



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



A Review of 2022...

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2022 will be known as the year we exited Covid. While the virus is still prolific, its social and economic impact has waned significantly. With crowds back at the races and general restrictions lifted, most aspects of our sport are back to normal.

Given the overall situation, racing did especially well during the peak of Covid. With more money bet on horse racing, higher stakes flowed, ownership numbers grew and breeders did well from sales as prices rose. The sport itself expanded its influence as racing was one of the few sports that had uninterrupted television coverage during the two years. Race clubs however, with no people attending races, suffered as their hospitality areas and services remained idle.

The continued coverage by the Seven Network has also helped maintain racing's general public exposure – a feature so essential if it is to remain a mainstream sport. Alongside Sky and Racing. Com, punters and racing enthusiasts have a lesser need to go to the races. The downside of this trend will clearly reflect in patrons on track, thereby making it even more challenging for Race Clubs to balance their books.

Unfortunately, in 2022, Racing progressed little on two major fronts. The industry effectively ignored the Naphthine Welfare Report commissioned by Thoroughbred Breeders Australia. As a result, despite some very good work being done by sections of the industry, racing's approach remains disjointed and lacking a comprehensive lifetime tracking process. Also of critical importance, and an issue not restricted to racing, is our lack of staff numbers, especially stable staff. For different reasons, both horse welfare and staffing remain critical for the future of our industry.

As we reach the end of the calendar year, few will argue that racing is generally in good shape. While Racing Australia still does not function as a national force as it was designed to do, there are signs that the relationships between New South Wales and Victorian administrators are thawing. From a national perspective, that can only benefit our sport.

Going into 2023, it is clear that, as other lifestyle and entertainment options open up, the demand for racehorses will level out. The broader pressures in the global economy from higher interest rates and inflation will not help, but ironically over the past 35 years those pressures have not impacted horse prices or demand as much as the economic purists might expect.

After another strong year in 2022 at OTI with multiple stakes successes globally, including two Group 1 wins in Australia, owners can look forward to 2023 with great anticipation, knowing that the quality of stock ready to race for them during the year has never been better.

OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

At Dundalk on Friday

Vina Sena returns to the races as a gelding in the 2150m 3yo+ Handicap. On paper, it looks a suitable race and is a step below what he's been facing. He's a winner at this track, but does need to prove that he's capable at this journey. Hopefully he can post some competitive performances before we look to bring him to Australia in the coming months.

At Eagle Farm on Saturday

Holstein has been running well without winning this time in, whilst playing some tricks on us. A change of tactics will hopefully provide a positive result in the 1600m Class 3, even with him facing tougher company. He doesn't appear to enjoy having runners to his outside, so it's hoped he can race in clean air and be genuine to the line.

At Werribee on Sunday

Not much has gone right in Almsgiver's last two starts, but his best is good enough to win the 2000m Benchmark 64. It's important he finds cover, switches off and is afforded room to build momentum. It's been a busy month for the horse but he's handling things well at home and can hopefully bounce back into the mix on Sunday.

At Taree on Sunday

After a very serious health scare back in June, it will be fantastic to see Mista Razzledazzle make his return in the 1250m Benchmark 66. He is a tough, happy and healthy horse who has trialled up in good style. He's capable of running a race fresh, as evidenced by his first-up win last campaign. Regardless of Sunday's result, hopefully he has a good day out as we build towards some Highway targets in the city.

SPRING PERFORMANCES

As the spring has drawn to a close, OTI Racing is pleased to reflect on what has been an exciting period. In just 13 weeks, we had 3 black-type winners, 8 seconds, 3 thirds, and 6 fourths. These results were not confined to Victoria and New South Wales - OTI's success spanned across 4 Australian states and 3 countries overall.

We are happy with the results that our horses produced this spring and look forward to the future with both our tried stock and newcomers. Click [**HERE**](#) to view the extensive list of results.

WINNERS



VARDANI

2000m Werribee Cup,
Werribee
Trained by A. Alexander



PANKHURST

1600m BM58, Hamilton
Trained by M. Williams



FLASHING STEEL

1300m Mdn, Scone
Trained by A. Neasham



BELTHIL

1209m Mdn, Geelong
Trained by A. Bobbin

MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - ANTHONY LAMBERT

Where did you grow up? Originally in Glen Iris, VIC, then Gordon, NSW, from the age of 8.

When did you first get interested in racing?

It started from a very young age. Dad always had the races on the radio when gardening. Manikato stands out as a regular winner in the late '70's. My first day at Rosehill races saw Favoloso (33-1) beat favourite Over The Ocean by a nose in the 1980 Parramatta Cup. We were guests of a Legal Eagle professional punter who was on the favourite. It was a memorable/profitable win for a 13 year old.

How did you get involved with OTI? It goes back to following Simon O'Donnell as a cricketer, then into OTI. I liked the idea of racing a horse overseas and bought into Paradia, trained in France. I then managed to win one of the earlier Spring Stars competitions, with the help of our daughter who chose Taaffeite. She knew the name from her favourite movie Moana. Cara can rightly lay claim to some profits from Desert Fun if she delivers on the track.

What do you enjoy about racehorse ownership?

The buzz of having a runner is right up there for me. The thrill of a win is off the charts, but our first wish is for horse and jockey to get around safely. We've met some great people, including some breeders from Harden who we are visiting after Christmas. I am in awe of how hard racing and breeding participants work.



IMAGE: Cattle drive on the Birdsville track

What is the race you would most like to win? My parents were married on 'the day

Aquanita won the Futurity Stakes', which is a long running family joke. It has to be the Futurity.

Who is your favourite jockey? I think Barend Vorster is an exceptional talent and am always happy to back his rides, especially in Adelaide. Dad was a big fan of Darby McCarthy back in the day and I have read some interesting stories about him.

Which horse excites you the most? That's tricky. My wife is a keen Royals follower which makes the Vadamos colt King Edward exciting for us. I'm a breeding enthusiast so Desert Fun by Into Mischief (\$250k stud fee) is a fascinating prospect. Flashing Steel is probably the one though – never thought I would be involved in a horse that cost \$1m as a yearling! He was beautifully placed by Annabel Neasham last start and can hopefully now go on with it.

WHITE TURF

On February 5, 12, and 19, the world's most exclusive horse race will be run at St Moritz, Switzerland. More than 30,000 people travel each year to the Engadin Mountains to witness "White Turf", a series of horse races run on a frozen lake. The picturesque backdrop provides a thrilling experience for those lucky enough to attend the exclusive event.



White Turf is not just for thoroughbred racing. A highlight of the carnival is the Skikjöring, a form of racing only found at St Moritz - whereby competitors are on skis, pulled by thoroughbreds at high speeds along the 2,700-metre course. The last discipline to join the horseraces of St. Moritz were the gallop races, a long time after the Skikjöring and the trotting races had been established.

As well as being a quality racing affair, White Turf is also a fantastic social event with live music, gastronomic delicacies, and children's play on offer. It is a spectacle worth watching.

DEAR SANTA - ARTICLE BY TIM HOLLAND

Dear Santa,

I think I've been a good boy since I last wrote to you so I thought I would write to you again with what I'd like to see in my Christmas stocking this year. You might think I write pretty well for a 6yo, but I have had a little bit of help from Dad!

Dad keeps banging on about racing in Victoria, and wondering when it's going to stop being a sleeping giant and become a real giant. On and on he goes about it, and it's enough to make me want to throw the toys right out of the cot! If you could sprinkle some of your magic to sort out some of these issues for him I'll be a much happier boy.



Firstly, when are the three city racing clubs going to pool their resources and operate the city venues more efficiently rather than having three bureaucracies, three different committees and three different of everything else that could otherwise be rationalised?



Secondly, Racing Victoria. Dad's pretty happy with the increase in prizemoney from RV, but could they get their act together and provide stronger leadership for the sport in terms of driving the promotion of the Victorian thoroughbred racing product?



Dad's always sounding off about "North of the Border is cutting our lunch!" I don't know where that is, or what the hell he's on about but do you think you could do something about it? Santa, perhaps you could take on the role of Supremo of Victorian racing for the 11 months of the year that you're not on Christmas duty and make things happen? You certainly kick butt in your day job.

Oh, and one more thing. I can't help but notice that you seem to know what you're doing as a trainer of stayers – those reindeer of yours can go all day! Any chance you could pass on any tips on how you do it to Dad for his OTI horses?

Yours in anticipation,
Little Timmy

Many thanks to Tim Holland for submitting this edition's very unique read. A great article for this time of year. To submit articles for the Gazette, please contact Alexandra at alexandra@oti.com.au.

AN INTERVIEW WITH NICK RYAN

What do you remember about your first win as a trainer and a rider? My first win as an apprentice was at Werribee in November 2002 on an even money favourite. Family and school friends were all there to watch so it really was a buzz and I didn't ever want to do anything else. As a Trainer it was at Albury 2014 with Purrplexed – I was licensed in NSW at the time and Albury was my home track. I realised then to get a winner it was never going to be a walk in the park! Hard work was the recipe and I knew if I wanted to train more winners that's what was required.

What influence did your family have on your career? Family has always been important and luckily for me they are my biggest supporters. From when I first said I wanted to be a Jockey at a young age it was all put into plan and here we are. At NRR my sister does the PR, my mum runs the office and my step dad is a successful Bloodstock Agent.

What made you decide to transition from riding to training? If I could still be a Jockey that's what I'd be happily doing, but weight issues were the end of me at 21 years of age. I took a couple of years off after finishing riding, I travelled, worked various odd jobs but then was lured back into the Industry by Brett Cavanagh in Albury to do some breaking in of yearlings. It wasn't long and I realised this is where I wanted to be, back amongst the horses.

Can you tell us about your experience riding overseas?

I was the youngest jockey to be offered a position with the HKJC being just 18. I accepted the offer as weight was gaining and knowing I was never going to be a natural lightweight I needed to capitalise on my riding career sooner than later. Unfortunately, I broke my ankle a couple of weeks into my contract and came home, it took a long time to heal, weight crept up and I never returned.

My family went to live in Singapore for 3 years when I was younger and I loved it. We came home in 1997 and I always wanted to go back and I did so as a jockey for a time, then after retiring from the saddle I went back and worked for Cliff Brown which was a great experience. Singapore was a great place and I certainly learned a lot. I never got to ride in the UK, Ireland or France but I certainly went over to have a good look. Unfortunately, time ran out and I couldn't explore these options that were on my bucket list.



Who were your training mentors, and what influence did they have on you?

There have been many who have kindly given me their time, advice and support all along the way and to this day - it's what you see and hear that you need to take in all the time. Brett Cavanagh certainly got me back on the horse's back so to speak and he was very encouraging. When I relocated from Albury to Caulfield, I had the best around me to take it all in. Ciaran Maher was a great learning curve. I rode all his good horses in trackwork, the likes of Jameka and other group winning horses which was a valuable experience.

What are the benefits and drawbacks of having a training facility at Flemington?

Absolutely thrilled to be training at Headquarters – couldn't be happier! Yes it is more expensive for owners but the facilities are world class and at my doorstep. I do move my horses around quite often from stable to paddock for a change of scenery between runs which gives them the best of both worlds, also Altona Beach is around the corner and I use that weekly.

If you were in charge of racing for a day, what's the first thing you would change?

Definitely more apprentices and more encouragement of a younger brigade of participants in the sport. More staff as there is always a never ending shortage.

With OTI's Tivaci x Pins On Ice gelding joining your stable, what are your initial impressions on him?

My most expensive yearling to date has been a Tivaci colt from Sydney Classic Sale this year in January and already he has given me a good feel. This Tivaci x Pins On Ice gelding has similar bloodlines, he breezed up very well at the sales and looks to be a good horse going forward.

INTRODUCING TIVACI X PINS ON ICE '20

- *Quality NZ gelding to be placed with Nick Ryan* -



We are excited to introduce a two-year-gelding from the NZB Ready to Run Sale, sourced with the help of Phill Cataldo. He possesses an enviable pedigree and brings all the attributes necessary to be competitive on Australian soil.

The gelding is by Tivaci, who produced the 2021 G1 Flight Stakes winner Never Been Kissed. His dam, multiple winning mare Pins On Ice, has already produced several winners and two stakes performers. She is a full-sister to G2 winner Icepin, and half sister to Listed winner Frozone.

He will join the stables of Flemington-based trainer Nick Ryan, who is well known for his riding career but has made a name for himself as a successful trainer. He only just missed out on his first G1 with Dice Roll in the 2021 Sir Rupert Clark Stakes.

The son of Tivaci is a strong, good moving type. He has extremely desirable looks and a combination of his pedigree, physique, and action fill us with confidence in his future as a racehorse.

To view footage of the gelding and see him breeze, please click [**HERE**](#).

For more information or to register your interest (PDS under construction), please contact [**shayne@oti.com.au**](mailto:shayne@oti.com.au) or [**gus@oti.com.au**](mailto:gus@oti.com.au).

QUIZ

- A. Who is New Zealand's leading sire?
- B. Who won last year's Pakenham Cup? (2021)
- C. In the 250-year history of English horse racing, there has only been one horse from the mating of an English Derby winner with an English Oaks winner that has won an English Derby. Who is it?

NAME THE HORSE

Hint: Williams



OTI'S NEW ARRIVALS

OTI Racing is pleased to welcome a number of exciting horses to Australian shores, imported from Ireland, France, and the UK.

Irish colt Daiquiri arrives with a win already under his belt. The 3yo son of Lope de Vega will be trained by Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young and is expected to race in April/May. Also from Ireland is Ottoman Emperor, who has been under the management of OTI Racing for quite some time, producing 4 wins from 5 runs including one at stakes level. The 4yo colt will complete his rehabilitation with Matthew Williams.



ABOVE: Ottoman Emperor wins the G3 Gordon Stakes

Zaynudin, winning galloper trained by Joseph O'Brien in Ireland is ready to commence a career down under. The 4yo gelding will arrive with a record of 6 runs for a win, two seconds and two thirds. He recently broke his maiden on the 31st of August 2022, which is hopefully an indication of more success to come once he reaches Australian shores.

Exciting son of Frankel, Chimed arrives from the UK and is to be trained by Anthony & Sam Freedman. The 3yo gelding has had 6 runs for 3 seconds and a third, pleasing with each run. He is an especially striking horse, with a vibrant chestnut coat and four white socks.



ABOVE: Chimed, son of Frankel out of Timepiece

Another import to be initially prepared in Warrnambool is the talented French-born gelding Obsession, who has won over the jumps and on the flat. His form reads very well with 3 wins and 3 placings from 12 starts

OTI Racing looks forward to the commencement of these horses' Australian careers and hopes that it is an enjoyable and successful journey for all connections.

QUIZ ANSWERS

- A. Savabeel. His best progeny performance of the 2022/2023 season so far is I Wish I Win (NZ).
- B. Smokin' Romans
- C. Australia

NAME THE HORSE: Toregene

Toregene is OTI's Country Championships winner, trained by Matt Williams.



PICTURED: Future Score wins the Cranbourne Cup, 2020