

Sunday 28 January 2018

GAME SET MATCH **TO AVANTAGE**



Avantage and Opie Bosson hold off stablemate Al Hasa to claim victory in the Listed Karaka Million (1200m)

The Akau Racing secured their second consecutive Listed Karaka Million (1200m) when flying filly **Avantage** (Fastnet Rock) carried their tangerine and blue colours to victory at Ellerslie.

The Fastnet Rock filly started favourite in the race after she had been unbeaten in her first three starts including an impressive win at her first look around Ellerslie a fortnight ago. With five Te Akau runners in the event, the choice of the stable's leading rider, Opie Bosson, was a crucial indicator as

he plumped for Avantage despite the filly carrying 54.5kgs, a weight that is normally out of reach for the heavyweight rider.

Earlier in the evening Bosson had indicated he was struggling badly to meet the lightweight target however he weighed out at the correct mark, determined to reap the rewards of the battle.

What followed was a picture-perfect display on Avantage as he utilised an inside barrier draw to have the filly tracking

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LITTLE AVONDALE
BIG ON WINNING

77 YEARS
BRED REARED OR SOLD

27 GR 1 WINNERS for 47 GR 1 WINS

31 GR 2 WINNERS for 49 GR 2 WINS

31 GR 3 WINNERS for 40 GR 3 WINS

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ALREADY FOUR STAKES WINNERS THIS SEASON





GAME SET MATCH **TO AVANTAGE**

(Continued from page 1)

the speed throughout. Asked to move into contention, Avantage lengthened beautifully to snatch the lead from pacemaker Bocce (Foxwedge) at the 200m mark and hold out the challenge of stablemate Al Hasa (NZ) (Exceed And Excel) who stormed home late for visiting rider Hugh Bowman. Bocce clung grimly to third from stablemate She's A Thief (NZ) (Showcasing) who battled gamely after being held up approaching the home turn.

"I always knew she was the one to ride and the only worry I had was trying to make the weight," said Bosson.

"I busted my a... to do it and even this morning I was thinking I wish I had picked one of the colts as it would have been easier.

"When something like this happens it's really worth it.

"She's just a natural racehorse which makes the job so much easier. She really impressed me first-up and had so much improvement in her.

"I got the perfect run although turning for home I thought the leader had us in trouble. Once she balanced up she really stepped up and it was all over."

Te Akau racing boss David Ellis was one of many to pay tribute to Bosson after the race.

"This is the biggest thrill you can have in a lifetime," he said.

"Opie has worked so hard to get down to the weight to ride this horse, he's just a legend.

"Hughie Bowman was also a beautiful ride on Al Hasa and all our runners went well."

Ellis bought Avantage for \$210,000 out of the Oaks Stud Premier draft at the 2017 Karaka Yearling Sale, a figure he felt was cheap considering the filly's pedigree.

"I paid \$210,00 for her, which for a Fastnet Rock filly was great buying," he said.

"Opie told me early on she was a high-class filly. She trialled at Te Teko back in August and has just shown us so much all the way through.

"She is owned by a terrific bunch of people who are just over the moon. It's a life-changing experience for them."

Ellis will now turn his attention to securing the next group of quality yearlings for the Te Akau team during the 2018 edition of the NZB National Yearling Sale which commences at 5pm at Karaka on Sunday.

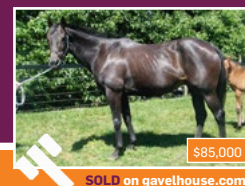
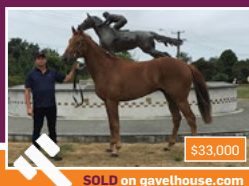
– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Karaka Million 2YO (R) L 1200m.
Winner	Avantage (AUS) 2015
Owners	Te Akau Avantage Syndicate (Mgr: KW Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Asavant by Zabeel
Breeder	Mr W Calder
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: The Oaks Stud, P: Mr D C Ellis; \$210,000



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BARNSTORMING FINISH LANDS SCOTT BASE INAUGURAL KARAKA 3YO CLASSIC



Scott Base produces an undeniable finish to down race favourite Embellish in the inaugural Karaka 3YO Classic (1600m)

A devastating finishing burst has carried **Scott Base (NZ)** (Dalghar) to an upset victory in the inaugural running of the \$1million Karaka 3YO Classic (1600m).

The lightly raced Dalghar three-year-old was having just his second run in a new campaign after an unsuccessful attempt at the Gr. 1 New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas (1600m) in November. Despite winning easily at Awapuni, the Johno Benner and Holly Wynyard trained runner

was overlooked in most pre-race discussions as punters focussed their attention on 2000 Guineas winner Embellish (NZ) (Savabeel), who started a warm favourite in Sunday's contest.

Favourite backers had plenty to be confident about as rider Opie Bosson had Embellish trucking in a beautiful position on the outer after negotiating a tricky outside barrier with ease. At the same time Rosie Myers was bidding her time on Scott Base who had settled towards the rear but travelled

easily as the field was strung out on a strong pace set by Ever Loyal.

Bosson made his move at the 600m mark as he swooped forward on Embellish and quickly joined issue despite enduring a decent bumping duel with three-year-old filly Kapoor (NZ) (Reliable Man). Embellish shot to the front and looked home for all money however just as he was being hailed the winner, Myers hit overdrive on Scott Base who dashed past the

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BARNSTORMING FINISH LANDS SCOTT BASE INAUGURAL KARAKA 3YO CLASSIC

(Continued from page 3)

favourite in the shadows of the post to claim the win.

Benner, who had experienced Karaka Million glory with Vespa (NZ) (Elusive City) in 2014, was having trouble containing his emotions as he savoured the victory.

"To be honest I sort of stood there at the furlong and wondered if it was all going to happen again and it did," he said.

"I could see he was coming strongly, he's a horse we've got a lot of time for and he's done it again for us tonight.

"We knew he was top drawer and he's beaten a good field. Barring Dijon Bleu they were all here, so it was very good."

Benner also paid tribute to part-owner Chris Rutten who purchased Scott Base for \$70,000 from the Brighthill Farm draft during the Select

session of the 2016 NZB Yearling Sale Series.

"He's another horse that Chris has bought and he has an amazing record that you can't argue with," he said.

"They have been massive supporters of us and I wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for them."

Myers was also quick to praise her mount who she had ridden for the first time at Otaki.

"He's got an amazing turn of foot," she said.

"It's my second time riding him and he really impressed me the first time I was on him.

"He relaxed beautifully and he was pretty awesome the last bit.

"He was up in grade today, so we were a little uncertain, but he has shown his class."

The protest siren sounded shortly

after the horses had crossed the line with fifth placegetter Kapoor alleging interference from runner-up Embellish and third-placed runner Ever Loyal (Sebring). After a lengthy hearing the judicial committee relegated Ever Loyal to fifth with South Island filly Savvy Coup (NZ) (Savabeel) moving to third with Kapoor in fourth.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Karaka Million 3YO Classic (R) L 1600m.
Winner	Scott Base (NZ) 2014
Owners	C A Rutten, C J B Norwood, Joanna & John Frew
Trainer	Johno Benner & Holly Wynyard (Otaki)
Breeding	by Dalghar (FR) out of Extra Celestial (AUS) by Danehill Dancer (IRE)
Breeder	Botsky Pty Ltd; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: Brighthill Farm \$70000 P: Chris Rutten B/stock



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QUALITY MARE VINDICATES DECISION TO PRESS ON

A decision to keep **Thee Auld Floozie (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) in training was richly rewarded at Ellerslie on Saturday.

The six-year-old had been in indifferent form this preparation before the grey mare turned it around when overcoming a difficult run to successfully defend her crown in the Gr.2 Westbury Classic (1400m).

“Some people were saying she should have been retired and I was thinking they may have been right after her first couple of runs,” trainer Stephen Marsh said.

“But I thought the writing was on the wall after her last run, I saw enough there and she’s a high-class mare.

“When I saw her in the parade ring before the race today I saw that spring back in her step. I’m rapt for the owners and I would love to get another Group One and then send her to stud next season.”

Thee Auld Floozie, winner of last season’s Gr.1 Thorndon Mile (1600m), was ridden by top Sydney jockey Hugh Bowman.

“She really came home well after

being caught three wide without cover,” he said.

“Stephen was very confident after her last run over an unsuitable 1200m and getting up to 1400m suited her. She showed her class here today.”

Thee Auld Floozie raced wide just ahead of midfield and she finished gallantly in the run home to account for the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained stablemates Lizzie L’Amour (NZ) (Zabeel) and Coldplay (NZ) (Savabeel).

The runner-up stormed home from well back in the field over a distance short of her best and Coldplay fought gamely to hold third from the southerner Montoya Star (High Chaparral), who found the line strongly.

– NZ Racing Desk.



Race	ARC Westbury Classic Gr.2 1400m.
Winner	Thee Auld Floozie (NZ) 2011
Owners	P D Craighead, L G Ford, S B Marsh, M C Roughead, Two Fat Cows Syndicate, J G & Mrs S K Young
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Thee Auld Hussie by Spinning World (USA)
Breeder	G Young; Waikato; NZ

Gutsy grey mare Thee Auld Floozie adds another big race success to her outstanding Ellerslie record





BAYLISS' EFFORTS HANDSOMELY REWARDED

A lean and hungry Jake Bayliss was rewarded at Ellerslie for his belief.

The Australian jockey's New Zealand stint gained further momentum on Saturday with Group Three wins in the BRIGHTHILL FARM Concorde Handicap (1200m) aboard Julius (NZ) (Swiss Ace) and the Windsor Park Stud City of Auckland Cup (2400m) with **Charles Road** (Myboycharlie).

"Getting down to 53kg is the bottom of the barrel for me, but I dug deep to get my weight down and it's paid dividends – I knew they were very good rides," Bayliss said.

Not the easiest horse to handle, Charles Road raced outside of the leader early in the running before settling just off the pace set up by Gobstopper (NZ) (Tavistock).

"I was very confident going into today," Bayliss said. "I wanted to get some cover and did when another one came around me."

Charles Road ambled up to challenge about 300m from home before kicking clear and the four-year-old had enough in reserve to hold off the late run of Five To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday) and Hugh Bowman to win for the fourth time in his 15-start career.

"I held him together for as long as I could and then he started to get his head up, but fortunately his head was sticking down at the right time," Bayliss said.

Charles Road is trained by Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew



Jake Bayliss notches a winning double at Ellerslie on Charles Road after a victory on Julius earlier in the day

Scott and races in David Archer's colours, which were carried by his multiple Group One winner and former two-time New Zealand Horse of the Year Mufhasa (NZ) (Pentire).

"It was a great performance and he's a horse with a lot of ability, but he still does a lot of things wrong," O'Sullivan said.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	ARC City of Auckland Cup Gr.3 2400m.
Winner	Charles Road (AUS) 2013
Owners	Archer Equine Investments Ltd
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Myboycharlie (IRE) out of Giant Mystique (AUS) by Giant's Causeway (USA)
Breeder	Miss A Yelland
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session V: Wentwood Grange \$90,000 P: Mr DL Archer





GENTLE GIANT DOMINATES AT ELLERSLIE

Lightly raced sprinter **Julius (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) delivered an emphatic statement when he captured his first stakes victory in the Gr. 3 Brighthill Farm Concorde Handicap (1200m) at Ellerslie.

The John Bell trained six-year-old has taken plenty of time to mature into his giant frame however an effortless first up victory a fortnight ago had many speculating this campaign could see him at his very best.

Those thoughts were well and truly confirmed as once again the Swiss Ace gelding ambled to a convincing win over a handy field that included three of the first four home in last week's Gr. 1 Telegraph (1200m) at Trentham.

Settled handy to a hot speed set by frontrunners Ferrando (NZ) (Fast 'n' Famous) and Passing Shot (NZ) (Swiss

Ace), Julius and rider Jake Bayliss bided their time before angling into the clear on the point of the home bend. Bayliss said go at the 300m mark and the big fellow bounded clear to put the issue beyond doubt as he held out the fast finishing Romancer (NZ) (Redwood) to win in a smart 1.09.42 for the 1200m journey.

"It was pretty simple really," said Bayliss as he returned to the winner's enclosure after the race.

"It was always going to work in our favour as there was a bit of speed out wide and he jumped well himself.

"We crossed a few inside us and then let the horses out wide do their thing while we bided our time until he balanced himself up.

"He's better than a Group Three horse and I think he can go on to

better things."

Bell was full of praise for both the horse and the ride of Bayliss as he waited for the pair to return to the birdcage.

"He rode him perfectly," he said.

"What impressed me was the horse responded to him as he gave him a bit of bite for a start but then he relaxed in behind the two speedsters.

"The Darley is next on his dance list, so we will just keep him happy and bring him back here for that."

The Gr. 3 Darley Plate (1200m) is the feature sprint on Vodafone New Zealand Derby Day at Ellerslie on Saturday 3 March.

Westbury Stud will offer a half-brother to Julius by Reliable Man as Lot 444 during the Book 1 catalogue at the NZB Karaka Yearling Sale Series that kicks off today.

– NZ Racing Desk



Giant sprinter Julius has his rivals covered in the Gr. 3 Brighthill Farm Concorde Handicap (1200m)

Race	ARC Concorde H. Gr.3 1200m.
Winner	Julius (NZ) 2011
Owners	Hamish Jones, Rex Hawkins, Guy Davey, Bill Harris, Peter Schmidt, Mere Balzer, Stephen Read, Mark Robins & Summer Bell
Trainer	John Bell (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Royal Show by Deputy Governor (USA)
Breeder	G Harvey; Waikato; NZ





CRACK FILLY BACK **IN WINNING GROOVE**

Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) has again produced a faultless performance on the Karaka Million stage.

Twelve months ago, the top filly was the headline act when she was victorious in the two-year-old feature and at Ellerslie on Saturday she was back to claim top undercard honours in the Gr.3 Mongolian Khan Trophy (1200m).

In between times the Stephen Autridge and Jamie-Richards trained daughter of Commands has won the Gr.1 Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m) and the Gr.2 BRC Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m).

"I don't think she's ever been better," Autridge said in the wake of Melody Belle's latest success.

She was given a cosy run in the trail by stable jockey Opie Bosson and once they were into the clear soon after straightening the race was all over.

"She was full of running turning in and I didn't have to go for the stick," he said. "She did it all under her own steam, I was just the pilot."

Melody Belle was sent out a less than even money favourite and she won like it, gliding clear in the closing 150m to have a wide margin on runner-up Astor (NZ) (Iffraaj) and Gift Of Power (NZ) (Power).

"That was a really good effort, things haven't gone her way in her last couple of starts and back to her own



It's déjà vu as Melody Belle scores another victory on Karaka Million night at Ellerslie

age group today it was an exciting win," Richards said.

The Gr.1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa on February 19 is a possible next step for the filly and another trip across the Tasman is up for discussion.

Saturday's result was also welcomed by Melody Belle's breeder Marie Leicester, who will offer a half-sister (Lot 371) by Not A Single Doubt through the Haunui Farm draft at the Book 1 Sale at Karaka on Tuesday.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	ARC Mongolian Khan (Mr Tiz) Trophy Gr.3 1200m.
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (AUS) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session V: Haunui Farm \$57500 P: DC Ellis





LANCIATO CLAIMS LISTED CARRINGTON STAKES

The tried and true has prevailed over the unknown with the in-form **Lanciato (NZ)** (Per Incanto) winning the Listed Carrington Stakes in which the much-spruiked import George Patton (War Front) was unplaced as favourite.

While there were a few excuses for George Patton at his first start for more than 18 months, Lanciato didn't get things in his favour either.

Rachel King had trouble getting Lanciato into the clear in the straight but once she found a gap, he burst through to beat Prized Icon (More Than Ready) by three-quarters of a length.

Trainer Mark Newnham was fulsome in his praise of King and Lanciato who won at Randwick three weeks ago.

"It was a great ride by Rachel and there was a bit of 'wow' about his turn of foot," Newnham said.

"It took us a while to figure him out but I think we have the key to him now.

"He loves 1400 metres and he loves these dry tracks.

"Every time we raise the bar he goes over it."

Newnham will take the gamble the tracks will stay dry and put in a nomination for the Doncaster Mile.

"We will give him a few weeks off," he said.

"He likes to be fresh and it's five or six weeks to the Newcastle Newmarket so that's the way I'd like to go and hope we don't get wet tracks."

The win means Sydney's leading apprentice King has only

one left until she loses her claim and has to compete on level terms as she did in the Carrington.

But she showed why trainers are keen to put her on, staying composed when Lanciato was trying to negotiate a gap.

"I realised there wasn't one there and had to come to the outside and he did the rest," King said.

"Mark told me if I won on him today I would keep the ride in the Newcastle Newmarket.

"I'm riding for a lot of great trainers so hopefully they keep putting me on."

AAP

Race	ATC Carrington S. L 1400m.
Winner	Lanciato (NZ) 2012
Owners	Derek Tam & Peter Coffey
Trainer	Mark Newnham (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Surreptitious by O'Reilly
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd & Little Avondale Trust; Central; NZ



Lanciato notches his first stakes success at Rosehill





LONG LEAF STAMPS DIAMOND CLAIMS IN PREVIEW

Exciting colt **Long Leaf** (Fastnet Rock) is expected to go straight into the \$1.5 million Blue Diamond after maintaining an unbeaten start to his career in the colts and geldings Preview at Caulfield.

Long Leaf won his two spring starts, including the Listed Merson Cooper Stakes (1000m) in November, and returned from a let-up with a stylish victory in Saturday's Listed 1000m race.

After settling behind a line of three up front in the field of six, Long Leaf got the run through turning for home when debutant Robe De Fete (Choisir) hung out noticeably.

The \$3.80 favourite, Long Leaf quickly chimed in passing the 200m to burst to the front under Damien Oliver and he had a half-length to spare over runner-up Ollivander (Charge Forward).

The previously unbeaten Run Naan (Makfi) was another

1-3/4 lengths away third.

"I'd say he's our best chance for the Blue Diamond, for sure," Lindsay Park co-trainer Ben Hayes said.

"He was quite impressive today. I thought on the line he was full of running and we actually think he'll be better over 1200 metres.

"He's an unbeaten Fastnet Rock colt and he's a definite stallion prospect for the future now.

"I'd say more than likely he will go straight into the Blue Diamond."

Oliver said Long Leaf had a great attitude and was a real talent.

'He's got all the makings of a

Race	MRC Blue Diamond Preview 1100m
Winner	Long Leaf (AUS) 2015
Owners	Coolmore, Sir P J Vela, Mr D J Matheson, Mr M V Magnier, Dr D L O'Byrne, Mr M J Kirwan
Trainer	David & B Hayes & T Dabernig (Flemington)
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Frustrating (AUS) by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Caradale Pty Ltd, NSW
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Premier V: Curraghmore, P: BBA Ireland; \$750,000

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Exciting two-year-old Long Leaf remains unbeaten with a stylish Caulfield victory





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LONG LEAF STAMPS DIAMOND CLAIMS IN PREVIEW

(Continued from page 11)

quality two-year-old," Oliver said.

Kerrin McEvoy, who won the Merson Cooper Stakes on Long Leaf, is expected to have first call on the ride in the Blue Diamond on February 24.

Sepoy in 2011 is the most recent colt to win the Preview and also claim the Blue Diamond.

Long Leaf is a graduate of the 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale, with the son of Fastnet

Rock sold from Gordon Cunningham's Curraghmore for \$750,00 to Adrian Nicol of BBA Ireland.

Impeccably bred, Long Leaf is out of the winning Stravinsky mare Frustrating, who is a half-sister to Group One winners Tiger Tees (NZ) (Dubawi), Terravista (Captain Rio) and Super Easy (NZ) (Darci Brahma), in addition to Stakes winners Ball Of Muscle (Dubawi) and Our Lukas (NZ)

(Generous).

Among the owners of Long Leaf is Sir Peter Vela, principal of New Zealand Bloodstock where the National Yearling Sales will commence with a 700-strong Book 1 session on Sunday.

Curraghmore will offer four yearlings by Fastnet Rock at this year's sale, including a full brother to First Seal and a colt out of Group One winner Diademe.

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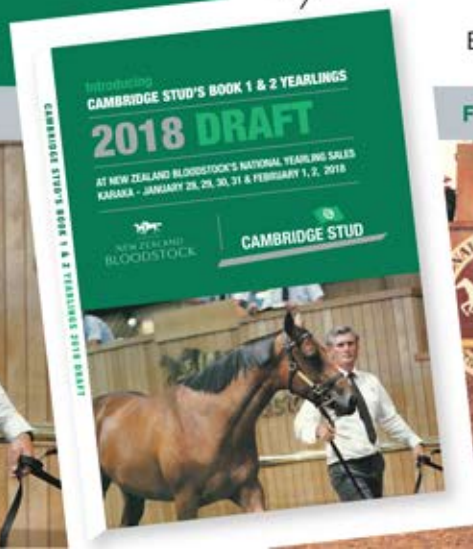
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Sunday 28 January 2018

TIMING IS EVERYTHING AS NIGHT'S WATCH WINS

Having his first start for seven weeks, the Darren Weir-trained **Night's Watch (NZ)** (Redwood) has finished strongly to win at Caulfield.

Night's Watch had been flown to Brisbane late last month to run in the Shoot Out Quality at Doomben.

However, the four-year-old was scratched by stewards from the December 30 race because he was a late arrival on course.

Race	MRC Cape Grim Beef P. 2000m.
Winner	Night's Watch (NZ) 2013
Owners	O T I Racing, Nz Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd, Mr J B Hart, Mr M J Davies, Mrs B Wood, Mr P N Kean, Mr A Cox, Mr T N Porter, Mrs B E Porter, Mr W S Pelchen, Mrs V L Pelchen, Mr J P Spence, Mrs J T Spence, Uthmeyer Racing
Trainer	Darren Weir (Ballarat)
Breeding	by Redwood (GB) out of Glory Run (AUS) by Exceed and Excel (Aus)
Breeder	G Harvey; Auckland; NZ

He returned home to Victoria and stepped out in Saturday's Cape Grim Beef Plate (2000m) for his first start since his fourth in the Werribee Cup on December 10.

After getting back to near last in the field of 10, Night's Watch reeled his rivals in with a strong finish down the outside to defeat The Chairman (High Chaparral) by half a head, with Golden Mane (More Than Ready) another short half-head away.

"He's definitely a very nice horse," apprentice Ben Allen said.

"He's better than the way he won today but it was a good win.

"He dawdles out of the gates, so I didn't want to bustle him for a spot because he's just starting to settle well and do everything right.

"Off the slow tempo, he was just too good for them.

"I think in his next start, if he gets to the right race and there's a good tempo, he'll be better."



Night's Watch's next start is expected to be in the Group Three Hobart Cup (2400m).

Night's Watch is a son of the Westbury Stud-based stallion Redwood, who will be represented by 26 yearlings across the three Books of the NZB National Yearling Sales, which start at Karaka on Sunday evening.

AAP

Night's Watch (outer) arrives in the nick of time to score at Caulfield





RAMAGE BACK AT FAVOURITE HAUNT

For more than two decades, New Zealand Bloodstock's Karaka Yearling Sale has been a happy hunting ground for DGR Thoroughbred Services' Duncan Ramage.

Following the advice of Hall of Fame trainer Bart Cummings, Ramage made his first trip to Karaka in 1994.

"I was indoctrinated by Bart who said Karaka was the place to be to source understated, underestimated horses," Ramage explained.

It would be great advice, with Ramage sourcing the Group One galloper Catalan Opening (NZ) (Kaaopstad) upon his Karaka debut.

This selection criteria has more than stood the test of time, with outstanding gallopers to his credit since including champions such as So You Think (NZ) (High Chaparral), Norzita (NZ) (Thorn Park), First Seal (Fastnet Rock), along with Allez Wonder (Redoute's Choice), Roman Emperor (NZ) (Montjeu), Precedence (NZ) (Zabeel), Beat The Fade (NZ) (Maroof), Kroner (NZ) (Viking Ruler) and High Cee (NZ) (Marju).

Interestingly, of all the elite gallopers selected, it is Catalan Opening, who occupies the spot of sentimental favourite.

"Catalan Opening was purchased for \$80,000 and went on to win the Doncaster, the Chrysler Stakes (now the Cantala Stakes) and was one of the first colonial horses to go up and win the Hong Kong International Bowl,"

said Ramage.

"His best win was probably the Hong Kong Bowl, but right up there as his bravest performance would be his third placing to Might & Power in the Caulfield Cup. He wasn't a mile and a half horse but he was just so brave that day."

Remarkably, the majority of Ramage's elite black-type winners have been purchased at prices less than the corresponding sale average.

Ramage has historically purchased exclusively for Bart Cummings (and then the James Cummings stable) and for Dato Tan Chin Nam and regulars, but for the first time in 2018 he will be welcoming new racing partnerships with a variety of Australian trainers.

"With the terrific prize money on offer in Australia for races 2000m and beyond and New Zealand's ability for produce elite three-year-old milers and classic horses that progress to be Cups and weight-for-age horses, it's a great time to be getting involved," said Ramage.

"You just have to look at Australasia's leading prize money earners

and you can very clearly see that the majority of these top horses did their racing over a mile and beyond."

Ramage's 2018 Karaka mission will see him look to source his usual quota of NZ horses, with attention to detail punctuating every step of the way.

"My aim (as always) is to source the very best athletes possible who possess pedigrees that we know perform at the top level. I've already done a lot of homework into what horses DGR Thoroughbreds will target and over the next few days, my vet and I will be inspecting each of these youngsters in terms of who looks the most capable of competing in Australia at the highest level," he said.

The horses purchased will then be supervised each step of the way with Ramage attending track work and their spelling farm on a weekly basis.



Respected bloodstock agent Duncan Ramage on the hunt for the next star at Karaka this week.

