

Wednesday 2 January 2019

## OUTSIDER TAKES OUT RAILWAY



Santa Monica winning the Gr.1 Sistema Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day. (Trish Dunell)

Outsider **Santa Monica (NZ)** (Per Incanto) belied her \$77 winning-odds to take out the Gr.1 Sistema Railway (1200m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day.

In a gutsy performance, the Per Incanto five-year-old was able to nab Princess Kereru (NZ) (Pins) on the line to win by a neck, with a further head back to the luckless race favourite Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands), who was posted out three-wide throughout the 1200m feature.

The five-year-old has been in solid form of late for Te

Awamtu trainer Stephen Ralph, finishing runner-up in the Listed Counties Bowl (1100m) and Listed Hallmark Stud Handicap (1200m) last-start, and Ralph said he expected another good showing from his mare.

"She has been knocking on the door and we knew we could win this," he said. "The only horse we feared was Melody Belle.

"It was great work by Trudy (Thornton, jockey), she has

*Continued on page 3*



# APPELLANT (NZ) (Showcasing)

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# OUTSIDER TAKES OUT RAILWAY

(Continued from page 1)

stuck with us the whole way through, she knows the horse and just summed it up perfectly."

Ralph said he received a confidence boost with his mare after her unplaced performance in the Gr.3 Sweynesse Stakes (1215m) in October, which set her on a path for Group One glory.

"We posted the best last 600m in the sprint down in Rotorua (Sweynesse Stakes) against some of the best sprinters around at the time, so we knew we had the horse," he said.

Ralph reflected on the long journey it has taken to attain his first win at elite-level and he was quick to mention the loyalty of his owners Stuart and Cherie Hope.

"It's our first Group One winner," he said.

"We formed a partnership all the way through. It's about 13 years in the making with Stuart and Cherie with this horse, so big ups to them."

Winning jockey Trudy Thornton was just as jubilant for Santa Monica's connections and said her mount appreciated

the firmer ground on Tuesday.

"She is such a tough little competitor," she said.

"It all panned out alright, the speed was on which suited her. She got into air when she needed to and tried her heart out, as she does.

"Last-start she went a really good race, but the track was a bit off and she likes it really firm and she got that today. She is just so much happier on good ground."

Ralph capped off a great day by taking out the last race on the card at Ellerslie, the Barfoot & Thompson 1600, with Marissa.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Railway S., Gr.1 1200m.</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Santa Monica (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Stuart &amp; Cherie Hope</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Ralph (Te Awamutu)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Per Incanto (USA) out of Monarch (NZ)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Protech Design Trust</b>

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# BAYLISS' HARD WORK **NOT WASTED'**

Going without over the festive season has paid off for jockey Jake Bayliss after he took out the Gr.2 Rich Hill Mile (1600m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day aboard the

Michael Moroney and Pam Gerard-trained **On The Rocks (NZ)** (Alamosa).

The Matamata-based hoop had to get down to 52.5kg to ride the Alamosa entire in the mile feature and he was pleased that he had.

"I said I'd give it my best shot (to make the weight), I really wanted to ride him," Bayliss said. "His work has been great, he is one of my favourite horses.

"I did the weight because I had trust in the horse today. He's done great, but don't expect me to get down to 52.5kg any time soon.

"It was a lot of hard work, I was basically a vegetarian there for a week, so I'm keen for a good steak tonight."

Moroney was pleased with the ride and said he will now have to put plans for On The Rocks to join his Melbourne

stable on the backburner.

"I thought it was a really great win. It was a very good ride. Jake has wasted pretty hard to get down to ride it (52.5kg)," he said.

"Pam has done a great job with this colt. I did warn her I was going to take him to Australia, because I saw with his rating he could have won a lot of money there, but we changed our minds and left him here.

"He will now probably go down for the Thorndon Mile (Gr.1, 1600m). He's been saved from Australia at this stage."

All going to plan, the multiple stakes winner could be set to tackle the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa next month after his mile assignment at Trentham.

"I think the Herbie Dyke will be ideal for him too, that's his distance range,"

Moroney said.

"He is a really tough miler and the horse gets 2000m. He's not very big, but he has got a giant stride on him. He has always been that way. I think he is a really underrated horse."

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Rich Hill Mile, Gr.2 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>On The Rocks (NZ) 2014</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Ballymore Stables Nz Ltd, A Clark, N Gurney, A Mathieson, On The Rocks Syndicate, D P Sinn, Richard Sims, Jim Bebedellis, George Alas &amp; John McNicholas</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Michael Moroney &amp; Pam Gerard (Matamata)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Alamosa (NZ) out of Cold Shoulder (NZ)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>W J Gleeson</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2016 National Yearling Sale - Select; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: Paul Moroney B/stock; \$40,000</b>



On The Rocks winning the Gr.2 Rich Hill Mile (1600m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day. (Trish Dunell)





# IMELDA MARY TRIUMPHS IN ROYAL STAKES

**M**atamata filly **Imelda Mary (NZ)** (Ferlax) caused a minor upset when she dashed away from her age-group rivals to take out the Gr.2 Valachi Downs Royal Stakes (2000m) at Ellerslie on Tuesday.

The nuggety Ferlax three-year-old was stepping up from a maiden victory over 1600m at her last-start although she had hinted she was more than comfortable in black-type company with a gritty fifth in the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) back in November.

Given a perfect trip in midfield by rider Cameron Lammas, Imelda Mary sprinted quickly to the front early in the run home as she put a winning break on her nearest chaser.

Awapuni visitor Secret Allure (NZ) (Zacinto

and the well fancied Luminous (NZ) (Reliable Man) tried hard however Imelda Mary was too strong as she held out all challenges to score by just over a length at the line.

The win held special significance for trainer Wayne Hillis, who was trying hard to keep his emotions in check as he waited for his charge to return to the winner's enclosure.

"It's very special," Hillis said.

"This filly is named after my mum, so it's unbelievable.

"I've been in racing all my life and had some good thrills, but this is right up there."

Whilst Hillis has Imelda Mary nominated for the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400m) at Trentham on March 16, he is leaning towards a richer target back at Ellerslie later this month as her next assignment.

"She's in the Oaks as that is her main target, but I'll freshen her up and have a go at the Karaka Million (3YO 1600m) as she is eligible for that," he said.

"It's a mile, so whether that is far enough, or she wants to keep going further, we've got to have a go.

"I was pretty confident (today) but you can't be over confident in these big races. Just with the way she was running



Imelda Mary winning the Gr.2 Valachi Downs Royal Stakes (2000m) at Ellerslie on Tuesday. (Trish Dunell)

on, definitely we were confident."

The Ferlax filly was a bargain buy for her trainer, with Hillis purchasing her out of Haunui Farm's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Festival Yearling Sale draft for \$3,500.

The Karaka Million 3YO Classic (1600m) will be run at Ellerslie on January 26.

The Royal Stakes is the fifth event in the prestigious New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year series with Imelda Mary taking out the eight points on offer. The series is currently led by 1000 Guineas winner Media Sensation (I Am Invincible) on 12 points with Imelda Mary, Pinmedown (NZ) (Pins) and Queen Of Diamonds (NZ) (Savabeel) tied in second on 8 points.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Royal S., Gr.2 2000m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Imelda Mary (NZ) 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>C M Delamore, W P Hillis &amp; R M Robertson</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Wayne Hillis (Matamata)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Ferlax (NZ) out of Eleesha (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>GSA Bloodstock Pty Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 National Yearling Sale - Festival Sale; V: Haunui Farm, P: Mr WP &amp; Mrs VD Hillis; \$3,500</b>





# PIKE UNVEILS NZ DERBY CONTENDER

Cambridge trainer Tony Pike may have unveiled a major player in New Zealand's three-year-old ranks after **Surely Sacred (NZ)** (Rock 'n' Pop) showed a devastating turn of foot to take out the Gr.2 Jamieson Park Auckland Guineas (1600m) at Ellerslie on Tuesday.

The Rock 'n' Pop gelding travelled towards the rear of the field throughout, until jockey Leith Innes found some clear racing room at the 200m mark where he was able to unleash his charge and account for the rest of the field to win by three-quarters of a length over pacemaker Cantstopthefeeling (NZ) (Swiss Ace).

"With the outside gate we were always going back," Pike

said. "The favourite (More Wonder) had a tough trip and he tried to follow that and he wasn't taking him anywhere.

"Once he got into the clear, he has got a great turn of foot. He is still learning as well, this is only his third start, so he is an exciting horse going forward."

It was a monumental result for Waikato Stud stallion Rock 'n' Pop, with Surely Sacred recording his first stakes win as a sire.

Purchased out of Waikato Stud's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale draft by Raffles Racing for \$160,000, the three-year-old will now likely head towards

*Continued on page 7*



*Surely Sacred winning the Gr.2 Jamieson Park Auckland Guineas (1600m) at Ellerslie on Tuesday. (Trish Dunell)*





# PIKE UNVEILS NZ DERBY CONTENDER

*(Continued from page 6)*

the Listed Karaka Million 3YO Classic (1600m) at the end of the month, before a possible tilt at the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m).

“We’ll obviously discuss that (next target) with the owners, but obviously the Karaka Million is a big stake and a great night,” Pike said.

“They will all be over here so I’d say they will be leaning towards that. We’ll just get him home and see how he pulls up.

“He is out of Provocative’s (NZ) (Zabeel) (Gr.1 Queensland Oaks (2400m) winner) family, so there is a little bit of staying blood in there. It will be nice to think he can get a Derby trip, but he’ll tell us that on the way through.”

Innes, who also partnered the Tony Pike-trained Whiskey Neat to win the Gr.3 Barneswood Farm Eclipse Stakes (1200m) earlier in the card, is excited about Surely Sacred’s future and

believes he could be an ideal Derby horse.

“It’s pretty exciting, they weren’t going that hard up front. I got him out and pushed the button and he was there pretty quick,” Innes said.

“That’s his main goal I think, 2400m (Derby distance). He goes to sleep and shows that good turn of foot late in the piece, so he’s going to be hard to roll.”

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Auckland Guineas, Gr.2 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Surely Sacred (NZ) 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Raffles Racing</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Rock ‘n’ Pop (AUS) out of Not Sure (NZ)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Waikato Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2017 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Raffles Racing; \$160,000</b>



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# LIKELY KARAKA MILLION FAVOURITE SALUTES AT ELLERSLIE

**E**xciting two-year-old **Whiskey Neat** (Denman) cemented his claim for the favourite's tag for the rich Listed Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) later this month when he led all the way to take out the Gr.3 Barneswood Farm Eclipse Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie.

The Tony Pike-trained gelding had set tongues wagging when he won by ten lengths on debut at Otaki last month. That victory left pundits wondering if he could replicate that sort of effort against a far stronger field in Tuesday's Group Three feature.

Those questions were answered in emphatic fashion as the strapping Denman youngster dominated from the front throughout the contest before coasting home to down the previously unbeaten Aotea Lad (NZ) (Savabeel) and Exuberant (NZ) (Savabeel) in a slick 1.10.66 for the 1200m journey.

Despite getting a little wayward

over the last 100m, Pike was pleased with Whiskey Neat's debut outing at the Ellerslie track under race-day conditions as he looks forward to the Karaka Million later this month.

"He got quite lost today off the bridle," he said. "It's obviously a lot stronger race today.

"Leith (Innes) rode him well, cuddled him up around the corner, but when he went for him it took him a while to work it out.

"He changed legs a couple of times and had a good look at the winning post, so he will obviously improve off that."

The \$42,000 first prize from the race will more than qualify Whiskey Neat for the Karaka Million with Pike happy to go into the \$1 million juvenile feature on January 26 without another run for his charge.

"He needed to win today to think

you were a chance of winning the Karaka Million," he said.

"He has beaten some nice two-year-olds behind him.

"He'll improve a lot so we're looking forward to three and a half weeks from today.

"We'll just keep him ticking over and maybe come back for a gallop if they open the course before that meeting."

Rider Leith Innes was satisfied by the effort and believes there is more to come for the youngster.

"He got softened up the whole race and they all had their chance to get past him," he said.

"He's a big, gross horse who I don't think Tony (Pike) has got to the bottom of yet."

Runner-up Aotea Lad lost no admirers with a barn-storming finish from near last on the turn while third-placed Exuberant also closed off stylishly to suggest both will be serious contenders for the Karaka Million.

– NZ Racing Desk



<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Eclipse S., Gr.3 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Whiskey Neat 2016</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>S T Leung</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Denman (AUS) out of Oujja (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mr A Williams</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2018 National Yearling Sale - Book 1; V: Koru Thoroughbreds Ltd, P: Waikato Bloodstock (BAFNZ); \$220,000</b>

Whiskey Neat winning the Gr.3 Barneswood Farm Eclipse Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie. (Trish Dunell)





# RICH HILL KARAKA 2019

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# PRINCE JABEEL UPSETS IN CITY OF AUCKLAND CUP

Apprentice Ryan Elliot celebrated his recent red-hot run of form when he guided outsider **Prince Jabeel** (Savabeel) to an upset victory in the Gr.3 Pencarrow Stud City of Auckland Cup (2400m) at Ellerslie.

Carrying the colours of breeder and part-owners Brendan and Jo Lindsay, the under-rated five-year-old hadn't figured in any pre-race discussions but proved he deserved his place in the staying feature as he fought off all challenges after taking the lead approaching the home bend.

The Savabeel gelding had the audacity to pull clear in the final few strides as Elliot's whip flourish sparked connections into some wild celebrations in the Ellerslie grandstand.

"It's amazing," Lindsay said.

"We thought he had a chance, but gosh, he's just won easy, I can't believe it.

"We sent him over to Moira Murdoch's at the beach last week and it obviously works. I think I'd better go there for a week myself.

"That's the third stakes winner for the mare which is so exciting."

Prince Jabeel is from Danehill mare J'Adane, who was placed on seven occasions at stakes level including a runner-up finish in the 2007 Gr.1 Kelt Capital Stakes (2040m) behind

Princess Coup. She is also the dam of Group Three winners Von Tunzelman (NZ) (Zabeel) and Sherrif (NZ) (High Chaparral).

Trainer Lance Noble was thrilled with the result as he looks ahead to a two-mile challenge for his charge.

"It's amazing to be able to do that for Brendan and Jo and the whole team," he said.

"It's a big team effort so to get a win on a day like today is fantastic.

"He's a 2400m-3200m horse that we are trying to get to the Wellington Cup and this race set-up for him to be honest.

"If he'd run a nice placing, I was going to be happy, but Ryan rode him really well as the light weight was a big

help."

Prince Jabeel has now won three of his 20 career starts with more than \$163,000 in stakes earnings. He holds a nomination for both the Gr.3 NZ Campus for Innovation & Sport Wellington Cup (3200m) on January 19 and the Gr.1 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (3200m) on March 19.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC City of Auckland Cup, Gr.3 2400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Prince Jabeel 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>B J Lindsay MNZM &amp; Mrs J E A Lindsay, J Parsonson &amp; L Van der Veer</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Lance Noble (Karaka)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Savabeel (AUS) out of J'Adane (NZ)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mr B Lindsay</b>



*Prince Jabeel winning the Gr.3 Pencarrow Stud City of Auckland Cup (2400m) at Ellerslie on New Year's Day. (Trish Dunell)*





# REGENCY LEGEND EXTENDS WINNING RECORD

**R**egency Legend (NZ) (Pins), known as Espumoso in New Zealand, took his undefeated record in Hong Kong to two after winning the Class 2 1200m at Sha Tin on Tuesday.

Trainer Danny Shum was pleased with the win, but believes there is improvement still left in the three-year-old gelding.

"We'll keep him going this season but he can get stronger. I feel that he's 90 percent fit at this stage, I'm not pushing him, just letting it come

naturally," Shum said.

Shum has got a big opinion of Regency Legend, who he thinks has the potential to tackle international company next December.

"When he's four-years-old he'll be stronger and then we can think about the International Races," he said.

Regency Legend was purchased out of Waikato Stud's 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale draft by Pamsel Investments for \$50,000.

The Pins gelding had three starts in New Zealand for trainers Murray Baker

and Andrew Forsman, winning his first two starts before finishing runner-up to Xpression in the Gr.2 Wakefield Challenge Stakes (1200m) at Trentham.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>HKJC Tai Mo Shan H. 1200m.</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Espumoso - Regency Legend (H.K.) (NZ) 2015</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Wong Shun Yuen</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Danny Shum</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Pins (AUS) out of Sparkling (NZ)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Waikato Stud Ltd</b>



Regency Legend (Espumoso) winning at Te Aroha. (Kenton Wright)



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<b>Espumoso - Regency Legend (H.K.) (NZ) 2015 by Pins (AUS) out of Sparkling</b>	Waikato Stud Ltd; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Tai Mo Shan H. HK\$1111500 1200m.	2017 National Yearling Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd; \$50000; P: Pamsel Investments
<b>Money Winner (NZ) 2012 by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Just a Dream</b>	Mrs J K Brown	HKJC Kowloon Peak H. HK\$393300 1600m.	2014 National Yearling Sale; V: Haunui Farm; \$53000; P: NZB as agent
<b>Smiling Touch - Smiling Pride (H.K.) (NZ) 2013 by O'Reilly out of Salkantay</b>	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Yi Tung Shan H. HK\$524400 1600m.	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Diamond Lodge; \$220000; P: KP Fung

