



**OTI**  
RACING  
& BLOODSTOCK

# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



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EDITION**

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**EDITOR  
HERMIONE FITZGERALD**

## **It's Time to Return Owner Rights**

While some may argue racing was privileged to continue uninterrupted during Covid, the sport displayed great responsibility to adhere to the restrictive measures to do so. It makes no sense therefore that, while other activities have largely been free from restrictions, racing owners effectively remain under the same constraints that they were at the height of the virus.

Off the track, owners can now mix with trainers and jockeys openly. They can dine together, play golf and travel to the races together should they wish. Why then, on arrival at the track, do barriers remain between the two groups. One can understand that authorities do not want large groups congregating closely in a mounting yard, but surely that can be controlled with some basic measures as applied with many retail outlets and sporting venues.

With so many syndicator owned horses, a first step may be to allow one or two representatives of the horse into the mounting yard. That way the representative could quickly pass on information from trainers and jockeys to fellow owners, be they on the track or not. The services to owners would be enhanced immeasurably.

The current restrictions for connections encourage them to stay away from the track. The coverage obtained from media outlets provides far better services than the current soulless track experience.

In the interest of providing owners with the services they deserve (and assist race clubs to return to normality), it's time to give this issue greater priority.

# OTI NEWS

OTI runners on Saturday.

## At Trentham, New Zealand

**VEE CECE** races in the Group 3 Wellington Cup over 3200m for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman with Wiremu Pinn riding from barrier 15. Racing without blinkers, we hope she puts in a pleasing performance on a track that should suit.

## At the Sunshine Coast

**PENSHURST** runs in Race 5, a Class 6 over 1600m for Matthew Dunn with Luke Dittman in the saddle from barrier 3. An impressive last start winner, he is enjoying his racing and should put in a strong performance.

## At Caulfield

**SOUTHERN ROCK** runs in Race 7, a 2400m Benchmark 78 for Archie Alexander with Jye McNeil jumping from barrier 3. A healthy, happy and sound horse, we hope to see him finish off the race well.

**HASSTOBEGOOD** lines up in Race 8, a Benchmark 78 for fillies and mares over 1400m for Grahame Begg with Mark Zahra riding from barrier 10. Since her last start win, she has been down at the beach and has returned in great order. We are looking forward to seeing her back at the races.

## Next week, we are likely to see runners including:

**I AM READY** has accepted to run at Donald in Race 1, a 1000m Maiden for Lloyd Kennewell with Zac Spain riding from barrier 7.

**DEMETER** is likely to feature in the 1300m 4yo Class 3 at Cagnes sur Mer on Monday, where we hope to see her return to winning form for Edouard Monfort.

**BLUE OCEAN** is earmarked to run at Sandown in the 1600m BM64 for Phillip Stokes. Returning after a spell last week, he put in a pleasing return and we look forward to seeing him run.

**DARVIN** will continue his prep when he races over 3000m in a BM70 for Matthew Williams at Sandown.

Next weekend, we can look forward to seeing:

**I'M THUNDERSTRUCK**, an impressive winner on debut returning to the races in the Group 2 Autumn Stakes. **RAFFISH** will head towards the Listed Tasmanian Derby, and **BARADE** will aim for the Group 3 Hobart Cup. **NIGHT'S WATCH** will contest the Group 3 Carlyon Stakes and **SELINO** will start his preparation in Sydney over a mile.

## WINNERS



### **PENSHURST**

Ballina Cup 1590m  
*Trained by Matthew Dunn*



### **CAKEWALKER**

Kilmore 1600m BM58  
*Trained by Ciaran Maher & David Eustace*

# A CONVERSATION WITH ANDREW FORSMAN

**Andrew Forsman, co-trainer with Murray Baker in Cambridge, New Zealand talks to OTI.**

## **On his childhood**

I grew up in New Zealand on dairy farms around the Te Awamutu area. My grandfather was an owner and trainer who had a couple in work, so there was always a family interest.

## **On his career path**

I definitely had no plans on being employed in the racing industry while I was at school. I studied Film and Television in Auckland and started work part-time for Trackside, a New Zealand Racing broadcast. During this time I started working for Murray in the mornings, and I soon realised it was something I was very passionate about

## **On what he loves about the job**

The horse is what I love about my job. They are an amazing animal in so many ways. Seeing what they can do for people is very humbling. At times dealing with people can often be very challenging!

## **On career highlights to date**

Winning the ATC Derby in 2017 with Jon Snow was a very special moment, as I bought him as a yearling for new clients to the stable. Being there at Randwick with the Zame family who have since become good friends was a day I'll never forget. Winning the ATC Derby with Quick Thinker in 2020 in very different circumstances was also very special.

## **On the future of racing in New Zealand**

There is definitely hope for the industry in New Zealand, thanks to the Messara Report. John Messara, former Racing NSW chief was tasked with providing an independent assessment of the NZ racing industry and the right structures are being put in place. While it may take some time for us to reap the benefits, we are on the right track.

## **On Murray Baker**

Murray is a firm but fair boss. He is very dedicated to the job and knows the game inside out. He takes great pride in producing our best horses to compete in Australia, and his record is second to none in that regard.



## **On the working hours at training stables**

Myself and a few senior staff start at 3.30 am, and the rest of the staff at 4 am. The hours are clearly not ideal, and I would definitely welcome change, but it is tricky to see how it could work if we did it differently. If it could, it would be a huge help in not only attracting new people to the industry but letting the current participants enjoy a relatively "normal" life!

## **On racing horses in Australia, and the complications due to the pandemic**

We are very lucky to have Aleisha Legg as our travelling foreperson. She has been with us for some time and knows exactly how Murray and I like things done. That has made it so much easier for us as we haven't been able to travel. She has done a few stints in quarantine already, and without her making these sacrifices, it would have been very challenging.

## **On racing further afield**

I would definitely love the challenge, and I enjoy European racing, but with prize money so strong in Australia, it doesn't seem too necessary. Perhaps getting a horse to Asia or Dubai may be more realistic.

## **On life away from work**

I love playing golf, I'm not very good at it, but I find it's a great way to switch off and relax. Spending time with family and friends and trying to keep a healthy balance is very important.

# MATT STEWART ON GAI WATERHOUSE

Tom Waterhouse spruiking a betting app, clutching a bemused goat, surrounded by scantily-clad models.

Yes, young Tom has lost his marbles, and so have those in his outer circle who scoffed away a Sydney newspaper article that suggested the kid had lost the plot and embarrassed his famous family. The scoffers accused the author of the story of being a pent-up wowser who knew nothing about marketing – as in there are no rules, just eyeballs – and that Tommy was merely being savvy and creative.



I find the “Sydney/Melbourne thing” tedious but I wondered how this stunt would have floated down south, where the crass free-for-all of the 1970s, where women were merely chesty marketing accessories, was left right there, in the seventies.

The suggestion that Tom had embarrassed, even shamed, his family was met with chortles that the Waterhouse’s were not exactly blemish-free. Many harked back to a race run at Eagle Farm back in 1984, and the “who knew what and when.”

The Gai Waterhouse story is part of the Waterhouse story but also a very separate one; of an energetic girl who ditched ambitions to be a soap star to follow her famous father into a career that would have proven difficult enough without the obstacles of being a woman and the wife of a bookmaker.

Waterhouse fought hard for the right to train and then fought harder to not just make a go of it but to become one of the most successful and famous in history.



There have been blips along the way, such as her much-publicised blue with “Singo” over the well-being of her champion More Joyous, but Waterhouse has for decades been the good and honourable face of a sport that attracts negativity by its very existence.

Jockeys who have ridden for Waterhouse marvelled at her work ethic, something that is a natural trait rather than a necessity. Waterhouse is fabulously wealthy but sets a supreme example to the stable battlers in her midst by setting the alarm earlier and working more tirelessly than any of them.

She is both champion trainer and headmistress, insisting her staff dress and speak well. Jockeys with crooked teeth and dispatched to the dentist and cigarettes are removed from lips and stubbed into the ground.

She has been a major figure in the progress of women both at the racetrack and beyond it, with actions, not words.

And last week, Gai Waterhouse’s considerable impact on racing and society was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal.

When I read about that, I wondered what Gai thought when she saw poor, misguided Tommy in his plastered-on suit, clutching a poor goat, surrounded by dime a dozen birds in bikinis.

## GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW OTI OWNERS - RALPH MENCHISE

Ralph grew up in Geelong, and first developed an interest in racing on 25th October 1986 when he had \$1 to win on Bonecrusher, on what he describes as one of the best finishes he has ever seen. He was just 14 years old!



**Who was your first winner, and where?** On joining OTI, I was fortunate to secure a share in Fastnet Latina. He won his first four starts for us and was my first horse I had a share in.

**Most successful horses you've owned?** I've fallen in love with our Italian filly Auyantepui, she won the Group 2 Italian Oaks for us at OTI. Personally, Gamay was my most successful, she won the Group 3 Ethereal on Caulfield Cup day in 2019 and was then 5th in the Oaks in her next start but unfortunately, she is no longer with us.

**Race you would most like to win?** Cox Plate for me, champion horses win the Cox Plate on a tough, unforgiving course and distance.

**When you win that special race, how will you celebrate?** Shout the bar at Mooney Valley, how good would that be!!

**Favourite racetrack?** Definitely Flemington - it's our Headquarters for racing.

**What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending?** Has to be Derby Day at Flemington, best race day in Australia.

**Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva?** Winx - on 16th May 2015 I was at the races having a bet and I said to my mates "Get on WINX, this thing is a star", two guys on the next table shouted at me "she's no good, she's overrated!!"

**What international races have you attended and enjoyed?** I was fortunate to be able to attend the New Zealand Oaks in Wellington last year with the great man Shayne Driscoll. We didn't come back with the trophy but was a wonderful place to visit.

**Which international carnivals would you like to attend next?** Happy to go anywhere at the moment, sadly it may not be until 2022 until we could have the opportunity to travel to Europe.

**Who introduced you to OTI/how did you get involved with OTI?** I became involved with OTI purely on my own research. I heard Terry speak in interviews on race days and was happy to get involved under his stewardship.

**What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?** The thrill of the win, seeing your horse run around and get the prize. Getting to the track and enjoying a day out with friends.

**Favourite racing memory?** Being on course when Gamay won the Group 3 Ethereal, also being up at 3am watching Auyantepui win the Italian Oaks was memorable.

**OTI horse you look forward to seeing run in 2021?** I'm really excited to see what I'm Thunderstuck can do this year. He's an exciting prospect for sure.

## QUIZ

1. Who was rated the world's best racehorse in the 2020 Longines World Racing Awards?
2. Who trained Alligator Blood to win the Australian Guineas in 2020?
3. Which Victorian jockey recently gave birth to a little boy?

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



Hint - Home to HM The Queen

# LIMITED SHARES AVAILABLE IN CHARM SPIRIT 2YO



*"We are thrilled to bits with this horse. He'll be winning races very very quickly."  
Watch Trent Busuttin's thoughts on the 2yo [here](#).*

This precocious 2yo son of Charm Spirit is nearing a jumpout and is really pleasing his trainers Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young in his work at home.

A strongly built type with a well-balanced action, he will make a nice 1400 -1600m horse in time.

Bought at the Breeze Up sales in New Zealand after displaying an impressive breeze, his dam Viviane has already produced Group 3 winner Cismontane, as well as five other winners.

A 5% share, with costs paid up to the end of his two-year-old career (July 31, 2021) is \$5,820 + GST

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

## QUIZ RESULTS

1. Ghaiyyath
2. David Vandyke
3. Linda Meech

### **Racecourse: Windsor, UK**

Located alongside the River Thames and close to Windsor Castle, the figure of eight track holds popular Monday night evening meetings throughout the summer. One of the few racecourses to race through both wars, a bomb even fell during a meeting though nobody was hurt.

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# ADVANCE NOTICE

## Warrnambool - Dunkeld - Ballarat 23rd - 26th March 2021

Join me for a three night tour visiting the training stables of some of Victoria's leading and emerging trainers, all of which are in very different environments. Each evening we will stay in luxurious hotels and enjoy the finest hospitality amongst friends and trainers.

Kind Regards, Hermione FitzGerald

### ITINERARY

#### Tuesday 23rd March

Depart Melbourne in the afternoon for Warrnambool where we will stay at the beachside Lady Bay Resort. Dinner in Warrnambool with local trainers.

#### Wednesday 24th March

Morning on the beach watching horses exercise with Warrnambool trainers. Breakfast at the beach before visiting Matt Williams' rehab stable and Symon Wilde's property. Travel to Dunkeld via Port Fairy, where we will have lunch. Stay at the award-winning Royal Mail Hotel in Dunkeld with dinner in its Parker Street Project restaurant.

#### Thursday 25th March

Morning at Grampians Racing, sand training stables of trainer Andrew Bobbin (ex Matt Cumani). Travel to Ballarat where we stay at Victoria's Best boutique-style hotel, The Provincial. Dinner at the award-winning restaurant, Lola's, with local trainers.

#### Friday 26th March

Morning at the Ballarat Training Centre visiting the new state of the art training stables of Tony McEvoy as well as the Cumani and Alexander stables. Lunch at Tuki's Trout Farm before returning to Melbourne.

Price guide based on 12 guests

\$1950 pp sharing

\$450 single supplement

To express interest:

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