

Sunday 23 December 2018

## SHADOWS CAST UPSETS IN AWAPUNI FEATURE



*Shadows Cast rounds off a powerful gallop with victory in the Gr.2 Kamada Park Manawatu Challenge Stakes (Race Images)*

It was a day for the locals at Awapuni on Saturday when classy sprinter-miler **Shadows Cast (NZ)** (Per Incanto) upset predictions in the Gr.2 Kamada Park Manawatu Challenge Stakes (1400m).

Just thirty minutes earlier Awapuni galloper Rock On (NZ) (Road To Rock)

had scored at outside odds in the Gr.3 Hotel Coachman Manawatu Cup (2200m).

Shadows Cast added to the local celebrations as he bounced back to his best form to race clear in the home straight as he captured a second victory at stakes level following his

dead-heat for first in the 2017 Gr.2 Coupland's Bakeries Mile (1600m) at Riccarton.

The win was also testament to the skills of trainer Mark Oulaghan who produced the horse in a fresh state after returning from a disappointing

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# SHADOWS CAST UPSETS IN AWAPUNI FEATURE

*(Continued from page 1)*

southern campaign that saw him finish last in this year's edition of the Coupland's Bakeries Mile, just over a month ago.

Rider Johnathan Parkes was full of praise for the effort of his charge who has now won nine of his 32 career starts.

"They travelled him down there (Riccarton) and he pulled up a bit crook, but he's bounced back great," he said.

"From a gun draw I was able to get him in a gun position. Coming into the straight I was able to get off the fence and he's simply been too strong.

"I think a mile is really his go as he's always been thereabouts in better company and it has shown today as he has beaten a couple of handy horses.

"I don't see why not to have a crack at a Thorndon (Mile) or something like that."

Oulaghan was his usual under-stated self as he discussed the performance, preferring to look ahead to the next challenge for the Per Incanto gelding in the coming weeks.

"He had a bit of a set-back (at Riccarton) but he got over it okay," Oulaghan said.

"1400m is his pet distance, although at a pinch he can get out to a mile, but I do think 1400m is his go.

"In saying that we might have a look at the Thorndon Mile with him next."

The Gr.1 Harcourts Thorndon Mile (1600m) is one of the feature events at Trentham on January 19.

There was sensation before the race when pre-post favourite Ocean Emperor (NZ) (Zabeel) was deemed a late scratching after undergoing a veterinary inspection at the starting gates.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Kamada Park Manawatu Challenge Stakes, Gr.2 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Shadows Cast (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>R N Cunningham</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Mark Oulaghan (Awapuni)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Per Incanto (USA) out of Ages Past by Slavic (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Miss C M Harris</b>



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# LOCAL VICTORY IN MANAWATU CUP

Local runner **Rock On (NZ)** (Road To Rock) returned to winning form after a long lay-off with a storming victory in the Gr.3 Hotel Coachman Manawatu Cup (2200m) at Awapuni.

The six-year-old Road To Rock gelding went amiss last season shortly before contesting the Gr.3 Wellington Cup (3200m) in January.

Nursed back to health by the team at trainer Gary Vile's Awapuni stable, Rock On resumed last month and had three runs in his current prep before tackling Saturday's feature.

Rider Robbie Hannam, who had expressed some confidence before the race, had Rock On humming along sweetly at the rear of the field before easing his way into contention with 1000m to run. Rock On hit top gear in the run home as he launched a powerful burst to claim eventual runner-up Balham (NZ) (Don Eduardo) in the shadows of the winning post.

An emotional Vile was quick to pay tribute to partner Vivienne Kaye for her work in getting Rock On back to the track after his injury-enforced lay-off.

"God there's been some work go into this horse," he said.

"He showed so much last year and to break down just before the Wellington Cup was heart-breaking.

"Vivienne's done all the hard work so it's a big thrill."

Hannam was beaming when questioned about how the race had unfolded.



*Rock On returns to winning form at Awapuni (Race Images)*

"He's just a quiet achiever," Hannam said.

"He hasn't looked that good at his last two starts but they were really encouraging.

"I said to Gary that after his last start he would definitely run in the first three.

"I wasn't sure if he was ready to win but I was definite he would run in the first three.

"I put him in a position so he could win the race and he out-stayed them in the end."

Successful in the 2017 edition of the Listed New Zealand St Leger (2500m) as a four-year-old before finishing third in the Gr.2 Chairman's

Handicap (2600m) at Randwick, Rock On has now won six of his 33 career starts and over \$214,00 in prizemoney.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Hotel Coachman Manawatu Cup, Gr.3 2200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Rock On (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>R Drummond, W J Gleeson, A C Macdonald, G R Vile &amp; A J Vincent</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Gary Vile (Awapuni)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Road To Rock (AUS) out of St Jessie (AUS) by Jetball (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Miss T D Goss &amp; W J Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2014 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: Regal Farm Partnership; \$70,000</b>





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# FLEMINGTON WIN GIVES MY PENDANT A HAT-TRICK



My Pendant on the way to her third successive victory (Bruno Cannatelli)

**M**y Pendant (NZ) (Pins) has earned herself a summer holiday at the beach after completing a winning hat-trick in stylish fashion at Flemington.

The Danny O'Brien-trained three-year-old followed victories at Sandown and Moonee Valley with success in Saturday's Santa's Workshop Plate 1400m).

Ridden by Craig Williams, My Pendant was sent off the \$3.30 favourite and scored by a neck from Notation (Fastnet Rock).

O'Brien said My Pendant would head to his training property at Thirteenth Beach and have a break before reappearing in mid-February.

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<b>Race</b>	VRC Santa's Workshop Plate 1400m
<b>Winner</b>	My Pendant (NZ) 2015
<b>Owners</b>	M J Chittick, RKH Thoroughbreds (Mgr: R K Hamer), D A & Mrs D E M Monson, R N Harris, R H Hitt, S W Bruhn, A W Bruhn, M K Ashton, Dr J G Morgan, A J Doyle, Eagles Tigers And Hawks Syndicate (Mgr: W Huntly), C Harrington & B M Moloney
<b>Trainer</b>	Danny O'Brien (Flemington)
<b>Breeding</b>	by Pins (AUS) out of My Locket (AUS) by Any Suggestion (AUS)
<b>Breeder</b>	Miss K Fawcett, Waikato Stud Ltd & E S Wright
<b>Sales</b>	2017 National Yearling Sales – Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock Ltd; \$100,000





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# FLEMINGTON WIN GIVES MY PENDANT A HAT-TRICK

(Continued from page 5)

He said the filly deserved a shot at a stakes race and indicated the Gr.3 The Vanity (1400m) at Flemington could be a suitable target.

"She's come a long way in a short time," O'Brien said.

"It was lovely to see her stretch out a little bit further in distance today.

"She does switch off really well and it was a solid 1400 metres today so if stamina was an issue she would have been found out.

"She's still doing a bit wrong, still wanting to lay in, but I think she's got a bright future and she could handle a rise to a mile (1600m) and possibly get a bit further.

"It's an exciting 2019 coming up for her."

My Pendant races in the Waikato Stud silks who retained a share after selling her for \$100,000 to bloodstock agent Phill Cataldo at the 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock yearling sale.

-AAP

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lamborghini motors away for Flemington win

Lamborghini (NZ) (Shinko King) broke a run of runner-up finishes when successful at Flemington in the Summer on the Lawn Handicap (2000m).

The Patrick Payne-trained eight-year-old has placed second in his last three starts, and was stepping up in distance on Saturday.

"I rode him last start and I thought he ran very well so I came here pretty confident," said jockey Tahlia Hope.

"Patrick said just give him a long rein in the barriers and just let him jump and wherever he lands, as long as he is happy and travelling. From the 600m it could not have planned out any better."

### Penny states her claim to All-Star start

**Penny To Sell (NZ)** (Pentire) is shaping up as a left-field prospect for the All-Star Mile (1600m) after she handed her rivals a beating in Saturday's Benchmark 84 handicap over 1600m at Flemington.

Mick Sell's Pentire mare settled last in the field of nine but produced the fastest last 600m of the race (33.59 seconds) to overhaul Supre (High Chaparral) and Teodora (Teofilo).

"Craig (Williams, jockey) obviously knows her inside out and the ride won the race," said Sell.

"Early on we though we had a nice horse and every time she comes in she has won a race and has been great to the stable."



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# BLINKERS WORK FOR TRUSTY LAD AT EAGLE FARM

**T**rainer Matt Kropp has reaped the benefits of saving blinkers for **Trusty Lad (NZ)** (Reliable Man) until the most important day when the gelding won the Eagle Way series final

(2200m) at Eagle Farm on Saturday.

Trusty Lad finished strongly after a slow early pace to beat Ceol Na Mara (Your Song) by 1-3/4 lengths.

Kropp made a special trip to New Zealand to buy Trusty Lad at the New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale of 2yos with the express wish of getting a Queensland Derby winner. Kropp paid \$180,000 to secure the son of Reliable Man out of the Westbury Stud draft.

The Eagle Way series is designed to encourage Queensland trainers to buy horses who might make Queensland Derby and Queensland Oaks horses.

Kropp likes the horses by sire Reliable Man, who won a Gr.1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes in Australia before a stud career in New Zealand.

"Reliable Man has been getting some good stayers. We noticed that a lot of runners down south have gone better with blinkers," Kropp said.

"But we decided to leave them until his grand final for this campaign."

Kropp said Trusty Lad would have a spell before preparing for the Queensland Derby in June.

"He hasn't had a lot of luck this campaign but he showed what he could do today," Kropp said.

<b>Race</b>	<b>BRC Meagher Racing Eagle Way Series 2200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Trusty Lad (NZ) 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>R J Hovey &amp; Mrs S J Hovey</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Matt Kropp (Toowoomba)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Reliable Man (GB) out of Miss Juventus (AUS) by Anabaa (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G Harvey</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Westbury Stud, P: Matt Kropp Racing; \$180,000</b>



Jockey Jim Orman completed a race-to-race double on Trusty Lad and hopes the colt can take the next step in the winter.

-AAP

*Trusty Lad strengthened his case for a run in the Queensland Derby with a win at Eagle Farm on Saturday (AAP)*





# THE FUGITIVE CAN'T BE CAUGHT AT AWAPUNI

A few anxious moments prior to the race were quickly forgotten when two-year-old debutant **The Fugitive (NZ)** (Wanted) showed his rivals a clean pair of heels at Awapuni on Saturday.

The John Bary-trained runner was in high spirits behind the barrier and briefly escaped from rider Rosie Myers before being captured by the clerk of the course.

Passed fit to race, the Wanted colt bounced quickly from an inside gate and led his rivals a merry dance throughout the 1100m contest. Rated to perfection by Myers, The Fugitive skipped clear in the run home to score from the fast-finishing

Pukekohe visitor Qiji Spirit (NZ) (Charm Spirit) with local filly Platinum Touch (NZ) (Proisir) battling on strongly for third.

The victory brought up a milestone for Bary as it was his 200th win as a trainer.

"Someone just sent me a text saying it was winner number 200 so that was a nice way to bring it up," he said.

"We've thought a fair bit of him for awhile now so it was good to get this one under his belt.

"He looked to do it fairly easily as he had them all off the bit on the corner and there was plenty still in the tank at the finish."

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*The Fugitive leads his rivals a merry dance at Awapuni (Race Images)*







# THE FUGITIVE CAN'T BE CAUGHT AT AWAPUNI

*(Continued from page 8)*

Bary admitted he was a little on edge when The Fugitive got loose before the start but recalled a previous incident of the same nature a few years ago that had ended in victory for him.

"Funnily enough Survived got loose here one day and then came out and won the Manawatu Classic so maybe it can be a good omen at times," he said.

"He is a bit of a thinker this horse but when he gets down to business, he is very professional. He can get on the toe but once he is on the track he knuckles down well.

"This will be a good learning experience for him so there is a lot to look forward to."

Bary will now monitor the colt's recovery before committing to any future plans although he has his eye on a Group One target later in the summer.

"He's not eligible for the Karaka Million so we can take our time with him," he said.

"We are thinking about the Group One (Sistema Stakes) at Ellerslie in March as his main aim, so we will now work backwards from there.

"There is a nice race at Wellington next month which could be next but there are plenty of options available to him."

The Gr.1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) is one of the feature events at Ellerslie on the second day of the Auckland Cup Carnival on March 9.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Goodwood Stud Premier 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>The Fugitive (NZ) 2016</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs Lauren Scott, Mr Andrew Scott &amp; Chouxmani Investments Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>John Bary (Hastings)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Wanted (AUS) out of Diva Von Tessa (AUS) by Testa Rossa (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Chouxmani Investments Ltd</b>

## John Costello passes away

John Costello, doyen of racing journalists and a member of the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame, passed away in the early hours of Friday morning.

Costello's more than six-decade life in journalism began in his late teens, when fresh out of high school he was mentored by Matamata-based racing scribe Frank Wilson.

He went on to full-time roles with the racing departments at first the New Zealand Herald and then the Auckland Star/8 O'Clock, where he became racing editor in the late 1970s and at the same time developed a distinctive Runyonesque style to his writing.

On top of his daily journalism duties he also made a huge contribution with a series of books, the first of them Galloping Greats in 1973. Others followed, including more than a decade as editor of the New Zealand Racing Annual, and the Linda Jones story of the fight for female jockeys to be fully licensed.

The standout work in the Costello library was Tapestry of Turf, the monumental and definitive history of New Zealand racing that he and Pat Finnegan produced as a labour of love in 1987.

Costello's other roles included the editorship of New

Zealand Blood Horse, and even into his eighties he continued to write a weekly column for The Informant. Extraordinarily, the last of those was published in this week's edition, less than a day before his death.

Thus he reflected on his life: "How I have enjoyed writing so many columns for you over the past 60 years in numerous publications. I have been part of the world of racing for that number of years and consider myself the most fortunate of men.

"I have been able to earn a living and raise a family by combining two of my great loves; thoroughbred racing and writing."

Costello's massive contribution led to his induction in 2016 to the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame, something that humbled him but that was celebrated by all who recognised his input, not just to journalism but to all of racing and breeding in this country.

John Costello's funeral service will take place at St Mary's Catholic Church, Papakura, on Monday at 11am.

– Dennis Ryan, The Informant



**Video:** [New Zealand Racing Hall Of Fame Inductee John Costello](#)

