

Sunday 4 March 2018

DERBY DREAM BECOMES A REALITY



Vin de Dance nails the finish of the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby

OTI principal Terry Henderson paid a glowing tribute to his trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman after the Melbourne-based identity's colours were carried to victory in the Gr.1 Vodafone New Zealand Derby (2400m) on Saturday.

"Murray and Andrew have done a remarkable job and when it comes to stayers they've got no peers," he said.

Success in the Derby has long been on Henderson's wish list and **Vin De Dance (NZ)** (Roc de Cambes) ensured

it was ticked off in dramatic style at Ellerslie with his defeat of Mongolianconqueror (NZ) (Ocean Park) and the filly Danzdanzdance (Mastercraftsman).

"I rarely get emotional, but I've waited a long time to win this," he said.

"I've come close a few times and I owe an enormous debt to this race and New Zealand-bred horses, it's really special.

"It's an amazing story really and I saw him in the ring (at

Continued on page 3



*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 98SW).
- 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.



Ray Knight

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DERBY DREAM BECOMES A REALITY

(Continued from page 1)

Karaka) when he was passed in. I said to (bloodstock agent) Phill Cataldo, who owned the horse and he said it was a mate of his, Luigi Muollo.

"I asked Murray to tell me what he thought of the horse and we ended up getting him and now he's won the Derby."

Plans for Vin De Dance now include a trip across the Tasman. "He'll go to Sydney as long as he pulls up well," Henderson said.

The result was also a welcome one for Novara Park Stud principal Muollo, who has remained in the ownership, following the recent loss of his foundation stallion Jakkalberry (Storming Home) while likewise for successful jockey Jason Waddell.

"It's a dream come true, I really thought I had lost my chance in January when Demonetization (All Too Hard) got hurt," Waddell said.

Vin De Dance came across from an awkward gate to race near the pace and he was finished tenaciously in the run home.

"They dawdled early and I got into a good spot and got him to relax," Waddell said. "I knew he was tough and strong, it's fantastic."

Co-trainer Forsman was rich in his praise for the part Waddell played.

"We thought we had the horse spot on today and we just wanted him to have a clear run and Jason rode him a treat," he said.

- NZ Racing Desk.

Race	ARC New Zealand Derby Gr.1 2400m
Winner	Vin de Dance (NZ) 2014
Owners	OTI Racing (Mgr: T Henderson), L Muollo & Kilted Taniwha Syndicate
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Roc de Cambes out of Explosive Dancer by San Luis (AUS)
Breeder	Explosive Breeding Ltd
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Ohukia Lodge Ltd, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$70,000

SHOWCASING

In demand at Karaka 2018

- ♦Book 1 Average - \$138,222
- ♦Sale Average - \$86, 353
- ♦Top price - \$250,000
- ♦Sire of 2 Group winning 2YO's this season - XPRESSION & BIT LIPPY

NZ's Leading 2YO Sire by Winners

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GRUNT GIVES PRICE THIRD AUSTRALIAN GUINEAS

Mick Price has trained his third Group One Australian Guineas winner as **Grunt (NZ)** (O'Reilly) overpowered Victoria's best three-year-olds in the \$1 million race at Flemington.

Grunt joined previous Price winners after jumping from the widest barrier on Saturday under Damien Oliver.

Sent out the \$5.50 second favourite, Grunt held off Peaceful State (Animal Kingdom) to win by a half length with Bring Me Roses (High Chaparral) 1-1/2 lengths away third.

Price will now consider a trip to Sydney for the Rosehill Guineas on March 24, although a spell is also an option.

The Caulfield-based horseman is already thinking of the Cox Plate at Moonee Valley in October.

"I'm mindful that he's going to be a really good four-year-old," Price said.

"It wouldn't worry me if I had to put him out. He's not light, but he's not furnished yet.

"I don't know if he's got a trip to Sydney in him but the only race I'd go to would be the Rosehill Guineas."

Despite jumping from the widest gate, Oliver was able to get Grunt into a one-off position by mid-race.

Like Price, Oliver has confidence Grunt will develop further into his racing career.

"He's a magnificent specimen of a horse and he deserved a really strong Group One win like that today," Oliver said.

Brad Rawiller was full of praise for runner-up Peaceful State, who like Grunt is lightly raced.

"At the end of the day he was better on the day but my bloke still hasn't fully seasoned yet and down the track there'll be a Group One for him," Rawiller said. -AAP

Race	VRC Australian Guineas Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Grunt (NZ) 2014
Owners	R & C Legh Racing Pty Ltd, Wright Racing, Gurners Bloodstock Co, Mr R Smith, Mr G Pulitano, Mr S Tsalikidis, Mr C Cortese
Trainer	Mick Price (Caulfield)
Breeding	by O'Reilly out of Ruqqaya by Van Nistelrooy (USA)
Breeder	Trelawney Thoroughbred Ltd
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session; V: Trelawney Stud Ltd, P: MG Price Racing/ Cameron Cooke Bloodstock; \$220,000



Grunt was too powerful for his rivals in the Gr.1 Australian Guineas





SANTOS AND SEABROOK WIN SLIPPER LEAD-UPS

Santos (I Am Invincible) remains Gai Waterhouse's leading contender for a seventh Golden Slipper after his Skyline Stakes win with Melbourne trainer Mick Price introducing a filly to Sydney as he searches for his first.

The Price-trained **Seabrook (NZ)** (Hinchinbrook) upset the \$4.40 favourite Fiesta (I Am Invincible) in Saturday's Gr.3 Sweet Embrace Stakes to stamp her claims 40 minutes after Santos won his lead-up.

Santos eased slightly in Golden Slipper markets from \$9 to \$11 with the TAB reacting to Seabrook's win by bringing her in from \$51 to \$15 for the \$3.5 million race in three weeks with Sunlight holding \$4.60 favouritism.

Seabrook missed a start in last week's the Group One Blue Diamond Stakes after an unlucky third in the Prelude and Price switched his focus to the Slipper.

"It's a great feeling coming to Sydney and taking their prizes," Price's representative Pat Kearney said.

"We've always had a bit of an



Seabrook puts herself into Golden Slipper contention

opinion of her and it's onwards to the Slipper now."

Hugh Bowman, who rode Seabrook said the soft ground was a new element and the wind was strong.

"There was a head wind which was quite testing," Bowman said.

"But she showed her class and did it the hard way out wide."

-AAP

Race	ATC Sweet Embrace S. Gr.2 1200m
Winner	Seabrook (NZ) 2015
Owners	Blueblood Thoroughbreds, BBT Midnight Revels, Mrs L Lewis, Mr HA Hassan, Mr AS Price, Ms BJ Hardeman, Mr JA Busa, Mr S Boudaher, Mr DJ Schultz, Mr JD Mccartney, Mr IF Grimison, Mr G Neo, Mr B Stewart, Half Siab, Mr AJ Cleak, Mr DR Ashby
Trainer	Mick Price (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Hinchinbrook (AUS) out of Midnight Revels by Don Eduardo
Breeder	WE Jeffries Ltd





CRACK ME UP ON TARGET FOR DONCASTER MILE

Bjorn Baker barely welcomed **Crack Me Up (NZ)** (Mossman) to his team before heading to Melbourne, leaving Jason Collett to ensure the Doncaster Mile-bound gelding made the ideal first impression for the stable at Randwick winning the Gr.3 Liverpool City Cup (1300m).

The in-from jockey at least had background with the four-

Race	ATC Liverpool City Cup Gr.3 1300m
Winner	Crack Me Up (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mr MA Mclean, Mr RJ Mclean, Mr GG Chapman, Mr SM Achilles, Hervey Jump Out, Mr SR Webber, Mr SN Edmondstone, Mr RS Heritage, Mr PJ Daniel, Mrs JC Maddison, Mr LA Maddison, Mr JA Ford, Mr GP Ford, Mr JA Mcintosh, Mr CM Cygler, Mr CJ Wessel, Mrs TM Wessel, Miss D Aram
Trainer	Bjorn Baker (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Mossman (AUS) out of Chuckle (AUS) by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	RA & JE Ferguson Partnership Syndicate

year-old gelding, having ridden him to victory in the Group Two Villiers Stakes in December.

Baker, who was in Melbourne to watch Addictive Nature (Savabeel) run in the Australian Guineas, took over the training of Crack Me Up when Liam Birchley was blocked from racing in NSW while a doping probe in Victoria continues.

“He arrived at 5.07 on Thursday morning. He arrived in immaculate order and we’ve just kept him ticking over,” Baker’s stable representative Jack Bruce said.

“He’s turned up looking magnificent and he raced accordingly.”

Crack Me Up, who gained an exemption into the \$3 million Doncaster at Randwick on April 7 when winning the Villiers, coasted to the line a half-length clear of Care To Think (So You Think), the \$2.50 favourite in the Liverpool City Cup.

“When you get a horse like this is these sort of

circumstances you just stick to what they’re good at. That was just putting him where he was comfortable and letting him rattle home,” Bruce said.

Collett, who racked up an early treble after saluting on Fui San (Authorized) and Just Shine (NZ) (Mastercraftsman), knew he was onto a winner a fair way from home on the \$14 chance.

“That was very soft. I’ve got to give it to Liam Birchley, he turned up looking a million dollars,” he said.

Trainer Matthew Dunn said Care To Think would now target the Stradbroke Handicap instead of the Doncaster Mile.

–AAP

Crack Me Up bags a Group 3 for Bjorn Baker just days after stepping into his stable





TOUGH OAKS CHOICE FOR JOHNSON

Chris Johnson has decided to pin his Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks hopes on Savvy Coup (NZ) (Savabeel) after he was faced with a tough decision on Saturday.

Johnson rode Savvy Coup to win in last Thursday's Gr.3 Lowland Stakes (2100m) and at Ellerslie on Saturday he reined **Contessa Vanessa (NZ)** (Bullbars) to victory in the Gr.3 McKee Family Sunline Vase (2100m) at Ellerslie.

Trained by Michael and Matthew Pitman, Savvy Coup is the current Oaks favourite at \$3.50 while the

Team Rogerson-prepared Contessa Vanessa has shortened in to \$6.

She was given a perfect ride in the trail on Saturday by Johnson and the daughter of Bullbars then finished determinedly for her fifth success in 17 starts.

"We got into a good spot and she travelled nicely," Johnson said. "She was too tough in the finish."

The winner of the Gr.2 Eight Carat Classic (1600m) on Boxing Day, Contessa Vanessa now has 18.5 points in the race for the New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year title.

With the Oaks winner to receive 12pts, Contessa Vanessa can snatch the title from the currently side-lined Dijon Bleu (NZ) (Burgundy), who has 30pts, with victory at Trentham.

The lightly-tried Gold Spice (NZ) (Rock 'N' Pop) came off the back of a maiden win at Pukekohe to take second money with her strong finish at Ellerslie with Marcellina (NZ) (Savabeel) another to come from the back for third.



Contessa Vanessa picks up valuable NZB Filly of the Year points to keep the series alive

Kapoor (NZ) (Reliable Man) took fourth money and the pace-maker Blanco Belle (NZ) (Cape Blanco) fought on bravely to be the next filly home.

Contessa Vanessa was bred by Melbourne couple Rob and June Harding, who are also significant stakeholders in her sire Bullbars who stands at Highview Stud.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	ARC Sunline Vase Gr.3 2100m
Winner	Contessa Vanessa (NZ) 2014
Owners	B W Amies, D W Lake, G A Rogerson MNZM, L H M Salvidge & D Wenham
Trainer	Team Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Bullbars (AUS) out of Di Lusso (AUS) by Lonhro (AUS)
Breeder	Robhar Breeding & Racing
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Highview, P: Team Rogerson; \$50,000



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- ▶ By an Epsom Derby winning hero, Complacent is from the sensational family of Wandjina, Dracula & Crystal Lily

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JULIUS MONSTERS THEM IN THE DARLEY PLATE



Julius, too big, too strong

Race favourite **Julius (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) justified some heavy tote support when he demolished a quality field in Saturday's Gr.3 Darley Stallions Plate (1200m).

Unbeaten in his first two starts following a lengthy break, the six-year-old Swiss Ace gelding was sent out at cramped odds to pick up his second Group Three prize after success in the Concorde Handicap (1200m) at his last start.

Punters who took the short odds were on good terms with themselves throughout the early stages of the contest as rider Jason Waddell jumped Julius away well from a mid-field barrier to sit within striking distance of the pace that was set up by the speedy mare Rich Billie Marsh (NZ) (Viking Ruler).

Waddell began to get serious approaching the home turn as he moved his charge into a challenging

position as the back-runners began to make their runs in pursuit of the weakening leaders.

A wall of horses moved into contention at the 300m mark but by this stage Waddell had Julius in full flight as he shot to the lead. Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock) was making good ground on the rail to issue his challenge while Sultan Of Swing (NZ) (Bachelor Duke) was also finishing

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JULIUS MONSTERS THEM IN THE DARLEY PLATE

(Continued from page 9)

powerfully but their chase was in vain as Julius was off and gone as he strode home by a neat length in a slick 1.08.32 for the 1200m journey.

“He’s an original gangster,” said Waddell when questioned after the race.

“He’s big and he’s strong even though he’s still learning the game. You just can’t get past him as he’s too big and too strong.”

Waddell believed he had the race well under control throughout despite some early mind games from some of his rivals.

“Sam Collett (riding Passing Shot (NZ) (Swiss Ace)) wanted to play

jockeys with me early on but I didn’t want to go down to the fence,” he said.

“We just let her go and tacked on to her back where she gave me a nice cart into the straight. He had to fight them off but he was never really going to get beaten.

“We got beaten a year ago on this day in rating 75 grade but a year later we are winning the Darley Plate.

“He can go anywhere this horse.”

The victory was the sixth from just 10 starts for Julius who has yet to finish out of the top three in his career to date which has seen him earn in just under \$180,000 in prizemoney.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Darley P. 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 Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Oh So Royal (AUS) by Danzero (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: John Bell Bloodstock & Racing; \$44,000



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STAKES RESULT TO SAVOUR FOR YOUNG TRAINER

Cody Cole celebrated the first black type success of his fledgling career when **Astor (NZ)** (Iffraaj) showed her sprinting prowess at Ellerslie.

The Matamata trainer is in just his second season and the slick daughter of Iffraaj provided him with a memorable result on Saturday when she won the Listed Mufhasa Fasttrack Stakes (1300m).

"It's amazing to have a horse of this quality so early," Cole said.

Raced by prominent owner Gary Harding, Astor finished runner-up in the Gr.3 Mongolian Khan Trophy (1200m) when resuming three runs back before she claimed an age group event on the Auckland course last month.

She was quickly into stride on Saturday to make the running under jockey Samantha Collett before Caesour's Dream (NZ) (Nicconi) issued a stern challenge in the straight, but Astor rallied and eased clear in the closing 50m.

"Sam does all the form in-depth so I just left things up to her," Cole said.

"I'll see how she comes through the race, but there is the Wellington



Astor shows a determined finish

Guineas, a Group Two race in two weeks, and the more black type the better."

Collett said Astor travelled comfortably in front and showed her fighting qualities when put under pressure.

"When she was challenged by Caesour's Dream she found a kick and she was very impressive.

"She's got a bit of attitude about her and I think that's what makes her so good. She's very speedy and won't get too much further."

Caesour's Dream was gallant in defeat and comfortably held second from Ladynadel (NZ) (Savabeel) with

The Great Southern (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) home in fourth after every chance.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	ARC Mufhasa S. L 1300m
Winner	Astor (NZ) 2014
Owners	GE Harding
Trainer	Cody Cole (Matamata)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Hukba (AUS) by Shamardal (USA)
Breeder	RM Tunnicliffe
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale; V: Haunui Farm, P: GE Harding; \$95,000





FILLY TURNS HER FORTUNES AROUND

Courte Zarindi (NZ) (Any Suggestion) made up for bad luck at her previous start to score an upset win in Saturday's Listed New Zealand Bloodstock NZB Airfreight Stakes (1400m) at Wingatui.

The daughter of Any Suggestion toppled the even money favourite Excelleration to succeed in her black type quest.

Excelleration (NZ) (Exceed and Excel) had swept all before on her southern sojourn with Listed wins in the Gore Guineas (1335m) and the Dunedin Guineas (1500m).

She bypassed the Listed Southland Guineas (1600m),

Race	Otago RC New Zealand Bloodstock Airfreight S. L 1400m
Winner	Courte Zarindi (NZ) 2014
Owners	Bill McNamara & Sam Fryer
Trainer	Sally McKay (Ascot Park)
Breeding	by Any Suggestion (AUS) out of Courte Noire by Pentire (GB)
Breeder	Rich Hill Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2015 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: Miss SA McKay; \$600

which was won by Global Thinking (So You Think) with Courte Zarindi a luckless third.

She had to be steadied at a vital stage, was held up rounding the final bend and bumped heavily close to home.

The bargain buy made her own luck on Saturday under apprentice jockey Tina Comignaghi, who was aboard for the first two of the filly's unplaced career starts.

Comignaghi got the call for Saturday's memorable ride at the request of owners Bill McNamara and his grandson Sam Fryer.

"It was a nice surprise," Ascot Park trainer Sally McKay said. "We were just looking to get a run into her for the two races for fillies coming up at Christchurch.

"I thought the 1400m would be too short for her but she did it easy."

The two races on Courte Zarindi's programme are the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1600m) on April 7 and the Listed NZ Bloodstock Warstep Stakes (2000m) a fortnight later.

"The mile will be perfect and the 2000m shouldn't worry

her," McKay said. "She's a lovely horse with a very bright future."

Big offers have already been knocked back for the filly, who descends from the family of the mighty mare Horlicks (NZ) (Three Legs).

McKay couldn't believe her luck when the filly was knocked down to her at a Karaka weanling sale for \$600.

"I bought six at that sale but she was the one I really wanted, I was shocked when I got her so cheap – it's all I had in the bank at the time," she said.

– NZ Racing Desk.



Bargin buy Courte Zarindi winning at Wingatui





Sunday 4 March 2018

FIRST SATURDAY CITY WINNER FOR CUNNINGHAM

Emerging trainer Clare Cunningham has celebrated her first Saturday metropolitan winner with **Just Shine (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) capping a big few days for her stable.

To make Saturday's win even more memorable Just Shine was ridden by Cunningham's partner Jason Collett to win the 2000m-handicap.

"We've had five runners this week for three winners, a third and a fourth," Cunningham said.

"This is my first Saturday winner and for Jason to be riding, it's even better.

Collett brought the favourite Just Shine out of the pack and he unleashed a powerful sprint to pick up the leaders and beat Tamaack (NZ) (Redwood) by a long neck with The Getaway (Zoffany) another 1-1/2 lengths third.

Just Shine was formerly trained by Collett's father Richard who operated a satellite stable at Warwick Farm for 12 months.

A former assistant to Peter Moody, Cunningham took out her licence last year.

"The horse broke a wither on the water walker and needed time off," Cunningham said.

"The stable always had confidence in him and it's great to see him win again."

He won a Hawkesbury maiden for Richard Collett in May last year and

since his rehabilitation, Just Shine has won three of his four starts, graduating from Newcastle to Canterbury midweek racing before Saturday's triumph. –AAP

Race	ATC Tahiti Travel Connection H. 2000m
Winner	Just Shine (NZ) 2012
Owners	Mr CC Cheung & Mr KC Cheung
Trainer	Clare Cunningham (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Sweet Spirit by Octagonal
Breeder	The Thoroughbred Trader Ltd



Just Shine gets his trainer her first Metropolitan win





RIDE ON CUP FAVOURITE FOR THE TAKING

A golden Group One opportunity is up for grabs next weekend with New Plymouth trainer Allan Sharrock looking at riding options for one of his stable stars.

The Taranaki horseman produced **Ladies First (NZ)** (Dylan Thomas) to win Saturday's Auckland Co-Op Taxis Handicap (2200m) at Ellerslie and she is now the \$4.50 favourite for next weekend's Gr.1 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup (3200m).

Vinnie Colgan has been aboard the mare in her last three starts, but suspension will prevent him from continuing his

association with the five-year-old.

"Getting the right rider at 54kg is difficult," Sharrock said. "I tried to get Michael Walker to come over, but he's got commitments with Group One lead-ups over there so we'll let the dust settle and make a decision later."

Ladies First sat outside the front-runner Seventeen Seventy (NZ) (Captain Rio), who sprinted on straightening but the daughter of Dylan Thomas finished determinedly to nab her close to home.

"She was terrific, it took the length of the straight for her to wind up," Sharrock said.

"I'm really thrilled and I don't care whether it's fine or wet next Saturday, she'll get the two miles."

Colgan echoed Sharrock's comments after winning on Ladies First for the second time, the first came at Te Rapa last month.

"She had a terrific winter and she's won six races on heavy tracks, including two Listed races, and her last three runs have

been on good tracks so they've all been good efforts," he said.

"She is quite dour so I'm hoping for pace in the Auckland Cup for her."

Seventeen Seventy gave a grand sight off the front to go under by a short neck and held second by a nose from Cheeky Boy (NZ) (Lucky Unicorn).

Under 60kg Magic Chai (Magic Albert) in a slowly run race, Magic Chai came on well from the back of the field for fourth to do his Auckland Cup chances no harm.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	ARC Auckland Co-Op Taxis H. 2200m
Winner	Ladies First (NZ) 2012
Owners	FJ & HT O'Leary
Trainer	Allan Sharrock (New Plymouth)
Breeding	Dylan Thomas (IRE) out of Just Polite (AUS) by Dehere (USA)
Breeder	Go Bloodstock New Zealand Ltd
Sales	2014 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: HT O'Leary; \$8,000



Ladies First (outer) defeats Seventeen Seventy (gold cap) and Cheeky Boy (centre)





BIG SUR DOESN'T DISAPPOINT



Big Sur relished the step up in distance

Colin Little, the veteran Caulfield trainer, was jubilant when his young stayer **Big Sur (NZ)** (Redwood), a half-brother to El Segundo (NZ) (Pins), showed he relished the step up in distance to 2000 metres to score in the JDRF Australia Handicap.

It was only a restricted race, and Big Sur, ridden by Luke Nolen, was receiving weight from all but a handful of rivals, but he scored by nearly four lengths - enough to have Little and part-owner Rod Fitzroy, a former chairman of the VRC, dreaming that he could go on to better things.

"Today was the Melbourne

Cup really for him," Little said. "We targeted this race some time ago. We were a little bit disappointed in his last run but couldn't find anything wrong with him but we came here pretty positive he would get 2000 metres.

"He's a terribly immature horse, but he's just like mum [Palos Verdes, whom Little also trained]. If they can stay the world is their oyster. If we just look after him he will keep improving and distance is not a problem."

Palos Verdes (NZ) (Oak Ridge) holds special memories for Little. Not only was she the dam of El Segundo, but she was a terrific racehorse herself.

"Palos Verdes broke three track

records - in the Hobart Cup, Manion Cup and Mornington Cup and she won the Bagot as well."

-Sydney Morning Herald

Race	VRC JDRF Australia H. 2000m
Winner	Big Sur (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mr RM Fitzroy, Mrs CJ Brown, Mr IG Hickey, Mr PH Brown, Mr AM Evans
Trainer	Colin Little (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Redwood (GB) out of Palos Verdes by Oak Ridge (FR)
Breeder	Mrs C J; K P & P H Brown & I G Hickey
Sales	2014 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Ancroft Stud Ltd, P: Michael Stedman Bloodstock; \$30,000

