

Sunday 12 June 2016

SACRED ELIXIR TO BE SET FOR VRC DERBY AFTER PROVING HIS WORTH IN BRISBANE



Beating the Australians at their own game . . . Sacred Elixir strides clear of the JJ Atkins field to record a Group One juvenile win.

Kiwi trainer Tony Pike predicted his two-year-old **Sacred Elixir (NZ)** (Pour Moi) would be even better in the Melbourne spring after yesterday scoring one of the easiest Group One wins seen in Brisbane for years.

Sent out a \$5 favourite, Sacred Elixir set the huge Eagle Farm crowd alight when he strolled to the lead at the 200 metre mark and ran away to beat fifty-to-one outsider Charnley River (Show A Heart) by 3½ lengths in the Group

One JJ Atkins Stakes. Another outsider in Heart Skipt A Beat (Falvelon) was 1¼ lengths back in third.

Sacred Elixir won his first Australian start at the Sunshine Coast last month and then came from last to finish sixth in the 1350 metre BRC Sires at Doomben two weeks ago.

Pike said he had predicted Doomben wouldn't suit Sacred Elixir and the gelding would be far better over 1600 metres at the bigger Eagle Farm track.

Continued on page 3



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(Continued from page 1)

“The funny thing is that Sacred Elixir isn’t bred to be a two-year-old. But he showed some promise so we gave him a trial and he went so well we decided to give him a start,” he said.

“In that race he was a close second and then he won his next start before having no luck in the Karaka Million at Ellerslie in January.”

After the Million run, Pike decided to bring Sacred Elixir to Brisbane to get him ready for the Melbourne spring.

“To be fair he looks more like a three-year-old than a two-year-old but there is improvement in him,” he said.

“We knew we had a good horse and it is much easier to get them ready here in the winter than at home. His aim is the VRC Derby and I think he has improvement in him heading into the spring.”

Pike has seventy horses in training in New Zealand but brought only three to Australia for the winter.

Sacred Elixir, who is owned by the Raffles Syndicate who have had considerable Group One success in Australia, will spell in Queensland before heading to Melbourne.

Hong Kong-based jockey Zac Purton was keen to ride Sacred Elixir in the J J Atkins after the BRC Sires run.

“I knew the 1600 metres and Eagle Farm would be his go. It was just a matter of being on the right horse today,” Purton said.

– AAP TURF

Race	BRC JJ Atkins S. Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Sacred Elixir (NZ) 2013
Owners	Raffles Racing
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pour Moi (Ire) out of Baltika by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	G W de Gruchy
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Wentwood Grange, P: Raffles Racing; \$170,000

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rory's treble seems sure to sew up apprentices' premiership

While the sun shone in Queensland yesterday, apprentices Rory Hutchings and Koby Jennings made hay at Randwick. With most of the heavy hitters at the Brisbane winter carnival, the two seized their opportunities, riding five winners between them on the nine-race card.

Ex-Kiwi Hutchings will come out of his indentures after tomorrow's meeting at Canterbury with what looks like an unassailable 32-18 lead over Jennings in the Sydney apprentices' premiership.

“I'm looking forward to the transition to being a senior jockey,” Hutchings said. “I hope I've got enough wins to keep the lead in the premiership.”

Hutchings' winners at Randwick covered the full range of distances, starting with Three Sheets (Stratum) in a 1000 metre Class 3 sprint, followed by El Novio (Casino Prince) in a 2000 metre three-year-old handicap and winding up with class stayer Opinion (Oasis Dream) in the 3200 metre Stayers Cup.

– AAP TURF



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TONY CROWNS HIS 'SUPER DAY' WITH OAKS WIN TO OUT-AND-OUT STAYER PROVOCATIVE

Weeks of intrigue and uncertainty ended in triumph for Tony Pike when **Provocative (NZ)** (Zabeel) yesterday won the Group One Queensland Oaks at Eagle Farm.

In a desperate bid to gain a start in the Oaks, where the order of entry is determined by prize money earned, Pike took the unusual step of starting Provocative at Ipswich on May 18.

The filly duly scored impressively but only made the Oaks field as the first emergency, gaining entry into the race when rival runner Beluga Blue (Lookin At Lucky) was scratched.

Race	BRC Queensland Oaks Gr.1 2400m
Winner	Provocative (NZ) 2012
Owners	M & C Wyborn and R Peel-Walker
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Zabeel out of Betwixt by O'Reilly
Breeder	Nearco Stud Limited
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Curraghmore Stud, P: Paul Moroney Bloodstock; \$250,000



"We took an unusual path to get here but I always knew if she made the field she would give the race a huge shake because she's a natural stayer," Pike said. "She's always been super talented but she's just had a few quirks which have cost her at times."

"Today when she was bolting at the 600 metres I was pretty confident she would win."

Yesterday's meeting was a crowning achievement for Pike with Provocative giving him the second leg of a Group One double after Sacred Elixir won the J J Atkins Stakes earlier in the day.

"To win two Group Ones in Australia at the same meeting is a super day," the Cambridge trainer said.

"Two years ago we were here and it was a disappointing day for us and again last year was a disaster, but winning these races today makes up for all the previous bad luck."

Pike said Provocative would be spelled and aimed at the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups in the spring.

The filly will be aiming to emulate fellow New Zealander Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm), who won the Queensland Oaks in 2001 before capturing the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups double later that year.

Provocative was the 45th individual Group One winner sired by Zabeel, equalling the achievement of his famous father Sir Tristram.

It was the second Group One win in Australia for jockey Leith Innes, who won the 2013 Doomben Cup aboard Beaten Up (Beat Hollow) for Chris Waller.

Innes was confident Provocative would win the Oaks when she was travelling comfortably approaching the home turn.

"She's an out-and-out stayer and travelled up to them so strongly at the 600 metres," Innes said. "She hit the front a bit soon but I always knew she would outstay them."

"To win a Group One for Tony is something special because he's my main support base back home in New Zealand."

– AAP TURF

Leith Innes has Provocative well clear and travelling strongly in yesterday's Queensland Oaks.





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BENZINI WIN PUTS ROSIE IN RECORD BOOKS

Kiwi jockey Rosie Myers created her own slice of history when she won the Group Two Brisbane Cup aboard **Benzini** (Tale of the Cat) at Eagle Farm yesterday, becoming the first woman to ride the winner of the race when the New Zealand stayer scored by a neck from imported galloper Sir John Hawkwood (Sir Percy) with Junoob (Haafhd) three lengths away third.

Myers rode successfully in Queensland several years ago, when she was apprenticed to Eagle Farm trainer Kelso Wood, before returning to New Zealand to be with her partner William Fell, who manages Goodwood Stud.

Myers declared Benzini her favourite horse and was thrilled when co-trainers Adrian and Harry Bull gave her the ride in the Brisbane Cup.

“The Bulls are very loyal people and to come up trumps in a race like this is a huge thrill,” she said.

“The race wasn’t run very quickly and he got to the front too soon, but to his credit he fought like a tiger.”

Harry Bull was trackside to watch the Cup, accompanied by his mother Robyn and sister Lucy.

His great-aunt Margaret Bull won the 1985 Epsom Handicap with Magnitude (NZ) (Amalgam), who carried the same colours worn by Benzini.

Bull said Benzini had derived plenty of benefit from his third in the 2200 metre Premier’s Cup at Doomben at his previous start on May 28.

“That was always going to top him off for this race and he’s an awesome horse to train,” the Hunterville trainer said.

Benzini will continue his winter

carnival campaign in the Group Two Tattersall’s Cup over 2200 metres at Eagle Farm on June 25.

– AAP TURF

Race	BRC Brisbane Cup Gr.2 2400m
Winner	Benzini (Aus) 2009
Owners	A M Bull
Trainer	Adrian & Harry Bull (Hunterville)
Breeding	by Tale of the Cat (USA) out of Paris Perfume (Aus) by Kurofune (USA)
Breeder	Emirates Park Pty Ltd



Rosie Myers writes a bit of history as she guides Benzini to a win in the Brisbane Cup.

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MICK HAS HIGH HOPES FOR WHOOP WHOOP

Trainer Mick Price declared **Whoop Whoop (NZ)** (Savabeel) a stayer of the future after he scored a determined win in yesterday's 2000 metre Craftsman Handicap at Flemington.

"It was a good tussle. They are both up and coming staying horses," Price said after the \$2.40 favourite Whoop Whoop wore down the front-running Kilmacurragh (NZ) (O'Reilly) to score by a short head.

"He's got stayer written all over him, he's a big raw horse and, for a horse still learning, he's done a good job.

"He was off the bit a long way from home but just kept coming. He's got a good set of lungs on him and I think he's going to make a nice stayer."

Whoop Whoop races in the colours of Waikato Stud, home of his sire Savabeel, and had a nomination for the Queensland Derby, Price saying he felt a Group One race to be too tough a

test at the fourth start for Whoop Whoop.

"He would have had to go in on a skinny prep and those Queensland Derby horses are very seasoned and on their third prep," the Caulfield trainer said.

"This horse is on his first, really. He's a nice horse with a good future – if it's in the spring I'm not sure.

"I might give him another run, I might send him to the paddock. I'll have a look at him during the week."

– racenet.com.au

Race	VRC Craftsman H. 2000m
Winner	Whoop Whoop (NZ) 2012
Owners	G J Chittick
Trainer	Mick Price (Caulfield)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Beyond by Centaine (Aus)
Breeder	G J Chittick



Wearing the famous Waikato Stud colours, ex-Kiwi apprentice Michael Dee gets promising galloper Whoop Whoop over the line first in the three-year-old stayers' handicap at yesterday's Flemington meeting.





EURO ANGEL ON WAY TO STAKES LEVEL AFTER COMMANDING FLEMINGTON WIN

Co-trainer Wayne Hawkes was full of praise for horse and jockey after **Euro Angel (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) ran out the comfortable winner of yesterday's 1400 metre Trevor Clarke Handicap at Flemington.

A firm \$3.50 favourite, Euro Angel raced three wide with cover to the home turn before accelerating to the lead 200 metres out, going clear to defeat Avenue Whisper (Street Cry) by 3¼ lengths with Payroll (Not A Single Doubt) making late headway to finish a head away third.

Hawkes trains Euro Angel in partnership with father John and brother Michael and said the win was not unexpected.

"We thought she'd run pretty good and it was a good effort."

A half-sister to Group Two winners Leebaz (NZ) (Zabeel) and Polish Knight (NZ) (Encosta de Lago), Euro Angel has won two of her three starts and Hawkes feels the three-year-old filly can get to stakes level.

"She needs to win a couple of races to get herself up in the ratings to get into the better races but we are not in any hurry for the spring so we might just give her a couple more races and she'll be cherry ripe for next autumn.

"Her first start in a race was a Chautauqua-like win and she was over the top her next one. She's done a



Euro Angel is on her own at the finish of the three-year-old fillies' 1400 metre handicap at Flemington.

really good job but we've had a good opinion of her for a while."

Hawkes praised the patience of rider Ben Thompson.

"Very few three-kilo kids get back in the pack and know what they are doing. He rides as good as any of them."

Thompson said Euro Angel was always in control of the race.

"She's a classy filly for sure," he said. "She put them away before the 200. The way she won here I'd say she'll have no problem getting out over further.

"She's a real racehorse."

– racenet.com.au

Race	VRC Trevor Clarke H. 1400m
Winner	Euro Angel (NZ) 2012
Owners	P J Duggan, D V Russo, R L Milne, A R McDonald and R S Collins
Trainer	M, W & J Hawkes (Flemington)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (Ire) out of Polish Princess (GB) by Polish Precedent (USA)
Breeder	Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Hawkes Racing; \$200,000





LISA'S PLANS FOR NORTH AND SOUTH HAVE NO MILE RACES, FEWER MILES TRAVELLING

Lisa Latta is likely to keep **North And South (NZ)** (Strategic Image) closer to home in her quest to find black type for the six-year-old.

The Awapuni trainer was delighted to see the mare return to top form in yesterday's Chanui Organic Green Tea Open Handicap at Trentham, where she was unplaced last month after a chequered run when resuming.

"She got a long way back and she may have run third with a clear run," Latta said.

North And South took natural improvement from the outing and yesterday, under Robert Hannam, she produced a dominant performance for the ninth win of her career.

"She has come up really well and she'll be kept to 1200 and 1400-metre races," Latta said. "She doesn't really get a mile."

Unlike previous years, a start in the upcoming Listed Tauranga Classic is unlikely for North And South.

"We'll probably look at the Opunake Cup," Latta said. "We've taken her to Tauranga a couple of times and she's only gone average there."

North And South settled at the tail of the field yesterday and Hannam saved ground into the straight.

"Robbie said if the others all went wide he would cut the corner," Latta said. "She loves these wet tracks."



After a calculated plan to take the shortest way home, Robbie Hannam and North And South have the open sprint at yesterday's Trentham meeting all parcelled up.

The mare revelled in her work and drew clear to comfortably account for Mighty Matt (NZ) (Any Suggestion) and Miss Appleton (NZ) (Align). The topweight and Group One performer Ginner Hart (NZ) (Volksraad) never looked a threat and tailed the field home.

Race	WRC Chanui Organic Green Tea H. 1200m
Winner	North And South (NZ) 2009
Owners	Go Racing Snow Leopard Syndicate
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Strategic Image (Aus) out of Island Time by Al Akbar (Aus)
Breeder	Go Racing Ltd





UNDERTHEMOONLIGHT SHINES AT TE RAPA



Underthemoonlight (blue cap) fights on determinedly to hold out Silhouette Noire in Te Rapa's open sprint.

Underthemoonlight (NZ) (El Hermano) has passed a stern test set for her by trainer Karyn McQuade with flying colours.

The lightly tried mare won yesterday's SkyCity Hamilton 1400 to force her way into black type contention in two weeks' time in the Listed Tauranga Classic.

The mare was racing well out of her grade as her only previous success had come in a Rating 65 event at New Plymouth in the spring.

"It's always been in the back of our minds to get her into the Tauranga Classic," said McQuade, who bred and races Underthemoonlight with her husband Hamish.

"Our goals this preparation were to get her into the Rotorua Stakes and then on to Tauranga, but her first couple of runs were on firmer ground. She didn't get the wet tracks that she needs and she didn't get the points to get in the Rotorua Stakes."

Narrowly beaten by the progressive Summer's Day (NZ)

(Darci Brahma) at Ellerslie a week ago, Underthemoonlight made no mistake at Te Rapa.

She was in front soon after straightening and held on determinedly to score by three quarters of a length from Silhouette Noire (Dane Shadow) .

"She has always shown us a lot," McQuade said. "She is very capable."

Underthemoonlight was ridden by Anna Jones, who has been aboard the mare in every start.

"She's a talented horse and she'll keep improving," Jones said. "She's still a bit green and wants to lay in but she's strengthening and she has got an engine."

Race	Waikato RC Skycity Hamilton H. 1400m
Winner	Underthemoonlight (NZ) 2011
Owners	H G W & Mrs K L McQuade
Trainer	Karyn McQuade (Matamata)
Breeding	by El Hermano out of Midnight Dip by O'Reilly
Breeder	H G W & Mrs K L McQuade





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ELUSIVE STATE HAS CRUZ BROS EXCITED

Trevor and Martin Cruz look to have a decent three-year-old prospect on their hands in **Elusive State** (All American), the brothers producing the youngster for a smart debut victory in the New World 1200 at Te Rapa yesterday to further fuel their hopes for next season.

And while future prospects are bullish for Elusive State, who is raced by their mother Angel, he pleasantly surprised his connections with his first-up performance.

"We expected him to run a place at best as the ground was our main concern," Trevor Cruz said.

"He's only had one trial and the plan was to put him out after that and bring him back for the spring but things changed and we needed to give him a run."

Elusive State had given an early indication of his talent when finishing runner-up at the Cambridge trials in March behind the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained Bonneval (NZ) (Makfi), who was subsequently an impressive debut winner at Hastings.

"Our bloke is still very green so he

In the hands of Lynsey Satherley, Elusive State (green colours) keeps Poker Face at bay to debut in the best possible way.

will learn a lot," Cruz said. "He'll come back a better horse, hopefully for the Guineas races."

The first two-year-old runner for the stable, Elusive State took control at the top of the straight under Lynsey Satherley and fought on tenaciously to hold out the challenge of the favourite Poker Face (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) and Zavistic (NZ) (Zacinto).

Out of a Redoute's Choice mare, Elusive State is a half-brother to

Absolut Excelencia (Excellent Art), the stakes winner of ten races.

Race	Waikato RC New World Te Rapa 2YO S. 1200m
Winner	Elusive State (Aus) 2013
Owners	Angel Cruz
Trainer	Trevor & Martin Cruz (Cambridge)
Breeding	By All American (Aus) out of Jarada (Aus) by Redoute's Choice (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs K Chrysiliou, Mr A Chrysiliou



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HAT-TRICK EARNS ROYAL SUCCESS A SPELL



After a vigorous Matt Cameron ride, Royal Success completes a winning treble in the Rating 75 mile at Te Rapa.

Talented three-year-old **Royal Success (NZ)** (Savabeel) will head for his winter break after completing an impressive hat-trick of wins, the gelding again too good for the older horses in the Norris Ward McKinnon 1600 at Te Rapa to bring a lucrative first campaign to a close.

“He’s going to the paddock,” said Jamie Richards, who trains Royal Success with Stephen Autridge. “We think he deserves a break.

“He’s a horse with a lot of upside – he’s got a very bright future.”

Fifth on debut at Woodville in April, Royal Success then broke his maiden at Pukekohe before he trekked south again for an Otaki victory.

“We’ve been very patient with him and a great bunch of owners have let us take our time,” Richards said.

“To go from a maiden to a Rating 75 Saturday win isn’t easy.”

Royal Success raced in fourth spot and one off the fence

before rider Matt Cameron got busy on the turn and the gelding responded gallantly to beat Maestro Tom (NZ) (Patapan).

“He’s got a nice pedigree and he’ll be even better with more time,” Richards said.

Royal Success is a half-brother to the Australian Group Two and Three winner Folding Gear (NZ) (Johar).

Race	Waikato RC Norris Ward McKinnon H. 1600m
Winner	Royal Success (NZ) 2012
Owners	Te Akau Royal Success Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Royal Show by Deputy Governor (USA)
Breeder	J W Campin
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Estate of J W Campin, P: D C Ellis; \$130,000 2014 Ready to Run Sale, V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: D C Ellis / J W Richards; \$250,000





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THEY CAN'T GET WITHIN COOEE OF OOOE

Paul Nelson's hopes of winning a feature jumping event on his home patch next month were yesterday boosted at Trentham.

The Hastings trainer produced **Oooe (NZ)** (Ruff Nipper) for a runaway victory in the Rural Trading Post Hurdle with the six-year-old now in peak form to take on the country's best.

"I had in the back of my mind that we would run in the Hawke's Bay Hurdles and we'll be sticking with that now," said Nelson, who races Oooe with his wife Carol.

"That was a very, very encouraging run and he's continuing to improve."

Race	WRC Rural Trading Post Hurdle 3000m
Winner	Oooe (NZ) 2009
Owners	Mrs C & P S Nelson
Trainer	Paul Nelson (Hastings)
Breeding	by Ruff Nipper out of Astro Girl by Rhythm (USA)
Breeder	M A McHoull
Sales	2011 South Island 2YO & Mixed Sale; V: Mansfield Farm, P: Mr P S and Mrs C Nelson; \$2000

Oooe finished third in his hurdle debut three runs back at Te Rapa before he returned to the Hamilton track last month to break his maiden.

"He put them away tidily there," regular rider Aaron Kuru said. "I'm very lucky that Paul throws all the rides my way."

Yesterday Oooe raced in second spot until the 1000 metre mark, where he took control after the tearaway leader Share The Blame (NZ) (St Reims) threw in the towel.

Although he chanced the final flight, the gelding was far too good for Venerate (NZ) (Colombia), whose stablemate Justa Charlie (NZ) (Shinko King) won the opening event on the card.

"I didn't expect him to handle the ground that well and next time out he will be even better," Kuru said.

Meanwhile, the Kevin Myers-trained pair of **The Big Opal (NZ)** (Storm Creek) and Crash Bandicoot (NZ) (Casual Lies) drew further attention to their winter prospects when they quinellaed the Grant Plumbing Steeplechase.

"The going is a lot better on the inside than on the course proper so I knew he would be hard to beat if I got a break on



them," successful rider Shaun Fannin said.

The Big Opal, a likely Grand National Steeplechase starter, led all the way to account for the Great Northern Steeplechase contender Crash Bandicoot, who finished off strongly.

Oooe and Aaron Kuru stylishly clear a hurdle on their way to victory at Trentham.





SIAM SAPPHIRE LANDS A DECENT PRIZE AFTER JAMES DODGES THE 2YO GUNS

Trainer James Peters was proven right after he dodged the Singapore Golden Horseshoe series for two-year-old **Siam Sapphire (NZ)** (Showcasing) at Kranji on Friday night.

The young Englishman could have entered the newcomer in the fourth leg of the juvenile series, the \$590,000 IRT Juvenile Stakes, run on the same night, but wisely took an easier path by electing for the next race on the programme, the \$575,000 Restricted Maiden over 1100 metres, where he was given only 49.5kg in a twelve-horse field split equally between two-year-olds and three-year-olds.

He would have carried just 52kg in the Stakes but Peters thought it might be better not to take on, first-up, the likes of Jupiter Gold (Congrats), Macarthur (Charge Forward), Athena (NZ) (Nom du Jeu) and the recently arrived multiple New Zealand winner Caorunn (NZ) (Showcasing).

Ridden by lightweight jockey Barend Vorster, Siam Sapphire, who was backed down to a touch over two-to-one favouritism, came off a ground-saving run from the start to first hook out to the middle of the track for his run before ducking back to the rails inside the last 200 metres and go on to land the spoils by three parts of a length.

"He's done everything right in his trials even if he wasn't fully wound up. He's very professional, but I thought I'd



Siam Sapphire commences his career with a win at Kranji on Friday night.

take the softer option with him even if we could have gone for the Stakes race," said Peters.

"There were too many horses with experience and who were race-fit in that race but the Group Two race on July 8 still remains his main target. I'd like to give him a run over 1200 metres on turf next. I don't know if it will be the next leg, on June 26 – we'll see.

"I'll have to see how he pulls up first and how much time he has in between runs. It's also good for the Thai owner who also races Siam Silk with us."

Vorster agreed that Siam Sapphire still had room for improvement but the signs of promise were undeniable.

"There is still some immaturity in him but he sure has plenty of ability,"

said the South African. "He was full of running and, when the gap came on the inside, we took that run. He's done a great job and will improve a lot from tonight's run."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden Race 1100m
Winner	Siam Sapphire (NZ) 2013
Owners	Pupetch Racing Stable
Trainer	James Peters (Kranji)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Queens Move (Aus) by King of Kings (Ire)
Breeder	Frantic Bloodstock Ltd and Haunui Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: Michael Freedman; \$125,000

