

Sunday 10 February 2019

ON THE ROCKS TOO TOUGH IN HERBIE DYKE STAKES



Jake Bayliss guides On The Rocks to victory in the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (Trish Dunell)

Matamata galloper **On The Rocks (NZ)** (Alamosa) provided rider Jake Bayliss with his second New Zealand Group One prize when he stormed to victory in the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) on Saturday.

Australian-born Bayliss, who is enjoying his second extended riding stint in New Zealand, had picked up his first elite level victory when successful on Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge) in the 2018 Sistema Railway (1200m).

Brought to New Zealand in 2017

to ride for trainers Mike Moroney and Pam Gerard, Bayliss repaid their faith with a superb effort to guide On The Rocks to victory at Te Rapa for the Matamata stable.

Bayliss had the Alamosa entire well-

Continued on page 3





gavelhouse.com

**Sell with New Zealand's
leading online auction site.**

Next entries due 7pm tomorrow.

Catalogue launched at 5pm Tuesday 12 February, auction closes from 7pm Monday 18 February.
Standard entry fee \$250 + GST and just 5% commission or boost your bloodstock's
exposure with a feature listing for \$400 + GST.



\$35,000



SOLD on gavelhouse.com



\$13,500



SOLD on gavelhouse.com



\$43,000



SOLD on gavelhouse.com



\$54,000



SOLD on gavelhouse.com



\$152,000



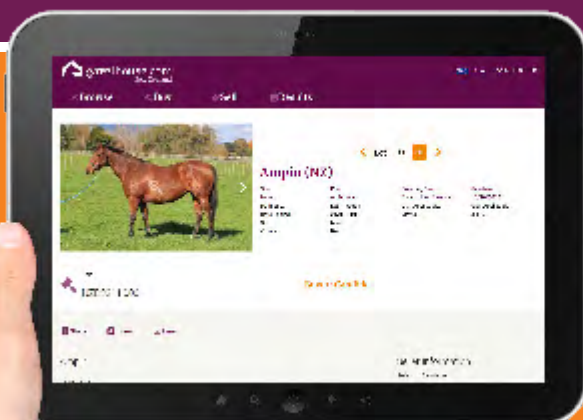
SOLD on gavelhouse.com



\$70,000



SOLD on gavelhouse.com



**REGISTER NOW AND
GET READY TO SELL
YOUR BLOODSTOCK!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE TEAM ON
E. INFO@GAVELHOUSE.COM P. +64 9 296 4436



ON THE ROCKS TOO TOUGH IN HERBIE DYKE STAKES

(Continued from page 1)

placed in midfield in the early stages of the contest before setting out after the pacemakers with 600m to run. On The Rocks tracked hot favourite Danzdanzdance (Mastercraftsman) into the race before angling into the clear to make his challenge at the 300m mark.

On The Rocks quickly ran to the front and hit the finish line over a length clear from outsiders Tiptronic (NZ) (O'Reilly) and Elusive Treasure (Northern Meteor) with Danzdanzdance weakening on her run to finish a well-beaten fifth.

Co-trainer Pam Gerard was swamped by well-wishers as she made her way to the Te Rapa birdcage to greet the winning combination.

"I don't really know what to say as I'm just so happy for everyone who has supported us," she said.

"Jake, well done, and what a great little horse.

"He has probably been under-rated all the way through but what a heart he's got."

A victory at Group One level has added considerable value to any potential stud career the four-year-old entire may have however Gerard explained that he wasn't gelded earlier in his career as she sought to add some fire to his placid nature.

"He was never going to be a stallion and I had to fight with Mike to keep him as a colt," she said.

"I wanted to leave him as a colt as he was quite quiet and I hoped that little bit of edge might make him a better racehorse.

"I don't know (about a stallion career) as it could be quite different now.

"On raceday he gets a little bit excited but once he gets the saddle on, he is a real professional."

Successful on five occasions from just 12 starts, On The Rocks adds the Group One title to his earlier stakes successes in the Listed Trevor Eagle Memorial (1500m), the Gr.2 Avondale Guineas (2200m) and the Gr.2 Rich Hill

Mile (1600m).

He is the son of Refused The Dance mare, Cold Shoulder, and is closely related to Gr.1 Melbourne Cup (3200m) winner Efficient (NZ) (Zabeel) and Group Two winner Guillotine (NZ) (Montjeu).

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Herbie Dyke S. Gr.1 2000m
Winner	On The Rocks (NZ) 2014
Owners	Ballymore Stables NZ Ltd, A Clark, N Gurney, A Mathieson, On The Rocks Syndicate, D P Sinn, Richard Sims, Jim Bebedellis, George Alas & John McNicholas
Trainer	Michael Moroney & Pam Gerard (Matamata)
Breeding	by Alamosa out of Cold Shoulder by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	W J Gleeson
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: Paul Moroney Bloodstock; \$40,000

SOUTH ISLAND

/// 2019

2019 National Yearling Sales Series: South Island Sale

Enter your yearlings and mixed bloodstock online at portal.nzb.co.nz

ENTRIES CLOSE 8 FEBRUARY 2019

www.nzb.co.nz | reception@nzb.co.nz | +64 9 298 0055



NZB[®]



MELODY BELLE COMPLETES DREAM DAY FOR HARRIS

Cambridge jockey Troy Harris completed a dream day at Te Rapa on Saturday when he guided sprinting sensation **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands) to victory in the Gr.1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m).

Harris was “Johnny on the spot” to replace an ill Michael Coleman on Sponge Bob (NZ) (Keeper) in the Gr.2 Warren Strom Lifebrokers Waikato Guineas (2000m) as he guided the \$34 outsider to an upset victory.

Harris had earlier been selected

for the mount on the Jamie Richards-trained Melody Belle after regular rider Opie Bosson was suspended for a raceday indiscretion.

That booking was placed in jeopardy when Harris received his own suspension, however a stay of proceedings enabled him to take his place on the Commands four-year-old mare and secure his first Group One win since piloting Tell A Tale (Tale Of The Cat) to victory in the 2008 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m).

Sent out a warm favourite despite finishing near last in the Gr.1 Telegraph (1200m) at Trentham at her last start, Melody Belle looked a forlorn chance when battling behind a wall of horses shortly after the field turned for home.

Ardrossan (Redoute’s Choice) and Bostonian (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) had set down to fight out the finish before Harris guided Melody Belle into a gap at the 100m mark where she charged home to snatch victory by a head

Continued on page 5



Melody Belle (inner) snatches victory in a desperate finish at Te Rapa. (Trish Dunell)





Sunday 10 February 2019

MELODY BELLE COMPLETES DREAM DAY FOR HARRIS

(Continued from page 4)

from Bostonian with a nose back to Ardrossan in third.

Harris, who had worked and ridden for Te Akau Racing in his formative years, paid tribute to his former employers when questioned after the race.

"I'm thrilled to ride for Te Akau and Fortuna (owner) who have given me the opportunity," he said.

"As you know I did my apprenticeship with Te Akau, so they have been good to me and I'm just rapt.

"Turning for home I thought I was in a little bit of trouble but then I got a suck up behind Jason (Waddell, riding Ardrossan), I gave her a couple and she just took off.

"She had me in two minds turning for home but when we got to the

200m she clicked into gear and I knew we were in business."

Richards also admitted he hadn't been confident of a win as the race unfolded in front of him.

"I must admit I gave her away a bit at the top of the straight," he said.

"Full credit to the horse as she is just so tough and never gives up.

"I don't know what happened at Trentham but that is the real Melody Belle today."

The victory was the third at Group One level this season for Melody Belle who has now won nine of her 18 starts and over \$1.38million in prizemoney.

Owned by the Fortuna Melody Belle syndicate she was a \$57,500 purchase by Te Akau Racing boss David Ellis from the Haunui Farm draft at the 2016 National Yearling Sale.

The win also capped a super day for Haunui Farm graduates with Imelda Mary winning the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Sir Tristram Fillies Classic (2000m) earlier on the programme.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Waikato Sprint Gr.1 1400m
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 Ifraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: DC Ellis; \$57,500

QUALITY STALLIONS FOR 2018

PREFERMENT by Zabeel



Champion Racehorse
4 x Australian Gr.1 Winner

\$12,500 + gst lfg

DALGHAR by Anabaa



Sire of SCOTT BASE
2018 Karaka Million 3YO Winner

\$10,000 + gst lfg

PERFECTLY READY by More Than Ready



Proven Gr.1 Sire

\$3,000 + gst lfg

Brighthill Farm

Nick King 0274 416 442 [Click here for more news >>>](#)





BARGAIN BUY SNARES SECOND STAKES VICTORY

Bargain buy **Imelda Mary (NZ)** (Ferlax) added a second Group Two victory to her burgeoning record when she downed her three-year-old female rivals in the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Sir Tristram Fillies Classic (2000m) at Te Rapa.

Trainer Wayne Hillis paid just \$3,500 for Imelda Mary when purchasing her from the Haunui Farm draft at the 2017 National Yearling Sale. Saturday's victory took her career earnings past the \$168,000 mark as she posted her third win from 15 starts, a record that includes success in the Gr.2 Royal Stakes (2000m) at Ellerslie on New Year's day.

Given the run of the race by rider Cameron Lammas, the Ferlax filly travelled up sweetly throughout before issuing her challenge on the home bend. Sent to the front by Lammas, Imelda Mary kept up a powerful gallop to hold out the late challenge of Awapuni visitor Sentimental Miss (NZ) (Reliable Man) with race favourite Queen Of Diamonds (NZ) (Savabeel) close up in third.

Hillis was delighted with the ride by Lammas after his charge received the perfect run in transit from an inside barrier draw.

"She was exactly where I wanted her to be," he said.

"She hit the lead as they straightened and had to fight them off all the way up the straight, so it was very brave."

Hillis, who named the filly after his mother, will now seek Group One glory in the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400) at Trentham on March 16, with Imelda Mary indicating the step up in distance will be to her liking.

"She has always looked like distance will be her go," he said.

"She was going to go to the Sunline Vase (Gr.3 2100m) but I think I will go to the Lowland Stakes (Gr.2 2100m) and then down to the Oaks.

"Mum is getting a real kick out of it, age is getting the better of her, but it's great that it is all happening while she is here.

"It's a fairy-tale."

Imelda Mary became the third Haunui Farm graduate in the past decade to take out today's Group Two fillies feature, joining Fix (NZ) (Iffraaj) (2013) and Vavasour (NZ) (Redoute's Choice) (2015) on the honours board for the race.

TAB bookmakers reacted swiftly to the victory as they installed Imelda Mary as the \$7 favourite on the New Zealand

Oaks Fixed Odds market with Sentimental Miss, Queen Of Diamonds and Elate (NZ) (Savabeel) sharing the second line of betting at \$10.

– NZ Racing Desk



Race	Waikato RC Sir Tristram Fillies Classic Gr.2 2000m
Winner	Imelda Mary (NZ) 2015
Owners	C M Delamore, W P Hillis & R M Robertson
Trainer	Wayne Hillis (Matamata)
Breeding	by Ferlax out of Eleesha (AUS) by Encosta de Lago (AUS)
Breeder	GSA Bloodstock Pty Ltd
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Festival; V: Haunui Farm, P: WP & VD Hillis; \$3,500

Imelda Mary and Cameron Lammas are well clear as they get to the winning post at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)





RICHARDSON DEFENDS WAIKATO GUINEAS CROWN

Outsider **Sponge Bob (NZ)** (Keeper) upset predictions when he produced a dour staying effort to take out the Gr.2 Warren Storm Lifebrokers Waikato Guineas (2000m) at Te Rapa in the hands of replacement rider Troy Harris.

Harris received a late call-up for the ride on the three-year-old Keeper gelding after ill-health prevented original jockey Michael Coleman from taking the mount.

Harris followed the instructions of co-trainer, Graham Richardson, to the letter as he positioned Sponge Bob just in behind a steady speed set-up by free-going pacemaker, Arrogant (NZ) (Ocean Park).

Harris tracked race favourite Sword In Stone (NZ) (Redwood) into contention and issued his challenge at the 200m mark. With Arrogant fighting on strongly the trio set down to a tooth and nail battle over the concluding stages with Sponge Bob fighting best to down Arrogant by a neck with a short head back to Sword In Stone in third.

Richardson, who prepares the gelding with training partner Gavin Parker, made it back-to-back wins in the event after Xbox (NZ) (Niagra) took out the race in 2018. He was

quick to praise the effort of Harris who had followed their pre-race plan to perfection.

"I told him that most of the time at Te Rapa they haul up down the back straight so if you are there you get a rest," he said.

"It was a great result and I'm really chuffed for the owners and the staff and the horse."

Richardson admitted he had no real confidence heading into the race and was hoping his charge could fill a dividend-bearing placing after breaking his maiden status on the track at his last start.

"I thought if he could run in the first three, I would be rapt," he said.

Troy Harris celebrates as he guides outsider Sponge Bob to an upset victory at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

"This is just an absolute bonus.

"He's not entered for the Derby as at the time of the early noms he wasn't showing us much and the last thing I want to do is waste people's money.

"He just keeps getting better so I will discuss it with the owners now and we could pay the late entry."

Nominations for the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m) closed last November however a late nomination can be submitted by 19 February at a fee of \$30,003.

The last horse to win the New Zealand Derby after paying the late entry fee was fan-favourite Gingernuts (NZ) (Iffraaj) after he had won the traditional Derby lead-up event, the Gr.2 Avondale Guineas (2200m) a fortnight earlier.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Waikato Guineas Gr.2 2000m
Winner	Sponge Bob (NZ) 2015
Owners	The Wrinkly Tin Syndicate
Trainer	Graham Richardson & Gavin Parker (Matamata)
Breeding	by Keeper (AUS) out of Chihenne by Castledale (Ire)
Breeder	C M Gray & Ms C Wilkinson



SHOCKING (AUS)

Street Cry – Maria Di Castaglia, (Danehill)

Dual Group 1 Winning son of Street Cry...

Proven Young Group 1 Sire with **13** Stakes Performers already from first crops to race.

OAKS
WINNER

ADELAIDE
CUP

BRISBANE
CUP

SANDOWN
CUP

COUNTIES
CUP

The WINNERS keep coming...

Kilowatt - fourth win,
Ascot Park (1600m), Feb 7.

Pasabahce - eighth win,
Tauranga (1400m), Feb 6.

Tianchi Monster - fourth win,
Sha Tin (1800m), Feb 2,
Hong Kong Derby Prospect.

Baanone - winner
Canberra (1600m), Feb 1.

Surprise Baby - third win
from four starts,
Moonee Valley (1600m), Jan 25.

Franklin - winner
Counties (2100m), Jan 25.

Fanatic

Breed your future Cups or Classic winner!

Contact:

John Thompson 021 779 931 or Karl Mihaljevich 021 247 8892

e richhillstud@extra.co.nz

www.richhillstud.co.nz





YOGI WINS FIRST-UP FOR NEW CAULFIELD YARD

Yogi (NZ) (Raise The Flag) has completed a seamless transition from one to stable to another with a first-up win at Caulfield.

Last year's Sandown Cup winner for the once all-conquering Darren Weir yard, Yogi was this week transferred to Ciaron Maher and David Eustace.

The switch came after Weir was banned for four years following a raid on his stables last week.

Having his first run since November, Yogi overcame a slow start in Saturday's The Big Screen Company Handicap

(1800m) before powering away to a strong win.

Ridden by Craig Williams, Yogi scored a half-length win from Cool Chap (High Chaparral) with Magnapal (Magnus) a length away third.

Long-term Weir client Darren Dance, from Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock, was high in praise for the way Forest Lodge Racing handled the placement of horses after the trainer was issued with a show cause notice on January 31.

"It was a credit to Darren Weir and the rest of the team who were prepared to talk to Ciaron Maher about where he (Yogi) was at and what should happen.

"I can't thank Forest Lodge enough for what they've done and we're off to a good start with our first ever runner for Ciaron Maher and Dave Eustace."

Dance said he had been receiving information from Forest Lodge that Yogi was going better than at the same stage last preparation.



Yogi stormed home first-up at Caulfield on Saturday (Bruno Cannatelli)

He ran second first-up at Caulfield last August and Dance was expecting Saturday's journey to be ideal.

The Sydney Cup is Yogi's long-term autumn goal with Dance saying he would like to see the stayer in the Tancred Stakes in the lead-up.

-AAP

Race	MRC Big Screen Company H. 1800m
Winner	Yogi (NZ) 2012
Owners	Australian Thoroughbred Bloodstock Pty Ltd, Mr DR Wagner, Brittain Racing, Mr OF Kelly, Mr SN Davidson, Mr ME Basile, Mr TJ Little, Mr ML Byrne, Manhan Racing, Mr AG Cid, Mr BR Fellows, Mr SM Frost
Trainer	Ciaron Maher & David Eustace (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Raise the Flag (GB) out of Malozza (AUS) by Grand Lodge (USA)
Breeder	D G & H A Voice
Sales	2014 South Island Yearling & Mixed Sale; V: DG & HA Voice, P: WG Coles; \$1,000





TANS'S NEW HK LINK-UPS PAY OFF WITH BARTIMAEUS

Trainer Alwin Tan might still be nursing a sore throat, but there was plenty to shout about his new winner **Bartimaeus (NZ)** (Makfi) on Friday night.

What pleased him particularly in the surprise \$117 win was to see his efforts to network beyond his own turf starting to reap results. Bartimaeus is the first horse sent to him by Hong Kong owners he met at a horse sale in Australia.

"I met the owners who are from Hong Kong at a sale in Australia. I visited them in Hong Kong after that, and they agreed to send me a horse, who is this one," said Tan.

"You need to go out there and build new relationships. That's the way to go to expand your business nowadays."

Tan, however, was more hopeful than confident that Bartimaeus, who is biblically named after the blind man Jesus

miraculously gave the sight back, could give Mr Loh Yiu Keung a fairytale start at Kranji.

"I didn't have much confidence as the horse was racing here for the first time. It's still a big unknown," said Tan.

"But based on his condition, he was fit enough and we just had to see how he would go. I told the owner we would give it a try.

"I told Benny (Woodworth) if the pace was not fast, he could put him up there. Benny showed a really good judgement."

The Malaysian jockey seems to be riding with a new purpose these days. Bartimaeus was his fifth winner (off a riding double after he won aboard Sacred Don earlier) for the year to hoist him to eighth place on the Singapore jockeys' premiership, five off leader Michael Rodd.

"The horse jumped out fast. He wanted to lay in a little bit," said Woodworth.

"Vlad (Duric on Elite Saint) controlled the race but my horse was travelling nicely. When I pressed the button, he shot clear.

"He got a bit tired in the end, and was laying in, but he will definitely improve from that run. I think he will get 1400m.

"It was actually a bit of a surprise he won tonight, but we'll take it."

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m
Winner	Bartimaeus (NZ) 2014
Owners	Loh Yiu Keung
Trainer	Alwin Tan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Cinemascope (AUS) by Mossman (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Stuart Hale & Co; \$70,000



Third at Te Awamutu at his only start in a 1400m race in New Zealand, Bartimaeus, who ran a distant eighth at his Kranji barrier trial on January 22, was friendless in the betting ring, but after he took up a striking position off Elite Saint, an upset was on the cards.

Bartimaeus held on rather easily to score by one length from Dreamweaver with Country Boss third another 1 ½ lengths away. The winning time was 1min 12.44secs for the 1200m on the Polytrack.

-STC

Bartimaeus wins on debut at Kranji (Singapore Turf Club)





STAR 3YO SCRATCHED, **SALE PENDING**

Dual Group One winning three-year-old **Madison County (NZ)** (Pins) was scratched from the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa with a sale to Hong Kong pending.

Owners the China Horse Club tweeted "It was great to share and race the country's best 3yo. #pins #HKDerby #CHCsellers #lovehim."

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained Pins gelding won four of his eight starts in New Zealand, including the Gr.1 New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton in November and the Gr.1 Levin Classic (1600m) at Trentham last month.

He was also the winner of the

Gr.2 Hawke's Bay Guineas (1400m) in October and was luckless when third to Long Leaf in the Karaka Million 3YO Classic (1600m) last start.

With a domestic rating of 95, Madison County is the clear top-rated three-year-old in New Zealand.

The China Horse Club's racing and bloodstock manager, Michael Wallace, confirmed the sale process was almost completed.

"The sale process is well down the track and we hope to have it all finalised early next week," he said.

"While it is a shame to miss out on the opportunity to contest another Group One it will be exciting to see him head up to Hong Kong for the next

stage of his career."

Madison County is a son of the outstanding late sire Pins, who has proven a revelation in Hong Kong as the sire of two-time Horse of the Year Ambitious Dragon and four-time Group One winner Aerovelocitv.

Bred by Garry Chittick, Madison County was a \$36,000 purchase by Michael Wallace on behalf of the China Horse Club from Waikato Stud's Select Sale draft at the 2017 National Yearling Sale at Karaka.

He won four of his 8 starts and over \$592,000 in prizemoney and looks an obvious candidate for next year's Hong Kong Derby (2000m), which is run for four-year-olds. – NZ Racing Desk



Madison County wins the Gr.1 Levin Classic at Trentham (Race Images – Peter Rubery)

