



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

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OTI QUIZ

Selecting horses that will excel in 2022 is a difficult task.

Group 1 winners in 2021, **I'm Thunderstruck** and **Selino** should continue their careers successfully. I'm Thunderstruck will be aimed at the All-Star Mile and the Doncaster, while Selino will attempt to defend his Sydney Cup before hopefully heading to the Gold Cup at Royal Ascot.

Chaillot, **San Huberto** and **Spirit of Gaylard** are all based at Ballarat and expect to feature. Each has laid a foundation to give the owners confidence that they will reach the highest level.

Newer boys on the block, **Daqiansweet Junior**, **Aesop**, **Head Legislator**, **Cepheus** and **Dick Whittington** again have shown Group qualities. Many are staying types who could potentially be Melbourne Cup aspirants.

Youngsters, **Lady Laguna**, on target for the Golden Slipper, **Vina Sena**, **Apollo** and **Gambu** will give their owners plenty of joy as they progress through their age categories.

Internationals, **Ottoman Emperor** and **Timour**, already Group performers, will spend the first half in Europe before looking to migrate to Australia. Both will provide plenty of excitement in each hemisphere.

Seven Twenty, **Prospettiva** and **Indented Head** have shown stakes level qualities that could lead to them becoming quite valuable mares.

The list could go on and we apologise some are not mentioned. However as we are often reminded in racing, "Champions can come from anywhere".

OTI WINNERS



STUCK WITH YOU

2000m BM78 & 2000m BM75, Doomben
Trained by Matt Dunn



DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR

2000m BM84, Caulfield
Trained by Phillip Stokes



INDENTED HEAD

1400m 3yoF Maiden, Cranbourne
Trained by Phillip Stokes



GAMBU

1350m Maiden, Ipswich
Trained by Chris Waller



PROSPETTIVA

1700m Maiden, Warrnambool
Trained by Matthew Williams



RED MUSCAT

1600m Maiden, Camperdown
Trained by Archie Alexander

FACING THE CHALLENGES OF 2022

One would need to be very brave to predict how the racing industry trends might fare in 2022. On the back of two years impacted by Covid, the industry is in relatively good financial shape. Generally, it has done a wonderful job to continue to operate. In many areas, it has thrived. Indications are that racing will continue to prosper, but as we all know, in this environment, our hold on certainty is tenuous.

Magic Millions

The Magic Millions sales and carnival on the Gold Coast have got the sport off to a great start. Although Covid was rife and many kept away, people spent up on yearlings and there were plenty of new faces in the market. The MM sale has affectively laid the foundation for good results for the yearling and breeding sales that now follow in New Zealand and Australia. As for the racing, the cream of our horses, trainers and jockeys floated to the top. The Gold Coast racing helped confirm the quality of our horses, horsemen and horsewomen in our sport. The announcement of additional feature races said much for the quality and success of the MM concept.

Punting

Punting, the lifeblood of the game, has thrived during Covid and looks to continue to do so into 2022. While many of us cringe at some of the advertisements to promote betting, the reality is that racing is prospering from the money flowing into the sport. On one hand such funds help ensure good prize-money but on the other, they help mask many of the inefficiencies seen in the administrating the sport.

TV and Race Crowds

The popularity of televised racing during Covid has been great for the industry. However as we now have been allowed to return to the track, crowds are staying away. Recent attendance numbers at city meetings are so low that it must pose tremendous challenges for Race Clubs. Should lower crowd numbers be part of racing's future, investment in the infrastructure for patrons amenities will be difficult to justify. Quite simply, the convenience and quality offered by television's coverage may end up being the preferred choice by many who would otherwise have attended the track.

The Melbourne Cup

The Cup is facing a significant identity crisis. Despite the goodwill of Racing Victoria to improve the safety of the race, the execution of those strategies created a loss of esteem for the race both domestically and internationally. The rightful owners of the race, the VRC (working with RV) now face an enormous challenge to ensure that the race retains its status as a major cultural event for not only Melbourne, but Australia. In doing so, it will need to keep a close eye on future plans from north of the Murray.

Horse Welfare

It's an indictment of our industry that greater support was not received for the welfare paper prepared under the leadership of Dr Dennis Naphthine. The recommendations from the paper sought to ensure the best care for all retired racehorses. Neither NSW or Victoria have come out aggressively to adopt the recommendations. Both still have trouble in distinguishing between horse welfare and brand welfare, with the latter attracting significant funds under the category of horse welfare. While they are certainly linked, brand welfare does little for the high percentage of the horses who have completed their racing career. Horse welfare is the industry's achilles heel and the lack of attention to it could potentially spell major issues for the sport.

NSW v's Vic

The environment surrounding the inability of our racing administrators in NSW and Victoria to reach any form of agreement on many of the crucial challenges facing our industry (including programming) is alarming. It shows a lack of respect for not only particular individuals, but industry traditions and concern for the future welfare of the sport in Australia. The operational and administrative structures of Victorian and NSW racing are poles apart and as a result, their objectives are often dissimilar. That should not stop meaningful dialogue to ensure Racing Australia, our peak national body, can function effectively. Heaven forbid, if this ugly relationship cannot be remedied, either State or Federal governments will be forced to interfere.

Racing has so much to offer our society and like any business or sport, there will always be major challenges. Let's hope for the sports sake, the industry moves forward in 2022, building on those aspects that are thriving and professionally addressing those that need attention.

OTI NEWS

OTI will have runners in three different countries this weekend as we look to continue our good form over the summer period.

At Cagnes sur Mer (FR) tonight

KLOSTER will return from a short layoff in the 1500m Class 3 (Race 7 – 2:45am Sat ADST) as trainer Edouard Monfort looks to make the most of the lucrative polytrack series over the winter. Having benefited from his time off, we expect to see a forward showing from this consistent galloper.

At The Valley tomorrow

Looking to make it four wins on the trot, **DAQIANSWEET JUNIOR** has done nothing but please trainer Phillip Stokes ahead of the 2500m Benchmark 100 (Race 3 – 1:50pm). He is proving a most versatile horse and having been exposed to The Valley previously this preparation, we are confident he will once again be in the mix when it matters most.

At Randwick tomorrow

Although a decision is yet to be made on whether **MR SATCHMO** runs in the 1600m or 2000m Benchmark 88 event, he is set to take his place at Randwick second-up. Although he's likely to be in need of this run again, he is showing his new trainer Will Freedman some positive signs in his work at home, so a competitive effort would be most encouraging.

At Ellerslie (NZ) tomorrow

SEVEN TWENTY is back in her native land, with the 1600m Listed Karaka Million 3YO Classic (Race 6 – 5:48pm ADST) that she'll contest a driving factor in that decision. Following a serviceable run over 1200m a fortnight ago, the talented filly has pleased Shaun & Emma Clotworthy and with a soft draw, would not surprise us if she's making her presence felt. With a number of unavoidable hiccups this campaign, it would be fitting if she's afforded her share of luck in running on Saturday.

At Geelong on Sunday

Having failed to fire in his first two runs this campaign, **AQUILO** returns to the course and distance where he broke his maiden last preparation as he steps out in the 2200m Benchmark 58 (Race 5 – 3:45pm) for trainer Matt Cumani. Owners have played the patient game with this son of Frankel, who will need to step up on Sunday and show us the signs of a horse with a good staying future.

At Grafton on Sunday

TRENCH WARFARE will be looking to round out our weekend in the 1700m Class 1 & Maiden Plate (Race 8 – 5:20pm) under set weights, which is sure to suit our horse as the highest rated galloper in the field. Though it's been 14 starts since he got his head in front on debut, if held up for one dash at them, we are confident he can return to winning ways..

OTI QUIZ

1. Name the 1st, 2nd and 3rd placed horses in the \$2m Magic Millions 2YO Classic?
2. Bill Boulder runs tomorrow in R2 at the Valley. His sire Boulder City is the brother to?
3. Isotope returned to winning ways on Saturday in the \$1m Magic Millions sprint after.....

WHERE IS THIS?



Hint - Snaith runners at the beach before the Met Group 1

Thank you to all who took part in the Christmas Quiz

Congratulations to Neil McKissock for being the first person to send in all the correct answers.

A bottle of champagne is on it's way.

A CONVERSATION WITH CLINT DONOVAN

On his childhood and early career

I grew up in Northern Rivers, NSW near Grafton. It was essentially a childhood on the back of a horse. My family run a lot of cattle, so growing up I was always on ponies, then into pony club, into camp drafting into rodeo's. We sponsored the local South Grafton Cup, and that was where my initial interest in horse racing came from with the beauty of the horse, and the punt!

On starting to auctioneer

My father is an auctioneer and started his own business as a stock and station agent, so I was always around auctions. From an early age I was auctioneering at charity events, and bobby calves auctions after school. I absolutely love it. Another passion is singing and entertaining. I thrive on the buzz and thrill, and conducting auctioneering gives me the platform to command an audience, in a lead role!

The first time I auctioned a thoroughbred was a Magic Millions Monthly Sale, and I was straight out of the Grafton sale yard, and with very much a country cattle sale twang to me! I'm sure I sounded awful, but luckily enough for me they must have heard something, as not long after I was auctioneering at the Broodmare Sales, and New Zealand to further advance my career.

On compiling a catalogue for a sale

Many years of work go into compiling a catalogue for auction. As auction houses we are in constant communication with breeders, giving guidance and advice on breeding plans, and recommendations. Official nominations are taken in August, and the Magic Millions inspection team take to the road inspecting roughly 3500 rising yearlings that are nominated. Their physical attributes are lined up against their pedigree, and we look for the most attractive yearlings for our market place, and essentially the future champion racehorse. Once vendors and the sales company agree, catalogues are printed and marketed around the world. When it gets to sale time years of hard work, blood sweat and tears and of course of investment culminate into two minutes of magic in the sale ring. In fact this year, it took me 1 minute and 17 seconds to sell the \$1.9m dollar lot to Ciaran Maher!



On selling his first million dollar lot

Like most things you do in life for the first time it was a bit of a mess! Selling big lots don't often come with a whole lot of enjoyment. There is a lot of expectation, and it is only after the run is over that you sit back and think WOW. The first big lot I sold was actually for \$2.4m and my perfect eye sight failed me for a second and I called out the wrong buyer! Luckily I was quickly corrected by my colleagues and I don't think the buyer who was having their moment in the spotlight heard me!

On preparing to sell a yearling

Most of the prep work is already done before the sale starts. We've researched the pedigree and for updates. Each horse is inspected by the auctioneer on the sales ground, we will discuss with breeders and vendors the history of the horse to date as well as expectations on price and who might be bidding. Then the fun begins!

On what makes a great racehorse

My views have changed since my early days. I'm certainly less focused on some aspects of conformation like knees but I believe decent hips, good hind legs and a good set of hocks, which is where the power comes from, are important. I've seen many of the top races around the world. Horses don't all look the same but invariably they have those common traits.

On the 2022 Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale

The Syndication model in Australia is a world leader and along with the prize money levels which are the envy of the world, it drives a huge appetite for racehorses, which was evident at this year's sale. The sale was certainly different this year in light of the pandemic, but Magics did a tremendous job navigating the situation and ensuring the sale happened. The crowds might have been smaller at the sales and the races, but with people electing to bid online it was a tremendous success.

MATT STEWART



Extraordinary times for horse racing in the constantly-present, constantly-challenging Covid world.

Look around.

In Hong Kong, four-time premier trainer Caspar Fownes cannot walk through the gate at Happy Valley or Sha Tin, a similar no-vaxx scenario to Willie Pike in the west; uprooting to Sydney, saddle under arm.

Up at the Covid-ravaged Gold Coast, the Magic Millions was a free-for-all, a stark contrast to King Island, that little island off the wild west coast of Tasmania where a mere 115 infections has led to the sad abandonment of the iconic summer racing carnival.

Horse racing here and overseas doesn't seem to be reading from the same Covid script.

In Queensland, they either didn't appear concerned about stampeding Covid infections or they'd become tired of being concerned about it. The "get on with it" mentality was unanimous despite Omicron numbers roaring over 20,000 in Queensland and hospitals buckling despite the "mild" effects of Omicron.

The Magic Millions and those who attended it, and the many who will undoubtedly have contracted Covid from it, can't be blamed for getting on with it. Parameters drawn up by the Queensland state government allowed it. We have spent two years being instructed by state officials.

There is no getting on with it for Caspar Fownes, at least at the races. The champion trainer is unvaccinated and therefore is banned from attending the races.

Fownes said he's not anti-vaxx, but medically unable to receive the jab. His comments last week suggest there is another motivation; fear of the jab.

"I'm medically exempt from taking the vaccine but it looks like I might have to take something to go racing at some point,"

Fownes said. "It's an unfortunate situation. I'm pro-vaccine, I support science, but a few friends of mine and some people I've worked with have had some complications when they've had it, and I've got some complications, so it's not straightforward."

Like Hong Kong, Perth is far from prepared to "get on with it" with Covid and from February 5 will demand all participants be jabbed if they are to keep participating. Most other states have the same rule. Bar one.

Pike was banned from riding at the Perth Cup meeting on January 1 for refusing to reveal his vaccination status, leading to the inevitable conclusion that he was un-jabbed, just like old mate Novax Djokovic.

To pro-vaxxers who believe science and can grasp the notion of the greater good, it seems extraordinary that so many have been prepared to sacrifice careers over a no-vaccination stance. They're popping up everywhere.

Legendary Perth harness driver Chris Lewis has threatened to walk away because of the vaxx mandate, as has a leading greyhound trainer in the state.

Pike always said he'd never leave Perth because he loved his life and his farm but because of a jab, or no jab, the greatest-ever Perth jockey will move to Sydney.

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CLOUDLAND TO KRIS LEES

~ Bought by OTI after impressive trial win ~



CLOUDLAND has arrived in Australia and has settled in well with Kris Lees at Newcastle, NSW. Identified by our NZ agent Phill Cataldo, he was purchased off the back of an exceptional trial win in New Zealand. By Swiss Ace, out of Listed placed mare Commiserate, he displays a long striding, smooth action, which indicates he will be expected to excel between 1400m-2000m.

Likely to be up and racing in March, we hope he can progress to stakes class in the latter part of his three-year-old season.

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

For more information email oti@oti.com.au.

MATT STEWART CONTINUED

Sydney's "get on with it" attitude means there is no requirement for jockeys to be double-vaxxed. The state government says go for it, and Racing NSW says "righto."

Racing NSW chief steward Mac Van Gestel seems pretty comfortable with the status quo. "Racing NSW has made it clear that it will follow the health orders of the NSW state government and as of December there was no mandate on a person having to be double vaccinated," Van Gestel told RSN.

"It was determined that once we got to a certain vaccination rate in the community that it was not necessary to be double-vaxxed and the same applied to our participants."

Van Gestel said the rules may change - "you never say never" - but added: "I can't see it happening in the near future."

The good people of King Island probably wish they were run by Racing NSW and not Tasracing, which has declared the island a Covid risk and cancelled four upcoming race meetings, including the Cup.

At last count, King Island had 115 Covid cases compared to over 20,000 in Tassie, where the summer racing will continue.

The King Island Racing Club was told that the race meetings would have risked the health of visitors, such as stewards and jockeys, who may have taken the infection back to Tassie and the mainland.

A final twist.

The day after Tasracing cancelled the races, the Tassie state government encouraged visitors to return to KI and today over 400 golfers teed off at the island's two golf courses.

OTI OWNER PROFILE - SCOTT CHARLES



Scott grew up in Windermere, on a farm about 15 minutes west of Ballarat inbetween the two big Lakes in that area, Burrumbeet and Learmonth. His first racing memory is attending the Burrumbeet Cup as a kid with family on New Year's Day every year, where his Dad has been a long time committee man and his father and Grandfather before that. They only host one meeting each year and this year was the 132nd running of the Cup.

Who was your first winner and where? A horse I raced with mates from College. Sea Conquest. It won at Sale but I was working in the US at the time so was not there to see it.

Most successful horses you've owned? Two of them 1. Barbaricus - 3rd in a Caulfield Cup, beaten in a photo in the Mackinnon Stakes and then 2. The great Vin De Dance who I raced with OTI who won a New Zealand Derby.

Race you would most like to win? Definitely the Melbourne Cup now that I have won the Burrumbeet Cup with a horse called Unfurl, which I raced with Dad.

When you win that special race, how will you celebrate? Madly and for days if we are not still under Covid restrictions.

Favourite racetrack? There is something pretty special about Flemington but I'd love to visit Ascot and some of the other wonderful tracks in Europe.

What racetrack/meeting/carnival do you enjoy attending? Again the four days of the Flemington Spring Carnival but Warrnambool also has a wonderful feel.

Black Caviar, Winx or Makybe Diva? Winx.

What International races have you attended and particularly enjoyed? None yet - perhaps with you Hermione on one of your tours.

Which carnivals would you like to attend next? The Arc.

Who introduced you to OTI/how did you get involved with OTI? I lived across the road from Terry in East Melbourne and saw him in a cafe one morning after the OTI horses had won about three races the night before at Moonee Valley and asked how I get involved.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership? The energy, the horses, the camaraderie. I think when you finally realise you are not going to play in an AFL Grand Final or win an Australian Tennis Open, racing is a way you can be involved in elite sport and feel as though you are achieving the glory yourself. Ridiculous really I know but fun to dream and see your horse in the papers.

Favourite jockey? They are all incredible sportspeople. Brave, strong, dedicated. I admire them all.

Favourite racing memory? Watching Barbaricus run a very brave front running third in the Caulfield Cup at 100 to 1 and in doing so getting a start in the Mackinnon and then the Melbourne Cup.

OTI horse you look forward to seeing running in future? Any of the ones I am involved in. Gambu showing great promise.

INTERNATIONAL THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' FEDERATION

Terry Henderson recently took part in a webinar hosted by the International Thoroughbred Breeders' Federation to discuss the role of syndication in horse racing worldwide.

Also featured in the webinar was a fascinating insight into the history of Juddmonte Farms - From Known Fact, to Frankel, Enable and the future.

[WATCH](#)

OTI EQUINE WELFARE



Former OTI galloper **TAMLAND** has commenced his journey in Racing Victoria's RESET Program after recently being re-claimed by OTI, through the backing of our Equine Welfare Fund.

With assistance from the team at the Andrew Wilson Online Auction Sale, along with accredited re-trainer Lisa Coffey, OTI were able to secure the 15-year-old gelding before subsequently relocating him to Lisa's property at 'Racing Hearts'.

Shortly after the sale, **TAMLAND** was nominated for the RESET Program, a Racing Victoria driven initiative that aims to support retired racehorses who are sound and have good prospects but have struggled to capture the imagination of the equestrian community. The program spans over 3-4 months, with successful applicants provided with re-training from one of RV's Acknowledged Re-trainers.

After passing his vet assessment at the beginning of the New Year, **TAMLAND** was accepted into the program, with RV's Equine Welfare team appointing Lisa Coffey as his re-trainer, a most pleasing result.

We look forward to following his unique journey during his time in the RESET Program and beyond!

[Click here](#) for for more information on the OTI Equine Welfare Program

OTI QUIZ RESULTS

1. Coolangatta, Russian Conquest, Snitcat
2. Winx
3. After a near fatal bout of colic

WHERE IS THIS?

Muizenberg Beach, Cape Town

Trainers often take the string to the beach at Muizenberg to swim and benefit from the salt water. The Cape Town Racing Carnival peaks in January with the Queen's Plate and The Met being features Group 1 meetings.

OTI Management Pty. Ltd.
204/425 Docklands Drive | Docklands | VIC | 3008 | Australia
oti@oti.com.au | +61 (0) 3 9670 0255
hermione@oti.com.au