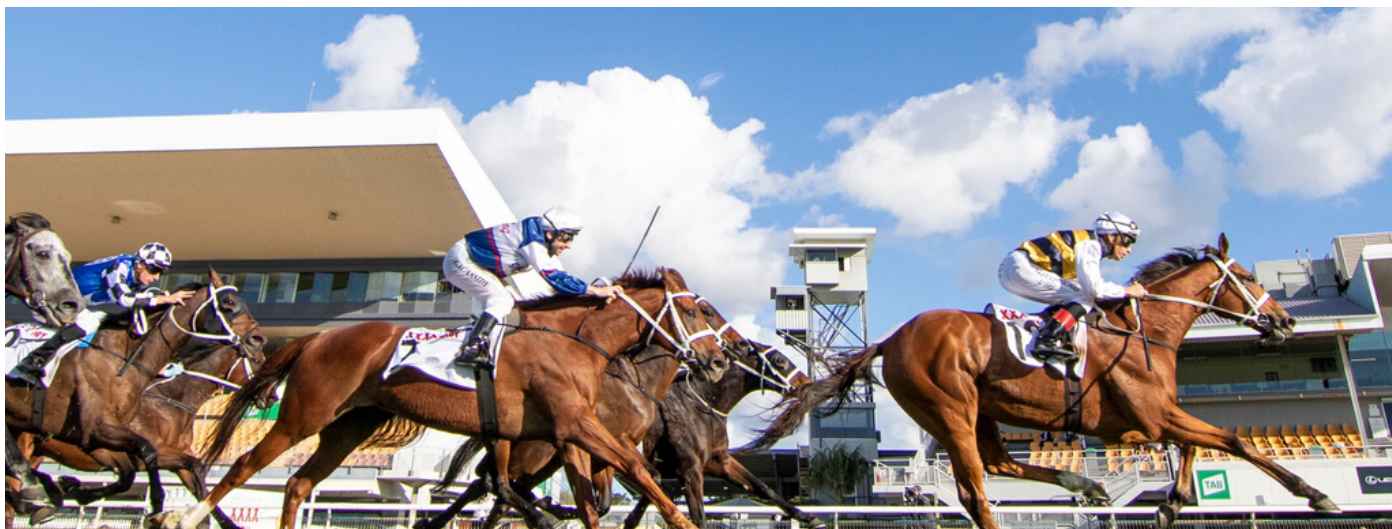




# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management*



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**WHAT HAPPENED TO...**

After much discussion, Racing Victoria has announced that the existing feature race program and traditional dates will be retained for the 2020 Spring Racing Carnival.

The feature racing today in Australia once again takes place in Queensland with the final two year old Group 1 of the season, the J.J. Atkins and the Stradbroke Handicap at Eagle Farm.

In New South Wales, owners will be admitted to the racetrack if they have a runner, though with strict social distancing measures in place. Tables in restaurants will be able to be booked on a first come, first serve basis, for a limited number of 50 people.

Racing resumed in England after a 76 day absence at Newcastle on Monday. In any other year the first Saturday in June is Epsom Derby day, but there will be no racing around Tattenham Corner today. Instead the finest three year old equine athletes will compete in the first classics of the season down the straight course of the Rowley Mile at Newmarket.

Racing this weekend will see OTI colours carried across two continents.

At Flemington:

**SOUTHERN ROCK** is entered to race in R7 BM84 over 1800m. Drawn barrier 3 for Archie Alexander with Jordan Childs in the saddle, he has drawn well and should have the ground to suit.

**ROMANCER** is nominated in R8 1400m Handicap for Grahame Begg with Jordan Childs riding. Drawn barrier 13, of 14, he will benefit from stepping up in trip, and will be aiming to repeat his victory in the same race last year.

On Sunday:

At Swan Hill:

**AU PAIR** has accepted in R1 1600m maiden for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young. Drawn on the outside she will be ridden by Thomas Stockdale, and we are hopeful she can overcome a tricky draw.

In England at Newmarket:

**EAGLES CRAG** is declared to run in R7 over 1600m for Ed Walker and Oisin Murphy. We look forward to seeing his much awaited debut.

## THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART



Matt Stewart discusses prize money levels and the plans in place to see owners return to the races

[WATCH](#)

## WINNER LE JUGE



G3 Chairman's Handicap  
Doomben

Back to back victories in the 2000m race for the Chris Waller trained gelding.

Racing NSW announce the return of prize money to the levels pre coronavirus from July 1st, whilst Racing Victoria hold fire on restoring the cuts of the last few months.

From today, owners will be able to attend the races in NSW if they have a runner. Racing becomes the first major sport to announce the return of spectators.

The NSW jockey zones implemented as a result of the pandemic have been altered and Sydney jockeys will now be able to ride at provincial meetings.

Racing in New Zealand returns two weeks ahead of schedule with racing now due to take place at Pukekohe Park on June 20th.

The first European classics in 2020 were held on Monday at Deauville with Victor Ludorum winning the 2000 Guineas for Andre Fabre, and Dream and Do winning the 1000 Guineas.

# Q&A NATALIE YOUNG

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

I grew up in New Zealand in a small town in the North Island called Thames. It's well known for being an old gold mining town. I've been surrounded by horses my whole life. My dad was a farrier, and my Mum used to train and break in a few. She used to milk cows to make ends meet while raising five kids on her own so we always had a pony each. I was always used as the guinea pig to first get on them - child labour at it's best!



## **How did you get involved in horse racing?**

I got involved in horse racing from an early age, I guess I was always hungry for the need for speed and used to ride around the home track when Mum was a private trainer before school. So I soon progressed from the ponies to the racehorses at the age of 12.

## **What do you love most about training?**

I love selecting them as yearlings and seeing them progress from babies into athletes. Putting a plan in motion and executing a program, and pulling that off to perfection. It doesn't happen all the time, but when it does it's pure satisfaction! There's just no better high than winning, whether it be in the country or at Flemington. You can't beat that feeling and the reaction from the owners.

## **What is your proudest achievement, or race that gives you most satisfaction when you look back on your career thus far?**

Probably a few. Recently Tagaloa in the G1 Blue Diamond. Sixoclocknews winning the Wellington Cup was special as Trent's dad Paddy won it three times. The most memorable was Tavago winning the Australian Derby and becoming the first female trainer to do so, especially after he ran last in the Waikato Guineas. We commiserated over a beer with part owners Pamela and Craig and said "don't worry we will just win the Australian Derby" and we did!

## **How has COVID19 affected your business and working day?**

We've been very fortunate to put the protocols in place and be able to keep racing. We did have to downsize our business for a little while, and we do spend a lot more time after each shift with cleaning and spraying of the barn, but hats off to all the racing participants. I think everyone's done a fantastic job. But I can't wait for the owners to get back on course. It's not much fun at present without them, I'm missing them all terribly, atmosphere is everything.

## **You train alongside your husband Trent Busuttin. How do your roles split, if at all, and what are the benefits of training in partnership?**

I think partnerships are a fantastic idea, just means that you've got two heads instead of one. You can report to the owners and give them all the information and updates that they deserve. We don't always see eye to eye as we're both very different personalities. Trent deals with a lot of the big owners and a lot of the programming too of course so it's a sort of a 50-50 split. We communicate well together which is what you need so things aren't missed when you've got a tremendous team of staff creeping up in size like we do.

## **You've been based in Singapore, NZ and now is Australia. What benefits does this international experience bring?**

We were based in Singapore for 10 years in our 20s, funnily I travelled 8000km to meet another Kiwi! Absolutely loved Singapore, working there really taught me the craft of punting and finding out if the horse is good enough to win. You had to be spot on with your judgement as the punting was huge back in those days. I learnt about conditioning a horse in different environments. The humidity in Singapore always played a big part in the training and you learnt a lot about how horses coped with the environment, how to get them fit not flat and their ability to recuperate and recover quickly. We then moved back to New Zealand for 10 years and we started training in partnership. I still love getting back there to the sales as New Zealand breeds some phenomenal horses and they're always so competitive here in Australia.

## **What does an average day at Busuttin Racing entail for you?**

The alarm goes off at 3:10am. With the team we do feeds, temperature checks, and a detailed look over each horse before they go out. Then we watch trackwork, listen to feedback from the riders, check form scratchings and then it's off to the races. Sometimes in between I'm ducking back to take the kids to school and if I'm not at the races I'm back in the afternoon or in the office during the day ringing people trying to move some legs in horses.

## **When you are not training racehorses, how do you enjoy spending your free time?**

When I'm not in the stable I've generally got my Mum hat on, which we all know has 3 million tasks of its own! The kids, Ben (9) and Zara (7) play basketball, footy and do pony club so we're pretty active with after-school activities. If I really want to wind down it usually involves a glass New Zealand, Cloudy Bay Sav Blanc with the ultimate cheese platter. I've haven't quite converted to Aussie Sav yet!



## EUROPEAN HORSES TO FOLLOW



CAMPHOR  
4yo filly Camelot - Paraphernalia

Listed placed in her last two starts as a 3yo, Camphor has developed over the winter, and will be aimed at the Noblesse Stakes at Leopardstown over 2400m on Sunday 14th June. A filly who will appreciate going further in distance, she may step up to two miles later in the season.

Trainer Jessica Harrington has enjoyed success at the highest level, winning Group 1s including at Royal Ascot on the flat, and Grade 1s including the Cheltenham Gold Cup over jumps.

[WATCH this video](#) to learn more about Camphor.

## FUN & GAMES

### WHO IS THIS?



- Winner of GR2 Zipping Classic
- By Singspiel out of First
- Winner of \$597,298

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint - 1590km from Brisbane*

1. I Am Invincible was second to who in the G1 SAJC Goodwood Handicap?
2. Who trains dual Arc winner Enable?
3. Who is the so far unbeaten runner in the 2020 JJ. Atkins?

# JOHN HAMMOND

## ***John reviews the fascinating book **Black Maestro: The Epic Life of an American Legend** by Joe Drape***

In May 1961, a small black man aged seventy nine smartly attired in suit and tie stood outside the front door of The Brown Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. The doorman, also black, would not let him in. 'We don't allow you people to come in'. The small black man was accompanied by his daughter who insisted that her father was the guest of Sports Illustrated magazine who were holding their annual awards ceremony. The doorman was unaware that an article of a dozen pages had just been written in the magazine on the extraordinary life of the last black jockey to win the Kentucky Derby and one of only two to win it back to back in 1901 and 1902 before he was twenty years old.



At the turn of the century horse racing was the biggest attended sport in America, but equally it was a time when the Jim Crow laws were being enforced. Although he rode 161 winners in 1901 and was known as the crack coloured jockey in the racing press, day to day taunts of 'nigger' and 'darkie' in addition to the increasingly accepted rough riding by the white Irish jockeys meant his future lay elsewhere.

On the advice of trainer Jack Keene, Jimmy headed to Europe where he was taken on by the Polish general Lazarov in Warsaw who was putting together a powerful racing stable that would dominate Russian as well as Polish racing. He was the only black but working with fellow foreigners, Finns, Mongols, Slavs and Turks he was known for his horsemanship not the colour of his skin. He was on salary of \$7,400 dollars a year and riding at racetracks with attendances of 100,000 people.

Fluent in Polish and now Russian, Jimmy Winkfield had become one of Moscow's most recognised sporting figures winning the Moscow Derby in 1907 and 1908 on Lazarev horses. An apartment in the city centre, a dacha in the country he had become a man about town having learnt how to waltz and married a beautiful and cultivated white Russian girl, Alexandra. The second leading stable at the time was that of the Tzar Nicolas 2nd. His tactic to win more races and boost his diminutive stature (he was jockey size) despite a lack of investment was to offer 75% of the winning prize money to whoever finished second. It made for some interesting finishes.

After a spell in Austria Jimmy returned to Moscow to ride for the immensely wealthy Armenian oil magnate A I Mantachev. Now on a salary of over \$13,000 dollars a year plus a suite in The National, the smartest hotel in Moscow Jimmy Winkfield had his own valet...a white man. 1916 was a good year for the pair winning the Russian Derby and Emperor's prize but the tsunami of the Russian revolution was about to arrive and racing, the sport of the elite, was not to the taste of the Bolsheviks.

The racing community fled to Odessa where the sport hobbled on for two years before fleeing again as the reds moved south. Led by a Polish cavalry officer, Frederick Jurjevich, two hundred and fifty head of the best of Russian bloodstock were walked from Crimea to Warsaw to save them from the advancing Bolsheviks, extraordinarily losing only ten horses.

From there Winkfield having lost contact with his wife and child made his way to Paris where he met up again with his patron Mantachev. Aged forty he briefly resumed his riding career bagging the Grand Prix de Deauville on Bahadur prior to starting training.

Having married again to another white Russian, Lydie, daughter of Baron Minkwitz together they built up a successful racing stable in Maisons Laffitte. With two children, Russian was the language spoken at home and the house became something of a post racing salon frequented by Russian Emigrés and black American celebrities. But the good life was not to last with World War Two and the German invasion.

After an altercation with a German officer Jimmy and family fled to America via Spain and Portugal arriving with \$9 in their pocket. There racism was at its height and he was unable to be seen in the street with his wife, at the races they had to pretend not to know each other. Son Robert, later to become a well known and well liked trainer in Maisons Laffitte said on his return 'I would rather die a beggar in Paris than as a millionaire in America.' Slowly they rebuilt their finances through hard graft and shrewd horsemanship before returning to France after the war.

This is a story of stark contrasts. Winkfield's life went from poverty to wealth and back again, twice. His white valet from Moscow was later to become a wealthy property owner in France. His mega rich patron Mantachev from Moscow was to end his life in poverty washing the cars of German officers in Paris. Ostracised by the colour of his skin in America, so called land of the free, Winkfield was to gain acceptance, admiration and wealth amongst the elite in Warsaw and Moscow. From being a poor black kid he was to acquire cultured tastes and marry into Russian aristocracy.

A quiet, gentle and somewhat melancholy man his private life was nonetheless spicy. He was to have numerous marriages, mistresses (a jilted one of whom shot and wounded him), children born in and out of wedlock and ultimately fail as a father. But the constant thread through the book is of his innate horsemanship, resilience and indeed racing and racing people's love of their sport and its ability to survive global tumult.

Jimmy Winkfield died in 1974 aged 91.

# OTI TO RACE KHARCHIN

2yo gelding Mongolian Khan - Creole (Zabeel)

OTI are delighted to have acquired a most exciting Derby prospect who will remain with trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman.

He is an excellent mover, with good bone and importantly clean in the wind. Given his pedigree and conformation, suggestions are he will be a classic type. As a result he has not been pressured prematurely.

Andrew Forsman

"Although a late maturing type, he has already showed above average ability in his work. He is an athletic type, with an excellent temperament who should be ready to show his best next autumn"

For more information  
[oti@oti.com.au](mailto:oti@oti.com.au)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

## WHAT HAPPENED TO...

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

### LORD VAN PERCY

VP has thrived in his new environment at Lower Plenty Pony and Adult Riding Club, in Beveridge. He is a fun, and sociable character to have around, and with a wonderful nature. Once the Covid restrictions are lifted, owner Trish Mullaney will be taking him to compete in shows around the district.



Photo credit - Lisa Hyville

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

### WHO IS THIS?

Au Revoir

### QUIZ RESULT

1. Takeover Target
2. John Gosden
3. Macroura

### THE RACECOURSE

Birdsville Racecourse

Located on the border of the Simpson Desert, and 175km from Poeppel Corner where Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory meet. Founded in 1882 by 42 members of the Border Jockey Club, the Birdsville Carnival takes place in September and now attracts crowds of 6000 people.

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