



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



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## Buying a Racehorse – How things have changed!

As recently as five years ago, Australasian-based yearling and breeze up sales were the dominant ways to buy a racehorse. Seasonal Inglis and Magic Millions Sales and private transactions were the main ways to relinquish ownership of horses no longer required. How things have changed!

The growth of online sales, a greater demand for New Zealand triallers and a growing appreciation of the quality of European stock, have all contributed to a significant shift in the market.

On the European scene, the demand for the expensive (above AUD800,000) 'going' horses has stabilized as Australian buyers are not only having to compete with more middle eastern owners in this market but are questioning the 'value for money' at the higher levels.

Otherwise in Europe, the demand for yearling and breeze up stock is growing. More buyers realize that the benefit of buying young middle-distance stock and having them do their education and early racing in Europe provides good buying value. OTI's success with EuroLink and Chris Waller's with his relationship through James Ferguson point to this continuing to grow as owners sacrifice stakes in horses' 2 and 3-year-old seasons for better quality middle-distance and staying stock.

However, the most significant buying/selling change has been in the growth of 'online' sales. While the declining economic situation post covid has helped, Inglis, Gavelhouse, Bloodstock Auctions and Magic Millions are experiencing unprecedented growth in the number of horses changing hands in online auctions. These auctions speed up the time between deciding to sell and executing a deal. This reduces the amount of time existing connections are forced to hold onto stock while at the same time, offering potential buyers a smorgasbord of racing and breeding opportunities. The online process has also negated the need for a "Claiming System", used in some jurisdictions to facilitate sales.

While shifts take place in European acquisition methods and online sales grow, the Australian industry is also experiencing a growth in New Zealand 'going stock', be it generated for the trials system or private transactions. While again favouring middle-distance horses, there has been no shortage of Group horses acquired for shorter distances.

The unknown is - how will these buying changes impact on future yearling sales? Trainers and syndicators know that it may be easier to sell a 'going' horse than a yearling. While on the surface, this could be seen as negatively impacting on yearling sales, the newer methods of buying, especially online auctions, increase the velocity of transactions and indeed may stimulate all markets. Time will tell!

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

*A quiet weekend awaits compared to recent times, with all four of our runners competing on Saturday. We have an exciting Australian debutant on our hands, as well as a couple of smart European three-year-old's stepping out.*

At Eagle Farm on Saturday.

**Scarlet Tufty** continued his run of form with a creditable 3rd at the Sunshine Coast over an unsuitable 1800m journey last start. Now out to 2200m from a low draw, things shape up more in his favour. It looks a very even and wide open affair, but there would be a no more deserving winner if he managed to get his head in front. He continues to enjoy his work and racing and should put forward another honest effort.

At Flemington on Saturday.

**The Creator** is set to have his first Australian start in the 1400m 3yo Handicap after being unbeaten in New Zealand. To read more about his chances, click [\*\*HERE\*\*](#).

At Chester (UK) on Saturday.

After being scratched from firm ground last weekend, we're hoping **Banderas** gets conditions to suit in the 2887m Clogau Handicap. He'll be up against more seasoned horses but has trained on beautifully since his win at this course in May. He's a lovely, bold staying type and a strong showing will set him up well for the Melrose Handicap at York in August.

At Clairefontaine (FR) on Saturday.

**Everything Counts** showed positive signs last start and gets a great opportunity in the 1600m 3yo Class 2. He's a talented colt who is slowly heading in the right direction with his race manners. Stakes-class aims have been on the agenda for some time, so we'd like to see him be competitive here to continue to warrant that opinion.



## CEPHEUS

1610m South Grafton Quality Cup,  
Grafton  
Trained by Matthew Dunn

## WINNERS



## PRINCIPESSA

1300m F&M BM72, Randwick Kensington  
Trained by Joseph Pride



## DICK WHITTINGTON

2200m BM64, Pakenham  
Trained by Phillip Stokes



## MELANIN

1450m Maiden, Muswellbrook  
Trained by Annabel Neasham



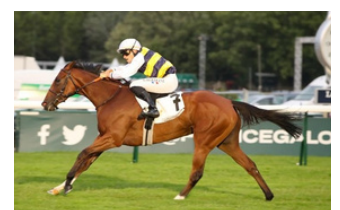
## GUIDO

1600m 0-58 Hcp, Echuca  
Trained by Mitch Freedman



## RAGOSINA

2000m 3yo+F Hcp, Newmarket (UK)  
Trained by James Ferguson



## LORNE

2400m Class 3, Longchamp (FR)  
Trained by Mario Baratti

# AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL DEE

*An interview with multiple Group 1-winning jockey Michael Dee, who is currently riding in Hong Kong.*



## **Brought up on a farm in New Zealand, who influenced you to become a jockey?**

The decision to become a jockey was my own but it was an easy decision as horses had been in my life from as early as I can remember. My Dad was a horse trainer in New Zealand back in the 90s and early 2000s.

## **Where did you do your apprenticeship?**

I started my apprenticeship in Wanganui for Trainer Kevin Myers. I was there for two years before making the move to Melbourne, where I finished my apprenticeship with Mick Price at Caulfield.

## **What made you want to come to Australia?**

I wanted to come to Australia to gain further experience as a rider and simply just never left. Aus is a great place for NZ jockeys to further hone their skills and make the most of the sport.

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

The most difficult part is not winning on a horse that may be in the market, which can be disheartening at times. Most jockeys would say losing weight is the most difficult but I have never had a weight issue in my career.

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

There have been a lot of people but Kevin Myers is certainly a man that had a big influence in the early days. He doesn't say a lot but when he speaks you make sure you are listening.

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

I have been lucky enough to ride some good horses but I think I am still trying to find one particular horse that stands out from most.

## **You are currently riding in Hong Kong. What is different there compared to racing in Australia? How long do you plan on staying?**

Hong Kong racing is very different, the races are run at a much faster pace than in Aus and there is quite a lot more pressure. I am only staying in HK until the end of the season and then I will return to Aus for the Melbourne spring.

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

No serious goal as I wasn't sure what to expect. I just wanted to get good support and ride a hand full of winners, which I have been able to do.

## **Could you see yourself riding overseas long-term?**

Potentially, but for me riding overseas is Melbourne anyway, as I had made the move from NZ. I would certainly like to experience different racing jurisdictions around the world though.

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

I would change the workload that is placed on every participant. It would be nice if racing had more people wanting to get into the sport, so there were more staff to take the weight and spread out that workload amongst the industry.





## EUROLINK - HAMPDEN



As we launched Eurolink mid last year, we have enjoyed watching our four featured horses develop and please their trainers in their further education and completion of fast work.

One of the four is **Hampden**, a gelding by Night Of Thunder, in training with Tom Ward. The gelding has returned to more serious work a few weeks ago and has shown good movement and a great work ethic in his gallops.

"He's a fantastic looking horse. He's got plenty of size and substance and is ready to go on with now. Next year will be his year to shine.", said trainer Tom Ward.

See a video of his latest piece of work on the Kingsdown Gallop [here](#).

## WELFARE UPDATE



Much loved racehorse **Harbour Views** is enjoying his post race life in NSW with new owner Courtney, making his showing debut a month ago.

He's as handsome as ever!

## HAVE YOUR SAY!



We appreciate you taking the time to read the OTI Gazette.

Should you have any thoughts, opinions, or stories you'd like to potentially have featured, please contact [\*\*lisa@oti.com.au\*\*](mailto:lisa@oti.com.au) and we will take your your submission into consideration.

This might be your opportunity to be featured in our 100th edition!

# INTRODUCING PREFERENCING

## *Untapped 3YO stayer from a family of Champions*



Together with the Price Kent stable, we were quick to secure Preferencing following a referral by Phill Cataldo. Suffice to say that a combination of his breeding, athletic attributes and performance in his trial made him an exciting prospect.

A relatively young stallion, Preferment, a quality and long-lasting racehorse, is the son of Champion stallion, Zabeel. However, it is the dam side of Preferencing's pedigree that is especially attractive. It has been a consistent producer of quality, middle-distance and staying Group 1 horses for decades.

The gelding was given a relatively easy time in his trial in late June. Showing a fluent, open action, he produced good sectionals with little pressure applied. See the trial [HERE](#).

With Preferencing arriving to Australia on July 12, Mick Price and Michael Kent Jnr will bring him along patiently. Given he is unraced, he'll be allowed to run through his classes and should he be showing the potential we expect to see by the end of his first preparation, he will naturally be aimed at higher targets next autumn and in the spring of 2024.

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

## QUIZ

### NAME THE RACEHORSE

*Hint: Golden Ticket*

1. In which state does Quick Thinker stand at stud?
2. Who did jockey Michael Dee finish his apprenticeship with?
3. Which was the last race Artorius WON before retiring?





# WELCOME TO OTI



## Almanzor x Miss Alpha 2yo

Purchased at the Arqana Breeze Up Sale in Deauville, France in early May, this strong, athletic youngster has huge appeal as a classic middle-distance/staying type. After inspecting the colt in a variety of environments - galloping out, parading and in his box and seeing his good temperament and athleticism, he was a 'must have' from the sales. He arrived at the Maher/Eustace stable this week and settled in well at their Ballarat base.

## Blackboard

In the care of Anthony & Sam Freedman, this 3yo gelding profiles as an ideal type to work through his grades in Victoria after winning his only trial in New Zealand in excellent style. Though there is much to learn about a horse who has only had one trial, this 3yo gelding clearly has his share of talent. He is by a Group 1-performer in Rageese and is out of Go To School, who is a half-sister to two good quality stakes performers. Both her foals to race are winners.



## Sevenna's Knight

This colt is an impeccably bred, serious young staying colt in the hands of French trainer Andre Fabre. Only lightly raced, his last 3 starts produced 2 seconds and an impressive 6 length victory in his last race. Sevenna's Knight's short-term goal is the 3000m Group 2 Prix Chaudenay for 3yo's at the Arc meeting on September 30. Yet to be decided if he joins us in Australia, the colt certainly has plenty of quality race options in front of him.



## LEAVE YOUR QUESTIONS HERE

What was the one thing you always wanted to ask **Gai Waterhouse**, but never had the chance to?

Now is the time...email your question to [lisa@oti.com.au](mailto:lisa@oti.com.au) and you might get it answered in our next edition with feature interviewee Gai Waterhouse, the Queen of Racing herself.



# SNIPPETS

## New restricted races at Flemington for upcoming season

The new additional races could give some owners a chance to have a winner at Flemington with a horse that usually wouldn't be seen in the city on a Saturday. Racing Victoria have added 44 restricted races to next year's calendar for trainers from the two categories below.

### The Aspirant

5 Metro wins or less in the previous season (from up to 50 metro runners)

### The Challenger

15 metro wins or less in the previous season. Racing Victoria ran one of these races earlier this year at Moonee Valley, with Andrew Bobbin winning the race.

The calendar for the first three months of the new season has programmed restricted races as BM70's, between 1200m-2040m.

## Thank You Melbourne Racing Club

The Melbourne Racing Club is to be complemented for the magnificent lunches and afternoon teas provided, free of charge, to owners at both Caulfield and Sandown.

The quality of the food is exemplary, indeed, the team of OTI is not aware of any club, be it in Australia or Europe, that provides all owners with such service.

It is appreciated.



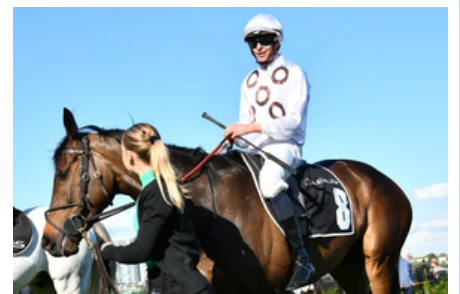
## Saratoga Derby a Cox Plate qualifier

We will soon see even more international racehorses make their way Down Under to compete in the famous Cox Plate as the Moonee Valley Racing Club announces its partnership with the New York Racing Association to make the Group 1 Saratoga Derby an international qualifier for The Valley's showpiece event.

# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Tasmania
2. Mick Price (at Caulfield)
3. Group 1 Canterbury Stakes at Randwick in March, 2023

**NAME THE RACEHORSE** - Lunar Flare (trained by Grahame Begg)



*Pictured: Lunar Flare wins the Bart Cummings at Flemington in 2022*