

Sunday 2 September 2018

HUMIDOR LANDS ANOTHER GROUP ONE FOR WEIR



Humidor exploded to an impressive win in the Gr.1 New Zealand Bloodstock Memsie Stakes (1400m) (Bruno Cannateli)

Darren Weir says it takes a decent horse to be a three-time Group One winner.

Humidor (NZ) (Teofilo) joined those ranks on Saturday taking out the New Zealand Bloodstock Memsie Stakes at Caulfield to go with previous Group One victories in the Makybe Diva Stakes and Australian Cup.

The gelding also pushed Winx in last year's Cox Plate with Weir planning another assault, although he said the Emirates Stakes on the final day of Melbourne Cup week was a better option.

"I don't think he's going any better than last year but he's racing better," 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

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HUMIDOR LANDS ANOTHER GROUP ONE FOR WEIR

(Continued from page 1)

“He had the absolute perfect run in the Cox Plate last year and couldn’t beat her so I can’t see how he’s going to beat her this year and I think the goal is the Emirates, the race Tosen Stardom (Deep Impact) won last year.

“The 2000 metres at Flemington is ideal.”

The victory was Weir’s fifth for the day following on from High Church (High Chaparral), dead-headers Mrs Gardenia (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) and Bellaria (NZ) (Magnus), Night’s Watch (NZ) (Redwood) and Native Soldier (Sepoy).

Giving Damien Lane his fourth win of the afternoon, Humidor scored a short-head win over Kementari (Lonhro) with Humidor’s stablemate Kings Will Dream (Casamento) a half-head away third.

A track gallop at Ararat on Tuesday had Weir thinking Humidor was progressing well following a glowing report from John Allen who had also partnered Kings Will Dream.

“I thought he’d made the right progression,” Weir said.

“We rely on Johnny, he’s our main gallop rider, and he galloped him on Tuesday and said he’s on track.

“He also rode Kings Will Dream that morning so it was a good morning of work at Ararat.

“The last thing I said to Damien when I legged him on, was be strong late.”

Lane described Humidor as a little weapon saying he had come a long way over the past couple of years.

He said he gave Humidor a dig coming out of the barriers which he felt might have been a mistake.

“But when he started quickening up underneath them on the corner I knew he was going to play a big part,” Lane said.

“I got the split late and attacked the line.”

Glyn Schofield, who rode Kementari said it was a super effort after covering ground while Damien Oliver aboard the favourite, fourth-placed Vega Magic (Lope De Vega), said rain took away some of his sprinting edge.

– AAP

Race	MRC Memsie S. Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Humidor (NZ) 2012
Owners	Forest Lodge Racing Pty Ltd, Jomara Bloodstock Ltd, Dr PC Goel, Mrs P Adams, Mr BL Shannon, Royjohn Racing, Mr TA Ginnane, Walker Racing & Bloodstock, Mr DJ O’Connor, Mr BF Sokolski, Steeple Chasers Flat, Mr M Krauser, Mr HM Bastone
Trainer	Darren Weir (Warrnambool)
Breeding	by Teofilo (IRE) out of Zalika by Zabeel
Breeder	Jomara Bloodstock Ltd



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“His two wins as a two year old showcase his true ability. I believe he was capable of Group 1 victories in NZ.”

Mike Pitman





MELODY BELLE TOO TOUGH IN TARZINO

The grit and determination of high-class galloper **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands) was plain for all to see at Hastings today as she triumphed in the season's opening Group One feature, the Tarzino Trophy (1400m).

Beautifully handled by Malaysian-born rider Shafiq Rusof, the Commands mare justified her favourite's tag for the contest when she held out the challenge of the well fancied Hiflyer (NZ) (Tavistock) in a desperate finish to the event.

The victory added a second win at the highest level in New Zealand for her owners, the Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate (manager John Galvin), after she triumphed in the Gr.1 Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes (1400m) as a two-year-old.

The win was also the first Group One trophy for trainer Jamie Richards in his own right after he took over the reins at the powerful Te Akau Racing operation at the start of the new season.

"I'd just like to give a big thank you to all the staff at home," Richards said.

"Obviously there have been a few changes in the new season. I'm only the name in the book as I can't do it all so this is a very emotional win and I'm very proud of the team."

Richards was fulsome in his praise for Melody Belle who was having her second start in this campaign after winning the Gr.2 Foxbridge Plate (1200m) at Te Rapa last month to kick off her four-year-old season.

"It was a terrific win and a terrific ride," he said.

"We were really pleased how she came through the Te Rapa run.

"She's a filly who loves being out in the paddock when she can, so we had a couple of fine days where we were able to get her out there."

Richards was keen to see how the mare comes through

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Melody Belle (centre) is all heart as she scores in the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy at Hastings (Trish Dunell)





MELODY BELLE TOO TOUGH IN TARZINO

(Continued from page 4)

her effort before deciding on her next challenge but wasn't ruling out a tilt at the Gr.1 Windsor Park Plate (1600m) on the second day of the carnival.

"We'll sit down now and have a talk with John," he said.

"She stuck at it pretty good today although she has never had a go over a mile.

"She's a year older now so it might be worth giving her a crack."

Rusof has made a favourable impression since returning to New Zealand in March this year following a successful stint in Singapore. He has come full circle to the country where he honed his craft as an apprentice jockey under Mark Walker's tutelage at Te Akau Racing before following Walker to Singapore when he relocated in 2010.

"She is a superstar and a high-class horse who just gives everything to the line," he said when questioned after the race.

"She did everything right although I was a bit worried when they came after her but when I asked she just kept giving."

Bred by Marie Leicester, Melody Belle was a \$57,500 purchase for Te Akau boss David Ellis from the Haunui Farm draft during the Premier session of the 2016 National Yearling Sale at Karaka. The victory takes her career earnings to over \$1.1m from seven victories, with six of these at stakes level including the rich Listed Karaka Million (1200m) as a two-year-old.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Hawkes Bay Tarzino Trophy 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 Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: DC Ellis; \$57,500

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UNFORGOTTEN WINS CHELMSFORD FROM ACE HIGH

Chris Waller holds **Unforgotten** (Fastnet Rock) in high esteem but he won't put the mare against stable star Winx (Street Cry) again despite her dominant win in the Chelmsford Stakes.

The winner of the Australian Oaks in the autumn, Unforgotten started the favourite in Saturday's Group Two Chelmsford (1600m) at Randwick off the back of an eye-catching sixth behind her illustrious stablemate in the Winx Stakes.

Unforgotten swooped from back in the field in the Chelmsford to beat Ace High (High Chaparral) by 1-1/4 lengths with the winner's stablemate, stayer Libran (Lawman) another short half head third.

"She is very special," Waller said.

"She showed that in the autumn and the Oaks was very special in itself. That was great at the mile."

Waller said there were many options for Unforgotten including the Caulfield Cup.

"We'll see where she fits in and where the weights settle.

"I could have gone Epsom and Cox Plate with her bar for Winx. That is what we did with Winx and that was the making of her career.

"She won't be taking on Winx I can tell you that."

Hugh Bowman, who rides Winx, said Unforgotten had star quality.

"She just looks magnificent," he said.

"It's lovely to be back on her.

Obviously she raced against Winx a

couple weeks ago and it was a real eye-catcher over a distance that was too short.

"I was feeling better at the furlong (200m) than I was the 300 metres.

"I ran into a bunch of horses that were at their top but I had the horse to take me places I wouldn't go on many.

"She is pretty smart and she put the writing on the wall when she won the Oaks here in the autumn.

"The world is her oyster. I wouldn't imagine she would be beating Winx anytime soon but there are plenty of nice races for her."

Unforgotten's win capped a special day for Curraghmore Stud, who celebrated a second stakes winner in Australia when Theanswermyfriend (High Chaparral) won the Listed Penny Edition Stakes (1400m) at Morphettville.

Theanswermyfriend was sold by

Curraghmore at the 2015 National Yearling Sale, where Aquanita Racing purchased him for \$70,000 –AAP

Race	NSW Tatt's RC Chelmsford S. Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Unforgotten (AUS) 2014
Owners	Mr CJ Waller, Magic Bloodstock Racing, Mr FW Cook, Mrs CM Cook, Mr NA Greenhaigh, Mrs MT Greenhaigh, Mr RJ Shrimpton, Ms C Shrimpton, Mr I Bruce, Mr R Smith, Mr PYW Ng, Mr KH Warriner, Mr JTC Lake, Mr BL Mathieson
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (AUS) out of Memories Of You (IRE) by Galileo (IRE)
Breeder	Roncon
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale – Premier Session; V: Curraghmore Stud, P: Chris Waller Racing; \$360,000



Unforgotten swooped from back in the field (Bradley Photography)





PIKE ON THE ATTACK AT HASTINGS

The first black-type prize of the Hastings Spring Carnival is heading back to Cambridge after the Tony Pike trained **Cyber Attack (NZ)** (Shamexpress) claimed the Listed El Roca-Sir Colin Meads Trophy (1200m) on Saturday.

The Shamexpress gelding took consistent form into the three-year-old contest and was one of the favoured candidates although he was expected to play second fiddle to stablemate Stella Noire (NZ) (Showcasing) who was unbeaten in one run as a two-year-old.

Those predictions were tipped upside down as Cyber Attack and rider Vinnie Colgan chased down race favourite Qiji Express early in the run home before holding out the late charge of maiden galloper Cavallo Veloce. Sagunto

made good ground to snatch third from Qiji Express (NZ) (Shamexpress) with Stella Noire labouring on the slow7 surface to finish near the rear of the ten-horse field.

Colgan was taken with his mount's efforts where he felt the benefit of race fitness played heavily in his favour.

"He stepped okay and there was a fair bit of speed on," he said.

"I tracked Matty Cameron (Qiji Express) all the way and the breaks came our way.

"He's a fit horse as he's had four runs back this winter so I knew he was going to keep going strongly to the line."

Pike also admitted that race fitness played a major role in the victory.

"He was coming in as a fit racehorse with a good barrier draw as well," he said.

"He's very honest, very fit so it was probably no surprise.

"He just loves his work, loves his racing and will continue to improve."

Pike has his eye on the Gr.2 Sacred Falls Hawke's Bay Guineas (1400m) in October as a major target for his charge.

"We will be back here for the Guineas," he said.

"I will see how he pulls up as he has had a few runs in this



Cyber Attack (inner) holds out Cavallo Veloce to score at Hastings (Trish Dunell)

preparation but the possibility is that he will go straight into the race.

"He's been crying out for 1400m, so I think that won't hold any fears."

Pike was philosophical about the performance of Stella Noire which he put down to the slow track.

"She's been a touch disappointing, but she dipped and dived in the ground a fair bit," he said.

Cyber Attack took his career record to three wins from 7 starts with \$65,000 in prizemoney with the victory.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Hawkes Bay El Roca Trophy L 1200m
Winner	Cyber Attack (NZ) 2015
Owners	R J de Lautour, G W Halse, J F & Mrs P Hirst, J & L A C McKittrick, Clayton Mitchell, Sharlene Mitchell, Mrs S R & Est late P J Mitchell, L K & M A Wahlstrom
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of Marechal by General Nediym (AUS)
Breeder	Lime Country Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2016 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Lime Country Thoroughbreds, P: P J Mitchell; \$47,500





THE LORD MAYOR ON WAY TO G1 METROPOLITAN

The Lord Mayor (NZ) (Rock 'n' Pop) has cemented his place as a spring carnival player for trainer Chris Waller with a benchmark victory at Randwick.

Waller will now set him on a path to the Group One Metropolitan Handicap on September 29 after he beat stablemates Quick Defence (First Defence) and Brimham Rocks (Fastnet Rock) in a tight finish to Saturday's 2000m-race.

Ridden by James McDonald, The Lord Mayor had a head to spare on Quick Defence with a half head to Brimham Rocks.



Night's Watch shows his love of Caulfield with a dominant win (Bruno Cannateli)

Favourite All Too Soon (All Too Hard) finished eighth after getting held up for a run.

"He had no luck in the (Australian) Derby," Waller said.

"He clipped heels and took no part in it.

"Congratulations to the boys from New Zealand for leaving him here.

"He will most likely go to another 2000-metre race at Rosehill in three weeks and then back up into the Metrop."

The Lord Mayor ran fourth in the New Zealand Derby when trained by Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott

before he was sent to Waller.

Quick Defence was supposed to be on the ferry to Tasmania but has more than likely extended his Sydney stay with his last-start win and his second on Saturday.

"John Blacker who will train him is here today," Waller said.

"But with the way prize money is here in New South Wales now he might be here a bit longer."

Prize money increases came into effect in NSW on Saturday when the support races on the Group program were all worth \$125,000.

-AAP

Race	NSW Tatt's RC Schweppes H. 2000m
Winner	The Lord Mayor (NZ) 2014
Owners	Mr MJ Hughes, Mr CJW Stewart, Mr CEJ Stewart
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Rock 'n' Pop (AUS) out of Soph by Lord Ballina (AUS)
Breeder	J N Wallace
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Ardsley Stud Ltd, P: P Hughes Bloodstock; \$52,000





NIGHT'S WATCH IN LINE FOR SPRING FEATURES

Victoria's premier trainer Darren Weir is planning to run **Night's Watch (NZ)** (Redwood) in the Dato Tan Chin Nam Stakes on a seven-day back-up after the promising galloper raced to a soft victory at Caulfield.

Next Saturday's Group Two Dato Tan Chin Nam Stakes (1600m) at Moonee Valley also carries a ballot exemption to the winner into both the Cox Plate and Caulfield Cup this spring.

"We're going to try to get into the Caulfield Cup," Weir said.

"Whether he gets there or not, I'm sure he'll win a nice race along the way."

Damian Lane had Night's Watch midfield with cover in Saturday's Jockey Celebration Day Handicap (1400m) before angling out at the top of the straight to get the favourite into the clear between runners.

Night's Watch accelerated to put the race beyond doubt before Lane was able to ease him down in the final strides to defeat Lite'n In My Veins (Henrythenavigator) by 2-1/4 lengths.

"It was some sort of ride," Weir said.

"Damian did everything absolutely perfect and that was

important too because we want to try to back him up next week.

"If he has a good week we definitely will be.

"The way that race unfolded he should come home and do really well because he really only had to gallop up a bit the last furlong and was eased down.

"Going forward he's a really nice horse.

"He's matured a lot but he's still not 100 per cent there."

-AAP

Race	MRC Jockey Celebration Day H. 1400m
Winner	Night's Watch (NZ) 2013
Owners	OTI Racing, NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd, Mr JB Hart, Mr MJ Davies, Mrs B Wood, Mr PN Kean, Mr A Cox, Mr TN Porter, Mrs BE Porter, Mr WS Pelchen, Mrs VL Pelchen, Mr JP Spence, Mrs JT Spence, Uthmeyer Racing
Trainer	Darren Weir (Warrnambool)
Breeding	by Redwood (GB) out of Glory Run (AUS) by Exceed and Excel (Aus)
Breeder	G Harvey



Night's Watch shows his love of Caulfield with a dominant win (Bruno Cannateli)





WEIR PAIR SHARE THE SPOILS AT CAULFIELD

Darren Weir has trained more than 3500 winners but landed a career-first when **Mrs Gardenia (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) and **Bellaria (NZ)** (Magnus) dead-heated at Caulfield.

The Weir-trained pair shared the spoils in Saturday's Hockingstuart Handicap, the first time the trainer has had two horses from his stable dead-heat a race.

"It's a good way to keep the owners happy I suppose," Weir said.

"Both horses were in good shape for the race and I'd like to say I couldn't split them."

Dean Yendall partnered Mrs Gardenia with Damien Lane aboard Bellaria and Lane asked to see the displayed image before correct weight was posted.

Lane wasn't convinced but accepted the judges call.

"If it wasn't for the same trainer then I'd be pushing the point a bit more," Lane said.

Weir has spring hopes for Mrs Gardenia while Bellaria is heading to stud for the upcoming breeding season.

"I think Mrs Gardenia has a good win in her, especially as she steps out in trip," Weir said.

"It would be great if she could win a stakes race while with Bellaria it's great to get a Saturday win with her.

"It's getting close to the breeding season and she's off to stud but we

might throw her in the deep end and see if she can sneak a place in a stakes race somewhere."

Race	MRC Hockingstuart H. 1400m
Winner	Mrs Gardenia (NZ) 2013
Owners	Mr IR McCauley, Mrs DE McCauley
Trainer	Darren Weir (Warrnambool)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Double Babu by Centaine (AUS)
Breeder	D W Wallace
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale – Premier Sale; V: Ardsley Stud, P: John Foote Bloodstock; \$80,000

Race	MRC Hockingstuart H. 1400m
Winner	Bellaria (NZ) 2013
Owners	Anembo Bloodstock Pty Ltd, Ready To
Trainer	Darren Weir (Ballarat)
Breeding	by Magnus (AUS) out of Flowerdrum (USA) by Mister Baileys (GB)
Breeder	Robert Roulston Bloodstock Pty Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale – Select Sale; V: Bradbury Park, P: NZB as agent; \$30,000 2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Phoenix Park, P: Mark Pilkington Management; \$100,000



Stablemates Mrs Gardenia (inner) and Bellaria couldn't be split (Bruno Cannatelli)





TE AKAU SHARK SOUNDS OMINOUS WARNING TO SPRING RIVALS

Exciting four-year-old **Te Akau Shark (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) put his future spring rivals on notice with a stunning return to the racetrack at Hastings today.

The showy chestnut had been off the scene with niggling problems since finishing fourth behind stablemate Embellish (NZ) (Savabeel) in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas at Riccarton last November. Trial wins at Te Rapa in July and Te Teko last month indicated he was forward for his resumption where punters installed him a hot favourite for the rating 82 1200m contest.

“This is a race for good horses and we think he is a good horse” trainer Jamie Richards said before the race.

Te Akau Shark and rider Shafiq Rusof didn't let him down as they reeled in their rivals with a devastating burst of speed in the run home that saw them cruise past Livin' On A Prayer (NZ) (Redwood) in the last 100m to record a punishing win in a slick 1.12.57 on the slow7 rated surface.

“He relaxed lovely early in the race, but I just wondered at the top of the straight how well we were going,” Richards said.

“I had a look at Shafiq's body language and he had a lapful of horse. When he let down he looked quite exciting.”

Richards has an immediate target for his charge with the Gr.3 Red Badge Spring Sprint (1400m) next up on his



Te Akau Shark powers home at Hastings (Trish Dunell)

spring programme.

“He'll be back here (Hastings) in five weeks for the open 1400m,” he said.

“We'll just space his races and take it slowly.

“I'd like to give his owners in Sydney and New Zealand a big thank you as they have been very patient with him.

“He was an expensive horse from the Ready To Run's, but they are going to get their money back from this bloke big time.”

Owned by a large group including Te Akau boss David Ellis, Te Akau Shark was a \$230,000 purchase by Ellis from the Lyndhurst Park draft at the 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready To Run Sale at Karaka.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Hawkes Bay Hastings-Heart of Hawkes Bay 1200m
Winner	Te Akau Shark (NZ) 2014
Owners	S Mace, D C Ellis, P Gallen, G Taylor, C Russell, M Allenby, W Knight, R Redwood, W Thrupp, J & P Hepburn, D & R Rudd
Trainer	Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Bak da Chief by Chief Bearhart (CAN)
Breeder	D B Hollinshead
Sales	2016 Ready to Run Sale; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: DC Ellis; \$230,000

