



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



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## Welcome to the 100th edition of OTI's Gazette

When the first edition was published on March 28, 2020, the Gazette was seen as a means of keeping our owners 'connected' to racing during the uncertain early days of Covid. At the time, none of us knew how racing would be impacted and our team felt that we needed to provide a means of providing our owners realistic views and insights on the industry as we went through a period of unknowns.

Thanks to the great efforts of our racing administrators and the cooperation of all industry stakeholders, racing continued in most of Australia without a break. Indeed, racing prospered as it was one of the 'leisure' pursuits that continued uninterrupted; betting was up, sales prices for the breeders increased, more owners joined, and stake money rose.

As racing was not facing the challenges anticipated, the role of the Gazette changed. In not wanting it to be a simple public relations blurb, the OTI team sought to widen its appeal with articles, quizzes, profiles and general news. Reporting of the growing impact of our welfare activities and some of our retired horses within it became an important component of the publication.

As we start the 23/24 racing season in Australia, some may think that we are facing far greater challenges than we were anticipating back in March 2020. As was the case then, little has been done to improve the national management of the sport. The situation has actually worsened with NSW and the rest of the country 'trading blows' in the legal system. It is such a pity when otherwise we enjoy an industry with a strong financial base.

While much has been done to improve the sport's public image, particularly on welfare issues, we could do much more. Generally racing has an uncoordinated approach to the important issues that impact racing's image with the broader public (partly because of the lack of national management), hence racing is often an easy target for those who would prefer the sport to not exist. It is a key objective of the Gazette to continue to show that, in enjoying our great sport, we have front of mind the welfare of the magnificent horses we rely upon for racing to succeed.

On broader issues, racing, perhaps rightfully, will be impacted by constraints put on gambling promotion. Punting on racehorses is a two-edged sword. We rely upon it to sustain our good levels of prizemoney. Unlike the UK or Ireland where, comparatively, bookmakers put little back into racing, in Australia we have a contribution model that works for racing (and the various state governments). On the other hand, the negative aspects of gambling put an unavoidable light on our sport, aiding the argument for those who want to see its demise. Moderation, in terms a gambling promotion and delivery, must be a key objective here and again publications like The Gazette have a key role in promoting a balanced message.

The challenges aside, the Gazette will continue to focus on those issues that most interest our owners – winners, key participants, featured horses and general issues of interest. The team at OTI thank you for reading it and welcome your feedback on how we might keep it relevant to you and indeed the wider racing community.

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

*An exciting weekend awaits both in Australia and overseas, with strong representation at stakes level at Glorious Goodwood and Deauville.*

## At Goodwood on Friday

**Docklands** kicks off our weekend in the 1600m Group 3 Thoroughbred Stakes. This is his first test in stakes company but off the back of his Royal Ascot success, he looks well prepared to make that jump. The fact he's a winner on heavy ground looks a positive, but he will need to continue to raise the bar to be winning this strong Group 3 event. A competitive showing could see him on a plane to Australia for the spring.

## At Newmarket on Friday

Last start winner **Ragosina** will step out in the 2400m 3yo+ Fillies Handicap. She'll need to keep progressing as she moves up in the handicaps but the rise in trip will assist with that. Her form this season is solid, she's trained on well and is poised to be competitive again.

## At Rosehill on Saturday

**Holstein** bounced back last start and is looking to continue that in the 1800m Highway Class 3 Plate. He looks quite well placed with Zac Lloyd's claim, and his best form sees him right in this race. The wide alley doesn't make for great reading but he's better off on the outside of horses. If he gets his share of luck early, he can certainly feature if his mind is on the job at hand.

**Longvillers** is engaged in the 1800m Premier's Cup Prelude but given the track will be firm, he will likely be scratched. Hopefully he finds wet ground shortly as he's much better than his recent forms suggests.

## At Eagle Farm on Saturday

**Mirann** is another who turned his form around last start and physically, is looking back to his best as he steps out in the 2200m Benchmark 90. He meets a small field and has drawn gate 1, so he should get an ideal run on the leader's back, smothered up for a final dash. He is a horse who relies on a suitable race shape and although he's racing 'out of his grade' here, this is wide open event.

## At Flemington on Saturday

**Win O'Clock** makes his long awaited Australian debut in the 1620m Benchmark 84. He's undergone two rehabilitation programs since he last raced, so there's no doubt he'll take considerable improvement from the outing. He's always been well liked, so we're very much looking forward to getting him out in trip provided he continues his good health.

## At Deauville on Saturday

**Sevenna's Knight** will have his first start for new connections in the 2800m Listed Prix Michel Houyvet. The dominant last start winner takes the step into stakes company for the first time but has plenty of class about him. The heavy track is somewhat of an unknown, but the same could be said for many of his competitors. If he handles the ground, a competitive showing is expected by this lovely Camelot colt.

## At Sandown on Sunday

**Elderberry** is poised to run well in the 1200m 3yo Benchmark 64. Dropping back from Saturday company, coupled with a rise in trip, this filly will make her presence felt. She continues to go from strength to strength and can hopefully stamp herself as a filly ready for a stakes-class test in the spring.

**Rider in the Snow** returns to the jumping scene in the 3400m Benchmark 120 Hurdle following two sounding fitness runs on the flat. The jumps season is quickly coming to an end, so it's important he makes his mark on Sunday. On the strength of his previous jumps win in a race that has already cut up, we hope he can stake his claim for a shot at the JJ Houlahan Hurdle later this month.

**Apollo** has travelled down to Victoria in the search of some soft ground, which we hope he gets in the 1600m Benchmark 64. The wide draw isn't ideal but he's a momentum horse with the right jockey (Damian Lane) engaged. Although competitive last start, he didn't stretch out on the firm ground so if he gets condition to suit, improvement is expected.

## WINNERS



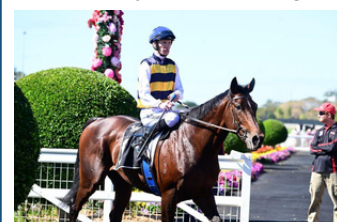
### GUIDO

3136m BM70, Warrnambool  
Trained by Mitch Freedman



### CHICAGO BEAR

1600m BM76, Morphetville  
Trained by Busuttin Racing



### INTUITU

2400m BM78, Eagle Farm  
Trained by Annabel Neasham



### STUCK WITH YOU

2020m BM90, Doomben  
Trained by Matthew Dunn



### EAGLEMONT

1500m Highway Class 3, Rosehill  
Trained by Matthew Dunn



### CHARITIES

1204m Maiden, Donald  
Trained by Matthew Williams



# AN INTERVIEW WITH BLAKE SHINN

*Blake Shinn - multiple G1 winning jockey and last season's metropolitan premiership leader.*

**Your family was always involved in racing, what was your journey to becoming a jockey?**

Pretty simple process, I grew up in a racing family with my mum and step father who raised me (Lee Hope). He was an apprentice jockey himself and had been a trainer for many years. For as long as I can remember I wanted to be a jockey and never really had my dreams set on anything else. When I was 15 I was apprenticed to Lee and had my first ride in May 2003 at Kilmore.

**Who was your master as an apprentice?**

My stepfather, Lee Hope.

**Who were the biggest influences on your career after your apprenticeship?**

The number 1 would be Gai Waterhouse. Following my apprenticeship I moved to Sydney to be stable rider for her at 20yo and still to this day have a wonderful relationship with her. She has had a massive influence on my career and is a great mentor as well as being an excellent role model in the industry.

**Who would you rate as the best horse you've ridden and what was the most thrilling race to have won?**

Winning the Golden Slipper on Capitalist would be the most thrilling, it's the worlds richest 2yo race and a stallion making race. He was and still is the best 2yo I have ever ridden and there was a lot of expectation and pressure in that race, so to get the job done in a race I have watched since I was a child was simply exhilarating. Whilst I haven't ridden him in a race I would have to say So You Think. I did a few jump outs on him and he was the best I have sat on. Other notable mentions include Sebring, Capitalist, Desert War, More Joyous, Happy Clapper, Tuesday Joy. I have been very lucky.



**You rode in Hong Kong for three years, what did you take away from your time there and is there anything you do differently now after returning to Australia?**

Great experience, very tough with world class jockeys and competition at the highest level. The lessons learnt were to take nothing for granted, there are no second chances and whilst I have always been a fierce competitor, in Hong Kong winning is everything and nothing else really matters. From this I learnt that every race is important.

**What is the most rewarding and the most challenging part of your job?**

I love working with trainers and their horses to achieve the goal of winning. It is special being in a team environment when goals come off. The challenges are definitely the weight management and early mornings. But it comes with the rewards when you win!

**You were the metropolitan premiership leader in Victoria last season. What horses are you most looking forward to riding next season?**

At this stage, still many rides up in the air!

**Of the races you have not won, is there a particular race you still want to win?**

Cox Plate, I have finished 2nd on Humidor and 3rd on Fiorente. It is the best weight-for-age race in the country and is simply the best of the best competing.

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

I'd love to see Australia run by one unified body.

# MILESTONES THROUGH OUR HISTORY

As we reflect on 100 editions of The Gazette, we've also taken time to reminisce on the important winner milestones that we've ticked off over the years.

## First Winner:

OTI's first winner after Terry Henderson and Simon O'Donnell joined their respective entities to form OTI Racing was **Super Impressive**. Racing in the colours made famous by Mummify and many others, Super Impressive won for the first time in Australia at Seymour in February 2000. Trained by Lee Freedman, Super Impressive would go on to win 11 times and earn prizemoney just shy of \$800,000. He saved his best for the Flemington straight, contesting the Group 3 Standish Handicap on New Year's Day in three successive years, winning twice (in 2003 and 2005) and running a close-up 3rd in 2004.

## First Winner in the Hoops:

OTI's second winner was the first recorded in the colours we know and love today, the Navy and Gold Hoops, White Sleeves and Cap. Like Super Impressive, it was another NZ-bred galloper named **Maguire**.

Purchased after a successful debut in NZ, Maguire saluted at his second time of asking in Australia when contesting a Class 1 Handicap at Sale in March 2000 for trainer Ken Collins. Like Super Impressive before him, Maguire would graduate to a far better class of racehorse, winning the Group 1 Auckland Cup and the Group 2 O'Shea Stakes through his career before retirement beckoned in 2003.

## 100th Individual Winner:

As a smaller operation at the time, it took some time for us to register our 100th individual winner. That horse was a home-bred named **Sunset Café** in January 2010. Out of an Encosta de Lago mare that OTI had raced in Café Del Mar (winner #19 for Tony McEvoy), Sunset Café was her first foal by Bianconi. Always showing talent for Leon Corstens, Sunset Café won at his second time of asking in a Maiden at Geelong.

Sunset Café quickly raced through his grades, winning 4 of his first 9 race starts and contesting a Listed Bendigo Cup before an untimely tendon issue. He would make it back to the races, but ultimately retire as an unfulfilled talent.

## 200th Individual Winner:

**Aloisia** ventured to Flemington in May 2017, having been purchased earlier in the year from NZ following two impressive race starts. Contesting a quality 2yo event over 1400m for Ciaran Maher, she sprouted wings late and surged to the line ahead of Salsamor and Grunt to notch up individual winner number #200 for OTI.

After running an unlucky 2nd in the G1 JJ Atkins at her next start, Aloisia would return in the spring to record wins in the G1 Thousand Guineas and the G2 AAMI Vase under Aaron Purcell's name. She would contest numerous Group 1 events throughout the remainder of her career, and it would surprise all involved that she would never greet the judge in first place again.

# MILESTONES THROUGH OUR HISTORY

She would retire with career earnings of \$790k and as the most valuable broodmare sale in OTI's history. We look forward to seeing her progeny hit the racetrack, with her first foal turning 3 on August 1 (named Luijzika, she is trained by Maher & Eustace).



*Pictured: Aloisia wins the Thousand Guineas in 2017*



*Pictured: My Swashbuckler at Rosehill*

## 300th Individual Winner:

**My Swashbuckler** came to Australia with high expectations. As a placegetter in the G2 Prix Chaudenay in France, we had Cup dreams for the son of Montjeu in the hands of Kris Lees at Newcastle.

His breakthrough win in Australia came on Anzac Day at Gosford in April 2021. It was made more the memorable given it came moments after Amade won in the same colours at Flemington, making a state-to-state double for the team.

Sadly, My Swashbuckler would be retired after just three further starts due to a leg injury serious enough to preclude him from racing. Fortunately, he has continued to thrive off the track as a trail ride pony in NSW.

OTI has quickly moved up to 381 individual winners, with Intuitu our most recent first-time winner when victorious on at Eagle Farm on July 29. We eagerly await our 400th winner in the not-too-distant future.





## INTRODUCING SOLSTICE



As the daughter of Champion racehorse, Nathaniel and half-sister to OTI's consistent performer, Lorne, the 3yo filly Solstice has the bloodlines to develop into a lovely staying mare.

When combined with the talent shown during her education, her future owners can have confidence that they will see success on the racetrack as well as own a high value broodmare.

Given plenty of time to mature, both physically and mentally, Solstice is now in the hands of Mario Baratti, the trainer of Lorne. Knowing the filly and the characteristics of her half-sister, Mario is excited to continue his relationship with the family. Like Lorne, Mario considers Solstice will show her best at distances of 2000m plus. See footage of her working [here](#).

Confidence in Solstice's ability, and future broodmare value, is significantly enhanced in having Nathaniel as her sire. A Champion himself, Nathaniel has produced 9 Group 1 winners including the Champion mare Enable and English Derby winner Desert Crown. Solstice's dam, Height of Summer, a beautifully-bred mare herself, has produced 4 winners.

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

## QUIZ

1. What Cup will recent winner Guido be aimed at?
2. What day does the official breeding season in Australia start?
3. Which is the first Group 1 of the season in Victoria?
  - A. Underwood Stakes
  - B. Moir Stakes
  - C. Memsie Stakes

### NAME THE RACECOURSE

*Hint: current racing carnival*



# 100 IN RACING TERMS - BY TIM HOLLAND

Congratulations to the OTI Gazette for chalking up its 100th edition. It's an achievement to get to 3 figures in lots of sports - 100 goals in a season at footy, or playing 100 games; in cricket, posting a century while batting is a recognised achievement - not so much for a bowler!

Racing tends to take most note of the centurion figure in terms of horses saluting at 100/1. They say that if a race is run 100 times, a starter at 100/1 is said to be likely to win it once. Well, in the 162 runnings of the Melbourne Cup there have been 4 such high odds winners: The Pearl (1871), Wotan (1936), Old Rowley (1940) and of course Prince of Penzance (2015) ridden by Michelle Payne.

In the 1871 event won by The Pearl I note that it was a red-letter day for the bookies as not only was there a 100/1 winner, the 50/1 shot Irish King came in third; that colt was owned by bookmaker J.J. Miller, the founder of the racing bible Miller's Guide - happy days for him! Fittingly, I'm indebted to Miller's Guide for that piece of info.

As it happens the Melbourne Cup celebrated its 100th running with another day out for the bookies in 1960 when the NZ mare Hi Jinx took the trophy at 50/1. Unfortunately for the MVRC there was no party for the 100th running of the Cox Plate as it was run in front of no spectators in the 2020 COVID lockdown.

Looking at the records for trainers, T.J. Smith was the first trainer to train 100 winners in a season. That was in 1962/63 in the midst of his 34 Sydney premierships, of which 20 were 100+ seasons. His daughter, Gai Waterhouse, was able to "raise the bat" in her very first premiership-winning season with 104 and a half wins in 1996/97, on her way to at least 6 such centuries.

Melbourne trainers were slower to get to the ton. Lee Freedman was the first with 115 in 2005/06.

As for jockeys, Sydney hoops were again quicker off the mark, with Billy Cook riding 124 and a half in 1939/40, and apprentice Jack Thompson repeating the feat the following year, although it wasn't till 1962/63 that the barrier was broken again when George Moore won the premiership with 106 and a half wins. In Melbourne Jamie Kah is said to have been the first to crack triple figures with 105 in 2020/21, but Brett Prebble did ride 99 and a half in 1999/00. Surely the dead heat was a win?

Finally to horses. Probably the most distinguished racing centurion is the quirky but talented mare, Tranquil Star, who in her incredible 111 races in the 1940s won 2 Cox Plates, 3 Mackinnon Stakes, a Caulfield Cup and a William Reid among a slew of black-type wins. A fan favourite, she did mix her form but had the talent and longevity to be able to establish an impressive record: 9 Group 1s, and until Winx the only mare to win a Cox Plate and a Caulfield Stakes. A testament to her iron constitution is that at her 78th start she had a bad fall in which she fractured her jaw, but came back the following year as a 7yo to win her second Cox Plate and the middle of her 3 Mackinnon's. These days such a valuable mare would likely have been long retired by that stage - different times!



*Pictured: Tranquil Star*

Mustard in Sydney and Extra Zero in Melbourne achieved centurion status in recent years, and stunning-looking grand campaigner So Si Bon is looking at his 95th start at the Valley on Saturday.

Getting back to the cricket reference in the first paragraph, I've wondered about the statistical dominance of Don Bradman compared to other top players. Only the very best have Test averages of 50 or above, and there aren't many in the history of the sport who do, yet Bradman is essentially twice that. Would the racing equivalent be a Melbourne Cup where Gold Trip, Twilight Payment et al would be running along the Maribyrnong River side at the mile as the Bradman-equivalent runner was passing the winning post?

# SNIPPETS

## Living Legends Partnership

We are delighted to continue our partnership with Living Legends for another year and contribute to the excellent care they provide for racehorses after their career on the track. Like Tom Melbourne and Gailo Chop, many others have found a forever home at Living Legends and fans are able to visit their favourites at the farm or see them in the mounting yard at Flemington.



*Pictured: Terry Henderson with Tom and Gailo*

## OTI's 2022/23 Season Wrap Up

We wrap up the 22/23 racing season with 90 winners from our 676 runners at a strike rate of 13.3%. We, the team at OTI, would like to thank all of our clients for their continued support and look forward to the new racing season with hopefully plenty of winners across the board!

## Future Score still making headlines

Purchased in 2018 after only three starts, including a win at Pontefract (UK), Future Score joined OTI in Australia and was sent to trainer Matt Cumani to continue his racing career. He concluded his racing career in late 2022 with 31 starts, six of them wins, including the Cranbourne Cup in 2020. Emma fell in love with him immediately and knew from the very beginning that Future Score would spend the rest of his life with her once he finished racing.

Find a recent feature article on Future Score and their path [here](#). A lovely story with a happy end!



*Pictured: Future Score with new carer Emma.*

# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Jericho Cup
2. September 1st
3. C Memsie Stakes

**NAME THE RACECOURSE** - Goodwood Racecourse in the United Kingdom



*Pictured: Docklands winning at Royal Ascot*