



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



Sales Season... And We're Away

With the Magic Millions Yearling Sale now underway on the Gold Coast, our attention is drawn to the results flowing from activity in the ring. Those results, more than the weekend races, are watched keenly by all parts of the industry. Indeed, it's fair to say that these early yearling sales prices lay the foundation for the year ahead for the industry generally.

Whether one sees the prices being paid for the yearlings as value or not, is secondary to the excitement and adrenaline created by Gerry Harvey and his team at the sale and its associated festivities. The Magic Millions crew do a magnificent job making sure that the calendar year starts with a bang. Those in attendance, be they hard-headed trainers or newbies, can't help but become excited about what the industry might offer them during the coming year. Yes, it's an epidemic in nature, but one we'd prefer to the one we've endured for the past 3 years.

It's clear from the results of the last 30 years that economic logic or financial trends play a small part in the yearling ring. Colin Hayes once said, "The best businessmen in Australia leave their brains at the door of a yearling sale." That may be so, but these businessmen and women are buying dreams, not cold commodities. And as we know, dreams have little to do with economics, albeit that some may attempt to justify their expenditure in that manner.

From strong yearling prices, breeders (who are also major racehorse owners) prosper and reinvest in better stock. That leads to better quality horses, better racing, and more confidence from those who will ultimately train and own the horses on the track. Quality racing improves betting turnover, the lifeblood of strong stakes money in Australia. More generally, the better the Australian breed, the better our chance of competing (and selling horses) on the world stage.

So yes, the Magic Millions is full of hype. Karaka (NZ Bloodstock) and Inglis won't be as 'out there' as their Magic Millions friends, but they too will do a great job promoting their sales in the hope of a good return to breeders. We should be most proud of this sector of our industry.

- Terry Henderson

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OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

We're faced with a quiet weekend as many of our stable stars gear up for their autumn campaign.

At Flemington on Saturday

Timour, a most interesting import, will make his Australian debut in the 1600m Benchmark 84. Following three trials, the last of which was most encouraging, this looks a very suitable kick off point. He was last seen running a game race in The Queen Alexandra Stakes at Royal Ascot over 4355m, so there's no doubt he's going to improve as we get him out in distance. Hopefully he's finding the line well for Damien Oliver, who has been very pleased with how the now gelding has trialled up.

At Trentham on Saturday

Mark Twain's win over a mile last time out was very impressive. He now steps out of maiden grade when he contests the 1600m Benchmark 65. The win has brought him on and he's shown enough speed at home to suggest he can be ultra competitive over this journey again. Should he continue to progress, a tilt at a Derby is certainly on the cards, so this presents as another important stepping stone in his three-year-old career.

At Benalla on Sunday

Bengal Boy may make his return in the 1609m Maiden, should Matt Cumani decide to run from the wide alley. He has promised quite a lot at home in the past, so now back as a gelding, we hope to see him hitting his straps this campaign. He was purchased as a 2000m+ type but we would want to see him running through the line well here to suggest we're on the right path.

2023 BALNARRING CUP

We are once again proud to be sponsoring the Balnarring Cup this year, to be run on Thursday week (January 26).

Known as arguably the best picnic racing course in Victoria, it promises to be an enjoyable day beside the picturesque bushland of the Emu Plains Reserve on the Mornington Peninsula.

On the day, we will have a marquee with light food and drinks provided.

If you would like to secure tickets, please email oti@oti.com.au or contact the office on **(03) 9670 0255** by Friday (January 20).

WINNERS



FRETTA

1500m MDN, Sandown
Trained by M. Price & M. Kent Jnr



SAN HUBERTO

2800m Listed Bagot Handicap, Flemington
Trained by C. Maher & D. Eustace



MARK TWAIN

1600m MDN, Hawera
Trained by R. James & R. Wellwood



DYERVILLE

1710m BM58, Geelong
Trained by M. Williams



HOLSTEIN

1845m Class 2, Eagle Farm
Trained by M. Dunn



BELTHIL

1300m BM58, Stawell
Trained by A. Bobbin

MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - KENNETH (KEN) DYER



PICTURED: Dyerville wins at Geelong

Where did you grow up?

I was born in Fitzroy and my schooling was at Fawkner Primary & High School.

When did you first get interested in racing?

I became interested in racing at the age of 10 years old when my father was given a tip on the winner of the 1955 Melbourne Cup – Toparoa. From then I became very interested.

What is your favourite racing experience?

My first ownership (1980) experience was when I leased a horse called Palomine, which won 11 races including the Tasmania Derby (1982), the Hobart Cup (1983) and the Warrnambool Cup in 1985. Trained by Bruce Elkington and ridden by Jockey Chris Barrett.

Who is your favourite jockey?

Jye McNeil, as he rode a number of my horses including Deja Blue who won 7 races.

How did you become interested in owning horses with OTI?

I met Simon O'Donnell many years ago at the Inglis Yearling Sales and he told me had a horse at home that I may be interested in, which was Lethal Arrow who finished up winning 7 races for us.

Since then I have had a number of horses with OTI and have won many races over the years. I currently have interests in Inverell, Stuck With You, Mista Razzledazzle, Ostile and Dyerville, who was named in NZ. I was not involved in naming him!

What racecourses have you attended and which course would you be interested in going too?

I am a member of Flemington, Caulfield, Sandown and attend most meetings. Randwick, Eagle Farm, Elwick (Tasmania) and Singapore (Kanji) are the clubs that I have been too and I would like to go to both Epsom and Dubai.

Which race would you like to have a horse in?

It would be great to have a horse in the Melbourne Cup, but I am excited about being on course when any of the horses I have an interest in happen to win.

ANDY IS BACK IN AUSTRALIA

Andy Gemmell is one of the best known faces on English racetracks. A keen owner with both jumpers and flat horses (he owns multiple G1 winning jumper, Paisley Park), Andy also has numerous horses in Australia with OTI.

Andy has been blind since birth. However, that doesn't stop him attending test matches, going to the tennis, and indeed enjoying his favourite sport, thoroughbred racing. He also barracks for Richmond! With all sports, he's capable of providing commentary equal to any sighted spectator.

Earlier this month, when Andy was in Australia to see some cricket and tennis, he accompanied Terry Henderson up to Archie Alexander's Ballarat stable where he "inspected" Eagles Crag. The bond between the two was immediate and it is easy to understand the affinity he enjoys with his horses.

Andy will return to the UK at the end of January and head immediately to Cheltenham to watch his champion, Paisley Park, hopefully salute once again.



PICTURED: Andy and Eagles Crag

AN INTERVIEW WITH CLINT HUTCHISON

Where did your interest in racing begin?

I grew up in a racing family. My father Bruce Hutchison was a jockey in the 1960s in Perth and then trained horses in Melbourne and Hong Kong. My mother's side of the family was also in racing, with my Grandfather Jack Kirkpatrick a very successful trainer in Perth in the 1950s and 1960s. I was going to trackwork at the stables from a young age and fell in love with horse racing as far back as I can remember.

What was your first professional role in racing?

My first professional role in racing was writing articles for Chinese racing publications. At the time (1992-3) I was attending University in Australia and only intended on working in that role for a gap year. However, within a short space of time other media opportunities arose and one thing led to another rather quickly.

Did you always want to be a tipster? Was it

always a career choice? No, I was always a very small child and wanted to be a jockey but by the time I hit 12 I knew that wasn't a possibility! I enjoyed work in the stables with my father but the HKJC make it far more difficult to be hands-on if you aren't employed by the Club. I far preferred the intellectual puzzle of doing the form and the buzz when I was lucky enough to get it right. I am always very thankful to HKJC for giving me the opportunity to start my media career and was fortunate enough to meet plenty of people from around the globe in racing and in most facets of the industry.

What are the main skills needed for successful tipping?

I think you need a good work ethic and have to enjoy it to the point where it doesn't seem like work. There is such a wide array of factors when doing the form that it would be difficult and too long to list them! Because you can attack the form in so many different ways, you need to do what works for you. Once you have worked out what you do well, then you can work on the strengths. That said, there are areas of the form which are essential. Most of my form is times-based but weights and the pace of a race are also critical. It is a game where you can't stand still so I find over time I am always adjusting things as you learn.

How much do you factor a horse's mounting yard presence into your tips?

I have to enter my selections/tips a long time prior to the mounting yard being available so to answer your question, never. And if I did have access, I wouldn't change that much. I don't consider the yard my strength, but there are many who excel in this area and it is of vital importance no doubt.



Clint Hutchison (or "Hutchi" as he is known in the racing world) is a popular and astute tipster with a keen eye for Hong Kong and Australian racing. .

What are the biggest differences between racing in Hong Kong and Australia?

HK has a much smaller population and only two tracks, so the criteria in doing the form is easier given there are less factors to decipher. All horses in HK are imported as there is no breeding industry. In HK horses generally race consistently for 8-10 months with far less breaks than in other parts of the world. All the trackwork is televised and they have information overload for punters, which is all freely available, so it's a fantastic product. To own a horse in HK, You have to be a member of the HKJC and enter a ballot to be a successful applicant and then owner.

What does a typical day look like for you?

A typical week would involve preparation for 2-3 race days per week, which takes a day of preparation. I would also prepare for a show, like Get On or Summer Contenders. Most days it's watching racing and either presenting, tipping or all of the above. Generally, I try to take one day off per week.

What is the most difficult part of your job? The most difficult part of the job in Australia is keeping up with all the form. We race virtually every day in Victoria and there are a lot of races to rate and analyse. The same applies for NSW, so it is virtually impossible to master both. So trying to keep up with all the racing Australia-wide is the answer to your question!

Given the opportunity, what's the first thing you'd change in Australian racing? An Australian racing body that ran the sport. It is difficult to move forward as a sport with each jurisdiction's self interest at the core of their decision making rather than the sport as a whole. The wagering dollar funds the sport and there are only going to be more options in the future, so we need to work together to ensure the sustainability of the sport, otherwise, it could look rather grim.

OTI'S 2022 REFLECTION

OTI Racing would like to wish everyone a very happy New Year and all the best for 2023. As we look fondly back on the year that has been, we would like to acknowledge some of the highlights that made our year so special - from a wonderful Warrnambool to a successful Spring.

OTI's Warrnambool Carnival was certainly a special one - with three winners across the three days. Rider In The Snow proved himself a capable jumper, as well as Marchons Ensemble who scored his first win for us at the 'Bool. One of our most exciting performances of the year was Toregene's victory, which would be later emulated in the Oaks Day Country Championships Final.



Pictured: Rider In The Snow

A memorable race for OTI and connections was certainly the Makybe Diva Stakes, in which I'm Thunderstruck rolled over the top of Alligator Blood to seal his 2nd Group 1 victory. His performances at G1 level were consistently outstanding, including an unforgettable 2nd to Anamoe in the Cox Plate.

OTI Racing's 2023 kicked off to a fantastic start with San Huberto winning the Listed Baggot Handicap on New Years' Day in emphatic fashion. We certainly hope it is an indication of the year that is ahead of us!



Pictured: I'm Thunderstruck wins the Makybe Diva Stakes

There is much to look forward to in 2023 with our tried and true horses such as Daqiansweet Junior, I'm Thunderstruck, and Hezashocka making their returns. We also have a vast array of exciting new stock, including promising New Zealand and French imports.



Pictured: San Huberto wins the Baggot

Our sincerest of thanks for your support this past year, and good luck to all connections for 2023.

QUIZ

- A. Which OTI horse won the 2004 Makybe Diva Stakes?
- B. Name the 4 Victorian racecourses starting with the letter T.
- C. Which training partnership claimed their first Group 1 in the 2010 Golden Slipper with Crystal Lily?

NAME THE HORSE

Hint: Shocking



INTRODUCING NIENNA

- Impressive 2yo filly headed to Matt Williams -



Given OTI's successful relationship with Matthew Williams through our star mare Toregene, we are delighted to introduce a 2yo filly by the name of Nienna to be trained at Williams' Warrnambool stables.

She joins us from New Zealand where she impressed in her first and only trial. She produced a strong sprint to run 2nd, finishing under her own steam. Her effort was franked by the trial form of the winner Codigo, who was being touted as one on New Zealand's top 2yos after an impressive previous trial.

Nienna is the fifth foal out of Kahala, proven breeding mare who has produced two winners and herself is a winner of 3 races. Kahala descends from the family of champion NZ filly Silent Achiever. Nienna's sire Telperion is growing a reputation from small numbers, with the OTI's Belthil (undefeated in Australia) appearing as a most exciting prospect.

Nienna will arrive in Australia on January 18, and will be assessed by Matt Williams upon arrival in order to make a plan for her training soon after. She will be targeted at Stakes races throughout her 3yo season before hopefully going on to have a successful career as an older horse. Throughout her career, we will be looking to grow her broodmare value.

Click [**HERE**](#) to view Nienna's parading footage and trial placing (courtesy of Phill Cataldo).

QUIZ ANSWERS

- A. Hugs Dancer (FR)
- B. Tatura, Terang, Towong, Traralgon
- C. Mathew Ellerton & Simon Zahra

NAME THE RACEHORSE:

Inverell, son of Shocking out of Sapphire Lass.

Pictured: Hugs Dancer (FR) wins the 2004 Makybe Diva Stakes

