

Monday 30 January 2017

MELODY PLAYS A WINNING TUNE IN KARAKA MILLION



Opie Bosson is a happy man as he captures the rich Karaka Million on Melody Belle

Team Te Akau Racing and Fortuna Bloodstock combined for their greatest victory when **Melody Belle (NZ)** (Commands) blitzed a quality field in Sunday's Listed Karaka Million (1200m) at Ellerslie.

The two-year-old Commands filly was absent from most pre-race discussions despite an eye-catching debut victory followed by a meritorious third behind the well fancied Gift Of Power (NZ) (Power) in stakes company at Trentham. Allowed to start at odds of better than \$30 on the tote,

the filly defied her detractors with a comprehensive performance that left little room for excuses from the beaten brigade.

Ridden by Opie Bosson the filly jumped well from an inside draw to dispute the early speed before being eased into a stalking position on the outer. With the pace easing near the 600 metre mark a number of back runners, including the well fancied Padraig (NZ) (Power)

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PER INCANTO

LEADING SIRE OF
INDIVIDUAL 2YO WINNERS
2014 -15

LEADING SIRE OF
INDIVIDUAL 3YO WINNERS
2015 - 16

OLDEST NOW 4YO



PER INCANTO

CURRENTLY
2ND ON 3YO SIRE
FOR INDIVIDUAL WINNERS
2016 -17



PER INCANTO

CURRENTLY
3RD ON GENERAL SIRE
FOR INDIVIDUAL WINNERS
2016 -17



OUR GRADUATES

COX PLATE
MELBOURNE CUP
CAULFIELD CUP
10 DERBIES
7 OAKS

**AND ALREADY 9 STAKES
PERFORMERS THIS SEASON**

TRACK RECORD IS CRITICAL





Monday 30 January 2017

MELODY PLAYS A WINNING TUNE IN KARAKA MILLION

(Continued from page 1)

and eventual runner-up Hasahalo (NZ) (Savabeel), found themselves in trouble but not Bosson who eased into the clear to make a sharp challenge at the top of the straight.

It was obvious then he had plenty of petrol left in the tank as Melody Belle sprinted sharply to establish a handy advantage which she maintained to the line to stop the clock in 1.10.95 for the 1200 metre journey. Both Hasahalo and race favourite Felton Road (NZ) (Pins) chased hard but neither could bridge the margin and had to settle for the minor placings.

A \$57,500 purchase by David Ellis from last year's Premier Yearling sale at Karaka on behalf of Fortuna Bloodstock, principal John Galvin was set the task of finding owners for her. Galvin has enjoyed plenty of success with the Te Akau team and through a mix of existing and new clients formed the Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate.

Most were on hand to welcome their pride and joy into the winner's enclosure where Galvin was left a little lost for words with the significance of the win.

"This is special as it is a wonderful race to win," he said.

"It's the third time we've had a Fortuna runner in the race. The other two ran down the track so this is third time lucky.

"The syndicate is made up of a lot of existing Fortuna clients who have been in other horses along with some brand newbies. It's a great thrill for them, to not only have a runner in the race but to get the win."

Co-trainer Jamie Richards was all smiles as he accepted congratulations along with training partner Stephen Autridge after the race.

"It's a huge buzz," he exclaimed.

"It's a tribute to the boys behind the scenes that buy the horses. David selected her last year and John's gone on and syndicated her and the rest is history.

"It was a lovely ride by Opie but illustrates in these big races just how important a good draw can be. Last time she drew the outside and we got taken off the track. The blinkers went on this time and she galloped beautifully on Tuesday so we were really happy."

Richards was loathe to predict where next for the filly, preferring to let the dust settle before the team makes any decisions with her although he indicated a start in the Gr. 1 Sistema Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie on Auckland Cup Day was a possible option.

The victory by Melody Belle also continued the remarkable association by Haunui Farm with the event. The filly was bred by long time client Marie Leicester who has the Stud manage her bloodstock. Sold through the Haunui draft, Melody Belle joined 2015 winner Hardline (NZ) (Showcasing) as a fellow Haunui alumni to capture the race while both 2014 winner Vespa (NZ) and 2016 victor Xiong Feng (NZ) were the products of Haunui stallions Elusive City and Iffraaj respectively.

Haunui Managing Director Mark Chitty was quick to pay tribute to Leicester.

"This is Marie's moment and we are just delighted to be able to manage her stock all the way through," he beamed.

"This is the second Karaka Million winner from the farm but it's definitely her night.

"I also pay great credit to both John and the team at Te Akau, they buy a lot of horses from both the high and the lower ends and this is just fantastic for them."

Melody Belle is the first foal of Iffraaj mare Meleka Belle who will see her second foal, an O'Reilly colt, presented in the Haunui Farm draft as Lot 850 during the Select session of the National Yearling Sale series that kicks off at Karaka on Monday.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Karaka Million (R) L 1200m.
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (AUS) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session V: Haunui Farm \$57500 P: DC Ellis





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FILLY OUTMUSCLES MALES TO CONTINUE WINNING ROLL

Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge) went to another level at Ellerslie where she kept her unbeaten record intact on Sunday at the expense of a small, but select field of three-year-olds.

The daughter of Foxwedge took on a hot line-up of colts and geldings in the Listed NZB Insurance Karaka 3YO Mile and she put them away with a typically gallant performance.

Volpe Veloce's previous six wins included the Gr.2 Eight Carat Classic, but this was her sternest test and she stepped up to the plate to down Heroic Valour (Fastnet Rock) and Jon

Snow (NZ) (Iffraaj).

"Every time she puts in. I don't know how good she is, she just keeps improving all the time," trainer Graham Richardson said.

Volpe Veloce settled three back and one off the fence under Michael Coleman, who was deputising for the suspended Johnathan Parkes.

"I was feeling like I was in the hot seat in probably her toughest test," Coleman said. "She was a bit flat-footed coming off the corner, but from the 300 she really wound into it."

Volpe Veloce, who has Group One nominations for both the Vodafone NZ Derby and the Wellfield NZ Oaks, will make her next appearance in the Gr.2 Cambridge Stud Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic at Te Rapa on February 11.

Runner-up Heroic Valour's rider Opie Bosson was left bemoaning the lack of speed in the middle stages.

"They went too slow and he over-raced, if it was run at genuine pace he would have won," he said.

A decision will be made in the coming days whether Heroic Valour remains on a path toward the NZ Derby or if the

Race	ARC Karaka 3YO Mile (R) L 1600m.
Winner	Volpe Veloce (AUS)
Owners	D & C Adams, H Allender, K Anderson, M Chubb, P Dixon, R Featherstone, G Mackin, G Richardson, K & L Robinson, M Skilling, P Spiers, B Wong & K Woodmass
Trainer	Graham Richardson (Matamata)
Breeding	by Foxwedge (AUS) out of Bardego (AUS) by Barathea (IRE)
Breeder	Mr N Vass
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session V: Lyndhurst Farm P: Richardson Racing: \$240,000



Volpe Veloce stretches hard (outer) to maintain her unbeaten record in a desperate three-way finish

focus switches to the Gr.1 Australian Guineas at Flemington on March 4.

Jon Snow's co-trainer Murray Baker is likely to test his colt over 2000 metres before settling on a grand final plan while the NZ Derby contenders Sacred Elixir (NZ) (Pour Moi) and Romancer (NZ) (Redwood) lost no admirers with their efforts for fourth and fifth respectively.

– NZ Racing Desk.





Monday 30 January 2017

PIKE GRABS FIRST FEATURE AT ELLERSLIE



It's a Tony Pike benefit as the trainer produces Chenille and Sacred Shot to fill the quinella at Ellerslie

Predictions of a Tony Pike bonanza on Karaka Million night looked right on the mark early in the piece as the Cambridge horseman provided the quinella in the first of the Ellerslie features, the Windsor Park Stud Karaka Stayers Cup (2200m).

Pike produced a strong hand with last year's Hawkes Bay Cup winner **Chenille (NZ)** (Pentire) installed as a warm favourite ahead of stablemate **Sacred Shot (NZ)** (Savabeel) who was having just his fifth raceday start as he tackled open company for the first time

Pacemaker Woodsman (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) set up a solid speed in front with rider Leith Innes happy to settle

Chenille back on the rail as the early fireworks took place. The field finally started to bunch approaching the home turn with Innes guiding the mare away from the fence and into a striking position as they turned into the final straight. Innes said go at the 250 metre mark and the mare sprinted quickly just as Sacred Shot appeared on her outer. The pair set down to fight it out with Chenille holding a long neck margin in her favour at the post.

It was a family affair for the Pike team with parents Wayne and Vicki breeding the Pentire five-year-old as well as sharing in the ownership.

Continued on page 6



racingnews.co.nz



PIKE GRABS FIRST FEATURE **AT ELLERSLIE**

(Continued from page 5)

“She’s really a quality mare and it’s the first time we have really had her spot on this season,” explained Pike.

“We had a tough run with her during the spring where she had some jarring up issues after the Waikato Cup but she was back on track after her last run here.”

Pike was quick to acknowledge the work of Innes who was instrumental in the winning performance.

“She got in well at the weights and Leith gave her a great trip,” he said.

“Sacred Shot’s run was super as well as he just got held up a touch and probably didn’t quite have as good a trip as she did. He closed the race off well and, as it was only his fifth start, he’s a horse that’s going places.”

Vicki Pike cut a relieved figure after the contest as she revealed the future plans for the mare that she and husband Wayne produced from a mating with their mare Charmed

(NZ) (O’Reilly) and Rich Hill Stud sire, Pentire.

“We’ve bred three or four Group One winners by Pentire so we hope she can make it another one,” she said.

“I was really nervous tonight as she’s had a few hiccups along the way. We’re going to head towards the Auckland Cup now and we think she could be a lovely type to take to Brisbane for the Cup there later in the year.”

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ARC Karaka Stayers Cup 2200m.
Winner	Chenille (NZ) 2011
Owners	V T W Breeding Company Ltd, G & Mrs J Capes
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Charmed by O’Reilly
Breeder	A W; Mrs V A & W K Pike; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale V: Longlands Stud \$55000 P: Chris Waller Rcg



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Monday 30 January 2017



James Cummings



Jamie Richards, Michael Kirwan and David Ellis



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Mark Richards



Suman Hedge, Chris Lawlor and Jason Abrahams



Denny Baker and Bruce Perry

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Lynn Hancock and Craig Rounsefell



Andy Williams, Paul & Lance O'Sullivan and Paul Moroney



Luke Wilkinson



Michael Kneebone



Paul Willetts



Michael Hughes, Brendon McCullum and Peter Moody



Sam Orton, Peter Orton and David White





HERBIE DYKE STAKES NEXT FOR CLASS MARE

A gutsy win over a mile at Pukekohe on Saturday reaffirmed to trainer Stephen McKee that he has class mare **Consensus (NZ)** (Postponed) right where he wants her before she tackles her next Group One assignment in a fortnight.

Un sighted since snaring her first triumph at the elite level in last month's Zabeel Classic at Ellerslie, McKee was thrilled to see his charge show all her legendary toughness as she out-muscled local runner Seventeen Seventy (NZ) (Captain Rio) in the concluding stages of the Lone Star Pukekohe sponsored open mile.

After enjoying a cosy run just off the speed, regular pilot Alysha Collett pushed the 'go' button on the mare

as heads turned for home where she quickly strode up to challenge for the lead. Seventeen Seventy went with her and, for one brief moment, headed the mare. Group One winners don't give in easily though with Consensus taking back the initiative in the closing stages to see off the challenge and score by a long neck at the winning post.

"She just keeps getting better and better," said McKee.

"Like a lot of mares they tend to race better after Christmas and she has gone to a whole new level now.

"It was a gutsy effort dropping back to the mile and lumping 59.5kgs which is always a tough ask. She did it well and has pulled up nicely so I think she's ready for Te Rapa and the Herbie Dyke now."

The Gr. 1 Herbie Dyke Stakes is the feature event at Te Rapa on the 11th of February however McKee had plenty left on his plate on Sunday when he saddled up two of the favourites in the Listed Karaka Million at Ellerslie.

Star Treasure (NZ) (Lonhro), who races in the same ownership as last year's winner Xiong Feng (NZ) (Iffraaj), and Hasahalo (NZ) (Savabeel) provided McKee with a strong hand in the million dollar dash with both performing creditably in a pressure filled event. Hasahalo finished a gallant second as she chased home impressive winner Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) while Star Treasure was close up in fifth after appearing to run out of racing room in the concluding stages.

- NZ Racing Desk



Race	Counties RC Lone Star Pukekohe H. 1600m.
Winner	Consensus (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs T Gibbens, S Lamond, Mrs D P & M D J Molloy, Touchdown Racing Ltd & Est late M C Molloy
Trainer	Stephen McKee (Ardmore)
Breeding	by Postponed (USA) out of Kate Cross by Cape Cross (IRE)
Breeder	M2 Racing Limited; Waikato; NZ

Consensus cruises to the line to indicate she is ready for her next big test





SAVABEEL FILLY SANTUZZA DOMINATES AT TRENTHAM

Flying filly **Santuzza (NZ)** (Savabeel) delivered on the promise she showed when finishing third on debut as she went two places better at Trentham on Saturday.

The Savabeel two-year-old had run a mighty race behind the well fancied Karaka Million candidate Padraig (NZ) (Power) at the venue a fortnight earlier. That raceday experience stood her in good stead on the weekend as she bounded to an early lead from her handy barrier and then dictated to her rivals for the rest of the race.

Rider Leith Innes had a lapful of horse under him approaching the home turn and when he asked the filly to extend she streaked clear to win comfortably in a smart 56.41 seconds for the 1000 metre journey.

Co-trainer Debbie Rogerson admitted that the stable had been expecting the performance based on her debut run.

“She has the makings of a very good horse,” she commented.

“She’s had the experience down here so we were pretty confident today. Despite what she does now, we also know

she will be a better three-year-old.”

Innes echoed those sentiments when questioned about the run.

“She jumped and wanted to go a bit keener than I wanted to but when I let her stride she came back nicely to me,” he said.

“She’s not really a two-year-old type so whatever she does now it will only get better next year.”

Raced primarily in the same ownership as stablemate Ferrando (NZ) (Fast ‘N’ Famous), the filly will now be set for a step up in intensity as she is aimed at the Gr. 2 J Swap Contractors Matamata Breeders’

Stakes (1200m) at Matamata on the 25th of February.

The victory was also a boost for the prospects of her half brother by Ocean Park, who will enter the auction ring through the Monovale Farm draft as Lot 427 during the Premier session at the National Yearling Sale series at Karaka which kicks off at 10 am on Monday.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC New World Railway Metro 2YO Maiden S. 1000m.
Winner	Santuzza (NZ) 2014
Owners	D E & Mrs E M Olsen Partnership, R R Ratcliffe, Redbank Pty Ltd (Mgr: P Favretto) & G A Rogerson MNZM
Trainer	Graeme & Debbie Rogerson (Tuhikaramea)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Star of Gibraltar (AUS) by Danehill (USA)
Breeder	Monovale Holdings Ltd; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale - Premier Session V: Monovale Farm \$300000 P: Team Rogerson



Santuzza and Leith Innes streak clear at Trentham





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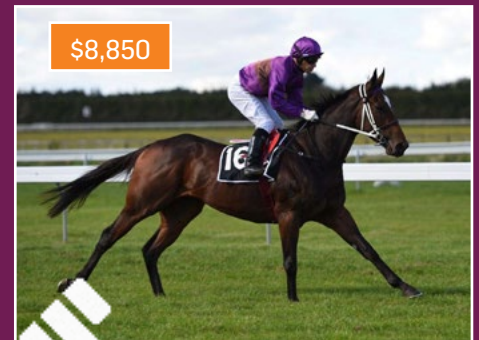
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DRACO SCORES IMPRESSIVE MAIDEN WIN

Top jockey Michael Rodd received high praise for his expert handling of **Draco (NZ)** (Falkirk) in the \$75,000 Year Of The Rooster Stakes, a Restricted Maiden race for 2YO & 3YO on Sunday.

Assistant-trainer Tim Fitzsimmons said the Australian jockey has this knack of still saving his horses' energy even when the barrier draws have not been kind to him.

The Cliff Brown-trained Draco jumped reasonably well from barrier No 13 but Rodd immediately allowed the Falkirk three-year-old to drop his neck and settle at the rear with cover.

As the field straightened for the judge, Rodd still had plenty of horse under him as he went looking for

daylight. The moment he found it at the 300m, the race was over in the twinkling of an eye.

Draco extended beautifully to sprint away to a comfortable 1 ½-length victory in a winning time of 1min 10.72secs for the 1200m on the Long Course.

"It was a 10 out of 10 ride from Michael. He can just put his horses away from the back and not get caught too deep," said Fitzsimmons.

"He's done it again. He just got a nice suck-up for this horse and once the opening came up in the straight, he was too good.

"The horse has had just one trial and he's put it away nicely today. He will definitely be better over more

ground, a mile would be nice for him."

Rodd said the Brown camp held some concerns over the outermost alley, but things just fell into place during the race.

"We couldn't be too confident with the wide gate. That was a major spanner in the works," said the Australian rider.

"But he began well. It got a bit messy early, but he was able to get in a nice position at the back.

"He's got gears this bloke and he has a lot of upsides. He will be even better as it gets closer to the mile."

Draco was tasting his first success at his fourth start for Astley Phua's Olympian Stable, after coming close with two seconds at his first two runs. He has now won around \$65,000 in stakes.



Race	Singapore TC Year of the Rooster S. 1200m.
Winner	Draco (NZ) 2013
Owners	Olympian Stable
Trainer	Cliff Brown (Kranji)
Breeding	by Falkirk out of Real Defensive by Defensive Play (USA)
Breeder	I W McSweeney; Central; NZ

Draco scores convincingly at Kranji



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NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$6,240,429
PINS	\$4,912,719
DARCI BRAHMA	\$3,725,899
THORN PARK	\$3,445,077
O'REILLY	\$3,145,173
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,418,716
KEEPER	\$2,273,452
IFFRAAJ	\$2,061,687
ELUSIVE CITY	\$1,957,556
TAVISTOCK	\$1,930,602

Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$4,327,515
PINS	\$2,123,272
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,669,276
O'REILLY	\$1,512,686
TAVISTOCK	\$1,439,768
ZABEEL	\$1,269,956
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,177,812
PENTIRE	\$1,170,595
SHOCKING	\$1,142,290
SWISS ACE	\$1,052,132

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

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$1,956,210
DARCI BRAHMA	\$959,239
TAVISTOCK	\$710,017
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$662,675
PINS	\$658,249
ALAMOSA	\$654,550
IFFRAAJ	\$594,547
PER INCANTO	\$543,830
PERFECTLY READY	\$538,312
SWISS ACE	\$520,447

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
KAWI	\$250,000
PRINCESS BELLE	\$45,875
NYMPH MONTE	\$97,500
THEE AULD FLOOZIE	\$202,875
REILLY LINCOLN	\$118,062
ALINKO PRINCE	\$57,250
MAYBE MIAMI	\$84,525
SARACINO	\$64,000
SIGNIFY	\$178,941
FIRST SERVE	\$92,875

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



Monday 30 January 2017

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG JANUARY 25

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
I'M A WITNESS (NZ) 2011 by Commands (AUS) out of Sing Song Girl by Generous (IRE)	Dame Sian Elias & H A Fletcher; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Connaught H. 1200m.	

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE JANUARY 29

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
MR CROWE (NZ) 2012 by Alamosa out of Halfyaluck by Montjeu (IRE)	Pee Gee & W J Bloodstock Ltd; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Gong Xi Fa Cai S. 1400m.	2013 National Weanling; Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: Bruce Perry BStk; \$10,000
DRACO (NZ) 2013 by Falkirk out of Real Defensive by Defensive Play (USA)	I W McSweeney; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Year of the Rooster S. 1200m.	
SONG TO THE MOON (NZ) 2012 by Savabeel (AUS) out of White Mouse (AUS) by French Deputy (USA)	Rangal Park Stud; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Macau Jockey Club Trophy 1900m.	2014 Ready to Run Sale; V: Anzac Lodge, P: Michael J Clements; \$230,000
MR CLOONEY (NZ) 2011 by Pentire (GB) out of Division by Danehill (USA)	P J & P M Vela Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Windfall S. 1400m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: LK Laxon; \$130,000



NOVARA PARK

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