



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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Melbourne Cup's International Popularity Wanes...

Many will argue that the downturn in the number of horses coming from Europe for the Melbourne Cup Carnival is a good thing. On one hand, the rejection of a number of horses for veterinary reasons will help ensure a safer Melbourne Cup. On the other hand, there's a growing opinion that Europe's second level stayers do little for the promotion of the two major Cups.

One thing is certain however, the reputation of the Melbourne Cup among European horsemen is no longer what it was 5 years ago. This is despite hundreds of thousands of dollars being spent by RVL/VRC to promote the race. The Melbourne Carnival is now very much secondary to the Breeders Cup, held in the USA around the same time.

Most trainers who were once interested in campaigning in Melbourne will tell you that the approach taken by RVL to 'protect' the race from further fatalities is misplaced. No professional trainer or vet likes to be told (especially from an outsider) that their horse is unsuitable to race. The situation becomes more frustrating when on one day they are told the horse is fine then on the next, told it is not.

The current practices of the RVL representatives become more worrying when equine insurance is added to the debate. If a vet declares that a horse has an issue, even when the attending vet and trainer are happy with the horse, an insurance company has every right to put caveats on the policy. Trainers would rightly question why they should expose the horse's owners to such a risk.

For decades, horses have been travelling the globe, successfully campaigning in major races. Each jurisdiction has strict protocols to ensure those horses who compete are fit and healthy enough to do so. It is simply naive (some may even say rude) to expect respected trainers and vets to accept procedures that, on a global basis, are outliers in our sport.

The owners of OTI's Future Score know better than most that RVL's current procedures are far from perfect. Despite the views of the trainer and attending vet, Future Score was scratched on the morning of the 2021 Melbourne Cup. The horse went on to run 3rd in the Adelaide Cup and 4th in the Sydney Cup, and is poised to make a return to racing again in the summer.

We all want the Melbourne Cup to continue to be the great Australian race. We urgently need to take a fresh look at what is required for that to happen.

— Terry Henderson

OTI RUNNERS AND WINNERS

Another big weekend awaits with five of our runners set to contest stakes races, two of those at Group 1 level.

At Gowran Park on Friday

Catena Zapata will make his jumps debut in the 3200m Maiden Hurdle. He has done plenty of schooling through the year and is hopefully ready to show his ability in this format. He is in very good hands with the De Bromhead/Blackmore combination!

At Flemington on Saturday

Hezashocka will fly the flag for OTI in the feature 2000m Group 1 Turnbull Stakes after a scratching granted him a run. The step up to Group 1 level poses a challenge for this fellow, although he has continued to improve with each run and has shown a strong liking for the Flemington track. Saturday's race will be a good guide as to what path he takes this Spring.

Melbourne Cup aspirant **Daqiansweet Junior** gets out to a suitable trip in the 2510m Group 3 Bart Cummings. With a solid grounding underneath him, we expect him to be hitting his straps back on a good surface. Having been sluggish out of the barriers in both runs this preparation, a clean start will be key in allowing him to sit closer in the run.

San Huberto will also compete in the Bart Cummings for trainer Matt Cumani. The gelding stuck to his task well on return at Flemington, in what was his first run in over 18 months. Hopefully, with that run under his belt, we will see further improvement on Saturday at a more favoured trip.

Cadazio rounds off the card at Headquarters in the 1800m Listed Super Impose Stakes, as he continues on his path towards the VRC Derby. The son of Tarzino didn't have things go to plan last start, but we are confident that he can bounce back on Saturday with a bit of freshness out of his system.

At Morphettville on Saturday

It's no secret that the return of **Wicklow Lass** didn't quite meet our expectations, but with a solid trial win in between runs, we hope to see her bounce back in the 1000m 3yo Benchmark 62. She is a talented filly and if right, is more than capable here.

Sous Les Nuages has been very consistent of late and looks a deserving favourite in the 2400m Benchmark 82. The form from his last start is working out, and if he can run to that level this deep into his preparation, he is right in the mix. Hopefully his patient owners can be rewarded!

At Murtoa on Saturday

Dyerville is ready to make his race return in the 1200m Maiden, having trialled well in the lead up. Although he is far from the finished product, we were encouraged by his progression during his first preparation and expect him to acquit himself well on return.

At Killarney on Saturday

Deakin, a handsome looking son of Australia, is ready to make his debut in the 1630m 2yo Maiden. He is very much one for next season but it's important he's given an educational run. His work throughout the year has pleased Joseph's team, so hopefully he's afforded a nice experience first time out.

At Bendigo on Sunday

Red Muscat heads back to the races in the 1600m Benchmark 64 after showing good promise during his time as a 3-year-old. Sunday's race looks a suitable kick-off for him, who will be better suited over staying trips but can run a cheeky race fresh.

At Longchamp on Sunday

Last start Group 3 winner **Tigrais** takes the step into the highest company in the 1400m Group 1 Prix Jean Luc-Lagardere. Her effort last start was most impressive, particularly for a filly who is expected to be better at three. Like many of our competitors, our only real query is the wet ground, which she's yet to see in her short career.

WINNERS



AESOP

1800m BM78, Sandown
Trained by P. Stokes



REGAL LION

1700m Hcp, Sandown
Trained by A. Neasham



LORNE

3000m 3yo Class 2,
Fontainebleau
Trained by M. Baratti



DEVORE

1400m Hcp, Curragh
Trained by J. Murtagh



GUIDO

2400m Maiden, Bendigo
Trained by M. Freedman



CLOUDLAND

1300m Class 1, Scone
Trained by K. Lees

AN INTERVIEW WITH MADDIE RAYMOND

Maddie Raymond is a Victorian trainer who has enjoyed success at both black type and country cup level. OTI is thrilled to be in partnership with Maddie, as our Rip Van Winkle x Half Bak '19 gelding is to be trained at her Warrnambool stables.

How and when did your interest initially develop?

I always wanted a pony as a young girl. When I turned 15 my parents bought a small farm near Matthew Williams' stables, they brought me my first horse and I got a part time job on weekends and afternoons working for Matthew. I've been working with horses and in the industry since then.

Who has been the biggest influence on your training career?

Darren Weir. I spent most of my time working for him, learning how to best utilise the beach and the surrounding facilities here in Warrnambool.

You worked overseas, what did that experience teach you?

I worked for Willie Mullins in Ireland, and absolutely loved it. Completely different world over there, he mainly trains jumpers but I certainly learnt how to get a horse tough and fit!

What are the benefits of training horses in a beach environment?

There's no comparison for beach training, that fresh salt cold water on their legs for recovery, swimming for cardio and the flat, even natural sand surface to work on is brilliant for horses' soundness. Also being able to give horses variety in their work, not having to follow a white rail around every day keeps them fresh in the head.

What is the race you would most like to win?

The Cox Plate!



As one of a growing number of female trainers, what advice would you give to young women following in your footsteps?

I don't think there are any negatives being a female in this industry, I think if you put your head down and work hard you can achieve anything you want.

What do you look for when choosing horses to train?

I do have a soft spot for European staying types, I like how tough they are and the stamina they show. Having worked in Europe, I have an understanding of how they are trained over there and what it takes to get them to reach their potential over here.

What is the hardest thing about training horses?

The ups and downs! Thinking you've got everything spot on with a horse and have it not perform is heartbreaking!

Where do you hope to be in 5 years?

I want to keep things small, I'm happy just having a nice 20-horse stable here in Warrnambool. Quality is better than quantity!

OTI'S SUPER SUNDAY

For OTI, Sunday the 25th of September was certainly a day to remember with four winners across the globe. **Aesop** and **Regal Lion** both produced impressive second-up victories at Sandown in similar fashion, scoring from back in the field.

Aesop, having run so well over the course and distance earlier in September, was able to go one better with Jamie Kah aboard. **Regal Lion**'s journey down from Annabel Neasham's stables in Sydney in search of a drier track was certainly worth it, as he flew home on top of the ground! **Regal Lion**'s gallant effort was enough to see him gain a chance in some of the top races this spring, with the G3 Coongy Cup his likely next target!

After a pleasing Underwood Stakes day, we looked overseas to France and Ireland where **Lorne** and **Devore** finished their races in fine staying fashion.

Lorne made it back-to-back wins at Fontainebleau (FR) following a superb effort to break her maiden last start. Finishing nicely over 3000m, she proved herself a true stayer. Two-year-old daughter of Zoffany **Devore** made it strongly to the line at the Curragh (IRE), beating a number of well-rated horses home. She continues to improve and looks an exciting prospect over a mile and further next season.

Overall, it was a delightful and memorable day for all connections!

Pictured: Regal Lion (above) and Devore (below, courtesy of Emma O'Brien).



TIGRAIS REPRESENTS OTI ON ARC WEEKEND

The first Saturday and Sunday of October, better known as Arc weekend, are the pinnacle of French racing. Some may say that they are the best two days of racing in Europe on the calendar. Over the weekend, eight Thoroughbred and 2 Arab Group 1 races will be held with prize money totalling over \$16m. The lucrative French breeding bonuses add a potential further 60% of that money for horses that qualify.

This year, Tigrais will wear the OTI colours in the 1400m G1 Prix Jean-Luc Lagardere, otherwise known as the Grand Criterium. This race, open to both colts and fillies, is seen as the premium 2yo race of the French season. Needless to say, the likes of Coolmore and the Aga Khan stables will have runners in the race.

After a moderate first up run earlier in the year, Tigrais impressed John Hammond with an authoritative maiden win at Deauville in August. John, who assists OTI and is the racing manager for prominent French owner Gerard Augustin-Normand, recommended that we buy the filly as she looked an ideal French Guineas type. A deal was done, and three weeks later the filly went on to win the Group 3 Prix La Rochette at Longchamp. Her win against the colts convinced connections that the filly would not be out of place in this weekend's race.

This weekend's Arc meeting promises to be exceptional with the Arc itself attracting a full field of top stayers. Unfortunately Verry Elleegant will not be amongst them. She will start in the more winnable 2800m Group 1 on the Saturday.

The OTI owners involved will have adrenaline flowing on Sunday night as the filly takes her place in a relatively small field. Already having exceeded her expectations as a 2yo, her trainer, Christopher Head (son of Freddy) is confident that she will run well.



Pictured: Tigrais wins the G3 Prix La Rochette, Longchamp (FR)

INTRODUCING CELEBRITY'S BEAU

- *Winning son of Shocking* -



OTI Racing is elated to introduce Celebrity's Beau, a winning son of Shocking to be trained by Peter Moody.

Originally hailing from New Zealand, Celebrity's Beau contested what was an impressive debut on the 14th of September at Cambridge. Within an hour of crossing the finish line, OTI's NZ agent Phill Cataldo had secured an option for his purchase.

The 4yo gelding is by Shocking, a stallion with whom OTI has experienced much success. With horses such as Hezashocka, and the illustrious I'm Thunderstruck, OTI's relationship with Shocking continues to produce much excitement. The dam of Celebrity's Beau, Celebrity Miss, was a successful racehorse herself with a Listed win and Group 1 placing to her name.

Celebrity's Beau will be in quality hands and tutelage of Peter Moody's stable. A trainer with a fantastic record training NZ-bred middle distance and staying types, OTI is most excited to recommence a relationship with Peter following the successes of Group 1 winners Manighar and Brambles in years gone by.

Needless to say, Celebrity's Beau is an exciting prospect. We are thrilled to see him race in the gold, white and navy colours.

QUIZ

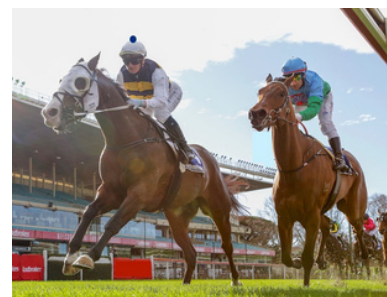
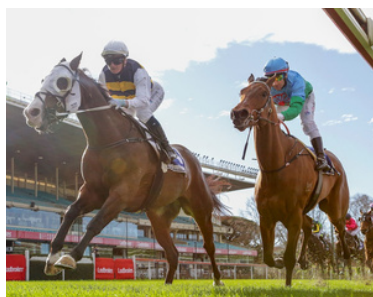
1. Who trained OTI's Quick Thinker to victory in the 2020 ATC Derby?

2. Who is the official sponsor of the 2022 Cox Plate?

3. Victoria's shortest race, the Woolamai Whirlwind, is run over what distance?

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Hint: There are 3 changes



HAPPY RETIREMENT ROMANCER

On Underwood Stakes day at Sandown, OTI's dearly loved heart-stealer **Romancer** contested his last start.

The 9yo son of Redwood enters retirement a healthy and happy horse with much success to his name. While he continued to enjoy his training and racing, the decision was made to retire him given his competitiveness was beginning to drop off.



Romancer was purchased at the 2015 Karaka Yearling Sales in New Zealand, producing three wins and two Group placings before coming to Australia. Initially placed with Darren Weir, Romancer found his most consistent career form when moved into the care of Grahame Begg. His astonishing win at \$100-1 in the 2021 Listed Straight Six elevated him to cult status, as he was dubbed "the Quaddie Killer".

He retires with a career record of 57 starts; 9 wins and 15 placings, earning almost \$700,000 in prizemoney. Amazingly, he recorded a win in each calendar year between 2016 and 2021. For his well-deserved retirement, Romancer will head back to New Zealand. There he will live out his days with one of his co-owners Katie, who was gifted a share in him for her 21st birthday. OTI Racing bids farewell to Romancer with full, yet heavy hearts.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Saturday the 10th September I was in the mounting yard and witnessed I'm Thunderstruck win the Makybe Diva at Flemington. What excitement! Then on the 15th September, I was in the mounting yard at Townsville with a mate when his horse ran 2nd in the Brown Brothers BM55 Handicap.

Isn't it incredible, when you have racing you have excitement! I gave my Thunderstruck badge to him and he proudly showed it to all his mates. I was amazed at how good the track and facilities were.



- John Spence

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman
2. Ladbrokes
3. 888 metres

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Pom-pom on I'm Thunderstruck's cap, Ladbrokes text missing, and Tuvalu's whip missing



Quick Thinker wins the 2020 ATC Derby

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