

In the Winx of an eye she became **A LEGEND**

AS WE BID FAREWELL TO WINX, ONE OF THE BEST GALLOPERS TO EVER HIT THE TRACK ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, BRAD GRAY REFLECTS ON HER FIVE MOST MEMORABLE WINS IN HER HOME STATE – NO EASY TASK!

Winx has left us with our hearts in our mouths, jaws on the floor and wonder in our eyes. What a remarkable career. We salute you Winx.

1 DONCASTER MILE, 2016

Think about this for a moment ... in Winx's Doncaster win she gave Happy Clapper 6kg.

That is 8kg before the mare's allowance, and she was only four-years-old too.

After settling down with just three runners behind her, Hugh Bowman was niggling the daughter of Street Cry approaching the 600m but once she squeezed through the pack halfway down the straight, she strode clear to win by two lengths going away.

Bowman admitted he was as worried as onlookers in the run.

This was the day Chris Waller conceded he had a champion on his hands.



RIGHT: Hugh Bowman salutes the crowd after Winx's epic Doncaster Mile victory in 2016



2 GEORGE RYDER STAKES, 2017

Breathtaking. Winx made a habit of winning this race but none were more dominant than the 2017 edition where she annihilated a field that included Le Romain and Chautauqua, with nine Group Ones between them.

The wet track certainly played into her hands but after she idled up the leaders at the 400m it was just a matter of margins. It was 7.3 lengths in the end.

Often it's the beaten jockeys that deliver the best quotes after Winx wins and that was again the case here with Le Romain's rider Glyn Schofield quipping: "He quickened nicely for me and for 100m I thought I wonder where Winx is. Then I got my answer, four in front."

LEFT: Winx ploughs through the Rosehill Gardens mud to annihilate a crack field in the 2017 George Ryder Stakes



Hugh Bowman had to resort to the turbocharger as Winx gets up in the final bound to claim the 2015 Theo Marks Stakes at Rosehill Gardens

3 THEO MARKS STAKES, 2015

This was just win number three in the streak and a race Winx had no right to win.

Having won the Sunshine Coast Guineas and Queensland Oaks, she tackled this 1300m assignment first-up and after getting into a scrimmage at the top of the straight, and still being last at the 300m mark, she launched down the middle of the Rosehill Gardens track to nab Sons of John on the line.

It confirmed what most already suspected, that this four-year-old is the most exciting horse in the country and it prompted Chris Waller to cheekily suggest changing her name to 'Wings'.

With James McDonald in the saddle, this was the last time anyone bar Hugh Bowman has been on her back in a race.

4 WARWICK STAKES, 2017

The great escape. There have been a number of hairy moments throughout the course of her career and one of the many marks of her greatness was her ability to overcome them, no matter the track condition, distance or scenario.

However, this was the best Houdini act of them all.

After bombing the start and giving her rivals a four-length head start, Winx rattled home her last 600m in an incredible 31.88s.

Horses simply can't go any faster!

It was one of the few times we've seen the mighty mare asked for everything she has got.

Typically, Winx is met with raucous applause from racegoers when she wins, but this day a silence fell over the crowd, too relieved to muster a cheer.



After missing the start by four lengths, Hugh Bowman (far right) had to use every ounce of Winx's reserves to claim stablemate Foxplay (Kerrin McEvoy) in the 2017 Warwick Stakes at Royal Randwick



A job well done as Winx and Hugh Bowman zoom past the Royal Randwick winning post for the final time

5 QUEEN ELIZABETH STAKES, 2019

The stage was hers for one last time. Familiar foes Hartnell and Happy Clapper were invited to the farewell, despite their hopes of beating Winx having been dashed years ago.

Internationals, Kluger and He's Eminent added extra intrigue but the great one proved too good for all comers yet again and bowed out at the very top of her game.

A flick of her tail, final wink to the crowd and away she blasted. The stands shook, before punters were left to smear their tears during her lap of honour.

Winx's race career is over but her legend has only just begun.