



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

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RECENT
WINNERS**

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GREAT DAMIEN
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Welcome to Cup Week..and More

For those of us with any more than a smidgin of interest in racing, the upcoming week is one of the more looked forward to. Papers are full of horses, fashion, back stories and a racing themed scandal – as there is again this year with the solicitor that has appeared to have fleeced many racing participants.

For us involved at the pointy end of the sport, however, it is what happens on the track that we are most interested in. And this year is no different.

Unlike the past 165 years when Melbourne racing dominated the first week of November, Sydney racing now occupies the attention of many. Only 2 years ago, on Derby Day, I'm Thunderstruck won the Golden Eagle, a race worth almost as much as the Cup itself. This year, while many of our Daqiansweet Junior owners will have one eye on the running of the Cup, their other eye will be on Cepheus in the Big Dance (\$3m) at Randwick. Indeed many will also have more than a passing interest in Eglemont in the Little Dance (\$750,000). Such is the new way on Cup day.

The purists will ask, "How can this be allowed to happen?" They will see it sacrilege that other major race meetings are being scheduled during Cup week. Peter V'Landy's and his team will simply answer, "We're running these meetings because we can and we believe it is good for NSW Racing." It's a simple case of traditionalism verses financial pragmatism.

Of course the real question will ultimately be, "What does Cup week look like under these new arrangements?" There can be no argument that many good horses, that would have otherwise been in Melbourne will now be racing in Sydney. Time will tell if that impacts betting, the lifeblood of stakes.

With the VRC flagging a target patronage of 250,000, down 46,000 on the year before Covid, there appears acceptance that patronage, which naturally flows onto private and corporate hospitality, will fall. On the back of the dire consequences of Covid, this becomes a challenge for the VRC, who's business is dependent on Cup week. We all hope that the impact of Sydney's aggression does not shake the foundations of the great club. Again time will tell.

In the meantime, our owners can look forward to the excitement of being in many of next week's big races and more importantly, enjoying successes. Good luck!

OTI WEEKEND & CUP WEEK RUNNERS

It's been a quieter few weeks for connections with three winners across Australia, including Cloudland, Eagles Crag and Amade, who took home the Group 3 Geelong Cup after 912 days between wins. Amade will now head through to the 2600m Group 3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes at the end of Cup week, so hopefully owners don't have to wait as long for his next win!

Looking ahead to the weekend, we've got six runners, starting with Guido on Friday at The Valley. We then look forward to an exciting week with our spring stars lined up to take on their main targets, including the Group 1 Lexus Melbourne Cup.

In the video [HERE](#), Shayne will take you through our runners, which includes the likes of Athabaskan, Baby Rider and more.

WINNERS



EAGLES CRAG

1600m BM80, Doomben
Trained by O'Dea Hoysted Racing



CLOUDLAND

1250m 4yo&Up BM72, Randwick Kensington
Trained by Kris Lees

2023 GEELONG CUP

AMADE

2400m Group 3 Geelong Cup, Geelong Trained by Phillip Stokes



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DAMIEN OLIVER

An interview with Damien Oliver - 129 time Group 1 winning jockey and racing legend. The GOAT (Greatest Of All Time).

Click **HERE** to watch the full interview with jockey Damien Oliver, where we chat about his career start in Perth, his journey to Group 1 success and what lies ahead after his retirement in one month's time.

Find below a few of his greatest moments of his career.



Damien Oliver and Lee Freedman celebrate the 1992 Caulfield Cup win of Mannerism.



Damien Oliver wins the Melbourne Cup on Doriemus in 1995



Damien Oliver celebrating the Melbourne Cup win on Fiorente in 2013



Damien Oliver and Apache Cat win the Australia Stakes in 2009



Damien Oliver wins the Cup on Media Puzzle in 2002

OTI'S 2023 MELBOURNE CUP RUNNER (S)

After an exciting Melbourne Cup run last year, finishing 6th, Daqiansweet Junior will take his place again in this year's edition. Currently sitting at spot 12 in the ballot, he will carry 51.5kg with Daniel Stackhouse booked to ride the gelding.

Yet to be confirmed, but a slight chance of getting a run is Athabaskan, who currently sits at spot 26 in the ballot. Currently accepted for the Lexus Archer Stakes on Derby Day, a final decision on whether or not he runs before the Melbourne Cup will be made on Saturday morning, but it is looking likely now. See the current field for the Melbourne Cup [here](#).

Hopefully we can cheer on two OTI runners in the 2023 Melbourne Cup!

Melbourne Cup Day Race Times

10.45am Race 1

11.20am Race 2

12.00pm Race 3

12.40pm Race 4

1.20pm Race 5

1.55pm Race 6

3.00pm Race 7 Melbourne Cup

3.50pm Race 8

4.35pm Race 9

5.15pm Race 10



Pictured: Daqiansweet Junior in the 2022 Melbourne Cup

SPRING RUNNERS

To keep up to date on our black-type performances and feature 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
21 Oct '23	Caulfield	G2	Thousand Guineas Prelude	Vivy Air	1400m	3yoF SWP	\$300,000	2nd
21 Oct '23	Ascot (UK)	NA	Balmoral Handicap Stakes	Docklands	1600m	3yo&Up Hcp	£200,000	3rd
25 Oct '23	Geelong	G3	Geelong Cup	Amade	2400m	Open Hcp	\$500,000	1st

Date	Track	Race Level	Race Name	Horses Potentially Running	Distance	Race Type	Prizemoney	
04 Nov '23	Flemington	G3	Lexus Archer Stakes	Athabaskan	2500m	Quality Hcp	\$300,000	
04 Nov '23	Rosehill	NA	Rosehill Gold Cup	Baby Rider	2000m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$750,000	
05 Nov '23	Curragh (IRE)	LR	Finale Stakes	Feathertop	2400m	3yo&Up SWP	€40,000	
07 Nov '23	Flemington	G1	Melbourne Cup	Athabaskan Daqiansweet Junior	3200m	Open Hcp	\$7,430,000	
07 Nov '23	Flemington	LR	TAB Trophy Stakes	Warmonger	1800m	3yo SWP	\$175,000	
07 Nov '23	Randwick	NA	Big Dance	Cepheus	1600m	3yo&Up Qlty Hcp	\$3,000,000	
07 Nov '23	Randwick	NA	Little Dance	Eaglemont	1600m	3yo&Up Qlty Hcp	\$750,000	

INTRODUCING EUROLINK '23

We are delighted to announce Eurolink '23. Three quality yearling colts & geldings have been joined by a two-year-old filly to provide an exciting group of youngsters, who are planned to come to Australia at the end of their three-year-old careers.

Following its launch last year, Eurolink now has an established role for the sourcing of European horses for OTI. With the successes of its forerunners (3yo's - Docklands, Feathertop, Deakin, and Sevens's Knight etc) and the talent being shown by the Eurolink '22 stock, the strategy of buying young horses, educating and racing them in Europe before bringing them to Australia, is proving to be both quality and financially sound.

The seamless transition between the European trainer and a preselected Australian counterpart further reinforces the value of the concept by ensuring horses are programmed with a career, rather than short-term objectives in mind.

The basics of Eurolink are:

- To acquire young European horses and place them with European trainers for their education and two and three-year-old careers.
- Upon purchase, each horse is matched with an Australian trainer who is planned to take over the horse from the European trainer at the end of their three-year-old season.
- Once moved to Australia, the European trainer continues to attract a 3% royalty from race wins.

The Eurolink '23 horses are:

- Rising 2yo colt by New Bay with Fabrice Chappet in France, who will transfer to Ben, JD & Will Hayes.
- Rising 2yo colt by Saxon Warrior with Harry Charlton in the UK, who will transfer to his brother Tom Charlton at the John O'Shea stable.
- Rising 2yo gelding by Awtaad with Harry Eustace in the UK, who will transfer to Ciaran Maher & David Eustace.
- A rising 3yo filly called Baroness Von Aesch, who is with Joseph O'Brien in Ireland and will transfer to Joe Pride.

Eurolink '23 offers partners the opportunity to experience the wonderful racing atmospheres at Royal Ascot or Longchamp, as OTI partners enjoyed this year!

For more information on the program, please contact oti@oti.com.au.



QUIZ

NAME THE STALLION

Hint: Win O'Clock

1. Who was Damien Oliver's first Group 1 winner?
2. Who trained this year's Cox Plate winner Romantic Warrior?
3. Who ran the fastest Melbourne Cup of all time?



VAIN - ARTICLE BY TIM HOLLAND

As we ready ourselves for the Flemington Carnival next week it's worth reflecting on those champion horses whose stellar exploits in Cup Week have franked their fame. It's a very select group including Phar Lap, Carbine, Rising Fast and Makybe Diva.

At the top of the tree in this elite group is the fabulous Vain, who lit up the 1969 Cup week probably like no other horse in Cup week before or since, with the possible exception of Phar Lap's 1930 four-peat. It was quite a show in terms of both his stunning looks and his jaw-dropping performances. 1969 was probably the most remarkable Carnival that Flemington has ever hosted; while Vain dominated the three days that he ran, and had a day off for the Cup, Big Philou filled in the gap on Cup Day with the drama of his sensational doping-related late scratching from the Cup.

Bred and owned by the Johnson brothers - Fred, George and Wally - Vain was born on 5 September 1966. He was by the leading imported French sire Wilkes, out of the well-performed racing mare Elated. Wilkes sired many Group 1 winners, including 3 Golden Slipper winners and the outstanding mare Wenona Girl, but the greatest of his progeny was unquestionably Vain. As for Elated, while she had a good race record she was very underwhelming as a producer - except for Vain. Just goes to show how breeding can be a lottery at times.

Vain stepped out for the first time in the Debutant Stakes on Caulfield Guineas Day 1968 at 8/1 - the only time he didn't start at odds-on in a race - and duly put the field away with ease. Caulfield Guineas Day would be revisited by him in the main event a year later.

His next outing was on Derby Day where he strolled in by 8 lengths in the Maribyrnong Plate. Again, Derby Day was to be revisited by him 12 months later to great acclaim.

After two more easy wins in the autumn it was off to Sydney for the Golden Slipper and a showdown with the brilliant Special Girl, daughter of Wenona Girl. The hype in the press on either side of the border was amazing, particularly with the Sydney press scoffing at the idea that their special girl could be beaten by the colt from the south. It was quite a thing.

In the event Vain handed out a thrashing to the field, running them off their feet in what was his trademark style, and establishing himself as a star. After a rare defeat (2nd in the Sires Produce - probably shouldn't have run) normal transmission was resumed in the Champagne Stakes with a 10 lengths win, and still going away at the line.

His return in the spring saw two more wins before he ran another 2nd, this time to Daryl's Joy at the Valley. It should be noted that the 3yo Daryl's Joy was a star who won the CoxPlate/VRC Derby double that year and went on to be a multiple Group winner in the US, setting a track record at Santa Anita. Bill Collins in the call said at the finish that "we now know Vain can't get the mile". An assessment from the Accurate One that didn't stand up too well in succeeding weeks - a rare bad call, to go with his famous "Kingston Town can't win!" during the running of the 1982 Cox Plate.

Vain turned the tables on Daryl's Joy with an easy win in the Caulfield Guineas and a race record, putting the first nail in the coffin of the Bill Collins "he's not a miler" kerbside valuation.

On to Cup Week, and what an assault it was by the striking chestnut colt. He warmed up against the older horses in what is now the G1 Darley Sprint up the Flemington straight six.



VAIN...CONTINUED

Carrying the big weight for a 3yo of 54kgs in what was then a Handicap, Vain won by 12 lengths. That's right, 12 lengths and carrying 54kgs. The margin is said to be the biggest ever in a top level sprint/mile race in Australia, and he was carrying the grandstand to boot. Simply extraordinary.

Already a big draw card, Vain had now really caught the public's attention and become the major star of Australian racing. However he wasn't done yet with building his legend.

On Oaks Day he went round in the 1400m Linlithgow Stakes, winning by 6 lengths and smashing the track record against a class field which included the star performers Black Onyx and Our Faith.

Still not finished, Vain fronted up in what is now the G1 Champions Mile. Carrying the massive weight for his age of 55.5kgs, Vain cruised in by 1.25 lengths, leaving very good older horses like Magic Ruler, Black Onyx, Cyron and Our Faith in his wake. I believe that it was by some margin the greatest weight carried by a horse of his age in a G1 sprint/mile, and he won with Pat Hyland riding him hands and heels down the straight. In a stellar career, what turned out to be his final race was up there with his finest performances, probably on a par or just shaded by the Derby Day rampage the previous week.

Unfortunately the champ was unable to resume in the autumn due to a fetlock injury, and was retired to stud, and characteristically he proved to be a star in the breeding barn as well. Apart from the top progeny he sired he also appears on both sides of the pedigree page of another superstar, Black Caviar. Vain was the damsire of BC's sire Bel Esprit, and Vain was the also the sire of Song of Norway the dam that sits atop the great family that includes Black Caviar.

We are lucky to have racing footage of Vain, and you can see from it that, far from needing the whip, Pat Hyland looks more like someone who is strategically releasing the handbrake as races unfolded and giving a little more rein to the colt. His racing pattern was like his great descendant Black Caviar, although while BC would usually cruise to the line after jumping to the lead at the start then laying down blistering sectionals mid-race, Vain tended to just keep on building the margin all the way to the post. To my eye the two champions also had a resemblance in their powerful body shapes even if their colourings were very different.

It's worth noting that the colt was not the only member of Team Vain who left their mark in the racing industry with their progeny. Trainer Jim Moloney is the father of trainers John and Gerard Moloney, and the grandfather of G1-winning jockey Patrick Moloney, who is known to OTI owners. Pat Hyland, who rode Vain to all his wins, has a family that has stamped the Hyland name in many aspects of the industry.

Vain was 25 when he passed away, and always doing things in style this occurred on Christmas Day. Apart from his greatness as a racehorse, one theme that recurs in accounts by those who handled him was his gentle nature. The perfect champion!

Vain shone like a comet over the Australian racing scene in a career that lasted less than 13 months. He left an indelible mark on racing both on the track and as a sire, but his sensational 1969 Cup Week exploits truly stamped his greatness. In researching this I looked at some YouTube material, including a short video done by Graham McNeice in the 1980s which shows quite a bit of his racing footage; it's well worth looking at as his demolition of high quality fields has to be seen to be believed.

As you might gather I'm an unabashed fan of the Big Fella, and as a youngster I was hooked on the sport of racing by following his greatness. Decades later I was at Flemington on an April day when Black Caviar did a Vain-like performance with power and beauty in her first start as a 2yo. I was similarly captivated and it was a great pleasure to be able to savour the progress of her scintillating career as it unfolded, fortunately for a bit longer than the career of her ancestor.

SNIPPETS

Podcast Recommendation - Lucinda Russell, Horse Trainer

Lucinda Russell is a Scottish racehorse trainer. Her stables in Kinross have sent out almost 900 winners, including two Grand National Champions. She is one of only two Scottish trainers and four women to have celebrated a Grand National win since the event began in 1839, and her yard is the most successful in the history of Scottish jump racing.

Click [here](#) to listen to the podcast.

Thailand to Become New International Racing Hub

Thailand is being touted as the new Asian racing hub capable of replacing the Singapore industry, with plans to build a racecourse on a greenfield site in the country's capital with the capacity for up to 1,500 horses.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed between property developer JCK Co Ltd, a publicly listed company on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, and the owner of a parcel of land near Bangkok's international airport which has been deemed suitable for a new racecourse and training centre to be constructed.

Koh revealed more certainty over the proposal would be known in the coming months, but he hopes construction of the racecourse could be completed in three years' time, and he believes the Thai population would support racing in droves.

"I think using Hong Kong and Singapore as the model, they [Thailand Horse Racing Association] would like something of a similar scale," said Koh.

The desire is for the new track to race twice a week, requiring a horse population of about 1,500, a number which Singapore had during its halcyon period in the late 2000s, with initial prize-money about on par with what neighbouring Malaysia races for, which is approximately AU\$4,750 to a little over AU\$12,000 per race.

The above is an excerpt of the ANZ Bloodstock article from Tim Rowe and can be read in full [here](#).

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Submariner - Show Day Cup (Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes) over 1400m at Caulfield in 1990, trained by Bart Cummings
2. Danny Shum
3. 3min16sec by Kingston Rule in 1990

NAME THE STALLION - Australia, sire of our Hamilton Cup winner Win O'Clock



Pictured: Win O'Clock wins the Hamilton Cup