



OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



IN THIS EDITION

WEEKEND
PREVIEW AND
RECENT
WINNERS

AN INTERVIEW
WITH JOE PRIDE

EUROLINK '23

INTRODUCING A
COLT BY
CONTRIBUTER

QUIZ

HISTORY OF THE
PHOTO-FINISH

SNIPPETS

To Sell or Not to Sell - It's More Complicated Than That!

The passion surrounding the potential selloffs of Rosehill and Sandown racecourses is understandable. However, that passion should be tempered by a more fundamental decision – what is the best way forward for the future, having regard to racing and training needs and the true value of assets available for realisation? Like so many decisions, the best results are likely to be a hybrid.

When it comes to racetracks, there are two major needs to be met – those of racing and those of training. Worldwide most racing jurisdictions separate training from racing. The needs of training horses to the highest standard, often conflicts with the need to have the best possible tracks to race on. Most around the world would say that you are better to separate the two functions, so in Rosehill's case, the sale of the property would bring about the need to have two new assets to meet racing's needs, albeit racing could be merged into an existing track – as South Australia did when it closed Cheltenham (and we now know the ultimate result of that).

When it comes to racetracks, it's important that they be prepared to the highest quality and be accessible to as many as possible. In both Sandown and Rosehill's case, it is a no brainer that given the geographic location, both racetracks are well placed where they are currently situated.

The retention of racetracks at both Rosehill and Sandown does not inhibit the ability of either the ATC or the MRC to look at maximising their assets for the betterment of their clubs. In recent times we have witnessed Moonee Valley undertake a substantial residential development program around its track. While there were significant issues to be faced by the MVRC initially, the ultimate gains to be made because of the development, will shore up the club's finances for many decades. It will have been able to do this at the same time as improving the racing product. The Melbourne Racing Club itself, has already done much the same with their selloffs on excess land.

The question must be asked - why can't Sandown (MRC) and Rosehill (ATC) follow similar models. Sure, such models will not attract huge (and possible dubious) dollar sums being promulgated in the media, but they will provide substantial financial reserves for the clubs to do what they're there to do - run race meetings and promote and develop the racing product.

Hopefully both the ATC and the MRC committees will not go to their respective membership groups (the people who will ultimately decide) with black or white alternatives. They should have sufficient faith in their membership group to realise that if they want approval for substantial developments, ensuring racing remains on their tracks, is at the heart of a 'yes' vote. That will not stop either club from taking advantage of the financial benefits from realising excess assets.

– Terry Henderson

OTI WEEKEND PREVIEW

WEEKEND PREVIEW

We are heading into an exciting weekend of racing, including four black-type runners in quality races in Australia and New Zealand. Amade will kick off the action on Friday night at The Valley, before we continue with a busy Saturday at Caulfield, Rosehill, Doomben and Otaki.

Watch the video [HERE](#) where Terry and Gus take you through our runners.

We wish our connections all the very best of luck!



Pictured: Thursday night at Pakenham Races (picture from Racing.com)



Lady Laguna

1200m **Group 3 TAB Southern Cross Stakes**, Rosehill
Trained by Annabel Neasham (shots courtesy of Ashlea Brennan)



WINNERS

We enjoyed a fruitful period between Gazettes, which included 7 wins, one of those at Group 3 level.



Altruist

1400m 3yo BM64, Morphettville
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr.



Miss Subtly

1100m Class 1, Gawler
Trained by Phillip Stokes



Never No More

1350m Open Handicap, Doomben
Trained by Matthew Dunn



Mark Twain

2100m BM75, Te Rapa (NZ)
Trained by Roger James & Robert Wellwood



Caracas

1600m 3yo Maiden, Pakenham
Trained by Anthony & Sam Freedman

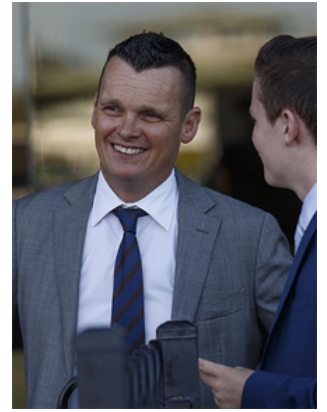


Gallagher

2100m Maiden, Stony Creek
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOE PRIDE

Joe Pride - Terrific trainer of The Everest winner 'Think About It' and future trainer of the Eurolink '23 filly, Baroness Von Aesch.



Where did you grow up and were you surrounded by horses from a young age?

I grew up in Dunedin, New Zealand until I was 11 and then the rest of the time in Sydney. I was not surrounded by horses at all and didn't get involved with them until I was about 20.

How did you get involved in the horse racing industry, and did you always want to be a trainer?

During my Uni holidays at The University of Sydney, I went to work at a stable and fell in love with it. I was happy to just work in the industry and didn't have any aspirations to be a trainer at first. After working in the stables for about 5 years, I thought that a career as a trainer might suit me.

Who has been the biggest mentor or influence on your career?

That's an easy one, John Size. He is one of the most successful trainers in Hong Kong history, but he helped give me the push I needed to go out on my own.

What would you say are the main skills needed to be successful in your role?

I'd say it's a very broad set of skills, we're dealing with the media, owners, staff and then the horses. Basically, you have to be a bit of a jack of all trades to make it work nowadays.

What would you say was the most challenging and most rewarding part of being a trainer?

The most rewarding part is definitely the race days, and the most challenging I would say is the grind of the day-to-day routine, which seems to be relentless with racing all year around.

What was your most memorable racing experience or win to date?

The Everest last year with 'Think About It'.

You are blessed with a number of top horses. Is there one exciting horse that stands out heading into the autumn?

Probably 'Think About It'. I just can't get him out of my mind with what he did last year, winning The Everest, and he is definitely a very exciting horse. We are going to try him out in trip this autumn, which will be interesting.

If you were not a horse trainer, what profession appeals to you?

Maybe a rugby league coach, I feel like it's a very similar set of skills. You have to bring together a big team and make it all work together.

Given the opportunity, what would be the first thing you'd change in the racing industry in Australia?

I would set up some better staff training pathways to make the job easier for everybody!

EUROLINK '23

We are delighted to reintroduce Eurolink '23. Three quality two-year-old colts & geldings have been joined by a three-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 in 2022, Eurolink now has an established role for the sourcing of European horses for OTI. With the successes of its forerunner (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 Eurolink '23 horses are:

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



Baroness Von Aesch



Awtaad x Tahneed '22



New Bay x Mt Of Beatitudes '22



Saxon Warrior x Saadatt '22

OTI'S 2024 AUTUMN CARNIVAL

An exciting few months ahead of us with plenty of horses competing during the Autumn Carnival. Click [HERE](#) to get to the spreadsheet, which includes all possible OTI black-type runners over the next few months.

| Date | Track | Race Level | Race Name | Horses Potentially Running | Distance | Race Type | Prizemoney | Result |
|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------------|-------------|--------|
| Feb 3, '24 | Rosehill | G3 | Southern Cross Stakes | Lady Laguna | 1200m | 3yo&Up Qlty | \$250,000 | 1st |
| Feb 17, '24 | Ellerslie (NZ) | G2 | Avondale Guineas | Interlinked | 2100m | 3yo SW | NZ\$175,000 | 3rd |
| Feb 23, '24 | The Valley | Listed | Torney Night Cup | Amade | 2500m | Open Hcp | \$200,000 | |
| Feb 24, '24 | Rosehill | G2 | Millie Fox Stakes | Lady Laguna | 1300m | 3yo&Up F&M SWP | \$300,000 | |
| Feb 24, '24 | Rosehill | Listed | Parramatta Cup | Principessa | 1900m | 3yo&Up Qlty | \$200,000 | |
| Feb 24, '24 | Caulfield | G2 | Caulfield Autumn Classic | Caracas | 1800m | 3yo SW | \$300,000 | |
| Feb 24, '24 | Caulfield | G2 | Peter Young Stakes | Selino | 1800m | WFA | \$300,000 | |

INTRODUCING A STRONG COLT BY CONTRIBUTER

Knowing John O'Shea's affiliation with Contributor's stock, we were thrilled to join him in acquiring a yearling colt at Karaka with a striking resemblance to the stable's Group 1 winner and \$2m earner Lion's Roar.

An athletic walk, strong muscle tone and great balance, this colt was an ideal candidate for our Sydney stable.



To view the colt on parade and hear the thoughts of our NZ agent, Phill Cataldo, please click [here](#).

Following his successful racing career with John, Contributor has done a strong job at stud, producing 16% stakes performers to runners. As well as Lion's Roar, he's also the sire of Group 1 winner Campionessa and recent Group 2 Autumn Stakes winner Snow Patrol, who is a live contender for the Group 1 Australian Guineas.

Now enjoying a summer break, the colt will travel over to Australia in April to commence his education. Though expected to be best suited as a three-year-old, he has the strength to suggest he can race at two for us. In the hands of a 29-time Group 1-winning trainer at the quality Randwick facilities, we're sure he'll get every chance to reach his potential.

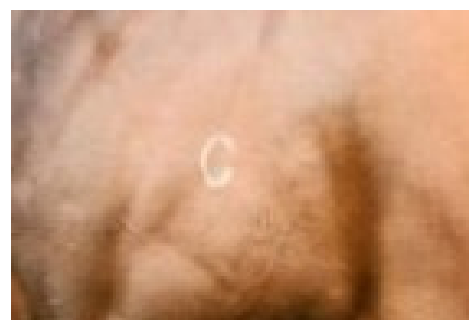
Contact is welcome to discuss opportunities in the colt - oti@oti.com.au

QUIZ

NAME THE STUD

Hint: Fastnet Rock

1. How many Group 1's has sprinting mare Imperatriz won to date?
2. Which race will OTI horse Interlinked head to next?
3. Which country has trainer David Eustace relocated to?



The Development of the Photo-finish in Racing

by Barrier Rogue

(This story comes with trigger warnings for those who've had a horse beaten in a big race in a tight photo finish! Look away now if you might be worried about the score...)

On Cox Plate day I was sitting in the grandstand just past the post. In the frantic finish I thought that the Hayes boys had won the big one with the marvellous Mr Brightside. I immediately watched the replay of the finish on the big screen taken from the better vantage point of the television camera right on the line. I still thought that Mr Brightside had done the business. Then the photo came up on the screen and the evidence was there that Hong Kong's Romantic Warrior had lunged to a win by a nostril.

After getting over my surprise I wondered about the development of the photo-finish technology that is so important to the sport of racing, and to other sports. Back in the olden days when Queen Anne, Lord Derby and others were building the structure of what we now know as the racing industry, cameras were not available. The technological precursor of the camera was the painting, but it would hardly be a practical help to the judges of the day in deciding the result of a close finish to have the option to commission a portrait of the finish.

Apparently the earliest use of a camera in a photo-finish was in the US in 1890. This proved unsatisfactory as there was no way of getting the picture reliably at the right point of the race when the horses went past the winning post. This was an ongoing problem even when movie cameras were employed over the succeeding decades, as the frame rate was not quick enough to catch the critical moment of the horses crossing the line.

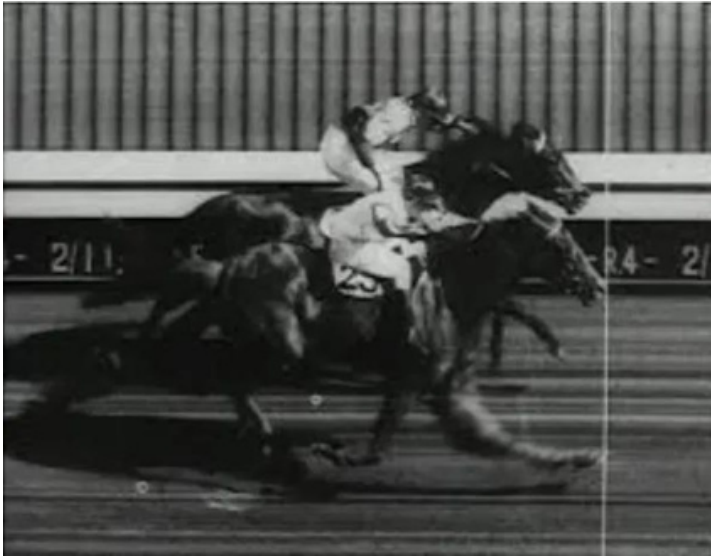
In the US, development of the so called circular flow camera by Lorenzo Del Riccio in the 1930s provided a system that was able to capture the image of horses on the line.

The VRC's History of the Melbourne Cup says that the American system was flawed, and the Melbourne racing clubs did a feasibility study in 1939 and decided against using the overseas system; one member of the feasibility study panel said "The camera is a fad. It has no future." A bit like the daguerreotype-deniers from 100 years earlier, or the internet sceptics of the early 1990s.

In 1945, Melbourne photographer Bertram Pearl and his friend, celebrated society photographer Athol Shmith, came up with their own solution to the problem. Pearl built a camera that was driven by the spring motor of his wife's gramophone machine, with film moving at a speed similar to the horses, and a narrow slit that captured the images of the horses as they crossed the line. Another innovation of Pearl's was to use a mirror system to capture the image of both sides of the horses. When the race was finished the negatives were then taken away quickly and carefully from the tower at the finish line to a nearby temporary darkroom where prints were developed within a minute.

The Development of the Photo-finish in Racing

This new state-of-the-art system was employed for the first time in July 1946 at Flemington and was subsequently used for all races from then on. Its first big test in a Melbourne Cup was in 1948, and ironically the photo-finish created a controversy that has continued to have life down the years.



Rimfire, the rank outsider wins the Melbourne Cup in 1948



The last stages of the 1948 Melbourne Cup

Following a driving finish the judge looked at the print and gave the race to Rimfire at 80/1 in front of the more fancied Dark Marne. Rimfire, apart from being a long shot, had the distinction of being ridden by a 15 year old, Ray Neville, riding in only his 9th race. Ray's subsequent career didn't set the world on fire, ending as a jumps jockey, but what a dream start!

Leading jockey Jack Thompson was on Dark Marne, and argued till his dying day that he had won, a sentiment echoed by quite a few on course that day. The developed print showed Rimfire getting to the line first, but that then led to the suggestion that the photo-finish equipment was set up on the wrong alignment. This was denied, but after a similar kerfuffle after the 1949 Australian Cup the following March it has been said that there was an adjustment made to the position of the camera. Subsequent VRC CEO Rod Johnson was working at the VRC as a 16 year old at the time, and he later rejected the suggestion that that had happened.

The Pearl/Shmith system stood the test of time for over 50 years until digital technology took over in 1997. As if on cue, Might and Power and Doriemus put on another cliff-hanger to introduce the new system.

These days the cameras operate to 1/10,000 of a second and there is great confidence in the reliability of race results. In more recent years the judge has had to have recourse to the photo-finish in the Cup, with Viewed and Bauer in 2008 providing the closest finish in Cup history until Dunaden and Red Cadeaux went even closer in 2011.

SNIPPETS

Vale Verry Elleegant

Connections of Melbourne Cup winning mare Verry Elleegant were in mourning on Monday morning, after it was confirmed that the mare had passed away due to complications giving birth to her first foal.

Verry Elleegant won 16 races during her career as a racehorse, 11 of them at Group 1 level, including the 2020 Caulfield Cup and 2021 Melbourne Cup. She was also named the Australasian Racehorse of the Year for 2020/21.

Our thoughts are with her connections and everyone who was involved with the mare.



Pictured: Verry Elleegant wins the 2021 Melbourne Cup

Channel 9 broadcast deal for Melbourne Cup Carnival

Victoria Racing Club Chairman Neil Wilson told members early Tuesday morning that a six-year deal between Channel 9 and Tabcorp had been secured.

"The Victoria Racing Club, Tabcorp and Nine Entertainment are pleased to announce a groundbreaking broadcast, media and sponsorship deal for the world-famous Melbourne Cup Carnival from 2024 to 2029."

The rights were previously with the Ten Network. Tabcorp had previously secured a media and broadcast deal with the VRC, but needed a broadcaster to showcase racing's biggest week.

Racing.com, as the Victorian owned racing media business, has broadcast the Cup Carnival alongside Ten and the VRC under the previous rights agreement and it is believed will seek to continue the arrangements with the new rights holder.

The above is an excerpt from the Racing.com article and can be read in full [here](#).

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. 9 Group 1's, the latest being the G1 Black Caviar Lightning
2. NZ Derby
3. Hong Kong

NAME THE STUD - The brand 'C' stands for Coolmore



Pictured: Fastnet Rock standing at Coolmore Stud