



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



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## Better Training Facilities are on the Way!

Within the various racing jurisdictions in Australia, training facilities are finally gaining the respect they deserve. With the best of intentions from our racing clubs, trainers in Australia have had to contend with inferior conditions when compared to their European counterparts.

Training on turning tracks with often inferior surfaces has been the norm. Often bound to using racetracks to train, most trainers have also had to adopt early morning hours to train their horses in order that track maintenance staff can gain access to the racetracks. With views now focused on modern day safety standards, attractive working hours, and tracks that both develop a horse's fitness while keeping it sound, greater attention is being put on 'fit for purpose' training facilities.

Just over 12 months ago, a team from Ballarat visited Japan to observe the superb woodchip training facilities. What they saw was instrumental in the uphill straight 1200m covered track being constructed in Ballarat. More recently, Racing Victoria announced an investigative party of track managers was headed to Europe to inspect training facilities. They will get the chance to view Chantilly, Newmarket and the Curragh. Their study will be important as designs are developed for Racing Victoria's new 1000 acre property north of Melbourne.

In Australia, the two key aspects missing from many training facilities are access to grass and straight tracks. Most trainers will tell you that a grass surface is best for speed work. Yet so often, our current tracks severely limit its use as priority is rightly given to race day use. Straight training tracks to work horses at speed helps reduce the pressure on joints and ligaments. The lack of them in Australia is no doubt a key reason why veterinary treatments are the highest that OTI has experienced.

While we have always enjoyed limited access to the use of the beach, over the past 15 years, many trainers have learned to condition horses aerobically on sand. Like woodchip, once trainer's appreciate the limitations of such a surface, it can be ideal to condition or rehabilitate horses. Darren Weir was a master in the strategic use of sand while Joseph O'Brien exclusively uses woodchip for strong canters (he moves his horses to the grass for gallops).

So the age old question arises, who has the best facilities? Newmarket (UK) and the Curragh (IRE) have extensive grass gallops supported by synthetic surfaces (sometimes uphill) for canters. The Curragh is relatively flat while Newmarket, in places, is undulating. Chantilly (FRA) has an abundance of sand as well as grass, woodchip and synthetic. It also enjoys a most serene environment as many tracks run through the local forest ([click here](#) to view a video of Chantilly). Overall however, during the last 15 years, OTI has found that the local trainers in each of the locations think their facilities are the best. That's not surprising given local familiarity, nor is it not surprising that you rarely hear them complaining!

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

## At Cranbourne on Friday

**Daiquiri** will look to make it consecutive victories in the 1600m BM78. This fellow was highly impressive in winning on his Australian debut, showing a terrific turn of foot late. He looks well placed again in tonight's field, although we do expect to see the best of him out further in trip. Regardless of tonight's result, the stable plan to put him out for a short break in preparation for a Spring campaign.

## At Chantilly on Friday

Later in the evening, **Everything Counts** will contest a 1400m 3yo Class 2 at Chantilly. He heads into this race second-up, after doing plenty wrong on return at Longchamp. Hopefully, with that experience under his belt, we will see a more focused colt at the races this evening. The son of Zoustar possesses plenty of talent, so fingers crossed he can acquit himself well in a competitive 3yo contest.

## At Doomben on Saturday

**Eaglemont** is set to make his return and stable debut for Matt Dunn in the 1350m Class 3. From the wide draw, he will be ridden conservatively and given his chance to wind up late.

Saturday looks a nice starting point for this gelding, who we do expect to be better suited deeper into his preparation. In saying that, his work has been sharp at home so it wouldn't shock to see him running into the money on Saturday.

In the same event, **Mirann** will also get his campaign underway for Matt Dunn. He has had a solid grounding of work leading into his return, however Matt does expect him to improve off whatever he does on Saturday.

Ever-consistent filly **Lady Laguna** will run against the 3-year-olds in the 1110m Darby McCarthy. Despite this being her 7th run of the preparation, she continues to handle her racing extremely well and has shown no signs of training off heading into this event. She looks well suited here at the weights but does have a wide draw to contend with. Some cut in the track on Saturday certainly won't be of any detriment to this filly.

## At Rosehill on Saturday

**Gambu** will have his first run in Sydney this preparation in the 2400m BM78. With the horse still doing a few things wrong in his races, Chris Waller looks to have moved him into his Rosehill stable in order to iron out some of these quirks. The blinkers come off on Saturday, so hopefully he is able to race more tractably and be strong to the line.

## At Flemington on Saturday

**Chicago Bear** features in the 1800m BM84, in what looks a strong contest. He wasn't suited by the heavy ground on return at Warrnambool, so it will be good to see him get back to firmer footing here. The Busuttin & Young stable have been very happy with the horse's work throughout this preparation, and expect him to put in a forward showing on Saturday.

## At Newcastle on Saturday

**Cloudland** contests the 1250m BM64 on the back of a short freshen up. The blinkers come off here, so hopefully he is able to settle a lot better on Saturday. From the wide draw, it would be nice to see him get a back in the 3-wide line and build into the race at the right time. It does look a nice opportunity for him to bounce back on Saturday, particularly on a rain-affected surface.

## At Sandown on Saturday

**Mercian Hymn** may make his Australian debut in the 1600m BM70. With the horse appreciating good ground, Maddie Raymond will keep an eye on the track conditions before starting him on Sunday. Regardless of where he runs, the horse has come a long way since arriving in Warrnambool and we are looking forward to seeing him get his Australian campaign underway.

## At Sunshine Coast on Sunday

**Montabot** is set to kick off his preparation in the 1400m Class 4. He has drawn very wide here so will be ridden quietly over an unsuitable trip. Condition-wise, the horse looks to be in career best shape, so hopefully we can see him setting himself up for a successful campaign on Sunday.

## In France on Sunday night

Both **Kloster** and **Vina Sena** look set to get their preparations underway for Eduoard Monfort. Kloster will contest the 1400m Class 4 at Niort whilst Vina Sena will run in the 1900m Class 4 at Cluny. The pair are in good shape heading into their race returns, although both horses are expected to take good improvement from Sunday.

## WINNERS



### FUNAMBULIST

2100m BM64, Hawkesbury  
Trained by Annabel Neasham



### GLENS TOP CAT

2400M Maiden, Bendigo  
Trained by Matt Cumani



### BELTHIL

1300M BM64, Stawell  
Trained by Andrew Bobbin



### STEP ASIDE

1400M Maiden, Kembla Grange  
Trained by Chris Waller



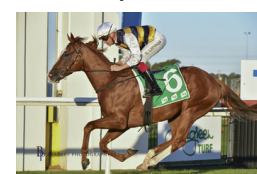
### DOCKLANDS

1600m 3yo Class 4, Ascot (UK)  
Trained by Harry Eustace



### BANDERAS

2463m 3yo Maiden, Chester (UK)  
Trained by Michael Bell



### FLASHING STEEL

1500m BM64, Kembla Grange  
Trained by Annabel Neasham

# AN INTERVIEW WITH SAM FAIRGRAY

*Sam Fairgray - Chief Operating Officer (COO)  
of Yulong Investments.*

## **Where did you grow up and where did your interest in racing begin?**

I grew up in Auckland, New Zealand. I always had a love for animals and my parents raced horses. When I was 16, I went and spent a week with Mark and Denny Baker at Hallmark Stud and from there I decided this was the industry I wanted to be involved in once I completed my studies.

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

I have worked on stud farms in New Zealand and Australia and spent time at Coolmore in Ireland. I have been extremely fortunate to work under some great mentors, who have been able to share and pass on their knowledge.

## **You've had quite a successful career so far, what would be the most memorable racing/breeding experience for you?**

Miss Finland winning the Golden Slipper was great. To have been there when she was born, watch her grow and develop and then to win the Slipper was a big thrill to see.

## **What is the most satisfying and most challenging part of your role?**

The most satisfying part of my role is seeing the horses that we have bred and sold go on and perform on the racetrack. There is a lot of thought that goes into matings, then the rearing of them so when they win it's a great thrill. The challenging part of my role is ensuring that we keep the horses healthy and happy.



## **As COO of Yulong, what would a day in your role look like?**

I try and spend 50% of my day out on the farm looking at horses and chatting with staff, and the half in the office dealing with administration work.

## **You recently added the Japanese entire Diatonic to your stallion roster, what is it about him that attracts you and possible clients?**

He is a fast son of Lord Kanaloa and out of a Sunday Silence mare. A great physical, he suits the mould we look for when breeding speed here in Australia. Japanese sire lines have become very prominent here in Australia and we believe Lord Kanaloa will be a sire of sires and it offers a new blood line to breeders, which is very important for our industry moving forward.

## **Yulong Stud is still a relatively young breeding and racing organisation. What are some of the goals for the future?**

We are going to continue to build our broodmare band, the aim is to get up to 800 mares and 20 stallions. To breed competitive athletes, and to ensure they are raised with the best nutrition and care. We would like to grow to be a leading international farm with a strong racing and breeding team.



# 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 recorded. To view the spreadsheet, which includes all likely autumn feature race runners, please visit our website at [oti.com.au](https://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	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
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
May 6,'23	Sunshine Coast	G3	Gold Coast Guineas	Lady Laguna	1200m	3yo SW	\$200,000	2nd
May 13,'23	Doomben	G3	Chairman's Handicap	Cepheus	2000m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$200,000	3rd

## ARQANA BREEZE UP SALE

The weekend past in Deauville, France saw the French buying season heat up, with the holding of the annual Arqana Breeze Up Sale. OTI was in the thick of the action, acquiring in partnership four two-year-olds that we hope to hear a great deal more about in Australia in the future, whether short-term or long.

We were on the board early when securing Lot 6, a filly named Pepples. She is a daughter of Cracksman (by Frankel) out of the Group 3 placed mare Peace of Paris. Pepples will immediately move to Australia and into the care of Annabel Neasham, who was delighted to attain her. See her Breeze Up [here](#).

We buttered up soon after to secure Lot 25 (with Michael Bell), a colt by Lope de Vega out of the three-time winner, Regalline. Michael Bell is of course the trainer of OTI's recent winner Banderas, another most promising son of Lope de Vega. To watch his Breeze Up click [here](#).

Later in the sale, we were thrilled to join with Ciaran Maher Racing to secure Lot 173, the first foal of Miss Alpha by Almanzor. As the sire of the 2022 VRC Derby winner Manzoice, Almanzor has started to make his impact on the Australian racing scene. See the colts Breeze Up [here](#).

Not yet finished, we then joined one of France's biggest owners, Gerard Augustin-Normand to acquire Lot 179, another colt by Almanzor. Already named More Dream, he is out of the More Than Ready mare More Than Famous. More Dream already has a Listed-placed sibling in Famous Wolf and will indeed carry the dreams of many in his future racing career. Watch his Breeze Up [here](#).



*Pictured: Lope de Vega x Regalline colt*

# INTRODUCING AN EXCITING STAYER - LINCOLN ROCKS



We are excited to introduce to you **Lincoln Rocks**, a 4yo son of G1 winner Road to Rock, who we recently acquired from New Zealand.

In his short career, Lincoln Rocks has shown the credentials of a stayer with an exciting future. In dominating his two runs above 2000m, he displayed a relaxed, fluent galloping action. In the manner of a good horse, he had the ability to extricate himself from tight positions to take control of his races.

He only had nine races (two wins at 2100m and 2200m, plus a second and a third). Patiently handled, it clearly took existing connections time to realise his staying attributes. View his most recent win [here](#).

Annabel Neasham, who is excelling at her craft, will train the horse from her Sydney stable. On arrival to Australia, Lincoln Rocks will continue his preparation with an eye on the valuable Queensland Carnival. Solid performances will then see him freshened for the Spring Carnival.

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

## QUIZ

### NAME THE RACEHORSE

*Hint: now an OTI horse*

1. Who won the 2022 Andrew Ramsden Stakes?
2. What do Hezashocka, Struck Twice, Celebrity's Beau and Mark Twain have in common?
3. At what stud does Written Tycoon stand at for the 2023 season?





# FEATURED OWNER - PAUL CARTER

## Paul Carter

### Where did you grow up?

Macarthur – Southwest Vic between Hamilton and Port Fairy.

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

Always loved horses, I rode quite a bit growing up. My grandfather owned racehorses so I followed them from a young age. Just happened to buy a share in a syndicate with Harry Lawton, a horse called Lottey trained by John Maher. She won her first 3 starts at Werribee, Sandown and Flemington. So I was hooked.

### How did you initially get involved with OTI?

I owned a share with Symon Wilde in a horse called Potencia, OTI also had shares in this horse. From there I got a share in my first horse with OTI, Kellstorm!

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

Apart from the obvious, Melbourne Cup & Cox Plate. Any race at the Warrnambool May Carnival. I have been lucky enough to win a few at the Warrnambool Carnival. Not sure what it is, but it's so different & special to win there.

### What are some of your favourite racing memories?

My first horse – Lottey winning at Flemington was great and two winners on the same day at the Warrnambool Carnival. Toregene winning on Oaks Day was huge. I also trained a few horses many years ago, and it was pretty special when I trained my first winner.

### Does your family get involved in racing as well?

My family are not as mad about it as I am, however Dad enjoyed coming with me to the Warrnambool race meetings and my wife Roberta enjoys going to Melbourne Races and Warrnambool May Races.

### Which horses excites you the most and why?

Obviously Toregene stands out. Nothing went right for her in Sydney, but I think she can and will come back stronger after a good break and win a couple of nice races in the spring.

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

I would bring Victoria up to speed with some other states in regards to their website (Racing Victoria) and access to watching live trials. I'd also get some real beer at Flemington instead of the rubbish they serve there!

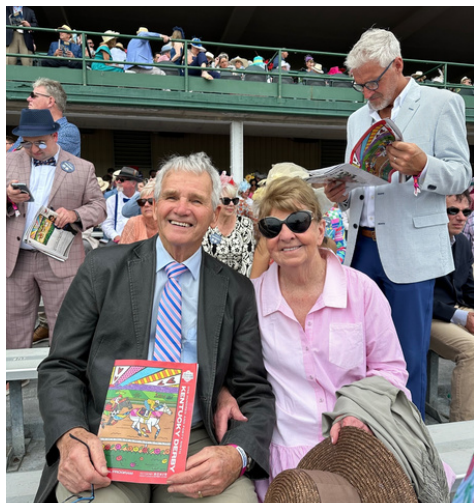


# SNIPPETS

## Kentucky Derby Ticked off the Bucket List

John and Joan Spence, long-time owners at OTI, experienced the unique pleasure of being present at this year's Kentucky Derby. Among the other 150,000 patrons they saw Mage win the race. As we all know the Americans can be different - no more so than people selling off their front lawns for parking!

John and Joan will now follow up their tour of the states with another trip across to Ireland to experience the more familiar aspects of Irish and UK Racing.



*Pictured: John & Joan Spence*



*Pictured: Mage - winner of the 2023 Kentucky Derby*

## Behind the scenes with Terry at a French training complex

As Terry and Gus continue their European travels visiting current OTI horses and inspecting possible new horses, Terry gives us a little insight on what a trackwork morning in France looks like. For anyone looking to have a sleep-in rather than the usual 3.30am alarm should definitely consider a visit!

Click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#) to see the video from France, including Terry's comments.

# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Point Nepean (trained by Robert Hickmott)
2. They're by the same sire - Shocking
3. Yulong Stud

### NAME THE RACEHORSE:

Tigrais, pictured breaking her maiden.



*Pictured: Point Nepean winning Andrew Ramsden*