

Monday 2 January 2017

START WONDERING'S RAILWAY WIN LIFTS RAYNER TEAM TO GROUP ONE COMPANY

Central districts visitor **Start Wondering (NZ)** (Eighth Wonder) delivered a devastating performance as he blew away a quality line-up in the the Group One Sistema Railway, feature event at yesterday's Ellerslie meeting.

Emotional scenes greeted the winner as he returned to scale after providing father and daughter Evan and JJ Rayner with their first Group One winner as a training partnership. The six-year-old gelding had found his way to their Wanganui base after spending his formative years with the now-retired Paul Belsham before undertaking a Sydney campaign, which brought three city wins in five starts, from the Chris Waller stable.

"Paul's my cousin and we're very close," said JJ Rayner after the race.

"The owners gave him to Paul before sending him to Sydney with Chris Waller. He bled over there so he came back but Paul had retired so he came to us.

"Paul did all the early work and he will be cheering at home. I can imagine Wanganui will be going off."

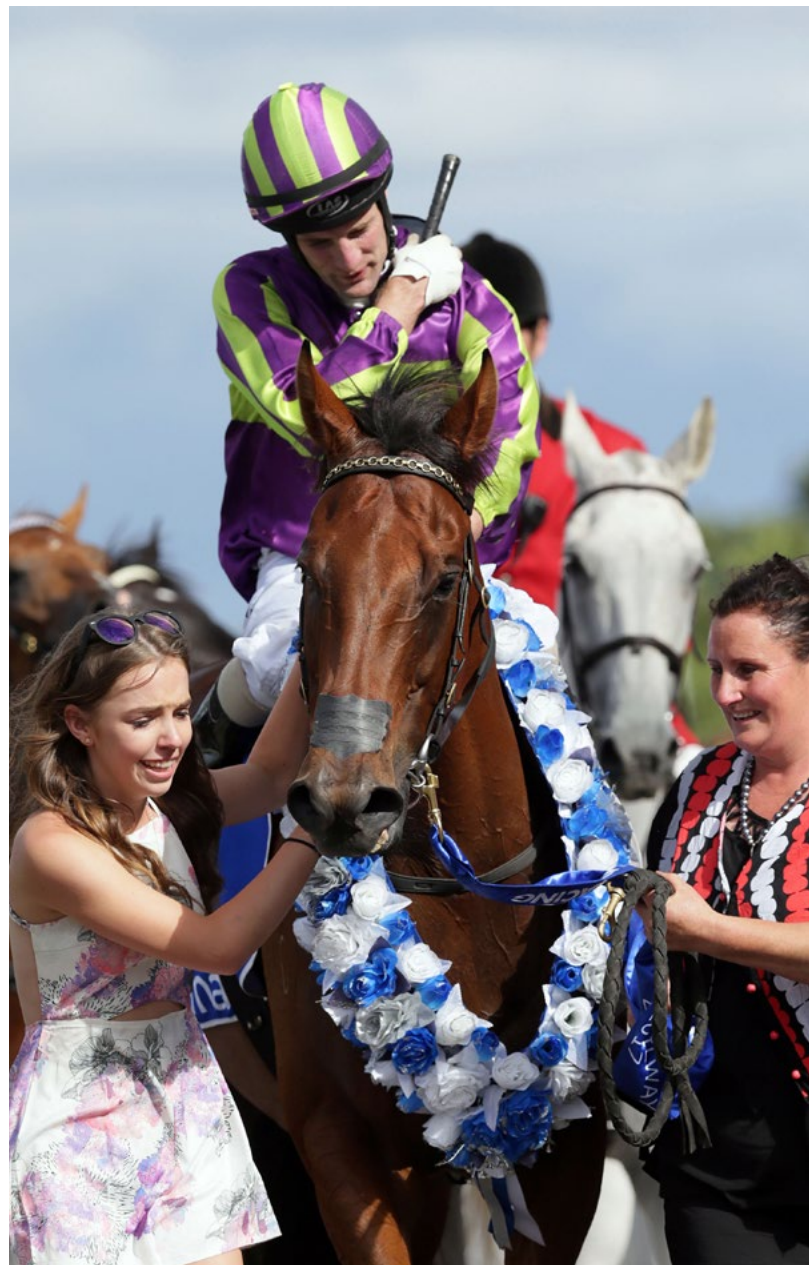
Perfectly drawn in barrier four, Start Wondering was given a peach of a ride by Johnathan Parkes, who tracked a blistering speed set by Irish Moon before issuing his challenge with 300 metres to run. The powerful gelding bounded to the lead and although hotly pursued by Perfect Fit (NZ) (Elusive City) in the final stages comfortably held out the mare's challenge in a sizzling 1:08.84 for the 1200 metre journey.

Parkes was struggling to come to terms with the success he's had at the carnival immediately after the race.

"I said to one of the jockeys when we pulled up that I'd have to pinch myself," he admitted.

"I was quite confident he could win today and he's come out and done it well. He got out well and we got a nice trip.

Continued on page 3



Johnathan Parkes completes a fabulous Ellerslie carnival with his third feature win of the week, bringing Start Wondering back to scale after their Railway success, assisted by Kate Belsham (left) and co-trainer JJ Rayner.



SWEYNESSE



\$6,000
+ GST LFG

- **A winner at his only start at two and winner of his first four starts** including Dual Group 3 wins in the Spring Stakes and Gloaming Stakes.
- **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.
- **One of the top Australian 3YO colts of his year with a top Timeform rating of 122.**
- **By Lonhro -The Champion 3YO, the Champion miler, the Horse of the Year, the Champion sire.** Lonhro set a new Australian record of 160 individual winners in a season. His son the unbeaten juvenile Pierro was rated the best Colt in Australia since 1977.
- **Out of the multiple winning mare Swansea by Champion Sire Singspiel** (Sire of 98SW).
- **Sweynesse is the highest rated stallion from the Zabeel sire line to begin stud duties in New Zealand since Savabeel.**



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(Continued from page 1)

"I had him just where I wanted him as I didn't want to be on the fence. The pace really made it for me as he likes the speed on and when it was time to move he really came over the top of them.

"In the end he was just too good."

Start Wondering was scoring his ninth career victory from just sixteen starts and has now banked over \$350,000 in prizemoney.

Race	ARC Railway S. Gr.1 1200m
Winner	Start Wondering (NZ) 2010
Owners	Mrs J M & S B Gudsell
Trainer	Evan & J J Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Eighth Wonder out of Roseanbar by Al Akbar (Aus)
Breeder	I G Hadfield



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RICHARD REVEALS ANOTHER SWISS STAR

Richard Collett doesn't lack for three-year-old talent in his Pukekohe Park stable.

Top Prospect (NZ) (Swiss Ace), who is currently sidelined by a hamstring issue, is unbeaten in his past three starts, including a victory in last month's Listed Trevor Eagle Memorial, and now **Swissta (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) has completed his own hat-trick of wins, finishing determinedly to claim top honours in yesterday's Group Two Jamieson Park Great Northern Guineas.

"He'd beaten the older horses at his last start and the horse he beat [Courtmaster] came out

and just got beaten after that so I was pretty confident," Collett said. "He can sit on the speed and relax."

Swissta did just that and raced on the leader's quarters to the turn before knuckling down to get the better of a gallant Tiptronic (NZ) (O'Reilly) as Jon Snow (NZ) (Iffraaj) boxed on well for third.

"He's a horse that we bought at the Festival Sale at Karaka as a Karaka Million type and he showed a bit as a late two-year-old, but he is a long-striding horse," said Collett, who has no immediate plans for the gelding. "Not sure yet, we'll get home and have a think about it."

Swissta completed a grand



Alysha Collett gets the best out of Swissta (#4) in a head and long head finish to the Great Northern Guineas, holding off Tiptronic (black colours) with Jon Snow just sneaking into the picture wider out.

Christmas carnival at Ellerslie for Collett's daughter Alysha, who rode her first Group One winner on Boxing Day aboard Consensus (NZ) (Postponed) in the Zabeel Classic.

She said she hadn't planned to have Swissta so close to the pace, but a lack of early speed forced her hand.

"I didn't want to sit outside the leader but there was no pace on. He settled well and kept finding."

The disappointment of the race was the favourite Romancer (NZ) (Redwood), who settled three back on the rail but once into the clear could make no impression and finished seventh.

Race	ARC Great Northern Guineas Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Swissta (NZ) 2013
Owners	Carol Findlay, Barry Jensen, Julian Ede, Carol Kidd, Pat Fruin, Gerald Shand, Janet Hepi, Wigg Wilson, Richard & Judy Collett
Trainer	Richard Collett (Pukekohe)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Sacrista (Aus) by General Nediym (Aus)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Collett Racing Stables; \$24,000





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RUUD NOT TOO REPEATS IN RICH HILL

A picture perfect ride by Danielle Johnson paved the way for progressive mare **Ruud Not Too (NZ)** (Bernardini) to score her biggest win when she took out yesterday's Group Two Rich Hill Mile at Ellerslie.

The victory capped a notable double for the four-year-old who

Race	ARC Rich Hill Mile H. Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Ruud Not Too (NZ) 2012
Owners	Go Racing Ruud Not Too Syndicate (Mgr: Albert Bosma)
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Bernardini (USA) out of Too Many Diamonds by O'Reilly
Breeder	Sir Patrick & Lady Hogan
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Go Racing Ltd; \$220,000

had taken out the inaugural running of the Dunstan Feeds Rising Stars Championship Final at the venue just six days earlier. It was also the third victory on the day for both Johnson and trainer Stephen Marsh along with a second stakes victory on the day for Albert Bosma's Go Racing syndicates.

In a race run at the expected torrid pace, Johnson used her good barrier draw to have the mare tucked away on the fence throughout the early stages. She began to get serious as the field approached the home bend and shot through along the inner as pacemaker Matimba (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) wobbled away from the rail early in the run home.

As she did six days earlier, Ruud Not Too established a winning break which her rivals couldn't peg back as she went to the line a half length to the good of the fast finishing All Roads

(NZ) (Road to Rock) with Girl Of My Dreams (NZ) (Gold Centre) clinging gamely to third.

Part-owner Ian Hogan was one of the members of the mare's Go Racing Ruud Not Too syndicate on track to witness the victory. Hogan, who had begun his association with Go Racing through a share in Listed Karaka Million winner Ruud Awakening, was quick to pay tribute to Albert Bosma and his team after the race.

"She's another good Bernardini, following on from Ruud Awakening, and we're just having so much fun with her," he said.

"It's such a professional organisation and we've had some great times with them."

Bosma, who started the day on a high through the win of Hasahalo in the Group Three Eclipse Stakes, was thrilled with the performance.

"It's a massive thrill on a big day and just a special feeling," he admitted.

"It's also a special effort from Stephen Marsh to back her up just six days after winning on Boxing Day and do the double.

"The owners have a very valuable mare now."

Bosma indicated Ruud Not Too would now be set for the Group One Thorndon Mile at Trentham at the end of this month with a possible attempt at the Group One Herbie Dyke Stakes, over 2000 metres at Te Rapa in February, also to be considered.

In a carbon-copy repeat of her Boxing Day performance, Ruud Not Too again strides to the Ellerslie winning post, this time to success in the Rich Mile Mile.





FILLY FULFILLS PROMISE IN ROYAL STAKES

Promising filly **She Brings Joy (NZ)** (Sebring) chose an opportune moment to break her maiden status when she underlined her staying potential with an impressive performance to capture the Group Two Stella Artois Royal Stakes over 2000 metres at Ellerslie.

The three-year-old filly had hinted a step up in distance would suit when finishing on well for sixth over 1600 metres in the Group Two Eight Carat Classic on Boxing Day, when settled back in the running from a wide draw by Samantha Collett, pinch-hitting for regular rider Danielle Johnson. Back in the saddle yesterday, Johnson took advantage of a handy draw at the tricky 2000 metre starting point and changed tactics, placing the handsome chestnut in the trail throughout as Adis (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) set a slow pace out in front.

Adis was set alight entering the home straight which allowed Johnson to extricate She Brings Joy from the trail and she set out after the leader, who had established a healthy break. Johnson was at her vigorous best as she lifted She Brings Joy at the line to snatch victory by a nose from a game Adis with Grand Soleil (NZ) (Savabeel) running on strongly to nab third.

Trainer Stephen Marsh was full of praise for the effort when questioned after the race.

"I rode her that hard in the last furlong that with me on top I didn't know if I had got her beat," he laughed.

"I can't believe this horse was still a maiden. She's been probably our most promising maiden for a long time.



The second of three winners on the day to the jockey/trainer combination of Danielle Johnson and Stephen Marsh, Royal Stakes winner She Brings Joy completes a return-to-scale tableau with the happy duo.

"I thought she'd win first up and then second up but it's just those bad draws that have plagued us. Finally today she drew a barrier."

Marsh is already thinking ahead for the filly, who brought up his second successive victory in the event having scored with Sofia Rosa (NZ) (Makfi) last year.

"She'll have a little break now as we've given it to her a bit," he advised. "She has got a nomination for the Oaks so that's our real focus now."

Marsh will be hoping the filly can go one better than Sofia Rosa, who was relegated to second in the 2016 edition of the Group One New Zealand Oaks before going on to capture the

Group One Australian Oaks at her next start.

She Brings Joy is bred and raced by Valachi Downs principal Kevin Hickman, who will offer a half brother by Savabeel as Lot 212 during the Premier session of the National Yearling Sale, which gets under way at Karaka later this month.

Race	ARC Royal S. Gr.2 2000m
Winner	She Brings Joy (NZ) 2013
Owners	K J Hickman
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Sebring (Aus) out of In the Mood (Ire) by Hawk Wing (USA)
Breeder	K J Hickman





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ST JEAN LIFTS DONNA'S CUP CONFIDENCE

The widely travelled **St Jean** (Teofilo) showed what a quality addition he is to the stable of Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs when he opened his New Zealand account at Ellerslie yesterday, the seven-year-old emphasising his staying quality with a tough win in the Group Three Laser Plumbing Te Puke City of Auckland Cup at the expense of his stablemate Candle In The Wind (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

St Jean began his career in his native Ireland, where he was a winner, and was then successful four times from the Warrnambool stable of Aaron Purcell.

He was being aimed at the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups in 2014 before he was sidelined with a tendon injury.

An email from the owners came out of the blue to Logan, asking if she would take the stayer on and he has now proved himself an excellent addition to the yard.

"He's got more air points than me and that's saying something," Logan said. "He's a seven-year-old stallion but he's a lovely horse to have in the stable

– a real pleasure to have around.

"I've always had him down as our Auckland Cup horse and this has given me more confidence."

In his third New Zealand appearance, St Jean settled toward the back of the field and was able to sustain a long run to beat Candle In The Wind by half a head with a similar margin back to Five To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday).

"I rode to instructions. They wanted him left alone early and to take off at the 800," rider Johnathan Parkes said. "It was a big run and he fought hard to the line."

Race	ARC City of Auckland Cup Gr.3 2400m
Winner	St Jean (Ire) 2010
Owners	James Purcell, Peter Carroll, Colin McKenna, Michael Moore, Kingsley Peach, Murray Sargeant, Tim Wallace, David Miller, Leonard Leahy and Jodi Leahy
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Teofilo (Ire) out of Oriental Fashion (Ire) by Marju (Ire)
Breeder	Hadi Al Tajir



In a finish where three-quarters of a length covered the first five home, St Jean fights on best to win the City Of Auckland Cup and give Johnathan Parkes the first of his two feature wins on the day.

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BIG FINISH WINS **ECLIPSE FOR HASAHALO**

Ardmore trainer Stephen McKee isn't about to let go of his Karaka Million title without a fight, preparing to defend the crown won twelve months ago by Xiong Feng (NZ) (Iffraaj) with a brace of impressive last-start winners in Star Treasure (NZ) (Lonhro) and **Hasahalo (NZ)** (Savabeel).

With the former successful at Eilerslie on Boxing Day, stablemate Hasahalo wasn't to be outdone and yesterday stormed to victory in the Group Three Barneswood Farm

Eclipse Stakes.

Unable to match the early pace of the race, Hasahalo settled last before powering home to exact revenge on the previously unbeaten Gift Of Power (NZ) (Power), who had pipped her the last time they had met, in the Group Two Wakefield Challenge Stakes.

"She just got home in time this time," McKee said, when reminded of the Trentham race. "Down the back straight I thought she had a flat tyre but she warmed to her work and got over them late."

Hasahalo was ridden by Sam Spratt, who has been aboard the filly in all three of her starts and two trials.

"She's never showed a huge amount of speed but she has got an amazing turn of foot," she said. "She was pretty much flat the whole way and she's been able to find a very good finish. She hit the line smartly."

Hasahalo, whose brother will be offered by Waikato Stud as Lot 193 during the Premier Session of the National

Race	ARC Eclipse S. Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Hasahalo (NZ) 2014
Owners	Go Racing Fright Night Syndicate (Mgr Albert Bosma)
Trainer	Stephen McKee (Ardmore)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Halloween (Aus) by Encosta de Lago (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs I O'Shea and Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Go Racing; \$110,000



Yearling Sale at Karaka on January 30, is raced by the Go Racing Fright Night Syndicate managed by Albert Bosma, whose syndication company won the 2013 Karaka Million with Ruud Awakening (Bernadini).

Yesterday's runner-up Gift Of Power was far from disgraced after racing keenly early outside the leader while Gold Fever (NZ) (Savabeel) took third ahead of Princess Rihanna (NZ) (Showcasing), who made ground well after missing the jump.

A withering finish from Hasahalo (#8) gets the filly past Gift Of Power in the last stride of the Eclipse Stakes. Between the pair, Gold Fever takes third ahead of Princess Rihanna.





RUNAWAY WIN AFTER CLARIFY SNEAKS IN

Clarify (NZ) (Savabeel) eased a recent racing disappointment for breeders Monovale Farm with an emphatic winning performance at Ellerslie, the gelding sneaking into yesterday's Dunstan Feeds Stayers' Championship Final off the ballot and making the most of his opportunity with a runaway victory.

Clarify is raced by the Smithies family, who have had to retire their Zabeel entire Verdi (NZ), a half-brother to the multiple Group One winners Sir Slick (NZ) (Volksraad) and Puccini (NZ) (Encosta de Lago), with a torn ligament following his win at Te Rapa last month.

The four-year-old Clarify, who had also won at the meeting, is trained for them at Matamata by Peter McKay, whose son Shaun was in the saddle.

"I said to Shaun to roll forward from the 600 and put the pressure on them," McKay said.

Clarify did exactly that and after hitting the front on straightening he dashed clear and romped home by six lengths from Banrock (NZ) (Sir Percy), who also needed a scratching to gain a start, with Symphonic (NZ) (O'Reilly) third, a half length further back.

"He's in both the Wellington and Auckland Cups," McKay said. "Wellington was the one that we were looking at but this win gets him into the Auckland Cup so we'll have a think about that."

Clarify has now won three of his fifteen starts and McKay



He may have been fortunate to make the field but Clarify left no doubt about his credentials when striding clear of his rivals in the Dunstan Stayers Final.

said the horse's record could have been even better.

"We probably pushed him too much as a three-year-old. We were trying to win a race with him early on and then sell him."

Race	ARC Dunstan Feeds Championship Final S. 2200m
Winner	Clarify (NZ) 2012
Owners	Monovale Holdings Ltd
Trainer	Peter McKay (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Clareta (Aus) by Pauillac (Aus)
Breeder	Monovale Holdings Ltd



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SKYWEKA'S HALF-SISTER BY SHOWCASING SYNDICATING NOW!

This 2YO filly is the by the champion sire of juveniles **Showcasing** out of Blue Hope who is the dam of five foals to race, all winners, including five-time race winner **Skyweka** (pictured left).

She is already in training with **Tony Pike**. She's a very nice quality type of filly, a good walker and nice mover who really looks the part.



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NEW YEAR REDEMPTION **FOR GURU-GURU**



Guru-Guru outtoughs the opposition in Singapore's New Year Cup.

After missing the cut in the Dester Singapore Gold Cup, **Guru-Guru (NZ)** (Faltaat) got a nice form of redemption in the shape of a gritty win in the \$S200,000 Sgp-Group Three New Year Cup at Kranji yesterday.

Disappointed at missing his Sgp-Group One chance, trainer Desmond Koh ran the emerging stayer on Gold Cup day in the "consolation stakes", the Kranji Stakes C over 2200 metres. He didn't win, collecting a fast-finishing third after being held up at the top of the straight.

Koh and connections were certainly rewarded for their unflinching belief in the sturdy New Zealand-bred six weeks later.

Coming in as the bottom-weight, with Azhar Ismail back in the saddle, Guru-Guru was facing some stellar opposition but proved he was worthy of his place with a superior staying display throughout the 1900 metre trip.

It may not have looked the prettiest of rides when Azhar dug him up as early as the halfway mark to course out four deep, but it turned out to be a winning ploy.

Although the three leaders seemed to be going helter-skelter, Azhar allowed Guru-Guru to latch onto that flow as they improved from the rear three to four deep down the back.

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NEW YEAR REDEMPTION FOR GURU-GURU

(Continued from page 11)

The field was still bunched-up as they swung for home, with topweight Daniel (NZ) (Guillotine) looking most likely to profit from the leading trio feeling the pinch on cornering.

That was when Guru-Guru stepped up, outstaying all contenders to post a half-length win from a perhaps unlucky Big Brother (Orpen) with Castor (Greenwood Lake) third.

Koh was his usual cool and composed self at the prize presentation, praising Azhar's handling of the four-year-old as "perfect".

"There was a good pace in the race, and my horse just kept going," he said. "He couldn't get in the Gold Cup and I guess this makes up for it. But to be fair, the light weight helped him a lot.

"The horse is only a four-year-old and we'll just do our best with him."

The Sgp-Group One Emirates Singapore Derby, over 2000 metres in July, is a race Koh won in 2012 with Chase Me (NZ)

(Storm Creek), who happens to have raced in the same yellow Tan Huat silks, but Koh was being cagy.

"It's too early to tell, but he ticks a few boxes for now. It's definitely a race we can think about in due course," he said. "He is raced by the same connections as Chase Me. So there is a bit of a connection but let's not get too carried away."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC New Year Cup Sgp-Gp.3 1900m
Winner	Guru-Guru (NZ) 2012
Owners	Tan Huat
Trainer	Desmond Koh (Kranji)
Breeding	by Faltaat (USA) out of New Height (Aus) by Fuji Kiseki (Jpn)
Breeder	Hill Family Trust
Sales	2013 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: Bradbury Park, P: Mr B McDonald, as agent; \$8000





DOOMBEN CUP A LIKELY TARGET AFTER SUMMER ENDS FOR CYLINDER BEACH

Raw gelding **Cylinder Beach (NZ)** (Showcasing) confirmed a winter Group One campaign by smashing the Eagle Farm 1600 metre record in Saturday's Bernborough Handicap.

Well supported at a \$4.80 starting price following a win and a second in the first two outings of his current campaign, Cylinder Beach overcame a perceived early bias against horses racing back in the field to storm home and beat Man Of His Word (Lope de Vega) by a half length in the \$A250,000 Listed race.

On a day of fast times, he ran

1:34.5, taking 1.71s off the previous record.

Trainer Desleigh Forster has always had a high opinion of Cylinder Beach but has deliberately given him just three runs this summer.

"I decided not to tax him by sending him to Sydney for the Villiers two weeks ago. Instead we wanted to win three stakes races in Brisbane," she said.

"He should have won all three instead of winning the Recognition Stakes and then finishing an unlucky second in the Brisbane Handicap."

Forster said Cylinder Beach would

now be sent for a spell and come back for the winter carnival.

"We might bring him back for one run in the Sydney autumn but the winter has always been our target," she said. "I think a race like the Doomben Cup is right up his alley."

Cylinder Beach has had only thirteen starts but has already won four races and \$A430,000 prize money.

"He is starting to get up in the ratings and he can now look at the better races," Forster added.

Jim Byrne rode Cylinder Beach but Brad Pengelly, who was aboard the gelding in his Brisbane Handicap defeat, will also get a winning percentage after stewards found he had a firm booking.

– AAP TURF



Race	BRC Bernborough H. L 1600m
Winner	Cylinder Beach (NZ) 2012
Owners	N C Mayne, C M Mayne, D M Forbes, River Port Racing, Mrs T Lees, Dr T M Schramm, P M O'Neill, D J O'Neill, M A Lenarduzzi, D J Mulvenna, Mr D J Cleary, B J Hastie and S C Mayne
Trainer	Desleigh Forster (Eagle Farm)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Queen's Colours (GB) by Rainbow Quest (USA)
Breeder	T O Harrison

Cylinder Beach (#5) has the last say in a three-way finish to the Bernborough Handicap at Eagle Farm on Saturday.

