

Sunday 19 August 2018

MELODY BELLE WINS **FOXBRIDGE PLATE**



Melody Belle (outer - orange blinkers) gets the better of Julius at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

A nail-biting finish to the Gr.2 Lisa Chittick Foxbridge Plate (1200m) saw former top juvenile **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands) provide her trainer Jamie Richards with the perfect birthday present at Te Rapa.

Race favourite Julius (NZ) (Swiss Ace) and Melody Belle set down to a pitched battle in the middle of the track over the final 200m as they cleared out from their rivals. Although somewhat dwarfed by the imposing frame of the favourite, Melody Belle and rider Shafiq Rusof refused to yield as she

put her nose in front at the right time to snatch victory from a game Julius with veteran stayer Authentic Paddy (NZ) (Howbaddouwantit) storming home late for third.

A Group One winner as a two-year-old, the now four-year-old Commands mare had disappointed slightly in the latter stages of her three-year-old campaign when unplaced in two Sydney runs after taking out the Gr.3 Mongolian Khan Trophy (1200m) at Ellerslie in January.

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(Continued from page 1)

Freshened up by the team at Te Akau Racing, the mare had endured an interrupted preparation with the postponement of the Te Teko trials forcing Richards to line her up at Te Rapa without the benefit of a lead-up run.

None of that mattered as the mare showed plenty of heart to gain the win and announce herself as a major contender for the first Group One race of the season, the Tarzino Trophy (1400m) at Hastings in a fortnight.

"I was unsure on the line but I did say the angle would favour us," said Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate manager John Galvin.

"We thought she might have been half a run short so we weren't 100 per cent positive today but we knew she would handle the track and she is a quality individual.

"It gives us a lot of confidence heading to Hastings."

Richards, who has taken over training the powerful Te Akau team on his own this season, was relieved the mare had performed to her best after providing him with some concerns in the build-up to the race.

"I was just a little bit worried during the week as her work wasn't that flash on Tuesday," he said.

"I didn't want to pump her up too much but she's a real racehorse and she was given a lovely ride by Shafiq.

"This will take a bit out of her as she has had a tough run first-up. We will get her home and assess things but at this stage she will be going to Hastings next.

"She didn't have a great three-year-old season, but it looks

like we are in for a great year this year."

Bred by Marie Leicester, Melody Belle was a \$57,500 purchase for Te Akau boss David Ellis from the Haunui Farm draft during the Premier session of the 2016 National Yearling Sale at Karaka. The victory takes her career earnings to over \$986,000 from six victories, with five of these at stakes level including the rich Listed Karaka Million (1200m) as a two-year-old.

"It was one of the biggest thrills I've ever had on a racecourse, to see Jamie's first win, on a course that is very dear to my heart, in a race sponsored by very good friends of mine and a family that has been very generous to Te Akau, was quite amazing," Ellis said.

"Lisa Chittick was a very good friend of my family and the whole thing could not have been more emotional or more of a thrill."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Lisa Chittick Foxbridge Plate Gr.2 1200m
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate (Mgr: John Galvin)
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (AUS) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Sale; V: Haunui Farm, P: Mr D C Ellis; \$57,500

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trip away a winner for Dal Cielo

Race favourite **Dal Cielo (NZ)** (Per Incanto) led all the way win the Matthew Dunn Racing Handicap (1200m) at the Gold Coast on Saturday.

Newcastle Trainer Kris Lees had also entered Dal Cielo for the Show County Quality (1200m) at Randwick.

Stable representative Mel Eggleston said Lees had thought seriously about keeping Dal Cielo in Sydney.

"But in the end this race looked more suitable and Dal Cielo probably needed to win," Eggleston said.

"Dal Cielo will probably head back to Sydney now."

Jockey Ryan Maloney said Dal Cielo had led easily but showed a lot of heart when challenged in the straight.

-AAP





LA BELLA DIOSA SPRINGS CAULFIELD UPSET

New Zealand mare **La Bella Diosa (NZ)** (So You Think) made a barnstorming return to form at Caulfield on Saturday when she scored first-up in a new campaign for trainers David & Ben Hayes and Tom Dabernig.

Race	Macdonald Family H. 1100m
Winner	La Bella Diosa (NZ) 2013
Owners	T W Archer, G L Currie, Miss P B C Sipos, M L Gibson, G P Calder, Mrs D J Martin & B W Honeybone
Trainer	David & Ben Hayes & Tom Dabernig (Flemington)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Star Affair by Star Way (GB)
Breeder	T W Archer Trust

The five-year-old looked back to her exciting best as she came with an undeniable finish to beat out her same-sex rivals over 1100m in the hands of leading Melbourne apprentice Ethan Brown.

Raced in New Zealand as La Diosa, the daughter of So You Think was a star of spring racing during her three-year-old campaign where she took out the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) before adding the Gr. 2 Surround Stakes (1400m) in Sydney during the autumn.

A host of issues plagued her four-year-old season before she was transferred to the Lindsay Park operation where an encouraging run for fifth back in May signalled she could

return to her best once she had fully settled in to her new environment.

Saturday's victory took her career record to six wins from 15 starts with career earnings of over \$420,000.

- NZ Racing Desk



La Bella Diosa returns to form to win at Caulfield (Quentin Lang)



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SEGENHOE GETS OWN WAY IN STAYERS' RACE

An astute placement by trainer Clare Cunningham has reaped its reward with **Segenhoe (NZ)** (Ekraar) causing an upset in the staying race at Randwick. Sent out at \$19 in Saturday's Bob Ingham Handicap (2400m) Segenhoe was taken to the front early by Tim Clark and never relinquished his advantage, beating Vacluse Bay (Al Maher) by 1-1/4 lengths.

Cunningham admitted she was coming to the end of her tether with Segenhoe and was considering advising the owners he might be better placed in Queensland.

"He has been a frustrating horse," Cunningham said.

"He had a bad suspensory injury and was off for a year. He hasn't been able to get to the front in his races and I was scratching my head what to do with him.

"But after I galloped him on Tuesday I thought he deserved his chance and he made me think outside the box. "He got a soft enough lead that he was able to finish it off." Segenhoe was a winner in New Zealand when trained by Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs.

- AAP

Race	Bob Ingham H. 2400m
Winner	Segenhoe (NZ) 2011
Owners	Ms C Mortimer & Mrs J Mortimer
Trainer	Clare Cunningham (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Ekraar (USA) out of Drumline by Spectacular Love (USA)
Breeder	N A Mortimer



Segenhoe scores an upset win in Sydney (Bradley Photographers)





JOCHEN RINDT TOO TOUGH IN TE RAPA OPENER

Trainer Terry Wenn had plenty to smile about following the result of the first race at Te Rapa on Saturday.

The Te Aroha based trainer is employed as the Clerk of the Course at Te Rapa on raceday and had the pleasure of leading his own charge back to the winner's enclosure after rugged stayer **Jochen Rindt (NZ)** (Ishiguru) led all the way to claim the open 2100m contest.

The Ishiguru gelding has a penchant for the sandy Te Rapa surface having now claimed five of his 8 career wins at the venue. A heady ride by apprentice Amber Sims saw her use her 3kg allowance to telling effect as she urged her mount back to the front with 100m to run after he was clearly headed by runner-up Athena Baby (NZ) (Swiss Ace) early in the run home.

"It was a lovely ride by Amber and just as we had planned," Wenn said as he waited for the winning pair to make their way back to meet him at the entrance to the Te Rapa birdcage.

"When they take him on in front he loves it and lifts another gear."

Wenn revealed that the next start for his charge would be in a completely different role at the same venue next week.

"He's in the hurdles here next week," he said.

"He only goes left-handed and



Jochen Rindt scores a game win at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell) (Trish Dunell)

won't travel so our options are limited.

"He's been jumping for about four years so that is the plan."

Sims was sporting a grin from ear-to-ear when she unsaddled Jochen Rindt after making her first ride on him a winning one.

"I worked him on Thursday for Terry and he was just so bright he nearly dropped me a couple of times," she said.

"It's lovely for Terry as he has been a family friend for such a long time, so I'm delighted to make it one ride and one win for him.

"I knew when we were headed he still had a lot in him and the claim would come into effect then.

"He's very fit and will just stay all day."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Low Schollum Jones 2100m
Winner	Jochen Rindt (NZ) 2009
Owners	D C Grayling, Ms M M Walters & T C Wenn
Trainer	Terry Wenn (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Ishiguru (USA) out of Kessem's Dream by Kessem
Breeder	Mrs M M Walters



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RAM SAM SAM PROVIDES PERFECT HOLIDAY NEWS FOR MCKAY

An excited phone call from daughter Shanae announcing an upset win for underrated galloper **Ram Sam Sam (NZ)** (Zed) was the perfect start to an idyllic morning in Athens for trainer and part-owner, Gemma McKay.

McKay and husband Graham are coming to the end of a four-week European getaway which has them currently enjoying the sights and delights of a Mediterranean cruise.

Daughters Shanae, Kacie and Kalah are in charge of the Levin-based operation with mum and dad away and took seven-year-old Zed gelding Ram Sam Sam to Waverley on Saturday to contest the open 1400 contest.

Despite some handy form of late Ram Sam Sam wasn't expected to figure against red-hot race favourite Dolcetto (NZ) (Per Incanto) and some other handy performers. Rider Tim Johnson and his charge had other

ideas as they dominated the event from in front to land a deserved victory from Matamata raider Hello M'Lady (NZ) (Shocking).

"I couldn't believe it when I got the text and then a call from Shanae," McKay said.

"She just started shouting he won, he won and I pretty much burst into tears it was so exciting.

"We're not anywhere where we could watch or listen to the race

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Ram Sam Sam (centre - green colours) takes out the feature race at Waverley (Peter Rubery, Race Images)





RAM SAM SAM PROVIDES PERFECT HOLIDAY NEWS FOR MCKAY

(Continued from page 8)

so when we got the call it was just amazing.

“Next thing my mum was ringing me as well and she was in tears too, so it was a pretty emotional time for us all.”

McKay has plenty of faith in her charge who has had a chequered career due to injury niggles.

“We’ve always known he was a good horse, but he has had plenty of problems along the way,” she said.

“He has had injuries at key times which has held him up but I have

always thought he could win a nice race.

“Funnily enough he wasn’t even supposed to be in the open handicap as we had him ready for the rating 72 instead.

“Shanae rang me during the week and said she had made a boo boo as she didn’t realise it was the wrong race until she saw Dolcetto nominated as well.

“All’s well that ends well and we will definitely be celebrating now and when I can get some wi-fi somewhere

to watch the replay, we will be celebrating again.

“I just love Waverley as we have won some really nice races here and this is another one to remember for a long time.”

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Derryn@grangewilliam 1400m
Winner	Ram Sam Sam (NZ) 2011
Owners	G & G C M McKay
Trainer	Gemma McKay (Levin)
Breeding	by Zed out of Pentavale by Pentire (GB)
Breeder	Mrs J D & K D Crow

NEWS IN BRIEF

Patience the key to Kaonic

Chris Waller’s decision to give **Kaonic (NZ)** (Savabeel) time to mature paid dividends when the four-year-old entire ran home strongly to win the Nicholas Moraitis Handicap (1400m) at Randwick on Saturday.

After two spring wins as a three-year-old, Kaonic was held back from a Melbourne preparation last year and then, when unplaced in the Randwick Guineas and Rosehill Guineas, was sent for a spell and not seen again till he resumed with a win in July.

“Their ability gets them only so far but, until they fully mature, they don’t get to their top level,” Waller said. “We don’t have a problem waiting for them to be ready.

“Kaonic has matured into a lovely man instead of being a stressful colt. I think that is because we didn’t gas him and throw him in impossible situations.”

Kaonic was purchased by bloodstock agent Guy Mulcaster for \$425,000 from the New Zealand Bloodstock draft of Blandford Lodge in 2016.





Sunday 19 August 2018

MONARCH CHIMES READY FOR WELLS BATTLE

Monarch Chimes (NZ) (Shinko King) poses one of the biggest threats to superstar jumper Wells' (Galileo) attempt to win an historic fourth Grand National Steeplechase (4500m) at Ballarat on Sunday.

Monarch Chimes is on the third line of betting for the A\$350,000 feature, behind Wells and Sea King (NZ) (Shinko King), but trainer Emma-Lee Browne is confident her mudlark is facing his ideal conditions for the first time this Australian preparation.

"I think definitely the wetter track will help him a lot, he does seem to have that extra gear when it's got a bit of give in the ground, and he's weighted fairly well going into this," said Browne.

"We seem to have struck a few hard tracks since we've been here so hopefully this weekend we'll see a bit of rain about.

"He's got our jockey (Shaun Phelan) from home coming out again too and they do seem to get on really well so it's sort of all falling into place."

The New Zealand trainer said the stable was thrilled just to have the opportunity to race against one of the all-time best jumpers.

"It's exciting to be up against such a horse as Wells, god he's a legend, you know it's a tough ask, especially for a horse pretty much in his first year-and-a-half of jumping," she said.

"But you know you've got to be in it, it's one of those things that if you run second behind Wells you're doing



Monarch Chimes will take on jumping legend Wells in Sunday's Grand National Steeplechase (Race Images)

pretty good anyway so but hopefully.

"It's amazing prizemoney, some of our Group Ones at home aren't even worth that and to be running him as a jumper for that kind of prizemoney, it's pretty good."

By Shinko King out of Chiming In, the seven-year-old has had a mixed preparation in the lead-up.

After finishing fourth in Warrnambool's Grand Annual Steeplechase (5500m) in May, he headed home and recorded an impressive hurdle victory at Hastings.

After returning to Australia last month he shone with a surprise win on the flat at Sandown, before a third placing back over the jumps in the Crisp Steeplechase (3900m).

"When he came out and won we were jumping up and down, we couldn't believe it, it really shocked us when he ran that well on the flat," she said.

"It probably though was a little detrimental going into the Crisp because I think he was a little flat after running out of his skin on the flat and also the hard track so that tripped him up a little bit.

"He's come on good so we're pretty happy with how he's going.

"We gave him a school on Monday, they had trials here (at Cranbourne) and we gave him a school in the jumps there mainly because it gets him in a really good mood."

Browne says Sunday is his grand final and a victory would mean so much to all of his connections.

"It would mean a lot, he is very special to us and he's a pretty cool horse and to take us to where he's been already has been pretty special for all of us involved," she added.

- racing.com

