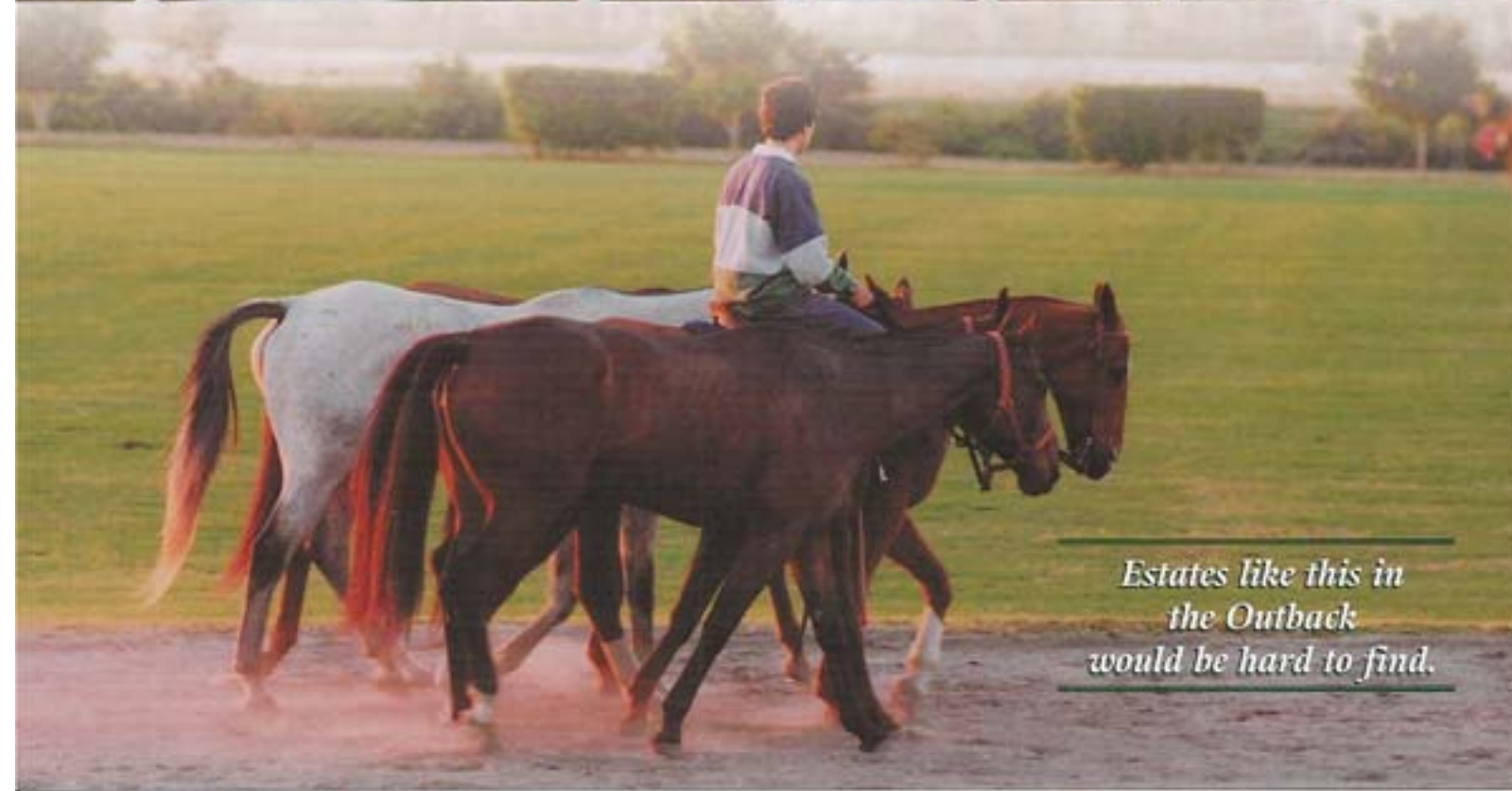




ESTATES FOR EQUINES

A PHOTO ESSAY BY HOLLY GANNON

Description by Ilse Schwarz



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I know I've been living in the USA a while now, but as I recall I've never seen a kangaroo decked out with a polo mallet. Maybe owner Tim Gannon's extraordinary success in the US Open (five wins in seven years) were the result of such a secret weapon.

If only we had known, Kerry Packer (the richest man Down Under and avid polo player) could have rounded up a few and used them in his quest to win the Gold Cup in England; he eventually succeeded but possibly not as soon as he might have with the help of some of Tim's 'roos.

Back to business. Estates like this in the Outback would be hard to find. My friends and family Down Under always mistake my photos of barns for posh houses. Can't imagine what they'll make of this Outback – probably figure I've been drinking too much Foster's and am pulling their legs.

The 40-acre estate, with its full size polo field, unique structures with abundant artistic touches lend a touch of zaniness and fun to this real working farm.

Holly's beautiful photos and eye for detail and form show off Outback more than any words. Although her pictures portray a sense of tranquility and peace, it certainly isn't always that way. All 56 stalls are filled for the season with both Tim's ponies and those of the professionals who work with his mate and neighbor Tommy Lee Jones, the actor.

The Outback is also the stage for many events throughout the year. My personal favorite is the Equestrian Triathlon where we get to see dressage, jumper and polo identities attempt to master each other's disciplines. Imagine if you will Michelle Gibson hooning (editor's note: Aussie for 'galloping crazily') around polo field mallet in hand, or always-in-a-hurry Todd Minikus showing the calm collection of dressage.

Now if only I could drag a bunch of my Aussie mates to 'the Outback,' grab a six-pack of Foster's, fire up the barbie and toss on some steaks. (Editor's note: the folks Down Under would more than likely say "myte" and "styke," but the result is the same – having a great time).

[Editor's Note: To describe the unique Outback Polo Club, we enlisted Fair Dinkum Aussie Ilse Schwarz, HorseDeals.US business honcho.]

