



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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This ANZAC day edition is dedicated to our brave servicemen and servicewomen who have upheld the ANZAC day tradition since 1915.

It is also estimated that during the First World War 136,000 horses (6,000 at Gallipoli) were sent from Australia into battle. Only one made his way back home after the war, and his name was Sandy.

This week OTI was thrilled to have purchased a 50% interest in YOUNG RASCAL, a one time English Derby favourite. This exciting gelding will be trained by Archie Alexander in Ballarat. We look forward to joining his part owner Mr Bernard Kantor in success in the forthcoming years.

One of our more popular horses MASTER ZEPHYR has now been retired. He joins OTI's Equine Welfare program at his new home in Maldon, Victoria.

OTI NEWS

Attention turns to Victoria with runners at Flemington and Geelong over the ANZAC weekend.

At Flemington on Saturday:

HAKY runs in R4 William Newton VC Handicap over 2600m for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates. He's drawn barrier 10 in the contest. He has thrived this preparation, and we look forward to seeing him run a big race.

NEVER NO MORE makes his first start for OTI when running over 1000m for Lindsey Smith and Dean Yendall in R7. Targets ahead for this horse include the Listed Wangoom Handicap over 1200m, and the GR1 Goodwood in South Australia over 1200m.

INSTANT DE REVE may make his long awaited return to the track for Chris Waller and Michael Walker in R8 over 1700m. He is fourth emergency in the contest.

At Geelong on Sunday:

TRENCH WARFARE makes his racecourse debut for Matt Cumani with Fred Kersley in the saddle. Drawn barrier 5 in R4, he will improve for the experience of a run.

TIGRE ROYALE is third emergency in R6 for Archie Alexander and we are hopeful for a start.

The Cox Plate at Moonee Valley may be run under floodlights for the first time in 2020. MVRC are in preliminary talks with media and regulators given the likelihood that some protocols will remain in place.

Sky Racing audiences have grown by 38% since racing went behind closed doors in Australia.

Officials hope that racing will return in Tasmania in mid May.

Arqana and Goffs have joined forces to hold their ready to run sales together at Naas racecourse in Ireland in June. Tattersalls Group will combine their various their ready to run sales, and will be held in Newmarket, England.

Ireland hopes to return to racing behind closed doors in mid May. However mass gatherings of 5000 are banned until September 1st 2020.

The BHA in England has announced plans for the return to racing. Fields will be capped at 12 runners, as well as being limited to senior jockeys.

French racing authorities have had positive conversations with French government officials. Targets are being made for a return to racing on the 11th May under a revised schedule.

AN INDUSTRY VIEW



Matt Stewart discusses the international purchasing opportunities available during this current period
[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Q&A DR ANDREW CUST

Where did you grow up and were you surrounded by horses from a young age?

I grew up in Oaklands Junction at Warlabby Stud which is near Inglis Sales outside Melbourne. It was a horse stud when my grandfather was alive, and stood stallions including Solar Bear, Robber Prince and Helios. Later it became a beef cattle farm, but we still had horses. I grew up going to pony club, playing polo, hunting, and eventing. Horses have always been part of my life.

Did you always want to get involved in veterinary medicine?

Yes, my Dad is a vet, and I'd always wanted to be one too but I wasn't sure I was going to get into Vet School. Initially I graduated with a Bachelor of Biological Sciences from Latrobe, and subsequently did Veterinary Science at Melbourne University, and then did my Masters in hoof balance and racing performance.

You worked in different countries prior to returning to Australia. What experiences did you take from them?

I worked in Argentina, America and the UK but as a vet I have worked in Macau, and gained a lot of experience there. There were 1000 horses housed on the track so we trotted enormous numbers of horses, and got to see a lot of lame horses in a short period of time. All the track-work was monitored, so we could see how horses responded to different trainers and their training regimes, as well as seeing what horses can cope with under varying conditions of temperate and humidity etc.

In simple terms, what is important in the conformation in a racehorse, and in particular the European racehorses?

Everyone has a different view of conformation. I look from the viewpoint of what comes back to be a problem when they become a racehorse. When looking at yearlings, or tried horses from Europe I ask myself what leg and body types are going to come back and be a problem in our Australians conditions and tracks. I like relatively straight legs that match up with clean radiographs and are developed properly musculoskeletally.

What do you admire most in the Equine athletes?

I admire their resilience and their personality. When they are looked after well they love to be part of the team.



What does a standard working day look like for Dr Andrew Cust?

I go to the track in the morning, and then visit the stables in Ballarat to do the rounds. Sometimes I bring the horses back to the hospital, and if cases are complicated and require specialist expertise I refer cases to other specialists in our hospital, sometimes doing bone scans and MRIs before taking cases back on. Afternoons are spent finishing off stable work. Some days I go to Warrnambool or the Yearling Sales, and in the Spring I will spend a significant amount of time at the Werribee Quarantine Centre looking after the European raiders.

What do you love most about your job?

I love the variety of my job, as day to day there is the stable work, but as well as that I am involved with the our hospital cases. We have a large team and an amazing variety of cases. There is never a dull moment.

How have the restrictions of COVID19 affected your practice?

We've been greatly affected like everyone else. The hospital has been split up into teams, the field and stable vets are working from home and we are genuinely isolated from each other. We are used to all working together and that is part of our major strength and what makes our job so enjoyable, but we are really grateful racing has continued. There would have been a far more significant impact on our business if it had stopped.

When you are not working, how do you enjoy relaxing?

Louisa, my wife, and I have two little girls who are madly into ballet, swimming and netball so that keeps us busy. I personally like getting out on the mountain bike or open water swimming or just reading a good book.

JOHN HAMMOND ON FRANKEL

Frankel was a monster. He was the best racehorse I have ever seen. Unbeaten in 14 starts he put a staggering aggregate of 80 lengths between himself and his opponents, with an average of 5.5 lengths between himself and the second horse in each of his races.

Physically he was a tank. I went to see him just after he had been sent to stud and was surprised by his sheer size when you stood up close to him. They said his racing weight was close to 550 kilos.



His career was something of a fairy tale, trained by Sir Henry Cecil, whose laid back manner hid a driving ambition. Henry's had been a stellar career, ten times champion trainer, a winner of 75 Classics. In the eighties and nineties he was the dominant force in the English training ranks. Intuitive, sensitive and empathetic in the way that he trained, the equivalent of a brilliant gardener with green fingers, he was impossible to copy.

However, chaos in his personal life tore apart his professional life. He divorced Julie, his first wife, the daughter of legendary trainer Sir Noel Murless who had been his rock, to marry a much younger woman. His second alliance disintegrated in public humiliation and the drink which had always been his fickle friend, took hold. Unsurprisingly there was an exodus of owners and the death of his twin brother David in 2002 caused further sadness.

By 2005 his annual total of wins fell to a paltry 12 winners from 56 horses in his stable. Training horses is a very public occupation, when you have a bad day at the office every one knows it, there is no hiding place. No convoluted explanations or any amount of hot air can hide the facts and figures of a spiral of disappointing results, a career in terminal decline.

For many Henry had 'lost it' he could no longer train, at that time it was impossible to believe that the greatest training performance of his career was yet to come.

In his early races, Frankel was stunning in his performances but almost wayward, running with the choke out. In the 2000 Guineas at Newmarket he went off like a sprinter, maybe fifteen lengths clear at half way he held on to win by six. In another hundred yards he would have been beaten. It was an amazing performance but there were fears he could be a one trick pony who would only take so many races running in that fashion.

Indeed, asked for an effort at halfway in the St James Palace stakes at Royal Ascot the winning margin was only a diminishing 3/4 length at the line. But his genius trainer 'got inside his head' and bit by bit, race by race the horse became more tractable.

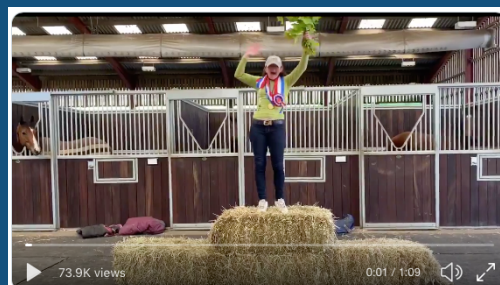
All of his performances were stunning but two, particularly, as a four year old stood out. In the Queen Anne Stakes at Royal Ascot, he settled nicely in the pack just behind his pacemaker before bursting clear at the two furlong pole to win by 11 lengths from the multiple Gr1 winning Excelebration.

This was followed by an equally impressive win at York when tried over a mile and a quarter in the Juddmonte International for the first time. Dropped out way off the pace Frankel arrived on a tight rein at the furlong pole to go on to win by 7 lengths.



The juxtaposition of this extraordinary equine athlete and his ailing trainer who understood him so well and tutored him so brilliantly captured not only the racing public but others too.

FOR A GIGGLE



English Trainer Jamie Osborne and his team are finding ways to keep spirits up.
[WATCH VIDEO](#)

FUN & GAMES

WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of Warrnambool & Werribee Cup
- By Sea The Stars
- Dam Magical Romance sold for a record 4.6 million Guineas at Tattersalls Broodmare sale in 2006

NAME THE RACECOURSE?



Hint -

Located at Gantheaume Point on the Indian Ocean

1. Which winner last Saturday is a three quarter brother to Not A Single Doubt?
2. Superstar filly Almond Eye is trained in which country?
3. Who rode Fiorente to win the Melbourne Cup in 2013?

MILESTONE TO BE TRAINED BY TRENT BUSUTTIN & NATALIE YOUNG

Milestone will be joining the stables of Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young in Cranbourne, VIC.

He is a winner and stakes placed in France, and since his arrival in Australia we have been delighted with the progress he has made.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Let us know if you would like more information.

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TRENT BUSUTTIN

"I've inspected him today and he is a lovely horse with a good presence about him. He is a typical French looking horse, nice, lean and athletic with a great walk on him. "

WHAT HAPPENED TO...

As a part of our commitment to equine welfare, we continue to document the lives of all of our past racehorses

HUTCHINSON

Now under new ownership and the care of trainer Charles Cassar, Hutchinson has just completed the first stage of his tendon rehabilitation. He will now head to the paddock for a well-earned spell before he returns to work in December.



For more information on the OTI Equine Welfare Program follow the [link](#).

WHO IS THIS?

Tall Ship

QUIZ RESULT

1. King's Legacy
2. Japan
3. Damien Oliver

THE RACECOURSE

Broome, WA

Situated next to Cable Beach. The Broome Cup Carnival is held in May with the inaugural Cup being run in 1892.

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