

MANIKATO 'THE MAN'

by Adam Crettenden

The quirky, powerhouse chestnut that forged history.

A champion racehorse, Manikato won races at the elite level over six seasons through the late 1970s and early 1980s and became the first Australian sprinter to earn one million dollars in prize money. But, once getting to the top echelon of racing as a two-year-old, his life endured twists and turns that continually threatened to derail his career, and his life.

From the sudden death of his original trainer Bon Hoysted shortly after the 1978 Golden Slipper Stakes, to the prolonged illnesses and niggling injuries that kept Manikato's name in the headlines, the fact that he could compete, let alone win, was almost miraculous.

The powerhouse chestnut with a quirky personality forged historic moments including victory in the William Reid Stakes at Moonee Valley five years in a row—a record unlikely to ever be matched—and the birth of the Manikato Stakes.

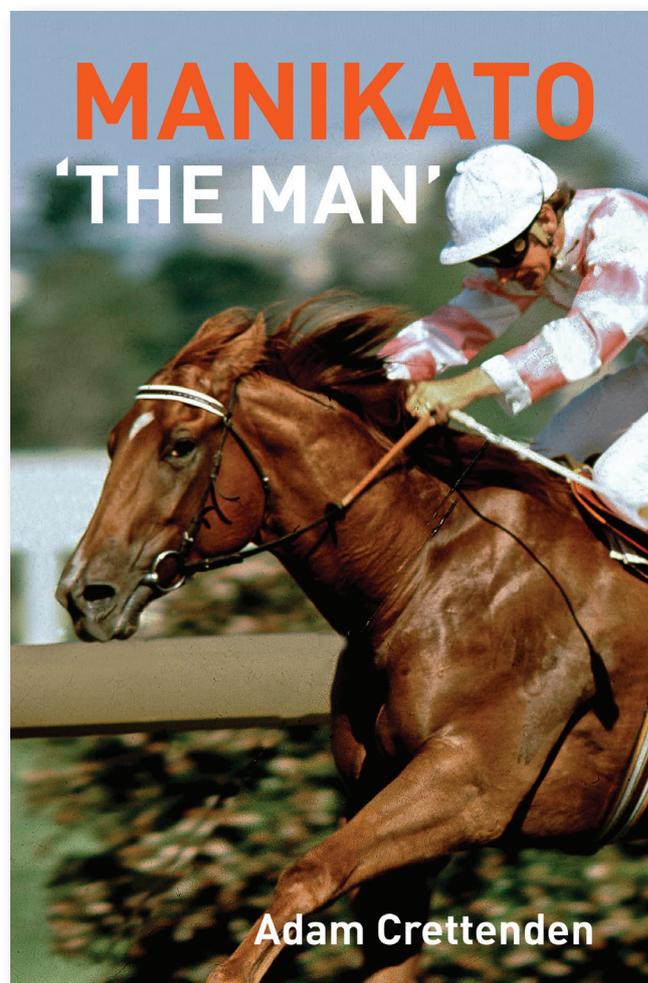
From his forty-seven starts, he only missed out on earning prize money three times.

In 2002, Manikato was inducted to the Australian Racing Hall of Fame.

His life wasn't one of longevity, but his racetrack career certainly was.

1978 GOLDEN SLIPPER — *I thought I had a very good chance of winning the race, especially if I could find the lead because Black Opaque was very fast... I didn't know just how good Manikato was, that was until he charged up outside me in the race... I knew I was in trouble at the 400 but hung on until about 200 and that's when Manikato just raced away and I could see nothing was going to catch him. Black Opaque hung on as best as could and ran 4th but it was like a middleweight boxer taking on Ali. He was too big and powerful.*

— Ray Selkrig (Jockey)



Manikato winning the 1978 Golden Slipper.
Photo © Martin King Sportpix

The Author

Adam Crettenden is a racing broadcaster with more than twenty years experience. He has held his fulltime position as a leading voice of Victorian country racing since 1996, calling over 2500 race meetings. He can be heard on a regular basis via Australia's racing radio network as well as Sky Racing, and is also a racecaller and presenter for Racing.com, a free-to-air TV affiliate of Seven West Media. Adam is the author of *Subzero: More than a Melbourne Cup Hero*. *Manikato* is his second book.