

Sunday 14 April 2019

VERRY ELLEEGANT STAMPS CLASS IN OAKS WIN



James McDonald salutes the crowd as Verry Elleegant takes out the Gr.1 Australian Oaks (2400m) (Bradley Photographers)

Chris Waller believes the best is still to come for **Verry Elleegant (NZ)** (Zed) after she stamped her class on the Group One Australian Oaks with another dominant win, the fifth of a New Zealand-bred filly in the race from the last ten years.

The filly hasn't been straightforward to train and at times has struggled to settle in her races but the time and effort invested by the Waller team

and jockey James McDonald has been rewarded with her racing manners finally complementing her ability.

Despite a wide draw, McDonald was cool under pressure, easing Verry Elleegant back shortly after the start and slotting her into a position one off the fence.

He didn't panic when Hugh Bowman on second elect Frankely Awesome (Frankel) made a mid-race

move to go to the lead, bidding his time on the even-money favourite before bringing her down the outside with a sweeping run to score by 1-3/4 lengths over Scarlet Dream (Sebring).

"That was a brilliant win. She's a very exceptional filly and I think the best is yet to come," Waller said.

"I think getting her to switch off and settle has been the winning of the Group One Oaks today.

Continued on page 3



PER INCANTO STAKES PERFORMERS **2018/19** SO FAR!

SHADOWS CAST

1st WRC Thorndon Mile **Gr.1**

1st Manawatu Challenge **Gr.2**

SANTA MONICA

1st ARC Railway Stakes **Gr.1**

2nd ARC Hallmark Stud Hcp **L**

2nd Counties Bowl Hcp **L**

3rd ARC Darley Plate **Gr.3**

INDECISION

1st ARC Hallmark Stud Hcp **L**

1st Waikato RC Sprint Hcp **L**

2nd Rotorua RC Arawa S **Gr.3**

CASAQUINMAN

1st CJC Pegasus Hcp **L**

DOLCETTO

2nd Taranaki Cup **Gr.3**

2nd WRC Thompson Hcp **Gr.3**

3rd Manawatu Challenge S **Gr.2**

MAGNUM

2nd J Swap Contractors Sprint Hcp **Gr.3**

3rd Flying Hcp **L**

3rd Hawkes Bay Sprint **Gr.3**

MORE THAN LUCKY

2nd HKJC Chinese Club Challenge Cup **Gr.3**

HASTOBEGOOD

2nd Taranaki 2YO Classic **Gr.3**

SWEEPSTAKE

3rd Levin Stakes **L**

ROCANTO

3rd ARC Hallmark Stud Hcp **L**

TUTTA LA CLASSE

3rd Wananui O'leary S **L**

and there is still four months to go...

2019 Service Fee \$17,500 + GST LFG



LASTUD.CO.NZ



VERRY ELLEEGANT STAMPS CLASS IN OAKS WIN

(Continued from page 1)

“It was a great ride from James McDonald. The barrier was pretty difficult and to be one off the fence going past the winning post the first time was pretty special.”

Verry Elleegant was Waller’s 99th Group One winner and his third Australian Oaks success after victories by Royal Descent (Redoute’s Choice) in 2013 and Unforgotten (Fastnet Rock) 12 months ago.

McDonald has been the filly’s regular rider this campaign and was thrilled to get the job done when it mattered most.

“She’s been a work in progress,” McDonald said.

“I’ve had a lot to do with her the whole time, she’s been tricky but she’s just grown up so much.

I never thought I’d see the day of her relaxing over 2400 but she’s done that brilliantly.

“She was dominant.”

Verry Elleegant’s Oaks triumph was an outstanding result for Auckland-based breeder Don Goodwin, who also maintains an ownership interest in the filly as the manager of the Ellee Syndicate.

The Octogenarian was on track at Randwick to savour the victory, along with a large group of fellow owners, many of whom bought into the talented Kiwi galloper after the promise she showed in New Zealand under the tutelage of former trainer Nick Bishara, another who shares in the ownership.

Goodwin purchased Verry Elleegant’s dam Opulence at the 2011 New Zealand Bloodstock May Sale for \$14,000.

A daughter of Danroad, Opulence is from the great Eight Carat family, with her third dam Cotehele House, the dam of Danewin and Commands.

A two-time winner, Opulence was

bought with a view to being mated with the Zabeel stallion Zed, a horse in which Goodwin had an ownership interest from the outset.

Out of the Group One winning Danehill mare Emerald Dream, a granddaughter of Cotehele House, Zed retired as the winner of just one of his four career starts, with injury preventing him from reaching his undoubted potential.

The first three live foals of Opulence have all been winners, with Verry Elleegant preceded by the three-win mare Black Lace, by Towkay, and Verry Elleegant’s year older brother Verry Flash, a promising four-time winning stayer.

Opulence has a two-year-old by Haradasun which is in training with Sue Walsh, while Goodwin unsurprisingly went back to the successful Zed mating, with the mare having a colt foal by the stallion and is again carrying to Zed.

Race	ATC Australian Oaks Gr.1 2400m
Winner	Verry Elleegant (NZ) 2015
Owners	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd, Ellee, Balmerino Racing Partnership, Mr M Wanzare, Mr TK Barry, Mr BF Sokoiski, Mr A Kheir, Mr KM Stocker, Honeycomb Stud, Mr JA O’Neill, Mr V Kheir
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Zed out of Opulence by Danroad (AUS)
Breeder	J D Goodwin

Connections celebrating Verry Elleegant’s win at the presentation of the Gr.1 Australian Oaks (Bradley Photography)





WHO DARES WINS DOUBLES UP AT RICCARTON



A jubilant Samantha Wynne guides Who Dares Wins home at Riccarton (Race Images South)

If on-course patrons at Riccarton thought the noise after **Who Dares Wins (NZ)** (Iffraaj) won last week was at fever pitch it got even louder on Saturday when he backed up to take out the Gr.3 Coca-Cola Canterbury Gold Cup (2000m).

Trainers Tony and Lyn Prendergast, who had performed a remarkable feat last week to get the imposing six-year-old gelding into the winner's circle over 1600m after a four-month layoff, deserved even greater accolades after the Iffraaj gelding simply out-stayed his rivals over an extra 400m on

Saturday.

Settled beautifully in the trail behind free-going pacemaker Dee And Gee, Who Dares Wins travelled kindly for rider Samantha Wynne throughout. Who Dares Wins issued his challenge at the top of the straight as Residential (NZ) (Pins), who finished runner-up last weekend, went with him as the pair shot clear of their rivals.

A titanic battle was settled in the favour of Who Dares Wins who forged clear in the final 100m to win by a length from Residential with Dee And

Continued on page 5

Race	CJC Canterbury Gold Cup Gr.3 2000m
Winner	Who Dares Wins (NZ) 2012
Owners	J & D Lory, G Dawson, L Power, P Ross, N Sikma, C & K Norton-Taylor, B Fuller, B Hollands, S Rush, B Agnew, M & S Wells, L Allan, A Tallott & S Cunningham
Trainer	Tony & Lyn Prendergast (West Melton)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Wee Tipple by Centaine (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs R M Laffey & Mrs M A Wallace
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale – Festival Sale; V: Ardsley Stud Ltd, P: Phill Cataldo B/stock; \$44,000





Sunday 14 April 2019

WHO DARES WINS DOUBLES UP AT RICCARTON

(Continued from page 4)

Gee battling on bravely for third.

The victory proved a fitting result after Wynne and Who Dares Wins (Darci Brahma) had been beaten by the barest of margins by Saint Emilion (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) in the event 12-months earlier.

"It was in the back of our minds about last year as he was beaten on the bob by Saint Emilion," Tony Prendergast said.

"It is nice to get some revenge and he deserved this one."

Prendergast admitted there had been a few worries about backing the horse up a week after his tough run first-up but the gelding's trackwork had convinced him he was at the top of his game.

"We only gave him some light trotting and cantering but he just thrived," he said.

"Any worries we had were put aside and I think his fitness really showed through in the closing stages.

"He did over-race a bit early on, but once Samantha got him in a rhythm he travelled sweetly and was going away on them at the line."



Happy connections celebrate with jockey Samantha Wynne after Who Dares Wins took out the Gr.3 Coca-Cola Canterbury Gold Cup (Race Images South)

Prendergast doesn't have any set plans over the next few weeks for his charge, preferring to play it by ear as to where he lines up next.

"We had thought about the Riverton Cup bit it would mean running three weeks in a row and he would carry the Town Hall weight-wise," he said.

"I think we will just take him home and tick him over before we pick

something out for him.

"He is far more settled horse this time in and racing really well because of it. We have changed his gear slightly by replacing the norton bit we were using with just a conventional one and that has worked well.

"We think there is more in store for him so if we stay patient hopefully, he can deliver for us."

– NZ Racing Desk



gavelhouse.com

91-Lot auction online now. Bidding closes from 7pm Monday.

AUSSIE ENTRIES DUE 7PM TOMORROW



UNRESERVED.

DAM OF FOUR WINNERS, IN FOAL TO VADAMOS.



UNRESERVED.

WEANLING ZACINTO COLT OUT OF A STAKES WINNER.



LIGHTLY RACED FILLY BY ALAMOSAS, IN FULL-WORK.



UNRESERVED.

IN FOAL PINS MARE & COLT AT FOOT BY OCEAN PARK.



UNRESERVED.

GR.3 WINNER AND DAM OF TWO WINNERS, IN FOAL.

SALE INCLUDES UNRESERVED IN-FOAL MARES FROM NEARCO STUD AS PART OF A STOCK REDUCTION.



FELAAR TRIUMPHS IN TITANIC FINISH TO HAWKE'S BAY CUP

An inch-perfect ride by Leith Innes saw him guide race-favourite **Felaar (NZ)** (Ekraar) to a brave victory in Saturday's Listed Royston Hospital Hawke's Bay Cup (2200m) at Hastings.

Touted as a stayer of real potential, Felaar had finished runner-up in the Bay Of Plenty Cup at his last start after defeating Gr.3 Manawatu Cup (2200m) winner Rock On (NZ) (Road to Rock) at Otaki prior to that.

On the strength of those performances, Punters installed the Ekraar gelding as favourite for Saturday's contest, slightly ahead of Gr.3 Counties Cup (2100m) winner Igraine (Galileo).

Allowed to settle in mid-field by Innes, who had to waste hard to make the 53kg weight carried by his mount, Felaar bided his time before sweeping into contention approaching the home bend.

Igraine, who had tracked the pace throughout, had shot to the front at that point and was being hailed the winner before Innes asked the Stephen Marsh-trained five-year-old for a final effort as he drove past Igraine in the final few strides to claim the win.

Innes was rapt with the performance although he had thoughts of a bigger winning margin approaching the home turn.

"The way he was travelling I thought we would be winning

it by two or three lengths when we turned for home," he said.

"To the mare's credit (Igraine) she really fought back well and made it pretty close. In saying that she is a very good horse so for him to get up and win is a good achievement."

Innes also admitted he had found it hard getting down to the 53kg weight for the mount although the incentive of riding the horse had made it worth the battle.

"It was bloody tough alright," he said.

"I was doing it hard all week, but I knew I really wanted to ride him as he has so much potential.

"He's still a big baby really and learning all the time, but when he puts it all together, he will be a very good horse.

"I'm not sure what plans they have for him but to my mind he wouldn't be out of place over in Brisbane this winter."

Marsh reiterated Innes' comments regarding the potential of his charge.

"He really is still learning so it makes a decision on what we do with him next a little harder," he said.

"He does look like a good candidate for some of the staying races in Brisbane but the right thing to do might be to keep him home, keep progressing slowly with him and wait for a serious attack in the spring.

"I'm just not sure at this stage but the win today will definitely help him up the learning curve."

Owned by Sir Peter Vela, Leo Molloy and Marsh himself, Felaar has now won four of his 19 starts.

– NZ Racing Desk



Race	Hawkes Bay Hawke's Bay Cup L 2200m
Winner	Felaar (NZ) 2013
Owners	S B Marsh, Sir Peter Vela & L J Molloy
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Ekraar (USA) out of Felt That by Faltaat (USA)
Breeder	Monovale Holdings Ltd

Felaar (outer) drives hard to claim victory at Hastings (Trish Dunell)





Verry Elleegant (NZ) (Zed)
Winner of the Gr.1 Australian Oaks (2400m)

DID YOU KNOW?

**New Zealand breds have won 5 of the last 6
Gr.1 Australian Oaks (2400m)**

Visit. Invest. Win.
www.nztm.co.nz

(NZ)
THOROUGHBRED
MARKETING



BEYOND THE FORT SCORES IN WARSTEP STAKES

Classy three-year-old **Beyond The Fort (NZ)** (Niagara) franked her gritty runner-up effort in the Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks (2400m) last month with a comprehensive victory in Saturday's Listed New Zealand Bloodstock Warstep Stakes (2000m) at Riccarton.

The Bill Thurlow-trained Niagara filly won her first two starts before tackling Group One company in the Oaks where she pushed eventual winner, Sentimental Miss (NZ) (Reliable Man) to the wire.

Thurlow was happy to trek her south from his Waverley base for Saturday's contest after the filly came through her Oaks run in fine fettle. That decision paid off in spades as rider Dylan Turner produced a gem of an effort to save ground against the rail throughout before angling wide for better going in the home straight.

Fellow northern raiders Mohaka (NZ) (Nadeem) and Miss Valencia (NZ) (Ocean Park) looked set to fight out the finish at that stage but had to bow to the superior staying skills of the winner who burst to the front at the 100m before easing clear for a two-length victory.

Thurlow nearly missed the race thanks to the vagaries of the Sydney traffic as he made his way to Randwick with stable star Glory Days (NZ) (Red Giant), who was set to contest the Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) later in the day.

"We were stuck in the Sydney traffic rattling around in the back of a horse truck when the race was on at



Dylan Turner celebrates as he guides Beyond The Fort home at Riccarton (Race Images South)

Riccarton," Thurlow said.

"Thankfully I had my wife with me, and we managed to watch the race on her phone. The vision wasn't that great but the cars around us could probably have heard us cheering as they came down the straight.

"She has the makings of a really good stayer this filly (Beyond The Fort) and she did a great job to win this one.

"I couldn't really make out just what happened, but Dylan managed to save a heap of ground and then got her out wide which was what I had asked him to do.

"I knew she was probably the best stayer in that line-up and that was how it panned out."

Thurlow will wait until he gets home from Sydney next week before deciding on where to next for his charge but

hasn't ruled out a trip across the Tasman if she comes through this race well.

"We had been thinking of the South Australian Oaks (Gr.1 2400m) for her as long as she comes through this one well," he said.

"There is also Queensland to consider but until I get back and see how she is I can't really say what we will be doing with her."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Warstep S. L 2000m
Winner	Beyond the Fort (NZ) 2015
Owners	Est late R M Stevens
Trainer	Bill Thurlow (Waverley)
Breeding	by Niagara (AUS) out of Stella Rossa (AUS) by Testa Rossa (AUS)
Breeder	R M Stevens





PRINCESS KERERU SIGNS SEASON OFF IN STYLE

Matamata visitor **Princess Kereru (NZ)** (Pins) signed off on an A+ report card for her current campaign when she scored a hollow victory in the Listed NZB Finance Sprint (1200m) at Hastings on Saturday.

The Ken and Bev Kelso and Mark Donoghue-trained five-year-old claimed her second black-type victory for the season with an authoritative display in the hands of regular pilot, Cameron Lammas.

Despite being on the back foot when the gates opened, Lammas soon had the Pins mare in a favourable mid-field position against the rail as local runner, Vinnies Volley (NZ) (Iffraaj) set a breakneck speed out in front.

Race	Hawkes Bay Finance Sprint H L 1200m
Winner	Princess Kerereu (NZ) 2013
Owners	K R & R P Humphries & PR Partnership
Trainer	Ken & Bev Kelso & Mark Donoghue (Matamata)
Breeding	by Pins (AUS) out of Fleur d'Amour by Thorn Park (AUS)
Breeder	K R; M R; P R & R P Humphries

Lammas angled Princess Kereru off the fence at the 600m before looming into contention shortly after turning for home. Asked for a serious effort, Princess Kereru dashed away from her rivals before easing down to score by more than a length from the late closers, Endless Drama (Lope De Vega) and Cavallo Veloce (NZ) (O'Reilly).

"She's just gone to another level this year," Ken Kelso said.

"If you had said to me last year that she would be doing this I would have laughed at you.

"She's just really strengthened up as she always has had ability, but was just a bit weak."

Kelso also praised the mare's bulletproof nature, which has seen her thrive since commencing her current campaign back in October.

"She's been up a long time but just does everything right," he said.

"She eats and is so relaxed and has a great temperament. Temperament is a huge thing in this game and she just eats, sleeps and is a real little trooper.

"He (Lammas) gets on good with her and it is the way to ride her where she comes with that last run, so it's very pleasing."

The victory took Princess Kereru's career record to seven wins and 8 placings from just 25 starts and over \$250,00 in stakes earnings. Along with her two stakes wins in this preparation she also recorded a valuable Group One placing when narrowly beaten by Santa Monica (NZ) (Per Incanto) in the Sistema Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie back in January.

– NZ Racing Desk



Princess Kereru and Cameron Lammas are well clear as they cruise home at Hastings (Trish Dunell)



The *anatomy* of a
GROUP ONE WINNING
SON OF FASTNET ROCK

Rock 'n' Pop

SERVICE FEE: TBC

Million dollar looks

A \$1 million Karaka Sale topper, he was one good looking yearling and has let down into a magnificent stallion

Strong, well-rounded back end

A prominent feature seen in his multiple Stakes performers, including dual Group winner Surely Sacred as well as Gold Spice, Go Dixie, Rock 'n' Affair and The Lord Mayor

The ultimate blueblood

By champion sire Fastnet Rock, his dam Popsy, by Sir Tristram was a dual Group One winner

Muscular, athletic frame

The perfect asset for stamina and speed. As a three-year-old, he won the Group One NZ 2000 Guineas and Listed Karaka Mile over 1600m and was runner-up in the Group One NZ Derby over 2400m

Correct and well balanced

A trait so frequently seen in his beautifully put together progeny which have sold for up to \$220,000



Waikato Stud

www.waikatostud.com

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



SMART PLACING GETS MR HOOPER BACK IN THE MONEY

Gutsy winner **Mr Hooper (NZ)** (Shamexpress) became one of the first beneficiaries of the recent widening of rating bands on Friday night.

After the three-year-old's second win back in February when he carved up a Kranji Stakes Division 2 field, an eight-point penalty saw him rise to 63 points.

Trainer James Peters could henceforth only run the Oscar Racing Stable-owned gelding in either Kranji Stakes C or Class 3 company.

Mixed results ensued, though. He led and only weakened late in a Class 3 Division 2 race in February, but he fluffed his lines at the start at his next race in a Kranji Stakes C race, beating two home. They were all races over his pet trip of 1200m.

They did not dent Peters' faith in his charge, though. The British handler still believed there was something under the bonnet, even toying with the daring idea of a fling at the first

Continued on page 12



Mr Hooper races past favourite Super Smart to take out Race 2 (Singapore Turf Club)





SMART PLACING GETS MR HOOPER BACK IN THE MONEY

(Continued from page 11)

Leg of the Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge, the JBBA Singapore Three-Year-Old Sprint (1200m) last Friday.

But on second thoughts, he decided Mr Hooper wasn't quite ready to be thrown in at the deep end yet.

Then he remembered the change in ratings effective from April 1. With the wider overlap in the Class ratings band, Mr Hopper was eligible for an easier Class 4 race.

From an original 44-61 range, Class 4 races had been extended up to 67 points.

The easier company sure gave Mr Hooper a decent shot at a return to winning ways, but the outermost alley in 12 did throw a dampener.

However, Peters' booking of Mr Hooper's last winning partner, four-kilo claimer Syahir Abdul was worth its weight of gold in the end.

Utilising his mount's early gate speed, the young Singaporean rider was able to posie up in the leading bunch, albeit trapped four deep initially before easing into a handy spot on the girth of race-leader Super Smart (Big Brown) at the 600m.

The fighting pair kept matching motors in the home straight, but under a determined ride from Syahir, Mr Hooper stood firm to score by a half-length margin on the line.

"He's a nice horse. I did think of running him in the 3YO Sprint, but then I thought of those Class 4 races that are now open to Benchmark 67," said Peters.

"In the end, we went for the softer option. The Class 4 race was a more realistic target.

"I booked Syahir early as he is a valuable four-kilo claimer. He was caught three wide with no cover, but he is a very progressive 3YO.

"At his last start, he missed the start and was too far back, but tonight he was in a good position throughout.

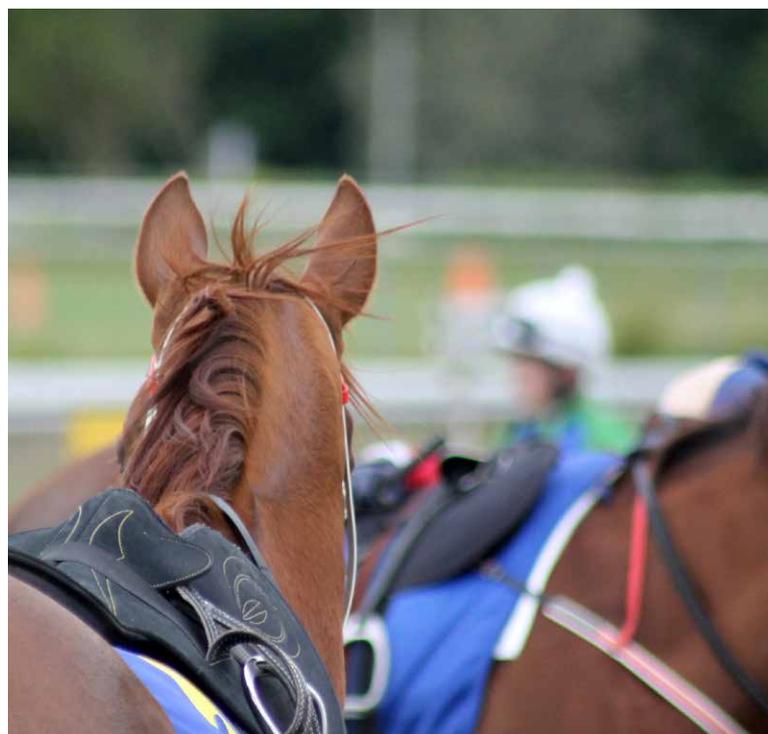
"We were unlucky to draw 14 (down to 12 after the scratchings), but I knew he had the speed to come across," said Syahir.

"He travelled nicely, he wasn't as keen as the other day when I won on him. He probably found Class 3 a bit too tough, and I think the four-kilo claim helped him in the last 100m as well."

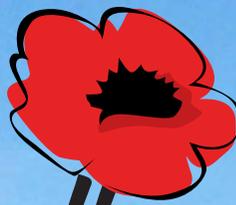
Mr Hooper has now taken his record to three wins and one second from eight starts for stakes earnings in excess of \$110,000 mark for the Oscar Racing Stable.

-Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m
Winner	Mr Hooper (NZ) 2015
Owners	Oscar Racing Stable
Trainer	James Peters (Kranji)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of Kate's Talent by Montjeu (IRE)
Breeder	Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2017 Ready to Run Sale; V: Woburn Farm, P: Hardwicke Racing/Waterford Bloodstock; \$50,000



2019 Tall Poppy



Fishing Challenge



Open to anyone with an interest in the Thoroughbred Industry

Venue: **Kinloch - Lake Taupo**
Date: **Wednesday 24 April**

All teams must be entered by 16th April.

Prizes For



Heaviest Trout

Best Conditioned
Factor Trout

Team with the Heaviest 3
Trout (combined weight)

To enter your team (free entry) contact:

William Fell 0273546625 w.fell@goodwoodstud.co.nz

Bruce Perry (06) 3774363 or 0274779448 bruce@bpbloodstock.co.nz

Mark Chittick (07) 888 7717 or 021433252 info@waikatostud.co.nz

Rules

All team members must have a Taupo fishing license. Licenses are no longer available at the Kinloch store. You can purchase a day license for \$17 online at www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/buy-a-fishing-license-online

Tall Poppy briefing 10am - Kinloch Marina
Competition begins at 10:30am.
Teams must be back in the marina by 5pm
Official weigh-in between 5 - 5:30pm
5:30pm Drinks, Dinner and prize giving Kinloch's Tippy Trout

General

If you don't have a boat, two charter boats are available from Kinloch
Baywest Fishing Charters
(Wally Gross) 0274594365
Fish Her Charters
(Susan Hastie) 0273474437

For accommodation contact
Kinloch Rentals - Graham & Anne Rice 0210585358





RIDUAN RIDES WINNER AT FIRST KRANJI MEETING



Apprentice jockey Riduan Abu Bakar off to his first win in Singapore aboard Venus De Milo (Singapore Turf Club)

Newly-licensed Malaysian apprentice jockey Riduan Abu Bakar got his Singapore riding career off to a flying start with a winner at only his second ride at his first day at the office at Kranji on Friday night.

Uncannily, the Kelantan-born 25-year-old, who sat on his first horse when he was five and honed his craft as a jockey in New Zealand at the Te Akau Racing yard, pulled off the same feat

there – first winner at his second ride.

After giving early glimpses of his riding ability with a third place aboard his inaugural ride Success Come True two races earlier in the \$30,000 Class 5 race over 1000, Riduan made that first impression count with a 10-out-of-10 ride on **Venus De Milo (NZ)** (Burgundy) in the \$30,000 Class 5 Division 2 race over 1600m. Both rides were for his new boss, two-time Singapore

champion trainer and Te Akau Racing's Kranji trainer Mark Walker.

Riduan, who chalked up a haul of 13 winners in 62 rides in his two years in New Zealand for a healthy strike rate of 21%, mostly for his former master Jamie Richards, certainly bore the hallmark of an experienced rookie in the way he handled Venus De Milo, a tricky mare who is not the easiest to handle,

Continued on page 15





RIDUAN RIDES WINNER AT FIRST KRANJI MEETING

(Continued from page 14)

according to Walker.

Trapped three deep, but with cover in between runners in centrefield, Venus De Milo started to improve noticeably from the 500m, all poised to strike as Riduan navigated her through the leading bunch.

The home straight must have seemed endless for Riduan when they hit the front at the 300m and Neo's Classic (Pluck) came whacking away a few strides astern, but the night belonged to yet another proud son of that famous horse and jockey country that is Kelantan (already represented by other notable alumni like former Singapore champion apprentice jockeys Shafiq Rizuan and A'isisuhairi Kasim, Mohd Zaki and Zuriman Zulkifli).

A four-year-old mare by Burgundy, Venus De Milo stuck on well to fall in by three parts of a length from Neo's Classic.

"I'm very happy I got my first

Singapore winner," said Riduan who also received warm congratulations from his former boss Leticia Dragon upon unsaddling.

"In the last two years, I've been dreaming about riding in Singapore and tonight, it's become reality.

"The mare was wide but with cover. I wanted to go out early and she responded very well in the home straight."

Walker was delighted the one recalled back from the New Zealand HQ to return to Singapore to fill the void left in his previously large pool of apprentice jockeys has shown his worth early. The likes of Zawari Razali and Mohd Firdaus are now senior riders while Ng Choon Kiat and Hanafi Noorman have moved to other stables.

"It's obvious Nik had a lot of experience in New Zealand. That's why we brought him back here and it's paid dividends," said Walker referring to

Riduan by the first name he was better-known as in New Zealand.

"I wouldn't get too carried away by that race, but that was only his second ride, and that mare is not very easy to ride.

"There were two plans to the races. I told Nik if she jumps good to go forward, but if the others are quicker, to just take a sit.

"He rode 13 winners in around 60 rides back home and as it was not city winners, he still claims four kilos.

"I think he will notch up a few winners here with the new ratings system. A lot of my horses will carry 59.5 to 60kgs and it'll be nice to be able to take four kilos off."

Venus De Milo has now recorded two wins from 29 starts for stakes earnings past the \$70,000 mark for the Fortuna NZ Racing Stable.

Walker later went on to score a race-to-race double with \$29 shot Sacred Rebel (Sepoy) in the \$70,000 Class 3 race over 1100m to stretch his lead in the premiership to five winners (22 versus 17 for Michael Clements).

-Singapore Turf Club



Race	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1600m
Winner	Venus de Milo (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna NZ Racing Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Kranji)
Breeding	by Burgundy out of Breezed (AUS) by Fusaichi Pegasus (USA)
Breeder	Bijoux Bloodstock Ltd

