

Monday 14 May 2018

WILLETTS ON THE MARK AGAIN WITH LEICESTER

New Zealand bloodstock agent Paul Willetts has a well-earned reputation as a man who can spot equine talent at a young age and that was emphasised once again on Saturday when **Leicester** (Wanted) took out the Gr.1 South Australian Derby (2500m) at Morphettville.

Willetts identified the promising stayer during a session at the 2015 Inglis Weanling Sale in Sydney where he outlaid A\$10,000 to secure his purchase who is by Australian sire Wanted out of Galileo mare, Defy The Odds.

"He was a pretty cheap buy as no-one was really that interested in his sire at the time," he said.

"When I inspected him he looked far more like his dam sire, Galileo. He was out of young mare who has a superb European pedigree, so I decided to take a punt on him.

"At \$10,000 he was a pretty cheap buy that looks even better now on what he has achieved."

Willetts races the horse with West Australian businessman Gary Johnson who he met through a mutual association with a property in Australia.

"I utilise the services of a farm in Victoria to spell and agist horses and that's where I met Gary," he said.

"We agreed we would put him away and race him ourselves with the option to sell him off the track once he was underway.

"When he won his maiden we thought about what he had been showing and decided we weren't going to just give him away. Since then he has gone from strength to strength so I'm pretty happy we kept him."

Willetts is quick to admit the decision to retain the horse after he opened his account with a maiden win over 1400m at Terang in January did draw some good-natured ribbing from some of his associates.

"I guess when people saw he had won his maiden at Terang they didn't place much stock in that result but when



New Zealand Bloodstock agent Paul Willetts

you look at the form out of the race it makes for impressive reading," he said.

"He beat Sopressa that day who won the Oaks at Morphettville a week ago and Exceltara who won at Caulfield in a strong race on Saturday.

"I would say that is pretty handy form for a Terang maiden now."

Willetts, who has purchased successful horses such as Gr.1 Toorak Handicap (1600m) winner Solzhenitsyn (NZ) (St. Petersburg) as a weanling was back in action at the recent

Continued on page 3



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WILLETTS ON THE MARK AGAIN WITH LEICESTER

(Continued from page 1)

New Zealand Bloodstock Karaka May Sale where he was delighted with the quality of the catalogue on offer.

"I thought it was a very good sale with some great buying to be had," he said.

"I ended up taking home five weanlings and a broodmare from the sale which was pleasing. From a buyer's perspective it was a good sale as the prices were reasonable although many of the vendors may not have felt the same.

"I don't really specialise in weanlings but I do like to buy horses at a young age as I think it allows you to develop them in a manner that suits your requirements.

"Some of the weanling purchases I made will be back at Karaka for the Yearling Sale next year for clients who like to pinhook from this sale while the others will be given plenty of time to mature and then we will see where to go from there."

– NZ Racing Desk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vale: Peter Mitchell

One of the most famous faces associated with legendary New Zealand galloper Bonecrusher (NZ) (Pag Asa) has passed away. 73-year-old Peter Mitchell, the owner of Bonecrusher or "Big Red" as he was affectionately known, died suddenly in Auckland over the weekend.

Mitchell outlaid \$3,250 for Bonecrusher at the Waikato yearling sales and the handsome chestnut went on to win 18 races from 44 raceday appearances. He won four Group Ones in New Zealand and a further six in Australia where he was famous for his stirring battle with another kiwi-bred, (Our) Waverley Star (NZ) (Star Way) in the 1986 Cox Plate.

Mitchell had a powerful personality and Frank Ritchie's son Shaune said he will be long remembered.

"Peter was so strong minded, he could be awkward if you disagreed with his ideas, but he had enormous loyalty. I know for a fact he had any number of offers from trainers to transfer Bonecrusher to them, but he never did. He was very loyal to our family."

Bonecrusher was euthanised in June 2015 after contracting the terrible foot problem laminitis. He was buried at Ellerslie where the Mitchell family sponsor the Gr.1 Bonecrusher Stakes in his memory.

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PROMISING KIWI THREE-YEAR-OLD CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL BUYING STRATEGY FOR RUSSO

A long-held friendship with well known New Zealand breeder Tim Harrison has paid dividends for Bluegrass Bloodstock principal Lenny Russo after lightly raced galloper **Lucky For All (NZ)** (Tavistock) made it three wins from three Australian starts at Caulfield on Saturday.

The Tavistock gelding (formerly named Lucky For Some) began his

career in New Zealand under the guidance of Roger Lang where he ran fourth at Thames over 1200m back in January. Australian based agent Russo, who has enjoyed considerable success in recent years through buying kiwi staying talent off the track in New Zealand, was alerted to the horse by Te Runga Stud's Wayne Larsen on behalf of Harrison.

"I've been friends with both Tim and Wayne for a number of years now through previous dealings we have had," explained Russo.

"I've bought several horses that have been through the systems at Te Runga with a good deal of success so when Wayne contacted me about this horse I was keen to take a look.

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Lucky For All made it three straight Australian victories with a win at Caulfield on the weekend





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PROMISING KIWI THREE-YEAR-OLD CONTINUES SUCCESSFUL BUYING STRATEGY FOR RUSSO

(Continued from page 4)

“Once I saw the tapes on his run and looked at his pedigree I was very keen to see if we could buy him and get him over to Australia.

“I’m friendly with Mick Sharkie who works with Brad Spicer and his syndicates, so we got together and purchased him for a group of Brad’s clients.

“He went to Darren Weir’s stable and hasn’t looked back since.”

A first-up victory at Terang over 1400m was followed by a stylish win at Warrnambool over 1700m, a race that had Russo believing the horse had untapped potential.

“While I’m not involved in the ownership I have kept an eye on his development and I think Darren and the team could have a very exciting horse on their hands,” he said.

“Dean Yendall rode him at Warrnambool and told me he thought the horse was a potential stakes winner

in waiting.

“The way he won at Caulfield on the weekend certainly vindicates that thinking and I think the horse can certainly go on to bigger and better things.

“I believe he was actually supposed to be in Brisbane for a race but missed his flight however after that win he definitely looms as a real chance in a race like the Queensland Derby next month.”

The win also added another notch to Russo’s belt when it comes to sourcing top-line stayers from New Zealand.

“I’m a firm believer in the class and quality of New Zealand horses and have enjoyed great success in recent years with the purchases we’ve made off the track there,” he said.

“Count Da Vinci, who raced in New Zealand as Faaltline, is a great example. I bought him for a Tasmanian client

after he had won just the one race in New Zealand. He went on to win his first five starts in Tasmania before winning the Hobart Cup there.

“He won the Moe Cup in his next campaign and has been a great money-spinner for his connections.

“Savatag and Equilibrium are others I can add to the honours list from our New Zealand purchases while we bred and race Moss ‘N’ Dale who has won 10 races including the Sale Cup.

“The New Zealand thoroughbred is just so durable and they adapt well to the Australian environment. They race on well as older horses which also adds greatly to their appeal.

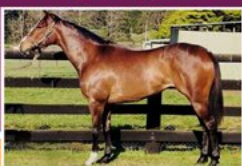
“I do all my work off the tapes of New Zealand racing and now that we have struck a formula that works well then we will be sticking with it as long as we can.”

– NZ Racing Desk



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OUR PEAKY BLINDERS CAPS TOP DAY AT CAULFIELD

Former kiwi galloper (**Our**) **Peaky Blinders (NZ)** (Sir Percy) capped a tremendous day for New Zealand bred runners at Caulfield on Saturday when he took out the last race of the day.

Peaky Blinders was the third winner on the nine-race programme to carry the (NZ) moniker after Riyadh and the impressive Lucky For All had saluted the judge earlier in the day.

Successful in two of his six New Zealand starts for Matamata trainer Kylie Fawcett, who co-bred and owned the Sir Percy gelding, Peaky Blinders was sold to Australian interests after winning over 1400m on New Zealand Derby Day in March 2017.

Fawcett, along with former partner Eddie Wright, retained a small share

in the impressive individual who is a younger sibling of well performed Singapore galloper Rusty Brown (NZ) (Darci Brahma). While no longer in direct control of the horses' development Fawcett maintains a keen interest in his progress.

"It was a great thrill to watch him win on Saturday even if I only have a small interest in him now," she said.

"I've always thought he had the ability to win a good race and the way he won on the weekend underlines that potential."

Fawcett admits that while she has faith in the horse she wasn't always enamoured with his behaviour around the stable.

"I think a nice description would be that he is a quirky individual," she said.

"He kept you on your toes and had some pretty interesting habits at times but when they have the sort of ability he possesses you tend to make allowances along the way."

Now in the care of ex-pat kiwi couple Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young, Fawcett believes time and further maturity has worked a treat with the horse.

"He had a small problem when he first went to Trent and Natalie and that may have been a blessing in disguise," she said.

"They gave him time to get over it which looks to have worked really well for him. From the communication I get from them he still has a few quirks, but the signs are good and now he has stepped up in distance he is going super.

"I thought he would make a good middle-distance horse and his last two wins have confirmed that. I'm not sure how many more runs he has in this campaign but on what he has done it looks good for next season when he should be at his peak."

- NZ Racing Desk



(Our) Peaky Blinders scores at Caulfield





ADMIRAL SAILS TO VICTORY AT ROTORUA

Handy winter galloper **Admiral (NZ)** (Align) made his way back to the winner's circle for the first time in this campaign with a gritty display in the testing track conditions that prevailed at Rotorua on Saturday.

At home on a heavy surface, Admiral ploughed through the mud over 1560m to register career win number six in the hands of apprentice Jasmine Fawcett.

Trainer Stephen Ralph had commented before the race that he wanted to see his charge get an economical run near the pace after being used up to lead at all costs in some of his more recent runs.

"I told Jasmine that we didn't have to go faster than anyone else as he will outspurt them in the run home," he said.

"He's a stronger horse now, so if we could get to the corner without using all his petrol I thought he would be hard to beat."

Fawcett followed the pre-race instructions to the letter as she tracked a muddling speed set by Jochen Rindt (NZ) (Ishiguru) before booting away in the run to the winning post to defeat Ambitious Winner (NZ) (Nadeem) and The Kipling Girl (High Chaparral).

"Full credit to Jasmine as she worked it out really nicely," said Ralph.

"When she took over on the home corner I was pretty confident.

"That's his first win going left-



Winter track specialist Admiral salutes the judge at Rotorua

handed so that's another box we can tick off."

Fawcett was full of praise for her mount as she unsaddled after the race.

"I didn't have to ask much of him and he finished off really well," she said.

"He was pulling the whole way, but he's proven before that he loves a heavy track and he did it again today."

Admiral advanced his career earnings to just over \$154,000 with the win although Ralph is undecided

where he will line up next, bemoaning a lack of suitable options in the coming weeks.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Rotorua RC Taumarunui Cup 28 July H. 1560m.
Winner	Admiral (NZ) 2011
Owners	S A Seath
Trainer	Stephen Ralph (Te Awamutu)
Breeding	by Align (AUS) out of Pirate Queen by Diamond Express
Breeder	S A Seath; Waikato; NZ





JASON COLLETT RIDES IN SINGAPORE AFTER BAN

Jason Collett is headed for an unwanted holiday after the Scone carnival, but he is looking forward to a trip to Singapore on his return.

Collett has started a careless riding



Ex-pat kiwi rider Jason Collett

suspension for his winning ride on Gem Song (Your Song) at Randwick on May 5 but fortunately the ban does not impact on a career highlight.

The Sydney-based New Zealander can focus on a return to racing in a new environment after an approach from trainer Gary Hennessey.

Collett has been booked to ride Ocean Emperor (NZ) (Zabeel) for Waikato-based Hennessey in the Kranji Mile on May 26, two days after his suspension ends.

"It's a great opportunity. I can't even remember riding for Gary back home, but it was easy to say yes," Collett said.

"I've watched the racing there so it

should be a good experience racing in a new jurisdiction."

He has picked up at least two other bookings for the meeting.

Collett, who is still striving for his first Group One win, has looked at Ocean Emperor's form and is positive about the horse who has seven wins and five placings from 22 starts.

"He is in good form and it would be a good race to win," Collett said.

Collett is sixth on the Sydney jockeys' premiership with 51 wins, with Brenton Avdulla leading on 74.

The Kranji Mile has been revamped and moved from October to May ahead of the return of Singapore's International Day in 2019.

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Monday 14 May 2018

NZ STALLION AWARDS

THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$11,590,523
DARCI BRAHMA	\$9,770,975
ROAD TO ROCK	\$7,323,312
TAVISTOCK	\$6,126,360
O'REILLY	\$6,068,409
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$5,951,166
PER INCANTO	\$4,557,072
SHOWCASING	\$3,856,222
PINS	\$3,657,399
NOM DU JEU	\$3,438,619

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

THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$7,488,301
DARCI BRAHMA	\$2,896,796
O'REILLY	\$2,827,276
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,541,909
PINS	\$2,460,609
TAVISTOCK	\$2,414,207
IFFRAAJ	\$2,307,086
PER INCANTO	\$2,048,534
MAKFI	\$2,045,760
YAMANIN VITAL	\$1,950,874

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

THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,309,405
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,642,239
IFFRAAJ	\$1,585,349
TAVISTOCK	\$1,418,030
FASTNET ROCK	\$1,401,650
PER INCANTO	\$1,277,059
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,159,135
ALAMOSA	\$1,147,358
PINS	\$1,082,640
ROC DE CAMBES	\$996,580

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
EMBELLISH	\$466,310
DEVISE	\$157,750
GINGERNUTS	\$180,000
GOBSTOPPER	\$188,375
AVANTAGE	\$742,370
SHADOWS CAST	\$154,812
SAINT EMILION	\$218,300
STOLEN DANCE	\$131,450
PACKING PINS	\$122,750
VIN DE DANCE	\$ 623,500

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand



Data Provided By
ARION PEDIGREES



Monday 14 May 2018

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG **MAY 9**

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
Vallone – YOU HAVE MY WORD (H.K.) (NZ) 2011 by Mastercraftsman (IRE) out of Staryn Glenn by Montjeu (IRE)	Mrs H G & W G Bax; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Ng Tung River H. 1800m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Bruce Perry BStk; \$100,000
LUCKY TIME (NZ) 2012 by Castledale (Ire) out of Gulfstream by Yachtie (AUS)	G R Munro; South; NZ	HKJC Tan Shan River H. 1650m.	2014 National Yearling Sale - Festival Sale; V: Te Runga Stud, P: Glen Harvey B/stock; \$41,000

NZ BRED WINNERS IN HONG KONG **MAY 12**

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
SHIMMER AND SHINE (NZ) 2014 by Showcasing (GB) out of Princess Amidala by Don Eduardo	H Mackley No 1 Trust; Auckland; NZ	HKJC Macau-Taipa Bridge H. 1000m.	2016 National Yearling Sale - Festival Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: Glen Harvey B/stock; \$50,000
Furuvik – PEARL FURU (H.K.) (NZ) 2011 by Fully Fledged out of I'llthinkaboutit by Howbaddouwantit (USA)	M P Baker; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Guia Hill H. 2200m.	
GRAND HARBOUR (NZ) 2010 by Savabeel (AUS) out of Haberdashery by Pins (AUS)	Waikato Stud 2001 Ltd; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Friendship Bridge H. 1200m.	
CHEERFUL JET (NZ) 2013 by Darci Brahma out of Bright Abyss (USA) by Royal Academy (USA)	Mrs H G & W G Bax; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Taipa H. 1200m.	2015 National Yearling Sale - Select Session V: Blandford Lodge P: NZB as Agent; \$30,000
GO BEAUTY GO (NZ) 2012 by O'Reilly out of Lodore Mystic by Centaine (AUS)	Waikato Stud Ltd; Waikato; NZ	HKJC Cotai H. 1600m.	2014 National Yearling Sale - Premier Sale; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Hong Kong Jockey Club; \$320,000

NZ BRED WINNERS IN SINGAPORE **MAY 11**

HORSE & BREEDING	BREEDER	RACE	SALES DETAILS
MISS DUSTY (NZ) 2014 by Reliable Man (GB) out of Asciano Miss (AUS) by Jet Spur (AUS)	G J Perry; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1200m.	
PREFERRED (NZ) 2011 by Elusive City (USA) out of My Kindaway by Howbaddouwantit (USA)	Mrs A J M & ST Fraser; Central; NZ	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m.	2013 National Yearling Sale - Select Session; V: Maara Grange, P: NZB as agent; \$37,500
MY HORSE (NZ) 2013 by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Rosenborg (AUS) by Danehill (USA)	Ramsey Pastoral Co Pty Ltd; Auckland; NZ	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1000m.	
LIM'S REFORM (NZ) 2011 by O'Reilly out of Pretty by Pins (AUS)	Waikato Stud 2001 Ltd; Waikato; NZ	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1000m.	

