



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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WEEKLY QUIZ

Racing Is On A Roll

There's no doubt we enjoy a remarkable racing sport/industry in Australia. One only has to witness the results at the Inglis Easter Sales earlier this week to appreciate that.

It's a sport because there is little economic logic to the majority of purchases made earlier this week. Buyers pay to play. Yet it's also an industry, and an important one, as the funds generated are the foundation driving economic activity and creating jobs within and outside racing. Some may say it's also an art. For those interested, there's no better theatre than what was witnessed at the sales or will be witnessed at Randwick this weekend.

Racing in Australia, unlike many other racing jurisdictions or industries, is enjoying good times. The bulk of the \$65billion that Australians typically spend overseas each year is being spent in Australia. 'Thanks' to COVID, Racing is getting its share.

The business model underpinning racing in Australia provides good stake money. Unlike many of our international friends, our owners will receive some return on the expensive yearlings acquired earlier in the week. More than anyone else, we can thank Peter V'landy's for that model.

While they do nothing for the patent system underpinning breeding credentials, the competition between states generated by 'pop-up races' like the Everest and the All-Star Mile, have created high levels of interest. Whether you like them or not, they have stimulated the media and introduced new participants to our sport.

OTI NEWS

The first day of the Sydney Autumn Championships sees runners across the globe.

Tomorrow at Morphettville

BLUE OCEAN runs in R2 2025m BM72 for Phillip Stokes from barrier 1 with Lachlan King claiming two kilos. He's travelled to Adelaide well and has settled in nicely into his new environment. He should be well placed in this race and we are hopeful of a strong performance.

Tomorrow at Randwick

QUICK THINKER runs in R5 2600m GR2 Chairman's Quality for Andrew Forsman and Murray Baker. He has worked well in recent days, and with conditions changing to suit, we hope he puts in a much improved performance.

SELINO runs in the same race, R5 2600m GR2 Chairman's Quality for Chris Waller and Craig Williams from barrier 3. He is improving with each run and should once again be finishing strongly.

Tomorrow at Newcastle

AKATINO runs in R5 1865m BM64 from barrier 14 with Rory Hutchings riding. Making his Australian race debut for Matthew Smith, he will learn a lot from the outing and will be a big improver for the run.

Tomorrow at Caulfield

FURIOSO runs in R6 2400m Listed Galilee Series Final for Matt Cumani with Fred Kersley riding from barrier 5. He put in a nice piece of work earlier in the week and we look forward to seeing him run second-up this preparation.

INVERLOCH runs in R9 1600m Handicap for Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young with Craig Newitt in the saddle from barrier 10. He will improve for the run, but he is in good form and will run a nice race.

In Ireland tomorrow night

SPANISH CLASS is set to make her racecourse debut in a 3yo maiden over 1400m for Jessica Harrington, and is expected to perform well.

On Sunday at Ballarat

ARMANSKY is first emergency runs in R4 2000m maiden for Matt Cumani. If he gets a run, he will race with Dean Yeandall from barrier 11.

In Ireland on Sunday night

CATENA ZAPATA has been entered for the 2000m Group 3 Ballysax Stakes at Leopardstown.

WINNERS



AESOP

Cork 2000m Handicap
Trained by Jessica Harrington



STUCK WITH YOU

Doomben 1600m BM75
Trained by Matthew Dunn



MISS CHANG'E

Benalla 2046m BM58
Trained by Archie Alexander

A CONVERSATION WITH TOM MARQUAND

On his childhood

I grew up near Cheltenham in England, and was riding ponies from a young age. I was young when I decided that I wanted to be a jockey, and it was quite a strange choice as my family have no involvement in the sport, but living so close to Cheltenham was probably the catalyst. I've always loved the speed and adrenaline of going fast on horses.

On his early career

I started riding in pony races, and that gave me a proper taste for race riding. I was apprentice to Richard Hannon, who was one of the most successful trainers in the UK. My first race was for him, and I don't really remember being nervous but more so excited. Getting to the stage of having a licence is already a big achievement. I was lucky that my first winner was about two or three weeks later at Kempton for Richard. It is always good to get the monkey off your back!

On his mentors

At Richard Hannon's, Steve Knight had won the Grand National and was a huge influence on me, particularly early on. All apprentice jockeys in the UK get a jockey coach, and Rodi Green who was my coach, helped me a lot. I've been lucky to have the same agent in Sash Righton from the start of my career and he has been incredible.

On fitness and managing his weight

I have to work really hard at managing my weight, as do the majority of jockeys, and I make sure I cycle and run a lot, as well as going to the gym. I prefer being outside in the sunshine exercising when I can, and I actually really love working my body hard.

Riding in Australia

I certainly feel that my riding in Australia has improved. Each time I return to England after my stint in Australia I feel sharper and tactically it has improved me a lot. I'd love to spend more time riding here but it is hard to line it all up so that I do not miss too much of the European flat racing season. I certainly will be trying to come back to Australia for a period of time each season if I can.



On Australian and European Racing

There are so many differences between the two countries but I would say a big difference is that Australian racing is more tactical. In England, you are riding on different and more undulating tracks and can be more aggressive, and the rules allow you to make bolder moves. In Australia, that is not the case, you have to be precise or else you could find yourself having a lengthy ban.

On hotel quarantine

It was actually alright, surprisingly! One thing that helped a lot was having an exercise bike, it was crucial as it kept me fit, and allowed me to manage my weight, but also doing a lot of exercise ensured I had a good sleeping pattern.

On Hollie Doyle

We have always ridden against each other, ever since our pony racing days, so we are used to it, and it is all we know. We actually spend less time talking about our jobs than people would imagine! Hollie is an out and out grafter, her attitude to her job is brilliant and that is pivotal to improving.

On free time

I actually love getting out on my bike in the open air, but I really enjoy cooking too. It must have been the Australian influence, and after seeing John O'Shea and his 'Big Green Egg' I returned to England and bought one too, and have really enjoyed cooking on it and BBQing.

On goals for the future

I'd love to be a champion jockey one day, and obviously to ride as many Group 1 winners as possible.

MATT STEWART

When I was a kid, I'd watch the Sydney races on TV and imagine being there. It seemed a world away, which it was. You're not very mobile when you're ten. Sydney may as well have been New York.

I imagined Randwick was just like Flemington, but in reverse; a sprawling flat racetrack, the CBD as the backdrop, vast lawns, towering grandstands four stories high and two furlongs long.

You'd watch Kingston Town churn up the Randwick hill and imagine seeing him all the way down here in Melbourne, right there in front of you as you strained for a glimpse of him over the mounting yard fence. Flemington was Melbourne, Randwick was Sydney; each had similar rich histories and in my young mind, would be as magnificent as each other.

In 1987 three secondary schoolmates and I caught the train to Sydney for the Golden Slipper. None of us had been to Sydney before. We stayed in a cheap joint near Central Station, a bit scared to go outside, caught the train to Rosehill on the Saturday, lost money on Midnight Fever, got lost in King's Cross and somehow made it home via the same train, quite blown away by Sin City.

Rosehill was not bad, but pretty standard. It'd didn't have the oomph of Randwick, which I visited for the first time a few years later, for the Derby. As it turned out, Randwick was nothing like Flemington. You could probably squeeze two Randwick's into the home of the Melbourne Cup. But bigger didn't make Flemington better.

Randwick had real intimacy. There were rabbit warrens everywhere, historic old bars and a terraced grandstand that seemed as old as Sydney itself. The home straight was long and demanding and only 40m shorter than the 450m stretch at Flemington.

I've now been to Randwick probably 15 times, always around Easter when it's sultry and sweaty. Suit shirts cling at Randwick in April. They're still swimming in budgie smugglers a few kilometres away at Bondi.



Melbourne in spring was always crisp by comparison. The horses sweated up in Sydney, because it was sweaty, but in Melbourne in spring, some still hadn't shed winter coats. They never seemed to fuss about the one-percenters at Randwick.

A few years ago, on Queen Elizabeth Stakes day, Winx Day, the clock in the owners bar above the Theatre Of The Horse – hmm, a luke-warm success – was stuck on 2:05pm. Owners missed their races because the clock failed to click.

The same day, up in the old terrace, a major race was run and won without any on-course audio. No-one seemed to care.

The new Randwick looks nothing like the old one. The Theatre Of The Horse is comically tight when Doncaster fields try to squeeze into it but there's something vibrant and bustling about the mounting yard action and more theatre when the horses emerge from the tunnel and on to the track.

The noise when Winx won her third QE and bowed out, was as intense as anything I've heard when part of far bigger crowds at Flemington. Tina Turner belted out over the PA, blue streamers blasted out everywhere and Hugh Bowman returned to scale, fingers crossed to say "perfect", as he rose in the irons.

Randwick isn't Flemington. I learned that years ago. But at its best, it's pretty awesome.

OTI OWNER PROFILE - DOMENIC CICCARELLI

Domenic Ciccirelli grew up in a small country town called Kyabram in Victoria. As a teenager, he developed an interest in the sport of horse racing whilst having a few small bets on the dogs and horses.



Who was your first winner and where? Lips Areios, who was imported, and won a few races on provincial tracks.

Most successful horses you've owned? Brave Smash and Quick Thinker.

Race you would most like to win? The Melbourne Cup, it would be some memory.

When you win that special race, how will you celebrate? A big party with all the owners, friends and family.

Favourite provincial racetrack? Mornington.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending? The Melbourne Spring Carnival. It has lots of atmosphere, and there are plenty of good horses to watch.

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva? Winx. I was lucky to watch her race a few times. What a great horse.

What international races have you attended and particularly enjoyed? I went to Royal Ascot in 2019 on Gold Cup Day and the atmosphere was fantastic, as good as Flemington on Melbourne Cup Day, and I saw The Queen!

Which international carnivals would you like to attend next? I'd love to go to the Japan Cup one day. It would be a great thrill, and they have some fabulous horses.

Who introduced you to OTI/how did you get involved with OTI? I was introduced by a good friend Tony Dimanno, who was putting a syndicate together to buy into Quick Thinker.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership? I enjoy all the thrills and excitement you get just before your horse is about to run.

Favourite jockey? Hugh Bowman.

Favourite racing memory? Brave Smash winning the GR1 Manikato at Moonee Valley. That was a great night. I also had a tear when he ran 3rd beaten by 3/4 length by Redzel in the very first Everest.

OTI horse you are most looking forward to seeing run in 2021? I'm looking forward to seeing Quick Thinker run a big race in Sydney, he is a very smart colt on his day.

QUIZ

WHO IS THIS?

1. What was top price at the 2021 Inglis Easter Sale?
2. The Grand National will be run in England this weekend. How many fences do they jump, and what is the biggest jump?
3. Over what distance did Quick Thinker win over at stakes level as a 2yo?



FULL BROTHER TO TE AKAU SHARK



Chris Waller to train the colt bought at the Inglis Easter Sale

OTI is not known for purchasing yearlings at Australia's premier yearling sale but when they have, the results have been outstanding. Graduates include GR1 ATC Derby winner QUICK THINKER.

This year the full brother to Te Akau Shark was catalogued, and with the half-brother Gambu already being under OTI's ownership, he required an inspection by Terry Henderson and bloodstock agent Johnny McKeever, buyer of Chaillot as a yearling.

"We have been delighted by the progress of Te Akau Shark's half-brother Gambu in recent months, which led us to assess the quality of his full brother at Inglis Easter," Henderson said.

"While a late foal, this colt is an athletic, well-conformed type who has the attributes to develop into a classics type. Most importantly, he has the page to back up his lovely physical profile."

WATCH VIDEO

For more information contact oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ RESULTS

1. AU\$2.5 million Snitzel colt
2. 16 fences with The Chair being the biggest fence at 5ft 3in
3. 1600m

Who is this?

Robbie Griffiths

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