

# ONTRACK

## Thoroughbreds

### PROFILE ROB HEATHCOTE

Rob Heathcote is currently the leading trainer in Queensland. He won the 2008/2009 trainer premiership. Rob prepares his team at Eagle Farm in Brisbane.

Rob believes that owners are the most important people in racing, some he has had from the first year he started training, a testament to his great communication, regular updates and his very approachable personality that makes owners feel like part of the family.

Rob's background is unique. Racehorse training certainly wasn't in the blood, but his story shows that with hard work, dedication, determination and foresight, anything is possible in the racing industry.

One of ten children growing up in Tasmania, Rob came from a non-racing background where his early career choices could not have been any further from Horse Racing. He began his working life with the Examiner newspaper as a Photo Engraver. Upon completion of his indentures, he embarked on an overseas 'adventure' to Europe.

Rob was to spend the next fifteen years travelling extensively all over the world working initially with Contiki Tours as a Guide and a Tour Manager with Industry Heavyweights Trafalgar Tours and Insight International Travel and he also managed a Ski Lodge in an Austrian Ski resort for several winter seasons.

Rob's first introduction to the world of Thoroughbred Racing was visiting the many racetracks of England where he worked with his brother, Wayne. He got to witness some of the world's finest horse flesh including the great, Danehill race.

Rob then decided to move back to Australia to settle down closer to home and start a family and decided on Brisbane due to the nice climate. His brother had a number of horses in training with many of the leading trainers and Rob became his racing manager working with the trainers and liaising with his brother on their progress and race planning. Whilst initially hesitant to take up the challenge of training racehorses with his limited knowledge, it was a challenge he was not to turn away from and he would throw himself into the task, absorbing as much information as he could in the early years. Robert was granted his racehorse trainer's license in 1997 and he applied his life skills and common sense to finish sixth in the Premiership in his first year with only a small team of racehorses. Ever willing to learn and improve his skills, he sought advice from some of the industry greats in Eric Kirwan and the late Bruce McLachlan.

Over the next 12 years Rob has trained over 600 winners and was named the 2008/09 Queensland Metropolitan & Provincial Trainer of the Year. His star filly, Funtantes, was also named Queensland's Two-Year-Old of the Year, rounding out a sensational season for Robert and his team.

Visit Rob Heathcote on the Web [www.robertheathcoteracing.com.au](http://www.robertheathcoteracing.com.au)

