



# OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



## IN THIS EDITION

WEEKEND  
RUNNERS AND  
RECENT  
WINNERS

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH INGLIS'  
HARRY BAILEY

DUBAI WORLD  
CUP MEETING

INTRODUCING  
NO FUSS

QUIZ

RETIRED  
CHAMPIONS

SNIPPETS

### **Racing's Future – There's Always Work to be Done**

The Melbourne Cup is historically as synonymous with Australian culture as you can get. However, there are worrying signs that this won't be the case in the future. Indeed, its position in our national physique mirrors that of racing more generally. To be blunt, if we do not address our social license as a matter of urgency, others will address it for us.

The Melbourne Cup puts over \$400m into the Victorian economy. The Australian Tennis Open and The Grand Prix also make significant contributions. However, the two key differences between the Cup and the other two events are that their attendance is growing while the Cup's is shrinking, and while the Victorian government makes substantial contributions to The Open and The Grand Prix, the Cup is self-funded. Imagine what racing could do with an extra \$20m (the Vic Government's contribution to the Aust Open) to promote not only the Cup but the industry in general. With an appropriate strategy, it could well debunk the misinformation that the sport's opponents appear to have little trouble spreading.

Such a suggestion presupposes that we have a structure and people in place to drive appropriate messaging. Unfortunately, in this area, we are our own worst enemy. Given the impasse between New South Wales and the rest of the states, Racing Australia remains toothless. Victoria's situation is not much better, given the lack of a Chairman for RVL for almost a year and the ongoing bickering between the metropolitan race clubs and RVL.

So many good things have happened in our industry over the past few years that provide great ammunition against our distractors. Horse welfare has become a key focus for all participants, female participation in our training and jockey ranks has grown to a level that is more than comparable with other sports and industries, and more of our trainers, both men and women, are showcasing our sport with professional, modern-day approaches to the training and treatment of horses. Unfortunately, few people in the places that matter, are promoting these positive areas.

Horse racing has so many attributes for people of all persuasions. Indeed, it can be argued that it is also good for the horse, albeit that there are certain aspects of racing that could change to make it more socially acceptable. If we want to see the attendance at the Melbourne Cup Carnival return to the record levels of a decade ago, our industry leaders must get their act together and aggressively promote the sport.

– Terry Henderson

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS



## OTI Weekend Preview

We are heading into another exciting weekend of Group 1 racing action, including five black-type runners in quality races in New South Wales and South Australia.

Amade, Athabasca and Selino will kick off the action on Saturday at Randwick in the Sydney Cup, before we head to South Australia with Warmonger and Vivy Air set to compete in key Derby/Oaks lead ups.

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

We wish our connections all the very best of luck this weekend!

### WINNERS



**Stuck With You**  
1820m Open Handicap, Eagle Farm  
Trained by Matthew Dunn



**The Creator**  
1600m 0-64 Handicap, Pakenham  
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr



**Norwoods**  
1400m Maiden, Horsham  
Trained by Tom Dabernig



**Nettles**  
1300m Class 1, Canberra  
Trained by Annabel Neasham



**Belthil**  
1412m St Pat's Cup, Geelong  
Trained by Andrew Bobbin



**Mark Twain**  
2600m Listed Roy Higgins, Flemington  
Trained by Roger James & Robert Wellwood



# AN INTERVIEW WITH HARRY BAILEY

Harry Bailey - *Senior Bloodstock Consultant for Inglis, based in Sydney*

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

I grew up in Lambourn in the UK which is a major training centre for racehorses an hour west of London. My father was (and still is) a National Hunt (jumps) trainer, so I grew up surrounded by horses. I was obsessed with the sport from a young age - at age 6 I used to show owners around the yard and recite every single detail about the horses - where they had run, what they had won, who owned etc... If only my memory was as good today!



## **How did you get involved in the horse racing industry?**

With both of my parents heavily involved in the industry, it was inevitable I would end up in the sport some way or other. In my late teenage years and early 20's I spent time in the USA with Bobby Frankel & Juddmonte, Ed Dunlop in Newmarket and Eddie Hales in Ireland. However, my parents were adamant I was to get a "real job", so I embarked on a career as a Chartered Surveyor in the London commercial property market working for 5 years. However, I had an itch to scratch and in 2017 (much to my mother's dismay) I moved to Australia to work for Gai Waterhouse.

## **Did you always aspire to be a bloodstock consultant, or did you have something else in mind?**

I had always wanted to be a racehorse trainer. Despite my parents' best efforts to dissuade me, I moved to Sydney in 2017 to work for Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott after meeting Adrian at the Tattersalls Sale in Newmarket. Working for Gai and Adrian was brilliant - I loved it. Bloody hard work, she they threw me into everything and I learnt so much. I also spent time with Darren Weir in Ballarat which was equally fascinating. He is a fantastic horseman, but they were chalk and cheese in how they trained their horses. Working for them gave me wonderful insight into the contrasting ways horses are trained, especially between the UK and Australia. Whilst I loved it, I also wanted to explore other opportunities within the racing industry, and the thought of getting up at 2.30am for the rest of my life didn't appeal either..! Adrian Bott kindly introduced me to Jonathan D'Arcy at Inglis and I'm still here 5 years later!

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

I have several - not all racing. It sounds a bit cliché, but my parents have been hugely influential as both are strong advocates for hard work and making the most of every moment. Professionally there are plenty. Those that come to mind include my old boss at Savills who was a stickler for detail, Gai was hugely influential which I'm sure many of the human graduates of Tulloch Lodge would agree with, and of course working with a fantastic team at Inglis headed by Sebastian Hutch.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH HARRY BAILEY

## **What is the best piece of advice you've received to date?**

If you are going to do a job, do it properly. Working at Inglis and being exposed to industry participants far and wide, I would also say never judge a book by its cover...

## **What would you say to any young person considering an international move in the racing industry?**

DO IT!! You only live once and what is the worst that can happen, it doesn't have to be permanent! Personally, I feel moving abroad is one of the best decisions I have made in my life to date (and meeting my fiancé..in case she's reading).

## **What are some of the things you personally look for or favour in a yearling?**

Everyone 'looks' for different things in a yearling. What you or someone else may like is subjective, and that is what makes the sales so interesting and the market so healthy - there is no 'right' or 'wrong' approach. I try to look back on my notes on horses that have subsequently been stakes performers and a recurring theme especially for Australian racing is strength - most horses need to have a good degree of natural strength. Although, I'm a bit of a sucker for a kind head and eye! However, all of this is immaterial if the horse doesn't have the instinct and desire to run - which we have little control of.

## **Were you happy with how the recent Easter Yearling Sale rolled out?**

We had tremendous support from breeders who presented some outstanding horses, which we were very grateful for. The appetite to buy high quality stock at the top end of the market was ferocious. It was also very satisfying to see the median price at \$300,000, arguably the best litmus test for the strength of the middle market, which was the joint highest median in the past 5 years. Nonetheless, there was an element of selectivity amongst buyers which has very much been the recurring theme all year. Ultimately, nice horses that vetted well sold accordingly. Naturally, the Winx filly selling for \$10m to Debbie Kepitis' Woppitt Bloodstock - smashing the record price for a yearling in Australia - was incredible to witness. The theatre and atmosphere was like nothing I had seen before; the auditorium was jam packed and the media coverage across all the major news networks can only be a positive for the industry.

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

Speak to anyone in the industry whether it be studs, trainers, spelling farms etc - a major issue is the shortage of staff, especially good staff. This is of course a problem across many industries. There are plenty of great initiatives providing opportunities for young people looking for pathways into the industry but in many cases they can only take a small number of students and are on a state by state basis. A centralised approach which can be rolled out across all states could be more effective at providing pathways for young people into the industry. For example, if you are looking to work for a trainer a programme like The British Racing School in the UK could be hugely effective - <https://brs.org.uk/>.

# DUBAI - GLOBAL RACING AT ITS BEST

While the Dubai village has been there for a millennia, Dubai today stands as the newest of the major cities worldwide. Those who have witnessed its growth cannot help but be impressed by the remarkable display of human ingenuity.

For racehorse lovers, the city has a unique role in the racing world. Although Qatar and Riyadh have been mirroring success in recent times, for racing impact, the World Cup meeting in Dubai remains the mecca of international racing. Its status at the recent stems from the conduct of premium races on sand and turf surfaces. Unlike the major European, Japanese, or Australian meetings that focus on turf alone, Dubai is a melting pot of the best the international scene can offer.

The stake money on offer attracted top horses from around the globe and it was not surprising that seven different countries produced winners on World Cup Night. OTI was delighted to be represented by the Andre Fabre trained Sevens's Knight in the Dubai Gold Cup. In finishing 6th among some of the best 2 milers in the world, the 4yo entire by Camelot laid the foundation for plans for the Melbourne Cup this November.

Click [here](#) to see Sevens's Knight working and racing in Dubai as well as the extraordinary closing ceremony.

## OTI'S AUTUMN

Our contingent of OTI horses have had a productive autumn so far, headlined by Lady Laguna's win at Group 1 level and Mark Twain's breath-taking run in the Listed Roy Higgins.

Below is a rundown of top-four results so far, and our autumn spreadsheet outlines all potential stakes class targets for the OTI team. This weekend, the likes of Athabasca, Selino, Amade, Vivy Air and Warmonger are all met with important assignments.

To access a copy of the spreadsheet, you can click [here](#) or view our home page.

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	3rd
Feb 24, '24	Rosehill	G2	Millie Fox Stakes	Lady Laguna	1300m	3yo&Up F&M SWP	\$300,000	2nd
Feb 24, '24	Caulfield	G2	Caulfield Autumn Classic	Caracas	1800m	3yo SW	\$300,000	2nd
Mar 9, '24	Randwick	G1	Canterbury Stakes	Lady Laguna	1300m	3yo&Up WFA	\$750,000	1st
Mar 9, '24	Flemington	G3	Matron Stakes	Rivaport	1600m	3yo&Up F&M SWP	\$200,000	4th
Mar 9, '24	Ellerslie (NZ)	G2	Auckland Cup	Mark Twain	3200m	Open Hcp	NZ\$500,000	3rd
Mar 11, '24	Morphettville	G2	Adelaide Cup	Amade	3200m	Open Hcp	\$350,000	4th
Mar 16, '24	Rosehill	G3	Sky High Stakes	Athabasca	2000m	3yo&Up SWP	\$350,000	4th
Mar 22, '24	Albury	Listed	Albury Gold Cup	Regal Lion	2000m	Open Qlty	\$200,000	2nd
Mar 23, '24	Rosehill	G1	George Ryder Stakes	Lady Laguna	1500m	3yo&Up WFA	\$1,000,000	2nd
Mar 23, '24	Rosehill	G3	Epona Stakes	Rivaport	1900m	3yo&Up F&M SWP	\$200,000	3rd
Mar 23, '24	The Valley	G3	Alexandra Stakes	Vivy Air	1600m	3yoF SWP	\$200,000	3rd
Mar 30, '24	Rosehill	G1	H.E. Tancred Stakes	Athabasca	2400m	3yo&Up WFA	\$1,500,000	4th
Mar 30, '24	Flemington	Listed	Roy Higgins Quality	Mark Twain	2600m	3yo&Up Qlty	\$500,000	1st
Apr 13, '24	Randwick	G1	Sydney Cup	Amade Athabasca Selino	3200m	3yo&Up Hcp	\$2,000,000	
Apr 13, '24	Bendigo	Listed	Golden Mile	Green Fly	1600m	Open Hcp	\$200,000	
Apr 13, '24	Morphettville	Listed	Port Adelaide Guineas	Vivy Air Warmonger	1800m	3yo SW	\$120,000	
Apr 13, '24	Morphettville	G3	Auraria Stakes	Vivy Air	1800m	3yoF SWP	\$150,000	



# INTRODUCING 3YO GELDING NO FUSS

## *Untapped Potential | Times Tell the Story*



The times a horse can run in a race are the key indicators of that horse's potential. In the 3yo gelding, No Fuss, it was the initial pointer to the fact that this horse had above-average ability. Subsequently, other important factors arose to add to his appeal.

No Fuss has had only one race start. At Otago, on March 17, he finished 3rd over 1200m on a Soft 5 surface. As the video shows (click [here](#)), he got well back before finishing strongly. Standing 16.2 hands and brown in colour, No Fuss is a scopey type with plenty of physical maturity to come.

No Fuss is by the Group 1 winning son of Iffraaj, Jon Snow. His dam, Hot Fuss, won 2 races and was Stakes placed. She is the daughter of Fuar (by Kaapstad), a Group 3 winner and dam of three Stakes performers. The family is littered with top middle-distance horses, indicating that No Fuss can be effective to 2000m and possibly beyond.

Tony and Calvin McEvoy are delighted to have joined OTI in this purchase. As the trainers of multiple Group 1 winners over various ages and distances, they will give No Fuss every chance to excel. The gelding arrived at their Ballarat stable last Wednesday.

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

## QUIZ

1. In which race did Mark Twain secure the Golden Ticket into the 2024 Melbourne Cup?
2. Where did Daqiansweet Junior finish in the 2023 Melbourne Cup?
3. Which NZ Champion Sprinting Racehorse was retired this week?

### NAME THE HORSE

*Hint: Inglis Easter Sale*



# RETIRED CHAMPIONS - by Barrier Rouge

As Spring buds emerge into full bloom across Europe, racing aficionados start to turn their attention to the serious business of the flat racing season. The horses have had sufficient time to get over their joint birthday celebrations on 1 January, when the age odometer ticked over by one unit for all northern hemisphere horses. With the grass growing again in northern racing jurisdictions fans start to turn their minds towards the "new kids on the block", and also how the stars from the previous year will present in the new season, especially those coming into their Classic Year.

The other side of this coin is the list of stars that have been retired. Foremost amongst these is the magnificent Japanese star, Equinox, the highest rated horse in the world in 2023. Equinox was also the third highest rated horse in 2022 in the Longines World Rankings in his 3yo year. Equinox took all before him in 2023, including setting a record time in the Dubai Sheema Classic on World Cup night in Dubai. In his final race he was a dominant winner of the Japan Cup, beating another top-liner, 3yo filly Liberty Island, the daughter of former Australian star filly, Yankee Rose. Yankee Rose was second in a Golden Slipper, third in a Cox Plate as a 3yo and won the ATC Sires Produce and Spring Champion Stakes; she was the best-performed progeny of the Red Ransom colt, All American, and is now clearly making a great contribution to the fabulous Japanese breeding industry.

Equinox's performance in the Japan Cup is well worth seeking out on YouTube. Equinox is now off to the breeding barn, but it was good that we got to see his world's best talent as a 4yo.

Not so with Ace Impact, the 3yo colt rated the second-highest in the world in the Timeform ratings last year. With a race record of 6 starts for 6 wins, the son of Cracksman (son of Frankel) was retired to stud after his scintillating performance in winning the Arc at Longchamp, which followed his earlier win in the French Derby. He'll be the most anticipated 3yo retiree to hit the stud trail since the brilliant Sea the Stars was retired after his Arc win in 2009, and will commence duty with one of the highest ever first season fees of 40,000 euros - it's at least a French record. Again, do yourself a favour by checking out Ace Impact's Arc win on YouTube.

The previous year the clearly highest rated galloper was the lightly raced US horse, Flightline, who only raced 6 times - three times as a 3yo and three times as a 4yo. A few injury niggles curtailed the number of times he was able to get onto the track, and he missed all three of the Triple Crown races as a 3yo for that reason. But what he wanted for in terms of number of runs he made up for in terms of eye-popping performances. It was quality over quantity.

The son of Tapit finished his 3yo year with an 11.5 lengths win in the Gr1 Malibu Stakes at Santa Anita. In September 2022 he faced the starter for the 5th time in his career in the Gr1 Pacific Classic, up against the reigning winner of the Dubai World Cup, Country Grammer. There were doubts about him at his first try at 2000m but the unbeaten streak continued with a winning margin of over 19 lengths - that's right, 19 lengths. He finished the year and his career by winning the Breeders Cup Classic with a record margin of over 8 lengths against a field studded with G1 winners. In his 6 races, 4 at Gr1 level, the average winning margin was 12 lengths, and he ended his racing career as the highest rated dirt track performer in history, and with a Longines rating equal to Frankel's rating. That's some career, and his performance at stud will now be much anticipated. Again, as per Equinox, it was good that we were able to see him strut his stuff as a 4yo.

In Australia the trend has been to retire colts after their 2yo and 3yo seasons as they are regarded as too valuable as stud prospects to race on. There have been some recent exceptions here, such as Anamoe and Artorius, both of which raced against each other in the Blue Diamond and Golden Slipper - Artorius winning the Blue Diamond and Anamoe placing in both events - and then went on to G1 success as older horses before going to stud.

Anyway, we now look forward to seeing new stars appearing on the European racing scene, and some OTI owners will be hoping that their unraced youngsters can rise to that heady level.

# SNIPPETS

## Daqiansweet Junior retired

Our staying warhorse Daqiansweet Junior has been retired. Affectionately known as 'DJ', he brought us and his connections so much joy on the track:

- 7-time winner of over \$1m
- G2 Adelaide Cup winner
- G1 Sydney Cup placegetter
- 6th in the 2022 Melbourne Cup
- 5th in the 2023 Melbourne Cup

Thanks to the team at Stokes Racing, who loved this horse just as much as we did!

Happy retirement DJ!



## Winx filly makes record-breaking sales result

The first life foal of champion mare Winx went through the sales ring at the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale in Sydney last weekend and was sold for a whopping \$10m. The filly is by five-time G1 winning sire Pierro and was the talk of the sale. The filly was sold to one of the part-owners of Winx herself and will stay in Australia with Chris Waller for her future racing career.

## Annie Alexander - to "Dance With Our Stars"

Dancing With Our Stars is a vital fundraiser for the Ballarat Foundation which is a not-for-profit public benevolent institution which has been supporting the Ballarat community for 41 years. Their work in Ballarat to break cycles of disadvantage is so important for the local community, and Annie is determined to surpass her fundraising goal with the help of the racing community to help the foundation in their ongoing work.

Having never danced in her life before, this is certainly a personal challenge for Annie. Luckily she has Archie at home with his "endless knowledge" of Ballroom Dancing to help her finesse her performance!

If you would like to assist Annie with this most worthwhile cause, click [here](#).

# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Listed Roy Higgins at Flemington
2. 5th
3. Imperatriz

**NAME THE HORSE** - Pierro x Winx yearling filly



Daughter of Winx sells for \$10m