

Friday 5 July 2019

STAKES MILESTONE LOOMS FOR LATTA



Platinum Rapper will be one of trainer Lisa Latta's leading chances at Awapuni on Saturday (Race Images)

Lisa Latta is poised to become a \$20 million woman this weekend.

The Palmerston North trainer has 12 horses entered for Awapuni on Saturday and with several strong chances engaged, she looks likely to bank the \$22,000 she needs to break \$20 million in New Zealand stakes earnings, according to NZTR figures.

It is believed she will become the first woman to reach the mark.

"I hadn't realised I was getting close to \$20 million and it's not something you ever think about but it's always nice to hit these milestones," Latta said.

"We've got a good team in and 12 is pretty much the usual number we have for an Awapuni meeting. We've got horses that should handle the wet track and some really nice chances."

Exciting Makfi filly **Platinum Rapper (NZ)** headlines the Latta team at Awapuni, tackling the BJW Motors 3YO 1200, having placed behind Dolcetto (NZ) (Per Incanto) and Rosewood (NZ) (Redwood) in the Listed Ag Challenge Stakes (1600m) at Wanganui last month.

"The 1200m might be a bit sharp for her this weekend but I'm really happy with her," Latta said.

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STAKES MILESTONE **LOOMS FOR LATTA**

(Continued from page 1)

“She had a couple of weeks in the paddock after Wanganui. It was a great run against the older horses at weight-for-age. We went there looking for black-type and it was nice to get it, especially as a three-year-old.

“She’s always shown quite a bit right the way through and she handles it wet, though I don’t know about bottomless. She should be doing her best work late on Saturday. The way the track will be, it will race more like 1400m anyway.”

A younger half-sister to Latta’s Gr.3 Winter Cup (1600m) winner from last year Platinum Command (NZ) (Red Giant), Platinum Rapper was a \$55,000 Karaka yearling buy on the advice of Neville McAlister, who races the filly with Lincoln Farms Bloodstock.

While Latta said there were few similarities between the siblings, both have the Winning Edge Presentations Winter Cup at Riccarton on August 3 as their main targets.

“She’ll have one more run, at New Plymouth on Opunake Cup day, either in the Opunake Cup or the three-year-old race that day,” Latta said.

“She’ll get into the Winter Cup on the minimum.”

Latta, who sits on 949 New Zealand wins, rated last-start Trentham winner **Platinum Spirit (NZ)** (Charm Spirit) as one of the stable’s best chances at Awapuni in the Rayner Building 2YO 1200 but expected her whole team to run well.

- NZ Racing Desk



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ISDALE EYES GRAND NATIONAL WITH EL CORBY

A tilt at next month's Hospitality New Zealand Canterbury Grand National Hurdles (4200m) at Riccarton is beckoning **El Corby (NZ)** (Istidaad) if he can regain his best form at Te Aroha on Sunday.

Te Awamutu trainer Clinton Isdale is expecting the Istidaad nine-year-old to bounce back to his best after his first hurdle for the stable ended in disappointment in last month's Awapuni Hurdles (2900m).

"He was unlucky. He was travelling really well into the race. He was coming off the bridle nicely when another horse fell in front of him," Isdale said.

"He had nowhere to go and went down over the top of him. We were confident with him going into the race. He'd won well on the flat the start before and he was working well.

"He's come through it fine. He hasn't left any feed. We've had the chiropractor go over him and his work has been good, so it's all go for Sunday. With a bit of luck this weekend, we're hoping he can win."

A winner of three of his 14 hurdle starts, including two in the role at Te Aroha, El Corby looks a leading prospect in the Victor & Frank Matijasevich Open Hurdle (3100m).

"We just want to finish a jumps race because he's had no luck. If he could win, we'd think about getting him to Christchurch for the Grand National."

Sunday's race will be El Corby's fifth start in Isdale's care, having previously been trained by owner Graham Falconer.

"I rode work for Graham all the time and he thought rather

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Promising hurdler El Corby (Trish Dunell)





ISDALE EYES GRAND NATIONAL WITH EL CORBY

(Continued from page 4)

than bring him to the track every morning himself, he'd leave him with me. He's been with me this whole preparation," Isdale said.

It's shaping as a busy weekend for Isdale, who will produce **Colorado Bay (NZ)** (Showcasing) in the Richards Construction 1200 at Awapuni on Saturday, hoping to improve on his third placing at the track two starts back, while **Georgethefifth (NZ)** (Sakhee's Secret) looks the horse to beat in the maiden steeplechase at Te Aroha and he will don the silks himself to ride **Gingee (NZ)** (Istidaad) in the amateur riders' race the same day.

Georgethefifth was beaten a nose at his steeplechasing debut last month at Te Aroha.

"First time going over the steeplechase fences, he just got

a bit lost. He just didn't have the fence to follow and didn't really know what it was all about," Isdale said.

"He got a bit tired but he rallied well again late. He will be better for that first experience of chasing and we'd like to think he'd go close."

Isdale has had 13 rides as an amateur jockey for two wins and was optimistic of a bold run from Gingee on Sunday.

"He's had two starts at Te Aroha for two placings. He fell last start but I'll roll forward and put him into the race and see what can happen.

"I love the amateur races. It's a good break from the training. I haven't ridden in as many as I'd have liked this season because I went up to China to help Craig Thornton and with 20 in work, it's hard to justify a trip away for the day."

- NZ Racing Desk





KIWI-BREDS DOMINANT AT HAPPY VALLEY

New Zealand-bred horses were active at Hong Kong's Happy Valley racecourse on Wednesday, taking out half of the eight-race card.

Zacinto gelding **Not Usual Talent (NZ)** took his Hong Kong record to three wins from 10 starts when victorious in the Class 2 Hoi Ha Handicap (1650m).

The Benno Yung-trained four-year-old was ridden by Aldo Domeyer and while pleased with the win, he expects to see improvement from the gelding in the new season.

"He was a bit clumsy amongst horses but once I gave him daylight he was fluent, he actually quickened for a big horse, which is quite nice," Domeyer said.

"When they're relaxed like that and quicken with such a long stride, I think they've always got a chance. Something about him makes me think he'll be better next season."

Not Usual Talent clocked a time of 1.38.66 for the 1650m race, setting a new Class 2 and track record at Happy Valley.

The four-year-old is in rich form after setting a new Class 2 1600m record time of 1.32.96 at Sha Tin in his previous start.

Not Usual Talent was purchased out of Ascot Farm's 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale draft for \$34,000 and went on to win two of his three starts in New Zealand for former trainer Stephen Marsh before his move to Hong Kong.

Domeyer went on to ride fellow Kiwi-bred **Sparkling Dragon (NZ)** (O'Reilly) to win the Class 3 Lai Chi Chong Handicap (1200m) for trainer Tony Millard.

"The horse has unfortunately lost his early speed but you've got to hand it to



Reliable Team was an impressive winner at Happy Valley this week (HKJC)

Aldo today, he didn't panic, he waited and then he came," Millard said.

Sparkling Dragon was sold through Prima Park's 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Select Yearling Sale draft for \$85,000.

Reliable Team (NZ) (Reliable Man) added a third win for the New Zealand-breds when taking out the Class 4 Sham Chung Handicap (1200m).

Leading Hong Kong jockey Zac Purton was pleased with the win although he believes the gelding still has a lot to learn.

"He did a good job, he had a heavy weight (60kg) and the gate (9) wasn't kind again but he was able to get in a good spot," he said.

"The way the race was run through the mid-section was a little bit kinder this time and I was able to sit and wait and cuddle him to the corner.

"He still wants to do a little bit wrong."

The Reliable Man gelding was

purchased out of Phoneix Park's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale of 2YOs for \$430,000.

The Casper Fownes-trained **Family Leader (NZ)** (Makfi) continued the New Zealand-bred dominance on the night when winning the Class 4 Wong Chuk Wan Handicap (1800m).

Fownes was pleased with the win but admitted his gelding was not an easy ride for jockey Vincent Ho.

"He's not the easiest of horses, he's hard work but (Vincent's) a fit jockey – a fit horse and an incredibly fit trainer," Fownes quipped.

"I thought his chances were gone when that check (with 450m to go) happened but it's nice that he picked himself up and persevered – he stayed on strongly. The blinkers first time helped him to focus a little bit."

Family Leader was purchased out of Curraghmore's 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale draft for \$135,000. – NZ Racing Desk





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NEWS IN BRIEF



Romancer (NZ) (Redwood)



Cyber Attack (NZ) (Shamexpress)



Simply Optimistic (Encosta De Lago)

Romancer set for Winter Championship Final

The Grahame Begg-trained **Romancer (NZ)** (Redwood) will take his place in the Listed Winter Championship Series Final (1600m) after a last-start win at Flemington.

Begg said Romancer was entitled to take his chance in Saturday's race at Flemington having earned a ballot exemption when he defeated Blazejowski (Dash for Cash) on a soft track over 1400m on the same track last Saturday week.

That was five-year-old gelding Romancer's second start of his preparation and second start since joining Begg's stable.

"He hasn't disappointed me the whole time he's been with me," Begg said.

"I thought he ran quite well first-up at Caulfield and obviously he won second-up for us.

"I think he's quite a useful horse and he's probably in his right grade at this time of year because you've got to take advantage of horses who can handle soft ground.

"His rating is still low enough to get him into a race like this on the lighter side."

Romancer's Flemington win came on a soft (7) rated track and Begg believes his best chance of success on Saturday is if he happened to strike similar conditions.

Dean Yendall has been booked for the ride on Romancer, who has won six of his 26 career starts.

Doomben assignment for Cyber Attack

Cambridge trainer Tony Pike has experienced a successful Queensland winter campaign, headlined by The Bostonian's (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) Group One double, and he is hoping to cap it off in style at Doomben on Saturday.

Stable runner **Cyber Attack (NZ)** (Shamexpress) will contest the QTIS Three-Year-Old Handicap (1350m) after two

previous unplaced runs in Australia this preparation and Pike expects a better result on Saturday with the gelding.

"If he brings his best form, he should go close," he said.

"He was a bit tardy out of the barriers last start and lost his spot and ended up in a terrible position.

"Each time he's had to come to the outside after he got too far back. He's better off coming through the field."

Cyber Attack won't be Pike's last runner in Australia this winter, with Sacred Day (NZ) (Azamour) set to contest the Listed Grafton Cup (2350m) next week.

Standout season for Ralph

Te Awamutu horseman Stephen Ralph has experienced one of his biggest seasons-to-date and he can now call himself a Group One-winning trainer after the deeds of Santa Monica (NZ) (Per Incanto) in the Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day.

It was a career highlight for Ralph who later in the season picked up his second stakes win of the term when Speedy Meady (NZ) (Swiss Ace) dead-heated in the Gr.3 Cambridge Breeders' Stakes (1200m) at Te Rapa with Vigor Winner (Declaration of War).

"It has been enormous (this season)," Ralph said. "The prizemoney has been great and the two stakes wins have been awesome." [Full story here](#)

Simply Optimistic thriving in Sydney

Simply Optimistic (Encosta de Lago) will be vying to make it back-to-back wins in Sydney on Saturday when he contests the Kensington Handicap (1300m) at Randwick.

The Brendon Hawtin-trained gelding won over 1200m at Randwick on a Heavy8 track last month and the Waikato conditioner has been pleased with his progress since then.

"He has thrived since his win last start and the extra 100m won't hurt him," he said.

"The forecast in Sydney towards the end of the week is for rain, so there's every chance that they will be running on a similar track.

"Things are looking good there, so I am looking forward to the weekend."

The son of Encosta De Lago will be ridden by Hugh Bowman and Hawtin said he will take his advice onboard when planning the next steps with his charge.

"We are not going to plan too far ahead, we just want to get this one out of the road and hopefully he runs well," he said.

"Hugh will be able to jump off and give us a good guide on how high we can set our goals this prep. We just don't want to get too far ahead of ourselves at this stage."



Comeback (NZ) (Makfi)

Comeback remains on track

Talented four-year-old **Comeback (NZ)** (Makfi) remains on track for a trio of black-type assignments this winter.

The gelding's winning streak of five came to an end at Wellington last start, when he finished second to Dr Watson (NZ)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

(Handsome Ransom) who was carrying 4.5kgs less than him.

"We rode him up on the speed because we thought we would need to, to beat the horse of Baker's (New York Minute) and he ended up a sitting duck for a horse with no weight on his back and that may be the case again on Saturday," Graeme Rogerson, who trains the son of Makfi in partnership with his wife Debbie and granddaughter Bailey, said.

Comeback will carry 60kgs in Saturday's Bonny Glen Landfill (1400m) at Awapuni which is at least 6kgs more than his rivals, with Rogerson opting to retain the services of Johnathan Parkes. [Full story here](#)

Khoo expects a more tuned-up Diva

Trainer Leslie Khoo is hoping it was a dislike of Polytrack that was behind **Beauty Diva's (NZ)** (Showcasing) lacklustre debut run in Singapore.

The Singaporean handler brought the Showcasing two-year-old filly to Kranji with high hopes she would live up to her brilliant fifth place to Probabeel (NZ) (Savabeel) in January's Karaka Million (1200m).

Her New Zealand jockey-turned-trainer Clint Isdale (ex-assistant trainer to Bruce Marsh at Kranji for a short while) told Khoo that Beauty Diva should be a lovely prospect for Singapore, but her first outing in the second Leg of the Singapore Golden Horseshoe series, the Thoroughbred Breeders Australia Centenary Stakes (1100m) on June 9 fell way below expectations.

Khoo is not giving up on the filly. He will race her in this Sunday's fourth and penultimate Leg, the S\$75,000 Magic Millions 2YOs in Training Sale Stakes over 1200m, the first instalment to be staged on turf.

The last Leg is the Golden Horseshoe on July 19, also run over 1200m on turf.

"I didn't expect such a bad run, especially if you consider her good New Zealand form and her run in the Karaka Million," said Khoo.

"She came to us with no problem, has acclimatised well and has been working well, but she didn't put in the run I was hoping for. Maybe she didn't like the Polytrack.

"She never raced on such a surface in five runs (for one win on debut over 800m at Counties last September). She didn't look comfortable on it and she also had a hard race.

"She is a lot fitter after that first run, and

I hope she can run an improved race this Sunday. All goes well, she will run in the Golden Horseshoe."

Khoo has handed the reins to senior rider Benny Woodworth for her second-up run.

-STC



Green Energy (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle)

Energy bursts bubbles

The Danny Shum-trained **Green Energy (NZ)**, a New Zealand-bred son of Rip Van Winkle, returned from an eight-month injury absence to win Monday's public holiday feature at Sha Tin, the Class 2 Hong Kong Reunification Cup Handicap (1200m).

John Moore's Thanks Forever (Duporth) and the Frankie Lor-trained Big Party (Exceed and Excel) were expected to dominate and were sent off at odds of 3.3 and 1.7 respectively. The hype horses failed to live up to expectations though as the 41/1 outsider stalked the lead, shifted out at the top of the straight and forged on to a neck win under Dylan Mo.

"Green Energy had a left-fore tendon issue, which he had since he transferred from Peter Ho last season," Shum said. [Full story here](#)



Animator (Encosta De Lago)

Animator clears maidens in hurdle debut

Animator (Encosta De Lago) made the perfect start to his jumping career at

Hastings on Saturday where he took out the Hawke's Bay Hunt Maiden Hurdle (2500m).

Trainer Brendon Hawtin was pleased with the victory, which adds to the gelding's six wins on the flat.

"It was a good thrill on Saturday and one would think he could go on with it," he said.

"Overall his jumping was brilliant and he certainly ran out the 2500m really strong. There is plenty of upside that is for sure."

Hawtin started to put Animator over the fences as part of his training 18 months ago and he said the son of Encosta De Lago has been a natural from the very beginning.

"Just with his antics in racing, hanging and that sort of thing, we just started popping him over the logs as part of his training and slowly moved up to the hurdles.

"From day one he jumped really well and that was always going to be his forte. So far it has worked out well."

Animator had two hurdles trials at Cambridge in autumn and Hawtin was confident heading into Saturday after what he has seen from his gelding.

"His first jumping trial we just wanted to get around safely and give him a good experience and he ran third," Hawtin said. "Emily Farr, who has done a lot of the work on the horse, rode him there.

"His second jumping trial was against the open hurdlers and we put a bit of pressure on him and he managed to win that, and his two flat runs since have been good to have him fit and ready for Saturday."

Hawtin said he is unsure of where he will head to next with Animator, but a return trip to the same meeting next season is on the cards for the promising jumper.

"It's hard when these maideners win a hurdle race. You sort of jump straight into the open grade and that can sometimes make things more difficult.

"We haven't got too many big plans for him this season, but next season you would like to think that he will be running in races like the Hawke's Bay Hurdle (3100m).

"He may well end up in Australia at some stage, but we are going to take it step-by-step at the moment."

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Blue Breeze (NZ) (Bullbars)

Lindsays buy into Melbourne Cup hopeful

Auckland Cup-placed **Blue Breeze (NZ)** (Bullbars) will race in the Cambridge Stud colours this spring as the stayer attempts to qualify for this year's \$A8 million Gr.1 Melbourne Cup (3200m) at Flemington.

Brendan and Jo Lindsay have bought a 10 percent share in the five-year-old Bullbars gelding stayer ahead of an ambitious Melbourne Cup bid.

Breeder Tony Gavigan said the current ownership group had sold down their shareholdings and the Lindsays' buy-in would cover the costs of Blue Breeze's upcoming Australian campaign. [Full story here](#)



Gobstopper (NZ) (Tavistock)

Australian jumps targets for Gobstopper

Gobstopper (NZ) (Tavistock) made an impressive start to his jumping career, winning his maiden hurdle at Te Aroha by 13 lengths last month, and his connections have elected to test his talents across the Tasman.

A proven galloper on the flat, Gobstopper won the Gr.3 New Zealand Cup (3200m) in 2017, and trainer Andrew Campbell was pleased with his debut performance over fences, but admitted it wasn't a particularly

enjoyable experience to watch.

"I knew he went alright and has the flat ability as well, winning the New Zealand Cup, but I was pretty pleased to see him win like that, it was pretty good in the end," he said. [Full story here](#)

Knight Mariner to continue Gollan's run

Premier Brisbane trainer Tony Gollan will have a large number of runners at Doomben on Saturday but much interest in his team will centre of the debut of two-year-old

Knight Mariner (NZ) (Tavistock).

The colt, who will be having his first start in the Madam Wu Two Year Old (1350m), has impressed in a recent trial.

Knight Mariner was picked out of Riverrock Farm's 2018 NZB Ready To Run Sale draft for \$240,000 by Gollan's bloodstock adviser John Foote, as a possible future stayer.

He is bred to be a top-class stayer being by the sire of many Group One staying race winners in Tavistock and out of the staying bred mare Soltina (NZ) who is a half-sister to Group One winner Captivate.

Gollan first trialled Knight Mariner in February when he ran second and then put him away to further mature.

"He is a lovely big horse, but he isn't the full package just yet," Gollan said.

"Knight Mariner is bred to be a good stayer and maybe he could be our Derby horse next year. But that is getting a long way in front of ourselves and let's take things slowly.

"Whatever he does on Saturday he will improve on. But I like giving these staying bred horses their first starts over a bit of ground late in the season."

Knight Mariner was second in handy time in a trial at Doomben two weeks ago when he hit the line hard. Jim Byrne, who rode him in the trial, will again have the mount on Saturday.

Pitman back from the trip of a lifetime

Despite fighting the after-effects of a 30-hour travel schedule during his return to New Zealand from the United Kingdom, leading South Island trainer Michael Pitman is still buzzing about his experiences over the past two months.

Pitman and the owners of sprinter **Enzo's Lad** (Testa Rossa) took on the best the world has to offer with a three race campaign that began in Hong Kong with the Gr.1 Chairman's Sprint (1200m) and then moved



Michael Pitman

to the famous Royal Ascot carnival in England where they tackled the Gr.1 King's Stand Stakes (1000m) and the Diamond Jubilee Stakes (1200m).

Whilst a wet track and other circumstances didn't favour Enzo's Lad in any of the three events, Pitman is eternally grateful for the opportunity to experience the magnificence of the Royal Ascot carnival. [Full story here](#)



Katrina Alexander

Jackson's wish cements comeback

Katrina Alexander has been given the greatest incentive ever to return to the racehorse training ranks.

Alexander, whose highlight among 113 wins as a trainer came with the 2003 Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) victory of Honor Babe (NZ) (Honor Grades), has reapplied for her trainer's licence to prepare a team from Hinuera Lodge in Matamata in partnership with her husband, Simon, who has also recently put in his trainer's license application.

Alexander relinquished her trainer's license five years ago after their son, Jackson, was diagnosed with stage three melanoma skin cancer while in his last year at Napier Boys' High School. [Full story here](#)

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands)



Excalibur (NZ) (Tavistock)



Igraine (Galileo)

Melody Belle on target for Foxbridge Plate

The darling of the New Zealand turf is nearing a return to the track after a favourable winter preparation.

Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands), who is all but assured of taking home the title of New Zealand Horse of the Year after winning five Group One races this season, has pleased trainer Jamie Richards with her work and he said she will likely trial at Te Rapa in the coming weeks.

"We are looking forward to next season with her," he said. "She has done well through the winter and she will trial in about ten days at Te Rapa. She will have a couple of trials like she did last year."

The rising five-year-old daughter of Commands is set to take a similar path in the spring as last year, however, the Fortuna Syndicate-raced mare will also tackle the Gr.1 Livamol Classic (2040m) at Hastings.

"If the weather plays havoc she'll just shoot away for a gallop and then she will head to the Foxbridge (Gr.2, 1200m). We have opted to try and win the triple crown at Hastings with her."

While a tilt at Australia in the spring remains a possibility, her connections are eyeing the All Star Mile (1600m) in autumn.

"We'll just see how her form is like in the spring, what we would like to do is get her ready for the All Star Mile at Flemington," Richards said.

"She was about to be given a wild card this year, but she had done a fair bit of travelling by that stage of the season.

"I think if we were able to aim her towards Hastings, then possibly Australia if she was going good enough, and then give her a break. Then head to that race (All Star Mile) and maybe Sydney afterwards, that would be a pretty good looking campaign."

Faith in Excalibur

Shaune Ritchie hasn't given up faith in **Excalibur's (NZ)** (Tavistock) ability to win a feature staying race despite being off the winner's list for 16 months.

"I thought he had an off-season last campaign," the Cambridge trainer said. "He wasn't rounding his races off like he can, but he had a tough year before that and horses sometimes have an off-year.

"Actually he looked to be coming up huge early on, but he had a stone bruise and it took a long time to get over it and he just wasn't right. If he comes up well he could win some good races. He's got the ability."

Excalibur won five races within six starts during the summer of 2018, including three on end, culminating with victory in the New Zealand St Leger Trial (2100m) at Hastings before finishing seventh in the Gr.1 Auckland Cup (3200m).

This season he was runner-up in the Listed Karaka Classic (1600m) second-up at Pukekohe and pressed on along the cups trail with his best efforts being a fourth in the Gr.3 Waikato Cup (2400m) at Te Rapa and a sixth in the Auckland Cup.

Ritchie kept the Tavistock gelding ticking over with a few autumn runs and plans to send him north to Ruakaka as part of his squad being temporarily trained there from the end of this month to prepare for a spring campaign.

Taylor's savour Igraine's big year

With stakes wins on both sides of the Tasman, imported European mare **Igraine** (Galileo) has earned herself a special place in Brent and Cherry Taylor's broodmare band and hearts.

The Trelawney principals are in the midst of a winter escape to Spain, but watched with delight as the Robert Priscott-trained

Igraine scored a dominant victory in Saturday's Listed Caloundra Cup (2400m) in Queensland.

"It was a huge thrill to see her do that," Brent Taylor said. "She's a mare we've always had faith in. We bought her for her broodmare credentials as much as anything else, but she tries so hard on the track, and you do get quite emotionally attached to the ones that give their all like she does."

[Full story here](#)

Ruakaka vital in Ritchie's Guineas mission

Shaune Ritchie is hoping an annual winter stopover in Ruakaka will pave the way for an elusive win in the Gr.1 Gavelhouse.com New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton in November.

Each year the Cambridge trainer sends a team of horses north to further their preparations for spring campaigns and he already has the promising rising three-year-old fillies **Bella Mente (NZ)** (El Roca) and **Jennifer Eccles (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) on the list to head to Ruakaka at the end of this month.

"I've found it a great advantage at this time of year as, apart from being able to canter along the beach or just walk in the water, they also get to work on a beautiful track," Ritchie said. [Full story here](#)

Countess on Northern path at Te Aroha

Matamata trainers Peter and Jess Brosnan bypassed last Saturday's Hastings meeting with their capable chaser **Old Countess (NZ)** (Zed), but the mare is still on a Great Northern path.

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Our Countess (NZ) (Zed)

Old Countess was purposely absent from the line-up for the Hawke's Bay Steeplechase (4800m), won by Perry Mason (NZ) (Zed), however she will be back in action in the open 3500m steeplechase at Te Aroha on Sunday.

"Hastings was always going to be too dry for her," Peter Brosnan said. "She'll be better suited at Te Aroha and after that we have a couple of options, either the Wellington Steeplechase or go to Te Rapa for an easier option."

"The Great Northern Steeplechase (6400m) at Ellerslie in September is the one we're after and she can run in the Pakuranga Hunt Cup (4900m) beforehand."

Old Countess won last year's Wanganui Steeplechase (4100m) before being runner-up to Perry Mason in the Pakuranga Hunt Cup, which was run at Te Aroha, as was the Great Northern Steeplechase in which the daughter of Zed finished fifth to Chocolate Fish (NZ) (Colombia).

"The Northern being at Ellerslie is going to suit her better than it did at Te Aroha," Brosnan said.

"We've won the Great Northern Hurdles (4190m) with Southern Countess (in 2011) and it would be great to get the Great Northern Steeple, too."

Brosnan's father, Sam, also won a Great Northern Hurdles, with Mark's Gold in 1981, and finished second in the 1978 Great Northern Steeplechase with Marji's Gold (NZ) (Belmura).

Scholarships open for applications

The New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association have opened applications for their two annual scholarships.

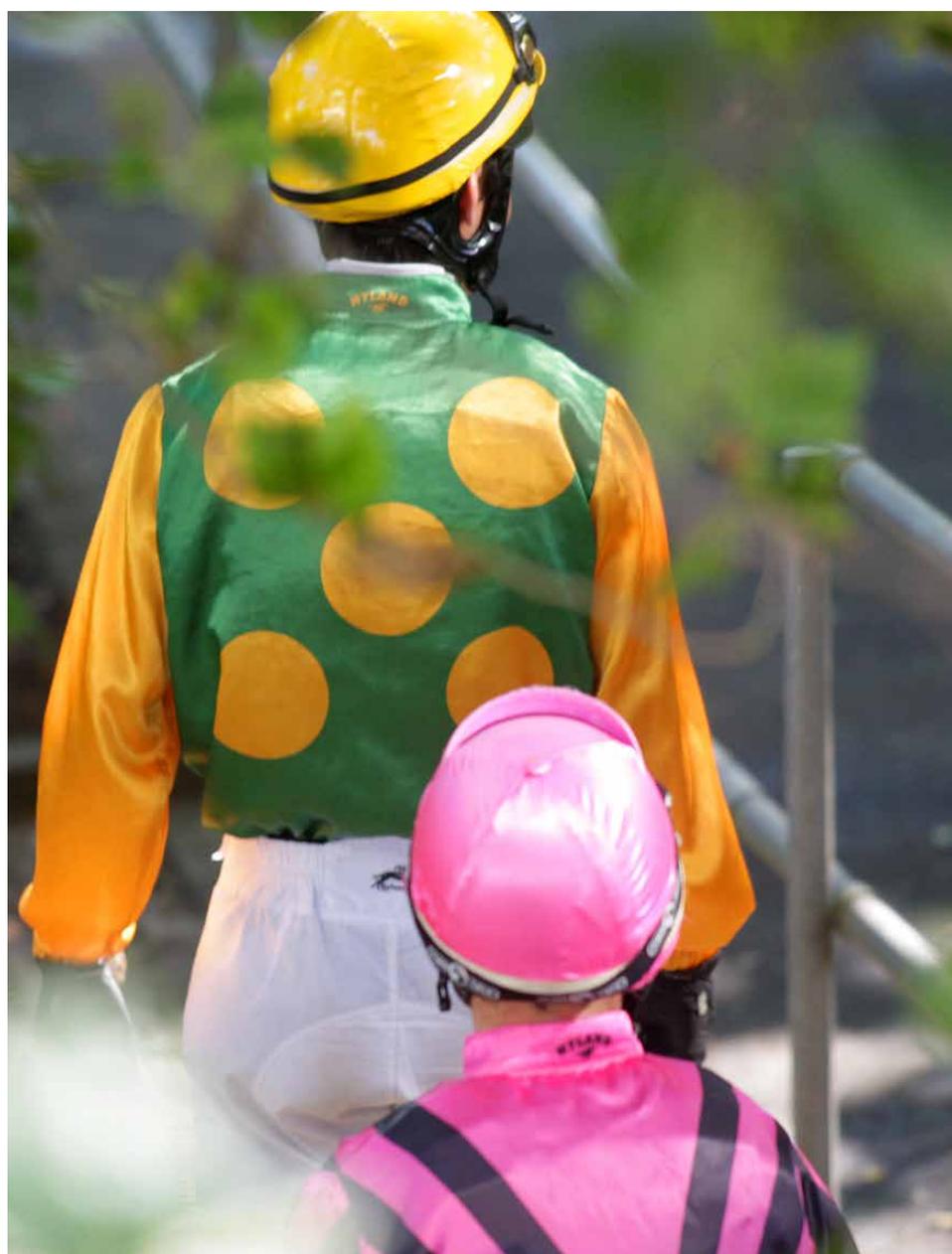
The International Management Scholarship, sponsored by the Sunline Trust, sends the successful candidate on an all-expenses paid, bonded trip of 30 weeks

where they will experience the operational infrastructure, systems and management of three of the Northern hemisphere's leading stud farms.

The winner of the Keith and Faith Taylor Equine Scholarship will attend the five-month Breeding Diploma course at the world renowned Irish National Stud. The diploma is mainly of a practical nature and is designed to provide students with a hands-on approach in every aspect of horse breeding.

Many past recipients of the scholarships hold prominent positions in the New Zealand and International thoroughbred industry. They include Te Akau Racing trainer Jamie Richards, bloodstock agent Michael Wallace, Haunui Farm's sales and marketing manager Shannon Taylor, and Highden Park co-owner and operator Libby Bleakley.

Applications close on July 31, more information can be found at: <https://www.nzthoroughbred.co.nz/page/scholarships/>



Friday 5 July 2019

GLOBAL NZ BRED WINNERS

2019-06-27 - 2019-07-04

AUSTRALIA

Alamosa : Tinkermosa (NZ) (Tinkerbabu by Giant's Causeway) 2014;
29 Jun 2019, 1st MRC Ladbrokes Multiverse H. 1600m
Sold by Wellfield Lodge at National Yearling Sale for \$50000

Civics : Given Time (NZ) (Storm Blinka by Storm Creek) 2014;
27 Jun 2019, 1st Townsville TC Paynters Maiden P. 1300m

Darci Brahma : Fast Fever (NZ) (Spring Fever by Traditionally) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Ballarat TC Polytrack H. 1400m
Sold by The Oaks Stud at Ready to Run Sale for \$150000
Sold by The Oaks Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$37500

Ekraar : He Eksceles (NZ) (Serendipity by Honor Grades) 2013;
29 Jun 2019, 1st ATC Kensei H. 2000m

King's Chapel : Pharrell (NZ) (Solo Star by Random Chance) 2010;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Bairnsdale RC Coopers Bus & Hire Drive H. 2000m

Nadeem : Victory Eight (NZ) (Queen's Colours by Rainbow Quest) 2013;
29 Jun 2019, 1st SCTC BOQ Maroochydore H. 1400m
Sold by Esker Lodge at Ready to Run Sale for \$80000
Sold by Te Runga Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$30000

O'Reilly : Betty Blooms (NZ) (Zambezi by Zabeel) 2015;
27 Jun 2019, 1st Illawarra TC Purry Burry Point Maiden P. 1400m
Sold by Goodwood Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$170000

Ocean Park : Killavally (NZ) (Enjoy by O'Reilly) 2015;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Ballarat TC Eureka Concrete Maiden P. 1400m
Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$80000

Per Incanto : (Our) Wind Spirit (NZ) (Timpin by Pins) 2015;
02 Jul 2019, 1st Ballarat TC Sam Miranda Wines Maiden P. 1000m

Power : Hulme (NZ) (Madame Echezeaux by Montjeu) 2014;
01 Jul 2019, 1st Tatura RC Rushton Park Thoroughbreds H. 1600m
Sold by Pencarrow Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$100000

HONG KONG

Alamosa : Hidden Spirit (NZ) (She's Assertive by Elusive Quality) 2014;
01 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC World-Class Leadership H. 1650m
Sold by Phoenix Park at National Yearling Sale for \$65000

Darci Brahma : Deal Maker (NZ) (Wildcat Woman by Forest Wildcat) 2013;
01 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC Continuous Development H. 1650m
Sold by Hallmark Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$90000

Makfi : Family Leader (NZ) (Egeria by Daylami) 2014;
03 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC Wong Chuk Wan H. 1800m
Sold by Curraghmore at National Yearling Sale for \$135000

O'Reilly : Sparkling Dragon (NZ) (Shining Light by Star Way) 2014;
03 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC Lai Chi Chong H. 1200m
Sold by Prima Park Bloodstock at National Yearling Sale for \$85000

Redwood : Grand Eagle (NZ) (Merci Grand by Choisir) 2014;
02 Jul 2019, 1st Gosford RC Klingspor Maiden H. 1900m
Sold by Blackbridge at National Yearling Sale for \$53000

Reliable Man : Kajaani (NZ) (Kiri by Prized) 2015;
27 Jun 2019, 1st Moe RC First National Narracan Maiden P. 1628m

Rios : Cinquedeia (NZ) (Roma Kabeel by Daggars Drawn) 2015;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Newcastle JC Le Mottee Port Stephens H. 1600m

Road to Rock : Mushroom Rock (NZ) (No Hula No Dance by Rhythm) 2013;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Newcastle JC John Thomas Electrical P. 2300m

Savabeel : Saveyourethiasm (NZ) (Curbyourethiasm by Danasinga) 2013;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Bairnsdale RC Patties Foods H. 1600m
Sold by Kilgravin Lodge at Ready to Run Sale for \$100000

Savabeel : Cryptic Jewel (NZ) (Treasure the Cross by Cape Cross) 2014;
28 Jun 2019, 1st Geelong RC LPA Lighting H. 1200m
Sold by Westbury Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$300000

Shamexpress : Hard Press (NZ) (Hardassah by Exceed And Excel) 2016;
29 Jun 2019, 1st SAJC AAMI 2YO H. 1250m

Sufficient : Gazzara (NZ) (Primavera by Volksraad) 2014;
27 Jun 2019, 1st Moe RC Moe Optical & RMBL Investments H. 1628m

Tavistock : Muzzleflash (NZ) (Macchiato by Night Shift) 2014;
28 Jun 2019, 1st Geelong RC McGrath Estate Agents Maiden P. 1200m
Sold by Riversley Park Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$120000
Sold by Pencarrow Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$65000

Tavistock : Tavirun (NZ) (Alleyrun by Volksraad) 2015;
29 Jun 2019, 1st MRC MRC H. 2000m
Sold by Ohukia Lodge Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$300000

Reliable Man : Reliable Team (NZ) (Stella Doro by Faltaat) 2015;
03 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC Sham Chung H. 1200m
Sold by Phoenix Park at Ready to Run Sale for \$430000

Rip Van Winkle : Vanderkemp - Green Energy (H.K.) (NZ) (Medrano by General Nediym) 2012;
01 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC Hong Kong Reunification Cup H. 1200m
Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$250000

Zacinto : Not Usual Talent (NZ) (Compact Pussycat by Al Akbar) 2014;
03 Jul 2019, 1st HKJC Hoi Ha H. 1650m
Sold by Ascot Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$34000
Sold by Park Hill Stables at South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale for \$22000



Friday 5 July 2019

GLOBAL NZ BRED WINNERS

2019-06-27 - 2019-07-04

MACAU

Darci Brahma : Go Go Mission (NZ) (Testa Secret by Testa Rossa) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Calgary (Div 2) H. 1200m
Sold by Landsdowne Park Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$43000

Savabeel : River Triple (NZ) (Madame Reprive by Pins) 2014;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Honorary Racing Stewards Caring Cup H. 1350m
Sold by Leanach Lodge Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$60000
Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$30000

Shocking : Shockadoodledo - Sportsmanship (Mac.) (NZ) (Chicken Little by Telesto) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Ottawa (Div 1) H. 1800m
Sold by Phoenix Park at National Yearling Sale for \$45000

Super Easy : Bada Baby (NZ) (Woodbury Belle by Woodbury Lad) 2014;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Fortune Charity Trophy H. 1350m

Swiss Ace : Star of Yiu Sun (NZ) (Turn on Sixpence by Elusive Quality) 2014;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Honorary Racing Stewards Charity Cup H. 1050m

Turffontein : Tremendous Wins (NZ) (Choisira by Choisir) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Palermo H. 1200m
Sold by Hallmark Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$20000

Zed : Pearl Win Win (NZ) (Antonia Bella by Thorn Park) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Macau Toronto H. 1500m
Sold by Fencourt Lodge at Ready to Run Sale for \$30000
Sold by Grangewilliam Stud at National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale for \$2600

MALAYSIA

Alamosa : Asprey (NZ) (Bond Street by Pentire) 2011;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Emit Time H. 1200m
Sold by Canterbury Park Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$20000

Castledale : Rainbow Fish (NZ) (Run Roxy Run by Rock Of Gibraltar) 2012;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Handsome Nic H. 1400m
Sold by Te Runga Stud Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$35000

Darci Brahma : Deauville - Flying Darci (Mal.) (NZ) (Bartolomeo by Strategic) 2010;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Liang Xin H. 1600m

Falkirk : Mr Epic (NZ) (Marzeri by Marju) 2008;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Flaming Wonder H. 1100m
Sold by Windsor Park Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$38000
Sold by Windsor Park Stud at Ready to Run Sale for \$180000

Guillotine : Gilhoolie - Dazzling Speed (Sing.) (NZ) (Dazzling Belle by Desert Sun) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Enchanted Prince H. 1200m
Sold by Monovale Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$50000

O'Reilly : Orion (Sing.) (NZ) (Tonic by Blues Traveller) 2010;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Precedent H. 1600m
Sold by Phoenix Park at National Yearling Sale for \$110000

MALAYSIA (CONT.)

Postponed : Kante (NZ) (Strengthened by Woodman) 2015;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Malaysia 3YO Championship Final L 1200m
Sold by Westbury Stud at Ready to Run Sale for \$85000

Rip Van Winkle : Foreign Investment - General Tycoon (Mal.) (NZ) (Sorestan by Volksraad) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Sinar Bintang H. 1100m
Sold by Windsor Park Stud at Ready to Run Sale for \$65000

Showcasing : Soon You Think (NZ) (Contemplate by Dream Well) 2014;
29 Jun 2019, 1st Perak TC Always an Angel H. 1600m
Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$50000

SINGAPORE

Battle Paint : Sacred Magic (NZ) (Chato Margaux by Montjeu) 2014;
28 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m
Sold by Leanach Lodge Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$60000

Casino Prince : What's New (NZ) (Pussycat Dream by Oasis Dream) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Stewards' Cup L 1600m

Coats Choice : Obstacles Free (NZ) (Explain by Success Express) 2013;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Speedy Cat S. 1400m
Sold by Hedwood Thoroughbreds Ltd at South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale for \$18000

Darci Brahma : Big Regards (NZ) (Molly Coco by Savabeel) 2013;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Emperor Max S. 2000m
Sold by Phoenix Park at National Yearling Sale for \$55000

Minstrel Court : Bejewelled (NZ) (Diamond Jules by Kashani) 2014;
28 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m

Ocean Park : Don't Worry (NZ) (Burnzees Magic by Kinjite) 2015;
28 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1100m

Per Incanto : Gentlemen Agreement (NZ) (Sirca Dane by Dexter) 2014;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Elite Invincible S. 1400m

Rock 'n' Pop : My Boss (NZ) (Be Fabulous by Pins) 2015;
28 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Open Maiden S. 1400m
Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$7500

Showcasing : Count Me In (NZ) (Keeper Coming by Keeper) 2016;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC War Affair S. 1200m
Sold by Woburn Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$27500
Sold by Te Runga Stud Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$100000

Super Easy : Super Posh (NZ) (Posh Bec by Le Bec Fin) 2015;
30 Jun 2019, 1st Singapore TC Jamal Malik S. 1000m



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