

### **RUSOF PLAYS A BLINDER IN TRAVIS**



Gr.2 Travis Stakes (2000m) winners Shafiq Rusof and Our Abbadean (Trish Dunell)

e Akau rider Shafiq Rusof celebrated his first New

Zealand black type victory on Saturday with a polished display aboard the stable runner **Our Abbadean (NZ)** (Lookin At Lucky).

The 31-year-old brought the five-year-old with a welltimed finish at Te Rapa to win the Gr.2 Travis Stakes from China Star (NZ) (Chinese Dragon) and Nicoletta (NZ) (Savabeel).

Rusof returned to Matamata this season after riding for

Mark Walker for seven years in Singapore where he was twice crowned champion apprentice.

"It's a big thrill and Te Akau have supported me from day one," he said.

Our Abbadean is trained by Jamie Richards and Stephen Autridge and the former was lavish in his praise for Rusof.

"He's a very under-rated rider. He came from Singapore and when you are competitive against the likes of Michael

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### RUSOF PLAYS A BLINDER IN TRAVIS

(Continued from page 1)

Rodd, Joao Moreira and Vlad Duric it speaks volumes," he said. "He's a hard worker and he's riding a lot of winners for us." Raced by breeders Wentwood Grange, Our Abbadean settled midfield on a good pace and finished resolutely to add the Travis to her Gr.2 Awapuni Gold Cup (2000m) title claimed three runs back.

In between times, the daughter of Lookin At Lucky ran second in the Listed Hawke's Bay Cup (2200m).

"The key has been getting her up in trip, she's a genuine stayer," Richards said. "She's rock-hard fit and is getting deep into her preparation now.

"We've been pleased with her right the way through and as Stephen said, once she finds form she holds it. "We'll talk to the owners now, but we would love to give her a break and then come back for Hastings in the spring. I think that race (the Gr.1 Livamol Classic over 2040m) on the last day would be right up her alley."

– NZ Racing Desk.

| Race     | Travis Stakes Gr.2 2000m  |
|----------|---|
| Winner   | Our Abbadean (NZ) 2012  |
| Owners   | Llanhennock Trust   |
| Trainer  | Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)                                      |
| Breeding | by Lookin At Lucky (USA) out of Highland Lights<br>(AUS) by Fantastic Light (USA) |
| Breeder  | Llanhennock Trust   |



Up 'n' Rolling (Bradley Photography)

#### NZ bred Rolling onto even bigger things

**Up 'N' Rolling (NZ)** (Castledale) has clinched a start in the Listed A\$200,000 Scone Cup after his return to winning form.

Charlie Duckworth, stable representative for premier trainer Chris Waller, said Up 'N' Rolling deserves his chance at stakes level after a dominant effort in the Hawkesbury Gazette Handicap (1500m) on Saturday.

"This horse has always promised a lot and it is good to finally get another win on the board," Duckworth said.

"I would say if he pulls up well then the Scone Cup (May 13) is very likely."

Up 'N' Rolling, a lucky pick-up ride for replacement jockey Tye Angland after Kerrin McEvoy fell ill with an ear infection, was given the run of the race before striding clear to win by one-and-a-quarter lengths.

"He did have a bit of a think about it as he was there for so long in front," Angland said. "I was out of my comfort zone maybe a length. If I had been a pair back he could have rolled into it much better but I always felt he had the race in his control."





### KINGSGUARD GIVES HAWKES RACING A FEATURE HAWKESBURY DOUBLE

he Hawkes Racing stable had a day out at the Hawkesbury stand-alone Saturday meeting when **Kingsguard (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) made it a feature race double in the A\$200,000 Gr.3 Hawkesbury Gold Cup (1600m).

Earlier in the day the stable also struck with smart sprinter Glenall (Redoute's Choice) in the A\$125,000 Listed Hawkesbury XXXX Gold Rush (1100m).

"We came here with a team of nice chances today," Michael Hawkes, who trains in partnership with his father John and brother Wayne, said.

"It's a good day the Hawkesbury

stand-alone meeting and we're thrilled the horses have come here and performed well today."

Jockey Brenton Avdulla was in the saddle aboard both winners and he did a sterling job aboard Kingsguard, stalking the leader Ecuador (NZ) (High Chaparral) before taking over early in the straight and edging away in

Kingsguard led home a kiwi-bred quinella in the Gr.3 Hawkesbury Gold Cup (Bradley Photography)

the run to the line.

Kingsguard defeated Ecuador by three-quarters of a length.

"He's been knocking on the door and it was good to see everything fall into place today," Hawkes said.

"I'm rapt for his owners Windsor Park. They've been very patient with this horse.

"I've also got to give credit to Brenton. He's been a bit up and down but he's ridden both our winners perfectly today.

"He jumped and travelled, followed Ecuador, stalking him and he was in a lovely rhythm and drawn away to score a good win." Hawkes indicated the Scone Cup is likely to be the next target for Kingsguard.

#### - racenet.com.au

| Race     | Hawkesbury Gold Cup Gr.3<br>1600m  |
|----------|--|
| Winner   | His Majesty – Kingsguard<br>(Aust.) (NZ) 2012  |
| Owners   | Windsor Park Stud<br>Syndicate (Mgr: R Schick), S<br>Till, J Schick, M Alexander,<br>Mrs A Alexander, McH<br>Cross, Mrs M Olsen & P<br>Olsen |
| Trainer  | Michael, Wayne & John<br>Hawkes (Rosehill)   |
| Breeding | by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out<br>of Her Royal Highness by<br>Volksraad (GB)  |
| Breeder  | Alchemy Family Trust &<br>Windsor Park Stud Ltd  |





#### FILLY EXECUTES TE RAPA PLAN TO PERFECTION

long-range plan had a happy ending, but only just, when **Power O'Hata (NZ)** (Power) prevailed at Te Rapa in her first black type outing.

The lightly-raced daughter of Power, who had been successful when sent south to the central districts for the opening run of her campaign, handled a sharp rise in class with aplomb on Saturday to narrowly beat Hanger (NZ) (O'Reilly) in the Gr.3 Inglis Sales Cambridge Breeders' Stakes (1200m).

"We thought if she could win at New Plymouth then we had to have a crack at this," said Murray Baker, who prepares the filly at Cambridge with Andrew Forsman.



Power O'Hata (inner) holds off the late finish of Hanger (Trish Dunell)

"We've liked her right the way through. You don't even know she's there – she's quite quiet and that's the way you want them."

Power O'Hata sat in behind the leader and she responded to rider Matthew Cameron's urgings in the run home to take her record to three wins from six appearances.

"She's quite a promising filly and I thought it was a lovely ride by Matt, full credit to him," Baker said.

Power O'Hata hit the front 150m from home and withstood the late lunge of Hanger to score by the narrowest of margins.

"It's hard to go from a Rating 65 win at New Plymouth to a Saturday stakes race, but we got the right trip," Cameron said.

"I got the split when I wanted and she kicked nicely. She's seems a lot stronger, but she's still green and got her head up when she hit the front. Luckily she had it down on the line." Hanger's effort was full of merit and he finished powerfully once clear with Merlini (I Am Invincible), who crossed the field to lead from the outside gate, fighting commendably to hold third.

- NZ Racing Desk.

| Race     | Inglis Sales Cambridge Breeders' Stakes Gr.3<br>1200m   |
|----------|---|
| Winner   | Power O'Hata (NZ) 2014  |
| Owners   | Standard 2080 Ltd   |
| Trainer  | Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)   |
| Breeding | by Power (GB) out of Mumtaz by Cape Cross (IRE)   |
| Breeder  | M P Kuklinski   |
| Sales    | 2016 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed<br>Bloodstock Sale; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Marcus<br>Corban Bloodstock; \$50,000 |



**>>>> RACING&BREEDING**NEWS

Sunday 29 April 2018

### TRAINER ALREADY LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT TERM

anny Walker savoured a bonus win with the promising youngster **Star Performance** (NZ) (Per Incanto) at Te Rapa.

The Byerley Park trainer was

| Race     | Cambridge Equine<br>Hospital Premier 1200m  |
|----------|---|
| Winner   | Star Performance (NZ)<br>2015   |
| Owners   | S C Cheung  |
| Trainer  | Danny Walker (Byerley<br>Park)  |
| Breeding | by Per Incanto (USA) out<br>of Star Guest by Pentire<br>(GB)                            |
| Breeder  | Mrs C A & P M Algie   |
| Sales    | 2017 Premier Yearling<br>Sale; V: Little Avondale<br>Stud, P: Mr D Walker;<br>\$250,000 |

encouraged to step the two-yearold out on a reasonable surface on Saturday and the debutant showed his appreciation by winning the Cambridge Equine Hospital Premier (1200m) on debut.

"It was the last roll of the dice really for a good track in the autumn and I'll put him aside now," he said.

Star Performance has been unbeaten in all three of his lead-up trials and Walker is upbeat about the Per Incanto gelding's future.

"Everything I've done with this horse has been aimed toward his three-year-old season," Walker said. Rider Alysha Collett settled Star Performer three back on the fence and he rounded off strongly closest to the rail for the perfect start to his career.

"I said to Alysha to ride him as he jumped and I would just have been happy to see him do things right and be running on," Walker said.

A \$250,000 Karaka yearling purchased out of Little Avondale Stud's draft, Star Performance is a half-brother to the Gr.3 Manawatu Cup (2300m) winner and Gr.1 Auckland Cup (3200m) placegetter Jacksstar (NZ) (Zed).

Front-runner Nirvana In Fire (NZ) (Showcasing) fought on gallantly to finish runner-up ahead of Qiji Express

> (NZ) (Shamexpress), who did well after covering extra ground from an awkward gate.

> > – NZ Racing Desk.



Star Performance kicked his career off in style at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)



### AUSTRALIA BECKONS TALENTED LOVE AFFAIR

urray Baker and Andrew Forsman are likely to be looking at suitable offshore targets for the quality mare **Love Affair** (NZ) (Savabeel).

The Cambridge trainers produced the Garry Chittickbred and owned four-yearold for an impressive first-up victory at the expense of the Queensland-bound Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge) in Saturday's Aon Insurance Brokers Premier (1200m) at Te Rapa.

"I'll have to speak to Garry, he might be looking at Brisbane," Baker said. "If not Brisbane, then she'll be a good mare for Melbourne in the spring."

Runner-up in the Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes (1600m) before a spell, the daughter of Savabeel has now won five times from eight appearances.

"She's a classy sort of mare and she trialled up well," Baker said. "We didn't really know how she would go today over 1200m, but she was nice and fresh."

Love Affair settled one off the fence near the pace and when rider Matthew Cameron asked her to sprint 300m from home she quickly cut loose to put the issue beyond doubt.

"She's not a natural 1200m horse,



Talented mare Love Affair who impressed when resuming at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

but she jumped and got into a good position and kicked really well," he said.

Volpe Veloce turned in a solid effort to open her campaign with the Graham Richardson and Gavin Parkertrained Group One winner booked to head to the Queensland winter carnival on May 4.

She will be based at the family property at Ipswich of her regular rider Jake Bayliss, who is shortly to head to Brisbane after a successful New Zealand stint. "I came here a battler and I'm leaving a multiple Group-winning jockey," he said. "It's been really rewarding."

#### – NZ Racing Desk.

| Race     | Aon Insurance Brokers<br>Premier 1200m            |
|----------|---|
| Winner   | Love Affair (NZ) 2013                             |
| Owners   | G J Chittick                                      |
| Trainer  | Murray Baker & Andrew<br>Forsman (Cambridge)      |
| Breeding | by Savabeel (AUS) out of<br>Romancing by O'Reilly |
| Breeder  | G J Chittick                                      |



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### KARISTO RUNS RIVALS RAGGED

B old chestnut **Karisto** (Written Tycoon) made his own luck at Te Rapa on Saturday to score an emphatic win at the expense of his fellow three-year-olds.

The son of Written Tycoon jumped to the front and he powered clear in the straight in the hands of Cameron Lammas to claim the Maara Grange Rehabilitation and Fencing 1600m by four and three-quarter lengths.

Turned out after finishing fourth in the Gr.3 Wellington Guineas (1600m) in December, Karisto was denied clear room in the straight when seventh on his return at Te Rapa a fortnight ago.

"He didn't have any luck and it was a good effort today to step up to the mile," said Bruce Perry, racing manager for partowner Lib Petagna. "Gelding him and giving him a break has really made him."

Perry went to \$220,000 to secure Karisto out of Lyndhurst Farm's Ready to Run Sale draft at Karaka in 2016.

"The China Horse Club had a share in him and he was passed in originally and I got him later and they wanted to stay in the horse so it's working out well," he said.

Future plans for the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsmantrained Karisto have yet to be decided. "We'll play it by ear and see how he comes through this race," Perry said.

"He's taken a while to strengthen up and hopefully he keeps improving."

Obsessive (NZ) (Darci Brahma) did well off the back of a maiden win to finish runner-up ahead of Executive Power (NZ) (Power) and Lincoln Raider (NZ) (O'Reilly) and the favourite Not Usual Talent (NZ) (Zacinto). He ran on fairly after dropping to last from the outside gate.

- NZ Racing Desk.

| Race     | Maara Grange Rehabilitation and Fencing 1600m  |
|----------|--|
| Winner   | Karisto 2014   |
| Owners   | China Horse Club Racing Pty Ltd, JML Bloodstock<br>Ltd (Mgr L Petagna), SF Bloodstock LLC Ltd,<br>Horse Ventures Pty Ltd, Rhoda Phillippo & Grant<br>Devonport |
| Trainer  | Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)  |
| Breeding | by Written Tycoon (AUS) out of Verkko (AUS) by<br>Flying Spur (AUS)  |
| Breeder  | Woodside Park Stud Pty Ltd   |
| Sales    | 2016 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Lyndhurst<br>Farm, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$220,000   |



Front-runner Karisto who turned in a commanding performance on Saturday (Trish Dunell)





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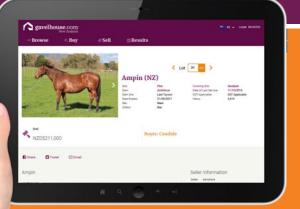


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### DISTINCTIVE DARCI SCORES THRILLER IN MERLION TROPHY



Distinctive Darci (inside) strides past Countofmontecristo to take out the Merlion Trophy (STC)

B illed as an exciting sprint race, the S\$500,000 Merlion Trophy certainly lived up to that tag with Polytrack specialist **Distinctive Darci (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) charging late for a most thrilling win on Friday night.

Former Singapore champion three-year-old Countofmontecristo (NZ) (Echoes of Heaven) was being hailed

the winner when he hit the front halfway up the straight, but Distinctive Darci, who grows another leg on Polytrack, unwound with a sustained finish for Vlad Duric on his inside to deny him by a neck on the line making it a New Zealand-bred 1-2 finish.

It was heartbreak for Countofmontecristo's camp especially after a brave second at their champion's racing comeback in

the first Leg of the Singapore Sprint Series, the JBBA Rocket Man Sprint (1200m) a month ago, but the grand final on turf, the S\$1 million Lion City Cup (1200m) on May 26, will be even more up his alley.

The winning time was 1min 11.13secs for the 1200m on the Polytrack.

Duric said the race was probably won when he tacked onto the back of \$9 favourite Countofmontecristo who was slicing through the pack from centrefield at the 600m to take closer order, with Rodd evidently anxious not to leave it too late for his ultimate assault.

Into the straight, Michael Clements' champion kept up his





### DISTINCTIVE DARCI SCORES THRILLER IN MERLION TROPHY

#### (Continued from page 10)

momentum to sweep past Speedy Dragon (Safe in the USA) with relative ease. The son of Echoes Of Heaven then shook off a surprisingly very tenacious Lincoln Road (NZ) (Swiss Ace) with a bit more graft, but once that was taken care of, looked well on his way towards a resounding victory with one furlong to go.

But right on their heels, Duric was throwing everything bar the kitchen sink at Distinctive Darci as the four-year-old gelding snuck up on Countonmontecristo's nearside, gamely chipping away at the margin with every stride to eventually land the chocolates.

"It was a big step-up for him tonight, and he's come up with a fighting win," said Walker who trained Distinctive Darci's sire Darci Brahma to many Group One wins in New Zealand.

"It's three from three with blinker-pacifiers on. I also have to thank Paul Summers, the Club farrier for getting his feet right, he's a different horse at the moment, he's really put it altogether.

"I'll have to speak to the owners Dato Terry Lee and his daughter Theresa whether we'll go to the Lion City Cup. It's on turf as you know, he's a Polytrack horse, and we need to have a think about that."

Standing at the presentation dais holding his trophy aloft with the Kiwi trainer meant a lot to Duric, the 2017 Singapore

champion jockey, who had yet again let his amazing strength in the saddle make the difference in a tight finish.

"Mark has been a wonderful supporter of mine from Day 1, and it's great to win a big race for him tonight," said the Australian jockey.

"Distinctive Darci is such a fantastic big horse. He loves this surface, he won eight races on it before and now he's won nine, which is wonderful as it's his first feature win.

"In the straight, he just kept finding and on the line, he got there for an outstanding win."

With that ninth win, Distinctive Darci has taken his stakes earnings around the S\$840,000 mark for the Fairdeal Stable owned by Dato Lee.

"He's a very good horse and the jockey rode him perfectly," said Lee.

- Singapore Turf Club

|          | 5.1.  |
|----------|---|
| Race     | STC Merlion Trophy 1200m  |
| Winner   | Distinctive Darci (NZ) 2013   |
| Owners   | Fairdeal Stable   |
| Trainer  | Mark Walker (Singapore)   |
| Breeding | by Darci Brahma out of Distinctive Lass (AUS) by<br>Orientate (USA)         |
| Breeder  | Nearco Stud Ltd   |
| Sales    | 2015 Premier Yearling Sale; V: Curraghmore, P:<br>Te Akau Racing; \$100,000 |



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### LOGAN WINS FIRST RACE IN SINGAPORE WITH GREEN STAR

ew Kranji trainer Donna Logan has not taken too long to saddle her first winner at her new base.

**Green Star (NZ)** (Iffraaj), her third Singapore starter from her fledgling team of only 11 horses, including Group One winner Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ) (Tavistock), won the last race at Friday night's bumper 10-race programme, the \$\$45,000 Thundering Jet 2010 Stakes, a Class 4 Non Premier race over 1200m.

Logan only moved to Singapore from her training base in Ruakaka in February, having had to put off her arrival after a freak pool accident which she fortunately survived. A winner of around 850 races in New Zealand, including 60 at Group and Listed level, Logan has given her horses time to acclimatise and get ready, finally launching her first runner, Whakaaria Mai (NZ) (Showcasing) last Tuesday, picking up a satisfactory eighth place as a first result.

She fielded two more runners on Friday night. Command Royale (Court Command), a four-year-old and three-time winner over 1200m in New Zealand, was sent out as the favourite in the S\$80,000 Chase Me 2012 Stakes,

Continued on page 13



Green Star gives new Kranji trainer Donna Logan plenty to cheer about (STC)



### LOGAN WINS FIRST RACE IN SINGAPORE WITH GREEN STAR

a Class 3 Division 1 race over 1200m, but ran fourth after being right in the mix at the 200m.

Not as experienced as Command Royale, having raced only twice for a second place for Logan's daughter Samantha, Green Star was probably less expected to hand his trainer that first Kranji hurrah in the last race, especially after he had also drawn wide in 10.

But after a peach of a ride from fellow Kiwi rider Craig Grylls, the Iffraaj four-year-old, who is raced by Logan's mainland Chinese owners, did send Singapore's second lady trainer (after Leticia Dragon) into raptures when he kept digging deep inside the concluding stages.

Parked in a handy spot, albeit

#### (Continued from page 12)

three wide, Green Star gained the ascendancy from leader Super Denman (Denman) upon straightening. Fusion Power (NZ) (Postponed) and Arr Flair (Dash For Cash) came baying for his blood the entire length of the straight, but Grylls rode for dear life, evidently badly wanting that first win for his fellow Kiwi trainer.

The gelding responded to Grylls' persuader by finding plenty inside those last 50m which must have felt like 50km, to scrape home by a neck from Fusion Power with Arr Flair third another half-length away. The winning time was 1min 12.59secs for the 1200m on the Polytrack.

"We've been here only for a short while and to get that first win out of the way is a big thrill. We actually rated both horses to win tonight," said Logan.

"Command Royale ran good and will improve from that run. My daughter actually gave Green Star big wraps.

"At the top of the straight, I saw him up there and I was hoping he would hang on. I'm also really rapt for my China clients."

#### - Singapore Turf Club

| Race     | STC Thundering Jet 2010<br>Stakes 1200m   |
|----------|---|
| Winner   | Green Star (NZ) 201   |
| Owners   | Donna Logan   |
| Trainer  | Donna Logan<br>(Singapore)  |
| Breeding | by Iffraaj (GB) out of<br>Princess Prospero (AUS)<br>by Honour and Glory<br>(USA) |
| Breeder  | Lena Ang  |

