



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management*



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While the weather in the south-east corner of Australia can be miserable this time of the year, our owner's adrenaline is flowing as they ponder the possible excitement of the Melbourne and Sydney Spring Carnivals.

With the Everest and Golden Eagle supporting an already strong Sydney carnival, confirmation that Melbourne stakes for the premium races will be maintained means owners of Australian trained horses will be better off than they've ever been, particularly with the announcement that Godolphin's international horses and the Japanese raiders will not be here.

At OTI we have seven contenders for the Cox Plate, where nominations have already closed. No doubt most of the 180 plus nominations will fall away, so at best, we would hope for a couple to line up on the big day.

With five horses already rated over 110 and four others in the 100s, our owners hope to be well represented in both the Melbourne and Caulfield Cups. For those horses travelling from Europe, plans are in place with stand-in local trainers. Those horses already based in Australia, will progressively step out over the next three weeks.

While the movement of horses remains restricted between Melbourne and Sydney, horses staying in NSW will get their chance to earn good money in races like the Metropolitan, St Leger and Rosehill Cup, each carrying prize money of at least \$500,000. And then there's the Victoria Derby, The Oaks and the Guineas. With a touch of luck, our owners may be represented in all three. With the three-year-olds, so much can happen in the short time between now and mid-October.

With the impact of COVID-19, our owner's experiences will be very different this year. However, should they be able to capture any of these great races, those differences will quickly evaporate in the joy of celebrating success – so keep the champagne on ice!

# OTI NEWS

The next week will see runners for OTI in Australia and Europe.

## Tomorrow at Randwick

**GREY LION** will start in R5 1800m Premier's Cup Prelude for Matthew Smith with Kathy O'Hara in the saddle from barrier 3. He continues to improve his fitness, and this run will also bring him on to his target of the Premier's Cup.

## At Dundalk, Ireland on Saturday

**MIRANN** is entered in the 2150m Premier Handicap for Johnny Murtagh. Carrying top weight in this competitive handicap, he will appreciate the claim of apprentice jockey Danny Sheehy.

## In Deauville, France on Saturday

**MR SATCHMO** is declared in the GR3 Prix Gontaut - Biron over 2000m for Antoine de Watrigant. Drawn in barrier 3 with Eddy Hardouin aboard, he will appreciate the cut in the ground.

## At Le Lion d'Angers on Sunday

**PARADIA** is nominated to run over 3000m for David Cottin.

## On Monday at Ballarat

**GREGORIAN CHANT** has accepted in the 2100m BM64 for Mitch Freedman.

## On Tuesday at Roscommon

**EAGLEMONT** is entered to run in the 3YO+ Maiden over 2400m for Joseph O'Brien.

## On Wednesday at Sandown

**DOROZA** is entered to appear in the 1400m BM70 for Matt Cumani.

Authorities in France are hopeful to receive special dispensation from the government to have crowds of 20,000 to watch Enable aim for a 3rd Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

In the USA, the delayed Kentucky Derby will have crowds of 23,000, which is a drop of 60%.

Officials from The Saudi Cup have paid out all the runners except for the winner Maximum Security whose trainer Jason Servis has been charged with administering illegal substances to horses. The first prize for the Saudi Cup was \$10 million.

This weekend, Group 1 racing takes place in France with the Prix Jaques Le Marios over 1600m for 3YO+, and on Wednesday next week the prestigious Ebor Meeting commences at York with Group 1's including the Juddmonte International, Nunthorpe Stakes and Yorkshire Oaks as well as the Ebor Handicap over 2800m.

## THREE MINUTES WITH MATT STEWART

The Plunge  
Matt gives us the rundown  
on Barocha – an old-style  
plunge in modern times.

**WATCH**

# A CONVERSATION WITH ALAN DAVIDSON AM MBE

***Hermione caught up with Australian cricket legend Alan Davidson to chat about his love of horse racing.***

## **On his childhood**

I was born in 1929, in Lisarow near Gosford. I came from a very humble background, we had no shoes growing up, and I'd never eaten steak until I moved to Sydney! My grandfather who was a huge influence on my life had a horse. I wasn't supposed to ride it, but of course I did! In my last year at High School, I remember going to the races at Gosford.

## **On the sport of horse racing**

The horse is the most amazing animal with its own individual personality, and the jockeys that ride them are great artists.

## **The great horses he has seen over the years**

There have been many, but I think Ribot was the first great horse I saw (Arc winner in 1955 & 1956). You can imagine, he was an Italian god. He was the most magnificent animal, and to see him full stride was poetry in motion. I didn't see him in the flesh, but Bernborough carried 9st 13 to win the Newmarket in 1946, he was 12th at the furlong marker. He was a very good horse too.

## **On his contemporaries on the pitch**

Neil Harvey and myself were the racing experts! Richie Benaud relied on us for the tips, and Keith Miller was a guiding light because he was a great friend of Scobie Beasley. It was different then, I used to stay with English cricketer Ramon Subba Row, and we'd all go to the races together. Colin Cowdrey who played for England married Lady Herries who trained Taufan's Melody to win the Caulfield Cup in 1998. Racing was a great distraction.

## **On his friendship with Colin Hayes**

He was a gentleman, a brilliant horseman with patience and with brilliant staff. Colin would call me when the yearling sales catalogues were released and ask my opinion on the pedigrees. I love the breeding side of it too. On one occasion, I was at the sales with Colin and Robert Sangster. I corrected Robert on a pedigree, and Colin said "Robert I bet you ten bob that Alan is right" And I was! When I was playing in Adelaide, I'd go to Colin in the mornings, and clock his horses. We'd then wash them down and then I'd have breakfast with Colin and Betty, and after that he would drive me into town to play the test match!

## **.....and Geoff Murphy**

I used to put on a few bets for him. He won the Metropolitan with Earthquake McGoon in 1979, and he was convinced his horse would win. I was instructed to go to every bookmaker on the track placing small bets everywhere so it didn't fluctuate too much. I averaged about 50-1 and the horse won. I was wearing a big trench coat and had 70,000 in my pockets. I got very nervous with all that money, and handed it over quickly!



## **On the tours in Europe**

I was on three tours of England in 1953, 1956 and 1963 and went racing many times. I saw the Derby when Pinza won, the undulations of the track was a huge thrill. It is a real test of a horse. I always had a soft spot for St.Paddy, who won the Derby in 1960 ridden by Lester Piggott, because my grandfather was named Paddy.

## **On the losing bets**

I had an account with Ladbrokes and would have half a pound on all up bets. One time I had the first three up, and ended up with 500 pounds on an odds on shot in the last leg. It got beat! A shame as that bet would have been more money than the whole tour of England.

## **On the people you meet**

In 1961 we played a match in Ireland in Belfast. There was a huge storm, slates flying off the roof, and the game was called off. Then in Dublin a huge dinner was hosted by Guinness. It was a feast with suckling pig. At the restaurant, I got chatting to someone. I said I was a cricketer from Australia, and he said he was there for a wedding but sold horses and that I should visit the Goffs sale the next day. His name was Captain Tim Rogers. I had to play the next day but got 50 in 12 minutes, and then went to the sales. I went on to become great friends with Tim and his brother Mickey Rogers. At Christmas I received a Christmas card from them saying "Don't forget Santa Claus", the next day I read an article about a horse being backed for the Derby trained by Mickey Rogers called Santa Claus, so I got a bet on for the race in June and he did win!

*(Coincidentally, Captain Roger's wife Sonia and son Anthony bred OTI owned Downdraft)*

## **Being on the NSW Racecourse Development Fund**

We assist the country clubs with funding to repair the tracks and facilities. The tracks in the bush are so important as they are the grass roots of where it all starts, and bring the whole community together. I've always enjoyed the Snake Gully Cup in Gundagai, NSW in November. It's a tricky track with a funny turn into the straight of about 90 degrees.

## **On Chris Waller**

I was on the licensing committee that approved his training application. There was a manner about him, he just spoke as a lovely man who had an ambition. His attitude was so good, he wanted to give himself the best opportunity. There was nothing arrogant about him.

# MATT STEWART ON GAMBLING

Just as some things fail the pub test, other things struggle with the pub test's close relation, the barbeque test. They didn't always.

I once used to write about horse racing for a Murdoch newspaper. During social interactions like barbies, where strangers met strangers and inquired about each other's lives, I was proud to reveal I worked for the nation's biggest newspaper and wrote about one of the nation's great sporting pastimes. People would be genuinely interested, impressed even. They were never judgmental and never feigned excuses to flee. So, 29 or so years ago, I passed the barbeque test.

Even before coronavirus wiped out barbeques, I stopped enjoying them for that dreaded moment when some well-meaning stranger would ask "so what do you do?" Tempted as I was to do a George Costanza and declare myself a marine biologist, I'd fess up and wait for the awkward silence.

You see, there were two things. The first was the "Murdoch" bit. The spiral in reputation of his news business really took off with the News Of The World scandal in the UK and became worse via increasingly unpopular political agendas here. The second conversation-stopper at barbeques was not as much the racing bit, as the gambling bit.

I wasn't sure if gambling had become a far bigger community concern or whether as I got older, I'd moved into different circles - families with kids and mortgages - with different expectations.

But the message had become clear at backyard gatherings and anywhere else where horse racing was put on the plate of social scrutiny. I was surprised at how few of these mums and dads endorsed racing, let alone followed it.



There would be a handful of dads who'd throw \$20 into a work punter's club or snuck into the TAB for a quaddie en route to a kid's soccer game but mostly there was a wariness about gamblers. "You work so hard for it, why throw it on a pony?"

The great balancing act for racing is that it is fuelled by the thing that makes it so polarising. Without gambling there is no show but racing is lurching towards being defined by it.

Problem gambling is up and so is racing gambling revenue, which is essential for a sport that requires endless fuel but delicate when it comes to perception and engagement. Endless bombardments of gambling advertising, where big bets are placed by the touch of an iPhone screen, diminish the real racing stories; the history, the legends, the horses, who become numbers, their trainers and jockeys an initial a dot and a surname in the form guide.

The narrative of racing, within the racing media, is to turn a race upside down and inside out with smart-arsy data that is remarkably accurate post-race but never as reliable pre-race. It's all about numbers and probabilities, gambling any which way you can.

I love watching my kids brush and walk Tiger Keenan's slow old horses at the picnic races. These teenage boys love racing for the animals, the mateship, the atmosphere, and the race. They don't mind me having five bucks on one of our nags because they reckon that's also part of the game - but only part of it.

# OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN JAKKALBERRY COLT



OTI are delighted to obtain a 2YO colt by Jakkalberry out of Micro Explosive who is a close relation to OTI owned NZ Derby winner Vin de Dance.

A flashy chestnut colt with a striking blaze, he will be trained by Mitch Freedman in Ballarat.

"He is a good, strong and athletic colt that I'm looking forward to seeing complete his education and move into my Ballarat stable," Freedman said of him.

From a family of consistent black-type performers, his dam Micro Explosive is the full sister to Listed winner Extra Explosive, as well as being a sister to Explosive Dancer, dam of NZ Derby winner Vin de Dance.

Purchased at the Inglis Gold Sale in July, this colt has been entered into the Inglis Race Series which offers lucrative bonuses in specific races.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

For more information:  
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## FUN & GAMES

### WHO IS THIS?



- By Faltaat out of Yuleda
- 1st in the Listed Andrew Ramsden and Warrnambool Cup
- Trained by Lee Freedman & Ciaron Maher

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint - Mint Julep would be the drink of choice*

1. Frankel resides at Banstead Manor Stud, outside of Newmarket. Which British Prime Minister also lived there during his childhood?
2. How many Group 1 winners did Chris Waller train last season?
3. In which Australian state is Carnarvon racecourse?

# OTI SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



## LE JUGE

Dansili - Mambo Light  
Chris Waller

Le Juge defended his crown in the G3 Chairman's Handicap at Doomben at what was his 16th start of the preparation. It was also the seven-year-old's 8th victory since arriving in Australia from France at the end of 2017.

## QUIZ RESULTS

### WHO IS THIS?

New Kid In Town

### THE RACECOURSE

Churchill Downs, USA

Situated in Louisville, Kentucky, racing has taken place at Churchill Downs since 1875 and is home to the Kentucky Derby and Oaks.

### QUIZ RESULT

1. Sir Winston Churchill
2. Nine
3. Western Australia

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