

Sunday 30 June 2019

SOFT TRACK HELPS IGRAINE WIN CALOUNDRA CUP



Igraine cruises to victory on the Sunshine Coast (Grant Peters)

A return to a soft track helped Kiwi mare **Igraine** (Galileo) score a consolation win in the \$175,000 Listed Caloundra Cup (2400m) on Saturday.

Trainer Robert Priscott brought Igraine to Queensland with the

Brisbane Cup at Eagle Farm three weeks ago as her main aim.

However, she was never in the hunt after being blocked for runs in the straight to finish 12th.

Priscott said he expected a much better run in the Caloundra Cup,

especially when rain fell all week.

He was proved right when Igraine was far too good scoring by 2-1/4 lengths to Sopressa (So You Think) with 1-1/4 lengths to Travistee (NZ) (Tavistock) in third.

Continued on page 3



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(Continued from page 1)

"She had no luck at her start in the Brisbane Cup after she had run two good races in the lead up. But she likes the track to have some give and she got that today," Priscott said.

"We can head down to Grafton now for their Cup (July 11) which should suit her as well. Then she is staying in Australia to go to stud."

Priscott is best known in Australia for his Group One mare Hill of Grace, who raced well in the Spring carnivals about 20 years ago.

"I have been to Queensland occasionally with some horses and last time I was here a few years back I had

a two-year-old filly Diamond Deck who ran some good placings," Priscott said.

Winning jockey Robbie Fradd battled a cold all day before pulling out a superb ride to win on Igraine.

"The horse is tough and so is the jockey. She was well turned out and the hard tracks had been the undoing of her," he said.

"One thing you know the Kiwis can train a stayer."

Matt McGillivray tried hard to steal the race by leading all of the way on Sopressa.

"It was only in the final 150 metres the winner proved too strong," he said.

Trainer Paul Jenkins was thrilled with the third of Travistee, who was backing up from last week's Tattersall's Cup.

"He is only just out of restricted class," he said.

-AAP

Race	SCTC Caloundra Cup L 2400m
Winner	Igraine (GER) (2013)
Owners	Brent & Cherry Taylor
Trainer	Robert Priscott (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Galileo (IRE) out of Iota (GER) by Tiger Hill (IRE)
Breeder	Gestut Schlenderhan



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LOCAL VICTORY IN HASTINGS HURDLE FEATURE

A patient ride from Aaron Kuru paved the way for local runner **No Change (NZ)** (Shinko King) to take out the feature hurdle race at Hastings on Saturday, the Te Whangai Romneys Hawke's Bay Hurdle (3100m).

The Paul Nelson and Corrina McDougal-trained ten-year-old had been narrowly defeated in the 2018 edition of the race but went one better this season after Kuru timed his run to perfection on him.

Settled beautifully by Kuru in a trailing position, No Change jumped efficiently throughout as the pair tracked race favourite Woodsman (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) who set a solid pace out in front. Kuru angled No Change off

the trail with two fences to clear before issuing an irresistible challenge in the final stages to down Woodsman with topweight Laekeeper (NZ) (Keeper) fighting on bravely for third.

Nelson was quick to pay tribute to the ride of Kuru who has been associated with the Nelson stable over many years.

"It was a beautiful ride," Nelson said.

"He had him in the right place and got out at the right time.

"It just gets better and better as he (Kuru) looks after me and I look after him, so we are thrilled to have him."

Nelson also believed the prevailing Slow7 track conditions had played in No Change's favour as he has struggled

in the past on the deepest of winter tracks.

"I think he (No Change) is very good but he is limited on really bad ground," he said.

"We'll pick our way through the winter, but I don't think Wellington (Wellington Hurdle July 13) is the place for him, but we will work something out."

A useful performer on the flat with seven wins, No Change has now added a further four victories from 12 starts over fences, to his career record.

Race favourite Woodsman tried hard to pull his backers through at just his second start over hurdles and wasn't disgraced in finishing second

while Laekeeper signalled he was on target for the major jumping races later in the year after finishing amongst the placegetters in both the Grand National Hurdles (4200m) and Great Northern Hurdle (4200m) in 2018.

– NZ Racing Desk



Race	Hawke's Bay Hawke's Bay Hurdle 3100m
Winner	No Change (NZ) 2008
Owners	Mrs C & P S Nelson
Trainer	Paul Nelson & Corrina McDougal (Hastings)
Breeding	by Shinko King (IRE) out of Grosveness by Grosvenor
Breeder	Mrs C & P S Nelson

Aaron Kuru salutes as No Change hits the finish line at Hastings (Race Images – Peter Rubery)





PERRY MASON ALL CLASS IN HAWKE'S BAY STEEPLECHASE

A thrilling front-running exhibition has seen local galloper **Perry Mason (NZ)** (Zed) cap a brilliant day for local trainers Paul Nelson and Corrina McDougal when taking out the AHD Hawke's Bay Steeplechase (4800m) at Hastings on Saturday.

Rider Aaron Kuru had earlier piloted stablemate No Change (NZ) (No Change) to a comprehensive victory in the Te Whangai Romneys Hawke's Bay Hurdle (3100m) with a cool, calm and collected display and produced another gem on the nine-year-old Zed gelding.

Jumping fluently throughout Perry Mason put aside any doubt his connections may have had over his ability to handle the Slow7 track as he put the pressure on his rivals a long way out in the second prestige steeplechase event of the year.

Kuru slipped his mount clear with three fences to jump and never looked like stopping as he cruised to the line two lengths clear of 2018 Great Northern Steeplechase (6300m) winner Chocolate Fish (NZ) (Colombia) with stablemate Zardetto (Redoute's Choice) battling on bravely for third.

McDougal was fizzing with excitement as she waited to greet Perry Mason and Kuru when they returned to the Hastings birdcage.

"It's really neat and awesome with the support of everyone here," she said.

"He (Perry Mason) is a hard case, he's pretty cruisy but can get up and truck.

"We were worried the track might have been a bit firm and that Zardetto might have been the better chance, but



Perry Mason completes a comprehensive victory in the AHD Hawke's Bay Steeplechase (Race Images – Peter Rubery)

he's (Perry Mason) pretty cool."

Kuru, who gave up a promising softball career to pursue his riding dreams, was his usual laidback self as he described the performance and what it meant to him to win the feature jumps double.

"To be fair I didn't think the track would suit him but to his credit he was probably the fittest horse out there," he said.

"Paul had said to me earlier that fitness would get him over the line and I agreed and just went for it.

"I don't ask many questions I just get on and ride.

"I'm probably a late bloomer into the racing industry, so when I got the opportunity to ride for Paul and Carol (Nelson), with them being here and me being from here, it was goal early in my

career.

"Now it has happened I'm just stoked."

Perry Mason has proved a revelation since being switched to steeplechasing following three wins on the flat and a victory over hurdles. He has now won four and been placed in three times from his eight steeplechasing starts and will look to further that record in the remaining steeplechase features this winter. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	Hawkes Bay Hawke's Bay S/chase 4800m
Winner	Perry Mason (NZ) 2009
Owners	I See Red Syndicate
Trainer	Paul Nelson & Corrina McDougal (Hastings)
Breeding	by Zed out of Dame Ngaio by Deputy Governor (USA)
Breeder	P J & Mrs S L Kay





SPECIAL DOUBLE HIGHLIGHTS OPENING SALVO AT RUAKAKA

Local trainers Kenny Rae and his daughter Krystal Williams-Tuhoro made the best possible start to their day when they produced a winning double to open proceedings at Ruakaka on Saturday.

Just thirty minutes after two-year-old **Zelenski (NZ)** (Shocking) upset the applearc when downing hot favourite Jager Bombed (NZ) (Charmed Spirit) over 1000m in the first race on the day, lightly raced filly Viola Vega (NZ) (Shocking) led all the way to capture race two, a 1200m maiden three-year-old contest.

Making it a truly special double for all concerned was the fact that both horses were sired by Rich Hill Stud-based stallion Shocking and are both bred and owned by long-time stable client, Lars Pearson.

Whilst both horses produced top-class efforts it was the performance of Zelenski that really caught the eye as the strapping gelding showed he had taken plenty of improvement out of his first-up run for third at the venue earlier in the month.

Rider Trudy Thornton bounced her mount away nicely from an inside barrier draw to track the solid speed set up by the two race-winners in the event, stablemate Diva Express (NZ) (Shamexpress) and Jager Bombed.

Angled into the clear by Thornton, Zelenski knuckled down nicely to out-finish Jager Bombed to take the victory, seemingly with plenty of petrol left in

the tank.

Rae was pleased with the victory as he looks ahead to next season with his charge.

"I just told Trudy, please don't push him too hard as this horse is going to go further than just a two-year-old," he said.

"He shouldn't even be a two-year-old.

"He's very promising.

"The other horse (Diva Express) probably had to work a bit hard to keep the favourite out but she will keep, this guy (Zelenski) will go a long way."

Thornton echoed Rae's thoughts on the future prospects for Zelenski.

"He's a very nice, talented animal who is still learning and very green," she said.

"He's got a bright future and a lot of natural ability.

"The further he goes the better he is going to be."

Rae had also been confident of a bold showing from Viola Vega and so it proved as she provided rider Rowena Smyth with an armchair ride in front.

"I told Rowena that she does have ability and can run so when the penny drops, she will win races," Rae said.

"She can gallop and just needs to get her head turned around a little bit."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Whangarei RC Racing 13 July Whangarei Cup 2YO H. 1000m
Winner	Zelenski (NZ) 2016
Owners	L V Pearson
Trainer	Ken Rae & Krystal Williams-Tuhoro (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Shocking (AUS) out of Grace de Soir by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	L V Pearson



Impressive Ruakaka two-year-old winner Zelenski (Trish Dunell)



Sweynesse is a chip off the old block

Darren Beadman

Sweynesse, is a son of former champion racehorse and super sire Lonhro. Beadman rode Lonhro in most of his 26 wins and he gets to work with many of that horse's sons and daughters at Godolphin.

- A multiple Group One performer (2nd G1 Randwick Guineas, 3rd G1 Spring Champion) beating some of the best 3YO Group One winners in Australia including Kermedec, Preferment, Hampton Court, Shooting To Win, First Seal.
- Winner of first four starts including dual Group 3 wins in the Spring Stakes and Gloaming Stakes.
- A winner at only start as a 2YO.
- A top 3YO Timeform rating of 122 makes Sweynesse one of the top Australian 3YO colts of his year.
- By Lonhro -The Champion 3YO, the Champion miler, the Horse of the Year, and now a Champion sire. Lonhro set a new Australian record of 160 individual winners in a season. His son Pierro, unbeaten juvenile Triple Crown winner, was rated the best juvenile colt in Australia since 1977.
- Out of the multiple winning mare Swansea by Champion Sire Singspiel (5xG1 Winner and sire of 98SW).
- Sweynesse is a magnificent individual. He stands 16.2 hh. He has a powerful hind quarter, a strong shoulder and a great athletic walk. He is very correct.
- Sweynesse is syndicated amongst many of New Zealand's top breeders who are strongly supporting him at stud.



Ray Knight

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SACRED MAGIC ENDS DROUGHT FOR KHOO

Trainer Leslie Khoo snapped a long run of outs after **Sacred Magic (NZ)** (Battle Paint) landed the \$50,000 Class 4 Division 2 race over 1200m on Friday night.

The Singaporean handler has not headed down to the winner's stall since Kubera's Chief scored on February 17. Sacred Magic was only bringing up Khoo's sixth win for the season, probably one of the quietest years he has gone through since he moved from Ipoh to Kranji in 2008.

But the smiles were clearly back on Friday night, with Khoo bullish the worst was behind him.

"At last!" he exclaimed as he led in the Battle Paint four-year-

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m
Winner	Sacred Magic (NZ) 2014
Owners	Happy Stable
Trainer	Khoo Peng Ann (Kranji)
Breeding	by Battle Paint (USA) out of Chato Margaux by Montjeu (IRE)
Breeder	I H Mackay
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: Leanach Lodge Ltd \$60000 P: L Khoo Peng Ann

old alongside his happy owners, the Happy Stable.

"My horses have actually been running well but just had no luck. It's also hard with the new ratings system, but it is what it is.

"Luckily, I have good owners who have kept supporting me. They gave me the confidence that my winning turn would come eventually.

"This horse has been running well. His last run (fourth in a similar Class 4 Division 2 race but over 1400m) was not too bad. Marc (Lerner) rode him then and he rode him very well tonight.

"Hopefully, now that the long wait is over, the winners will come. I have around 10 new horses who are getting ready and I hope they can bring me some more wins."

Though not the fastest away from his barrier No 1, Sacred Magic was ridden out by Lerner to take up a prominent spot on the speed. They eventually settled into the box-seat while Snip (Snippetson), Soldado (NZ) (Pins) and Country Boss (NZ) (Guillotine) set the pace three abreast.

As the rails gap appeared upon straightening, Lerner wasted no time in sending Sacred Magic through. In a matter

of strides, they shot straight to the lead to go and score by a widening margin of four lengths from Justice Smart (Kyllachy) with Elite Saint (More Than Ready) third another 1 ¾ lengths away. The winning time was 1min 11.42secs for the 1200m on the Polytrack.

"The horse was travelling in handy behind the leaders in fourth spot," said Lerner.

"When the gap came up at the top of the straight, he kicked into another gear. I had no idea he was well so far ahead in front.

"I think the switch to Polytrack helped him tonight."

Sacred Magic has now recorded four wins and three placings from 19 starts for prizemoney that has now hit around the \$120,000 mark for the Happy Stable. -STC

Sacred Magic off to an easy win on Friday night (Singapore Turf Club)





MY BOSS RULES ON FRIDAY NIGHT

My Boss (NZ) (Rock 'n' Pop) franked his recent improved form to open his account in the \$20,000 Open Maiden race over 1400m on Friday night.

The three-year-old has been knocking on the door of late, missing the money by a pimple at his last start in a similar Open Maiden race, but over 1200m three weeks ago.

The extra 200m probably helped his cause even if jockey Joseph Azzopardi was worried they might have headed the 12-horse field too

soon.

"I thought we went to the front too early. He started to stargaze around," said the Perth jockey.

"But he kept finding and just made it (from the fast-finishing Lim's Honour). I didn't think we could beat the favourite, but we did.

"I thought the 1400m would suit him better. I'm not sure if he can win in higher grade than Class 5, but he will definitely take a lot of confidence from that win tonight."

Winning trainer Mok Zhan Lun, who was visiting the winner's enclosure only for the fourth time this year, said he had a silent hope the \$37 chance



My Boss races away to his first win (Singapore Turf Club)

could salute, especially after his last encouraging run.

"I think coming back to Open Maiden company, he would have a chance tonight," said the Singaporean handler.

"Joey rode him very well. From the wide barrier (13), I told him to try and get some cover and ride him for luck."

Azzopardi followed the instructions to the letter, and when My Boss started to improve from the 600m after travelling outside Bangkok Girl (Bernardini) in seventh place, that elusive maiden win at his ninth start looked in the bag when he swept to the front at the 250m.

The winning time was 1min 23.95secs for the 1400m on the Long Course.

-STC

Race	Singapore TC Open Maiden S. 1400m
Winner	My Boss (NZ) 2015
Owners	St Resources Stable
Trainer	Mok Zhan Lun (Kranji)
Breeding	by Rock 'n' Pop (AUS) out of Be Fabulous by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	G J Chittick
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select V: Waikato Stud Ltd \$7500 P: Asian World Racing

