



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



GLOBAL RACING ENVIRONMENT POST-COVID

Traveling back to Europe after a sabbatical of almost three years is quite eye-opening. Like most racing jurisdictions, racing has done well. Whilst there are serious challenges in some areas, most trainers, breeders, sales companies and indeed owners are exiting Covid better off than they were when they went in.

Not only have most local markets stayed sound, but racing is continuing to develop in the Middle East and Asia with Bahrain, Saudi and Qatar being the standouts. Italy and Singapore have unfortunately continued to decline, but as they are relatively small markets, their global impact has not been significant.

Perhaps the most interesting country when it comes to development is China. Despite the growing wealth of the country and predictions that it would expand, racing - other than in Hong Kong - has progressed little. There was a time only a decade ago when breeders, sales companies and betting agencies were licking their lips with the thought of the Chinese mainland becoming a major racing player. For whatever reason, progress seems to have stagnated.

In Australia, it's reasonable to say that we've excelled. Whilst we do have some major challenges with the impotent Racing Australia, poor administration in some states, horse welfare, wide social acceptance and the growing influence of the Greens (especially after the Federal election), the fundamentals of the game are good. On a worldwide basis, we are up with the best.

Outside of Australia, the standout performer is Japan. On all fronts, it continues to have a strong financial base and is rapidly becoming the provider of the best horses. Be it in five years or 10, on current trends, Japan will be supplying the winners of racing's greatest races; the English Derby and the Arc in France.

Despite many thinking that the sport will have trouble attracting younger generations, racing is attracting superior quality among the younger training ranks. Be it France, the UK or Australia, we too have excellent young horsemen/women to take our game forward. It's an exciting time for them and perhaps the best indicator that racing has a healthy future.

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OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

A quiet weekend ahead for our owners, though a couple of our talented European three-year-olds are out to stake their claims for better targets.

On Saturday at Eagle Farm

BARADE is entered for the 1800m Group 3 Lord Mayor's Cup, though is considered an unlikely starter. We are hoping he will appreciate the change of scenery with Jack Bruce, but won't expect him to be ultra competitive until he's out over 2000m and beyond.

At Navan (IRE) on Saturday

Johnny Murtagh-trained gelding **KNIGHTLAILA** is expected to put in a good performance in the 2000m 3yo Handicap. He has finished in the top four in all of his starts to date and the rise in distance looks very suitable.

VINA SENA will contest the same race after showing better manners last time out. He'll be ridden patiently again to finish off, but appears poised to put in a season-best run despite the wide alley. He's a talented performer on his day and we hope he's ready to feature.

At Ballarat on Sunday

In-form gelding **ALMSGIVER** looks well-positioned in the 2000m Benchmark 64. Having had a tough run on the back up over 2000m last time out, he heads into this race rock hard fit and another competitive showing is expected.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Autumn '22 Stable Stars winner **Cameron Dunn**, who finished the season standing at 102 points.

He was closely followed by a tie for 2nd place between **Noah Webb** and **Fay Galluzzo**, both finishing at 96 points.

Congratulations to Cameron, Noah and Fay on your successes within this competition and many thanks to all contestants for joining in the fun.

We look forward to welcoming you all back for our Spring '22 edition!

WINNERS



HEZASHOCKA

1600m BM78, Flemington

*Trained by Mick Price &
Michael Kent Jnr*



COMME BELLA FILLE

1550m BM72, Randwick
Kensington

Trained by John O'Shea



MELTDOWN

1400m BM64, Pakenham

Trained by Phillip Stokes

WHAT'S MAKING HEADLINES

TURF QUEENS SET TO MOVE ON

It is with heavy hearts and hefty price tags that several stakes-performing fillies and mares have moved on at this week's Magic Millions National Broodmare Sale.

A battle between bloodstock giants Yulong and Coolmore ensued for outstanding sprinter Away Game, the former of whom were victorious. After fetching a hefty \$4 million, it has been announced that she will be covered by Written Tycoon.

Yulong also had their hearts set on star mare Tofane, for whom the \$3.1 million price tag did not stand in their way.

OTI's Chaillot went through the ring, receiving \$400,000. The 5yo daughter of Testa Rossa amassed over \$450,000 in prize money throughout her career and was victorious in the 1400m Group 3 Frances Tressady Stakes at Flemington.

Other notable mares that went through the ring included Rubisaki, Lighthouse, Ballistic Lover, and Still A Star.



'BOOL WENT BIG



It has been announced that this year's 2022 Warrnambool May Carnival was one of the most successful to date.

The Carnival saw a sharp increase in crowd numbers, reaching 29,048 across three days as it celebrated its 150th anniversary.

A \$400,000 prize money boost was granted to the Carnival this year, which Warrnambool Racing Club says contributed to this year's success.

OTI had a successful Warrnambool Carnival, highlighted by the successes of Toregene, Rider In The Snow, and Marchons Ensemble over the three days.



PRICE/KENT PROSPER IN SA

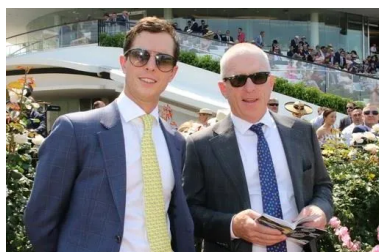
Lombardo's explosive win in the Group 1 Goodwood Handicap (1200m) on Saturday topped off a highly successful Autumn Carnival for the Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr stable.

The pair dominated the South Australian autumn, winning 7 of the 20 stakes races over the 4-week carnival.

"It was just one of those carnivals where plans came off and things worked out as we'd hoped, it was terrific," said Kent.

Three-year-old son of So You Think Illation was victorious in the Listed Nitschke Stakes (1400m) and the Adelaide Guineas (1600m), proving himself a serious spring contender for the Price-Kent Jnr stable.

We're glad to have a number in training with the pair!



AN INTERVIEW WITH LIAM O'KEEFFE

Liam O'Keeffe is Flemington's Track Manager and is responsible for preparing the turf for race meetings held by the VRC.

How did you end up in racing? Were you always involved?

I have been involved in racing since the age of 15. Whilst completing my VCE at Emmanuel College in Warrnambool, I worked one day a week at the Warrnambool Racing Club on the track as part of the V-Cal program. This led to an apprenticeship in Horticulture Sportsturf Management.

What is the process involved in preparing a track?

It's important to have a system in place that allows you to prepare the track consistently for each and every race meeting. Participants need a safe and consistent track. We are very particular on watering/measuring surface hardness to ensure there is sufficient give in the track for horses. This requires a lot of walking/going stick readings and moisture measuring throughout the week.

What is the toughest part of track management?

Not being in control of the weather. It can really undo all of the team's hard work. It has such a big impact on what we do on a daily basis.

What is your favourite race meeting to prepare for?

Hands down Derby Day. It's the best race day in Australia and it's the start of a massive week. If you can get off to a good start on Derby day, the rest of the week normally takes care of itself.



How do you ensure that the track stays in good order during the Spring Carnival?

Organisation is the key to success. I was told this on day one of year 7 and it's the best advice I have ever been given. A sound turf management plan for the 12 months leading into the carnival will have you in good stead for Cup week.

How do you minimise bias when preparing the track?

Measure, Measure, Measure. It's so important to stay ahead of the game and not be reacting to something that may pop up in the track late in the week close to a race meeting. If there is anything in the track that needs to be levelled out you need to do it as far out from the Raceday as possible so the track has a chance to settle down.

What makes Flemington unique to any other track?

Straight racing number one, also it's shaped like a pear which is fairly unique. Also I heard Hugh Bowman describe it as a galloping track (gentle long home turn with a long straight) which unfortunately we don't have too many of in Australia.

SHOWCASING X SEDICIOSA

Athletic two-year-old colt to be trained by Matt Williams



A recent acquisition by OTI is a colt by Showcasing out of the Irish dam Sediciosa.

He was purchased at the Arqana Breeze Up Sales in France, at which his performance can be viewed [**HERE**](#).

OTI is well acquainted with the progeny of his dam, Sediciosa, who produced OTI's Group 2 winner San Huberto. His sire, Showcasing, has produced 5 Group 1 horse since 2020, including Sussex Stakes winner Mohaather.

The colt is to be trained by Matthew Williams, who we have enjoyed a successful relationship with through the likes of Gailo Chop and Harbour Views. Given the way he covers the ground, he looks an ideal future middle-distance type.

OTI looks forward to racing this colt and hope that he, like his half-brother San Huberto, provides us with much fun and success.

QUIZ

1. Which jockey rode Black Caviar to victory in her first win?
2. Which OTI horse won the 2021 Listed The Sofitel?
3. Who won the 1932 Melbourne Cup?
4. Who was trainer Robbie Griffith's first Group 1 winner?
5. Which OTI horse's name means "under the clouds" when translated from French?



NAME THE RACECOURSE

HINT: Adam Olszanski

AU PAIR'S LIFE AFTER RACING

With the help of Racing SA's Equine Welfare Officer John Cornell, OTI Racing rehomed **Au Pair** from Phillip Cole's Darwin stables to Evergreen Lodge in South Australia at the end of 2021.

The New Zealand-bred mare contested 22 starts over her career, breaking her Maiden at Darwin in July 2021. She provided her owners with a great thrill, competing in a Kennedy Oaks Trial at Flemington in 2020 along with several placings in her career.

Now at 5 years of age, she is currently enjoying her time at the Evergreen Lodge Riding School in South Australia where she is a favourite of many of the riding students. Recently, **Au Pair** and her rider have completed their first cross country competition.

One of the members of Evergreen Lodge says that she is "so proud of these two for completing their first eventing competition! **Au Pair** is a 5yo off-the-track who is loving her new journey in life."

OTI Racing is delighted that the mare is enjoying her time as an eventing horse and wish her and her rider the best of luck in their future competitions.



PHOTO: Manning Photography

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Jarrad Noske
2. Harbour Views
3. Peter Pan
4. The Quarterback
5. Sous Les Nuages

NAME THE RACECOURSE

*Stony Creek.
Adam Olszanski is the CEO of Stony
Creek Racing Club.*



*HARBOUR VIEWS wins the Listed The
Sofitel, 11 September 2021.*