

Sunday 8 September 2019

COOGA DOON WINS WANGANUI GUINEAS



Cooga Doon and Lisa Allpress storm clear at Wanganui (Race Images - Peter Rubery)

Lightly raced three-year-old **Cooga Doon (NZ)** (Makfi) made it two wins from two starts when he took out the Listed HS Dyke Wanganui Guineas (1340m) in sensational fashion on Saturday.

The Fraser Auret-trained Makfi gelding had set tongues wagging when successful by seven lengths over 1200m in his debut run at the venue last month.

The subject of a mountain of late support that saw him start favourite for his first start in black-type company, Cooga Doon looked anything but a winning chance when he was

forced to sit three-wide outside the early speed before making his way to the lead with 800m to run.

Cuddled up around the home bend by rider Lisa Allpress, Cooga Doon shot clear halfway down the straight before clearing away to win untouched by a conservative six lengths from Cambridge visitor Sai Fah (NZ) (Rios), who chased him hard the whole way home.

Auret was quick to admit the race hadn't gone to plan but was looking forward to his charge getting over more ground

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COOGA DOON WINS **WANGANUI GUINEAS**

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in the future.

"It's a privilege to have these types of horses although it didn't quite go to script," Auret said.

"He just has plenty of gears doesn't he.

"His mum was a stakes winner over a mile and a half, so the world really is his oyster."

Auret is looking forward to improved track conditions for his charge, who holds a nomination for the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton in November.

"To my eye he was more dominant today on a slightly better track than his last one," he said.

"We will take a line through that and kick on for sure.

"The Hawke's Bay Guineas (Gr.2, 1400m) is on the radar but we will have a meeting with his owners and go from there."

Raced by Gavin O'Dea and his wife Jill, Cooga Doon is the second foal of Listed Dunedin Gold Cup winner Monachee (NZ) (O'Reilly), a sister to Gr.2 Rich Hill Mile (1600m) placegetter Ciara (NZ) (O'Reilly).

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WJC HS Dyke Wanganui Guineas 1340m
Winner	Cooga Doon (NZ) 2016
Owners	G R O'Dea
Trainer	Fraser Auret (Marton)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Monachee by O'Reilly
Breeder	P V & P G Mullin Trust

NEWS IN BRIEF

QLD win for Picaro

Warwick Farm trainer Gary Portelli has predicted more Sydney horses will be heading to Brisbane in coming weeks after **Picaro** (Pierro) won at Eagle Farm.

Picaro won a battle with favourite Miss Shanti (Pierro) to score by a half head in the Madison Cleaning Plate (1825m).

The four-year-old son of Pierro was sold as a yearling though Hallmark Stud's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock draft when purchased by Laurel Oak Bloodstock for \$100,000.

Portelli, who also won with Single Bullet (Not A Single Doubt) at Eagle Farm last week, said he would be back with more horses as the spring carnivals hotted up in the south.

"I think the spring carnivals in Sydney and Melbourne will be the strongest we have seen in years," Portelli said.

"It means you have to look for races your horses can win and Brisbane provides that.

"It is a good trip up the highway from Sydney and the horses recover quickly. I don't think I will be the only one from Sydney bringing horses here in coming weeks."

Jockey Michael Cahill continued a long association with Portelli and produced a clever ride to win.

"Michael and I go back years to when he was at Cowra and I was at Orange. In fact Michael's brother Matthew rode my very first winner and that is a good while ago," Portelli said. -AAP





RIVA CAPRI IMPRESSIVE IN WANGANUI VICTORY

Hastings visitor **Riva Capri (NZ)** (Atlante) indicated she will be a filly to watch at a higher level over the next few months after she broke her maiden status in stakes company when taking out the Listed The O’Leary’s Fillies Stakes (1200m) at Wanganui.

Raced in the colours of well-known owner Lib Petagna under his JML Bloodstock banner, the Guy Lowry and Grant Cullen-trained three-year-old had looked a likely type when flashing home late for second on debut at her Hastings home track back in July.

Unsung since that performance, Riva Capri was overlooked by most punters who sent out the well-performed pair of Flaunting (NZ) (Showcasing) and She’s A Lady (NZ) (Swiss Ace) as favourites for the contest along with the unbeaten Trifolium (Krupt).

After enjoying a comfortable run behind the pace for rider Craig Grylls, Riva Capri moved into contention on the point of the home turn as Trifolium took over from pace-making stablemate, Miss Sweet Pee (NZ) (Mossman).

Trifolium and Riva Capri set down to a dour battle in the home straight with Riva Capri getting her nose down at the right time to claim victory. The JML Bloodstock-owned Sorrentina



Riva Capri breaks her maiden status in fine fashion with a black-type victory at Wanganui (Race Images - Peter Rubery)

(NZ) (Savabeel) ran on nicely to grab third from She’s A Lady who battled on strongly after being wide throughout.

Co-trainer Guy Lowry indicated another black type assignment was on the cards for his charge after claiming the victory despite a belated start to her campaign after she missed a run at Taupo when the races were abandoned midway through the programme.

“We were a little bit worried after missing a run at Taupo,” he said.

“I think her condition probably told in the last 50m but she was gutsy enough to hang on.

“We will back up in the Group Three at Hastings in a couple of weeks and then we will go from there.”

Lowry was speaking about the Gr.3 Hawke’s Bay Breeders’ Gold Trail Stakes (1200m) that will be run at Hastings on September 21.

Bred by Petagna, Riva Capri is the first stakes winner for the ill-fated Mapperley Stud stallion Atlante, who passed away in 2016 after completing his second season at stud.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	WJC The O’Leary’s Fillies Stakes L. 1200m
Winner	Riva Capri (NZ) 2016
Owners	JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr: L Petagna)
Trainer	Guy Lowry & Grant Cullen (Hastings)
Breeding	by Atlante (AUS) out of Chaparella by High Chaparral (IRE)
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd





WISE MEN SAY TAKES SECOND VICTORY IN ELLERSLIE'S GREAT RACE

Wise Men Say (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) added his name to the Ellerslie record books when he took out one of the world's iconic jumping races, the Network Visuals Great Northern Steeplechase (6400m), for the second time on Saturday.

The ten-year-old, who had won the race in 2017, adopted tearaway tactics as he led from go to whoa to defy his rivals under the urgings of rider Shaun Fannin.

The pair gave a faultless display of jumping in front throughout after taking command at the first fence of the 6400m journey. Coming down the famed Ellerslie hill for the last time Wise Men Say had an eight-length advantage on his nearest pursuer, Crash Bandicoot (NZ) (Casual Lies), with the rest of the field chasing hard a further ten lengths away.

The Yamanin Vital gelding jumped the last neatly and slogged his way home over the final 250m to win by a rapidly diminishing one and a half-length margin from rank outsider Kings Kite (King's Chapel) who charged home to claim second from the tiring Crash Bandicoot and race favourite Lacustre.

"It was a 10 out of 10 ride," trainer Raymond Connors said.

"I told him (Fannin) to ride him handy but I wasn't

expecting that to be honest.

"This race suits him, it's tailor-made as he is a true stayer."

Fannin was happy to take control of the race after following his instructions from Connors.

"I was just happy to have him up there as there looked no speed in the race on paper," Fannin said.

"He was happy in his action out in front, jumping nicely and he is a very dour stayer so it was catch me if you can.

"He was really relaxed and I didn't think I was going too hard. I gave him a squeeze coming down the hill and he quickened nicely.

"I know how tough he is as he had already

won it two years ago so I wasn't going to sit around at that stage and he proved too tough at the finish.

"I'm two from two on the horse now so I have a big thank you to say to Mark."

Fannin went close to scoring a coveted double on the day after being narrowly beaten on Laekeeper (NZ) (Keeper) in the other feature jumping event, the Boutique Body Corporates Great Northern Hurdle (4190m).

With the victory Wise Men Say took his career record to nine wins for 34 starts and over \$332,000 in stakes earnings for owners Raymond and Mark Connors. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Network Visuals Great Northern Steeplechase 6400m
Winner	Wise Men Say (NZ) 2009
Owners	M S & R M Connors
Trainer	Raymond Connors (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Yamanin Vital out of Vaguely Famous by Famous Star (GB)
Breeder	B J & Mrs L E Anderton & Parr Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2011 South Island Sale of 2YOs & Mixed Bloodstock; V: White Robe Lodge, P: Mr KT Myers; \$37,500



Wise Men Say clears a fence in effortless fashion on his way to victory at Ellerslie (Trish Dunell)





SWEET REVENGE FOR BAD BOY BROWN IN ELLERSLIE JUMPING FEATURE

The never say die attitude of accomplished hurdler **Bad Boy Brown (NZ)** (St Reims) was on display for all to see at Ellerslie on Saturday after he produced a stirring home straight rally to claim the day's first prestige jumping event, the Boutique Body Corporates Great Northern Hurdle (4190m).

Narrowly beaten in a tight finish to the Grand National Hurdles (4200m) at Riccarton last month, the Harvey Wilson-trained eight-year-old put that disappointment aside as he rallied bravely in the final 100m of the Ellerslie feature after being clearly headed by Laekeeper (NZ) (Keeper) earlier in the run home.

Race	ARC Boutique Body Corporates Great Northern Hurdle 4190m
Winner	Bad Boy Brown (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs E A & J E Hancock, Mrs A M & H E Wilson
Trainer	Harvey Wilson (Waverley)
Breeding	by St Reims out of Pay 'n' Display by Centaine (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs E A & J E Hancock

Rider Isaac Lupton, who is no stranger to success at Ellerslie, had made his charge for victory on Bad Boy Brown at the 700m as he sent the St Reims gelding to the lead with two fences to clear.

Laekeeper tracked him into the race and swooped to the front with 300m to run but clipped the final fence allowing Bad Boy Brown to fight back and take the win by a neck.

Wilson was almost lost for words with the win, as he acknowledged a run at the Foxton trials on Tuesday had played a significant role in the result.

"When that other horse was coming at us, I wasn't certain (of victory) as I was thinking back to Christchurch," Wilson said.

"We were lucky but it was a great ride by Isaac, he's a legend.

"He (Bad Boy Brown) needed a good hit-out at the trials so that has worked for us."

The win added another feather in the cap for Wilson this season after he produced It's A Wonder (NZ) (Istidaad) to win the Grand National Steeplechase (5600m) on the last day of the recent Christchurch Winter Carnival.

Runner-up Laekeeper fought bravely for his placing after lumping topweight of 68.5kgs around the Ellerslie circuit while No Tip (NZ) (Mette En Jeu) battled on well for third for rider Aaron Kuru, who had celebrated his 100th New Zealand riding victory when successful on Bee Tee Junior (NZ) (Nom Du Jeu) in the day's opening event.

– NZ Racing Desk



Eventual winner Bad Boy Brown (inner) and Laekeeper take the last fence together as they battle out the finish at Ellerslie (Trish Dunell)





Staphanos

New for 2019



- By global sire sensation and Japanese Horse of the Year Deep Impact.
- Deep Impact Champion Sire in Japan in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. The World's Leading Stallion by progeny earnings for 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018.
- Deep Impact - His eight crops of racing age have collectively earned more than \$600 million and won 260 stakes races.
- Deep Impact has highest advertised service fee in the world at \$540,000.
- Staphanos - Multiple Group One performer in Japan.
- Staphanos - Multiple Group One performer in Hong Kong.
- Precocious - Winner as a 2yo.
- Ability - One of Japan's top ranked horses as a 3yo, 4yo, 5yo and 6yo winning in excess of NZ\$1m in each season.
- Class - Timeform Rated 123.
- Staphanos is the winner of \$NZ 6.2m - making him the highest stake earner at stud in New Zealand.
- Turn of Foot - Last 600m in 32.9 winning the Group Three Tokyo Fuji Stakes.
- Speed - Track record breaker in the Group Naruo Kinen running 1.57.6 over 2000m.
- Staphanos is an outstanding physical type.

GROUP ONE

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SIRE SENSATION
DEEP IMPACT



TOFANE TOPS AT THE VALLEY

Trainer Michael Moroney had been confident of a strong performance from Group Two performer **Tofane (NZ)** (Ocean Park) leading into Saturday and the four-year-old mare did not disappoint.

Tofane was second-up in the Pfd Food Services (1200m) at Moonee Valley and despite having to travel three-wide most of the trip, she had plenty in the tank to collar leader Haut Brion Hur (Zoustar) with 100m to go and went on to win by .3L.

"She got the right spot to a degree," Moroney said. "I thought she did a really good job because he (jockey Michael Dee) tried to get in because he was always three wide but he kept

whether it was running down the hill or whatever happened to her.

"Certainly that run brought her on and she is on the right path."

Bred by Curraghmore's Gordon Cunningham, Tofane is out of Galileo mare Baggy Green, a three-quarter-sister to Group One winner Youngstar (High Chaparral).

"We would like to think she is good enough to run in the mare's mile on Derby Day if we could get there," Moroney said. "I think being an Ocean Park out of Galileo mare it is a pretty stout family.

"It is a good staying family and she is showing real speed."

-NZ Racing Desk

Race	MVRC Pfd Food Services (1200m)
Winner	Tofane (NZ) 2015
Owners	Ballymore Stables (Aust) P/L, R&C Legh Racing P/L, Gee Gee Equine Ltd, B&C Thoroughbreds P/L, Wright Racing, Werrett Bloodstock P/L, C & Mrs J Madden, K Good, W Richardson, Dr J Kennedy, J Kennedy, R Ford, F Brown, G Mellis, M Merton, A Pezzimenti, S Pezzimenti, J Pezzimenti & A Panozzo
Trainer	Michael Moroney (Flemington)
Breeding	by Ocean Park out of Baggy Green (AUS) by Galileo (IRE)
Breeder	G Cunningham

her balanced."

Tofane was coming off a last-start fourth at Sandown in August and Moroney admits there were excuses to that performance.

"We probably made a bit of a blue first up," he said. "We were well aware we had to get through the class and get her rating up to make some of these races and we thought we would get away with a 1000m and it just didn't pan out,



Tofane on her way to winning at Moonee Valley on Saturday (Quentin Lang)





LONG JACK ON DERBY PATH

Long Jack (So You Think) will attempt to blaze a new trail from the Ballarat synthetic track to the oldest Group One classic in Australia at Flemington after a decisive maiden win on Friday.

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained colt, who had been runner-up at his only two starts in New Zealand, showed he was worthy of a Victoria Derby campaign when he dominated a 1400-metre maiden at the cramped odds of \$1.55.

Leading jockey Damian Lane had been recruited for the

Race	BTC Hertz Maiden Plate 1400m
Winner	Long Jack 2016
Owners	Doyles Breeding & Racing (Mgr: M F Doyle)
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Extravaganza (GER) by Monsun (GER)
Breeder	M F Doyle

ride and he said later that although Long Jack had plenty to learn, he had the ability to make an impact this spring.

“He’s very new still,” Lane said. “He’s a green horse so he’s probably never going to really put them to the sword, especially being out in front so early, but he’s a nice colt and he’s got plenty of upside.

“He’ll definitely get out over further. How far I am not sure at this stage but definitely further than today’s trip.”

Long Jack holds an entry for next month’s A\$2 million Caulfield Guineas (1600m) but it might be the 2500-metre Victoria Derby where he is best suited.

He is by the 2010 Melbourne Cup placegetter and dual-hemisphere weight-for-age star So You Think and is out of a Monsun mare - Extravaganza - with that stallion having supplied three Melbourne Cup winners (Fiorente in 2013, Protectionist in 2014 and Almandin in 2016) over a four-year period. -racing.com



Long Jack made a perfect start to his Australian campaign on Friday (Trish Dunell)





FIELD MARSHAL DOUBLES THE SCORE



Field Marshall makes it two wins from two starts in Singapore (STC)

South African trainer Ricardo Le Grange's high opinion of **Field Marshal (NZ)** (Sweet Orange) was given another boost following a second win from as many starts on Friday night.

The New Zealand-bred three-year-old by Sweet Orange made a thrilling winning debut under Le Grange's apprentice jockey Krisna Thangamani, getting up by a nose in a Restricted Maiden race over 1200m on turf on July 28, carrying only 50kgs.

Le Grange raised the ante by stepping up the Middle Kingdom Stable-owned galloper in the S\$75,000 Novice race over 1200m, this time around on Polytrack.

The switch in surface was not the biggest worry. He was going to cross swords with other impressive debut winners like Diamond Ring (NZ) (Super Easy) and Coming Through (NZ) (El Hermano) while last week's winner Lord Of Light (NZ) (Power) and last-start winner The Nutter (Your Song)

were nothing to sneeze at either.

The 51.5kgs handicap was a big shot in the arm, though, and an ounce of luck in the running went a long way towards Field Marshal laying down the law for a second time.

Well ridden into a rails-hugging position by lightweight jockey Ben Thompson, Field Marshal was always well poised in a striking decision, around three lengths off leader and favourite Diamond Ring.

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FIELD MARSHAL **DOUBLES THE SCORE**

(Continued from page 10)

At the top of the straight, Thompson, however, elected to peel his mount out when he could have sweated for a rails gap, but bumped into Coming Through at the 300m as he came out.

For a horse with so little exposure to racing, such impeded runs could have snuffed his lights out, but he maintained his composure and a strong gallop to gain the upperhand on the top pick.

The winning margin was half-a-length and the winning time was 1min 11.92secs for the 1200m on the Polytrack.

"I once made a statement that he was a smart horse from the moment he came to us," said Le Grange.

"He showed a lots of guts and a lot of determination even if this is probably not the right trip for him. A Novice race is always quite

competitive, and he also had a bumping match.

"I'm not good enough to buy these good horses. It's Jayven See (of Middle Kingdom Stable) who bought him at a sale. I'm very happy with that win."

Thompson was on the same page in his appraisal of Field Marshal's potential, but did have some uneasy moments in transit.

"Diamond Ring was laying out, and I was not sure if the gap would come through. I thought Daniel would roll back in," said the Australian rider.

"I stayed one off and it's paid off in the end. He's a lovely horse and has been well taken care of.

"I won a trial (August 29) on him, and I always felt he was not the finished product yet. He's a progressive three-year-old going forward.

"Krisna has done all the work on him and won on him on debut, he

deserves all the credit."

Field Marshal has already recouped his price tag of \$60,000 as a two-year-old having now pocketed around S\$80,000 in prizemoney for the Middle Kingdom Stable, which together with its affiliation with the Ultima Racing Stable, the new sponsor of next Friday week's El Dorado Classic (2000m), gave their usual rapturous welcome to the winner at the weigh-in. -STC

Race	STC Novice 1200m
Winner	Field Marshal (NZ) 2016
Owners	Middle Kingdom Stable
Trainer	Ricardo Le Grange (Singapore)
Breeding	by Sweet Orange (USA) out of Scarlet Runner by Kingdom Bay
Breeder	Inner Mongolia Rider Horse Industry (NZ) Ltd
Sales	2018 Ready To Run Sale of 2YOS; V: Regal Farm, P: Beamish Bloodstock/Ultima; \$60,000





ME TSUI WANTS THE WIN AS UGLY WARRIOR READIES FOR KOREA SPRINT

Me Tsui is seeking redress. The trainer's Fight Hero (Footstepsinthesand) ran a race befitting his name to place a close second in last year's Korea Sprint (1200m) - after luck deserted - and on Sunday his **Ugly Warrior (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) will enter the Seoul sand track in an attempt to go one better.

Ugly Warrior, a son of Swiss Ace who was purchased by Tsui as a Ready To Run two-year-old from Regal Farm's 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock draft, will break from a wide berth, gate 12.

"I think Ugly Warrior will be able to get a better position than Fight Hero, that part should be easier for him," he said. "Fight Hero always needed to sit behind but Ugly Warrior can race in a forward position, or even midfield, and he can still do it."

Vincent Ho will ride Ugly Warrior and was at the track early on Saturday morning to partner the five-year-old at exercise.

Tsui, 58, is one of Hong Kong's unsung trainers. His record is one of admirable consistency, reaping 51 wins and a third-place premiership finish at his best in the 2007/08 season, and averaging 36 wins per term over 14 seasons. He hit his 500th career win in May this year.

"I don't know that I have success but my performance is very stable," he said. "That's a basic success. You need some good horses and good owners to support you and then you need luck. I am consistent around 30 to 40 winners."

His hope is that Ugly Warrior can bring home a first high-profile overseas win. The signs this week at least suggest that the gelding is in good heart.

"He looks quieter and steadier in his work than he is at



Ugly Warrior working in Seoul this week ahead of the Korea Sprint (HKJC)

Sha Tin," he said. "Maybe this quiet environment makes him calmer – at Sha Tin his head is always going up and down at the canter but here he's more concentrated. He's the same in the box, he's not shown any nervousness since he's been here."

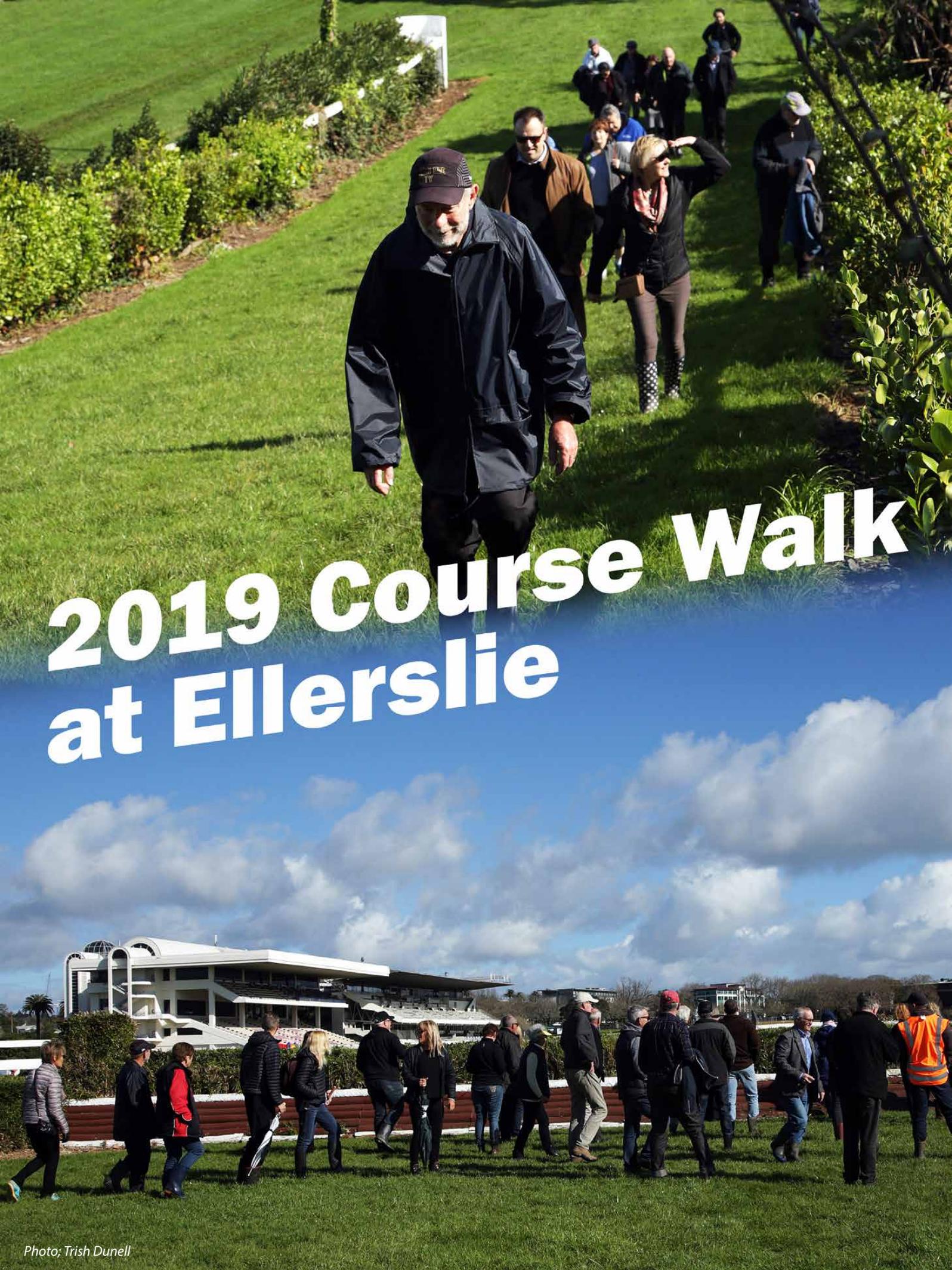
Seoul's sand track is the big unknown.

"It all depends on whether or not the horse can handle the track. I can't make him like it," he said. "The work rider said he's enjoying the surface, he's very smooth going step by step. In Hong Kong he's sometimes a little bit keen and then slows down after 100 metres. But here he's keeping the same action all the way down the home straight.

"The track being deep is maybe making him more careful."

-HKJC





2019 Course Walk at Ellerslie

Photo: Trish Dunell

ALMANZOR

The first NZ Foals by the Champion European 3YO have arrived...



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