

CHERIE SHOWS NO MERCY AT RICCARTON



Merci Cherie comes through her first test over a staying distance with flying colours

he plan to test progressive mare Merci Cherie (NZ) (Sir Percy) over a staying trip paid off handsomely for her connections on Saturday as she produced a resolute display to capture the Redwood At Westbury Stud Great Autumn Handicap (2500m) at Riccarton.

Bred and owned by Valachi Downs Stud principal Kevin Hickman, Merci Cherie was backing up from an unlucky run in the Gr. 3 Canterbury Gold Cup (2000m) a fortnight ago as trainers Shane Kennedy and Anna Furlong looked to advance her prospects for next season with the step up in distance.

"Kevin has always felt she was the type of mare who would excel once she got over more ground," noted

"We had always planned to give her a try at a trip like Saturday's and after she went so well without any luck in the Gold Cup we thought it was the time to try her before sending her for a break.

"She had worked well since her last run so I did think she was a good chance to get some of the money at least."

A heady ride by northern visitor Samantha Collett saw

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her position the mare on the fence at the rear of the field throughout the contest before making ground strongly as the field approached the home turn. Collett never left the fence as she set off after the pacemaking favourite Call Me Royal (NZ) (Civics) who she headed in the shadows of the post to snatch the win by a bare nose.

"It was a lovely ride by Sam that was assisted greatly by the solid tempo," noted Kennedy.

"Actually all of the races lately have been run at good speed so the jockeys should be congratulated for that.

"We will send the mare to the paddock now as she doesn't handle a wet track and we need her to have a decent break as there are some big plans for her in the spring. "Provided she comes up well we will be looking at the early staying races with her and possibly a tilt at the New Zealand Cup if she makes the sort of progress required for that. The key is to get some black type with her so that will be our immediate focus."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Westbury Stud Great Autumn H. 2500m.
Winner	Merci Cherie (NZ) 2010
Owners	Kevin Hickman
Trainer	Shane Kennedy & Anna Furlong (Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Sir Percy (GB) out of Menaka by Montjeu (IRE)
Breeder	K J Hickman; Canterbury; NZ







PROSPECTS ALL POSITIVE AHEAD OF SALE



Sunday was a busy day at Karaka just 24 hours out from the start of the annual New Zealand Bloodstock Broodmare, Weanling & Mixed Bloodstock Sale

undits are predicting positive results from the annual New Zealand Bloodstock Broodmare, Weanling & Mixed Bloodstock Sale that gets underway at Karaka at 10am today.

Below is a cross-section of comments from some of the leading buyers and sellers direct from the sales complex.

Andrew Seabrook – Managing Director, New Zealand Bloodstock

"I think this is going to be a pretty strong sale. We've seen the sales in the last six months go up quite significantly – the Ready to Run sale and the Yearling sales. I think there's a renewed enthusiasm in the industry at the moment. It's as buoyant as I've seen it for a few years.

"Our success in Australia, the success of our stallions and the calibre of some of our emerging stallions really gives us confidence going forward. Look at the strength of the South Island sale. I think everything is going in the right direction at the moment so I'm pretty confident it's going to be a good sale.

"Just wandering around now there's a lot of people here on the Sunday and it should be good."

Shannon Taylor – Haunui Farm (vendor)

"It's been really good, yesterday was quite a busy day, especially the morning. We were pretty much non-stop and then today has been really steady, just one after the other all day. It's been really pleasing.

"We've seen all sorts of different buyers. A lot of pinhookers given the yearling sales results, which you'd expect. Lots of people we haven't really seen before, which is good, and hopefully a few new investors.

"We've had plenty of interest including Lot 169, he's an Albrecht colt out of a Fusaichi Pegasus mare. He's been quite a surprise on the ground, he's a really good moving colt and that's really caught the eye of a lot of people. And obviously the Showcasing's have been quite popular, which is pleasing."

Nick King – Brighthill Farm (vendor)

"It's been really busy. We've found a lot of overseas buyers and Australian buyers are very active. Everybody seems to be positive and they say there are some nice horses on the complex so it all bodes well for a good sale.

"We've got two really nice Tavistock colts and a lovely filly

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PROSPECTS ALL POSITIVE AHEAD OF SALE

(Continued from page 4)

that have been super popular, and it's actually hard to split them. I think they'll really sell very strongly. And then across the board we've got some other nice colts that I think they'll chase pretty hard, so we're quietly confident heading into the sale."

Gordon Cunningham – Curraghmore (vendor)

"I think this year's draft is on par with where we've been in previous years. We've always had a good draft here and this year is consistent with that. But I think generally around the place there's just a really good workmanlike feeling and plenty of participants.

"There are quite a few international faces and that's quite interesting and obviously very encouraging and a good indicator that our horses are performing overseas like they did at the races in Australia over the weekend. With the deeds of Tavistock and a number of New Zealand breds of late, it all bodes well.

"The vehicle of selling weanlings in every other country around the world is a very serious trading option, and we've embraced that at Curraghmore and I think it's been a means of keeping many of our customers in business over the years.

I'd love to see this market develop more and more over here.

"We have a number of horses here that I'd be very happy to offer next January in a high quality draft. Of the highlights you'd have to include the Tavistocks that we've got in the sale, but also we've got a good colt by Camelot and there's a nice colt by So You Think, and we've also got a good on-sale prospect by Jimmy Choux and also a lovely Super Easy colt. So there's just a number of horses that will go on and be prospects for a sale or on the racetrack later."

Dan Myers (vendor)

"The feeling is very good and the horses will get every opportunity at this sale.

"This is our complete line of foals we bred last year. We needed to make decisions in a commercial manner and this is what we have chosen to do, rightly or wrongly.

"We're very proud of what we've got here so we will let the buyers judge what our highlight lots are."

Phill Cataldo – Bloodstock Agent (buyer)

"It's a good catalogue, really good quality. Beautifully presented as per normal. No doubt it's going to be a strong

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Curraghmore's Lot 232 - The Tavistock-Lamington Vegas colt





PROSPECTS ALL POSITIVE AHEAD OF SALE

(Continued from page 5)

buying bench. There will probably be an overflow from Sydney and I'm expecting it to be a strong sale."

Bruce Harvey - Ascot Farm (pinhooker)

"The nice types will sell well and make a premium. There'll be competition on the same horses. It would be nice to see more vendors embrace the sale with some good stock. I think that they'd definitely sell well. If there were greater numbers of good stock, I think the vendors would reap the benefit of it.

"The way Tavistock's going, the way Showcasing's going... Iffraaj, you know, I think the way the New Zealand horses have gone in Australia last season ... they have to come here and buy them. We can have confidence to buy in these sires now, knowing that the Australians are going to come to buy them.

Mark Treweek - Lyndhurst Farm (pinhooker)

"I've seen a lot of babies over the last few days and a lot of them are quite nice. The catalogue looked good and the types of foals have stacked up really well, boosted mainly by the Tavistocks, I guess, and there are some good ones by him here. Hopefully they all x-ray up well and we can all get them at the right price."

- NZ Racing Desk



(from left) Ceri Jostlear, Bruce & Maureen Harvey, Steve Jostlear



Dan Myers

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TWO PRONGED ATTACK FOR THOMAS AT ROTORUA

bold front-running performance has sealed a tilt at next Saturday's Gr. 3 Campbell Infrastructure Rotorua Cup for impressive Te Rapa winner **Meeska Mooska (NZ)** (El Hermano).

The El Hermano five-year-old is expected to be joined by stablemate Mangaroa Flo Jo (NZ) (High Chaparral) who will provide Cambridge based training partners Graham Thomas and Nick Smith with a two-pronged attack on the late autumn feature.

Despite taking seven starts to clear maidens Thomas has always had faith that his charge would make the grade once he fully matured.

"We've liked him right from the start and although on paper his record didn't look that good early on we did throw him in the deep end a bit," explained Thomas.

"He mostly ran in Saturday grade maidens early on and it wasn't until we dropped him back to midweek that he found his first win.

"He is a type that was going to get better as he got older so I had high hopes he could show that this time in and he hasn't disappointed with three wins and a couple of placings from his last six runs."

Despite taking a step up to the rating 85 grade against some well performed rivals on Saturday, Thomas was very confident of a winning run.

"He had done very well since his win at Tauranga and I fully expected him to do it again on the weekend," he said.

"The real worry was the lack of speed in the race. Anna (Jones) was keen to lead with him and, while I'm not usually a fan of that, he relaxed beautifully and had them all covered a long way out."

Thomas will now turn his sights to stakes company this weekend where the gelding will join stablemate Mangaroa Flo Jo as they tackle the Group Three Rotorua feature.

"I think they both will be good chances as this bloke is at the top of his game while the other mare is peaking nicely as well," he said.

"Her last run in the Travis Stakes was a beauty as she made up a ton of ground in the straight against a top class field."

Thomas had originally planned to have three runners in the Rotorua contest but handy winter stayer Ethical (NZ) (High Chaparral) jarred up after her recent Avondale run on a unseasonably firm track and will be kept for future events once the tracks soften. – **NZ Racing Desk**

Meeska Mooska set himself up for a tilt at stakes company with an impressive Te Rapa victory

Race	Waikato RC Lodge Real Estate H. 2100m.
Winner	Meeska Mooska (NZ) 2010
Owners	Mrs E E, I R B, Mrs K & R K B Gollan, Mrs K & V Mace & L G Phillips
Trainer	Graham Thomas & Nick Smith (Cambridge)
Breeding	by El Hermano out of Kirkebi by Vyner's Orb (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs E E; I R B; Mrs K & R K B Gollan; Mrs K & V Mace; Waikato; NZ











FRANCOME LEAVES THEM GASPING **AT TE RAPA**

powerful all-the-way victory on the weekend has trainer Andrew Campbell convinced he has found the key to unlocking the undoubted potential of enigmatic galloper Francome (NZ) (Savabeel).

The rugged four-year-old Savabeel gelding has always shown Campbell he has the ability to compete at a good level but had disappointed on several occasions due to his propensity to over-race. A subpar performance at Ellerslie in March led Campbell to a change in racing tactics and the gelding hasn't looked back as a new front running style has yielded a promising third at Tauherenikau followed by back-toback victories.

Driven to the front after a tardy beginning to the last on the card at Te Rapa, Francome bowled along without a care in the world against his rating 75 rivals. Rider Dylan Turner maintained a solid tempo and turned for home with a margin of five lengths on his nearest challenger. Despite tiring in the shadows of the post Francome held out a late charge from Naughty Knuckles (NZ) (El Hermano) to get home by a long head in a tidy 1.36.07 for the 1600 metre contest.

"He's been a real handful all the way along as he's a big, arrogant bloke who wants it his way all the time," explained Campbell.

"We had been riding him back to try to get him to settle but he just wasn't finishing it off so after he ran near last at Ellerslie we decided to try something different with him.

"In his last couple of runs he's settled beautifully on the bridle and I guess when you're out in front you're out of trouble and he has found the line nicely."

Campbell was delighted with performance of Turner who had come to the meeting for just the one ride.

"Dylan really likes him but to come all that way for just that one ride showed great commitment," he said.

"He rated him beautifully and he seems to have really clicked with the horse."



It was handlebars down for Francome as he led them all the way at Te Rapa

Campbell will now sit down with part-owner Tommy Heptinstall to discuss where next for the promising gelding.

"I'll have a talk with Tommy to see where we go next but I'm mindful he won't really cope with a very heavy track," he said.

"While the weather remains like it is he could probably have another run or two before we tip him out. The way he's going leaves me in no doubt he will stretch out to 2000 metres in his next campaign so some of those nice races in the spring look quite attractive if he makes the improvement I expect."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC NZI H. 1600m.
Winner	Francome (NZ) 2011
Owners	T G Heptinstall, J A Barnao, D R Platt, T M Pivac, N Cruickshank, C B McDowell, W C Webb & Withonel Syndicate
Trainer	Andrew Campbell (Opaki)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Miss High Heels by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	Nearco Partnership; Bay Of Plenty; NZ
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: Waikato Stud Ltd \$102500 P: AR Campbell









ROGERSON PREDICTS BIG FUTURE FOR BLUEBLOOD

o-trainer Graeme Rogerson has no doubt his regally bred gelding **Richie McHorse (NZ)** (Redoute's Choice) has what it takes to go right to the top.

The three-year-old Redoute's Choice gelding is the second foal of Gr. 1 New Zealand Oaks winner Boundless (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy) and is raced by his breeders Brent, Cherry and Faith Taylor. A promising debut placing at Te Aroha in early April was followed by a powerful finishing burst at Ellerslie to break his maiden status before taking on rating 65 company at Te Rapa on Saturday.

Punters took notice of those performances as they installed the gelding as favourite for the Dunstan Feeds sponsored 1600 metre contest and he didn't disappoint as he produced another devastating finish to claim victory despite displaying some wayward tendencies in the run home.

"He's a real good horse this bloke," said a bullish Rogerson.

"He's still got plenty to learn as he showed when he hit the front but he does everything that easily that I'm sure when he puts in all together he will go straight to the top.

"He travelled beautifully and when he went forward as they approached the turn he gathered them up in a few strides so he's a very exciting horse in the making."

Rogerson and wife Debbie have taken a patient approach with the gelding and that is set to continue as they eye up some bigger targets in the spring.

"We've taken our time with him as

he's needed that to develop so I'll sit down and have a chat with Brent Taylor now and look at what our options are," he noted.

"He will cope with a little cut in the track so we might go to Ellerslie next with him however there are some very nice races in the spring so he might go in the paddock instead.

"He has handled the mile with ease and on breeding you would expect that he can go further once he's fully matured so I'm pretty excited about where he might get to next season."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	Waikato RC Dunstan Feeds H. 1600m.
Winner	Richie McHorse (NZ) 2012
Owners	B M, Mrs C N & Mrs F P Taylor
Trainer	Graeme & Debbie Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Redoute's Choice (AUS) out of Boundless by Van Nistelrooy (USA)
Breeder	Mrs C N Taylor; Taylor Family Trust & Trelawney Thoroughbred Ltd; Waikato; NZ



The impeccably bred Richie McHorse holds out the challenge of Brakbar to post career win number two





FOUR IN A ROW FOR LINCOLN ROAD

romising sprinter Lincoln Road (NZ) (Swiss Ace) picked up where he left off in smashing style when he resumed a winner on Sunday to stretch his unbeaten run to four wins.

A three-from-three (all over Polytrack) at his first prep last year, the Swiss Ace four-year-old has not raced for 147 days but from the way he made short work of his rivals in the \$60,000 Open Benchmark 67 race over 1100m, it felt like he has never been away.

Things did not quite get off to a clean-cut start for the strapping gelding, though, but jockey John Powell, who

partnered him to two of his three wins, kept his composure and that was probably the key to the record staying unblemished at the end of the 1100m journey.

Winning trainer Shane Baertschiger said seeing his ward pocketed in had him on the edge of his seat but his confidence was restored once he saw Powell getting out of that sticky situation.

"He had a plum draw and jumped well, but when Aslam's horse came around, he could have been shuffled back and the race would have been over for us," said Baertschiger.

"But JP did the right thing and once he got back in front, I knew it would take a good horse to run him down.

"He ran without blinkers at his two trials and we saved the blinkers for the race. We will stick to Polytrack and will consider the grass when he runs out of options."



Lincoln Road keeps his unbeaten record with a comfortable win at Kranji

Lincoln Road has now taken his growing stakes earnings past the \$130,000 mark for his owners the New Zealand-based Lincoln Farms Stable.

Race	Singapore TC Benchmark 67 H. 1100m.
Winner	Lincoln Road (NZ) 2011
Owners	Lincoln Farms Stable
Trainer	Shane Baertschiger (Kranji)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Moonlight Lily (AUS) by Redoute's Choice (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Lisa Latta Racing Stables; \$55,000

NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS	
SAVABEEL	\$12,557,325	
TAVISTOCK	\$10,643,992	
PENTIRE	\$7,638,557	
O'REILLY	\$6,505,519	
ZABEEL	\$6,078,769	
PINS	\$5,704,385	
DARCI BRAHMA	\$5,670,350	
IFFRAAJ	\$5,456,721	
ELUSIVE CITY	\$4,364,299	
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$3,916,441	
Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide		

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$7,460,587
PENTIRE	\$6,397,124
ZABEEL	\$5,277,062
TAVISTOCK	\$4,528,756
DARCI BRAHMA	\$3,398,625
IFFRAAJ	\$3,284,509
PINS	\$3,024,584
O'REILLY	\$2,734,411
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,015,477
SHINKO KING	\$1,973,963

Criteria: Sire whose progeny have accumulated the highest combined stakes earnings in Australia & New Zealand

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$2,343,755
DARCI BRAHMA	\$2,068,640
IFFRAAJ	\$1,543,710
PINS	\$1,264,184
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,101,350
TAVISTOCK	\$1,099,180
PENTIRE	\$1,084,726
ALAMOSA	\$986,348
ELUSIVE CITY	\$931,795
THORN PARK	\$885,433

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
KAWI	\$498,000
JULINSKY PRINCE	\$309,500
XIONG FENG	\$579,685
DECORAH	\$141,400
VALLEY GIRL	\$254,625
VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL	\$238,750
XTRAVAGANT	\$461,250
STOLEN DANCE	\$267,725
PERFECT FIT	\$251,775
RYAN MARK	\$217,400

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG MAY 4

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
Delzzup – NO MONEY NO TALK (H.K.) (NZ) 2010 by Patapan (USA) out of Centinize by Centaine (AUS)	P D Telfer; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Dorset H. 1000m.	2012 National Yearling Sale - Festival Session; V: Amaranth Farm, P: KT Myers; \$11,000
PEARL WARM WARM (NZ) 2011 by Keeper (AUS) out of She's Got Spunk by O'Reilly	B N & T M Brown; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Norfolk H. 1200m.	
GREAT TOPLIGHT (NZ) 2010 by Iffraaj (GB) out of Rijeka (NZ) by Sound Reason (CAN)	W J Gianotti; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Hereford H. 1650m.	2012 National Yearling Sale – Select Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: Mr Al & Mrs JK Bambry; \$30,000 2012 Ready To Run Sale; V: Mangatiti Bloodstock, P: M Stedman Bloodstock; \$100,000
Eclair Big Bang - ALMABABY (H.K.) (NZ) 2010 by Savabeel (AUS) out of Ennerdale (GB) by Singspiel (IRE)	J E Abrahams; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Suffolk H. 1200m.	2012 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session; V: Phoenix Park, P: CK Li; \$280,000

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG MAY 7

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
UNIQUE JOYOUS (NZ) 2010 by Thorn Park (AUS) out of On the Board (AUS) by Spectrum (IRE)	Haunui Bloodstock Ltd & Mrs N M Leicester; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Cheung Cup 1600m.	2012 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: Prima Park BStk; \$52,000 2012 Ready to Run Sale; V: Diamond Lodge, P: Mr Manfred Man; \$270,000
Hugo – MY LITTLE FRIEND (H.K.) (NZ) 2009 by Mr. Nancho (ARG) out of Raving by Centaine (AUS)	D F & I J Clark; D Focas; Miss I F Kelly; Ms M J Sandiford; Dr R J Thomson; D & K D Wikeley; Central; NZ	HKJC Macwhinnie Cup 1000m.	
Raj Mahal - AVELLINO (H.K.) (NZ) 2011 by Iffraaj (GB) out of Gatestopper by Carnegie (IRE)	D N & Mrs W E Pye; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Chan Trophy H. 1400m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: NZB as agent; \$57,500

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
PERCIUS (NZ) 2011 by Sir Percy (GB) out of Conduce (AUS) by Pentire (GB)	A R Galbraith; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 5 H. 1600m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: S Gray; \$40,000
WAIPAKIHI (NZ) 2012 by Pins (AUS) out of Regal Ash (GB) by Green Desert (USA)	Fairdale Stud (2007) Ltd; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Maiden S. 1200m.	2014 Ready to Run Sale; V: Venture Thoroughbreds Ltd, P: LK Laxon; \$35,000
LINCOLN ROAD (NZ) 2011 by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Moonlight Lily (AUS) by Redoute's Choice (AUS)	G Harvey; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Benchmark 67 H. 1100m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Lisa Latta Racing Stables; \$55,000
BIG MAN (NZ) 2012 by Alamosa out of Dr Klaire (AUS) by Flying Spur (AUS)	Wellfield Holdings Ltd; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Kranji S. 1400m.	2013 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: Ascot Farm; \$32,000







