the above described filly"*. The track was inspected and found to have *"no areas of concern"* and the horse's history was reviewed, revealing *"no pre-existing injury or condition that may have led or contributed to the filly's injury."* Yet, the unnamed horse suffered a fractured left humerus and was subsequently euthanised.

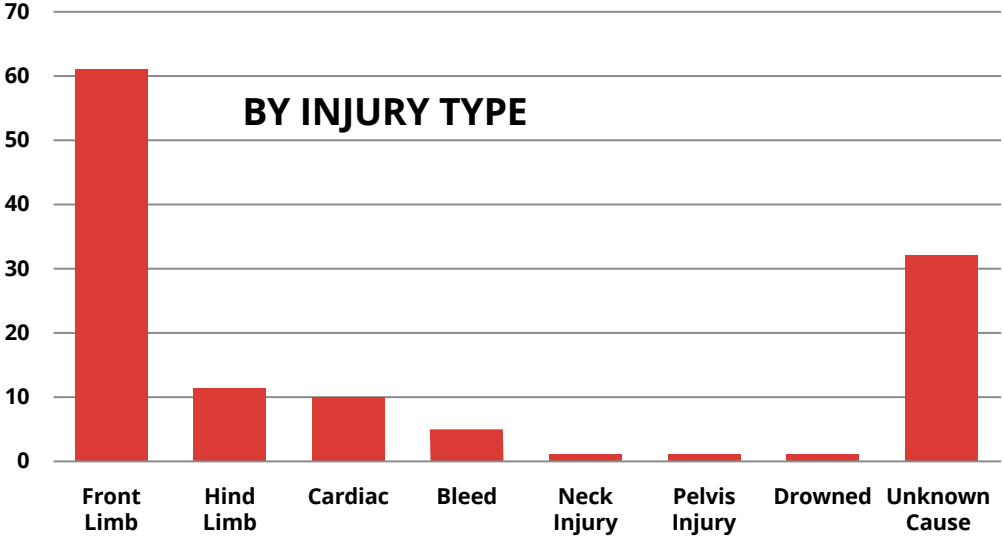


STATISTICS

DEATH BY STATE

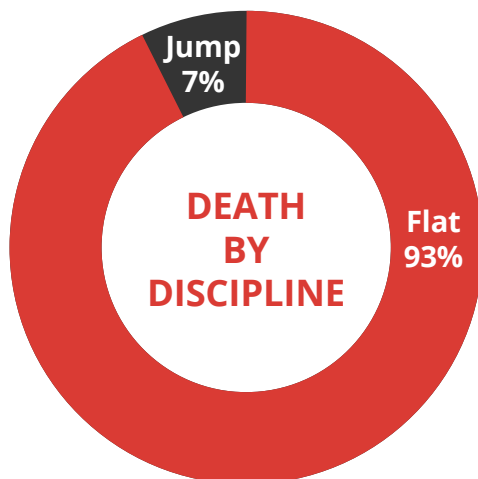
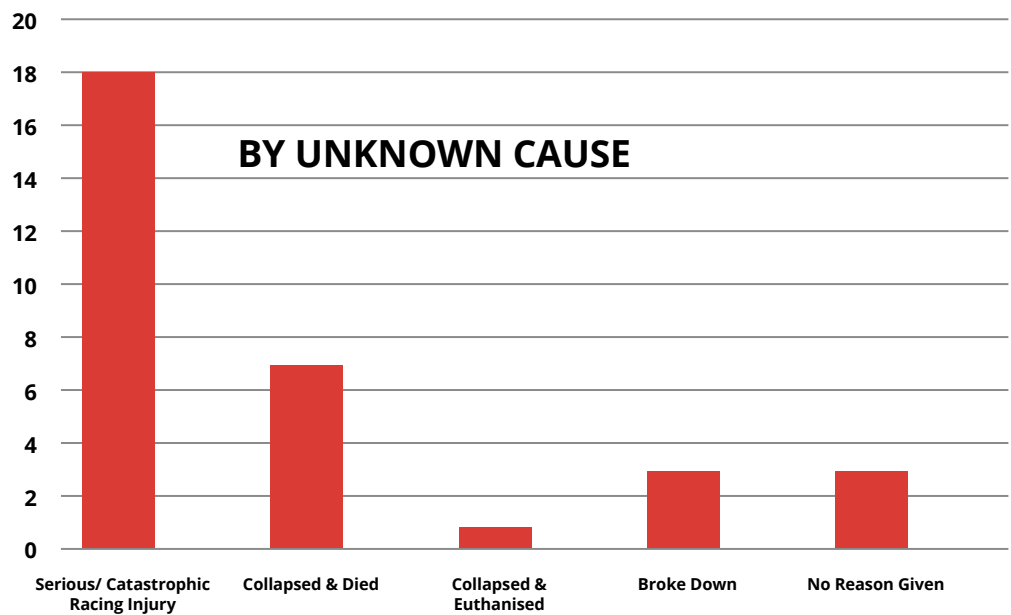


DEATH BY CAUSE

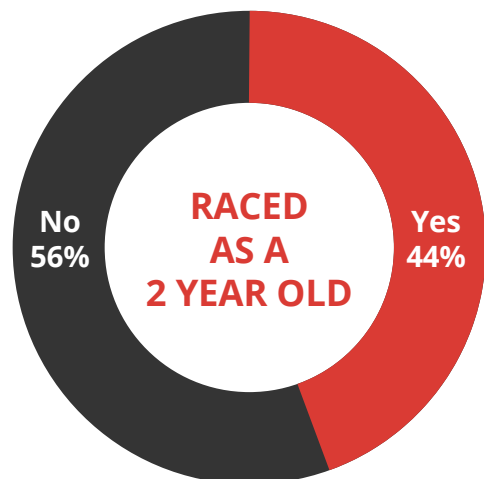


STATISTICS

DEATH BY CAUSE



*It should be noted that most races run in Australia are flat races, with jumps racing only being run on a limited season in Victoria and South Australia. Jumps racing remains 19 times more dangerous than flat racing.



*Many of the horses who did not race as a 2-year-old were in fact raced as a 3-year-old, which is still an under-developed stage

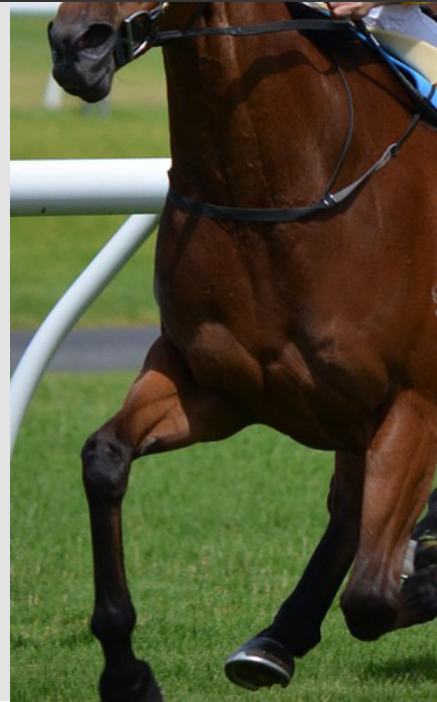
CASE STUDIES

1

Bye Bye Belle Dies Minutes before Winx's Last Race

During Race 6, April 13, 2019, in only her fifth ever race, three-year-old **Bye Bye Belle** collapsed and died. According to the Royal Randwick Racecourse stewards' report, **Bye Bye Belle** *"was eased down by [her] rider on the home turn before fatally collapsing at the 300m"* mark. The cameras were turned away as **Bye Bye Belle**'s body was dragged from the track.

A striking contrast was provided when in the next race, Race 7, crowd-favourite **Winx** ran her final race to much acclaim. **Bye Bye Belle** did not have the profile (or profits) of **Winx** so her death was ignored. **Bye Bye Belle**'s co-owners included former and current AFL players Jobe Watson, Tom Bellchambers and Cale Hooker.



2

Agonising Delay before Super Haze's Death

On the 7th July, 2019, seven-year-old **Super Haze** was killed following an injury sustained during a jumps race at Warrnambool. He was passing the 2000m mark when the injury to his near hind leg occurred. He was put in a bad stride prior to jumping the fifth obstacle and, given the proximity to the hurdle, was unable to avoid jumping.

A witness reported:

"It took about ten minutes to kill him and it broke my own heart to watch. His leg, swinging wildly, appeared to hang from a piece of skin. He suffered; agony, shock, terror. He fought against his death. He wanted to live. May he rest in peace. I will never forget what I saw." **Super Haze**'s trainer, Simon Ryan, told the media: *"I must admit I was down in the mouth after what happened to Super Haze but that's racing."*

* **Super Haze** is also still listed as "active" on the Racing Australia website despite his death being recorded in the steward's report



CASE STUDIES

3

5 Horses Fall Leaving 2 Dead in Horror Tamworth Race

On the 10th March 2019 during Race 2 at Tamworth, 3-year-old **Son of a Dun** collapsed and died at the race's 900m mark. Tragically, his fall also caused a collision involving another four horses. It was initially reported that **Son of a Dun** had suffered a heart attack, however news reports have since alleged that he suffered an internal haemorrhage. During this incident, 4-year-old **James Richard** smashed into the outside fence and suffered both a broken near shoulder and head trauma, with blood apparent at both nostrils.

According to The Northern Daily Leader, **James Richard** *"managed to regain [his] footing after the domino-effect fall before [he] collided with the outside fence"* and was subsequently euthanised due to his injuries. A further three horses hit the ground in the fall yet survived without serious injuries: 3-year-old **Modern Family**, who finished the race without a rider, and 5-year-olds **Cherokee** and **Stella Miss**.



Image: Telegraph Sport

4

Ocean's Faith Dies Due to "Exercise-associated Sudden Death"

In only her first race, the 1200m Armistice Plate run on the 25th April 2019 at Randwick, two-year-old **Ocean's Faith** fatally collapsed. The stewards' report noted that she was slow to begin the race, and that after hitting the ground just past the winning post she was *"found to be deceased"*.

Video footage of the race shows that she was struck four times with the whip around the 200m mark as she was trying to slow down, and then collapsed about 20 seconds later. A subsequent inquiry into the circumstances of her death reported that the *"postmortem examination conducted by the University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Camden concluded that the exercise-associated sudden death was attributed to cardiorespiratory failure."*



CASE STUDIES

5

Ain'tabay Killed Before Race Began

Three-year-old **Ain'tabay** was killed after she sustained a catastrophic hind limb injury on 26th October, 2018, while in the barriers, before her race had even begun. The steward's report noted that **Ain'tabay** was "extremely fractious" and then became cast in the barrier. The report further noted that *"when attempts were made to free the filly, [she] lashed out several times and repeatedly struck the structure of the barriers."* **Ain'tabay** sustained an open comminuted transverse fracture of the mid cannon bone of the off hind leg and was immediately euthanised. The race she didn't run would have been only her third start.



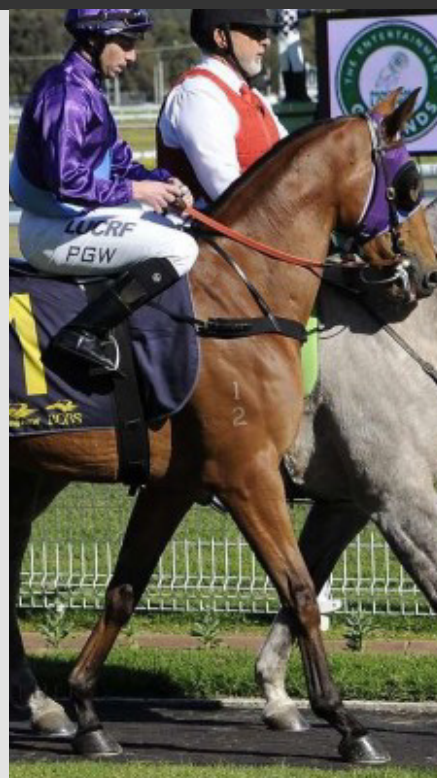
6

Aim to Win Euthanised Following Fracture

6-year-old **Aim to Win** was euthanised following Race 7 at the Ipswich racecourse on 5th December, 2018. According to the stewards, the *"veterinary surgeon reported that the gelding fractured the near fore sesamoid and was euthanised."*

Reports from a racing website noted that **Aim to Win** *"faltered and broke down approaching the 1000m."* It is not unusual for the high speeds during racing to lead to fractures and soft tissue injuries: if the pressure is too great on the fetlock the bones can shatter.

Aim to Win's catastrophic musculoskeletal injury is one of the most common fractures that result in the euthanasia of thoroughbred racehorses throughout the world. A 5-year Sydney University study of 167 racehorse deaths in NSW between 2009 and 2014 found that sesamoid fractures were the most prevalent cause of deaths of Racehorses



MELBOURNE CUP DAY

2013

VEREMA euthanised on the track after breaking her leg during Melbourne Cup.

2014

ADMIRE RAKTI and ARALDO die following the Melbourne Cup.

2015

RED CADEAUX euthanised due to complications from Melbourne Cup injury.

2017

REGAL MONARCH euthanised away from the track after breaking his leg on Melbourne Cup day.

2018

THE CLIFFSOFMOHER euthanised due to fracture sustained in Melbourne Cup.

Melbourne Cup: 'the race that stops the nation'.

This 'iconic' event brings racing deaths into focus for both the average person and once-a-year gamblers. Six horses in six years have lost their lives as a result of the Melbourne Cup.

In 2018, as people were sipping on their champagne, five-year-old **The Cliffsofmoher** fractured his right shoulder and was euthanised.

The ABC News website reported:

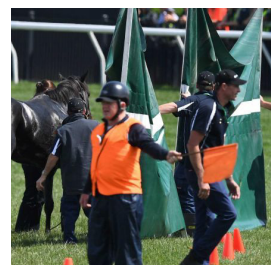
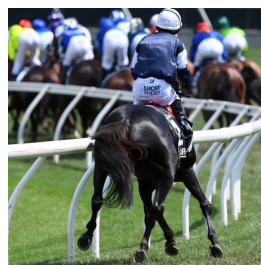
"The Cliffsofmoher suffered [his] injury early in the race and quickly fell behind the field, failing to finish." The race continued, and media captured photographs that one News Corp journalist labelled *"gut-wrenching"*.

Also from ABC News: *"As the remaining 23 horses passed the post, The Cliffsofmoher received medical attention before vets determined [he] was "unable to be saved"."* A tarp was erected around the injured horse and those attending him, protecting the crowd from potential distress.

The public outrage and devastation at yet another Melbourne Cup Day death was unprecedented and **#NupToTheCup** trended all day on Twitter.

At the time of his death, **The Cliffsofmoher** had won \$1.7 million for his owners.

■ **PHOTO:** Cliffsofmoher
Image credit: AAP: Dan Himbrechts



REST IN PEACE

Lothbrok
Once Were Warriors
Sleep'n Pete
Silent Oath
Granddukeoftuscany
Reiby Rampart
Dragon Street
Craiglea Odyssey
Crystal Light
King Tide
Maria Victoria
Poyfection
Hammerstein
Pendeloque
Kerever Park
Rock Forthe Ladies
Rock With You
Rich and Reckless
Knivel
Blinkin Impressive
Hamada
Deny
Gustavus Vassa
Not For Export
Dark Element
Pride of Pierro
Invincible Flyer
Ain'tabay
Ednablue
The Cliffsofmoher
That'Lldo
Befleged
What's Up
Royal Butterfly
Unnamed 2-year-old filly
Werewolf
Luna Missile
Arlington Bay
Aim to Win
Cinque Stella
Top Scott

Craiglea Ella
Unnamed 4-year-old
Midnight Jumper
Snitzelway
Sonic Swish
Crystal Beau
Royal Obidos
Teraway
Slyvia
Miss Pandanus
California Custom
The Wild Wild West
Grundalina
Colditz
Unnamed 2-year-old
Pinch Vista
Golden Mineshaft
Anchor Woman
Dorf Star
French Outlaw
Single Barrel
Maitre Dee
Top Luck
Our Finest moment
Unnamed 4-year old mare
Plea Bargain
Kim's Tarzan
Deep chill
Payroll
Son of a Dun
James Richard
Stellar Collision
Let's Rock
Rokda Kasba
Darling Lili
Standup'N'Deliver
Voodoo Lad
True Character
Assetro
Monarch Chimes
The Cheetah

Saracentinal
Categoric
Whanau Force
Mississippi Miss
Tarka
Bye Bye Belle
Snappy Rock
Ravensworth
Egotist
Magnapal
Ocean's Faith
Columbus Circle
Blues Breaker
Unnamed 2-year-old filly
Belgravia
Court Appeal
Resadowska
Strictly Mambo
Private Edition
Big Bad Baz
La La Lola
Whiskey Archer
George's Gambol
Wayne County
Dream on Stan
Libran
Lord Arthur
Guards Red
Someday One Day
Ramensky
Dark Cove
Super Haze
Dustman
Holey Gadoley
Hero's Honor
Mulk
Lord Gilbert
All Talk
Double Meaning
Lonely Orphan

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND PAY RESPECT TO THE MANY HORSES WHO SUSTAINED AN INJURY DURING THEIR RACE BUT WERE TAKEN OFF THE TRACK TO AVOID THEIR DEATH BEING RECORDED IN THE STEWARDS' REPORTS, THEREFORE PREVENTING IT FROM BECOMING PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE.

THANK YOU FOR READING

Please visit

horseracingkills.com/deathwatch

to view just some of this years horrific deaths
on track.

This report was written by the Coalition for
the Protection of Racehorses.

If you have any more information to share,
get in touch. We will never divulge sources.

horseracingkills.com

