

Friday 24 May 2019

PIKE DUO FLYING AHEAD OF KINGSFORD-SMITH



The Bostonian (inner) scores in the Gr.1 Doomben 10,000

Tony Pike and his horses are revelling in the Queensland sun this winter.

The Cambridge trainer has already sent out three winners from a select team he has brought to the Sunshine State, including **The Bostonian (NZ)** (Jimmy Choux), who was a surprise winner of the Gr.1 Doomben 10,000 (1200m).

Pike subsequently intended to give The Bostonian four weeks between runs and target the Gr.1 Stradbroke Handicap

(1400m) fresh. But a sparkling gallop on Tuesday has seen those plans change and the son of Jimmy Choux will contest Saturday's Gr.1 Kingsford-Smith Cup (1300m) at Eagle Farm.

"He obviously loves Queensland. He went very well last year and it was a great win first-up this year in the Doomben 10,000," Pike said.

"He was always nominated for the Kingsford-Smith. With

Continued on page 3



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PIKE DUO FLYING AHEAD OF KINGSFORD-SMITH

(Continued from page 1)

his fresh record there was consideration to not back him up and go straight to the Stradbroke.

“Michael Cahill rode him on Tuesday morning, he galloped him on the course proper at Eagle Farm, and it was an outstanding piece of work.

“We had a discussion with Michael and his owner David Archer after that piece of work on Tuesday.

“Four weeks is a long time in racing, a lot can go wrong, so while the horse is going well and with the form he is in, it was a hard race to turn down.

“He seems to thrive over here and it’s a \$700,000 Group One race on Saturday so it is nothing to be sneezed at.”

Pike is looking forward to racing at the roomy Eagle Farm track and believes The Bostonian can overcome the tricky draw of 11 in the capacity field of 18.

“He has probably drawn a touch awkwardly in 11 but there is plenty of speed drawn outside him as well,” he said.

“If he can get across, just in behind the speed with cover, I don’t think the Eagle Farm track will hold any worries. He had his first feel of it on Tuesday morning and Michael said he felt fantastic.

“I’m looking forward to getting back to Eagle Farm, it has been a while. I’m sure there will be a lot of trainers in the same boat.

“He’s going to go close. He’ll run extremely well, he looks too good in himself and if he gets a bit of luck from that barrier, he will be right in the finish.”

The Bostonian started at \$41 when successful in the Doomben 10,000, but punters won’t be letting the Kiwi sprinter get under their guards on this occasion, with the gelding a \$7.50 second favourite behind the James Cummings-trained Trekking (Street Cry).

Pike will have a dual-pronged attack on the sprint feature, with stablemate Endless Drama (Lope De Vega) also sneaking into the Kingsford-Smith field and Pike is expecting a bold showing from the \$40-1 chance ahead of his tilt at the Stradbroke, despite drawing a horror barrier in 18.

“He’s an old hardened campaigner, he is a seven-year-old and he has a great temperament for a stallion,” Pike said.

“His win in the Easter Handicap (Gr.2, 1600m) was very good and he has travelled over in great order. I can’t fault him. His trial at Doomben on Tuesday was very good and apart from the barrier draw, I thought he would be a nice each-way chance on Saturday.

“We are going to have to go a long way back from that gate but as long as they go hard early and hit the line strongly, that is going to set him up nicely for the Stradbroke in two weeks.”

– NZ Racing Desk



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LONG JACK SPEARHEADS BAKER-FORSMAN QUINTET



Long Jack finishing runner-up on debut at Matamata (Race Images)

Long Jack (So You Think) could enhance his stocks as a Gr.1 Victoria Derby (2500m) contender with another bold performance in Saturday's Listed Piazza D'Oro Auckland Futurity Stakes (1400m) at Ellerslie.

A fast-finishing second at Matamata on debut when only getting clear running late in the straight, So You Think colt Long Jack spearheads a five-strong attack for Cambridge trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman in the two-year-old feature.

Baker produced Lion Tamer (NZ) (Storming Home) to win the Victoria Derby at Flemington in 2010 and has been a regular spring visitor to Melbourne with a promising staying three-year-old since.

Long Jack split Avadane (NZ) (Savabeel) and Jennifer

Eccles (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) as that trio ran the trifecta in the JP Wills Bloodstock 1200 at Matamata earlier this month, with the Baker-Forsman-trained Selenelion (NZ) (Charm Spirit) further back in sixth.

TAB bookmakers have made Avadane a \$3.70 favourite for the Futurity ahead of Jennifer Eccles at \$4 and Long Jack at \$5.50 but Forsman is optimistic his charge can turn the tables.

"You'd think he would have beaten them last time with a clear run. He only got clear late and Jonathan [Riddell, jockey] was pretty adamant he would have won with a fair crack at them," Forsman said.

"It's the main form race leading into it. The first three favourites come out of it and the form looks good with Tony





LONG JACK SPEARHEADS BAKER-FORSMAN QUINTET

Pike's horse (Loire, seventh at Matamata) winning at Hastings yesterday (Wednesday).

"Hopefully he can get the job done this weekend. It would be nice to get a bit of prizemoney in the bank for him because he's the right profile to try and get to a Victoria Derby in the spring.

"This would probably do him for this season. We don't want him running too deep into the winter."

Long Jack has drawn barrier nine for the 12-horse Futurity and is likely to be given time to find his feet in running.

"He doesn't have a heap of early speed but it will depend how the others jump and where he ends up. With most of these two-year-olds stepping up past 1200m for the first time, there might not be a lot of pressure."

Forsman said all five of the stable's runners had win claims, despite being outsiders in the TAB's final field market - Custom Cruiser (Tornado) and Selenelion at \$16 and Rhaegar (Pluck) and Showbeel (NZ) (Savabeel) at \$19.

"We expected a bit more of Selenelion at Matamata but

she lugged a bit left-handed and going right-handed this weekend should suit her. Rhaegar got on a holding track at New Plymouth that didn't suit but he's trialled well since and the blinkers go on.

"Showbeel is better than what she showed at her first start and Custom Cruiser went a good race first-up and he's come on too. The key is the track is going to be reasonable and all of them are looking for 1400m."

It's another typically busy weekend for the Baker-Forsman team with 11 entered for Ellerslie, six at Hawera on Sunday and last-start winners Bobby Dee (NZ) (Zed) and Lord Arthur (Camelot) tackling the Gr.3 Grand Prix Stakes (2200m) at Eagle Farm.

"They are certainly not out of it on their form," Baker said.

"There's nothing in that field that we should be scared of. We're hoping they show they can measure up well and go a good solid race before the Derby there in two weeks' time."

The Gr.1 Queensland Derby (2400m) will be run at Eagle Farm on June 8.

- NZ Racing Desk



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NEWS IN BRIEF



Vigor Winner (Declaration Of War)

Vigor Winner vying for back-to-back Group wins

Last start Group Three winner **Vigor Winner** (Declaration of War) will be vying for more stakes success when he tackles the Gr.3 Fred Best Classic (1400m) at Eagle Farm on Saturday.

The Lauren Brennan-trained galloper has been consistent in his four career starts, recording three victories and a runner-up performance in the Gr.2 Wellington Guineas (1400m).

"He's a very smart horse and very talented. He probably should have won that race (Wellington Guineas), he just got held up at the top of the turn," Brennan said. [Full story here](#)



Felaar (NZ) (Ekraar)

Marsh aiming to live Cup dream

Trainer Stephen Marsh is Melbourne-bound in search of a golden ticket.

The Cambridge trainer will saddle progressive stayer **Felaar (NZ)** (Ekraar) in the Listed Andrew Ramsden Stakes (2800m) at Flemington on Saturday, with the winner guaranteed a start in the Gr.1 Melbourne Cup (3200m) at the same course on the first Tuesday in November.

Felaar won the Listed Hawke's Bay Cup (2200m) last month before his two

preparation runs in Melbourne ahead of Saturday's assignment, finishing a luckless 11th at Flemington before a good run for third at Caulfield last start. [Full story here](#)



Manolo Blahniq (NZ) (Jimmy Choux)

Manolo Blahniq fresh for Flemington tilt

Tony Noonan is hopeful **Manolo Blahniq (NZ)** (Jimmy Choux) can strike winning form again ahead of a trip north for a Group One assignment in Brisbane.

Manolo Blahniq lines up in Saturday's Listed Straight Six (1200m) at Flemington as a lead-in to the Gr.1 Stradbroke Handicap (1400m) at Eagle Farm on June 8.

Noonan struggled to find a suitable 1200m race ahead of the 1400m of the Stradbroke with Manolo Blahniq having not raced since finishing second in the Gr.3 Victoria Handicap (1400m) at Caulfield on April 20.

A week in the paddock after his last start was followed by a week at the beach before a slow build-up towards Saturday's race.

With a long preparation, interspersed by a couple of breaks to freshen up, Noonan is happy to be playing at home, although saying his options were restricted.

"He's had a fairly lengthy campaign, with two little freshen ups in that period, and this was the only suitable 1200-metre race throughout Australia two weeks before the Stradbroke," Noonan said.

Since winning the Listed Chester Manifold Stakes (1400m) at Flemington in January, Manolo Blahniq has registered three second placings from his subsequent four starts.

"He hasn't had a lot of luck in some of his races but he's been a consistent horse so I'm hoping he gets all his luck in his next two starts."

In-form Michael Dee rides Manolo Blahniq for the first time on Saturday.



Nobu (NZ) (Reliable Man)

Nobu out to press Derby claims

The Chris Waller-trained **Nobu (NZ)** (Reliable Man) will be out to cement his claims for Gr.1 Queensland Derby (2400m) favouritism in Saturday's Mizuno Handicap (2000m) at Randwick.

The gelding has stepped out twice since the Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m) in March and looked back to his best with a dominant last-start performance on the Kensington track.

Jason Collett rode against him last time and is thrilled to have picked up the plum mount on Saturday.

"I know he went over for a New Zealand Derby campaign and was unsuccessful but that run the other day was quite impressive," Collett said.



Avadane (NZ) (Savabeel)

Noble out to enhance dynasty

Cambridge Stud principals Brendan and Jo Lindsay have had a fantastic run with the progeny of their foundation mare J'Adane (NZ) (Danehill) and they are hoping that will continue when **Avadane (NZ)** (Savabeel) contests the Listed Piazza D'Oro Auckland Futurity Stakes (1400m) at Ellerslie on Saturday.

[continued on next page](#)



NEWS IN BRIEF

The two-year-old daughter of Savabeel could become her dam's fourth-individual stakes winner alongside Von Tunzelman (NZ) (Zabeel), Prince Jabeel (Savabeel) and Sherrif (NZ) (High Chaparral).

"There's a little bit more pressure on from the owners," trainer Lance Noble joked. [Full story here](#)



Campari (NZ) (O'Reilly)

Classic target for Campari

Talented O'Reilly mare **Campari (NZ)** will continue her preparation aimed towards the Listed The Ultimate Ford and Mazda Tauranga Classic (1400m) next month when she contests the Race Images 1400m at Ellerslie on Saturday.

The Stephen Marsh-trained four-year-old had a successful campaign in Australia late last year winning two races, including a record-breaking performance at Randwick on Melbourne Cup day.

"She broke a class record at Randwick that day - 1.21.33 seconds over 1400m. To do that in Sydney, you have to be good," Go Racing's racing manager Albert Bosma said.

"Not only has she proved herself but also franked our approach of bringing her to Australia while at a low point in the ratings. It paid dividends for her owners, she earned almost \$50,000 for those two starts alone and it gave her city form in Australia, which will be important to her value when she retires as a broodmare."

Campari resumed in New Zealand in April with a fifth placing at Counties followed by a win at Rotorua at her last raceday appearance on May 11.

"She needed the fresh-up run at Counties in April and it tidied her up nicely for Rotorua," trainer Stephen Marsh said.

"Her effort was impressive as she jumped from a very wide draw, but Leith Innes rode her superbly to get her handy and keep her in a good rhythm."



Dez (NZ) (Zed)

Dez begins Winter Cup campaign

Simon Wilson has some unfinished business in Christchurch that he'd like to take care of in August.

Wilson trains talented Zed seven-year-old **Dez (NZ)**, who resumes in Saturday's Roaring Lion North Island Challenge Stakes (1400m) at Trentham on Saturday.

Dez finished third in the Gr.3 Winter Cup (1600m) at Riccarton last August, closing strongly late after getting held up in traffic in the home straight. [Full story here](#)



Kiwi Ida (Squamosa)

Parsons' hold strong hand at Wingatui

Balcainr trainers John and Karen Parsons are taking a team of ten horses to Friday's Wingatui meeting, headed by **Shezatoucha (NZ)** (Showcasing) and **Kiwi Ida** (Squamosa), who will step out in open handicaps over staying and sprint distances respectively.

Shezatoucha contests the Ford Ranger NZ No1 Vehicle (2200m) and wasn't beaten far when third to talented stayer Dee And Gee (NZ) (Darci Brahma) at Riccarton last start.

"She likes Dunedin so hopefully she puts her best foot forward," Karen Parsons said.

[Full story here](#)

Savigne improves Queensland Oaks ranking

Staying filly **Savigne** (Ocean Park) has



Savigne (Ocean Park)

boosted her chances of sneaking into the Queensland Oaks field after beating older horses at Canterbury.

Needing a win to improve her precarious place in the ballot order for an Oaks start, Savigne, a daughter of Ocean Park, overcame difficulties to claim the Canterbury League Club Handicap.

The three-year-old settled in an ideal midfield position off a genuine tempo but there was a moment of concern for her jockey Kerrin McEvoy approaching the straight. [Full story here](#)



Loire (NZ) (Redoute's Chocie)

Loire impresses at the Bay

Cambridge trainer Tony Pike might be enjoying a purple patch across the Tasman, but on Wednesday he unearthed a filly on the home-front that looks destined to go to the upper grades.

Two-year-old filly **Loire (NZ)** (Redoute's Choice) relished the Dead4 track presented at Hawke's Bay and closed from well-back in the field to win the Nufarm 2YO (1200m) impressively under a hold in the hands of jockey Michael McNab.

The daughter of Redoute's Choice is a half-sister to Group One winner A Touch Of Ruby (NZ) (Pins) and finished seventh on debut behind Avadane (NZ) (Savabeel)

[continued on next page](#)



NEWS IN BRIEF

at Matamata but showed her gears when successful at the second time of asking.

"We thought she'd get away a bit cleaner and we'd ride her positively, but Michael didn't panic, he elected to stay inside, and she bulldozed her way through. She is pretty classy," Pike's racing manager Dean Williams said.

"She is well-bred, and she has got the looks to match and now she is showing she has got the ability."

Loire was bred by Trelawney Stud and is raced by principals Brent and Cherry Taylor in conjunction with their friend Kate Plaw of Takapoto Farm in Karapiro.

Pike's good run continued when Sacred Judgment (So You Think) took out the final event at Hawke's Bay, the Fruitfed Supplies (1300m) when leading throughout.



Boundtobehonoured (Darci Brahma)

Boundtobehonoured makes impressive comeback

Boundtobehonoured (Darci Brahma) made a remarkable comeback at Counties on Thursday when taking out the NZB Insurance Pearl Series Race by 2-1/2 lengths.

The Tony Pike-trained mare was involved in a race fall at Ruakaka last year, which resulted in injuries to her rider Shafiq Rusof, and Danielle Johnson, who was riding the trailing horse Tantalising (NZ) (Savabeel).

There were fears that the daughter of Darci Brahma wouldn't make it back to the track, but after rehabilitation and a couple of trials she was able to make a raceday return.

"It was well deserved (the win)," Pike's Racing Manager Dean Williams said. "We were a bit worried after that fall at Ruakaka about whether she would come back.

"But she trialled up well the other day, she needed that confidence booster.

"Troy (Harris, jockey) did a nice job that day, he just worked her through a gap and she has worked well since. We have always

had a good opinion of her, so it was good to see her do that today."

Harris was onboard for the victory on Thursday and believes Boundtobehonoured will thrive on winter racing after performing so well on the slow7 surface.

"Her trial was very good," he said. "I gave her a quiet one and she performed well today. She got through it (slow7 track) very well, I think these sorts of tracks will suit her."

Boundtobehonoured was bred and is part-owned by Terry and Vicki Pascoe of Club Med Lodge, who take home the lion's share of the \$11,500 Pearl Series bonus.



Sherrif (NZ) (High Chaparral)

Sherrif on way back from operation

Roger James is keen to welcome **Sherrif (NZ)** (High Chaparral) back into his stable after the talented Cambridge galloper underwent a knee operation late last year.

"He had a chip taken out of his knee and he's had a long time off," James said.

"He's due back next month and I'm looking forward to having him back. He's a very good horse."

Owned and bred by Brendan and Jo Lindsay, Sherrif won the Gr.3 Manawatu Classic (2000m) at Awapuni in just his third start and had only four starts last campaign, ending with a win in the Northland Cup (2100m) at Ruakaka last November.

"He won, but he just ground away that day," James said. "He's better than that and afterwards the bone chip was discovered so that could explain it.

"His first-up run at Hastings was enormous and he didn't have much luck in his other runs. He could be in for a big season."

Big weekend for Roustoby twins

An impressive debut jumps win for Woodsman (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) at Te Rapa on Saturday marked the first leg of a special double for rider Michael Roustoby



Michael Roustoby

and his twin brother, Adam.

A winner of eight races on the flat, Woodsman lived up to the expectations of his connections when giving a dominant display for Michael Roustoby to win the Garrards Horse & Hounds Hurdles (2800m) by almost six lengths.

A day later, while Roustoby was still buzzing over the win, it was the turn of twin brother Adam to celebrate an overdue victory as a jumps jockey when guiding the New Zealand jumper Speedy Jax (NZ) (Spartacus) to a steeplechase win over 3800m at Casterton in Victoria. [Full story here](#)

Hemi fractures leg

Central Districts jockey Leah Hemi will sit out a decent chunk of the winter after she broke her leg at Hastings on Wednesday.

Returning to scale after the seventh race, Hemi's mount Eisenhower (NZ) (Ekraar) shied and dislodged her.

"It was really innocuous. He's such a quiet horse and I was just too complacent," Hemi said.

"We were on our way back to the birdcage and the horse shied at something and I came off.

"I'm probably out for six to eight weeks. I go to the fracture clinic next week. I'm in a moon boot at the moment but I don't think it's too bad. I'm just annoyed I'm going to be out for the next few weeks."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarzino Trophy ballot exemptions introduced

Hawke's Bay Racing has announced that the winner and runner-up in the Gr.2 Lisa Chittick Foxbridge Plate (1200m) at Te Rapa will be provided ballot free exemptions into the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) at Hastings in August.

Last year's Foxbridge Plate runner up Julius (NZ) (Swiss Ace) was withdrawn the week of the race after looking unlikely to get a start in the Tarzino, while in 2017

Foxbridge Plate runner-up Close Up (NZ) (Shinko King) had to escape the Tarzino Trophy ballot on race day morning before going on to score a memorable Group One win.

"While we are comfortable with the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) ballot conditions for Group One races, the fact that the Tarzino is so early in the season makes it very hard for horses to improve their order of entry," Hawke's Bay Racing chief executive Andrew Castles said.

"By allowing the winner and runner-up a ballot exemption, we believe we are fixing an anomaly that saw Close Up and Julius struggle to get runs in the first of our three Group Ones."

Nominations for the three Group One races that make up the Bostock New Zealand Spring Carnival triple crown - Tarzino Trophy (1400m), Windsor Park Plate (1600m) and Livamol Classic (2040m) - will be taken on Tuesday July 16 with the National Racing Bureau.



First Impressions Count

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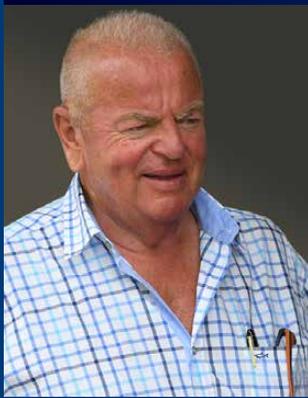
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Sacred Falls	4	3	\$19,667	\$59,000	\$27,500
Preferment*	8	5	\$19,400	\$97,000	\$34,000
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HINERANGI DELIVERS SPECIAL WIN

The Listed James Bull Rangitikei Gold Cup (1600m) carries the name of one icon of the Hunterville community, and on Saturday it was won by another.

The green, gold and white colours of Christopher and Susanna Grace were carried in the Awapuni feature by Hinerangi (Fastnet Rock), who delivered a victory that was significant in more ways than one.

The Bull connection was a special one for Christopher Grace, who himself received the Queen's Service Medal in 2014 for services to the Hunterville community.

"I've lived and farmed next to the Bull family all my life, so there's a very long association and friendship there," he said. "When I was on the committee of the Marton Jockey Club, I was also very closely involved with Jim Bull while he was on the Racing Conference. The Bull family has done a lot for racing and our community, which made this result extra special."

But it was also a first black-type win for the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained Hinerangi, who comes from a family Grace has raced and bred from for half a century.

"When you're a breeding person, a mare winning a black-type race is always a big thrill and so important," he said.

"This mare comes from a family that I've had for eight or nine generations. The first horse from this family that I raced was all the way back in 1962 – that's a long time ago now."

Hinerangi is the first foal out of Hinemoa (NZ) (Elusive City), who won

the Listed Ag & Turf Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa and the Listed Sprint Series Final (1200m) at Caulfield. Hinemoa is a half-sister to Taitanium (NZ) (Kingdom Bay), the dam of the Graces' Gr.2 Wellington Cup (3200m) winner Graphic (NZ) (Volksraad).

"It's been a good family and Hinemoa raced well for us both here and in Australia," Grace said. "Having another mare now who can carry on her line is fantastic."

"We're trying to keep our number of broodmares down to 10 or 12, which can be very difficult. You have to be pretty ruthless at times. But my ambition is for all of our broodmares to either be stakes winners or sisters to stakes winners."

The Graces' CV features elite breeding successes with Gr.1 Telegraph (1200m) winner Morar (NZ) (Otehi Bay), plus the Gr.2 Brisbane Cup (2400m) winner and Gr.1 Caulfield Cup (2400m) placegetter Tullamore (NZ) (Savabeel).

But their home-bred mare Shillelagh (NZ) (Savabeel) has been an obvious headline act, carrying their colours to Group One victories in the Cantala Stakes (1600m) and Empire Rose Stakes (1600m) during the last two Melbourne Cup carnivals at Flemington.

The Savabeel mare was a close sixth in last Saturday's Group 1 Doomben Cup (2000m) – right alongside the fifth-placed Luvaluva, who was also Grace-bred.

The winner of more than \$1.8 million in prizemoney, the seven-year-old Shillelagh has been trained



Well known Central Districts owner and breeder, Christopher Grace

for most of her career by Chris Waller, after commencing her career in New Zealand with Te Akau Racing.

"Whether or not we continue with Shillelagh is up in the air at the moment," Grace said. "That decision probably won't be made until the end of June."

"She hasn't been over-raced, and she had only one start as a three-year-old, which she won. However, time does march on, so we'll see."

"One possibility is that we might get her in foal in the spring and then race on for a little bit after that. But we'll take a bit longer to work through that decision."

– NZ Racing Desk





CROWNING SEASON FOR BOSSON

The 2018/19 season will live long in the memory of leading New Zealand jockey Opie Bosson.

The talented hoop went on to win six Group One races, taking his tally to 65, surpassing Hall of Fame jockey Lance O'Sullivan's previous record of 62 Group One victories.

"It wasn't a goal initially, but when I found out I was pretty close to it I was hungry to get it. I thought it was

a great achievement to knock him off because he was a freak," Bosson said.

"When Lance broke his leg, I ended up becoming stable rider for O'Sullivan's and Lance taught me a hell of a lot while I was there.

"Obviously I now want to ride as many Group One winners as I can."

It hasn't all been plain sailing for Bosson, with Te Akau's retained rider having struggled with weight issues at

the start of the season, tipping the scales at 70kg.

"It wasn't a great start but Dave (Ellis) and my wife (Emily) helped to motivate me and without them I probably wouldn't have been able to get back on track," Bosson said.

"I always wanted to get back, but I knew how hard it was to get the weight off and I needed them to give me the push. It took a lot of hard work up at the farm (Te Akau Stud) training with Dave.

"I started with a better diet and started training harder and once I saw the results happening, I definitely became more focussed.

"I spent a lot of time in the gym on the treadmill and cross trainer, squats, burpees, all that sort of stuff, and my fitness really improved.

"It was a huge advantage in my riding. When you're fit it makes your mind a lot sharper and you can get more out of a horse without pulling up from a race feeling exhausted. I was pulling up as good as gold."

It has also been a big year for Bosson personally, having married Trackside presenter Emily Bosson (nee Murphy) at the end of 2017, and the couple welcomed baby Max into the world in January this year.

"It's been huge motivation," Bosson said. "We moved onto a new farm a couple of days before Max was born and we won the Karaka Million (with Probabeel) that week, so it was a big week.

"I want to make sure Max has a really good upbringing and enjoys the farm life as well. So, I've got to keep getting out there and riding winners to pay for the farm."

Although he won six Group One races this season, Bosson marked the Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) victory aboard Probabeel as his highlight and he believes there is a big future instore for the daughter of Savabeel.

"With everything that was

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Opie Bosson returns to the Ellerslie birdcage aboard Karaka Million winner, Probabeel





CROWNING SEASON **FOR BOSSON**

(Continued from page 12)

happening, the Karaka Million was probably my favourite win this season. Although it wasn't a Group One, wasting to get down and ride 54.5kgs and being a million-dollar race was a highlight," he said.

"I think she (Probabeel) is going to be very exciting next season as a three-year-old. She's got so much talent."

While Bosson has been pleased with his season, he has also been delighted with the results Te Akau have been getting under the guidance of trainer Jamie Richards, who is in his

first season as a solo trainer.

"I think it's been an unbelievable season for Jamie and Te Akau," Bosson said. "He's had big shoes to fill and he's grabbed the opportunity with both hands in his first season as sole trainer.

"He hasn't missed a beat. There's a lot of pressure on him and he's coped with it so well.

"I've got a lot of respect for him and his training and he knows every horse inside and out. When he tells you about one, you know it's on the mark."

While conscious of his weight issues, Bosson is planning to remain

active, although he is set to take a couple of weeks off to travel to England for a family holiday.

"I'll keep ticking over at the moment in New Zealand, but we're taking Max over to see his grandparents in England on the 10th of June, so I'll be away for a couple of weeks," he said.

"I don't want to get too heavy and I want to be ready for the start of the season. But once I'm back I'll be into training and getting fit again for the new season with Te Akau."

– NZ Racing Desk





THORNTON PLAYING KEY ROLE IN CHINESE RACING FUTURE

Star New Zealand jumps jockey turned trainer, Craig Thornton, is relishing his time in China. The experienced horseman is doing his bit to upskill participants in the emerging racing nation as he oversees a stable of 32 horses at the impressive Yulong racetrack, located in the county of Youyu, south of Inner Mongolia.

Thornton is four months into a year-long contract as a private trainer and the hands-on horseman said the experience is a positive one, despite a few teething problems.

“I was approached by Alex Teng, of Horse Feng Bloodstock, and he offered a position to me. I thought it sounded like an exciting venture,” Thornton said.

“I am the principal trainer for a gentleman called Hongwei Chen. He owns pretty much all the horses and we’ve got 32 in training at the moment. We have got some nice horses from Australia and New Zealand that we are looking forward to racing.

“It is how it is done here. They principally employ a trainer and the bulk of the stables are owned by a sole proprietor.

“It has had its challenges, but I enjoy working with the horses and I just focus on the job ahead and I am enjoying it.

“I have had a bit of exposure internationally, so I am comfortable, and everyone has been very welcoming.”

Although the facility at Yulong is somewhat isolated, some familiar faces have made Thornton feel at ease on his Chinese adventure to date, with Mauritian-born rider Kevin Kalychurun in his second season in the region, while Luke Danis, father of jockey Darren, is also training there.

Also enjoying a brief stint in Youyu is Te Awamutu trainer Clint Isdale who, like Thornton, is assisting in upskilling local horsemen and women and consulting to one of the many stables domiciled at the training and racing centre in Yulong on a fly-in, fly-out basis.

The racing season at Yulong lasts for 19 weeks before stables relocate to other racetracks in China, akin to many training and racing establishments in the United States.

Thornton has been impressed with the quality of horses competing on the circuit, with racing taking place over four distances – 1000m, 1200m, 1600m and 1800m.

“There are some extremely well-bred horses and there are some quality animals around,” he said.

“You see them in the mornings at trackwork and it is a really good calibre of animal.”

Thornton has thrust himself into the role and can be seen riding up to seven lots a morning in trackwork around the 1600m sand track.

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Horse Feng Bloodstock's Alex Teng (left) and Craig Thornton. (Trish Dunell)





THORNTON PLAYING KEY ROLE IN CHINESE RACING FUTURE

(Continued from page 14)

Through an interpreter, he is enhancing the skills of his staff across all elements of stable routine, including nutrition, farriery and riding.

“Essentially, I have taken over an existing stable. A lot of the staff come from Mongolia or have some Mongolian background, and many of them have grown up with horses.

“It is a developing industry and that is challenging in itself. It is progressing rapidly, and it is exciting to be part of.”

Thornton has been impressed with the overall facilities at Yulong, the brainchild of global racing enthusiast Zhang Yuesheng, a prominent businessman in Shanxi with interests in coal, electricity, construction and chemicals.

“We spent a month in Wuhan before coming here and we had a lot of rain initially, which made training difficult,” Thornton said.

“The track conditions weren’t ideal, but since we have been in Youyu we have had better weather and we’ve been able to get some good work into the horses.

“The facility itself is purposely built by one gentleman, Mr Zhang. It is owned solely by him. He has invested a lot of money in it and the facility is satisfactory and it is progressing further still.

“I have adapted my training style to suit the track conditions. I watched a lot of trainers in the morning and I have just got a feel for the horses and I have just learnt as I have gone along.

“The horses here are in very good condition. We have access to good quality feed. The grain is a very good quality and on the whole the horses are very well presented.”

The first two meetings at Yulong have been conducted for the season and Thornton has had just a handful of runners, with the first of them narrowly beaten into second.

With five or six races on each card the norm, the minimum prizemoney is 50,000 RMB (NZ\$11,000), while the richest race over the 19 meetings, the Chairman’s Cup (1600m), contested at weight-for-age, is worth 2 million RMB (NZ\$442,000).

The China Horse Owners Alliance have recently announced that from 2020, a 1200m two-year-old race worth 3 million RMB (NZ\$663,000) will be introduced.

“The prizemoney is generally funded by the pool of 20 or so owners, a little bit like an old fashion sweepstake,” Thornton said.

“There is a bit of support from some of the sales companies sponsoring races but a lot of it is private funding.

“It is a great market for Australia and New Zealand. A lot of our horses are here, and it is a great outlet for us as an industry.

“We’re working with the Chinese racing industry, helping each other essentially.

“I am doing my best. I am trying to get involved with everybody and help them out as much as I can.

“I think once they get racing properly established here, the development here will generate more interest and a number of the owners will look at racing options abroad as well.”

– NZ Racing Desk



[Click image to play](#)





PEAR TREE PROSPERS FROM TRIP NORTH

Anna Miles and Michael Simpson are not afraid to go against the status quo to get results.

The husband and wife team set up Pear Tree Farm in Waimate 14 years ago and made the trip north with a homebred weanling for the New Zealand Bloodstock May Sale held at Karaka last week.

"It is the first time we have taken a horse up to that sale," Miles said.

"We were told we were the first South Islanders to take a weanling up there, usually the South Islanders go up to pinhook so we did things a bit differently."

That weanling was a colt by Proisir (Choisir) out of Works Wonders (Darci Brahma – Flowers). He went through the ring as lot 109 and was knocked down to Manawatu-based David Goldsbury for \$40,000 as a potential prospect for the Asia market.

Miles, who was awarded the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Irish National Stud Scholarship in 2001, was confident they had the right weanling for the sale but admits to some doubts creeping in as they neared auction time.

"We were a bit worried earlier on in the sale but really we should have been more confident in what we were doing," she said.

"We thought that he was a really nice, correct, athletic colt

"He had such an outstanding



Anna Miles and Michael Simpson from Pear Tree Farm

temperament we thought that if we were going to do it with a baby then he was the one to do it with.

"We were very, very happy with the result."

The trip of over 1,300kms took two days and months of planning.

"It gave me a good appreciation for the size of the trip," Miles said.

"We prepared him alongside our South Island Sale horses so he was being hand-walked to make sure he was fit enough for the journey.

"He was given Livamol and Protexin for gut health and I had done a lot of research about what feeds to take with him. I travelled on the truck to make sure he got the same consistent feed all the way through.

"That wee horse just blew me away.

He got off the truck and was bucking around his box looking for his feed."

The Proisir colt is the first foal for Works Wonders, a winner for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman.

She was transferred south to the stable of Daniel Champion and Kezia Murphy but went amiss in a track gallop before she could add to her record.

"I run a syndicate down here called the Waimate Hoofbeats Syndicate," Miles said.

"Works Wonders came down and we were lucky enough to be part of the group that raced her along with Michael Martin, Susan Archer, Danny and Kezia.

"Michael and Susan then kindly let

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PEAR TREE PROSPERS FROM TRIP NORTH

(Continued from page 16)

us lease her when she had finished racing.”

Works Wonders, who is currently in foal to Belardo, is a half-sister to the Group Two placed Buffett (Danasinga) and also hails from the family of stakes performers The Youngie (Bletchencore) and The Townie (Hula Town).

She is part of a small but select broodmare band at Pear Tree Farm that includes Joan’s Girl (Pyrus), the dam of juvenile winner Harlow (Proisir). Te Akau Racing principal David Ellis purchased the eye-catching chestnut filly out of Pear Tree Farm’s South Island Sale draft last year and she was Proisir’s second winner when successful on debut at Te Rapa earlier

this year.

“Te Akau think a lot of Harlow and Joan’s Girl is back in foal to Proisir,” Miles said.

“We obviously had to go back to that mating because Harlow was such a beautiful type.”

Pear Tree farm was established to run primarily as an agistment property but Miles said they have had to adapt the 30acre operation over the years.

“We have had to be very flexible and change with the industry,” Miles said.

“We never set out to do yearling preparation but that is what has been our main focus up till now and that is what we are good at.

“We do quite a bit of weaning which Michael and I both really enjoy.

“We like seeing the young babies start off not knowing anything and setting them up for their lives as future racehorses.”

Miles and Simpson, who are members of the Canterbury branch of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association, contribute to the industry on many levels. Miles is the Clerk of the Scales down in the Otago region in a job share position with both Otago Racing and Gallop South and runs the south island arm of the foster foal service during the breeding season.

“I have done the Foster Foal Service for the past two years,” she said.

“You hope no one needs to use it but when they do you like to be successful. We fostered and made the connections of around 13 foals down here last year.”

Despite juggling several roles Miles has had time to contemplate a repeat trip north next year for the May Sale.

“I think we would go back there to Karaka,” she said.

“Going up there really drove home that you need to have the right horse.

“They have to be correct, be athletes and have the right temperament. Everything you are looking for in a racehorse. You can’t compromise.”

-NZTBA



Friday 24 May 2019

GLOBAL NZ BRED WINNERS

16/05/2019 - 23/05/2019

AUSTRALIA

Darci Brahma : Rube Bridges (NZ) (Queen to Be by King's Theatre) 2013;
21/05/2019, 1st Moe RC Moe Cup Live H. 1623m

Echoes of Heaven : (Mr) Tipla (NZ) (Sangiovese by Chianti) 2014;
17/05/2019, 1st Cranbourne TC Procon Developments H. 1200m
Sold by Woodridge Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$9000

Echoes of Heaven : Heavenly Emperor (NZ) (Race Empress by St. Petersburg) 2015;
19/05/2019, 1st Bendigo JC Big Screen Company Maiden P. 1300m

Ekraar : With No Name (NZ) (Oaks Room by Jugah) 2013;
19/05/2019, 1st TTC Australian Racing Hall of Fame Maiden P. 1220m

Ekraar : Odin's Folly (NZ) (Viking Angel by Viking Ruler) 2014;
22/05/2019, 1st GCTC TAB Maiden P. 1800m
Sold by Westend Partnership at National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale for \$3500

Fastnet Rock : Union Dues (NZ) (Most Striking by Giant's Causeway) 2014;
17/05/2019, 1st Ipswich TC Coopers Panel n Paint H. 1690m
Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$500000

Ferlax : Nobody's Perfect (NZ) (Sunshine Gold by Zabeel) 2015;
20/05/2019, 1st Port Macquarie RC Wauchope Cup Raceday Maiden P. 1500m
Sold by Kiltannon Stables Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$160000
Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$30000

Jimmy Choux : Chouxter (NZ) (Ritzy Lady by Zabeel) 2014;
19/05/2019, 1st Bendigo JC Jayco H. 1100m
Sold by Trelawney Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$165000

Ocean Park : Star of the Seas (NZ) (Stella Livia by Titus Livius) 2014;
18/05/2019, 1st ATC Jim Cassidy Hall of Fame H. 1500m

Ocean Park : Loved One (NZ) (More to Love by Danasinga) 2015;
21/05/2019, 1st Illawarra TC Wards Creek H. 1200m

Pentire : Counterfire (NZ) (Jetusin by Jetball) 2012;
20/05/2019, 1st MRC (Mornington) Mornington Nissan H. 2050m

Per Incanto : Magic Mystery (NZ) (Da Vinci Code by Danasinga) 2015;
17/05/2019, 1st Ipswich TC Northern Suburbs Hockey Club Maiden H. 1350m
Sold by Little Avondale Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$170000

Redoute's Choice : Cottenham (NZ) (Kaatoon by Kaapstad) 2015;
18/05/2019, 1st Newcastle JC Legrand Australia Aqua Life Maiden P. 1850m
Sold by Cambridge Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$240000

Reliable Man : Oddfellow (NZ) (Wannabe Queen by Bernstein) 2014;
18/05/2019, 1st Beaudesert Hibernian RC Buck's Bakery Landsborough H. 1100m

Reliable Man : Inspirational Girl (NZ) (Be Inspired by Zabeel) 2015;
18/05/2019, 1st Pinjarra RC Tabtouch Better Your Bet Maiden P. 1200m
Sold by Jamieson Park at National Yearling Sale for \$190000

Rip Van Winkle : Rip Into Ghia (NZ) (Karmann Ghia by Volksraad) 2013;
18/05/2019, 1st Young TC Thompson's Rural Supplies H. 1400m
Sold by Windsor Park Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$110000

Roc de Cambes : Mercy Street (NZ) (Thenaia by St. Petersburg) 2013;
16/05/2019, 1st Pakenham RC McMahons H. 1400m
Sold by Greene Thoroughbreds Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$37500

Savabeel : Thurmanator (NZ) (Miss Thurman by Umatilla) 2013;
16/05/2019, 1st Pakenham RC Superior Food Services Maiden P. 1400m

Savabeel : Racing Paradise (NZ) (Striptease by Danasinga) 2015;
17/05/2019, 1st Ballarat TC Sportsbets Power Play H. 2100m
Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$180000

Savabeel : Grand Bouquet (NZ) (Daffodil by No Excuse Needed) 2015;
22/05/2019, 1st GCTC TAB H. 1800m
Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$600000

Spartacus : Speedy Jax (NZ) (Aromay by Green Perfume) 2010;
19/05/2019, 1st Casterton RC Pullen & Co Two Rivers S/chase 3800m

Swiss Ace : Musical Genius (NZ) (Symphony Rock by Fastnet Rock) 2014;
18/05/2019, 1st GCTC Matt Devitt Electrical H. 900m

Tavistock : Grinzing Charger (NZ) (Zenada by Zenno Rob Roy) 2015;
19/05/2019, 1st Strathalbyn RC Philmac Maiden P. 1600m
Sold by Lime Country Thoroughbreds Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$160000

Zoustar : Airlie Avenue (NZ) (Helen of Rose by New Approach) 2015;
20/05/2019, 1st Port Macquarie RC Schweppes Maiden H. 1200m
Sold by Westbury Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$130000

HONG KONG

Casino Prince : Win Win (NZ) (Contented by More Than Ready) 2015;
22/05/2019, 1st HKJC Lancashire H. 1650m
Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$180000

He's Remarkable : London Hall (NZ) (La Memoire by Tale of the Cat) 2014;
18/05/2019, 1st HKJC Boosting Innovative Power H. 1800m



Friday 24 May 2019

GLOBAL NZ BRED WINNERS

16/05/2019 - 23/05/2019

MACAU

Sebring : Majestic Champion - Snowball (Mac.) (NZ) (Casino Snip by High Rolling) 2013;

17/05/2019, 1st Macau Fuzhou H. 1510m

Sold by Wentwood Grange at National Yearling Sale for \$100000

Sufficient : Brooklyn Bay - Kelowna Star (Mac.) (NZ) (Middlebrook by Royal Academy) 2011;

17/05/2019, 1st Macau Anyang H. 1200m

Sold by Highview at Ready to Run Sale for \$40000

MALAYSIA

Battle Paint : Char Siew (NZ) (Glo by J'Lo by Green Perfume) 2013;

19/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Class 5 H. 1400m

Bullbars : Bahar (NZ) (Te Toro Lass by Ekraar) 2013;

18/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Class 4 H. 1200m

Sold by Phoenix Park at Ready to Run Sale for \$55000

Sold by Phoenix Park at National Yearling Sale for \$27500

Darci Brahma : Sonny Bill (NZ) (Rihanna by Show a Heart) 2014;

19/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Malaysian Celebrities Trophy 1600m

Guillotine : Larson (NZ) (Jodie by King's Chapel) 2014;

19/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Class 5 H. 1200m

O'Reilly : Smiddy Byrne (NZ) (Cenphic by Centaine) 2012;

18/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Class 5 H. 1200m

Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$80000

Pins : Golden Tycoon (NZ) (Paris Carver by Fast 'n' Famous) 2014;

19/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Novice P. 1200m

Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$70000

Showcasing : Forsa Eclipse (NZ) (Miraflora by Johar) 2015;

19/05/2019, 1st Selangor TC Malaysia 3yo Championship Heat 2 L 1200m

Sold by Te Runga Stud Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$110000

SINGAPORE

Alamosa : Alamak (NZ) (Castellina by Zabeel) 2014;

19/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 2000m

Sold by Anzac Lodge at Ready to Run Sale for \$55000

Sold by Wellfield Lodge at National Yearling Sale for \$36000

Alamosa : Destroyer Eclipse (NZ) (Shezabeel by Zabeel) 2014;

19/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1600m

Sold by Riverrock Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$40000

Sold by Wellfield Lodge at National Yearling Sale for \$22500

SINGAPORE

Battle Paint : Skywalk (NZ) (Daystar by Danasinga) 2013;

17/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 1 H. 1100m

Sold by Regal Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$100000

Sold by Sedgmere Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$32000

Burgundy : Burkaan (NZ) (Meranti by Woodman) 2015;

19/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m

Dalghar : Singa Glory - Well Deserved (Sing.) (NZ) (Appleton's Lass by Woodbury Lad) 2014;

17/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Open Maiden S. 1000m

Sold by Diamond Lodge at Ready to Run Sale for \$280000

Sold by Woburn Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$60000

Elusive City : Supernova (NZ) (Our Girl Nelson by Carnegie) 2008;

17/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1600m

Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$20000

Falkirk : Despacito (NZ) (Real Defensive by Defensive Play) 2013;

19/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m

Highly Recommended : Clarton Star (NZ) (Annabel Rose by Pins) 2015;

17/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1700m

Sold by Berkley Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$17500

O'Reilly : Super Tycoon (NZ) (Toss Up by Zabeel) 2013;

17/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1400m

Sold by Mana Park at Ready to Run Sale for \$180000

Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$70000

Pins : JK Formidable (NZ) (Disneyland by O'Reilly) 2014;

17/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1100m

Sold by JK Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$100000

Sold by Waikato Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$20000

Showcasing : Our Showcase (NZ) (Our Girl Nelson by Carnegie) 2014;

19/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Open Maiden S. 1400m

Showcasing : Awesome (NZ) (Hermitage by Generous) 2012;

19/05/2019, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m

Sold by Phoenix Semper Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$32500

Sold by Martindale Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$9000



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