



# OTI GAZETTE

*The official newsletter of OTI RACING*



## IN THIS EDITION

WEEKEND  
RUNNERS AND  
RECENT  
WINNERS

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH KATELYN  
MCDONALD

WELFARE  
UPDATE

EVERYTHING  
COUNTS TO  
AUSTRALIA

REFLECTIONS  
FROM LUCA  
CUMANI

QUIZ

SNIPPETS

## Preparing Horses to Race – Thank Goodness for the Volunteers

As we rightly celebrate our elite horses racing at this time of the year and look forward to seeing how the international visitors perform, it's worth acknowledging the efforts of the men and women, many volunteers, who support the weekly round of jump outs and trials.

Generally, Australia is devoid of top training facilities. Unlike Europe, our forefathers based most of the training resources around racetracks. This not only lead to the ridiculous early morning starts, but provided an inferior infrastructure for training generally. In recent years, some improvements have occurred with the facilities in Cranbourne, Newcastle and Pakenham, however so many of our trainers are still required to transport horses to country tracks for serious work. Hence the need for staff to enable that work to be done.

When visiting country tracks for the jump outs, it is impressive to observe the variety of functions performed when 20 or more jump outs are conducted in the space of a few hours. Trainers and handlers often have to travel many kilometres to attend, and some riders have already worked horses at their home base before travelling to the jump outs. In such circumstances, one would expect tempers to be frayed, but the reverse is usually the case as the work is more often than not carried out in a convivial manner.

At the heart of the environments is the large contingent of locals on hand to see that the trials are conducted professionally and safely. Their duties can range from support in the racing office, preparing the track, coordination trial fields in readiness for their jump outs and running the barbeque/coffee stand for those in attendance. The volunteers only remuneration is the enjoyment from the camaraderie of trainers, jockeys and their entourages, an occasional betting tip, and the knowledge that they may have been a part of a great horse's career.

In the hustle and bustle of the morning, the work ethic of these volunteers not only ensures the jump outs are run, but those in attendance enjoy the experience. Typical of such an experience was an English Lord who flew his private plane from Melbourne to Camperdown to watch his horse trial. He described the 4 hours chatting at the track to the locals as one of the most enjoyable experiences of his 50 years as a horse owner.

Once a year, these country race club volunteers are acknowledged at their race club's annual function or at the Country Racing Awards. Its little compensation for the great work they do as their work often goes unacknowledged. Without them, racing would lose part of its soul.



# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS

It's been a very fortunate last week for some of our connections with four winners across the globe, including Eaglemont, Feathertop, Belthil and Win O'Clock, who took home the Hamilton Cup.

Looking ahead to the weekend, we've only got six runners, starting with Big Story tonight at Pakenham

In the video [\*\*HERE\*\*](#), Gus will take you through our runners, which includes the likes of Vivy Air, Docklands and Struck Twice.



*Win O'Clock wins the Hamilton Cup*



## WIN O'CLOCK

2200m Hamilton Cup, Hamilton

*Trained by Matthew Williams*



## FEATHERTOP

1900m 3yo+F Maiden, Gowran Park (IRE)  
*Trained by Jessica Harrington*



## BELTHIL

1440m BM70, Caulfield  
*Trained by Andrew Bobbin*

## WINNERS



## EAGLEMONT

1600m BM75, Eagle Farm  
*Trained by Matthew Dunn*



## WARMONGER

1500m Maiden, Mornington  
*Trained by Price Kent Racing*



## CEPHEUS

1400m Alan Brown Stakes, Rosehill  
*Trained by Matthew Dunn*



## BELLAKAI

1300m Maiden, Warrnambool  
*Trained by Symon Wilde*



## DEAKIN

2508m 3yo Handicap, Thurles (IRE)  
*Trained by Joseph O'Brien*



## DAIQUIRI

2000m BM70, Mornington  
*Trained by Busuttin Racing*

# AN INTERVIEW WITH KATELYN MCDONALD (MALLYON)

*Katelyn McDonald (Mallyon) - G1 winning jockey and media personality.*

**Your family was always involved in racing and you were a successful jockey. What stimulated you to move from being a jockey to a media personality?**

I always had ambitions to work in the media as a young girl. First and foremost I wanted to give riding my all and be the best jockey I could be and set myself up to be able to continue on working and talking about the sport I love so much!

**As a jockey and then in the media, who has had the biggest influence on your career?**

As a jockey my family played a huge role in mentoring me and I'm so very grateful for their guidance. In the media Bruce McAvaney has been my biggest mentor and friend. I'm very lucky to have been given the opportunity from Channel 7 as soon as I retired from the saddle in 2018 and be placed right next to Bruce. So I learnt a lot in those first few years.

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

I was lucky enough to sit on a few good ones like Johannes Vermeer, Assign, Almandin, The United States for Mr Williams but it would probably be the two mares I was close with in Super Cash and Silent Sedition that gave me big thrills on big days including My Group 1 win in the William Reid Stakes in 2017.

**You and James travel quite a bit for the races, how do you handle it with your family?**

We have always been busy so it's nothing out of the ordinary. We both love what we do and it's so nice coming home to Evie and Roxy (the dog) and having some chill time after the big race days.



**As a retired jockey, what skills do you bring into your role now from your time in the saddle and what advantages/disadvantages do you think it has?**

I tread carefully with what I say in regards to jockeys' rides etc because I know how hard it is to be out there doing it and how easy it is for everyone to be critical of their rides. I guess I stick up for them as best as I can and some people can think I'm biased but I have a pretty thick skin so it doesn't bother me too much. Also knowing little things that the normal person wouldn't pick up on is a big advantage for me.

**Given your daughter is bred 'in the purple' as a jockey, would you encourage her to become one?**

Haha great question. She's already shown quite a strong liking to the horses so it's going to be awfully hard to hold her back. James and I will back her to be anything she wants to be and if that's a jockey then so be it.

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

I'd love racing in all jurisdictions to work together and come up with a calendar over Spring and Autumn that is every racing person's dream. Also take a month off over winter time to give everyone, including stable hands a bit of a break.



## WELFARE UPDATE

The inaugural Equimillion competition took place in Sydney a fortnight ago, an exciting new Racing NSW development supporting retired racehorses. The initiative incorporates Eventing, Jumping, Dressage and Show horse events with a combined prize pool of \$1 million across the competition, exclusively for retired racehorses.

OTI were thrilled to sponsor one of our former racehorses in Mr Satchmo at the event. His young rider, Anneliese, has formed a terrific bond with the flashy grey and it was terrific to see the pair decked out with a special saddle pad!



Annaliese's mother passed on the below note following the competition:

*"Anneliese and Mr Satchmo went well at Equimillion. Unfortunately, on their first round they knocked a rail which put them out of a placing, but the next round they came in 2nd, which looked great. They finished just outside the first 5 placings overall. We were really happy with how they went. Thank you again for helping us. You have no idea how much your support means to us."*

We now turn our eyes towards the Thoroughbred Sport Horse Association National Titles in November, another important equestrian competition which OTI is proud to sponsor through our Equine Welfare Fund.

## SPRING RUNNERS

To keep up to date on our black-type performances and targets through the spring, click [HERE](#) to access a spreadsheet of OTI runners/likely runners. It can also be found on the OTI website.

02 Sept '23	Randwick	LR	City Tattersalls's Club Cup	Athabaskan	2400m	Qlty Hcp	\$200,000	1st
23 Sept '23	Rosehill	G3	Colin Stephen Quality	Athabaskan	2400m	3yo&Up Open Hcp	\$250,000	1st
23 Sept '23	Rosehill	G2	Shannon Stakes	Cepheus	1500m	3yo&Up Qlty Hcp	\$300,000	1st
30 Sept '23	Longchamp (FR)	G2	Prix Chaudenay	Sevenna's Knight	3000m	3yo SW	€200,000	4th
07 Oct '23	Rosehill	NA	Alan Brown Stakes	Cepheus	1400m	Qlty Hcp	\$1,500,000	1st
14 Oct '23	Caulfield	G2	Herbert Power Stakes	Daqiansweet Junior	2400m	Qlty Hcp	\$300,000	4th
19 Oct '23	Deauville (FR)	LR	Prix Vulcain	Sevenna's Knight	2500m	3yo SWP	€55,000	3rd
Date	Track	Race Level	Race Name	Horses Potentially Running	Distance	Race Type	Prizemoney	
21 Oct '23	Caulfield	G2	Thousand Guineas Prelude	Vivy Air	1400m	3yoF SWP	\$300,000	
21 Oct '23	Randwick	NA	Big Dance Wild Card	Baby Rider	1600m	3yo&Up Hcp	\$160,000	
21 Oct '23	Ascot (UK)	NA	Balmoral Handicap	Docklands	1600m	3yo&Up Hcp	£200,000	
25 Oct '23	Geelong	G3	Geelong Cup	Amade Timour	2400m	Open Hcp	\$500,000	

# EVERYTHING COUNTS TO AUSTRALIA

~ Talented European 3yo colt headed to Price/Kent ~



A son of Zoustar, Everything Counts is a very talented three-year-old colt. In his short career, he has shown glimpses of exceptional speed against quality European youngsters.

Standing 16.1 hands, Everything Counts is a stunning looking chestnut. A balanced, loose walker with an athletic frame, deep girth and wide jowl, the colt would not be out of place in a stallion parade. See his parade footage [here](#).

Consistent with his looks, Everything Counts is beautifully bred. By Zoustar, the colt is out of Lauren Louise, a mare who has produced 3 stakes winners, a stakes placegetter and a filly (unraced), who has produced 2 stakes winners.

Following his impressive 2yo win in Deauville (watch [here](#)), Everything Counts' program as a 3yo hasn't been smooth sailing. Now bound for the Price/Kent team, we're excited to see what he can do in Australia.

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

## QUIZ

### NAME THE RACECOURSE

*Hint: Big Dance*

1. Which OTI horse is qualified for the Big Dance in NSW on Melbourne Cup Day?
2. Who won last year's Caulfield Cup?
3. Which jockey won his first Group 1 on Saturday at Caulfield?



# REFLECTIONS FROM LUCA CUMANI

The name Cumani is synonymous with Melbourne's Spring Carnival. Luca, the patriarch of the family, first visited Melbourne when campaigning Glistening in 2006. Daughter, Francesca is now a household name in both the UK and Australia as a media commentator and Matt is well established as a trainer in Ballarat.



Terry Henderson gives Luca and wife Sara credit for OTI's early successes with internationally supplied horses. Together they assisted in the purchase of many fine horses, the most notable being the Melbourne Cup runner up Bauer, with Manighar, Quest for Peace and Ibicenco. They are among many that started their OTI careers with Luca.

Terry recently caught up with Luca to reflect on his Melbourne Cup experiences.

- **When did you first bring a horse to Melbourne for the Spring Carnival?**

I brought two horses over in 2006. Glistening finished 10 th . In 2007 Purple Moon ran a great race to finish 2nd in the Cup and in 2008, as you know Bauer finished 2nd after winning the Geelong Cup.

- **What are your fondest memories of your visits?**

I loved the atmosphere in Melbourne in the week before the Cup. Everything in the city was based around the race. My particular favourite was the street parade on Cup eve. I could not believe that so many people would come out to look at the old champions and to acknowledge the human participants in the race. It was a remarkable time in Melbourne for us international visitors.

- **Was it a major challenge to prepare a horse for Melbourne?**

The quarantine is a significant impost on trainers who want their horses to come to Melbourne. Not only do you need to allocate specialist staff, but you must be prepared to work your horse in the afternoon in the quarantine centre. It requires a change of clothes each time you go into the centres, both in Newmarket and Melbourne and is quite time consuming. You then are continually worried about how the horse might be going when it leaves Newmarket and arrives in Melbourne. Fortunately, I had very good staff to assist me.

- **Do you miss the training atmosphere?**

I had a remarkable career training and have very fond memories of the successes around the world. I think I still hold the record of 13 Group 1 wins in 13 different countries. However, when I changed jobs (I did not retire!) it was a sense of relief from the day-to-day pressures.

- **What do you think about when you drive past Bedford House, your old home and training centre?**

I enjoyed a remarkable career training from Bedford House and had many good horses pass through my hands. However, as I said there is a sense of relief.

- **You must take great pride in being a trainer of trainers and a master to many great jockeys?**

Yes, I do, and it was a most fulfilling part of my career. No one could ever envision that when Frankie Dettori joined me as an apprentice, he would end up the Champion that he has. In fact, next weekend we're attending a dinner down in London in his honour to celebrate his career.

- **Together with Sara you are successful thoroughbred breeders. Is it easier than training?**

I prefer to think of it as a new challenge rather than being easier. We have been breeders for many years, with Sara taking most of the responsibility. However, now I have to work with an equal, but as I often point out to my friends, behind every successful man there is a woman standing in front of him. Perhaps that's why Fittocks Stud has been quite successful.

Luca arrived in Newmarket from Italy in his early 20's. Much to the chagrin of his parents, he chose to become a horse trainer (as his father was) rather than enter a profession. Many, including his friends at OTI are glad he did. For his services to racing, Luca was recently awarded the prestigious Stella d'Italia (Star of Italy) by the Italian Government.



# SNIPPETS

## Harry Eustace expands stables

Due to increased numbers, Harry Eustace has secured Highfield Stables on the Bury Road at Newmarket. It has 55 boxes, 2 walkers, 2 lunge rings, 2 trotting rings and plenty of space for pen turn out. It is in great condition and is a very exciting step for the team.

This will mean that with Highfield supported by Park Lodge, Eustace will have two proven yards in great locations in Newmarket to allow him to go to the next level.



## Group 1 Glory and a Melbourne Marathon

After winning his first Group 1 on Saturday with Attrition in the Toorak Handicap, trainer Mitch Freedman had to hold back on big celebrations that night. In the post race interview he said "I'm actually only drinking water today as I'm running the Melbourne Marathon tomorrow. We might have to revisit that later on."

Not only Freedman took on the marathon challenge, jockey Damian Lane also joined the crowd on Sunday and finished with an impressive time of 2 hours and 55 minutes. Mitch Freedman was not too far behind him with 3 hours and 21 minutes.

## Another A.Alexander in the training ranks

Some might get confused with now two A.Alexander's being found in the race cards, as Annie Alexander (Archie's wife) takes out her own trainers license. She sent out a first runner yesterday at Echuca, finishing second. Annie will primarily focus on the emerging jumps arm within the shared yard of the family. We wish her the best of luck for her training career!

# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Cepheus
2. Durston - ridden by Michael Dee, trained by Chris Waller
3. Beau Mertens on Attrition

**NAME THE RACECOURSE** - Royal Randwick in NSW, where the Big Dance will take place on November 7, 2023



*Pictured: Athabaskan wins the Lexus CTC Cup at Randwick*