



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING and Management



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2021 – A Good Year Awaits our Breeders.

As we move towards the sales season in Australia and New Zealand, breeders can be optimistic of a good 2021.

Despite the view by many that there would be carnage this year as a result of Covid and the impact of buyers being unable to get to sales, the downturn across the broodmare, yearling and weanling markets has been modest. Horses in training sales in Europe and private Australasian sales to Hong Kong have continued at healthy levels.

The recent results from New Zealand Bloodstock's breeze up sale confirmed the inherent strength of the market in this part of the world. If normal economic indicators were relied upon, the sale should have been a disaster. However, while broader economic trends do have some relevance, bloodstock tends to set its own course, as it did in the Global Financial Crisis when the industry barely suffered a blip.

This year, unlike many of recent years, rainfall has been good. Farms throughout Australia are in good shape and their stock has benefited. There is light at the end of the tunnel with Covid and racing is set to resume normal operations. There's a healthy level of optimism returning to the community. Indeed, when compared to our European and American friends, there is pride among Australians and New Zealanders in the way they have handled the pandemic. These features provide confidence and confidence helps drive markets.

Magic Millions, in January will be the first test. There was no Covid at the same time last year, so should sales results be comparable to 2020, the scene will be set for a very healthy year.

OTI NEWS

Runners in France, Victoria and New South Wales this weekend.

This evening at St Cloud, in France

MONTABOT runs in R1 2400m Class 2 for Pascal Bary and Christian Demuro riding. The horse is in very good form, and has a strong winning chance.

Tomorrow at Rosehill

RIDER IN THE SNOW runs in R2 2400m BM78 for Kris Lees and James McDonald from barrier 5. He looks well, and the step up in trip should suit, and he should give a good account of himself.

SOUND OF CANNONS run in R2 2400m BM78 for John O'Shea and Tommy Berry from barrier 8. He is in good form after his run at Kembla Grange last weekend but the weather is due to be very hot, and he may not run if the temperatures are too high.

MANTASTIC runs in R6 2000m ATC Cup for Chris Waller and James McDonald from barrier 3. In an even race, he is at peak fitness, and we hope he is fighting it out at the finish.

Tomorrow at the Valley.

BARADE runs in R7 BM90 over 2040m for Archie Alexander and Declan Bates from barrier 10. A classy last start winner at Flemington on Stakes Day, he continues to be in good form and we expect to see a competitive run.

On Sunday at Warrnambool

DARVIN runs in R9 BM64 over 1400m for Matthew Williams and with Jordan Childs riding from barrier 1. Returning to action this preparation, he appears in good form though will take improvement from the run.

WINNERS



DOROZA

BM64 2000m, Kilmore
Trained by Matt Cumani

OTI SPRING STARS SELECTOR

Thank you to everyone who entered our Spring Stars Selector Competition, we hope that you enjoyed playing throughout the Spring Carnival!

Congratulations to **Anthony Walker** on winning the competition with a total of 72 points. Anthony wins a 10% interest in the Jakkalberry x Micro Explosive '18 colt, to be trained by Mitch Freedman.

In second place was **Tony Geddes**, who notched a total of 67 points, with **Bardya Nourbehesht** who tallied 64 points in third place.

A CONVERSATION WITH BILL GIBBINS



Bill Gibbins, with his wife Iolanda have been instrumental in reviving the Jericho Cup which will be held on Sunday at Warrnambool.

On his passion for horse racing

I've owned horses for a very long time, and remember first going to the Melbourne Cup as a 12 year old in 1959 when MacDougal won for jockey Pat Glennan. Since then I was hooked, I love the social atmosphere, the thrill of the punt. Horse racing is part of the Australian DNA and our history. It is what bound people together from remote parts of the country and in the cities.

On the resurrection of the Jericho Cup

A friend gave me the book 'Bill the Bastard' by Roland Perry, which highlighted the story of the Light Horse in World War One. I became fascinated by the story and bravery of the horses and men involved. Approaching the end of the war, the Australian Light Horse were planning a major offensive against the Turkish Empire. In order to lull the enemy into believing nothing unusual was afoot, a race meeting was organised on the eve of the assault. The main race was called The Jericho Cup and run over 3 miles through the desert sands. I felt resurrecting the race was a fitting way to remember the light horse and the people who fought so bravely.

The Jericho Cup in Warrnambool

I'm a Warrnambool May Carnival tragic and have been going for over 40 years. If the race was the original length of 3 miles, it would not be a great spectacle unless it was held at a track like Warrnambool which can provide a magnificent back drop given it is run through the paddocks of the Grand Annual track, which runs both the Sydney and Melbourne way.

On the supporting card

All the other races on the card are named after a person, or horse. The first race is named after Harry Bell, he was a 16 year old kid who signed up in May, and died in October. He enlisted as Harold Thomas Wickham (mother's maiden name) On his deathbed he corrected the deception saying "don't bury me under the wrong name!"

People may not know that Banjo Patterson rode winners at Rosehill and Randwick as an amateur signed up for the war at 50, and was made an honorary vet. He is honoured in race three.

On how the Jericho Cup has been received

I started on this project in 2015, and remember telling Roland Perry who said "I hope it is a success" I said "It will be a success, it just depends how hard we work on it that will dictate how much a success it is." What did surprise was that three to four generations later is how many people within the industry are decedents of the 25,000 Light Horse men that fought. They were horseman 100 years, and 100 years later their descendants remain horsemen.

On the 2020 Jericho Cup

It will be a very different Jericho Cup this year, and I am disappointed that there will be no crowds, but I'm also pleased we are able to stage the moment as there was a time I was worried it was in doubt. All the trophies are made with relevance to the race title subject matter, and it will be a shame not to be handing them over personally, but I look forward to 2021 and making it even more special.

On where he would like to see the Jericho Cup in 10 years time

I'd just like to be alive to see it in 10 years time! I would like to see it the second most important race behind the Melbourne Cup in Australia, and second most important day behind Anzac Day in terms of remembering the fallen.

OTI is proud to partner with the Warrnambool Race Club to sponsor the Jericho Cup Consolation Race this Sunday.

MATT STEWART ON PICNIC RACING

Now, more than ever, I'm convinced racing is back to front. Its virtues aren't exactly hidden but they are not the shop window. They should be.

The picnic racing circuit begins at Woolamai on Saturday and the Jericho Cup is run at Warrnambool on Sunday. They are popular in their own "little" way but they are not regarded as racing's main game.

The picnics are barely promoted by the big wigs in the big smoke; the big wigs who spend most of their time desperately trying to deal with brand damage caused by issues and incidents that occur on the big stage.

Animal welfare issues are not particularly prevalent at the picnics where slow horses are provided an opportunity and are cared for. They cost the same to train and feed as horses who can earn a million bucks but race for pennies.

They are in many ways a burden but they are loved. This is the antithesis of a welfare issue. Catastrophic injuries are rare, just as they are in the Melbourne Cup. The difference is, an occasional "shocker" at Flemington is broadcast around the world.

Declining TV, wagering and attendance figures are nails in racing's coffin during Cup Week but they are irrelevant at the picnics because two of those measures don't apply. The third does and year after year picnic crowds are reliably strong.

People who have had their love of racing tested by prickly issues such as the sport's perceived gambling addiction and regular horse fatalities feel rekindled after a day under the big, shady trees at the picnics.



The picnics are so easy to promote. But are they promoted? Community engagement, an entry point, has become one of the greatest challenges for horse racing, for reasons mentioned above. For racing to be easily embraced, it needs a new selling point.

Three years ago, that selling point landed in racing's lap when Bill Gibbins brought the Jericho Cup to life. The "sell" wasn't teen drunks piling into a metro track or a quaddie jackpot but a horse race based on an impromptu horse race across the battlefields of Palestine.

The hook wasn't horse racing but an ANZAC spirit, a sense of history and parochialism. The Jericho has the potential to be not just an Australian cultural icon but a new thread for racing to work on.

It could be huge. If it was run a few weeks later, during the school holidays, a summer crowd of 10,000-plus could spread itself through the vast precinct of Warrnambool racecourse.

Like Woolamai and Yea and Balnarring, Warrnambool on Jericho day could be a vast picnic themed by racing and an ANZAC tribute. Racing is embattled but it has great offerings, even if they are not as in-your-face as the Melbourne Cup. It's two greatest offerings are off-Broadway and run over two days this weekend.

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW OTI PARTNERS - GIANNA TROVATO

Gianna grew up in Collingwood, Melbourne. In 2001/2 a group of girlfriends got together and purchased a few horses. Gianna now races with OTI under the JJAGG syndicate.



Who was your first winner? Chicks In Charge won the Schweppes Plate at Moonee Valley.

Most successful horses you've owned? Aloisia without a doubt, we purchased "Ally" in April 2017, that same year she won both the 1000 Guineas and The Moonee Valley Vase.

Race you would most like to win? The Melbourne Cup whilst surrounded by family and friends.

When you win that special race, how will you celebrate? I would love to have booked a great restaurant and celebrate with my JJAGG team along with my family, friends and my OTI family.

Favourite provincial racetrack? I like the Bendigo racetrack. I have been a few times and I enjoy the feel and the friendly people there.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending? I love the Spring Carnival, I so missed the excitement, colour, and fun this year during our lockdown with Covid. My favourite is probably the Oaks with my wonderful girlfriends.

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva? That's a difficult one but I think Makybe Diva (I really loved the fact that the owner Tony Santic named the horse after 5 of his employees)

Which internationals carnivals would you like to attend next? I have not attended any International races, but would love to attend The Arc and races in Hong Kong.

How did you get involved with OTI? I am involved in a charity called Kids Tennis Foundation and OTI often donated 10% of one of their horses, so myself, my husband Tony, and our great friends Julie O' Sullivan and Joan & Graham Cubbin decided to purchase the horse that was being auctioned off, we won the bid and so the JJAGG syndicate was formed and we now own 9 horses and are grandparents to 3 foals and more to come.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership? I enjoy the friendship, the excitement, the fun and of course winning a race just tops it off.

Favourite jockey? I really don't have a favourite jockey but I love watching our new up and coming jockeys both female and males.

Favourite racing memory? Both of Aloisia's big wins.

OTI horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in 2021? It's one of ours. Furioso, I think is going to be a champion.

OTI QUIZ

QUIZ

1. Who trained 2018 Spring Champion Stakes winner Maid of Heaven?
2. Who won the 2019 Jericho Cup?
3. Who rode Dunaden to win the 2012 Caulfield Cup?

NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Founded in 1864 and closed for the final time in 1940

BANNERET



BANNERET continues to thrive physically under the care of Mitch Freedman in Ballarat. We are looking forward to seeing him emulate his families success on the racetrack. By Coolmore sire Choisir, who is the sire of 11 individual GR1 winners. He is out of Quirina, a daughter of leading Broodmare sire Red Ransom. She is herself a granddaughter of Qirmazi who achieved the title of Top 2yo Filly in France.

A well balanced individual, we are excited to see him progress towards a first jump in early January.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

For more information: oti@oti.com.au

OTI QUIZ RESULTS

Quiz

1. Mark Newnham
2. Ablaze
3. Craig Williams

Name The Racecourse

Williamstown

It was home to an elaborately built grandstand that faced out to sea. Phar Lap won the Underwood Stakes at the track in 1931.

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