



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



Programming...Moving Deckchairs

The new senior appointees at Racing Victoria, Andrew Jones as CEO and Matt Welsh as General Manager (Racing) are to be applauded for reviewing the spring programming. With the growth of the NSW Spring Carnival, the challenges faced by the MRC on its main days and historical weather issues, such a review is timely.

The idea that the Cox Plate be moved however is 'pie in the sky'. There's little doubt that the relevant parties and the racing public will ultimately reject alternative timing for the great race. Indeed, should it be moved, it would open the opportunity for NSW to dominate the spring, with the big losers being the VRC Carnival.

Despite the discussion on Victorian programming, one wonders if there are not more important issues to be addressed by the new administrators. Racing's social licence is at the heart of the future of the sport. That licence is primarily impacted by two issues - horse welfare and gambling. Racing must be on the front foot to keep its house in order on both issues as well as being capable of conveying impactful messages to the public.

In recent weeks we've seen two state governments take steps to curtail Australia's infatuation with gambling. New South Wales has introduced a raft of measures that will tighten control and limit poker machine use. This measure has occurred even though it will undoubtedly reduce the financial returns to that state. Perhaps a more interesting, yet less significant measure was South Australia's ban on SA residents gaining financial benefit from the public voting for the All-Star Mile.

While opinions will differ on the above issues, both show an increased willingness by governments to act against wagering. As wagering is at the heart of stake money for sport, racing must be ready to take protective and socially responsible actions.

Much closer to home in the short-term is horse welfare. While it is difficult to change the mind of a person who thinks racing should not exist at all, most will accept the sport provided horses are well treated. Much has been done in this area, but it amazes many in the sport that there is still so much to do. Be it aggressive whip use or post racing career care, the sport needs urgent action to quell the negative views.

Hopefully once the discussions on what races are run and where are put to bed, those charged with protecting this sport for future generations will address the issues that can help guarantee our survival.

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OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

At The Valley on Friday

Pankhurst returns to city grade at The Valley tonight following an encouraging last start win. She has since trained on well and the step up to 2000m should certainly be to her liking. From a low draw, she maps to get a lovely run in transit and should be given every chance to continue her winning form.

At Sandown on Saturday

Improvement will be expected from import **Extra Elusive** with three fitness building runs now under his belt. He drops back in grade significantly here and with enough miles now in his legs, we are hopeful that he can show us that he still has the zest required for racing.

It will be great to see **Eagles Crag** back at the races on Saturday, after quite some time off the scene. Archie has been very patient with the horse this time in, so he returns to the races with a good base underneath him. He is a horse who has always been held in high regard, so hopefully he is setting himself up for a positive preparation on Saturday.

At Bendigo on Sunday

Desert Fun will look to break through following two pleasing efforts to kick off her career. She is a filly that is still learning her craft so we expect her to have taken good natural improvement from her last outing. It does appear a competitive maiden on paper, but she certainly looks to be progressing in the right direction.

At Randwick on Saturday

Mista Razzledazzle will take his place in the 1800m TAB Highway Handicap. Paul Shailer has been keen to target one of these events for some time and believes the horse is going well enough to be competitive. He can leave you scratching your head at times but if we see a strong tempo out to this distance with the blinkers on, he can give the race a bit of a shake.

Athabascan will make his return in the 1600m Benchmark 88. The entire has had a lovely preparation so far, culminating in just the one trial outing. He's had three weeks of stronger galloping work since and is ready to resume. His run in the Rosehill Gold Cup last spring was very encouraging and we're looking forward to getting him out over 2000m and beyond. It would not surprise us to see him feature in a big race this campaign.

At Doomben on Saturday

Cepheus makes his long-awaited return in the 1200m Open Handicap following a tendon rehabilitation program. He's undoubtedly a very talented horse which is why his ownership group has been so patient, and deserves some success this preparation. 1200m is well short of his best and this race will be viewed as a third trial, however he has shown an ability to sprint well fresh. Regardless of Saturday's result, it will be great to see him back racing as we build towards more suitable targets.

AUTUMN '23 STARS SELECTOR

We would like to remind all of our OTI owners that entries are open for our Autumn 2023 Stars Selector competition and will close at midnight tonight (10 February). Please email your stable selections, along with your nominated team captain to competitions@oti.com.au for a chance to win some fantastic prizes! For more information, click [HERE](#).

WINNERS



PANKHURST

1700m BM64 Hcp, Warrnambool
Trained by M. Williams



MARK TWAIN

2100m BM65, Hastings (NZ)
Trained by R. James & R. Wellwood

AN INTERVIEW WITH KATRINA ANDERSON

Katrina Anderson is Head of Sports Science at Ciaron Maher Racing. She combines horsemanship with elite level training to implement new and innovative training methods.

How did you become involved in racing?

I grew up on my parents' agistment farm in New Zealand alongside my brother and sister. Every weekend the racing page was open, initials marked next to our selections and a tally would be calculated through the day. I have always been around horses working in the many facets of racing, including yearling studs, sales circuit, and track riding. I love horses and racing!

You also trained as an international level athlete yourself. Can you tell us a bit more about that?

Running is my passion away from horses. It has taken me all over the world and taught me every life lesson I know. I started running at a club when I was 6 years old and never stopped. I spent an incredible four years in New York on an athletic scholarship training and competing within the collegiate environment. Following that, I spent time in Colorado altitude training and then competed throughout Europe. I moved to Melbourne for a training squad and started working for Ciaron some years later.

How would you describe your role at the Maher & Eustace stable?

I work with the training team to help train each horse individually. Like people, horses adapt to training differently and the training data is used to help understand these behaviours and build suitable training programs. There are always decisions to be made regarding training and racing, and my role is becoming an integral part of this process.

Is there a correlation between your athletic training method and what you do for Maher & Eustace?

Absolutely. Horses are athletes and the principles of training are the same. It has been enjoyable to explain aspects of my training to Ciaron and David and show them training from a slightly different viewpoint. I have even implemented a workout from my own training to the horses which has had proven success.

How do you convey your analysis to Ciaron and David?

Horses are saddled with an Equimetre device that records GPS, heart rate, and locomotion data. The basis of my feedback is to report what each horse did in their training, how they handled the work, and how they are adapting over the preparation. Any abnormalities with recovery or locomotion are flagged to investigate further. I like to get people excited about the horses that are training well by adding a positive emoji such as a rocket or flame.



To what extent do you think that implementing science and technology improves a stables' performance?

Every gallop is objectively recorded so trainers know exactly what the horse did and how they handled it. The fitness progression can be tracked and compared to previous work or preparations. Some horses will have a referenced training level before their best performance which helps to optimise their preparation to race well. The use of technology helps to make informed decisions, and there is less ambiguity about horse readiness to race. The data can often identify abnormalities prior to overt signs and alert trainers to a problem sooner.

Are all your decisions based on science, or do you leave room for some 'old' training methods?

I provide insight from a sport science perspective, but it works hand in hand with 'old' training methods. In many ways, trainers use sport science without knowing it. Although there are many overlaps, training horses will always be an artform and there will never be one program that fits all. Just like athletes, there is a lot more to training a horse than just getting them fit.

What is the most satisfying part of your role?

Detecting a problem with a horse and then watching that horse race well, being involved in decisions that result in horses performing at their best, for example, distance preferential based on data, seeing horses progress through preparations, and being able to work with horses and admire the incredible athletes they are from a physiology perspective.

Can you foresee the day when what you do becomes commonplace in most stables?

The growth of sport science has been exponential over the past few decades which has changed the way athletes train and maximised performance. The competitive nature of this sport will see this space grow in racing, but it will never replace the eye of the trainer and the horsemanship required to "just know" what the horse needs.

BALNARRING CUP - A JOY TO BE INVOLVED

For the last couple of years, OTI has been proud to sponsor the Balnarring Cup, a time honoured race conducted each year on the 26th of January, Australia Day. While there may be differing opinions on the relevance of January 26 in the community, one thing most agree on, is that this race meeting is one of the highlights of Picnic circuit. Many see the Cup as the 'one they want to win'.



Blessed with perfect weather, 4147 patrons punted, picnicked, drank and generally had fun under the gumtree canopy that surrounds the picturesque track. Ages ranged from the nonagenarians, like champion jockey Ron Hutchinson and race caller Johnny Russell to babies enjoying their first day at the races. With the help of their folks, many kids, having a winning punt for the first time, will remember the day for the rest of their lives.



Picnic race clubs like Balnarring are run by volunteers and sponsored by local businesses. If our industry has a heart, it's at these bush meetings you'll find it. Not only are such meetings the original source of entry for many who come into our sport, but they remain an important link to the origins of horse racing in Australia. For those reasons, those charged with the racing must stay cognisant of the need to foster them.

Judging by the support shown by OTI owners for the event, the Balnarring Cup will remain an important part of OTI's sponsorship plan. It joins other important meetings, like the Jericho Cup, to celebrate the cultural roots of our sport.

INGLIS INJECTS CASH INTO MAIDEN SERIES

Inglis has announced a significant investment into entry-level racing, which will see 50 maiden races incentivised with a \$100,000 winning bonus.

The new \$5 million dollar initiative, named the Inglis Xtra Bonus Series, complements the staggering investments poured into racing's elite levels by offering a lucrative incentive for those at grass-roots level.

Solely for Inglis graduates, the enormous carrot only intensifies the prizemoney arms-race between Inglis and Magic Millions. Inglis Bloodstock CEO Sebastian Hutch said Inglis' own \$5 million purse was an appropriate way to reward owners and trainers who supported the auction house's sales and that the company deliberately chose to avoid adding to the rich races already supporting talented juveniles.

"First and foremost, it's about selling good horses and we pride ourselves on consistently selling good horses and that's the biggest advertisement for our sales that we could ever have, but then you look to try and enhance that with various incentives to owners," Hutch said. "It's really fantastic and a great incentive to people who are participating."



EQUINE WELFARE UPDATE

OTI's Equine Welfare Fund has proved extremely important in assisting our retired racehorses. The fund has assisted many of our former thoroughbreds in a range of areas including; veterinary, relocation, buy-back and sponsorship costs. It is always extremely rewarding to see our Equine Welfare Fund's support in action. Some examples of where our fund has assisted include are as follows:

Retired OTI galloper **Condamine** (pictured below) was the subject of an unexpected colic attack in his paddock. Thanks to a quick response from his owner Michelle and a terrific effort from the Ballarat Veterinary Clinic, he was able to recover successfully. OTI's welfare fund then assisted with covering the costs of the procedure. He has since made a successful return to the showing scene, winning himself a sash.

Fairlight has been through a few different homes since exiting OTI's care. After being purchased as a riding horse by a young family in November, he unfortunately suffered a paddock injury within a week of his arrival at the agistment property. The new owners were in a tough position with the veterinary expenses that they would face. It was here that the welfare fund again proved of great importance, with OTI agreeing to take over the horse's costs and cover both the immediate veterinary care and subsequent months of rehabilitation. Despite sustaining quite a nasty cut, he has recovered terrifically since November, and has since been relocated to new home, where he will soon commence further re-training.



PICTURED: Condamine's showing success

The fund has also been used in the buyback of older ex-OTI gallopers, who retired before the introduction of our tracking register. 16yo **Tamland** and 14yo **Lunayir** were re-purchased in online auctions, in order to ensure that they would live out their days in a suitable home. Both were relocated to Lisa Coffey's Racing Hearts organisation, where they have been re-trained and entered forever homes.

Relocation costs have also been backed by the welfare fund on several occasions. After being sold to new ownership, both **Vela** and **Au Pair** finished their respective careers in Darwin. As members of our tracking register, we were notified that they needed to be relocated to commence their retirement. Through the support of our welfare fund, we were able to get them moved down to Evergreen Lodge in South Australia, where they would thrive in their lives post-racing at a riding school, alongside another OTI retiree in **Trench Warfare**.



PICTURED: Au Pair at Evergreen Lodge, SA

INTRODUCING LE HAVRE X SARKIYLA '21

- *Quality European colt with outstanding pedigree* -



OTI Racing is excited to introduce an outstanding 2yo colt to be placed in quality hands with Chantilly-based trainer Tim Donworth. The colt possesses a wonderful physical appearance, conformation, and athletic quality about him.

OTI's familiarity with Le Havre started with the much-loved Harbour Views. From a family steeped in European and Australian success (which includes Melbourne Cup winner Gold Trip), we can have every confidence that he will follow in France as a two and three year old before making the journey to Australia as an older horse. He is by Sarkiyla, a talented race mare herself by Oasis Dream (broodmare sire of over 150 black type performers). She has produced a dual stakes winner in Saiyadabad, a half-brother to our colt.

The Le Havre colt should race at two, albeit that he has the credentials that make him a classic looking French Derby type. At the end of his three-year-old career in France, he will move to the Price/Kent stable in Victoria to continue his career.

While it is too early to speculate on what heights the colt may reach, the divine combination of his pedigree and physical presence make us hopeful that he has a bright future ahead of him.

To view his parade footage and hear Tim Donworth's thoughts, please click [**HERE**](#). For more information please contact [**oti@oti.com.au**](mailto:oti@oti.com.au).

QUIZ

1. What is the name of the stable that runs next to the 1400m start at Flemington?

2. Who was Gai Waterhouse's first G1 winner?

3. Which OTI horse shares a name with a popular music genre?

NAME THE RACEHORSE

Hint: Baker & Forsman



MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - GRAHAM SHERRY

Where did you grow up? I was raised in Essendon in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, not far from Flemington, and first became interested in racing through bookmaker friends first with the trots as a teenager then in the gallops in the '70's.

What was your first horse ownership experience like? The first horse I had an interest in was a horse trained by Robbie Smerdon at Ballarat called Benefactor. It won a few races which got me hooked. The second Horse I was involved in was called Omnibot. Its jockey Gary Murphy described it as "dyslexic"! We didn't have it for long!

How did you initially get involved with OTI? Simon O'Donnell introduced me to OTI in 2012 with Lethal Arrow trained by Peter Moody. Since then I've had interests in about 30 OTI horses within different syndicates. There have been about 20 mates involved with these syndicates over the years and we've had a lot of fun punting, lamenting lost opportunities and enjoying the races together. It's the involvement with friends which is the key to my enjoyment of racing.

What has your experience been like racing with OTI? I'm very appreciative of the OTI communications ethos having been in non-OTI syndicates where the communications have not been so good! I'm also impressed with the way OTI has been a leader in equine welfare.

What is the race you would most like to win? I'm especially interested in stayers so would love to be involved with a Caulfield or Melbourne Cup winner. I'd also like to win the Balnarring Cup sometime and love going to the picnics.



What are some of your favourite racing memories? Among our most memorable connections have been with Ruscello which was steered to victory in the 2013 Lexus by K. McEvoy and then ran (poorly) in the Melbourne Cup. He was subsequently injured in training and has since worked with Archie Alexander in "retirement." Another memorable achievement was being involved with Lord Fandango which won the 2017 Herbet Power and was unlucky in that year's Caulfield Cup.

Which horse excites you the most? I'm looking forward to seeing how Elderberry develops. I was part of the OTI group who visited Spendthrift lodge where Terry picked Elderberry out as a yearling.

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Chiquita Lodge
2. Te Akau Nick (1992)
3. Southern Rock

NAME THE RACEHORSE: Turn Me Loose (NZ)
Turn Me Loose was trained by Andrew Foreman & Murray Baker.



Southern Rock wins at Doomben