

Thursday 27 December 2018

## ANOTHER SPARKLING PERFORMANCE FROM DANZDANZDANCE



*Danzdzandance and Opie Bosson are well clear as they charge to a second successive Group One victory*

The Chris Gibbs and Michelle Bradley-trained **Danzdzandance** (Mastercraftsman) made it consecutive Group One successes when winning the Gr.1 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic (2000m) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day in sensational fashion.

The daughter of Mastercraftsman made light-work of her rivals last start in the Gr.1 Captain Cook Stakes (1600m) at Trentham and delivered a similarly dominant performance on Wednesday, holding a three-and-a-half-length margin on

the line over Group One winner **Lizzie L'Amour (NZ)** (Zabeel), with **Jon Snow (NZ)** (Iffraaj) a further eight-and-a-half-lengths away in third.

Calmly handled by Opie Bosson, Danzdzandance settled at the rear of the field before looping her rivals around the home bend. The champion hoop ensured the mare was balanced before unleashing the afterburners mid-track on the Heavy10 surface and she put her rivals away with ease.

*Continued on page 3*





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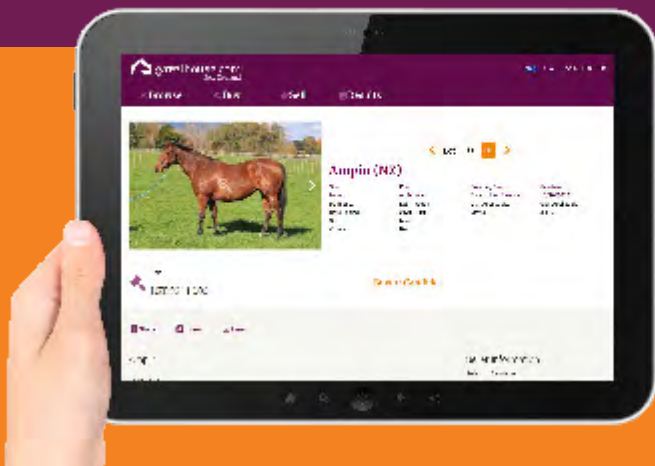
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# ANOTHER SPARKLING PERFORMANCE FROM DANZDANZDANCE

(Continued from page 1)

“Opie rode her beautifully,” Gibbs said. “It all panned out the way we thought it might, but I must admit I was a little bit worried when he made his run and they all started to fan and he ended up so wide, but she was just too good.”

Gibbs indicated the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa on February 9 would be the mare’s next likely assignment before an international campaign is considered.

“We will just see after that, but the Doncaster (Gr.1, 1600m) has got to be a big chance and then after that we don’t know, but we’re going to enjoy it,” he said.

Winning jockey Opie Bosson recorded his 60th Group One win when successful on the mare.

“I got on the back of Lizzie L’Amour and she took me right into the race,” Bosson said. “I just stalked her for as long as I could up the straight and when I really asked my horse, she just sprinted away from her.

“I didn’t want to get caught napping. I did a little bit on Rising Romance a few years ago and I didn’t want it to happen again.

“I still actually don’t know how good she really is. She is

pretty untapped and the way she is winning, she is doing it with ease, so the world’s her oyster,” he said.

Danzdanzdance is raced by a group of owners headed by international supermodel-turned-breeder and syndicator Kylie Bax.

Bax purchased the mare, who was bred by her parents Graeme and Helen-Gaye, for just \$5,000 as a yearling.

“It’s so great to hear the crowd calling her name,” Bax said. “It’s an amazing feeling.”

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>ARC Zabeel Classic Gr.1 2000m.</b>  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Danzdanzdance 2014</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>B.A.X Bloodstock Achieving Xcellence Ltd, S Barnao, M Hawes, J Loose, R J Stern, R Tierney &amp; L Wotton</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Chris Gibbs &amp; Michelle Bradley (Ruakaka)</b>  |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Mastercraftsman out of Night Danza by Danzero</b>  |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>W G &amp; H G Bax</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2016 National Yearling Sales – Select Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: NZB as agent; \$5,000</b>                  |

## QUALITY STALLIONS FOR 2018

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# PUNTERS ROCKED **IN EIGHT CARAT**

**L**ightly-raced filly **Pinmedown (NZ)** (Pins) caused an upset when winning the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Eight Carat Classic (1600m) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day, paying \$33.40 for the win.

Prepared at Matamata by Michael Moroney and Pam Gerard, Pinmedown was having just her fourth raceday start and tracked eventual runner-up **House of Cartier (NZ)** (Alamosa) as the pair came from the rear of the field to run past the highly-rated **Queen Of Diamonds (NZ)** (Savabeel).

A last-start midweek winner at Hawke's Bay, Pinmedown was ridden to her second career success by Australian jockey Jake Bayliss, who had been sidelined by suspension for the last three weeks.

"She has always been a nice filly and Pam has done a great job with her," Moroney said.

"I was talking to Pam two weeks' ago and when we were going through programmes she was quite happy to throw her in the deep end and it has worked out the right way.

"She got a bit further back than we wanted from that draw (barrier 4), but she was going to get caught very wide, so he did the right thing and went back.

"I had a look at the favourite (Media Sensation) as they turned-in and it was under a bit of a ride and our horse was still going easy, so I thought then that she was some chance."

The disappointment of the race was Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) winner Media Sensation (I Am Invincible), who was sent out a \$3.50 equal favourite but was under pressure a long way from home on the testing Heavy 10 track and eventually finished last.

Moroney said the well-related daughter of Pins was unlikely to back-up in next week's Gr.2 Valachi Downs Royal Stakes (2000m) at Ellerslie, which is the next event in the lucrative New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year Series.

"She is going to be on an Oaks campaign, all going well," Moroney said. "She is a three-quarter sister to (Hong Kong star) Ambitious Dragon and she is now a very valuable sort of filly.

"We will probably just give her time to get over this. She can be a bit fragile. She got a little bit on her toes before the race, but she is learning and she has got any amount of ability by the look of her."

Purchased for \$28,000 by Moroney's brother Paul at the 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Select Yearling Sale, Pinmedown was sold by Masterton's Ardsley Stud.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>ARC Eight Carat Classic Gr.2 1600m.</b>   |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Pinmedown (NZ) 2015</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Savvy Racing Blues Syndicate (Mgr: Keith McDonald), Lois &amp; Mike Wilson, Noel Gurney, Richard Sims, Adrian Mathieson, Rob Alderson, Ken &amp; Bev Cherry, &amp; Ballymore Stables NZ Ltd</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Michael Moroney &amp; Pam Gerard (Matamata)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Pins (AUS) out of Alleyway by Oregon (USA)</b>   |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Ardsley Stud Ltd; Central; NZ</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2017 National Yearling Sale - Select; V: Ardsley Stud Ltd , P: Paul Moroney B/stock; \$28,000</b>   |



*Pinmedown (outer) defeats House Of Cartier (middle) and Queen Of Diamonds in the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Eight Carat Classic*







# HYPNOS MESMERISES HIS OPPOSITION IN LISTED FEATURE

Race-fitness played a key role in the final outcome of the first black-type feature at Ellerslie on Boxing Day when promising three-year-old **Hypnos (NZ)** (Reliable Man) downed race-favourite **Dawn Patrol (NZ)** (Dawn Approach) in the Listed Shaw's Wire Ropes Uncle Remus Stakes (1400m).

Trainer Frank Ritchie had warned that Dawn Patrol could be found wanting over the final stages of the contest given he was going into the race fresh-up following his gallant run for second in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton last month.

That scenario played out to the letter as Dawn Patrol looked the likely winner at the 150m mark before Hypnos produced a strong finishing burst to dash past the favourite, before cruising to the line under a hands and heels ride by rider Ryan Elliot.

Co-trainer Roger James was delighted with the result as he prepares the Reliable Man gelding for long-time stable supporters, Ron and Fran Dixon.

"It's wonderful to train another



*Hypnos charges along the rail to defeat Dawn Patrol at Ellerslie*

good horse for Ron and Fran," James said. "They were my first ever owners and the first people I ever bought a yearling for, and that is a long time ago.

"They have stuck with me through thick and thin.

"We won a Derby on Boxing Day with Hades, an Eight Carat on Boxing Day with Hera and we've backed it up with another stakes race on Boxing Day, so we've had a lot of good times together and I think we can have more with this horse."

James, who prepares his charge with training partner Robert Wellwood, indicated Hypnos was likely to be seen next in the Gr.1 Levin Classic (1600m) on January 12 at Trentham.

He also has one eye on a return to Ellerslie for the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m) on March 2. James has prepared five winners of the New Zealand Derby, but was unsure whether Hypnos was the horse to provide him with his sixth winner of the blue riband event.

*Continued on page 6*





# HYPNOS MESMERISES HIS OPPOSITION IN LISTED FEATURE

*(Continued from page 5)*

“He’s a horse that has taken a bit of making, but he is getting better with every run and he may well be a Derby horse,” he said.

Rider Ryan Elliot was taken by the effort of his charge on a tricky Heavy10 surface.

“It is quite puggy out there and I think the fittest horse in the race won,” Elliot said.

“He can do a lot wrong and he can pull quite hard, but if he relaxes in a race, he can get home quite strongly.

“I wanted to get on the back of Jason Waddell (on favourite Dawn

Patrol) and just follow him into the race.

“I was lucky enough that Dawn Patrol kicked away and I was able to follow him through the same spot.”

Purchased by James for \$50,000 out of the Westbury Stud draft at the 2017 Select Sale at Karaka, Hypnos was posting his second victory at just his 6th career start.

A full brother to Hypnos will be offered by Westbury Stud as Lot 872 during the Book 2 session at the New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sale Series at Karaka on January 31.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>ARC Uncle Remus S. L 1400m.</b>  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Hypnos (NZ) 2015</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Mrs F E &amp; R A Dixon</b>  |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Roger James &amp; Robert Wellwood (Cambridge)</b>                                      |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Reliable Man (GB) out of Quality Dream (AUS) by Elusive Quality (USA)</b>           |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Gerry Harvey; Auckland; NZ</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2017 National Yearling Sale - Select Sale; V: Westbury Stud, P: RA James; \$50,000</b> |



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# WEIGHT NO BARRIER FOR INDECISION

**S**mart race mare **Indecision (NZ)** (Per Incanto) gave her rivals weight and a comprehensive beating when she led all the way to win the Listed Hallmark Stud Handicap (1200m) at Ellerslie.

The five-year-old was the clear topweight in the day's sprint feature, carrying 60kgs in the seven-horse-field, 4kgs more than her nearest rival.

Also burdened with the outside barrier for the contest, Indecision made light work of the situation as she set a steady pace in front before bursting clear of her rivals in the run home to win by more than two lengths.

Trainer Tony Pike was full of admiration for the effort by his charge, who has now won six of her 22 career starts. "She's a very good mare when she gets her own way in front," Pike said.

"At her last start at Otaki they went very hard early and she got caught wide and did a lot of work before knocking up the last bit.

"I could tell today she was travelling well on the home corner and it was a brave win on a heavy track with 60kgs."

Pike now faces a dilemma of whether to press on to the Gr.1 Sistema Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie in six days' time.

"It was a tough run today and it will be a quick back-up," he said.

"We'll take her home and probably put her in the pool for a few days before we make a decision.

"Off that win we would have to consider it (the Railway).

"She comes in on 54kgs so she's going to drop 6kgs for the race.

"She's in form so why not have a

crack as it's a Group One sprint and it would be great if she could get some Group One form for the owners."

Rider Leith Innes admitted he had started to get worried towards the finish of the race as the combination of the weight and heavy ground began to tell on his mount.

"With the 60kgs on she was taking very short steps in the last 200m," he said. "She's braved it out well."

Indecision races in the familiar colours of Trelawney Stud couple, Brent and Cherry Taylor, who are amongst the six-strong ownership group who race her.

Little Avondale Stud stallion Per Incanto sired the first three place-getters, with Santa Monica and Rocanto filling the minor positions.



|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>ARC Hallmark Stud H. L 1200m.</b>   |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Indecision (NZ) 2013</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>S L Malcolm, Mrs C N &amp; Ms J Taylor, Faith Taylor, Brent &amp; Cherry Taylor</b>                           |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Per Incanto (USA) out of Yeah Nah by Kinjite</b>   |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Little Avondale Trust &amp; Mrs N K Smyth</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2015 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Little Avondale Stud, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$260,000</b> |

*Indecision lumps topweight to an impressive victory at Ellerslie*





# PITMAN TEAM TAKE WINGATUI FEATURE

The magic hands of evergreen horseman Chris Johnson paved the way for the Michael & Matthew Pitman-trained **Sensei** (Dream Ahead) to take out the feature event at Wingatui on Boxing Day, the Listed Allied Security Hazlett stakes (1200m).

Despite being wide and over-racing during the early stages of the contest, Johnson never panicked as he guided the four-year-old into the race approaching the home turn.

Entitled to wave the white flag after such a tough run, Sensei never flinched as he downed local mare The Precious One (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Gr.1 Telegraph (1200m) winner Signify (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) in a blanket finish to the event.

The victory was just reward for the Dream Ahead entire who had finished

runner-up in the Gr.3 Stewards Stakes Handicap (1200m) at Riccarton at his last start.

“That was some performance today,” Michael Pitman said.

“He was four and five wide at one stage, so to be able to finish off like he did tells you he has a big ticker this horse.

“He had a wide draw and Chris got stuck out there, but the horse never chucked it away and was very brave at the finish.”

Pitman admitted he had been confident of victory after his charge had been the victim of some lousy racing luck at his last start.

“He got skittled after 100m last time so to finish up where he did was a massive effort,” he said.

“On that performance he was always going to be hard to beat today, so we went into the race with plenty of confidence.”



*Sensei prevails in a desperate finish to the feature race at Wingatui, the Listed Allied Security Hazlett Stakes*

Pitman will now set his sights on the Gr.1 JR&N Berkett Telegraph (1200m) at Trentham on January 19 for Sensei where he will be joined by stablemate, and defending champion, Enzo’s Lad who had no luck in the home straight when finishing seventh in today’s contest.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Otago RC Hazlett S. L 1200m.</b>   |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Sensei 2014</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Mr Jim Bruford, Pinehaven Racing, Mr Murray Deans, Mrs K Sanders, Mr Garry Palmer, Mr Michael Williams, Mr B F &amp; Mrs M J Fishburn, Mr John Doran, Won't Die Wondering Breeders, Mr M &amp; Mrs K Tyson &amp; Mr P Kimura, M Pitman</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Michael &amp; Matthew Pitman (Yaldhurst, Riccarton Park)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Dream Ahead out of Schiaparelli by Woodman</b>  |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Emirates Park Pty Ltd</b>  |





*“ Sweynesse is a chip off the old block ”*

**Darren Beadman**

*Sweynesse, is a son of former champion racehorse and super sire Lonhro. Beadman rode Lonhro in most of his 26 wins and he gets to work with many of that horse's sons and daughters at Godolphin.*

- A multiple Group One performer (2nd G1 Randwick Guineas, 3rd G1 Spring Champion) beating some of the best 3YO Group One winners in Australia including Kermedec, Preferment, Hampton Court, Shooting To Win, First Seal.
- Winner of first four starts including dual Group 3 wins in the Spring Stakes and Gloaming Stakes.
- A winner at only start as a 2YO.
- A top 3YO Timeform rating of 122 makes Sweynesse one of the top Australian 3YO colts of his year.
- By Lonhro -The Champion 3YO, the Champion miler, the Horse of the Year, and now a Champion sire. Lonhro set a new Australian record of 160 individual winners in a season. His son Pierro, unbeaten juvenile Triple Crown winner, was rated the best juvenile colt in Australia since 1977.
- Out of the multiple winning mare Swansea by Champion Sire Singspiel (5XG1 Winner and sire of 99SW).
- Sweynesse is a magnificent individual. He stands 16.2 hh. He has a powerful hind quarter, a strong shoulder and a great athletic walk. He is very correct.
- Sweynesse is syndicated amongst many of New Zealand's top breeders who are strongly supporting him at stud.



2019 Karaka 2019 - Book 1 — 27 Jan 2019

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 129 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Keep Thinking (AUS), Bay/Brown Colt<br>Windsor Park Stud |
| 188 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Madonna Mia, Black Filly<br>Novara Park                  |
| 497 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Unearthed, Brown/Black Colt<br>Wentwood Grange           |
| 530 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Xpress, Chestnut Colt<br>Nala Park                       |
| 650 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Cool Storm, Brown Colt<br>Novara Park                    |

2019 Karaka 2019 - Book 2 — 31 Jan 2019

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 699  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Eastern Eclipse, Brown Colt<br>Leanach Lodge Ltd |
| 700  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Electrostatic, Bay Colt<br>Kilgravin Lodge       |
| 702  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Ella's Cat (AUS), Bay Colt<br>Windsor Park Stud  |
| 722  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Fastnfree, Bay Colt<br>Novara Park               |
| 798  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Madam Butterfly, Brown Colt<br>Novara Park       |
| 864  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Polyatomic, Bay Colt<br>Ralph Thoroughbreds      |
| 885  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Rock Rose, Brown Colt<br>Mapperley Stud Ltd      |
| 946  | Sweynesse (AUS) - Tafaool (IRE), Chestnut Colt<br>Brighthill Farm  |
| 1055 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Cutluse, Bay Filly<br>Wentwood Grange            |
| 1062 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Darcybee, Bay Colt<br>Bradbury Park              |

2019 Karaka 2019 - Book 3 — 3 Feb 2019

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1090 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Happy Endings, Brown Filly<br>Brighthill Farm            |
| 1117 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Likely Story, Bay Colt<br>Highfield Grange Thoroughbreds |
| 1148 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Platinum Elle, Bay Colt<br>Westend Partnership           |
| 1157 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Quest for Kash, Bay Filly<br>Brighthill Farm             |
| 1250 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Cabal, Brown Filly<br>Cambria Park                       |
| 1251 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Call Me Maybe, Bay Colt<br>Sedgmere Farm                 |
| 1254 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Cangowest, Bay Filly<br>Grangewilliam Stud               |
| 1269 | Sweynesse (AUS) - Coterie, Bay Filly<br>Cambria Park                       |

**Ray Knight**

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# APPELLANT BURSTS INTO KARAKA MILLION CALCULATIONS

The red-hot winning roll of the Stephen Marsh stable continued at Ellerslie early on Boxing Day when the Cambridge conditioner provided the quinella in a keenly contested two-year-old contest.

Raceday experience told in the closing stages of the 1100m event as **Appellant (NZ)** (Showcasing) proved too strong over the last 100m for debutant **Chiaretta (NZ)** (Makfi).

Carrying the familiar colours of breeders and part-owners Dame Wendy and Don Pye, Appellant was having her third career start following two placed efforts, including finishing third in the Listed Wellesley Stakes (1000m) at Trentham in October.

"I thought both fillies went enormous," Marsh said.

"Appellant had two runs on the board while the other filly (Chiaretta) was terrific (on debut).

"They both get into the Karaka Million now as well."

Eligible for the Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) at Ellerslie next month, Appellant has booked her place with the \$30,000 first prize on offer today while the runner-up cheque of \$9,750 should also see Chiaretta handily placed to make the final field which is selected on total prizemoney earned during the season.

Marsh may also consider a change of gear for Appellant for her next start after she raced a little erratically in the



Appellant and Sam Collett score at Ellerslie home straight.

"She might be one who could benefit from a bit of headgear," he said.

"She ranged up like she was going to put them away and, while the other filly kicked back strongly, she wavered around a little.

"They are both big, strong fillies so we will push on to the Million now."

Appellant clocked 1.08.65 on the Heavy10 rated surface that had been affected by 139mm of rain in the last seven days. Those downpours robbed the contest of some interest with 10-length debut winner **Whisky Neat** (Denman) and impressive trial winner **Patch Prince** (Exceed And Excel) both

scratched prior to raceday due to track conditions.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | ARC SNG Media 2YO S. 1100m.  |
| <b>Winner</b>   | Appellant (NZ) 2016  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | Don Pye & Dame Wendy Pye, H Goodwin, Haunui Bloodstock Ltd, T Lee, R Tang & M Wong             |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)  |
| <b>Breeding</b> | by Showcasing (GB) out of Royal Appellant by Keeper (AUS)                                      |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | D N Pye & Dame Wendy Pye; Auckland; NZ   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | 2018 National Yearling Sale - Book 3; V: Haunui Farm, P: French Connection Syndicate; \$30,000 |







# ZALATTE TO TACKLE **FILLIES FEATURES**

New Zealand-bred filly **Zalatte (NZ)** (Medaglia D'Oro) made it three wins from three starts when defeating her stablemate Welsh Legend (Camelot) in the TAB 3YO Benchmark 70 Handicap (1600m) at Randwick on Boxing Day.

Trained by Chris Waller, the \$1.30 favourite had the class to overcome a tactical affair, reeling in her rivals to defeat Welsh Legend by a short-neck with three lengths back to Snippetspeed.

"It was a great ride by Jay (Ford) on Welsh Legend," winning rider James McDonald said.

"He rode his horse to give it every possible advantage but luckily my filly has the quality to overcome the way the race was run and I loved her determination to really knuckle down and gun the leader down.

"She showed great fight to win that race. She's a very good filly in the making."

Waller said Zalette would now head for a short break with a view to contesting feature three-year-old fillies races.

"She's a nice filly," he said. "I'll put her away now and have a look at doing something similar to what we did with Unforgotten.

"This time of the year is great for getting horses up to the next level. If you turn them out after two wins and expect them to come back and be running in the lead ups to the Group Ones, you've got no chance," Waller said.

Waller prepared fellow Karaka graduate Unforgotten (Fastnet Rock) to win the Gr.1 ATC Oaks (2400m) last autumn.

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>ATC TAB H. 1600m.</b>   |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Zalatte (NZ) 2015</b>   |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Mr C J Waller, Mr N A Greenhalgh, Mrs M T Greenhalgh, Magic Bloodstock Racing, Grand Parview Stud, Mr I Bruce, Mr J M Simmons, Ms S M Fitzgerald, Mrs R J Christie, Mr R G H Christie</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Chris Waller (Rosehill)</b>   |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Medaglia d'Oro (USA) out of Za Star by Zabeel</b>  |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Mrs H G &amp; W G Bax; Waikato; NZ</b>  |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2017 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Blandford Lodge P: Kaha Syndicate / Mulcaster B/stock; \$300,000</b>   |



*Undefeated three-year-old Zalatte (NZ) (Medaglia d'Oro)*





# ROCK CONTINUES **WINNING ROLL**

**R**eady to Run Sale graduate **Rock 'N' Gold** (Rock Of Gibraltar) continued the winning run for Flemington trainers Matthew Ellerton and Simon Zahra when successful in the Ken Sturt Handicap (1400m) at Caulfield on Boxing Day.

"I think we've had a Saturday winner over the past five weeks with a few at the night meetings as well," Simon Zahra said after the all-the-way victory.

"We also had a quinella at Geelong today so the team is starting to roll along again after a bit of a quiet time."

Rock 'N' Gold defied a drift in the market from \$8.50 to \$13 to score after apprentice Liam Riordan decided to take the lead about 200 metres after the start.

The horse relaxed in front and then kicked clear to score a two and a quarter length win over the \$3.20 favourite Amadeus with a neck to the fast-finishing topweight Ulmann (\$9) in third place.

Zahra said he felt Rock 'N' Gold was well placed at this time of the year with just 52 kilograms on his back after the claim.

"Full credit to Liam (Riordan)," he said. "We thought they'd go hard on paper but they stacked them up and he used his brain and went around them."

"He's got a good turn of foot and with no weight on his back, he was always going to be hard to run down."

A \$55,000 graduate of the Diamond Lodge draft at the 2012 New Zealand

Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale, Rock 'N' Gold has won eight races and in excess of A\$500,000 in prizemoney.

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|-----------------|--|
| <b>Race</b>     | <b>Ken Sturt Handicap 1400m.</b>   |
| <b>Winner</b>   | <b>Rock 'n' Gold 2010</b>  |
| <b>Owners</b>   | <b>Mr M J Bracchi, Mr J Kovacevic, Mrs A Kempster, Mr S D Kempster, Mr L T Connolly, Mr A J Kearney, Mrs J M Kearney, Mr A C Law, Mr M J Leyden, Mr M D Lohan, Mr P J Thompson, Mr R Mccluskey, Mr G A Peel, Mr R L Banks, Mr M M Hulme, Hubik Racing, Mr K W Franklin</b> |
| <b>Trainer</b>  | <b>Mathew Ellerton &amp; Simon Zahra (Flemington)</b>  |
| <b>Breeding</b> | <b>by Rock Of Gibraltar out of Goldberg by Geiger Counter</b>  |
| <b>Breeder</b>  | <b>Mr DM Stanaway;</b>   |
| <b>Sales</b>    | <b>2012 Ready to Run Sale of 2YOs; V: Diamond Lodge P: Ellerton Zahra Racing; \$55,000</b>   |



NZB Ready To Run Graduate Rock 'N' Gold

