



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

**WEEKEND
RUNNERS AND
WINNERS**

**AN INTERVIEW
WITH STEVEN
PATEMAN**

OTI'S AUTUMN

TRIAL WATCH

**HISTORY OF
RACETRACKS BY
TIM HOLLAND**

**NEW ATHLETIC
COLT BY
SO YOU THINK**

QUIZ

**RACING HEARTS
PARTNERSHIP**

Warrnambool...A Great Carnival!

Hot on the heels of the Aintree Grand National Festival in the UK, the premium jumps meeting in Australia, the May Racing Carnival at Warrnambool, again looms as one of Australia's most popular three days of racing.

While many of us are flat racing purists, we cannot help but get involved in the party and punt atmosphere that commences around local stables on the Monday and culminates in the running of the Grand Annual Steeplechase on Thursday. Across the week, many will remind you that 'What happens in Warrnambool, stays in Warrnambool'.

About a decade ago, jumps racing was on its knees. Many thought that it was only a matter of time before Victoria joined NSW, Queensland and WA as a non-jumps racing state. Back then, the fatalities were at unacceptable levels and many Victorians believed that the jumps were a millstone around the neck of an otherwise healthy sport.

How things have changed! Lead by several responsible enthusiasts, with the support of Racing Victoria, jumps were made safer, and fatalities quickly started to decline. Leading the local charge was Warrnambool Racing Club, who relied on jumping to maintain its popular carnival. Under the leadership of Marg Lucas and Des Roberts and with the support of people like racing's Queen, Gai Waterhouse (who is in attendance every year), the carnival has gone from strength to strength. While males may still be in the majority, the number of women of all ages, who now attend, has continued to grow.

Warrnambool has been a great source of excitement for OTI owners. Since 2006, they have won the major flat race, the Warrnambool Cup, three times and the Galleywood Hurdle once (with Renew). Last year, a winner was produced for them on each of the three days. The team amassed for this year's carnival looks exciting and will hopefully be the reason for more partying.

Few would argue that the May Racing Carnival is an outlier on the Australian racing scene. However, as a valuable and responsible asset to both the local community and jumps racing in Australia, it is unsurpassed. Its survival and prosperity, within the framework of making it safer for horses, shows what can be done by dedicated people to improve the image and popularity of racing as both a sport and industry.

OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

*Another busy weekend awaits our owners as we get deeper into the autumn.
At Mornington on Saturday.*

Rivaport is out to bounce back in the 1600m F&M BM70 after she left us scratching our heads last start. She'll be ridden a touch quieter in the hope we see her finishing off. Her best is good enough in this grade.

Hezashocka will take his place in the 2400m Listed Mornington Cup. To read more about his chances, click [HERE](#)

At Doomben on Saturday.

Stuck With You is the first of three runners we have in the 2200m BM78. His win last start was terrific, sustaining a long, sweeping run. He loves Doomben and is very capable of maintaining his form deep into a campaign. He'll need to do it the hard way carrying top weight but he has another live chance.

Gambu is the second of our representatives, now getting to the right journey third up. His run last start was good, and it was understandable why he felt the pinch late. A good draw with a low weight, he can make his presence felt.

Coppleson, the third and final competitor of ours in the 2200m BM78, is on trial for the QLD Derby. He's drawn to get the opportunity to put his hand up and be in the finish. Whether he's mature enough to do it against the older horses on firm ground is the main question.

Cepheus continues his campaign in the 1600m Listed Tails Stakes. A wet track in the Doncaster dashed his chances, so there's no doubt he'll appreciate Saturday's surface. He's shown he's more than up to this class and Matt has been very pleased with his work since returning home. Hopefully, he can get to a Doomben Cup next month.

Lady Laguna has had a very busy couple of months but has given Annabel no reason not to start in the 1110m Listed Mick Dittman Plate. This is a drop in class from a hot Arrowfield Sprint where she put up a career best effort. She's a wonderfully honest filly who can once again be in the finish.

At Newbury on Saturday.

Banderas may have his second run of the season in the 2200m 3yo Maiden. He didn't meet market expectations on return, but all connected are keen to see him on the grass. He has always worked to a very good standard so hopefully he can start to deliver on that promise.

At Sale on Sunday.

Celebrity's Beau will run second-up in the 1728m 0-64 Handicap. This journey is more to his liking and he's been trained to start to show his best on Sunday. He faces a tricky draw but in this grade, a competitive showing is expected.



STRUCK TWICE

2050m Maiden, Wodonga
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr

WINNERS



INTROVERT

1910m Class 1 & Maiden Plate, Ballina
Trained by Matthew Dunn



STUCK WITH YOU

2040m BM78, Doomben
Trained by Matthew Dunn



BENGAL BOY

2400m Listed Galilee Series Final,
Sandown
Trained by Matt Cumani



VIVY AIR

1212m 2yo Maiden, Geelong
Trained by Archie Alexander



DOCKLANDS

1400m Maiden, Kempton Park, UK
Trained by Harry Eustace

AN INTERVIEW WITH STEVEN PATEMAN

Steven Pateman - Successful Jumps Jockey who has also recently joined the training ranks.

How did you become involved in racing?

I grew up in Margaret River WA. A lady at our local pony club used to work for C.S. Hayes at Lindsay Park, Agnaston. She spoke highly of her time there and suggested that I go there in the summer holidays, which I did...it was supposed to be for 6 weeks. I never moved home again.

Did you always want to be a jockey?

No, I came from an equestrian background and it wasn't until I did my time at Lindsay Park that I realised it was exactly what I wanted to do. The first time I rode in a hurdle trial I thought to myself "How long has this been going on!!!"

What is the most difficult part about your job?

Without a doubt the most difficult part is dieting and wasting to make the weight.

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

Ciaran Maher, he was a jumps jockey when I first went to Lindsay Park. I obviously ride for him a lot now but even before he was a trainer himself he was definitely my biggest mentor, along with being my harshest critic.

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

Dead heat between Bash Boy and Saunter Boy.... Yeh the Boyz.

What are the differences to Jumps racing in Europe and do you think we should change something here in Australia?

The main difference between here and Europe are the variations in distances. Our jumps horses are nearly all fed into jumps racing from the flat and whilst there is nothing wrong with that, it is very different to Europe, where the majority of the horses racing over jumps are purpose breed. The main thing we should change is that the majority of our races are 3200m, we need to have more variation in the distances. We currently race over the same obstacles as they do, they have even more recently taken on the black and white colour scheme of the fences which was an Australian initiative, as opposed to the traditional orange.



Jumps racing is very limited throughout the year in Australia, do you think that should change?

I believe that jumps racing should continue into the months of September and even early October. Spring in Australia can often be the wettest time of the year so it seems crazy not to be racing over jumps at this time of year. We don't necessarily need to be holding feature races, or even steeplechases, but it would be a good opportunity to get up and coming horses going over hurdles.

You started training horses as well, do you have any specific goals you want to reach as a trainer?

As a trainer, I would love to both train and ride a Grand Annual winner and I hate to be cliché, but it is a goal to train a Melbourne Cup winner!

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

Australian racing prize money is incredible. This is obviously due in part to gambling turn over, the main thing I would like to change in Australian racing is for the individual racing clubs to be held accountable for their responsibility of hosting racing and for them not to get caught up in how they can increase revenue for the clubs (or themselves individually) by potentially selling off land and assets which have nothing to do with actually running a racing club. We have seen some iconic race tracks in Australia (ie. Victoria Park) lost to this plight and it would be a shame to see others to follow, namely Sandown and Oakbank (which is as good as bulldozed).

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 or click **HERE**. Below are the results of our stakes runners so far this autumn (top four only).

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	Athabaskan	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
Mar 25,'23	Rosehill	G2	Tulloch Stakes	Full Of Sincerity	2000m	3yo C&G SW	\$250,000	4th
Apr 1,'23	Randwick	G3	PJ Bell Stakes	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yoF SWP	\$200,000	3rd
Apr 1,'23	Turffontein (ZAF)	G1	Horse Chestnut Stakes	Under Your Spell	1600m	WFA	R1,000,000	4th
Apr 8,'23	Randwick	G1	Queen Elizabeth Stakes	Hezashocka	2000m	3yo&Up WFA	\$4,000,000	4th
Apr 8,'23	Randwick	G2	Arrowfield Sprint	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yo SW	\$1,000,000	3rd
Apr 15,'23	Sandown	Listed	Galilee Series Final	Bengal Boy	2400m	3yo SWP	\$200,000	1st
Apr 15,'23	Turffontein (ZAF)	G1	HSB Princess Charlene Empress Club Stakes	Under Your Spell	1600m	F&M SWP	R1,250,000	4th

TRIAL WATCH - DAIQUIRI

One to possibly watch out for at the Warrnambool Carnival will be Daiquiri. The 4yo son of Lope de Vega won his last trial at his home base at Cranbourne in good style and could kick-off his racing career in Australia this May.

Jockey T. Stockdale commented after the trial" He travelled really nice and strong throughout and kept improving from the 600m mark with some nice work to the line. He certainly appreciated the softer ground." Watch the full trial **[here](#)**.



Trainer Trent Busuttin commented that he thought about giving the gelding a spell prior to the trial, but after his performance he was quite impressed with him and how he's acclimatised to the climate Down Under.

"I'm very happy with him and how he's come along since being in Australia. He pulled up super after his trial and just keeps improving in his daily work, which makes us think he could possibly head to the races soon, rather than going for a break."

Daiquiri will most likely have another jumpout over 1200m next week before possibly making his Australian race debut at Warrnambool over 1700m. He has shown in his previous runs to be a most competitive stayer over 2000m and above. Connections can certainly start to get excited!

LOVELY MOVING COLT BY SO YOU THINK



Like OTI stakes winners **Quick Thinker** and **Bengal Boy**, a new addition, the So You Think x Sweet Martini colt, was purchased at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale.

Built in the mould of a future stayer, this colt walks out in a very athletic manner. His pedigree backs that up being by a Champion in So You Think, and he's out of a Pentire mare who is a full-sister to the Group 1 SA Derby and Oaks winner Zarita.

He'll be trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr from their Cranbourne base, and they've wasted little time in getting the ball rolling. The colt has already commenced his education at Leneva Park, and a recent update can be viewed [HERE](#).

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

QUIZ

NAME THE RACECOURSE

Hint: Under Your Spell

1. At what age did OTI horse Under Your Spell win her first G1 race?
2. How many jumps and flat races are held during the Warrnambool May Racing Carnival?
3. Who won the 2018 Grand Annual Steeplechase?



HISTORY OF RACETRACKS BY TIM HOLLAND - PART 1

Attentive travellers from the inner eastern suburbs of Melbourne to the city crossing Hawthorn Bridge may have noticed that the housing stock in a large area on the left in Bridge Road just past the bridge is quite different from the usual type of housing on the Richmond flat. There is a good reason for that. That area was a racetrack until the 1930s, and was only built on in the 1940s with Housing Commission duplexes.

These days Melbourne has the big 4 tracks of Flemington, Moonee Valley, Caulfield and Sandown, with some further afield ones that were once country tracks but have now been surrounded more or less by a spreading outer suburban fringe. Pakenham, Mornington and Cranbourne, as well as the proposed facility north west of the city are in this category.

Back in the day there were so many suburban tracks that one wonders how they had room to fit in the houses, shops and factories. A feature of the racing scene through the 19th century and into the early decades of the 20th century was the two-tiered shape of the industry. What we know these days as the racing clubs ran operations that provided good facilities for members and the public on decent sized tracks comparable with those interstate and overseas. Those facilities are essentially still with us.

In contrast “proprietary racecourses” were privately owned and run as businesses. They were generally smaller than the courses operated by the racing clubs and were more knockabout in their facilities, seemingly appealing to a lower socio/economic demographic. It’s a little difficult to get detailed information on these tracks, but what they had in common was that they inspired great opposition from some local residents, who generally claimed that they attracted undesirable elements in the community and adversely affected property values.

The legendary John Wren owned the Richmond track, one of several of which he was involved in the ownership, and one of many that have disappeared from the suburban landscape over the years. The track was quite small but as a result provided a good view of proceedings for all the spectators. Like the good business person that he was, Wren also used the track for public events, such as rodeos, boxing, and for car, bicycle and motor bike races. It seems to have been the centre of trotting in Victoria for many decades.

An aerial shot of **Flemington in 1945** shows 2 distinct tracks on the course with the second one larger than the main one and spread out over the large area now used as the car park and the stables area currently used by the Flemington-based trainers.

It also shows the “Not So Royal” **Ascot** track opposite the Showgrounds and between Epsom Rd and Ascot Vale Rd, an area that is now housing. This was another racing enterprise that was owned by John Wren.

Racing was conducted at Ascot between 1893 and the late 1930s. Like many of the tracks it was put into service of the war effort in WW2, and was then compulsorily acquired by the State Government in 1946 for re-development by the Housing Commission.

Part 2 to follow in the next Issue...



Pictured: Ariel shot of Flemington (green)/Ascot (red)

We remember long-term owner Laurie Larmer

We would like to send our condolences to the family of long-time owner and well-known racing enthusiast Laurie Larmer, who passed away at the age of 99 last weekend. Laurie was one of OTI's longest clients and still bought into new horses up until a few years ago. It is clear that he very much loved the horse racing industry! Saturday's win with Bengal Boy was a nice tribute to Laurie's loss just the night before and we're sure he helped Bengal Boy get over the line first!



SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF PARTNERSHIP WITH RACING HEARTS

Sunday morning's launch of the partnership between OTI and Racing Hearts was celebrated with a rainy but inciteful visit to Lisa Coffey's training property on the Mornington Peninsula. Also in attendance were the new ambassadors for Racing Hearts, jockey legend Glen Boss and media presenter and 2023 The Bachelor star, Felix Von Hofe.

Welfare is very important to OTI and its clients and we are proud to join Racing Hearts as a partner. Lisa and her team have assisted OTI in rehoming a number of our retired racehorses. They, as a result of the great work by Racing Hearts, have gone onto assisting children with physical and mental health issues.

This new partnership is not only a means of gaining further financial support for Racing Hearts but to raise awareness of what actually happens to horses in their life after racing.

If you'd like to know more, please contact us or head to the Racing Hearts website [here](#).



Pictured: Retired OTI horse Blue Ocean



Pictured: Ambassadors, OTI and Lisa Coffey



Pictured: Glenn Boss and Blue Ocean



Pictured: Blue Ocean with new owner Serena

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. As a 2yo in the G1 Allan Robertson Championship at Scottsville (June 6, 2021)
 2. 23 Flat Races and 7 Jumps Races
 3. Gold Medals
- NAME THE RACECOURSE:** Turffontein, South Africa



Pictured: Under Your Spell