## \*>>> RACING&BREEDINGNEWS

**Sunday 14 May 2017** 

# VOLATILE MIX KEEPS HIS COOL IN A DERBY DELAYED BY UNRULY RIVALS



Volatile Mix attacks the line as he surges past Ruthven and on to victory in yesterday's South Australian Derby.

remier Victorian trainer Darren Weir yesterday combined with jockey John Allen to win the Group One South Australian Derby for the second straight year when outsider **Volatile Mix (NZ)** (Pentire) swept to victory at Morphettville.

The race began the best part of ten minutes late with

the scratching of local gallopers Waging War (Rebel Raider) and Docker Pav (Shrewd Rhythm), who both played up in the barriers, while the \$10 chance Grand Chancellor (NZ) (Savabeel) was taken out of the gates twice before being passed fit to run but faded to finish seventh after racing behind the speed to the 400 metre mark.

Continued on page 3



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**Sunday 14 May 2017** 



# VOLATILE MIX KEEPS HIS COOL IN A **DERBY DELAYED BY UNRULY RIVALS**

(Continued from page 1)

Allen let Volatile Mix settle beyond midfield before bringing him through the field from the 600 metre point to be within striking distance on the home turn.

The \$26 chance had the \$3 favourite Odeon (NZ) (Makfi) in his sights 200 metres from home before sprinting hard to score by a half length over ATC Derby fourth placegetter Ruthven (Domesday), who stuck on well after a wide run to consign Odeon to third, a further 1¼ lengths away.

Hastings filly Savvy Dreams (NZ) (Savabeel), third in the New Zealand Oaks two months ago, improved on her first-up Adelaide performance three weeks ago to fight on for fourth after looming into contention on the home turn.

Volatile Mix covered the 2500 metres in 2:37.09, the

fastest South Australian Derby time since Big Pat (Full And By) clocked 2:36.35 in 2001.

His win gave veteran Rich Hill sire Pentire his sixteenth individual Group One winner, the leading tally by a still-active New Zealand stallion.

- racenet.com.au

Race	SAJC South Australian Derby Gr.1 2500m
Winner	Volatile Mix (NZ) 2013
Owners	G L Huddy & Mrs L F Huddy
Trainer	Darren Weir (Ballarat)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Utopia by High Chaparral (Ire)
Breeder	L Huddy



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#### SHOCKING LUCK A STAYER ON THE RISE

he Kiwi invasion of the Queensland winter carnival has kicked off and trainer Jamie Richards is convinced his up-and-coming three-year-old **Shocking Luck** (NZ) (Shocking) will soon claim Group One glory.

Moderately fancied at \$6, after drifting from \$4.80, and ridden by stable jockey Opie Bosson, the New Zealand stayer yesterday showed his class in a dominant 2¾ length win over \$3.40 favourite Order Again (NZ) (Iffraaj) in the 2000 metre Group Three Rough Habit Plate at Doomben.

In an ominous warning, co-trainer Richards, who trains in partnership with Stephen Autridge, insisted the gelding would be much better on a firm track.

"We always thought he was a Queensland Derby horse. He ran very well in the Waikato Guineas at home and subsequently was sold to Phillip Mak in Hong Kong," Richards said. "The intention is to run him in the Grand Prix and Derby before he heads overseas.

"With a bit of luck the tracks will improve as I believe he is better on top of the ground.

"He is a very exciting horse, a straight-out New Zealand staying type, a big skinny horse."

On his Australian debut, Shocking Luck was beaten in a Class Three at Ipswich but Richards always believed the 1500 metres that day would be too short for the stayer.



Opie Bosson gets another big-race win in Australia as Shocking Luck runs away with Doomben's Rough Habit Plate.

"A few months ago, there was no way he could have run second over a mile so the Ipswich run was good," Richards said. "He has always needed ground."

Second-placed Order Again was also impressive after struggling to get a clear run in the straight.

"It's a pity he couldn't draw a bit closer as I had to go back further than I wanted," jockey Larry Cassidy said. "I can't wait to get him across the road to Eagle Farm."

The gelding earned \$A25,000 for finishing second but trainer Brian

Smith is concerned his overall prize money of \$A62,000 won't be enough to guarantee a Derby start.

- racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	BRC Rough Habit P. Gr.3 2000m
Winner	Shocking Luck (NZ) 2013
Owners	Dr P Mak
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Shocking (Aus) out of Shamardal Luck (Aus) by Shamardal (USA)
Breeder	G L Currie and T W Archer Trust









#### **HURSLEY WIN ENDS STRING OF SECONDS**

onsistent placegetter **Hursley (NZ)** (Makfi) has a habit of hitting a flat spot in his races but yesterday overcame it to score a determined win in the 2000 metre Chandler Macleod Handicap at Caulfield.

Three of Hursley's five wins have come over the 2000 metres at Caulfield but, after runner-up finishes at his four most-recent starts, punters following him could have been forgiven for losing faith. Enough did stick with the four-year-old, however, to keep him steady in the market as the \$5 second favourite.

Hursley was settled midfield by jockey Daniel Stackhouse as Zahspeed (Speed 'N' Power) set a strong tempo in the lead. Driven along before the home turn, Hursley kept coming and wore down the well-backed \$3.60 favourite Overberg (NZ) (Pentire) to score by a short half head, the pair pulling 1¾ lengths clear of longshot Snitzelwood (Snitzel) in third.

Expat-Kiwi Stackhouse said he was waiting for Hursley to hit his customary flat spot in the race.

"He dropped the bit at the half mile and I had to dig him up," Stackhouse said. "I was told it's what he does and I was

expecting it.

"He took a little while to wind up but we got a good drag into it and once he got going he found the line.

"He's as genuine as they come and I'm just pleased to get my first winner for Chris Waller and Qatar Bloodstock."

Waller's Melbourne stable representative Johanne Taylor admitted she was worried that Hursley was going to have to settle for yet another runner-up finish after Overberg

Hursley (#7) about to snatch victory from Overberg in their desperate finish at Caulfield.

sprinted to the lead passing the 200 metre mark.

"I certainly thought so," she said. "On the line I wasn't sure so when the photo came up I was ecstatic.

"He always seemed to find one better on the day in his last four starts but he's as honest as the day is long and it's certainly good to see him rewarded.

"He loves his training and is a lovely horse to work with and tries so hard in his races. You just love to see horses like him get a win."

- racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	MRC Chandler Macleod H. 2000m
Winner	Hursley (NZ) 2012
Owners	Qatar Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr: D Redvers), G Harvey, R Shrimpton, Mrs C Shrimpton and M A Kinninmont
Trainer	Chris Waller (Flemington)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Illuminates (Aus) by Strategic (Aus)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: D Redvers; \$200,000







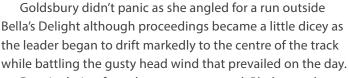
#### LONG DROUGHT ENDS FOR BLATHWAYT

pprentice rider Rebecca Goldsbury enjoyed a successful day in the saddle at New Plymouth yesterday when she chalked up a winning double.

After guiding the locally trained Rosewood (NZ) (Redwood) home earlier in the day, Goldsbury produced a heady display to land the well favoured Opaki galloper Blathwayt (NZ) (Colombia) a narrow but well deserved victor in the day's feature event, the Energy City Ford Open over 1800 metres.

The central districts apprentice allowed the seven-yearold grey plenty of time to find his feet as she settled him at the rear of the seven-horse field in the early stages of the contest as Overtheriver (NZ) (Mettre en Jeu) set a hectic pace. Blathwayt relaxed nicely and began to loom as a threat as he set out after Bella's Delight (NZ) (Castelli), who had shot to a handy two length break as heads turned for home.

Race	Taranaki RC Energy City Ford H. 1800m
Winner	Blathwayt (NZ) 2009
Owners	R Fokerd, Mrs V A Lackner & A R MacGregor
Trainer	Alby MacGregor (Opaki)
Breeding	by Colombia out of Miss Yachtie by Yachtie (Aus)
Breeder	J M Jury



Despite being forced over more ground, Blathwayt dug deep to lift at the line and push his head in front of Bella's Delight to score his eighth career victory and first since October 2015.

Trainer Alby MacGregor admitted he had never lost faith in his charge despite enduring plenty of frustrations since his

"He's always been a good horse and a real trier but we've had our problems with him," he admitted.

"His last win before today was the Feilding Gold Cup then we took him to Riccarton for the New Zealand Cup but he hurt himself when he was down there.

"We just couldn't get him right and I tried everything, including the chiropractor, but he was always going sore in behind.

"My good friend Harvey Wilson suggested to forget those treatments and get him out on the hills for some work there and he has been a different horse since."

MacGregor admitted he was nervous about his winning

chances after such a lengthy drought but his confidence was buoyed after the gelding produced a sparkling workout on Thursday.

"His work on Thursday morning was terrific so I had nervous confidence for today," he said.

"Rebecca rode him beautifully and it was such a relief to see him finally get another win. Rebecca is a lovely girl and seems to have a real affinity with the horse as she has only ridden him three times and won on him

MacGregor will now turn his attention to the Wellington meeting on 27 May, where the 2100 metre Trentham Gold Cup is Blathwayt's primary target.

After an epic home-straight battle at New Plymouth, the grey Blathwayt edges out Bella's Delight.











### **CLOSE UP SET FOR PROFITABLE WINTER**

urable galloper Close Up (NZ) (Shinko King) yesterday continued the winning roll of Cambridge trainer Shelley Hale when he captured the feature sprint at New Plymouth in his first start in a new campaign.

Veteran rider Grant Cooksley trekked south to take the mount on Close Up and produced a gem of a ride as he sat the seven-year-old gelding behind the speed before producing a well-timed run in the home straight to score a comfortable length victory in the Kiwi Butcher Open 1200.

Currently preparing for a trip to Brisbane with stable star Seventh Up (NZ), the younger brother of Close Up, Hale was confident of a good tracks they need to get one under their belt so I was just keen to get his campaign underway. He ended up having a decent blow after the race and there looks to be plenty of improvement in him so the win is a welcome bonus."

Hale has always believed in the ability of her charge although he has had limited chances to show his class due to issues racing on the firm summer tracks.

"He just can't handle those really hard tracks as he tends to jar up badly," she explained.

"We've known all along he could gallop but he's been restricted to being a winter horse because of his feet. He is lightly raced and has come up extremely well this time in so I'm hopeful he has a big winter ahead of him."

Hale will now turn her attention to recent Group Two Manco Easter Stakes winner Seventh Up, who will continue his preparation for his Brisbane campaign at Te Rapa next weekend in an open 1400 metre contest.

Race	Taranaki RC Kiwi Butcher H. 1200m
Winner	Close Up (NZ) 2009
Owners	Miss S A Hale, Noel & Alison Johnstone Family Trust and R M Stent
Trainer	Shelley Hale (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shinko King (Ire) out of Regelle by Exploding Prospect (USA)
Breeder	Miss S A Hale, N W Johnstone and R M Stent

performance from her charge after a recent trial at Ellerslie that topped off the preparation for his opener.

"His trial was very good and so was his work although I did think he still might need the run today," she said.

"Usually on the wetter



In an impressive first-up performance, Close Up cruises home in the open sprint at New Plymouth.





### WET NEW PLYMOUTH SUITS SHE'S POPPY

anganui visitor She's Poppy (NZ) (Alamosa) upset the applecart when she stormed home to score at outside odds in yesterday's Landmark Homes-sponsored rating 75 1600 metre event at New Plymouth.

The five-year-old was freshup for a new campaign as she registered win number four at just her fourteenth start and her second on the tricky New Plymouth surface following a victory in similarly heavy track conditions in September last year.

Matamata apprentice Shaun McKay, who is developing a handy partnership with trainer Raymond Connors, was full of praise for the gritty effort from his charge.

"We got into the best part of the track which is out in the middle as they seem to be struggling on the rail," he noted.

"She likes to get back and find her feet so once I started working on her at about the 1000 metre mark

"She handles the wet tracks so you will probably see her improving in her next few runs as well."

she got going and kept on from there.

Connors, who trains and part-owns the mare, agreed with his rider's views.

"It was a good effort from the horse," he remarked.

"She doesn't carry a lot of condition so you don't have to do a lot with her which makes it easier in a way as she goes better when she's fresh.



She's Poppy (green colours) comes with a well-timed finish to overpower the odds-on favourite Ladies First.

"We turned her out for the summer in the hope that when we got her back she would strike the wetter tracks so we're hopeful she can carry on with it during the winter."

Local runner Ladies First (NZ) (Dylan Thomas), who was backed in to start a hot favourite, tried gamely to match the winner in the run home but had to settle for second with pacemaker Woodbine Ladd (NZ) (Keeper) battling on nicely to finish third.

Race	Taranaki RC Landmark Homes H. 1600m
Winner	She's Poppy (NZ) 2011
Owners	Raymond, Mark & Eris Connors
Trainer	Raymond Connors (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Alamosa out of Cassandra by Centro
Breeder	R J Cottle
Sales	2013 Ready to Run Sale; V: Venture Thoroughbreds Ltd, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$40,000









#### ALLURE'S WIN A PEARLER FOR TONY

wapuni trainer Tony Bambry achieved the proverbial "two birds with one stone" when royally bred filly **Allure (NZ)** (Lonhro) claimed the opening event at New Plymouth.

Bambry had designs on scoring both a two-year-old victory and capturing a lucrative New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Pearl Series bonus from the event and his charge made it mission accomplished when she prevailed in a desperate finish to the contest.

The benefit of raceday experience played in Allure's favour as she began well in the hands of apprentice Holly Andrew

Race	Taranaki RC NZB Insurance Pearl Series Maiden S. 1200m
Winner	Allure (NZ) 2014
Owners	Tony & Judith Bambry
Trainer	Tony Bambry (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Lonhro (Aus) out of Captivate by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	R W E Moore
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: A L & J K Bambry; \$90,000

before taking a sit behind the pace-making duo of northern raiders O'Marina (NZ) (Mossman) and race favourite Lala Land (NZ) (Darci Brahma). Angled into the clear in the straight Allure dug deep as she fought doggedly in a three-way finish that saw her head Lala Land right on the line to score by a nose with the locally trained Kaliper (NZ) (Keeper) just a head back in third.

Bambry was quick to attribute the win to the use of some specialised training equipment that assisted in Allure's raceday preparation.

"We use the water treadmill with this horse as she hardly works at the track," he explained.

"It's not only great for horses with problems but also builds the core strength for these two-year-olds and that's what keeps them going."

Bambry has made a habit of targeting races in the Pearl Series scheme which sees registered New Zealand-bred fillies and mares compete for enhanced stakes in designated events throughout their two-, three- and four-year-old seasons.

"We've got a high opinion of her as she is very well bred



and I think she has got big things in front of her," he said.

"There is another Pearl Series event in a couple of weeks to look at. We've ticked one box with the two-year-old win as she is a filly we bought to keep and breed from."

Allure is the daughter of 2007 Group One New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes winner Captivate (NZ) (Stravinsky) and was purchased by Bambry from the Haunui Farm draft at the 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock Premier Yearling Sale at Karaka.

In a gritted-teeth finish, Allure (centre) noses out the hot favourite Lala Land (rails) with Kaliper just a head away third.



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### LAURIE DIRECTING SCORSESE TO DERBY

aurie Laxon named Mr Scorsese (NZ) (Pentire) as his Singapore Derby runner after the grey made light work of his rivals in the \$\$80,000 Class 3 over 1600 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

The Kiwi trainer has always held the son of the Listed winner and Group One-placed O'Reilly mare Marie Claire (NZ) in high regard, especially during his successful three-year-old campaign, when he emerged, before setbacks, as an early Derby favourite.

The Oscar Racing Stable-owned gelding was brought back late in the year and has now blossomed in his four-year-old season.

"He's always been a quality horse," said Laxon. "That's his fourth win in

eleven starts. He's definitely my Derby horse as he is bred to stay. He's by Pentire and was bred by Pencarrow Stud.

"Tonight, he took advantage of his good barrier three. It was the best Class 3 race I have seen for a while and I'm really looking forward to his next runs."

Taking the box-seat from the word go, Mr Scorsese was humming along before being angled out for a gap between the The Capital (Bernadini) and Iron Man (Hidden Truth) shortly after straightening.

He took a short while to find his rhythm between that pair but then went through his gears and careered away to an emphatic 1½-length win.

Laxon's choice of jockey Matthew

Kellady for the ride was a rare sight at Kranji and the pair were recording their first winner together since January of 2008.

"It's great to ride another winner for Laurie," said the Ipoh-born jockey. "I do get the odd ride from him but the last winner goes a long way back.

"I didn't know this horse but he gave me a good feel when I rode him in the morning. I was told to settle fifth or sixth but he was stepping from 1400 to 1600 metres and the pace was slow - that's how we got into the box seat quite easily.

"I was lucky to get the fence and had a lot of horse underneath me turning into the straight.

"Once he got the gap, he just quickened away to an easy win. He's a very good horse and a big thank you to Laurie for putting me on."

- Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 3 H. 1600m
Winner	Mr Scorsese (NZ) 2012
Owners	Oscar Racing Stable
Trainer	Laurie Laxon (Kranji)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Marie Claire by O'Reilly
Breeder	P J & P M Vela Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: L K Laxon; \$80,000



Mr Scorsese scores easily over a strong Class 3 field at Kranji on Friday night.









#### SOONBABY IMMEDIATELY OFF THE MARK

rainer Daniel Meagher could not have dreamt of a better outcome to the \$\$65,000 Initiation over 1000 metres on Kranji's Polytrack after his two newcomers Soonbaby (NZ) (Redwood) and Silver Sky took the first two spots on Friday night.

The debuting pair had pleased the Australian in their workouts and barrier trials but still had to frank that form on the racetrack – always an unknown, especially under lights.

And behind Soonbaby's win was a beginner's luck story in terms of the owner-trainer partnership.

"I'm so happy for Uncle Soon. He's been really fantastic and it's great to get a win for him at our first runner," said Meagher. "He has about twenty horses in Malaysia but Soonbaby is his first horse here; hopefully, he will send me more.

"Anna Scott in Kuala Lumpur trained the horse first. He trialled for her before she recommended to Uncle Soon to send him to us. A big thank-you to Anna for that.

"There will be a lot more improvement to come. It took some time to get him to race as he had some hiccups, but nothing too serious.

"He got lost when he hit the front but kept going. And thanks to Danny Beasley, who rode him a treat."

Punted down to favouritism, Soonbaby was always travelling like a winner despite coursing three wide for most of the trip, keeping front-runner Happy Dayz (NZ) (Pour Moi) in his sights before making his move.

The moment Beasley said go, shortly after cornering, the three-year-old lengthened

nicely to hit the lead and although not clearing out as expected was able to hang on for a half-length win.

Soonbaby comes from a good lineage in New Zealand, being out the Stravinsky mare Wahaha (NZ), a half-sister to multiple-Group One winner Wall Street (NZ) (Montjeu).

"He is a nice horse with a nice pedigree; a big boy with big strides," said Beasley. "He had a pretty sweet run, uncomplicated, in transit. He was a touch light in his trial and he was like that again tonight.

"We just tracked the leader and in the straight I knew he had the race in his keeping."

- Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Initiation P. 1000m
Winner	Soonbaby (NZ) 2013
Owners	CS Racing Stable
Trainer	Daniel Meagher (Kranji)
Breeding	by Redwood (GB) out of Wahaha by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Ms E Shattock
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Anistay Lodge, P: Cypress Point Farms; \$20,000
	2015 Ready to Run Sale; V: Cypress Point Stables, P: Dato Mohd Ariff Bin Mohd; \$20,000



Soonbaby completes his impressive debut win.





