



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



## It's Time...

### IN THIS EDITION

#### WEEKEND RUNNERS AND WINNERS

#### AN INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL MOOR

#### OTI WELFARE UPDATE - GALLIC CHIEFTAIN

#### INTRODUCING A NEW HELLBENT COLT

#### MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS

#### QUIZ

#### RACING SNIPPETS

It's just on 50 years since the Whitlam Government came into power with the slogan "It's Time". One may ask if 'It's Time' for Victorian Racing to realise that it time for structural changes to occur if it wishes to retain equal status to NSW as a preeminent racing jurisdiction.

With the appointment of a new management team at RVL, there's a glimmer of hope that changes may occur to improve the imbalance between the two major racing states. For that team to have any chance of achieving change, the RVL Board and the Victorian Government must address certain structural changes in the way racing is administered. Fundamentally that means that certain vested interests within the major city clubs must give way.

No matter where you look in the Industry, over the past decade NSW Racing has progressed at a superior rate than Victoria. While the growing gaps can be easily highlighted with the differing stakes money paid by each state, the situation was made blatant when Ciaran Maher, Victoria's leading trainer, decided to base himself in Sydney. In doing so he pointed to the superior state of racing in NSW.

The three city clubs in Melbourne have historically done a wonderful job. However, the days when competition between the clubs was cited as the reason for their continued existence have long gone. The competition today is not only with NSW Racing but other sports who not only encroach on spectator time, but also the gambling dollar, the main source of stakes money.

The Melbourne clubs themselves have gone in different directions, with both the MRC and the MVRC now heavily involved in property development. The VRC, who for the past 2 years reported losses of over \$30m (before a property revaluation of \$13m), is heavily reliant on a successful Spring Carnival/Melbourne Cup – something far from certain to occur with changing consumer sentiment and reduced international participation.

Victoria remains the last state to consolidate its racing administration. Industry leaders are WA, Queensland and NSW will tell you that such consolidation in their states have streamlined admin processes and cut costs. Perhaps to put some independence into the argument to do likewise in Victoria, Racing Victoria, with the support of the State Government, should commission an independent study to highlight what is to be gained and lost through consolidation.

One thing is for sure, if Victoria doesn't act soon, it can forget any claim it had of being the racing capital of Australia. It's Time to make some tough decisions.

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

At The Valley on Friday

**Knightlaila** races second-up in the 2040m BM64. The Irish-import performed well in his Australian debut. He is sure to have taken plenty of benefit from that experience and this race should top him off nicely for a third-up assignment over an ideal 2400m journey.

At Flemington on Saturday

**Hezashocka** contests the 2000m Group 1 Australian Cup. The Price Kent team have been very happy with this fellow since his return run, where he just got too far back. The rise to 2000m will be key for the gelding, who finished his last preparation with a Group 1 placing over this track and trip. He can put himself closer from the good draw and be given every chance to use his big stride late.

At Rosehill on Saturday

**Coppleson** faces a stiff test in the 2000m Group 2 Tulloch Stakes. The race has come up weaker than expected and with some rain around, Chris is happy that this option fits the program. He hasn't shown much speed in his two starts this back time in but would certainly appreciate more given in the ground. Hopefully he can get his campaign back on track here by rounding the race off well.

**Full Of Sincerity** is likely to also feature in the same race off the back of his terrific effort in the Group 1 NZ Derby. Provided there is soft ground, this race could be used to top him off for the Derby. He has continued to improve throughout the preparation and can give this race a major shake.

**Athabascan** will step out in the 2000m Group 3 Neville Selwood Stakes. As a heavier entire now, he's improved with each run and the trip away to Canberra should have helped. A competitive, staying effort would see him out in journey on Derby Day in the Chairman's. Hopefully he's ready to run up to his looks!

**Toregene** faces her second Sydney test in the 1500m Group 2 Emancipation Stakes. The rainfall looks key to her chances, with a firm track and first time Sydney way proving tough in the Coolmore. She appears to have really settled into things since that run, and she's undefeated on rain affected ground, so her owners are hoping to see the forecast come to fruition!

**Selino** will need to up his game in the 2400m Group 1 Tancred Stakes. He's struggled to travel over the shorter journeys in his two runs back on quick ground. We know he's a genuine 3200m horse, but we'll need to see him play more of a part on Saturday. If he can box on soundly, we can head to the Sydney Cup with more confidence.

**Comme Bella Fille** will make her return in the 1400m BM88. She's drawn out so we'll likely see a conservative ride, with Saturday's focus being getting her campaign off to a positive start. She'll appreciate any rain that falls, and provided she's finding the line soundly, we can look to raise the bar in mares grade with her.

At Eagle Farm on Saturday

**Stuck With You** continues to creep out in journey as he contests the 1805m BM85. After a great return, his second up run over a mile was workmanlike as he builds towards more suitable targets. He strikes a small very competitive field, so a top four finish would be a pass mark. He's a horse who continues to improve as he gets deeper into the preparation, so this run should top him off for a near peak performance fourth up.

**Scarlet Tufty** gets another opportunity to break through in the 2200m BM78, albeit meeting some Sydney visitors this time. He has continued to be competitive without landing a winning blow, with his last run being his best. He may well find the front in running here, a position which we believe he'll enjoy.

**Tip Of The Spear** will contest the same race, up from Sydney in a bid to close off his campaign with a win. He looks the class horse of the field, bringing consistent metropolitan form. He shapes as an import who will be better suited next time around, but does get a good opportunity to be in the finish here.

At Avoca on Saturday

**Self Worth** holds an acceptance for the 1300m Maiden, however Cumani is likely to save the filly for a more suitable race next week. She's ready to peak third up.

## WINNERS



### CEPHEUS

1500m G2 Ajax Stakes, Rosehill  
*Trained by Matthew Dunn*



### RIVAPORT

1600m BM64, Sandown Hillside  
*Trained by Grahame Begg*



### TIMOUR

2400m G3 Manion Cup, Rosehill  
*Trained by Chris Waller*

# AN INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL MOOR

*Daniel Moor - An experienced senior jockey with more than 750 winners in Australia and all over the world. He rode Daqiansweet Junior in the Melbourne Cup for OTI owners in 2022.*

## **How did you become involved in racing?**

My father Brendan was an apprentice in the early 80's in Warrnambool, although he was very much against me becoming a jockey. I used to have to ride my bike through the Warrnambool Racecourse to get to school, and my father's old boss approached me one morning and asked if I'd like a day off school to help out. I of course jumped at the chance and soon enough I started riding ponies. Funnily enough Ciaran Maher, who was an apprentice jockey in Warrnambool at the time, taught me how to ride.

## **Did you always want to be a jockey?**

Not at all, probably due to my father explicitly forbidding me from having anything to do with the industry. I enjoyed media studies at school, and had visions of heading down that path. It didn't take long for the racing bug to bite though. There were some days where I thought I wasn't cut out to be a jockey. I was about 38kgs and most horses bolted on me given the chance, but with the help and advice of the local racing community in Warrnambool, I stuck with it.

## **What is the most difficult part about your job?**

There are many challenges I face with being a jockey. I understand the work hours and managing my weight, but it took me a long time to learn how to handle disappointment. Losing hurts, and in racing it needs to hurt. We all improve and learn valuable lessons through losses, even those we can't control. I'd have to say dealing with disappointment, not only for myself, but the owners and trainers that are so invested in the sport, is one of the most difficult parts of my job. Its nice to keep those days to a bare minimum!

## **Who has been the biggest influence and mentor on your racing career?**

I've been very privileged to have some very experienced and respected people within the industry on my side. My apprentice master in Tony Vasil, to my formative years as a senior jockey in Anthony and Lee Freedman and Mick Price. I always looked up to Steven Arnold as a jockey. He was always willing to offer advice and help me with whatever I asked for.

## **Who would you say was the best horse you ever rode?**

I've been very privileged to ride many top line racehorses. Santa Ana Lane was a freakish talent on his day, Boban was very similar. My 5 Group 1 winners were elite level racehorses, and although we didn't see the best of him in the All Star Mile, I have enormous faith in I'm Thunderstruck as a top line racehorse.



## **You are going back to Singapore for a while, what is difference there compared to racing in Australia? How do you manage that with your family?**

I first visited Singapore in 2007 and fell in love with it. The horse population is a lot smaller and racing is very focused on the rating system because of that. Prizemoney is terrific, there are Maiden races ran each week worth \$76,000AUD and a number of lucrative stakes races throughout the year. It's a refreshing change for me as they only race once a week, and there is no travel, just one racecourse. I spent 3 years there as a Club Retained Jockey, but this upcoming trip is a circuit breaker for me personally. I can still ride and keep fit, but have somewhat of a break only riding once a week. I'm lucky that my family love Singapore as much as I do, and in the couple of months I will be there, they will be more than happy to join me for visits, escaping cold Melbourne!

## **Do you have a specific goal you want to achieve while riding in Singapore?**

No specific goals for me in Singapore, I have a lot of valued owners and trainers who are also my friends there, so my main priority is to help them achieve maximum return through winners, for their investment. I've had a lot of feature race success in Singapore so if I could repeat those efforts, I would be very satisfied.

## **Do you have plans for your post-racing career?**

Nothing set in stone, I always said that I would never train racehorses, as I believe trainers have the most difficult and often stressful job, but lately I've given it some more thought. I love being heavily involved in the education and placement of horses. Perhaps if I had a steady backing of loyal owners, and were able to keep numbers at a boutique level, I could see myself as a racehorse trainer.

## **Given the opportunity, what's the first thing you'd change in Australian racing?**

In my opinion I believe the stringent veterinary hurdles that owners and trainers are forced to jump, in regards to the purchase and participation of internationally purchased racehorses requires urgent attention and alteration. I also believe we all spend far too long at the races, and at odd hours. Half hour gaps between races, smaller race cards and a last race post time of 9pm for night racing is a lot more sensible for all involved (my opinion only!).



# OTI'S AUTUMN

OTI Racing is pleased to share the results produced by our runners in stakes races this autumn, with black-type performances in three different countries so far. To view the spreadsheet, which includes all likely autumn feature race runners, please visit our website at [oti.com.au](http://oti.com.au) or click [HERE](#). Below are the results of our stakes runners so far this autumn (top four only).

Date	Track	Race Level	Race Name	Horses Potentially Running	Distance	Race Type	Prizemoney	Result
Feb 11,'23	Sandown	G1	C.F. Orr Stakes	I'm Thunderstruck	1400m	WFA	\$750,000	4th
Feb 18,'23	Pukekohe Park (NZ)	G2	Avondale Guineas	Full Of Sincerity	2100m	3yo SW	NZ\$140,000	4th
Feb 25,'23	Sandown	G1	Futurity Stakes	I'm Thunderstruck	1400m	WFA	\$750,000	3rd
Feb 25,'23	Sandown	G3	Mannerism Stakes	Toregene	1400m	4yo&Up M SWP	\$200,000	2nd
Feb 25,'23	Sandown	Listed	Victoria Gold Cup	Amade	2100m	Open Qlty	\$175,000	3rd
Mar 4,'23	Te Rapa (NZ)	G1	New Zealand Derby	Full Of Sincerity	2400m	3yo SW	NZ\$1,000,000	3rd
Mar 4,'23	Te Rapa (NZ)	G1	New Zealand Derby	Mark Twain	2400m	3yo SW	NZ\$1,000,000	4th
Mar 4,'23	Turffontein (ZAF)	G2	Hawaii Stakes	Under Your Spell	1400m	Open SWP	R400,000	1st
Mar 11,'23	Rosehill	G2	Ajax Stakes	Cepheus	1500m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$250,000	1st
Mar 13,'23	Canberra	Listed	Canberra Cup	Athabascan	2000m	Open Qlty	\$200,000	3rd
Mar 13,'23	Morphettville	G2	Adelaide Cup	Amade	3200m	Open Hcp	\$302,500	3rd
Mar 18,'23	Rosehill	G3	N E Manion Quality Cup	Timour	2400m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$200,000	1st
Mar 18,'23	The Valley	G3	Typhoon Tracy Stakes	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yoF SWP	\$200,000	3rd

## NEW OFFICE LOCATION

### OTI's New Office Location



The OTI team has recently relocated into a new, modern office in Docklands, Victoria. We look forward to many more winners and great experiences for our clients from our new location!

Our new address is: **Level 5, 379 Docklands Drive, Docklands, VIC, 3008**

## OTI WELFARE UPDATE

Gallic Chieftain looks to be thoroughly enjoying his retirement with the Alexander family. The 10yo appears full of zest in Ballarat, as can be seen in the clip [here!](#)



Another retired OTI galloper, Tristano, featured in the recent Cumani Racing Newsletter. The exert can be viewed [here](#).

# INTRODUCING HELLBENT x ETOILE '21

OTI is delighted to have acquired the Hellbent colt out Etoile (by Pur Moi) We believe he fulfills the requirements of a potentially exciting racehorse – conformation, athleticism, and temperament.



Now placed with Anthony and Sam Freedman at their Pinecliff property, the colt is undertaking his first educational program with the view of being ready to enter their racing stable in the spring. On breeding, we expect that he be ready to race at the end of his 2yo season in the hope that he'll be ready for the 3yo Classics.

On both conformation and breeding, he looks a 1600m type, although his fluent movement may mean he could be effective at shorter distances. Watch footage of the colt [here](#).

By Hellbent, a son of I Am Invincible, who has already 33 winning horses this season, including Benedetta, who won the Inglis Sprint on March 4, 2023 and will compete again in this Saturday's Listed Sunlight Classic. He sits second on the sire's list. Hellbent is averaging over 4 times his service fee at the sales, his fee is expected to increase significantly this breeding season.

Etoile, the colt's dam, is by the European Champion 3yo Stayer Pour Moi. Her grand dam is by the great Zabeel. Her sister is the multiple stakes winner Lady Le Fay and she descends from a quality family that has produced numerous Group 1 performers.

To learn more about the colt, please contact us at [oti@oti.com.au](mailto:oti@oti.com.au).

## QUIZ

1. What year was the first running of the Australian Cup?
2. Name the only horse that has won three consecutive Adelaide Cups?
3. Which stud sold the sale topping yearling at this year's Inglis Premier Sale?
  - A. Widden Stud
  - B. Yarraman Park Stud
  - C. Noorilim Park

### NAME THE RACEHORSE

*Hint: Tasmania*





# MEET YOUR RACING PARTNERS - LES WEBB

## Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Melbourne but I had family in Creswick who had horses which I rode as a kid and I continued to ride as a hobby until my mid 50's.

## How did you first get involved in racehorse ownership?

I put all the blame on Cam Wansbrough's dad David who convinced me Danielle and I should have a racehorse. As Danielle had a history with horse racing I took the plunge and went into a horse called Dare to be Proud. Danielle's Dad was an SP Bookmaker and was well connected with the Caulfield trainers, Danielle when she was 13 or so was quite tall and could pass for older and she was assigned as a "bag" girl. She would at a coordinated time place bets on course with various bookies so as not to alter the odds and then collect the winnings. She tells me she knew when her Dad had a good day as it was lobster or Chinese takeaway for dinner. The aptly named Dare to be Proud was a city winner and we caught the bug.

## How did you initially get involved with OTI?

Again through an introduction to Simon O'Donnell by David Wansbrough - I'm beginning to think he might be on a commission.

## What is the race you would most like to win?

Cox Plate Melbourne Cup Double.

## What are some of your favourite racing memories?

So many but can't go past the perennial bridesmaid Tom Melbourne - In all his races he always gave you something. Not far behind is Gailo Chop who took us to Dubai and almost shot Bambi in the Queen Elizabeth in Sydney when leading Winx till the last furlong. Gailo came back from not one but two tendons but still raced and won at Group level. True Self and Downdraft both won the Lexus and Queen Elizabeth and True Self went on to win in Saudi and Downdraft went on to race at Royal Ascot. Quick Thinker winning the Derby was also a thrill and if it was a wet track you could comfortably back him. On a lesser note but no lesser enjoyable were sharing the wins with my good friend David Miller by Tall Ship and Gallic Chieftain in the Warrnambool Cup. Today it is all about I'm Thunderstruck the best of them all and that journey is not yet over.

## If you were in charge of the racing industry for one day, what would you change?

One would be the rapprochement with NSW rather than compete. The two states need to work together to avoid clashes. Prizemoney also needs to be similar in both the big states.



## Does your family get involved?

Danielle is as involved as I am and our son Noah also loves the races. John, Danielle's Step Dad was a student of thoroughbred racing, he knew the family, every sire and dam. Whilst he was alive he was my Guru in deciding which horses I should go into (he knew his Nicks and when looking at the pedigree would say things like the maximum distance that breed would get is a mile or that breed with that dam have a tendency to get injured). John rarely made a mistake. He loved going to the races and hanging around the stables. He would check the horse manure and declare the horse was going to win or not based on his assessment of the manure and the horses demeanour.

## You've travelled with your horses, what did you learn about other racing jurisdictions?

This has been the big upside in being involved with OTI, it has taken us from France to Ireland to the UK and to Dubai and Saudi. It was fascinating to see trainers in Ireland and how disciplined and regulated the training was with so many horses and so many track riders, but how someone like Joseph O'Brien or Jessie Harrington knew every horse as they cantered by. Chantilly was a trainers dream with horses cantering through the forest and such a beautiful environment seeped in horse tradition. Andre Fabre's horse stables would, if there was a star rating, be 6 stars.

## Which horse excites you the most and why?

Despite the disappointment of the All Star Mile, I can't go past I'm Thunderstruck and I'm sure as he gets older he'll get out to more distance. However, of recent acquisition post his tendon rehab Cepheus has been very progressive winning a G2 and heading into a G1 and it will be interesting to see now post his rehab where his ceiling will be. Of the youngies I'm most excited about Mark Twain and Cadazio.

# SNIPPETS

## It's a Small Country...



While the All Star Mile didn't go to plan for connections of I'm Thunderstruck, a remarkable coincidence occurred with the appointment for Sydney based Kevin Reynolds as the 'Owner Ambassador' for the horse. Kevin, who grew up in Bundoora, Victoria was a great friend and played cricket with Shane Dyson and his brothers, who just happen to be part owners of the great horse.

Knowing how the boys can party, had the horse won, we doubt much of the \$250,000 winners cheque would have made it back to Sydney!

## Cust/Williams Team Continues to Work Wonders

Tendon injuries spell the end of many horses racing careers. Indeed, many top trainers, simply retire the horse when such an injury occurs. In Australia however, we are blessed with people, processes and patience that have rehabilitated horses and enabled them to re-join the racing ranks. For many years, OTI has enjoyed a successful relationship between Dr Andrew Cust of the Ballart Veterinary Practice and Warrnambool trainer Matt Williams. Dr Cust is diagnostician and sets the processes for Matt Williams to follow. It's a process that usually takes around 24 weeks, followed by a spell of 6 weeks. In all, they recommend up to 12 months before the horse is ready to resume racing.

The latest success story is G2 winner Cepheus, who now heads to the Doncaster as a live chance. Amade, who ran 3rd in The Adelaide Cup is another graduate of the process, as is Selino, who will take his place in the Sydney Cup, a race he won 2 years ago.

Another Australian doing great work is the same field is Leigh Evison, based in Gippsland. Lee was responsible for the initial return of Gailo Chop, who had suffered a tendon injury in France. Gailo went on to win 2 Group 1 races under Darren Weir. The methods developed by Dr Cust and Williams are now being shared with trainers around the world. Indeed the Longholes rehab facility in Newmarket, UK applied the Cust/Williams method to two OTI horses, Otterman Emperor and Obsession. Both horses are set to appear on Australian race tracks mid year.

**Cranbourne Mornings...** Big Story and his rider Veerie returning for the sands at the back of Cranbourne on a glorious morning.



# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 1863
2. Lord Reims
3. C - Noorilim Park with an I Am Invincible filly for \$1,100,000

**NAME THE RACEHORSE:** Mystic Journey (pictured), winner of the first All-Star Mile.

