



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



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## LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL...BUT WHAT FOLLOWS

There is nowhere on the globe where racing has thrived as it has in New South Wales over the past decade. With stake money having increased by over 120% and yearling prices at record levels, few in the game have not benefited.

While there are no specific figures available, more younger people appear to be attending race meetings as the promotion for races like the Everest and Golden Eagle grab the public's attention. Such interest, when combined with the greater stake money is leading to greater ownership, especially among the 35-50 age group. Syndication companies as well as syndicates operated by trainers have never been busier.

Given the situation, it seems incongruous that Racing Australia has been reduced to a document processing organisation. Important decisions on rules, racing planning, welfare and the patent system are not being addressed. As we have seen throughout history, the underbelly of countries and organisations becomes soft when times are good. It's at that time the seeds of decline are sown. Without a strong national body, racing is exposed!

With good times comes the responsibility for racing authorities to invest in the future. Two key areas that loom large are training facilities and staff development. Good work has been done in both NSW and Victoria in recent years to improve facilities for training horses, but more resources are still required, especially in rural areas. Once those facilities can accommodate later starting times, there's little doubt the task of attracting and training stable staff will also improve.

In recent years, we've also seen a significant improvement in training talent. This has occurred as a result of many of our young people, both Australian and overseas born, benefiting from European training experiences. Unfortunately, domestically little has been done to train our young people to become professional trainers. New South Wales, more than any other Australia jurisdiction is well placed to develop a trainer's 'centre of excellence'.

At OTI, we have recently appointed Angus (Gus) Boyd as our NSW manager. Gus will help ensure that our existing and future owners have access to the best races, prize-money and trainers around the country. With runners for our owners in the Derby, Doncaster, Sydney Cup, Percy Sykes and Frank Packer Plate over the Championships, Gus will be off to a busy start!

# OTI NEWS

A massive weekend ahead for our owners, highlighted by two runners in prestigious Group 1's on Day 1 of The Championships.

## At Avondale on Saturday

**PRINCIPESSA** is seeking her first win in the 1600m Maiden. Success would see her step straight into black-type company, with a Queensland Oaks tilt on the cards. New acquisition **BIG STORY** debuts in the 1300m 2yo Set Weights + Penalties event. A most impressive performer at the trials, we expect to see him hit the ground running in a bid to be ready for the Listed Champagne Stakes later in April.

## At Bendigo on Saturday

The Stony Creek Cup quinella of **VARDANI** and **SCARLET TUFTY** will meet once more in the 2400m Benchmark 84. The former is a winner of three of his past six starts and is expected to be ultra-competitive once again. With three runs under his belt, **SCARLET TUFTY** should be making his presence felt. The French stayer's homeland form suggests he'll relish the rise in journey. **RED MUSCAT** will appreciate competing against his own age in the 2200m Bendigo St Leger Trial. In what looks an open race, this son of Redwood has the staying characteristics that should see him be competitive.

## At Randwick on Saturday

**REGAL LION** looks primed for what will be a brutal test in the 2400m Group 1 Australian Derby. A perfect hit out in the Tulloch Stakes (2nd, beaten a length) has the Baker/Forsman camp confident of a strong showing. We hope he can end Murray's career on a high! Off the back of a bold 2nd in the All-Star Mile, **I'M THUNDERSTRUCK** is at his peak for the 1600m Group 1 Doncaster Handicap. His tenacity and past handling of testing surfaces should hold him in good stead. Hugh Bowman, who steered him to Golden Eagle glory takes the ride.

**FUTURE SCORE** was unlucky not to finish closer in the Adelaide Cup, but will need a performance every bit as good to feature in the 2600m Group 2 Chairman's Handicap. Fortunately, he is a very fit.

## At Eagle Farm on Saturday

Old campaigner **HAKY** is out to prove he still has his zest for racing in the 2200m Benchmark 78. He should roll along in front and hopefully keep finding. A below par effort would likely see a much-deserved retirement.

## At Goulburn on Saturday

**FUNAMBULIST** is set to make his Australian debut in the 1500m Maiden following three preparatory trials. He is expected to need more of a staying test than he'll face on Saturday but should be holding a good gallop to the line.

## At Leopardstown on Saturday

The much-anticipated return of talented Vadamias colt **VINA SENA** will come in the 2000m Group 3 Ballysax Stakes. He will be given every chance to make it to a Classic this European season having thrived over the winter.

## At Hamilton on Sunday

**ANDRESS** will return to the track and distance of her only win when she contests the 1400m 0-58 Handicap. We have always felt she was better than this grade, so it's hoped she can prove that on Sunday.

## At Sale on Sunday

Things shape up well for **I AM READY** in the 1106m Benchmark 58 with the services of Craig Newitt, who rode in her last start win. She can roll forward from the midfield draw and hopefully prove hard to catch.

## OTI WINNER



## NOTES

1600m BM64, Ballarat  
Trained by Lindsey Smith

# A CONVERSATION WITH GUS BOYD

## On his childhood

I grew up in a family of five on a beef farm 30 minutes west of Hamilton (VIC), which was sold when I was finishing school. I wasn't around horses a great deal at a young age but as you can imagine, animals were a massive part of my upbringing. My brothers and I were very lucky to grow up where we did.

## On his initial interest in horse racing

My father has been involved in horse ownership for as long as I can remember, so we were often watching the races growing up. My earliest memory was probably as a 10-year-old when we drove a few hours up to Ararat to watch Lethal Arrow run. We got there and found out the races had been moved. We got a burger and drove home. Not sure that was what got me hooked! It has never been about the punting for me, I just became fascinated by what a horse can do.

## On his first job in the industry

When I worked out I wanted to be involved in the industry, I thought more hands-on experience would be very beneficial. Fortunately, I knew the Principal of Rosemont Stud, Anthony Mithen, and he was happy to get me involved. I spent 6 months there before commencing near on full-time work with OTI. It was a great experience and one that I believe has given me a much better appreciation of those working with our horses day-to-day.

## On transitioning to OTI

I'm in the process of completing a Bachelor of Business at Deakin University, which has been a juggling act since commencing work at OTI. Terry and Shayne have been fantastic at ensuring I continue to learn and expand my role. I started off just doing project work for Terry and things have grown from there. His 40+ years of business experience is certainly something I'm always trying to tap into.

## ... and moving to NSW

It's an exciting opportunity. The racing industry is thriving in NSW, so I'm glad to be apart of it. I spent four months in Sydney last year (mostly in lockdown), which helps as I made some close friends who have been a great support to me. On the downside, I moved up here last weekend and am still yet to see any sunshine.



## On his horse ownership experiences

The clear standout is the first horse I owned, Quick Thinker. I certainly lucked out there. We were very lucky to own a Derby-winning colt who was competitive at 2, 3, 4 and 5. I'm now looking forward to racing some of his progeny.

## On the issues facing the sport

I think the way we portray horses/horse welfare is improving, which is important to the younger generation. There has been a real shift over the past few years. The media has such a hold on that narrative and play the most important role. Unfortunately, the negative stories are always what get the most clicks. It's hard to put into words how much people within the industry love the horses. The workload on stable staff/participants is intense. I have the utmost respect for those who are willing to get up at 3:30am year-round to care for the horses. I wish we could push that message across more.

## On his cricket

The summers have been consumed by cricket my entire life. I've been fortunate enough to play with and against some very talented cricketers. I've had many dark days on a cricket field, but will no doubt miss the sport and the guys at Geelong CC.

## On a few OTI horses he is looking forward to seeing reappear on the racetrack

APOLLO is one I'm looking forward to seeing return as a three-year-old. He's a cracking colt by Siyouni who can hopefully feature at Group level in France. I'm also excited to see HARBOUR VIEWS back in the winter. He's always been a favourite of mine. Matthew Williams and his team have done a wonderful job given all the horse's past issues. He means a lot to the Williams family.



# MATT STEWART

Some good things do appear on twitter and this week someone posted an iconic image of Secretariat and invited great pics from others.

The initial post was timeless; Ronny Turcotte looking back over his shoulder as he and Secretariat left their rivals in a 33-length wake in the 1973 Belmont Stakes.

That beautiful photo of Phar Lap, with Jim Pike holding the horse to a neat canter, was posted, there was one of a jockey dismounted and bowing to the Japanese emperor, some epic jumps photos – and Sunday Silence.

It was the 1989 Preakness Stakes; Sunday Silence and Easy Goer racing tight in a stirring struggle up the Pimlico straight.

I was reminded of Sunday Silence after last weekend's Dubai World Cup, where Japanese horses won five of the 10 races. It was a staggering result and confirmation that Japan – not Europe or the US and certainly not Australasia – is home to the world's greatest racehorses.

Japanese horses also left a heavy hoofprint on the Breeders Cup in Del Mar late last year, have launched lethal drop in raids here and often bully the international meeting in Hong Kong each December.

They've tried and failed to win the Arc a few times, often thwarted by a wet Longchamp. But the Arc will fall soon enough and the Japanese raids on world racing are becoming more regular and more powerful.

It all started with Sunday Silence. Japan had been an insular outpost but a surprising lack of support for Sunday Silence in the US had him imported to Japan as the first building block of the great upgrade.

Sunday Silence had been a champion racehorse, winning the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and a Breeders Cup, but he became sensational at stud, a sky rocket. He was its leading sire 13 times. For well over a decade, the great Japanese horses were invariably by Sunday Silence, including its best ever horse and super sire Deep Impact.



One of the five winners at Dubai last weekend, Sheema Classic winner Shahryah, was by Deep Impact. The other four were by an array of sires who are part of the strongest breeding empire in the world, one "created" by Sunday Silence.

As a top trainer quipped when bemoaning the sprint-stagnant state of Australian racing, Japanese horses are bred to race whereas ours are bred to sell.

Many Japanese yearlings are paddock-prepared for sale, not fattened up to look shiny when the gavel falls.

They can sprint but they mostly sprint at the end of stern staying tests.

I rolled my eyes when I read that Golden Slipper winner Stay Inside would stand his first season at stud at \$77,000. By comparison, the former super Japanese horse Maurice, who has made such important inroads at stud via horses like Hitotsu, stands for \$49,500. Ghaiyyath, the world champion of a year ago, stands in Victoria for \$27,500.

These fees are driven by a weird commerciality.

Maurice, Ghaiyyath and others should be the building blocks for our racing to graduate beyond pure speed but they are not as "commercial" as fast, pretty much unproven newbies like Stay Inside who get full books because his progeny are easily marketed and syndicated. They offer wonky promises of early returns.

Sunday Silence would never have got a look in here, just as the Yanks didn't want him and we gave Galileo barely five minutes before despatching him back to Ireland.

We know what happened next.

# RECENT ARRIVAL CLOUDLAND WINS TRIAL



**CLOUDLAND**, a recent arrival to Kris Lees, won his first Australian trial at Newcastle over 800m with Dylan Gibbons commenting that "he gave me a lovely feel, and once he learns what to do...".

View trial win [here](#).

Identified by Phill Cataldo, our agent in New Zealand who sourced both this weekend's Group 1 runners **I'M THUNDERSTRUCK** and **REGAL LION**, felt he had definite ability and very appealing physical attributes.

Due to trial again in the next fortnight, he will be at the races in April.

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

## OTI QUIZ

1. 2022 Golden Slipper winner Fireburn is by which stallion?

2. Who trains Shelby Sixty Six?

3. Name the first three home in the Group 1 William Reid at Moonee Valley last Friday?

### NAME THE RACECOURSE



*Hint - Grand Annual*

# OTI EQUINE WELFARE

## NIGHT'S WATCH



Night's Watch is well on his way with his dressage career, after being taken on by Taylah Markham following his retirement mid-way through 2021.

Taylah, who worked with the gelding at Andrew Bobbin's stable, said that 'he is an absolute pleasure to have around and to do anything with. I look forward to continuing my journey with him.'

A terrific horse for connections on the racetrack, we are thrilled to see him thriving in his new journey post-racing.

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

## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Rebel Dane
2. Danny Williams
3. September Run, Halvorsen and General Beau

### NAME THE RACECOURSE

Warrnambool