

Sunday 5 June 2016

BREAKTHROUGH STAKES WIN COMPLETES PERFECT DAY FOR WANGANUI'S EVAN & JJ



Jonathan Riddell eases Taurus down after the local galloper had responded to his vigorous riding to wear down Designated Driver and score a well-deserved win in the weight-for-age mile at Wanganui.

Wanganui galloper **Taurus (NZ)** (No Excuse Needed) completed a perfect day for trainers Evan and JJ Rayner when he broke through for a deserved black type reward, the seven-year-old triumphant in yesterday's Listed Ag Challenge Stakes, a race he had placed in twice previously including a runner-up finish twelve months ago.

"It's been a very good day and it's always nice to win your home-track feature," Evan Rayner said.

Taurus, whose stablemate Hundyamonth (NZ) (Any

Suggestion) had been successful earlier in the programme, has now won ten races and his lengthy list of minors also includes no fewer than eight at stakes level.

"He's a very good and honest horse," Rayner said. "We'll look at the Opunake Cup now, although he's going to end up with topweight."

Second in the Hawera event in 2013, Taurus could also be in line for another trip to Riccarton for a third crack at the Group Three Winter Cup, a race he was runner-up in three years ago and sixth in 2014.

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RICH HILL STALLIONS 2016



JIMMY CHOUX. Thorn Park – Cierzo (Centaine)

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- First foals arrive 2016 -145 mares bred

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BREAKTHROUGH STAKES WIN COMPLETES PERFECT DAY FOR WANGANUI'S EVAN & JJ

(Continued from page 1)

"We'll probably have to think about it and further down the track there's the Foxbridge Plate," Rayner said. "I won that with Baltaine a few years ago and this horse is right up there with him."

Taurus was given a cosy run behind the pace by Jonathan Riddell and they proved too strong over the final 200 metres for Designated Driver (NZ) (Danroad) and Endure (NZ) (Keeper).

Changes to stablemate Hundyamonth's training regime and gear paved the way for the four-year-old to post a

front-running success under apprentice Holly Andrew in the Wanganui Chronicle 1340.

"He's a thinker so we schooled him over the pony fences this morning and put the blinkers on him as well," Rayner said.

Race	Wanganui JC Challenge S. L 1600m
Winner	Taurus (NZ) 2008
Owners	Starry Eyed Syndicate
Trainer	Evan & J J Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by No Excuse Needed (GB) out of Stars in Her Eyes by Jetball (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs J C Hewitt

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marenostro scores on a day when Rosehill wins

After heavy rain on Australia's eastern seaboard yesterday, the feature meeting at Eagle Farm in Brisbane was one of many called off. New South Wales racing was particularly hard-hit, with the abandonment of Lismore, Gilgandra, Kembla Grange and Albury.

Rosehill went ahead with the wettest possible rating, a heavy 10, and although it was a race-by-race proposition, the nine-event programme was completed.

Sydney's premier trainer Chris Waller, who had two winners, said it showed that the investment in tracks was necessary.

"After the rain we've had, it is great that Rosehill is racing at all," he said. "It shows why we have got to spend money on these tracks so that we can race on days like today."

Marenostro (NZ) (Duelled) was the first of Waller's winners, living up to his \$2.40 favouritism in the 1400 metre FIG Handicap to beat second favourite Inz'n'out (Zariz) by 1¼ lengths.

It was the five-year-old's ninth win from 25 starts and his seventh on slow or heavy tracks.

"I have a lot of respect for the second horse so this is a good win," Waller said. "Marenostro is a good horse for this time of year but he does run well on firmer tracks as well.

"There is a 1600 metre race for him in three weeks at Randwick and he should get the right conditions."

- AAP TURF

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GRAHAM 'CHUFFED' FOR LOYAL OWNERS AS VOLPE VELOCE TAKES CASTLETOWN

The hollow victory by **Volpe Veloce** (Foxwedge) in yesterday's Listed Castletown Stakes provided Graham Richardson with a hugely satisfying result.

"There's a lot of loyal owners who stuck by me with this filly so I'm absolutely chuffed," the Matamata trainer said.

"I don't like getting carried away and I'll let her do the talking but it was a big thrill. She's pretty smart."

Richardson had pre-race concerns about Volpe Veloce's ability to cope with the heavy going at Wanganui and while she wasn't entirely comfortable, she was still far too good for her juvenile rivals in the John Turkington Forestry-sponsored feature.

"It was heavy at Matamata during the week and she handled it, but in saying that we never let her head go," he said. "She'll be better on top of the ground."

Volpe Veloce had been an impressive first-up winner on her home track in March and was then to have tackled last

month's Listed Hamilton Vets Equine Stakes.

"She had to miss Te Rapa with a stone bruise," Richardson said.

A half-sister to the Australian stakes winner Delago Bolt (Delago Brom), Volpe Veloce settled behind the pace at Wanganui and rounded off impressively in the straight.

"She did it fairly easily and got the job done well," rider Johnathan Parkes said.

Volpe Veloce is travelling sweetly for Johnathan Parkes as she cruises home in the Castletown Stakes.

"You'll see a lot more of her in her three-year-old season – she's definitely one to look out for."

Volpe Veloce had 2¾ lengths to spare on Honey Rider (NZ) (Pins) at the post with the debutant Technician (NZ) (Coats Choice) a game third after setting the pace while Pluck That (NZ) (Pluck), also a first-timer, made late ground for fourth.

Race	Wanganui JC Castletown S. L 1200m
Winner	Volpe Veloce (Aus) 2013
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 and 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: Richardsonracing.co.nz; \$240,000





BAO SHAN MAGIC HAS HONG KONG CALLING AFTER IMPRESSIVE MILE WIN AT ELLERSLIE

Hong Kong beckons the unbeaten **Bao Shan Magic** (Magic Albert) following the three-year-old's trouncing of a competitive line up at Ellerslie yesterday.

"He's qualified now so hopefully his owner can get a permit and he'll have a lot of fun with him," Pukekohe trainer Nigel Tiley said.

A \$150,000 Karaka Ready to Run Sale purchase for Hong Kong-based businessman Johnny Shih in 2014, Bao Shan Magic had been an impressive debut winner on his home track last month and Tiley was again confident of a repeat performance in the Shocking @ Rich Hill Stud 1600.

"He's a quality horse and he learned a lot from his first run," he said. "There was a bit of a question mark about him handling the track, but his work on Thursday was outstanding. He's still a young horse and he's got it all ahead of him."

Bao Shan Magic was near the back of a small field on the turn but once balanced in the straight he lengthened stride stylishly for Tiley's wife Lee to bound to the front 200 metres from home.

"He's a lovely horse with a big stride," she said. "When he heard the other horse coming he was always up for the challenge."

She was referring to the runner-up Richie McHorse (NZ)



Bao Shan Magic has shaken off his challengers and bounds clear to win the three-year-old mile at yesterday's Ellerslie meeting.

(Redoute's Choice), the winner of his previous two starts, who also came on well from the tail-end. The front-runner Stradivarius (NZ) (Stravinsky) rallied gamely to hold third from Show Far Show Good (NZ) (Showcasing).

Race	ARC Shocking at Rich Hill Stud H. 1600m
Winner	Bao Shan Magic (Aus) 2012
Owners	Johnny Shih
Trainer	Nigel Tiley (Pukekohe)
Breeding	by Magic Albert (Aus) out of Nephtys (Aus) by Redoute's Choice
Breeder	Torryburn Stud & John Wood
Sales	2014 Ready To Run Sale; V: Kilgravin Lodge, P: Mr J Shih; \$150,000





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THUNDER DOWN UNDER **SPRING FORECAST**

Stephen Ralph is already looking ahead to the spring and a Group One campaign for **Thunder Down Under** (Street Sense).

The Te Rapa trainer has never lost faith in his charge, despite a series of defeats that were finally put to an end by a canny Mark Hills ride in yesterday's Bestaff Rating 85 at Ellerslie.

"It's about time. His whole three-year-old preparation has been frustrating and I'm so glad Mark

showed initiative and took him to the front and the horse showed just what he can do," Ralph said.

The strapping colt revelled in his work at the head of the field and had no trouble holding the challenge of Meritaggio (NZ) (Road to Rock) at bay in the straight to score by three quarters of a length.

Thunder Down Under's victory followed an unlucky fifth placing in the Group Two Championship Stakes at Ellerslie's Easter meeting after he

suffered early interference when Danielle Johnson parted company with Romantic Maid.

"We thought he would win that day and then we'd go to Australia for the Queensland Derby," Ralph said.

"We know he's a very good stayer with a devastating 400 metre sprint but he's had so much bad luck.

"I'll probably give him a run a month now as we head toward the spring."

Ralph is keen to set Thunder Down Under for the Triple Crown series at Hastings.

"It might not be a track that suits him but I know he is a weight-for-age horse," he said.



Race	ARC Bestaff H. 1600m
Winner	Thunder Down Under (Aus) 2012
Owners	Mrs C & S Hope, Stephen Ralph and Ms M U Sutton
Trainer	Stephen Ralph (Te Rapa)
Breeding	by Street Sense (USA) out of River Dreaming (Ire) by Galileo (Ire)
Breeder	Fairway Thoroughbreds

After an initiative-seizing ride by Mark Hills, Thunder Down Under comfortably scores in Ellerslie's Rating 85 mile, Meritaggio's late dab on the outer getting her closest.



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SUMMER'S DAY SHINES FOR TONY PIKE PROVOCATIVE WAITS IN BRISBANE GLOOM

Provocative (NZ) (Zabeel) is guaranteed a run in the Group One Queensland Oaks but she is no certainty to take her place.

Heavy rain in Brisbane forced the abandonment of yesterday's meeting at Eagle Farm and the fillies' feature has now been rescheduled for seven days' time.

Race	ARC Edwards Sound Chairmans Trophy H. 1400m
Winner	Summer's Day (NZ) 2011
Owners	Lynton Ltd and V T W Breeding Company Ltd
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Darci Brahma out of One Perfect Day by Fusaichi Pegasus (USA)
Breeder	Mrs H G & W G Bax and Go Bloodstock New Zealand Ltd
Sales	2012 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Tony Pike Bloodstock; \$30,000

"The Oaks and the Derby will be on the same day so I'll have a chat with the owners about which way we go," trainer Tony Pike said.

"She will be in the Oaks field as Leon McDonald's horse definitely won't be running. There's a bit of water to go under the bridge yet and she'll have a gallop on Tuesday and we'll make a decision after that."

Raced by Robin Peel-Walker and Mark Wyborn, Provocative has won three of her six outings, including a last-start success at Ipswich.

Meanwhile, Pike was cheering from afar when **Summer's Day (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) continued her outstanding run of form with a hard fought win in yesterday's Edwards Sound Chairman's Trophy Handicap at Ellerslie.

"She's flying and she's just such an honest mare," he said. "She's doing a great job and she's tough – she was clearly

headed and fought back."

Summer's Day answered every call from rider Danielle Johnson inside the closing 200 metres to rally for a half-head victory at the expense of Underthemoonlight (NZ) (El Hermano).

"She'll probably run next in the Listed Tauranga Stakes in three weeks' time," Pike said. "She can have a spell after that and then come back for the spring."

Danielle Johnson, back at Ellerslie for the first time since her Easter meeting fall, gets the best out of Summer's Day to win the Chairman's Trophy.



SWEYNESSE

- **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.
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- **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).
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NOVA STRIKE PROVIDES A WELCOME-BACK REWARD FOR A FIT AND HEALTHY MANOEL



Classy three-year-old Nova Strike returns to winning form on the Kranji Polytrack.

Champion jockey Manoel Nunes has clearly put his kidney stones episode behind him as he returned a winner at his very first day back to work at Kranji on Friday night, scoring aboard **Nova Strike (NZ)** (Red Giant), the bold chestnut he partnered at the just-concluded Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge.

Kept in training after a mixed three-year-old campaign – second to Debt Collector (NZ) (Thorn Park) in the Classic was his best showing – the gelding travelled in a dream spot in third while tearaway leader Justice Day (Acclamation) bolted away like last month's pay.

As soon as the leader collapsed, Nova Strike was first to pounce and when Brahma Circus (NZ) (Darci Brahma) loomed alongside he got into overdrive and sprinted away to an easy three-length win. Brahma Circus stuck on for second, two lengths clear of Felarof (Tale Of The Cat).

"It's good to ride a winner at my first day back at the races," said the two-time Singapore champion jockey. "That horse set a solid pace in front but I wasn't worried as I knew he had to come back. I was in third place all the way and travelling easy.

"At the 700 metre mark, I popped off the fence and the horse just came by himself to score a very good win. I always

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NOVA STRIKE PROVIDES A WELCOME-BACK REWARD FOR A FIT AND HEALTHY MANOEL

(Continued from page 9)

thought he was superior on Polytrack. He should win more races like this over the mile.

“In the three-year-old series, he was unlucky. In the Guineas he was four deep after he drew fourteen and still finished around seven lengths behind Debt Collector.”

Trainer Alvin Tan said that he and Nunes put on their thinking caps before deciding to keep Nova Strike in work instead of tipping him out.

“Nunes and I discussed it and agreed that this horse was still in good condition and he was more of a Polytrack horse,” said Tan. “In the series, I would not say he ran badly, as he had a bad draw at his last run.

“I told the owner the next Polytrack race over 1600 metres available was that race on Friday. We know he has the stamina and he didn’t disappoint.

“I think he could be my horse for Korea this year. Not sure

what distance it will be but he can go anywhere between 1200 to 1600 metres, and I think the mile is his best.”

Tan was the first Singaporean trainer to win an international race in Korea two years ago when El Padrino (NZ) (Mr Nancho) took out the Asia Challenge Cup over 1400 metres. El Padrino returned for last year’s renewal, which was shortened to 1200 metres, but had to settle for second place.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Benchmark 74 H. 1600m
Winner	Nova Strike (NZ) 2012
Owners	Nova Racing Stable
Trainer	Alvin Tan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Red Giant (USA) out of La Panthere by Generous (Ire)
Breeder	J G Simpson
Sales	2014 Ready to Run Sale; V: Kiltannon Stables; P: NZB as agent; \$60,000



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HEAD MARGIN IN STEPHEN'S QUINELLA

A training quinella is the next best result after the much rarer dead-heat for any trainer saddling a pair in a race, but trainer Stephen Gray still wished they could both win in two separate races instead.

The Kiwi had Bahana (NZ) (Elusive City) and **Taramea (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) lined up in the \$560,000 Class 4 over 1600 metres at Kranji on Friday night, more through lack of choice than by design.

All seemed to be pointing towards the better-fancied Bahana – ridden by Vlad Duric and favourite at a touch over two-to-one – during the early proceedings, the four-year-old enjoying an easier run hugging the rails while his fourteen-to-one stablemate Taramea was trapped three to four deep, a victim of his poor barrier draw.

When the field fanned for home, Bahana hit the front but started to stargaze, something a horse can ill-afford to do when caught in a tense duel.

Taramea's rider Amirul Ismadi, who shares a special bond with the horse, having scored his first two Kranji wins with the four-year-old, certainly knew which buttons to push, and the less-fancied Gray runner got up on the outside to beat Bahana by a head.

"I didn't want to run them together,

but sometimes you don't have any other choice," said Gray. "It was still good to see my horses run one-two. It goes to show they are in good form.

"Taramea has always had ability. He was a bit forgotten tonight but was well handicapped and he can stay. Amirul knows him inside out and rode him very well."

The winning jockey had praise for the fighting qualities of his mount.

"I was a bit concerned when he was three to four wide, though I knew that would happen, given his wide draw. Luckily, I was able to get some cover," said Amirul. "He kept attacking the line very well even after Vlad's horse headed us.

"It was a very hard-fought win. I turned to Vlad and said 'sorry Vlad', but I'll take the win for sure."

Taramea has now brought his racing record to four wins and two placings from thirteen starts, with stakes past the \$5140,000 mark, for the St George Stable, who were combining with Gray for a double as they won earlier with favourite Millennium's Rule (Lonhro).

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1600m
Winner	Taramea (NZ) 2011
Owners	St George Stable
Trainer	Stephen Gray (Kranji)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Wildcat Woman (USA) by Forest Wildcat (USA)
Breeder	J N & Mrs K L Murdoch
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session, V: Hallmark Stud, P: S Gray; \$47,500



Taramea (white colours) narrowly heads off Bahana to give Stephen Gray the quinella in Friday night's Class 4 turf track mile.





SUPER LINE IMPRESSES IN KRANJI DEBUT

After Alibi (NZ) (Darci Brahma), trainer Michael Clements seems to have unearthed another smart three-year-old in **Super Line (NZ)** (Shamoline Warrior), an impressive debut winner in the \$565,000 Initiation over 1000 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

Just like his stablemate, undefeated after two runs, Super Line made his debut run a winning one when he came from worse than midfield on the point of the turn to make a beeline to the winning post.

Leaders Lucky Sugar (A P Warrior) and Prechagorda (NZ) (Bachelor Duke) looked set to slug it out in the final furlong but were left rooted to the spot when Super Line came roaring past for an impressive 4½-length win from a vastly

improved Prechagorda, who franked her winning form at her last two barrier trials.

Clements was delighted the patience shown in bringing the MC Racing Stable-owned galloper to racing fitness has paid handsome dividends first-up.

“The horse got back as they went hard early. Vlad Duric rated him patiently and they had the race won from a long way down the straight,” he said.

“He came to us as a colt from New Zealand in 2014 but he probably got here too early. He was immature and he had a few issues on top of that.

“We had to find the time to let him find himself. He was also very heavy and that’s why we had to geld him.

“He hasn’t done a lot but he ran a nice trial two weeks ago. He did it so easy and he looks to be pretty exciting.”

Duric said he was originally sceptical about giving the rookie just the one barrier trial ahead of his debut.

“From his run after the trial, I told Mike maybe he needed one more, but we put our heads together and picked that race instead,” said the Australian, who has struck a winning combination with the Zimbabwean-born trainer since he jumped aboard Alibi.

Race	Singapore TC Initiation P. 1000m
Winner	Super Line (NZ) 2012
Owners	MC Racing Stable
Trainer	Michael Clements (Kranji)
Breeding	by Shamoline Warrior (Aus) out of Sangiovese by Chianti (Ire)
Breeder	Mrs J M & T M Henderson
Sales	2014 Ready to Run Sale; V: Emily Holmes Racing, P: Michael J Clements; \$70,000



“It was a very good trial but it’s after the winning post that he gave me every indication he has a lot of potential. I could not quite pull him up for the next 1½ furlongs.

“He’s pretty bombproof, like Alibi, and is quite a relaxed type of horse. We knew the map had a lot of speed, and we were lucky to get some cover.

“He was pretty impressive in the way he quickened in the straight. It’s not often you see a young horse win like that.”

– Singapore Turf Club

Super Line completes his impressive Friday night debut at Kranji.

