

Sunday 21 October 2018

VERRY ELLEEGANT EARNS VRC OAKS FAVOURITISM



Verry Elleegant relished the Caulfield conditions to win the Gr.3 Ethereal Stakes (Bruno Cannatelli)

Darren Weir has strengthened his hand in the VRC Oaks after **Verry Elleegant (NZ)** (Zed) scored a brave win in the Gr.3 Ethereal Stakes (2000m) at Caulfield.

Verry Elleegant jumped to the top of Oaks betting at \$2.50 following her win in Saturday's 2000m race for three-year-old fillies.

Weir said he now needed to plot the right path towards the Oaks with Verry Elleegant who has only had two starts

for the stable after arriving from New Zealand where she was trained by Nick Bishara.

Ridden by John Allen, Verry Elleegant, the \$2.35 favourite, scored a half-length win from Aristia (Lonhro).

Weir said options included running the filly at Moonee Valley in The Vase (2040m) next Saturday or the Wakeful Stakes (2000m) at Flemington on November 3.

"There's not a lot of her," Weir said.

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SWEYNESSE

Stunning first foals

*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

Ph: 027 495 7319 or 0800 233 729 E: info@novarapark.co.nz
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"I thought she looked good in the yard today compared to last time but is she the sort of horse that can back up five days after the Wakeful, I don't know.

"I don't know what to do, but it's a nice problem.

"If she doesn't get to this Oaks, there's plenty of other Oaks races, so maybe we might hold our breath and go straight to the Oaks off that."

Weir said he was unsure if Verry Elleegant would handle the 2500m of the Oaks.

"She got the 2000m alright but the extra 500, you don't know until they do it," Weir said.

"It was the perfect Oaks trial yes, but 2200 to 2300, 2300 to 2400, they're big rises.

"I would say yes, but sometimes it's not as simple as that."

-AAP

Race	MRC NZ Bloodstock Ethereal Stakes Gr.3 2000m
Winner	Verry Elleegant (NZ) 2015
Owners	Jomara Bloodstock (Mrg: M Carter), Ellee Syndicate (Mrg: J D Goodwin), Balmerino Racing (Mrg: J Rosham), M Wanzare, T K Barry, B F Sokolski, A Kheir, K M Stocker & Honeycomb Stud (A Whittingham)
Trainer	Darren Weir (Warrnambool)
Breeding	by Zed out of Opulence by Danroad (AUS)
Breeder	J D Goodwin

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kiwi entire continues winning ways

Mahalangur (NZ) (O'Reilly) made it back-two-back wins this campaign when successful in the final race on the card at Randwick.

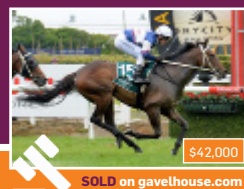
The four-year-old entire resumed a winner at Warwick Farm earlier this month, and recorded his third career win from eight starts in the Jem Computer Systems (1400m) on Saturday.

The Michael, Wayne and John Hawkes-trained son of O'Reilly was purchased for \$200,000 out of Waikato Stud's 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock draft by Kitchwin Hills in partnership with Whitby Bloodstock.



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GUINEAS FAVOURITE ALL CLASS AT ASHBURTON

North Island raider **Xpression (NZ)** (Showcasing) underlined why she is the favourite to take out next month's Gr.1 Gavelhouse.com New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) when she handed out a beating to her age group rivals at Ashburton on Saturday.

The stylish Showcasing filly was heavily favoured to take out the Gr.3 Barneswood Farm Stakes (1400m) and gave her supporters little cause for

concern throughout the contest.

Regular rider Sam Collett had a virtual stranglehold on her charge as she looped the field on the point of the turn to issue her challenge before dashing clear to defeat Our Flying Ace (NZ) (Darci Brahma) with Fire Show (NZ) (Showcasing) battling on gamely for third.

Co-trainer Grant Cullen, who prepares the filly with Guy Lowry from their Hastings base, was satisfied with

the win as he looked ahead to a greater challenge at Riccarton next month.

"It was a nice ride as she got a nice track into the race," he said.

"The only concern was travelling so far from home but she's thrived since she has been here so it was fantastic to see her come through today.

"She will be based here now and won't race again between now and the Guineas.

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Xpression is well clear of her rivals as she scores at Ashburton (Race Images South)





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GUINEAS FAVOURITE ALL CLASS AT ASHBURTON

(Continued from page 4)

“We have no real set plans but might look at a jump-out if she thrives but failing that it will be straight into the Guineas.”

TAB bookmakers reacted quickly to the win, with Xpression now at a \$2.80 quote to win the fillies feature at Riccarton on November 17 from Melt at \$4 while today’s impressive Rotorua winner Media Sensation (I Am

Invincible) has shortened to \$8 in the Fixed Odds market.

Runner-up Our Flying Ace has also tightened in the market for the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) on November 10 with his \$6 quote placing him on the second line of betting behind race favourite Madison County (NZ) (Pins) at \$2.80. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	Barneswood Farm Stakes Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Xpression (NZ) 2015
Owners	M N Apatu, M & P Bayes, F W Coates, Haunui Bloodstock Ltd & I R Renton
Trainer	Guy Lowry & Grant Cullen (Hastings)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Xpress by Don Eduardo
Breeder	Haunui Bloodstock Ltd & Whanakino Ltd

NEWS IN BRIEF

Collett on the mend after surgery

Injured jockey Alysha Collett underwent successful surgery to her fractured vertebra on Thursday.

The New Zealand-born 25-year-old rider had a 10cm rod screwed onto her L1 lumbar vertebra during a five-hour long surgery performed at the Singapore General Hospital on Thursday night.

Collett sustained the back injury as well as a fractured right heel when she fell off Drone in Race 6 at Kranji on Sunday.

After MRI scans cleared her of any more serious injuries to the spine and skull, it was decided to operate on her backbone while she opted out of surgery for her foot.

“I’m glad it’s done. The post-surgery pain was terrible, but I’m feeling better now,” said Collett.

“I was given the option to operate on my foot as well, but I was told since I will be in a wheelchair for a while and won’t put any pressure on the foot, I might as well just let it heal naturally.

Collett was advised that both back and heel injuries will take a few months to heal. With her season over, it is more likely she will head back to New Zealand to convalesce.

“Right now, my mum is here to look after me, but she is going back home next Monday. My sister Natasha arrives on Tuesday, so it works out well,” said Collett.

“But in the long run, I will probably need to recover with my family around me. For now, I will stay in Singapore and then make a final decision.” -STC



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CAMERA DECIDES FINISH TO SWEYNESSE STAKES



Volks Lightning defeats Indecision (red hood) at Rotorua (Trish Dunell)

A desperate finish to the Gr.3 Sweynesse Stakes (1215m) at Rotorua was decided by the photo-finish camera in favour of underrated mare **Volks Lightning (NZ)** (Volksraad).

The Team Rogerson trained six-year-old claimed her fifth career win when she led all the way to defeat Indecision (NZ) (Per Incanto) by the barest of margins in the Group Three feature. It was her first victory in stakes company although she does boast four black-type placings including a third in the Gr.1 Railway Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie last season.

Rider Jake Bayliss, who had guided the mare to a comfortable trial win at Taupo earlier in the month, was full of smiles when asked to comment on the performance.

"She was really in a happy zone," he said.

"The plan wasn't to lead but she jumped away quick and put herself there. She gave a good kick on the corner and gave them something to chase but got a little bit tired in the last 50m.

"She was going in to this fresh so it was a gutsy win."

Co-trainer Debbie Rogerson was also taken with the effort.

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CAMERA DECIDES FINISH TO SWEYNESSE STAKES

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"It was a really good win today," she said.

"The mare's going really well for Jake as he rode her at the trials and that was how he ended up on her today.

"This prep she is jumping the gates good and leading easily in a rhythm so that is how we will ride her.

"She got the result although it was a little nerve wracking towards the end."

Volks Lightning took her career record to five wins from 27 starts with just over \$185,000 in stakes earnings. She is raced by the Vermair Volks Lightning Syndicate that is managed by former New Zealand cricket captain Brendon McCullum, who purchased her for \$60,000 out of the Windsor Park Stud draft

at the 2014 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale.

The 2018 edition of the Sale will be held at Karaka on November 21 & 22. – NZ Racing Desk

Race	Sweynesse Stakes Gr.3 1215m
Winner	Volks Lightning (NZ) 2012
Owners	Vermair Volks Lightning Syndicate (Mgr: B McCullum)
Trainer	Team Rogerson (Hamilton)
Breeding	by Volksraad (GB) out of Next Century by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 Ready To Run Sale of 2yos; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Vermair Racing; \$60,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stacey awarded Keith and Faith Taylor Family Scholarship

The NZTBA have announced that Ryan Stacey has been awarded the Keith and Faith Taylor Family scholarship to study at the Irish National Stud in 2019.

"We had a number of very strong applicants this year, the calibre of the applicants was excellent and anyone of them could have represented us in Ireland," said Justine Sclater NZTBA Business Development and Operations Manager, who manage the scholarships and select the candidates.

"It was so pleasing to see so many young people with a passion for the thoroughbred industry wanting to improve their skills and apply for the scholarship. Ryan's enthusiasm really stood out and we are confident he will represent New Zealand well and will benefit a great deal from the Irish National Stud Thoroughbred Breeding Course."



Stacey is currently working at Brighthill Farm in Cambridge, a position he has held for only seven months. At 26 he was a late starter into the industry, but is keen to make up for lost time.

Stacey was born in Matamata and his parents have a background in the thoroughbred industry. His father Steve was a jockey, and his mother Samantha previously worked with racehorses and on studs. His family left Matamata when he was a baby when his parents got a job at Shadai Farm in Japan, where they worked for around 10 years.

"For me it's an opportunity to go overseas and learn as much as I can and catch up for the time I have lost not being in the industry that long compared to anyone else my age," Stacey said.

"I didn't think I had been in the industry long enough but my boss (Nick King) encouraged me to go for the scholarship, he obviously saw something in me that I wasn't seeing."



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PREFERMENT

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PESO CAPITALISES ON DREAM RUN FOR ROTORUA VICTORY

A rails-hugging ride paved the way for Hastings visitor **Peso (NZ)** (Colombia) to land his biggest career win when he took out the Listed Jakkalberry Classic (1950m) at Rotorua.

The Paul Nelson trained gelding brought good form into the race having been narrowly beaten on his home track on the middle day of the Hawkes Bay spring carnival at his last start.

Rider Rosie Myers took full

advantage of an inside barrier draw as she positioned Peso nicely in the trail after disputing the early lead. Switched off the heels of the tiring pacemaker Peacock (Paco Boy) approaching the home corner, Peso dashed through on the inner again to grab control in the final 150m as he held out Woodsman (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) and Highlad (High Chaparral) in a desperate finish to the contest.

Success in a lower-class event

over the same distance at the corresponding meeting twelve months ago had Nelson believing the lightly-raced seven-year-old was a big chance to emulate his deeds from that day.

"I didn't like to say but when he won here last year he ran faster than the open grade horses," he said.

"On that you had to think he could probably do it (today)."

Nelson, who shares in the ownership of Peso with wife Carol,



Peso scores his biggest career victory as he strikes in the Listed Jakkalberry Classic at Rotorua (Trish Dunell)





PESO CAPITALISES ON DREAM RUN FOR ROTORUA VICTORY

admitted the inside barrier draw and a heady ride from Myers had played a major role in the victory as his thoughts turned towards the opportunities available to his charge over the next few months.

“Without a doubt it helped as I think if we had of got that draw at Hastings he would have been a lot harder to beat,” he said.

“Just for a minute when Peacock went back we thought he might have

got carted back but Rosie got around him so it was a nice ride.

“There are lots of nice races around, so we’ll just assess it from here and hope we don’t get too carried away.”

Imported mare Igraine (Galileo), who started favourite in the race, caught the eye with a flashing finish for fourth after finding traffic problems back in the field when attempting to move into contention.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Jakkalberry Classic, L. 1950m
Winner	Peso (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs C & P S Nelson
Trainer	Paul Nelson (Hastings)
Breeding	by Colombia out of All Magic by Victory Dance (IRE)
Breeder	Mrs C & P S Nelson

