



# OTI GAZETTE

The official newsletter of OTI RACING



## IN THIS EDITION

WEEKEND  
RUNNERS AND  
RECENT  
WINNERS

AN INTERVIEW  
WITH RICH HILL  
STUD'S JOHN  
THOMPSON

WARRNAMBOOL  
CARNIVAL RECAP

INTRODUCING  
EXCITING  
YOUNGSTER  
WITH  
JOHN O'SHEA

ARTICLE BY TIM  
HOLLAND -  
MONTY'S ROCKY  
DAY

QUIZ

SNIPPETS

## The Management (Or Lack of It) in Australian Racing

Management is to business what position is to property. While business depends on quality (management), position depends on location (property). Looking at the management of racing in Australia, our business is severely lacking.

Following hot on the heels of the resignation of the Victoria Racing Club's CEO, Andrew Jones has 'walked' from Racing Victoria. One can only wonder why. Did he fail to carry out the objectives of the Board he reported to, or, as some people think, did he have little direction and hence ran his own agenda? Either way, the RVL Board is primarily responsible. Therefore, given Jones' well-accepted management credentials, his perceived unsuccessful tenure should not rest on his shoulders alone.

Given the structures of Victorian racing, where the three metropolitan clubs have their own, often conflicting agendas, it is reasonable to consider whether the Board is capable of managing Victorian racing at all. That issue will certainly be tested should highly respected administrator Gillon McLachlan take the Chairman's role. Without the ability to harness the objectives of the three city clubs to ensure that decisions are made in the overall best interests of racing in Victoria, he will have inherited a poison chalice.

Victoria isn't alone with management challenges. As more and more information seeps from parties in the debate on the possible sale of Rosehill, we start to appreciate how the people charged with developing and communicating the policy on such an issue appear to be usurped by more powerful influences. It would be most unfortunate if the wishes of members and key stake holders of the ATC were forced to bow to the wishes of the more powerful NSW Racing.

Finally, we see how the management of both Victoria and New South Wales is impacting Racing Australia, a toothless organization. Currently, because of the politics and management, it cannot make the essential decisions for the betterment of racing in Australia.

Our industry faces many social and economic issues. It is currently very hard to see how we will address those issues while persisting with conflicting business structures and poorly directed management. For those who wish to challenge our existence, we are an easy target. We can only hope that should McLachlan be appointed in Victoria, he will be given the right level of support by the Racing Minister to drive structural, social, and economic changes necessary for racing to prosper.

As for New South Wales, Peter Vlandys, who has done wonders for racing in his state, will hopefully take a more conciliatory approach with the other racing jurisdictions in the country. With a new man in the chair in Victoria, that may be possible.

– Terry Henderson

# OTI WEEKEND RUNNERS



## OTI Weekend Preview

After a very busy, but successful week at Warrnambool with three winners, we head into an exciting weekend of racing with multiple Group runners across Australia. Included, the Price Kent trained Warmonger on the short back-up into the Group 1 South Australian Derby.

Watch the weekend preview video where Shayne & Gus take you through our runners [\*\*HERE.\*\*](#)

Wishing all those involved with our horses the very best of luck this weekend!



### Sevenna's Knight

3000m **Group 3 Prix De Barbeville**, Longchamp (FR)  
Trained by Andre Fabre

## WINNERS



### Samurai

2100m Maiden, Echuca  
Trained by Anthony & Sam Freedman



### Green Fly

1400m Handicap, Warrnambool  
Trained by Anthony & Sam Freedman



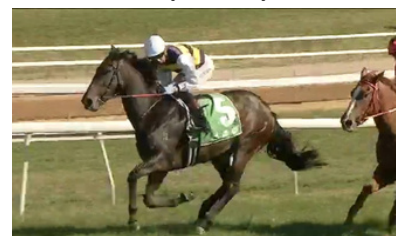
### The Creator

1700m BM70, Warrnambool  
Trained by Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr.



### Kimmorley

1700m BM64, Warrnambool  
Trained by Maddie Raymond



### Perfumist

1100m Gold Nugget, Bathurst  
Trained by Bjorn Baker



### Don Rubio

1600m Maiden, Ballarat  
Trained by Chris Waller

# AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN THOMPSON

John Thompson - *Managing Director at Rich Hill Stud in New Zealand.*



## **How did you become involved in the thoroughbred industry and Rich Hill?**

My father was an equine vet in Matamata. My parents bred and raced several horses and sold yearlings at Trentham sales. I helped prepare their yearlings and took them to the sales. Trentham sales back then was a great racing and sales carnival. This was a good grounding for a career in the thoroughbred industry.

## **Were you always going to be involved in the thoroughbred industry? If you weren't in the industry, what would you be doing?**

I attended Massey University in the 80's and graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science. I was always looking to be involved in agriculture, perhaps in farm advisory. After I graduated the agricultural industry in New Zealand was struggling with high interest rates and removal of SMP's so I decided to travel and this led to working on thoroughbred farms in Ireland, England and Kentucky.

## **You own and run Rich Hill Stud. What do you find are the most fulfilling and challenging aspects of your roll?**

The most fulfilling aspect of the farm is watching our graduates and stallion progeny compete and win at all levels around the globe. The most challenging aspect is to keep the momentum heading in the right direction. It seems sometimes in our industry you are only as good as your last winner.

## **Do you have your family involved in the operation?**

My parents were initial shareholders in Rich Hill along with Alan Galbraith KC. My wife Colleen had to retire from her teaching career to become involved in the business as it grew. My son William has completed a couple of breeding seasons and is now travelling overseas. My daughter Emma is working for NZTR, currently organising the initial NZB Kiwi slot race, so both our children have a passion for the thoroughbred industry.

## **Given NZ's and more particularly your stud's success in Australia in recent years, what do you would recommend to build on this success?**

New Zealand has remained very competitive in world breeding despite the lack of investment compared with other breeding jurisdictions. We are now very fortunate to have a solid platform of stallions, so it is a great time for the industry to invest in broodmares and try and retain more of our successful race mares. Our natural raising systems and productive farmland give us a competitive advantage but increased investment in bloodlines can take our industry to new levels.

## **How are your nerves on sales day. Do you have a routine?**

Most vendors tend to get a little bit wound up before the sale starts, I tend to annoy the staff about making sure everything is under control until they tell me to go away and focus on my own job.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN THOMPSON

**While NZ Bloodstock is your main sale's outlet, do you bring many to Australia to sell. If so, how do you decide who should come?**

Rich Hill have successfully sold in Australia over the years, particularly when Pentire was having great success. It is a very stallion orientated market in Australia however it is important for the New Zealand industry that our best products are showcased at Karaka Sales to enhance the Karaka experience. Going forward it is something we may consider again.

**In your opinion, what are the key significant differences between Australian and NZ thoroughbred sales?**

In Australia there tends to be more input from buyers/owners who are present on the sale ground. In New Zealand a lot of trainers/agents come from overseas to buy a horse on behalf of owners who are not present at the sales. This can have differing effects on the sale depending on budget etc but perhaps in New Zealand it leads to more scrutiny on conformation.

**Who would you say has been the most memorable or successful horse bred at Rich Hill Stud? Going forward, of the horses you have bred in recent years, what horse's future excites you the most?**

Best horse is definitely (King) Mufhasa who won 10 Group Ones on both sides of the Tasman and competed from 2YO - 8YO at the highest level. (King) Mufhasa was recently inducted into the NZ Hall of Fame. The most memorable was most definitely Prince of Penzance who achieved fame for his Melbourne Cup win when ridden by Michelle Payne. Both horses were sired by our foundation stallion Pentire. Going forward I have bred a trio of exciting 3YO's by Satono Aladdin, they are Lupo Solitario, Lantern Way and Takeshi. Two are Group winners and hopefully the other one will be.

**Given the opportunity, what would be the first thing you'd change in the NZ thoroughbred industry?**

We really need to enhance the oncourse experience for racegoers to bring new participants into the industry. Our clubs need to present a better product for overseas audiences by improving tracks, facilities and appearances which are now streamed around the world. A focus on the needs of the customer while attending the races is a must going forward.



*Pictured: Mufhasa (NZ)*



*Pictured: Prince Of Penzance (NZ)*

## WARRNAMBOOL CARNIVAL RECAP

In Australia, if you want to find the beating heart of racing, you only need to visit the three-day May Racing Carnival at Warrnambool. The town comes alive as visitors from around Australia and New Zealand soak up the hospitality. Nowhere is that more evident than on the track.

With the uncustomary lovely weather for the three days, record crowds were in attendance. The elegant new stand did not stop the diehards from climbing the hill alongside the 200-metre point to take in the panoramic view of the jumps races. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the meeting (other than OTI's 3 wins during the Carnival!) was Stern Idol's effort in the Brierly. The magnificent 17.3-hand horse showed tremendous courage to carry a huge weight in what will go down as one of the most exciting races the 'Bool has witnessed.

For many years the Warrnambool Carnival may have been considered as the bloke's getaway. While it still is for many, these days, women attend in increasing numbers. It's a far more inclusive Carnival than a decade ago, although we wouldn't recommend a young guy take his new girlfriend to the Whalers Hotel at 10pm for a quiet drink.

Be it the heavy Irish influence in the town or how steeped in tradition the jumps racing, there's little doubt that most who attended this year's Carnival will want to return next year.



*Pictured: Green Fly returning to mounting yard as a winner.*

## WELCOME & GOODBYE

We would like to welcome and introduce our newest OTI team member, **Nick**. He will be assisting with our communications, client liaison activities, insurance and sales. Welcome to the team!

While we welcome a new member, we also said our goodbyes to **Campbell**, who is off to Europe to explore new opportunities. Cam joined OTI during his high school years and has been an integral part of the business since. He played a vital role in the development of OTI's Welfare and Rehoming system. Cam, we wish you all the best for the future and don't be a stranger!

## CONGRATULATIONS SHAYNE!



We would like to congratulate Shayne for his 20 year milestone with OTI Racing. Shayne is OTI's General Manager and has been an important part of OTI since 2004, as well as a highly valued team member. His attention to detail, care and team spirit is not only appreciated by the staff, but most importantly by our clients.

Congratulations Shayne, let's hope the next 20 years include plenty more exciting winners!

# INTRODUCING A STRONG COLT BY PIERRO



We were happy to team up with the O'Shea stable at Magic Millions to secure the Pierro x Love Triangle yearling, a great-moving colt with size and scope, built in the mould of a classic middle-distance 3yo.

- He is by Pierro, a proper Group 1 racehorse and now proper Group 1 sire. He was Champion First, Second and Third Season Sire in Australia. He is best known as the sire of top-class winners Pierata, Arcadia Queen, Shadow Hero etc, and his yearlings have averaged over \$360k in the sales ring this season.
- He is out of the winning Encosta de Lago mare Love Triangle, and hails from one of New Zealand's strongest families with brilliant fillies Queen of Diamonds and Tristalove featuring prominently.
- He is already into his second preparation and was described as a "beast" on return to work. He has headed into John O'Shea's stables and will be geared up for a late 2yo debut, before being expected to hit his straps as a 3yo.

Click [HERE](#) to view the video of the colt, including comments from his educator.

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

## QUIZ

### NAME THE RACEHORSE

*Hint: Te Akau*

1. At which French Racecourse did Sevens's Knight win his recent Group 3?
2. Which stallion sired the trifecta in the Group 1 Australasian Oaks at Morphettville last weekend?
3. Which Australian race in the spring could Docklands be aimed at in NSW, for 5yo's?



# TIM AND MONTY'S ROCKY DAY - by Tim Holland

Well it was an early start from Melbourne to get oncourse to watch Eaglemont take his place at Callaghan Park, Rockhampton, in the \$775K slot race, The Archer. He's a doughty consistent performer our Monty, and it was great that one of the slot owners wanted to use him for their slot in the race, with owners and the slot owner sharing any prize money 50/50.

It was your correspondent's first trip to Rocky, the heart of Big Cattle Country. A fellow passenger on the plane said that the motto was "Go hard, or go home!" Someone with local connections had warned me that I might not be allowed out of the airport if I didn't have a big hat, so I took the precaution of searching for what I thought might be suitable for me - a 10 gallon hat for a 5 gallon brain.

In the event, it was a great atmosphere on course, and the town was in very relaxed mode in comparison to the Melbourne hustle and bustle - it seemed like the house style in the north.

I had wondered what a 1300m feature race north of the Tropic of Capricorn had to do with the winner of the first two Melbourne Cups, but discovered that the race was in fact named in honour of Mt Archer which has a strong presence overlooking the racecourse. Mt Archer in turn was named after the intriguing Archer family, who are commemorated by a statue of early explorer Charles Archer atop his trusty steed looking over the broad Fitzroy River. And talking about statues, a number of massive likenesses of bulls around town leave the visitor in no doubt as to the importance of the beef industry to the area.

The big metropolitan racing clubs "down south" could learn a bit from the way the Rocky race club puts on a show, particularly in the food department. Special tribute to the seafood offering (yes, it is beef country, but it's not that far from the sea!), especially the delicious prawn rolls. I did get some idea of the "go hard or go home" mode when I tried to get a Coke Zero or Pepsi Max - it was full sugar or go thirsty. I didn't try for a low alcohol beer.

I did note that prominently displayed on the fence in the straight was a large advertisement for a sponsor, the Catholic boarding school, Cathedral College Rockhampton. It caused me to wonder what sort of media kerfuffle we would see if a leading Melbourne school similarly became involved as a sponsor at Flemington during Cup week. Another point of difference for racing in the north.

But back to the business at hand. At the first sighting of Monty I could see that he was on his toes, which wasn't necessarily a bad thing. As a result the strapper spent the whole time pre-race walking him around the yard. That meant that the only way to get footage of him was to be in amongst him and the other horses coming and going; I can tell you that Eaglemont wasn't the only one on his toes in the yard, as I dodged rumps and the busy clip clop of nearby approaching hooves while I attempted to get pre-race footage of our boy.

Anyway he ran his usual honest race, and finished in the first half of the field, belying his outsider starting price odds.

It was a great day, and kudos to the Rockhampton Jockey Club for running such an excellent event. The Archer is the highest value Queensland race outside the metropolitan area, and next year they want to go to \$1 million for the race. Well done, RJC!

# SNIPPETS



Recently seen at Rockhampton Racecourse.

“How do you think it would go down with Cranbrook or Xavier doing similarly at Randwick or Flemington?🤔”

## Champion Sire Fastnet Rock Retired from Stud

Fastnet Rock, son of Danehill, has been retired from stud duties at Coolmore.

He had back-to-back Group 1 successes in the Lightning Stakes and Oakleigh Plate for trainer Paul Perry, and was crowned Champion 3YO Sprinter of 2004/05. His success on the racetrack was most exciting, however his transition to stud duty truly solidified his legacy. Twice Champion Sire in Australia, 43 of his sons and daughters have achieved success at Group 1 level with the likes of Avantage, Atlantic Jewel, and Mosheen cementing his reputation as one of the preeminent sires of his generation.

OTI also enjoyed success with the offspring of Fastnet Rock. Inverloch recorded a Group 3 win and wins at Listed level, while Casterton also won two Listed events in France.

## Warrnambool Carnival - Winning Colours

This year's carnival was another successful one for many trainers, jockeys and connections. With 30 races over the three days of racing, 27 different sets of colours won a race at The Bool.

The only colours to record multiple wins were Ciaron Maher Racing with 2 wins and OTI with 3 wins in total. A great result for our connections and the whole team at OTI Racing!



*Pictured: Kimmorley wins with Johnny Allen in saddle*

# QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Longchamp
2. The Autumn Sun
3. \$2m Five Diamonds

**NAME THE RACEHORSE** - The recently retired Imperatriz

