

# E-TRAKKA RIDING WAVE OF NEW BREAKTHROUGH

**W**hen Pinker Pinker won the Group One Cox Plate a few people may have been surprised by the incredible finish she produced. However, not so E-Trakka inventor Andrew Stuart or the Greg Eurell training team. During a recent installation of the E-Trakka system for Cranbourne trainer Greg Eurell, Pinker Pinker's workout was recorded. She produced a typical reading of a Gr1 horse, that being the capacity to run great sectionals with fantastic recoveries. Pinker Pinker ran 21.5 secs for her last 400 metres, and then recovered easily to 100 after four minutes.

Similarly, E-Trakka also recorded the readings of VRC Oakes winner Mosheen for trainer Robert Smerdon, Railway stakes winner Lucky Grey for trainer Gino Poletti and WA Winterbottom Stakes Ortensia for trainer Paul Messara. According to Stuart all of these horses recorded special characteristics now identified as pre requisites for competitive horses. Stuart explained that after seven years since E-Trakka was first released, approximately 20,000 readings have now been gathered from actual training sessions from around the world. The overwhelming evidence is now confirming that E-Trakka can be a very useful tool for racehorse trainers. The spate of recent Gr1 winners with actual training sessions recorded will help identify the benchmarks required for success at the elite level of racing.

E-Trakka uses high precision GPS and a heart rate monitor built into an industry standard saddle blanket to record the horse's speed and heart rate every second of the workout. It then automatically downloads to a software program that presents key information to trainers such as sectionals and recovery profiles.

Stuart said the concept of heart rate had been used for years at institute of sports and by elite sporting teams but no one before had ever collected so much "live" information from the coal face of training, a mission that has taken 18 years thus far and one that continues to produce highly accurate data for trainers to base important decisions on.

Stuart acknowledges the early support he received, particularly from Danny Morton, Robert Smerdon, Colin Little, and Greg Fox from America, without whom he probably would have thrown the towel in.

A turning point in E-Trakka's development occurred 18 months ago when Stuart was struggling to maintain his company Equitronics. Shares were purchased by the original GPS developer of E-Trakka, GPSat Systems Australia, one of the country's leading GPS engineers who develop 2cm



Gr1 star Mosheen

accuracy systems for Australia's mining industry.

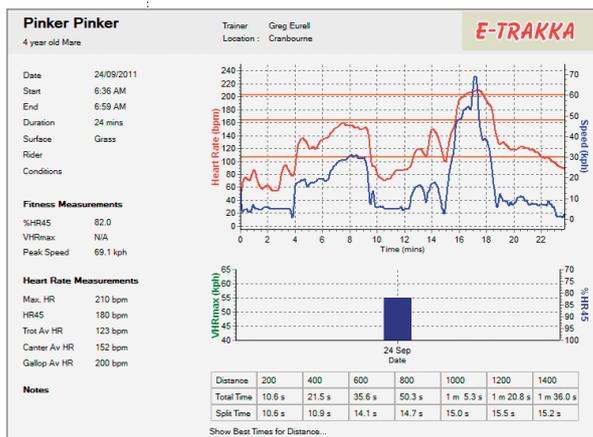
It was during an upgrade of the system to remove the GPS antenna from the rider's hat to the rear of the saddle blanket that a remarkable discovery occurred: the ability to measure stride length.

Stuart explained that when they first introduced a military high end GPS receiver to the rear position it was expected to JUST work; of course, it did not.

Investigations at GPSats research centre on a \$250,000 GPS simulator discovered that the acceleration and deceleration of 2.5 kilometres per hour per stride was confusing the GPS system. Equitronics and GPSat then realised that this information was correlating to stride length. In a world first, after a further 8 months of developing special software, a very accurate stride length was produced. Stuart believes no system in the world is capable of providing this information so easily and with such accuracy to the end user.

Initial results from the stride length information have shown that the horse increases its stride in relation to the speed travelled up to about 60kms per hour (a linear relationship), and then the horse increases the tempo of the stride to achieve high speed. Although early days, Stuart is of the view that constant monitoring of the stride length as well as normal E-Trakka information will help trainers identify talent or lack thereof, as well as ensuing lameness.

E-Trakka's founder is very optimistic that



## Pinker Pinker's readings: 24 Sept

with the addition of stride length and the evidence already acquired, it will convince trainers that the technology is here to stay. Stuart's enthusiasm is infectious, and he's confident that once trainers experience E-Trakka's products they'll become converts to the benefits.

He is nonetheless quick to point out that in no way does E-Trakka information take anything away from a trainer's requirement for good old fashioned knowledge and instinct, noting: "The knowledge will only enhance their training skills, and add to their decision-making process."

Stuart knows that there is huge potential for E-Trakka, and would love to see the day in the not too distant future when most horses will have an E-trakka monitoring every second of their training career. Equitronics development plans are for some of the most sophisticated systems to be introduced, all seamlessly integrated into the racing stable. 🐾