



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



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Developing and Selling the Welfare Message

When businesses are going well, as racing is in Australia, prudent managers set aside resources and take actions for the day when things aren't so rosy.

In thoroughbred racing, there is no more important area deserving such action as the sport's reputation, or our 'Social Licence' as some call it. The need for the public to know the truth on how horses are treated and the need for the industry to continue to strengthen the protection of our horses are at the heart of the survival of racing into the future.

Horse racing still has much to accomplish when it comes to the care of retired horses. Currently, there is no national tracking system to enable the whereabouts of retired horses. All too often horses, that have provided their connections with so much, end up in poor care. While the current situation exists, racing leaves itself exposed to anti-racehorse fanatics who will embellish isolated negative examples and promote them as commonplace.

In spite of racing's vulnerability, great work is being done by many to retrain, rehome and care for horses. Indeed, a number of professionals in the industry, OTI included, run their own welfare programs to ensure a 'whole of life' management approach. However, from an industry perspective, while this work is highly valued, it is uncoordinated and poorly resourced.

To debunk the anti-racing propaganda, racing must have its house in order to both develop and police a nationally integrated welfare and tracking program. The longer racing waits to act to debunk the untruths, the more vulnerable the sport will be to politicians' decisions, rather than those of racing administrators.

Social trends have changed markedly in the last two decades when it comes to animal welfare, more and more politicians see the issue as 'low fruit' when it comes to winning votes. If racing does not go on the offensive to both oversee welfare in an integrated way and sell that message to the public, it will be too late to start if our economic strength wanes.

OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

At Cranbourne on Friday night

Pankhurst drops back in grade and heads up in trip when she contests the 2025m Benchmark 64. Her last run in Saturday class was a forgive after struggling with the heat. She's always given the impression she would enjoy this journey, and after freshening up well, is capable of being in the mix in what looks like a competitive event.

At The Valley on Saturday

Extra Elusive gets out to a much more suitable journey in the 2500m Benchmark 100. Understandably after such a long layoff, he's taken a couple of runs to really come to hand but it's hoped at this trip, he can travel more comfortably within himself and be able to feature late. Regardless of what he does here, he should be at his peak next start.

Sous Les Nuages also steps out in the same race following his last three very competitive efforts. He's been in training a long time but looks to be really enjoying his work and racing. Although he's on the minimum weight, he's not perfectly suited in this grade so it will take a top effort to be winning.

At Rosehill on Saturday

Tip Of The Spear is likely to take his place in the 2000m Benchmark 78 having pleased in between runs at the beach. His Australian debut over 1500m was quite encouraging, finding the line very well despite racing in restricted room. His overseas form suggests he'll be much better suited over this journey, and with natural improvement, can be fighting out the finish.

At Geelong on Sunday

Dyerville returns to the scene of his dominant last start win when he steps out in the 1715m Benchmark 64. A slight hiccup means this run is quite spaced, but his work at home suggests he hasn't trained off. From the inside gate, he should be able to comfortably find himself in the first four and we've seen he can sustain a strong run at this track and trip.

WINNERS



UNDER YOUR SPELL

1400m Pinnacle Stakes, Turffontein
Trained by S. Tarry



ASHIM

1700m BM58, Warrnambool
Trained by T. Dabernig

HAVE YOUR SAY

We appreciate you taking the time to read the OTI Gazette.
Should you have any thoughts, opinions, or stories you'd like to potentially have featured, please contact alexandra@oti.com.au and your submission will be promptly taken into consideration.

AN INTERVIEW WITH VICKY LEONARD

How did you get involved in racing?

I grew up riding ponies, and did a famous person project on a horse when I was ten. Through that I had an invitation to Cambridge Stud, which was an amazing trip. Since then I've lived and breathed racing! After university, I decided to pursue it as a career, and worked at Cambridge Stud doing yearling preps, before joining the Godolphin Flying Start Program.

What do you love about the sport?

I found it really because I love the horse, fundamentally. They're incredible creatures, and majestic beautiful animals. The fact that there's a sporting element to it I think is why it's so exciting and so captivating. Horse racing is a wonderful community, a great network, and contributor to the economy, and that's why it's so important that it continues to grow and thrive.

How did Kick Up come about?

I have a marketing company in Sydney, which specialises in horse racing. We employ about a dozen young people who are really passionate about the industry too. It was increasingly felt that we were constantly having to defend the industry. We put our heads together to come up with what was the most tangible way that we could start changing the conversation. One of those was providing accurate and factual information in a palatable format. We wanted to have these conversations with our friends and share information, rather than getting into arguments trying to refute some of the activists' statistics.

What do you wish to achieve with Kick Up?

Kick Up is a non-for-profit, its key outcome is to change the perception of horse racing back to positive, the way it used to be. We're encouraging people to spread the right message, talk to people, give them accurate information and have conversations. A lot of people aren't comfortable doing that without the tools to help them, and that's what we really aim to provide. We've got a very extensive social media strategy and content plan that we're rolling out, workshops that people can come along to and learn to have these conversations with their friends. We'll also explain how social media algorithms work so that we can disrupt them and really start to undo some of the misconceptions that the activists have been unfairly plotting against the sport for quite some time.



Vicky Leonard is the founder and managing director of Kick Up, a non-for-profit which aims to stick up for racing by providing facts and truths to the public.

What can we do to assist Kick Up?

Firstly, we encourage everyone to steal our content. Go to our website, use what we've written, use our social media posts. When you see something that you know isn't true, please start sticking up for the sport. The second thing that you can do is join the community. That helps us make sure that positive content about horse racing gets to the right people. The third thing is we need resources. To date, I've funded Kick Up, but to achieve our plans we will need more assistance and employees so any funding that can be donated would be of huge assistance.

What needs to be done to counter the attacks in mainstream media?

Until recently we have put our heads in the sand and have let the activists take hold. That negativity has taken hold and a lot of influencers use Cup Week as a way to get cheap likes and grandstand their social causes. So we need to make it clear that the claims are actually based on falsities, untruths, and misconceptions that have been sensationally blasted about horse racing. It's everyone's responsibility to stick up for the sport.

If you were in charge of racing for a day, what would you change?

I'd start reallocating some of the ridiculous pop-up prizemoney into some long term strategic projects. Firstly, education, because we've got a growing employment problem on our hands, and we need to encourage and give pathways for people to work in racing. Secondly, the infrastructure at training centres because that will only improve our animal welfare and our rider safety. Thirdly, a proper marketing to help grow our sport rather than the antiquated (and quite frankly, boring) campaigns that are used at the moment. We need authenticity to really break through. I think they should start to think a bit more creatively about how to speak to the next generation, because they don't engage in content the same way that past generations have.

INVERELL PRE-TRAINING



PICTURED: Inverell pulls up from work at Denistoun Park

We are delighted to see Inverell enjoying his time at JJC's breaking & training property (Denistoun Park) located on the picturesque Mornington Peninsula. Click [**HERE**](#) to view footage of Inverell's work during pre-training, in which he has been well stimulated through a wide array of training methods. The property allows access to the beach, treadmill work, and plenty of open space.

Clayton Douglas is very happy with the gelding and we look forward to his return to racing in the not too distant future.

BALNARRING CUP SUCCESS

For 3 years, OTI Racing and Bloodstock has been the proud sponsor of the Balnarring Cup held on January 26 each year. Whilst far more informal than our usual city meetings, it is always a fantastic day out held behind the picturesque bushland of the Emu Plains Reserve on the Mornington Peninsula.

With a lively crowd and a few familiar faces, it is a different yet extremely inviting experience for both young and old.



Yesterday was no exception, with OTI Racing in attendance to present the Balnarring Cup to the winning jockey and trainer. 2kg-claiming apprentice Ms Marie-Melodie Pomarede crossed the line first for trainer Mark Stephenson atop Hanmer Springs (pictured).

The Balnarring Cup offers a total purse of \$7,000, of which 3% is allocated to jockey and equine welfare initiatives. OTI Racing is proud of its sponsorship and involvement in the community surrounding the Balnarring Cup and we look forward to next year's event.

ROYAL ASCOT TOUR 2023 - BRYAN MARTIN OAM

I would like to invite you to share the wonderful experience of the fabulous Royal Ascot week of racing in June 2023.

My wife Jill and I will be heading up the Ambassador Travel tour this year for the 9th time. Our last trip was 2019 to England and the Royal Ascot week and then we went on to have a great time in Ireland and the Irish Derby.

Our first stop is Newmarket where racing began 600 years ago, it's history and heritage is something else and a must for any racing fan. A visit to see the great horse Frankel is scheduled, the famous gallops on the Newmarket Downs, the racing stables of the great trainers and a tour of Dalham Hall the show piece farm of Sheikh Mohammed.

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We stay at Newmarket's finest in the Bedford Lodge. A must visit is this racing historical town of Newmarket.



Down to one of the world's best cities in London and we are based at the Royal Garden hotel next door to Kensington Gardens and Palace. So much to see and do and go racing at Royal Ascot and fit in the truly wonderful sights of London. We invite you to join us and see the great racing and sights of fabulous Royal Ascot and so much more in 2023.

You can reach me at info@bryanmartinracingclub.com.au, or contact Peter at Ambassador Travel at: peter@ambassadortravel.com.au, or call [0407 661 943](tel:0407661943) and mention you are with us in our racing syndicates. Click **HERE** to view the itinerary.

- Bryan Martin OAM

QUIZ

NAME THE STALLION

Hint: Fretta

- A. Who is the sire of Cherry Tortoni?
- B. Who is Godolphin's Newmarket-based trainer?
- C. Out of Phar Lap's 51 starts, how many times did he win?



INTRODUCING BARONESS VON AESCH

- Athletic 2yo filly with Joseph O'Brien -

OTI is most pleased to be introducing this lovely, athletic two-year-old filly who has done nothing but please multiple Group 1-winning trainer Joseph O'Brien during her time with him at Owing Hill. It was on Joseph's recommendation that this filly join the OTI ranks.



Baroness Von Aesch is a tall, athletic filly with good muscle tone. She's got plenty of depth, great shoulder, and a good action. She is by Amaron, a lesser-known German stallion but a Champion Miler (by Shamardal) in his own right. He was the sire of five black-type performers in 2022. Our filly is out of Brit Wit (by High Chaparral), which makes her a half-sister to G3 Royal Ascot winner Claymore. Next season, Brit Wit is expected to continue to build on his already rising profile.

As previously mentioned, the filly is in the care of Joseph O'Brien, a trainer who needs little introduction. He has already prepared a staggering 29 Group 1 winners across the globe.

We have enjoyed a strong working relationship with Joseph through horses such as Downdraft, who tasted stakes success on multiple occasions for our owners.

To view O'Brien's thoughts on Baroness Von Aesch, click [**HERE**](#). For more information, please contact [**oti@oti.com.au**](mailto:oti@oti.com.au).

QUIZ ANSWERS

- A. Night of Thunder
- B. Charlie Appleby
- C. 37 times

NAME THE STALLION: Frankel

Frankel is the sire of OTI's exciting filly Fretta.



PICTURED: Fretta wins at Sandown