



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



## ...And now onto Europe

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As the yearling sales season finishes in Australia and the major racing states quieten for a few months, focus for many in the industry heads to Europe. While Royal Ascot and the Derbies and Guineas' will take the racing stage in the UK, Ireland and France, the focus for OTI will be on selecting quality horses that will ultimately end up racing in Australia.

Next week, the team at OTI will be attending the Arqana Breeze Up Sale in France. This sale historically has excelled in offering horses who have gone onto being Group 1 stars. Ironically, while most of the consignors are Irish based, they like to sell their horses, especially those bred in France, to the international buying group who attend the sale.

Last year Gus Boyd and Terry Henderson were successful in buying two colts and a filly at the sale. All were immediately shipped to Australia. All three youngsters appear above average types and each is expected to be successful on the track over the next six to twelve months.

The attendance at the sale is the first step each year in trying to identify future stars. Immediately following the sale, the team visits over 20 stables arounds France where it inspects horses who may come up for sale during the year. These inspections, which we have now been doing for over 12 years, have produced horses like Gailo Chop and Manighar, both multiple Group 1 winners, as well as numerous other stakes winners.

From last year's inspections we were ultimately able to acquire Longvillers, Baby Rider, Chicago Bear, Green Fly, Intuitu and Athabaskan. All look to have exciting futures in Australia. While we may not have been able to buy at the time we visited the stables, the research from the visits proved invaluable when the existing connections ultimately agreed to sell.

While not regarded as a major buyer of yearlings in Australia, OTI has benefited from its activity in the sector in Europe. Docklands, Banderas and Deakin, from the 2021 yearling sales, all appear above average according to their European trainers. Each of the horses look set to come to Australia next year. One of the most exciting acquisitions from that year's yearling sales however was Fretta (by Frankel). She was immediately shipped to the Price Kent stable in Melbourne. In winning her only run in authoritative fashion, she looks a stakes horse in the making.

Last year at OTI, we formed Eurolink, a partnership between European and Australian trainers to ensure an ongoing supply of quality middle-distance and staying types, without paying the large premium for proven horses. The initial four purchased from the 2022 sales should appear as late two-year-old's, and all signs have been positive so far. They will then come to Australia at the end of their three-year-old season.

Hopes are high that futures stars will flow from the upcoming research. It has certainly been most beneficial in the past.

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

*With just the one Victorian runner this weekend, most of our attention is focussed both in the northern states and abroad!*

## At Cranbourne on Friday night

Dominant last start winner **Struck Twice** is out to stake his SA Derby claims in the 2025m 0-64 Handicap. Naturally, this is a tougher affair but he won with authority at Wodonga and looks to have a bright staying future. The wetter track poses as the main query.

## At Gosford on Saturday

**Comme Bella Fille**'s form from her two runs back doesn't make for great reading, but she gets her chance to turn things around in the 2100m Benchmark 78. To be fair to the mare, she's had very little go her way this time in but there is improvement to come. We hope to see her more forward in running.

## At Kembla Grange on Saturday

**Flashing Steel** is likely to take his place in the 1500m Benchmark 68. He'll need to relax better than last start to run the journey out strongly, but is knocking on the door of another win. He looked to get a little lost when hitting the front early at Orange, so it would be fantastic to see him get his head down on the line here in a tougher race.

## At Sunshine Coast on Saturday

**Gambu** presents here fourth up in the 2400m Benchmark 78. He has made gradual progression with each start and now gets to a track and trip where we'd like to see him be most competitive. He looks to have lost a little bit of his speed, so we hope to see him take up a more forward position in a true staying contest.

**Scarlet Tufty** will feature in the same race as Gambu off the back of a short freshen up. This is the right style of race for him, and although he's lacked the winning blow over the past few months, he should get a chance to be prominent again with a strong rider booked. Although ambitious, it would be nice to get him out further in trip in a race like the 3200m Group 2 Brisbane Cup this winter.

Last start Listed winner **Lady Laguna** continues her fruitful campaign in the 1200m Group 3 Gold Coast Guineas. She should have taken a great deal of confidence from her win and is once again drawn to be prominent. She's a very honest galloper and although this looks a slightly tougher affair, she's more than capable of featuring.

**Cepheus** is entered for the 1800m Group 2 Hollindale Stakes, though is likely to be saved for a Group 3 event next week. Regardless, he's trained on well since the Tails Stakes and is poised to continue his most pleasing preparation.

## At Turffontein on Sunday

**Under Your Spell** is likely to run in the 1160m Pinnacle Stakes, which will effectively be used as a prep run for Group targets in the next six weeks. The race will help keep her up to the mark in what has already been a successful campaign, winning at Group 2 level.

## At Leopardstown on Sunday

**Deakin** may feature in the 2400m 3yo Maiden. His return performance wasn't to the level we had expected, but he found himself in a very quickly run race on heavy ground, so he was entitled to tire. He's a colt who has been held in high regard, so we'd love to see him bounce back here to keep the dream of some bold targets alive.

**Tom The Second** could well run in the same race at Leopardstown. His debut had merit, particularly for a horse who is still quite immature. He'll come on again for the experience but we know he'll be better suited later in the year. If he was competitive in a maiden event of this calibre, it bodes very well for his future.

## WINNERS



**DAIQUIRI**

1600m BM70, Ballarat

Trained by Natalie Young & Trent Busuttin



**LADY LAGUNA**

1110m Listed Mick Dittman Plate, Doomben

Trained by Annabel Neasham

# AN INTERVIEW WITH ARCHIE ALEXANDER

*Archie Alexander - well known and established English trainer based at Ballarat, Victoria.*

## **Where did your interest in racing begin?**

My father who is involved in the bloodstock/racing industry would take me to the races as a young boy.

## **What steps did you take to get to your current position?**

I convinced my parents to let me leave school as a 16yo so I could start working in racing, with the aim to learn as much as possible from top trainers all over the world before I began training myself. This took me to France, America, UK, Ireland and Australia along with some trips to Dubai on the way.

## **You've had a very successful career so far, what would be the most memorable experience or win for you?**

It's very hard to just pick one, but up there would be Lord Fandango winning the Herbert Power and then backing up into the Caulfield Cup where he ran an enormous 4th, beaten 1.8L.

## **You have travelled all over the world with horses, what key skills did you take away from that?**

Keeping horses in as much of a routine as possible when they are travelling helps enormously to keep them settled. Taking their own feed and even water will help them keep eating and drinking.

## **What is the race you would most like to win in Australia/Europe?**

Melbourne Cup and Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe.



## **You have been in Australia for over 10 years now, what are the things you took on from Australian training tactics and what do you think you do differently?**

Jump outs and trials are a great asset to training horses in Australia; you can really educate horses to a greater level before they start racing. Embracing the technology available has been a big thing for me, from equine treadmills to genetic testing and utilising heart rate and stride data.

## **You work closely with your wife, Annie. Are you both able to turn off from talking horses?**

Not really! Though horses are so much more to us than just work, we get enormous enjoyment from them too.

## **If you were in charge of racing for a day in Australia or the UK, what would be the first thing you'd change?**

Revoke my suspension.....But seriously, I think there needs to be some flexibility within the rules to be able to distinguish between mistakes or errors and intentional rule breaches with penalties consistent with the breach.



# OTI'S AUTUMN

OTI Racing is pleased to share the results produced by our runners in stakes races this autumn, with five black-type wins now recorded. 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	Athabasca	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
Apr 22,'23	Doomben	Listed	Mick Dittman Plate	Lady Laguna	1110m	3yo SW	\$125,000	1st
Apr 22,'23	Doomben	Listed	Tails Quality	Cepheus	1600m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$125,000	2nd
Apr 22,'23	Mornington	Listed	Mornington Cup	Hezashocka	2400m	Open Hcp	\$300,000	2nd

## WARRNAMBOOL CARNIVAL RECAP

To no surprise, it was yet another very wet and windy Warrnambool May Racing Carnival with tornado like weather on Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. However, nothing stops racing fans and members from getting on course for these exciting three days!

The action kicked off on Tuesday morning with three hurdle races, followed by the Brierly Steeplechase later in the day, which was won by trainer Symon Wilde. Day 2 of the Carnival included the famous Galleywood Hurdle over 3200m, taken out by last year's winner Saunter Boy for trainers Ciaran Maher and David Eustace.

While we didn't have any runners on the second day of the Carnival, we still had plenty of action with a morning stable visit for owners at Matthew Williams' property. Most owners were able to see their horses in the stable environment, give them a pat and enjoy the company of fellow OTI clients.

The last day of the Carnival included three of OTI's own, unfortunately only Dyerville came close to success when running 2nd in the BM64, the last race of the day for connections and trainer Matthew Williams.

Overall, not as successful a Carnival as we would have liked, but we loved catching up with many of our owners out on the track over the last three days and look forward to next year's action!

## STRONG, ATHLETIC FILLY BY DUNDEEL



### Strength, character and looks - a filly with plenty to give!

Our most recent acquisition is an impressive filly by six-time Group 1 winning stallion Dundee, to be raced with Phillip Stokes.

The yearling filly is out of the seven-time winning mare Femme Fireball, who is a full-sister to G1 place-getter and multiple Group 3 winner Rock.

Her strong physique and good character traits impressed her trainer and we were delighted to join him in racing her. She is currently undertaking her early education process at Widden Stud, who have been very pleased with her progress.

To view footage of the filly parading at Phillip Stokes' farm, please click [here](#).

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

## QUIZ

### NAME THE RACECOURSE

*Hint: Gazette Issue 94*

1. When did Lady Laguna break her maiden? (Month and Year)
2. Where would the races held at the Sunshine Coast on Saturday usually be run at?
3. In which race did Dundee win his first Group 1?



## HISTORY OF RACETRACKS BY TIM HOLLAND - PART 2

In the last edition of the OTI Gazette I did an overview of some of the old racetracks that were dotted across Melbourne. These have now been mostly developed housing estates, showing little trace of the previous usage of the land.

John Wren was a key player in the running of these so called “proprietary tracks” One such track was at Northcote, west of St Georges Road, but strangely known as the Fitzroy racecourse. Like Wren’s Richmond track it was quite small, being about 1000 metres in circumference. It operated till 1931.

Melbourne’s sand belt is justly famous for its golf courses, but it also clearly had its attractions for racing types, as there were courses at various times at Aspendale, Mordialloc, Epsom (Mordialloc), Mentone, Elsternwick Park and St Kilda. Proximity to nearby beaches probably added to the appeal of these venues for trainers. The housing estate of the old Epsom track bears witness to the racing heritage with streets named after racing stars, including Manikato, Reckless and Frank Reys.

Most picturesque of the tracks was the Williamstown racecourse. This course had smart grandstands and facilities, and would have been a very attractive venue for the Sport of Kings. Serious races were held at Williamstown, and the track was even graced by the great Phar Lap who won the Underwood Stakes there in 1931. The last meeting was in 1940; like many courses it was taken over by the military during WW2, and tragically the grandstands burned down in 1947.



*Pictured: Williamstown Racecourse*

I became aware of this track some years ago when on a bike ride along the coast, and saw the remains of the foundations of the grandstand in the middle of what is now a large coastal park, together with a plaque commemorating its history. There are a number of reasons why these tracks no longer exist. Many of the courses were small and not well appointed for spectators. As the 20th century marched on Victorian governments involved themselves in the regulation and rationalisation of all aspects of the racing industry, forcing closures of tracks and amalgamations of clubs. In particular, legislation in 1931 caused more stringent control of racing activities, and this impacted the viability of the proprietary courses. Real estate development took over – a not unfamiliar racetrack accompaniment in the 21 st century.

Researching this reminded me that as a youth I ran in several Victorian championship cross-country events at racing tracks. My form profile was 5: 0,0,0.

In two races at Flemington it was 2:0,0,0; fortunately as an owner my record is much better than that!



# VALE DEAN HOLLAND

The racing industry mourns the loss of Dean Holland, who sadly passed away after a race fall at Donald less than two weeks ago.

We send our condolences to his family, friends, fellow jockeys and all those who were close to him.

A most talented young jockey and beautiful human taken way too soon! We will remember him dearly.



## WELFARE UPDATE

Popular galloper **Barade** has entered his new home in Red Hill with one of his part-owners. The gelding will now enjoy some down time before starting some dressage training.

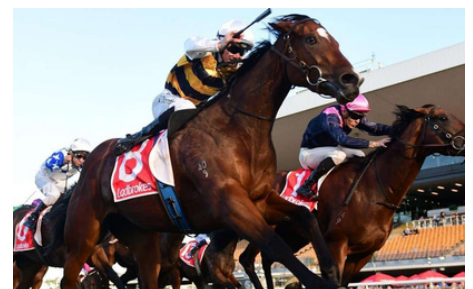
As a favourite of many on the track, the gelding won seven races and placed 10-times from his 45 race starts. Imported from France in 2018, he initially joined trainer Archie Alexander in Ballarat and then completed his last year of racing in the care of Jack Bruce in sunny Queensland.

We look forward to following his progress in retirement.



## QUIZ ANSWERS

1. November, 2021
  2. Gold Coast
  3. Group 1 Spring Champion Stakes at Randwick in 2012
- NAME THE RACECOURSE:** Flemington in 1945



*Pictured: Lady Laguna wins a Listed race*