



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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MONEY... MONEY... MONEY....

Our racing industry in Australia continues to see a seemingly endless flow of stake increases. In the past month, over \$50 million in additional prize money has been allocated to participants in Victoria and New South Wales. In addition, over \$100 million has been directed to infrastructure developments, mainly in NSW.

For the past six years, the message from NSW has been consistent. In taking advantage of its improved revenue streams while at the same time consolidating operations, it has sought to deliver a more appealing racing program to punters and racing participants. On most measurements it has thrived, to the point where compared to Victoria over \$70m more is distributed in stakes monies than a decade ago.

In pursuing its objective, Racing NSW has downplayed many historical racing traditions and conventions. It has also effectively turned Racing Australia into a lame organisation. No doubt, it will claim that the development of racing in NSW should not be constrained by the inability of other racing jurisdictions, especially Victoria...

While stake increases are always welcome, the current relationship between NSW and Victoria is not healthy for the future of our industry. As the economic gap between both states continues to grow, Victoria's ability to hold Australia's preeminent racing carnival will shrink. Fortunately in his early interviews, Racing Victoria's new CEO, Andrew Jones appears to be taking a more realistic approach with NSW. Such an approach is refreshing.

While without wholesale changes in the way racing in Victoria is managed, RVL's economic relative position is not likely to improve markedly. However, with sensible dialogue between the key administrators of our sport, there is an opportunity for decisions to be made for the betterment of racing in all of Australia.

MELBOURNE CUP NOMINATIONS...

It's very encouraging for the Spring Carnival to have so many horses nominated for this year's Melbourne Cup. It's also satisfying for Racing Victoria to see the number of international entries. A review of the quality of the international entries and knowing that most are not likely to come, locally trained horses will have a great chance to win the race this year.

Arguably, European trainers with their better horses have had the advantage over locals in the past 20 years. There's little doubt however, that Australian trainers are far more capable of training stayers, be they more horses of European origin, than in the past.

At OTI, we have nominated 13 horses for the Cup. While most are pipedreams, horses including Daqiansweet Junior and San Huberto, both proven 3200m horses, are certainly capable of winning the great race.

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

On Saturday at Haydock Park (UK)

Docklands makes his anticipated debut in the 1412m Novice Stakes at Haydock Park. He has drawn barrier 7 in a field of 8 with Hayley Turner booked to ride, and we are hopeful that he will put on a good debut performance.

On Saturday at Doomben

Taaffeite drops back in distance to contest the 2000m BM78 at Doomben. She should take benefit from her last outing, and is expected to be competitive here.

On Saturday at Flemington

Indented Head comes off the back of a good win at Sandown, and can hopefully continue that form at Flemington.

Veteran galloper Romancer returns to Flemington for the Aurie's Star following a strong a jumpout win at Cranbourne. He looks well suited for this race.

On Saturday at Randwick

Attorney steps up in distance to tackle the 1800m Premiers' Cup Prelude at Randwick. His adequate run in the South Grafton Cup should have benefitted him, and hopefully Saturday's run will take him further.

On Saturday at Newcastle

Chris Waller-trained Coppleson makes his debut in the 1400m Maiden at Newcastle on Saturday. The full brother to Te Akau Shark comes off a very pleasing trial and is an exciting first-starter for OTI.

On Sunday at Sunshine Coast

Son of So You Think, Introvert is edging closer to a win with each start and is set to battle in the 1400m Maiden at Sunshine Coast on Saturday. The Matt Dunn-trained galloper steps up in distance and is hopefully able to break his maiden this start.

On Sunday at Swan Hill

Raffish returns to the races in solid form coming off the back of a Geelong maiden win. The Archie Alexander-trained gelding is set to contest the 2400m 0-58 Handicap at Swan Hill, a race suitable for him in class and distance.

On Sunday at Deauville (FR)

Son of Almanzor Intuitu returns from his Listed attempt at Toulouse last start. He is well placed at 2000m.

WINNERS



INDENTED HEAD

1400m 3yoF Bm70,
Sandown

Trained by Phillip Stokes



DARCI'S DEBUT

1300m 4yo+ Maiden,
Coleraine

Trained by Symon Wilde

VOTE FOR OTI RACING

We are pleased to announce that OTI Racing has been named as a National Finalist in the 2022 Irish Australian Business Awards, under the "International Trader" category.

We are honoured to be named as a finalist in recognition of the rewarding relationship we share with Ireland through trainers, business partners, and horses.

In addition the nomination as International Trader, we welcome your vote for the People's Choice Award. To vote, please click [HERE](#) and follow the steps below:

1. Create an account (as a guest) through the Log In button in the right top corner
2. Once account is created click on Events in the menu bar
3. Choose the Business Awards event (first one)
4. Scroll down onto the photo with the OTI logo and other finalists and click on it
5. Scroll down and enter OTI into the name bar
6. VOTE by clicking the furthest star on the right



AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW NICHOLL

Andrew Nicholl (FAR RIGHT) is the Chief Executive of the Australian Trainers' Association.

1. Where did you grow up?

I was born and bred in Melbourne, and lived in the North Western suburbs all my life (presently residing in Airport West).

2. Have you always been involved in racing?

I have been a keen racing fan since I was seven, when my grandparents, who lived in Essendon, took me to my first race meeting at Moonee Valley in 1969 (yes, I am that old!).

3. How did you end up in the racing industry?

I was an insurance broker at JLT, who are the firm who place the national insurance programs for the Australian Trainers' Association (ATA) for licensed thoroughbred trainers. It was 2015, and after 35 years in insurance, I was looking for a change. Fortunately, the incumbent ATA CEO at the time was also looking for a change, and after many, many conversations, and after a few late night sessions, I agreed to join the ATA as their CEO.

4. What does your current role look like? What are your responsibilities?

I am the CEO of the ATA Federal Branch. My role is twofold. Firstly, the Federal Branch has responsibility for matters that have national application to the training profession. For example, industrial relations, the Australian rules of racing, managing the national insurance programs, marketing of the ATA, and the trainers trust. Secondly, I support our individual state and territory committees, and state executives, where they need advice/support for their local operational matters. For example, local rules of racing, infrastructure needs, advocacy on prizemoney, engaging with racing ministers, and so on.

5. Have you ever owned horses?

The short answer is yes, from my early 20's. Sadly, I'm still addicted today, my latest being shares I have taken in a Turn Me Loose colt and a Starspangledbanner filly... fingers crossed, these are the ones!



6. What is your most coveted race?

The WS Cox Plate. I love the weight for age horses, they are the stars of the turf to me. And the WS Cox plate to my mind is the best WFA race in Australia, and many would argue - given the consistent quality of international competitors who come to take part in the race - the world.

7. What do you think could be done to improve the future of racing?

I think we need to better educate the public about the positive aspects of racing. The contentious issues will always be there - equine welfare, the use of the padded whip, wagering - but racing also employs many, many people (240,000 nationally), provides diverse career opportunities, supports charities, provides enormous economic benefit to regional communities, and much, much more. If we do this, we can and will broaden the appeal of racing, and set the stage for "next generation" participation.

8. Which horse are you most looking forward to this spring?

I would have to say Spanish Mission. Ran a great 3rd in the 2021 Melbourne Cup, and with a season under his belt now acclimatising to Australian conditions, he must be a big chance to go one better in the 2022 Melbourne Cup.

TRIAL WATCH - LADY LAGUNA

Lady Laguna's owners were delighted to see her win the 2yo fillies' trial at Rosehill on Friday 29th July, following her last preparation in which she contested the Golden Slipper. She appears to have matured in lovely fashion, returning to work as a 3yo.

Jumping well, Tommy Berry let her settle in front of the field.

Trainer Annabel Neasham is targeting her towards the Quezette Stakes at Caulfield on Saturday the 13th of August.

We are extremely pleased with Lady Laguna and can't wait to see what she produces upon her return to the track.



Pictured: Closing sections of trial

LETTERS TO EDITOR

NEWBURY NON-EVENT

Interesting as always, however I feel that the Gazette failed to explain the reason why there were no declared runners for the last race at Newbury.

The decision to withdraw all the runners was taken jointly by all the trainers as a protest against the appalling level of prize money in British racing, and at Newbury in particular.

If that race had gone ahead at a Group 1 course on a Saturday, the prize money for the race would have been less than \$10,000.

A worthy protest in my opinion.

- Jim Holland



Pictured: Newbury Racecourse, UK



Pictured: Inverloch wins at Caulfield

RETIREMENT OF INVERLOCH

Well, the Fastnet Rock venture has come to a close with the retirement of Inverloch. What a ride. I thank you and the OTI team for allowing me the opportunity to be a part of the ride.

I have enjoyed every moment and enjoyed many thrills including overseas victories, Listed wins, Cups and to top it all off attending Royal Ascot. If someone had told me I would experience this adventure I would have called them mad.

Anyway, Lily and I will be fond of all the memories and OTI have been a pleasure to share the ride with.

I look forward to future partnerships. Best of luck in upcoming carnivals.

- Henry Gomizel

Thank you to those who submitted letters to the editor, we always appreciate your contribution.

INTRODUCING SHOWCASING X SEDICIOSA '20

- Exciting half-brother to San Huberto -



OTI Racing welcomes a lovely new colt. He is a half-brother to our Group 2 winner San Huberto out of Rail Link's daughter, Sediciosa.

He joins us from the Arqana Breeze Up sales in France, where he attracted the attention of Terry Henderson. He is a strong, athletic type, with good movement and a relaxed temperament. Despite being the type to improve with time, his Breeze Up performance was very likeable. The footage from the Breeze Ups can be viewed [HERE](#).

He is a son of Showcasing, a top European sire who has produced 5 Group 1 winners since 2020. Arguably the most notable is Sussex Stakes winner Mohaather. His dam, Sediciosa, has produced 3 winners including OTI's G2 winner San Huberto. She herself is a winner at Group 3 level.

The colt arrived at Matthew Williams' Warrnambool base in July and pleased upon inspection. Footage of his parade and the accompanying commentary from Terry Henderson can be viewed [HERE](#).

OTI QUIZ

1. Which two OTI horses currently reside at the Living Legends?
2. The annual Scobie Breasley Medal was inaugurated in which year?
3. Which horse won back-to-back Melbourne Cups in 1968 and 1969?



NAME THE RACECOURSE

Hint: Playoffs

PHILLIP STOKES FARM VISIT

On Sunday 24 July, OTI owners attended Phillip Stokes Farm in Garfield, VIC. The lovely weather and crisp morning sun produced a wonderful backdrop for the parading of several horses, including Daqiansweet Junior and Meltdown.

The 1000m sand track and equine pool at the property provided us the wonderful opportunity to view our horses in work. Coupled with the picturesque scenery and tasty morning treats, it was a lovely morning for all involved.



Pictured: Equine pool at Phillip's Farm



Pictured: Naraajo

We were also fortunate enough to get a glimpse of OTI Racing's newly placed Naraajo, an enchanting chestnut colt from the family of Tom Melbourne. Naraajo possesses a fiery chestnut coat as vibrant as his personality, which suffice to say charmed everyone who was present.

OTI Racing extends our thanks to Phillip Stokes and his team for the brilliant outing.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Tom Melbourne and Gailo Chop
2. 1996
3. Rain Lover

NAME THE RACECOURSE: Darwin
Playoffs won the Darwin Cup on August 1st, 2022.



Pictured: Tom Melbourne wins at Randwick

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