

>>>> RACING&BREEDINGNEWS

Sunday 28 May 2017

MELODY BELLE STREETS OPPOSITION IN **EAGLE FARM'S G2 BRC SIRES' PRODUCE**



In an all-Kiwi owned, bred, trained and ridden victory, Opie Bosson guides Melody Belle home in the Sires' Produce Stakes at Eagle Farm.

ough filly Melody Belle (NZ) (Commands) has surprised even her co-trainer Jamie Richards to become the first New Zealand-trained horse in 31 years to win the Group Two BRC Sires' Produce Stakes.

To the cheers of fifteen of her 32 owners who made the trip across the Tasman, Melody Belle, who retained favouritism at \$5 after drifting from \$3.80, raced away in the straight to beat the \$8.50 fourth favourite Taking Aim (Choisir) by 4¾ lengths in yesterday's 1400 metre juvenile feature at Eagle Farm.

She was the first to win the event since Shannon (NZ) (Three Legs), racing as Mr Shannon, scored for the Kiwi combo of trainer Bruce Marsh and jockey David Walsh in 1986.

Continued on page 3







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.
- A multiple Group One performer (2nd G1 Randwick Guineas, 3rd G1 Spring Champion) beating some of the best 3YO Group One winners in Australia including Kermedec, Preferment, Hampton Court, Shooting To Win, First Seal.
- 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).
- Sweynesse is the highest rated stallion from the Zabeel sire line to begin stud duties in New Zealand since Savabeel.



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(Continued from page 1)

Richards said he believed there was some improvement in the filly as she heads to the Group One JJ Atkins Stakes on June 10.

"She is a strong filly by Commands so I am confident she can run a strong 1600 metres in the Atkins," Richards said.

"I was mindful of the fact she had not started since April 1 when she won the Sires at Awapuni. But she had a trial and that set her up for today.

"She was a cheap buy at the Karaka sales but she has now won a Karaka Million and a BRC Sires."

Richards believes Melody Belle, who was promoted to \$2.80 favourite for the JJ Atkins, can develop into a spring filly with races like the Thousand Guineas and the Caulfield Guineas in mind.

Richards and training partner Stephen Autridge have a big team in Brisbane and have already won a Group race with Shocking Luck in the Rough Habit Plate.

Winning jockey Opie Bosson believes there is improvement in Melody Belle.

"She has taken a lot of confidence since she won the Karaka Million in January. She put herself into the race and finished hard," he said.

- racenet.com.au

Race	BRC Sires' Produce S. Gr.2 1400m
Winner	Melody Belle (NZ) 2014
Owners	Fortuna Melody Belle Syndicate (Mgr: John Galvin)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Commands (Aus) out of Meleka Belle by Iffraaj (GB)
Breeder	Mrs N M Leicester
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: D C Ellis; \$57,500





ORDER AGAIN TIMES FINISH PERFECTLY

he Brian Smith-trained Order Again (NZ) (Iffraaj) was in front at the right moment to claim the \$A150,000 Group Three Grand Prix Stakes at yesterday's Eagle Farm meeting.

In a thriller, the fast-finishing Volatile Mix (NZ) (Pentire) was in front a stride before and a stride after the line but, where it counts in the 2200 metre event, expat-Kiwi jockey Larry Cassidy had Order Again in front.

"I suppose I'd have been disappointed if I'd been beaten on the line because BJ always says count to ten and I actually only got to eight, sorry," Cassidy told Sky Racing.

In what is best described as a real slugfest on the testing Eagle Farm track, Order Again, who had travelled sweetly off the speed, strode to the front with 300 metres to run before holding off the South Australian Derby winner.

The second favourite at \$4.20. Order Again defeated the \$9 shot Volatile Mix by a nose with outsider Violate (Sebring) another 134 lengths away in third. Kiwi stayer Shocking Luck (Shocking), sent out the \$3.60 favourite, challenged for the lead on straightening but weakened into sixth.

"He's still got to step up another 200 metres in distance in the Queensland Derby but it's looking really good," Cassidy said.

"He's improving and he'll take great benefit from today. This is only his fourth run in, no barrier trial, so he's still improving."



Larry Cassidy gets Order Again to stretch his neck at the precise moment needed as Volatile Mix's head looms ominously in the Grand Prix Stakes.

Then training in the Waikato, Smith won the Grand Prix in 1976 with the champion Balmerino (NZ) (Trictrac) but declined to tackle the Queensland Derby with him and instead won that year's Brisbane Cup.

But it will be a different tale this time, with Order Again headed to the Derby on June 10, where he will try to become the fourteenth horse to win the Grand Prix-Derby double.

Smith has had his share of problems with Order Again this campaign but has nursed him to the middle distance races.

"I have tears in my eyes – they are tears of relief," the emotional septuagenarian said. "I have had my problems with this horse but have never lost confidence in him.

"The future is very bright for him and the Derby will be the first step. When you get to my age, you treasure getting a good horse."

Following the win, Order Again firmed to \$4 equal favouritism with Volatile Mix for the Queensland Derby. Shocking Luck is a \$6 chance.

- racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	BRC Grand Prix S. Gr.3 2200m
Winner	Order Again (NZ) 2013
Owners	CEJ&CJW Stewart
Trainer	Brian Smith (Eagle Farm)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Glass Half Full by Van Nistelrooy (USA)
Breeder	CEJ&CJW Stewart









KAISER FRANZ NO FRIEND TO PUNTERS



Kaiser Franz (checks) comes along the inside to blouse out Zambezi Warrior (#13) and The Chairman and score a longshot win in the Premier's Cup at Eagle Farm.

ocal trainer Robert Heathcote had the last laugh after Kaiser Franz (NZ) (Savabeel) yesterday scored an upset ■win in the Group Three Premier's Cup at Eagle Farm.

Kaiser Franz started one of the least fancied runners in the Cup, going to the barriers a \$61 chance before overwhelming his rivals in the final 100 metres to win by half a length.

"I copped a bit of flak from the owners for running him and I noticed he was big odds before the jump but I had a really sneaky feeling that he'd love this track," Heathcote said.

"He's run second last, gone at the 600 metres last start, but I liked his run the start before that on this track.

"Today was his big test and maybe it's pie in the sky to run him in the Brisbane Cup but the extra 200 metres next time will suit him."

Heathcote said he was prepared to forgive the gelding's poor showing in the Chairman's Handicap at Doomben on May 13.

"I knew coming into this meeting that horses that have raced well on this track in the past would be those that would handle the going best," he said.

"He's beaten some good horses today and it was a lovely ride from Robbie Fradd."

Jockey Jeff Lloyd was happy with the second-placed effort of Te Akau's stayer Zambezi Warrior (NZ) (Pentire) while Tegan Harrison believes the fourth by Adrian Bull's Benzini (Tale Of The Cat) puts the Hunterville veteran on track to repeat last year's Brisbane Cup win.

"That run will top him off nicely for the Cup in a fortnight," Harrison said.

racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	BRC Premier's Cup Gr.3 2200m
Winner	Kaiser Franz (NZ) 2010
Owners	Mrs V A Heathcote, R S Ciobo, T A McPherson, Mrs K M Elliott, B W Harry, G R Horne, R D Vela, S A Krslovic and K R MacKenzie
Trainer	Robert Heathcote (Eagle Farm)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Call Me Lily by Just a Dancer
Breeder	Miss D Howell
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Trelawney Stud Ltd, P: Paul Willetts; \$65,000









REDEMPTION REWARD A DERBY START

he Chris Waller-trained
Monasterio (NZ) (Savabeel)
has redeemed himself and his
reward could be a start in the Group
One Queensland Derby.

With four runners in Randwick's EML Handicap, for three-year-olds over 2000 metres, Waller had nominated Sizzling Bullet (Snitzel) as the horse most likely to head from the event to Eagle Farm on June 10.

But ultimately the colt was upstaged by a gelding who had flopped as favourite when finishing second-last in his previous start at Kembla Grange on May 13.

Virtually friendless at a quote of \$21 yesterday, Monasterio made amends in style as jockey Chad Lever cannily opted for a rails run to haul in stablemate Cross Stitch (NZ) (Pins), only slightly better fancied at \$11, over the latter stages to score by half a length.

"It was a very good effort," said Waller's racing manager Charlie Duckworth.

"It's a massive change in tactics for him. He led last start and did things upside down and did it wrong. Today he went back, switched off and really hit the line.

"He saved a lot of ground coming up the fence, which is where we didn't think we'd want to be. It worked today, that's the main thing.

"He's still got a lot of learning to do but he's gone from a beaten \$1.80 favourite at the provincials and come out and won next start just through doing things right."

Duckworth was also impressed with Cross Stitch, though the filly is unlikely to back up in next weekend's Group One Queensland Oaks at Eagle Farm.

"It was a very gutsy performance from her," he said. "She's been crying out for the distance." Lever, who usually rides at a provincial meeting on a Saturday, made the most of his city opportunity, providing a ride Hugh Bowman would have been proud to call their own.

"It all worked out," he said. "He switched off today and riding him quietly is obviously the key."

- AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

Race	ATC EML H. 2000m
Winner	Monasterio (NZ) 2013
Owners	Laurel Oak Bloodstock Pty Ltd
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Pingus (Aus) by Falbrav (Ire)
Breeder	Laurel Oak Bloodstock Pty Ltd

THE LITH ATE DRANG MC

Chad Lever brings Monasterio (#8) along the Randwick rails to nab stablemate Cross Stitch and secure a trip to Brisbane.





GOLD MEDALS SHOWS HE CAN DO IT ALL

n a neck-and-neck struggle from the last jump, the flat ability of Gold Medals (NZ) (Elvstroem) shone through in yesterday's Australian Steeplechase at Sandown, the \$3.20 second favourite prevailing over the \$2.80 public elect Zed Em (NZ) (Zed) by a long head after eleven obstacles spread over 3400 metres.

Jockey Shane Jackson said that although Gold Medal's flat ability told, a big jump at the final obstacle also had a bearing on the result.

Race	MRC Australian Steeplechase 3400m
Winner	Gold Medals (NZ) 2009
Owners	A A C King, Mrs A King, Ms M M Rowsthorn, Mrs S J Macdonald, S W Wilde, G E Bourke, P F Blain, Mrs A M Bonjer, N A Weir and Mrs J E Weir
Trainer	Symon Wilde (Warrnambool)
Breeding	by Elvstroem (Aus) out of Lady Mulroy (Aus) by Encosta de Lago (Aus)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2011 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Mr S W Wilde; \$30,000

"I needed a long jump at that final fence," Jackson said. "Maybe he was a little bit low but he was brave for me.

"If I missed that last I think I get beaten. But then I thought I was going to go away from the second horse and he kept fighting.

"He's a tough animal."

Gold Medal's victory provided trainer Symon Wilde with his second win in the race following the success of Zabeel gelding Megapixel in 2012.

Warrnambool trainer Wilde said the latest win was a huge thrill as Gold Medals is a stable favourite.

The veteran galloper won his first race as a two-year-old over 1000 metres on his home track before graduating to city success on the flat.

He was also a hurdle winner before switching to the bigger jumps when sixth in the Brierly Steeplechase at Warrnambool.

Either side of the Brierly, Gold Medals won the Terang Cup and was a close second in the Casterton Cup.

> "He's the most versatile horse and an absolute stable favourite," Wilde said.

> "I think he's a great advertisement. A seven-year-old at the peak of his powers who is mixing jumps racing and flat

> "We love him and he's got a home for life when he's finished racing."

> > - AAP TURF



The closest finish of the day at Sandown is provided by the 'chasers Gold Medals (pink cap) and Zed Em after a home straight battle had them just a long head apart at the line.







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HAUSSMANN HANDLES THE HEAVY

ony Pike's decision to let **Haussmann (NZ)** (Pour Moi) take his place in the Listed Great Northern Foal Stakes at Ellerslie proved a wise move.

The Cambridge trainer had major concerns about yesterday's heavy going but rolled the dice in the Graeme Thomson Jeweller-sponsored featured and the son of handy racemare Lily l'Amour (NZ) (Volksraad), a five-time winner from seasons 2007/08 to '11/12, came up trumps.

"He'd only ever trialled and raced on good or dead ground but it's a stakes race and it was always going to be his last run for the season," Pike said.

Ridden by Vinnie Colgan, Haussmann was forced to cover extra ground near the back of the field before he circled runners across the top.

The two-year-old stuck grimly to his task in the straight and, despite not enjoying the footing, he proved superior in the run to the line.

"Vinnie got caught wide and he nursed him through the

ground," Pike said.

"He didn't really let down in the ground so it was a good effort and we should have some fun with him as a three-yearold.

"He's been a work in progress and we've been trying to teach him to relax as he wanted to over-race.

"He'll go out now

Under a vigorous ride from Vinnie Colgan, a purposeful Haussmann strides to the finish a half length to the good of favourite So Far Sokool in the Great Northern Foal Stakes.

and we'll have him back for some of those better races in the spring. He should get a strong mile and maybe further."

So Far Sokool (NZ) (Showcasing) made the running and fought on bravely for second in her final appearance for trainers Peter and Dawn Williams. She has been purchased by Australian group OTI Racing.

Ohceedee (NZ) (Power) finished third ahead of Lily The Pink (NZ) (Makfi), who gave a strong account of herself on debut.

Race	ARC Great Northern Foal S. L 1400m
Winner	Haussmann (NZ) 2014
Owners	M & C Wyborn, N & M Schick and R R Peel-Walker
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pour Moi (Ire) out of Lily l'Amour by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	M W O'Dwyer and Windsor Park Stud Ltd
Sales	2015 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: NZB as agent; \$14,000











ALLAN KEEN TO KEEP GYPSY GOING

ew Plymouth trainer Allan Sharrock says he rarely races his horses three weeks in a row but is giving serious thought to making the in-form **Gypsy Fair (NZ)** (Falkirk) the exception to the rule and backing her up next Saturday.

"I haven't ruled out the weight-for-age race at Wanganui and I'll nominate her and see how the field comes up," said Sharrock, referring to the Listed AG Challenge Stakes.

"I don't usually do that but she's a tough mare."

Gypsy Fair produced a dominant frontrunning performance



Gypsy Fair has shaken off her rivals as Alfred Chan keeps her up to the mark in the North Island Challenge Stakes at Trentham.

at Trentham yesterday to win the IRT North Island Challenge Stakes off the back of a fourth placing in the Group Three Rotorua Stakes seven days previously.

She is nearing the end of her career and victory in last season's Group Three Merial Metric Mile at Awapuni boosted her value. She is out of the stakes-performed mare Gypsy Moth (NZ) (Zabeel), who is a daughter of the Group One Queensland Oaks winner Round The World (NZ) (Sea Anchor).

"She's a well-bred mare and she's likely to be sold as a broodmare at the end of the season," said Sharrock, who shares in the ownership of Gypsy Fair.

"I've already got I Do, Madonna Mia and Twoznotenough and they are also all stakes winners."

Gypsy Fair travelled comfortably in front at Trentham under stable apprentice Alfred Chan and the mare held a strong gallop to down Heni (NZ) (Towkay) and last year's winner Duffers Creek (NZ) (Gold Centre).

"Allan told me there was no pace and to let her roll and she was happy there," he said. "She handled it very well."

Race	WRC IRT North Island Challenge H. 1400m
Winner	Gypsy Fair (NZ) 2010
Owners	G Albon, P I Foreman and S A Sharrock
Trainer	Allan Sharrrock (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by Falkirk out of Gypsy Moth by Zabeel
Breeder	Clifton Bloodstock Ltd





MEGABLAST EARNS AUSSIE EXES

enuine galloper **Megablast**(NZ) (Shinko King) covered his upcoming travel expenses when he banked a tidy cheque for an emphatic victory at yesterday's Ellerslie meeting, untested when claiming the thick end of the \$30,000 on offer in the Shamrock Group 1600.

Race	ARC Shamrock Group H. 1600m
Winner	Megablast (NZ) 2011
Owners	Mrs D M & Dr J A Bowbyes
Trainer	Nigel Tiley (Pukekohe)
Breeding	by Shinko King (Ire) out of Thirst by Desert Sun (GB)
Breeder	Mrs D M & Dr J A Bowbyes

"That was a nice hit-out for him before he gets on the plane," trainer Nigel Tiley said.

Megablast is booked on a June 11 flight to Australia where he will be stabled with Cranbourne trainer Michael Kent for a two-start visit, which will serve as a forerunner to a Melbourne spring campaign.

"He'll run on June 17 over 2050 metres at Moonee Valley and we'll back him up a week later over 2500 metres at Flemington," Tiley said.

"He'll come home after that and go out to the beach before we get him ready again.

"All the better Melbourne horses

will be up in Brisbane so it is the ideal opportunity for him to run around in a couple of handicaps and get the feel of the place."

Megablast was making his first appearance yesterday since finishing fourth in the Group One Auckland Cup in March.

"He wasn't out for that long and he's a better horse when he's in work," Tiley said.

Rider Michael Coleman gave the five-year-old an easy run in fourth spot one off the fence and Megablast coasted clear in the straight to win untouched by nine lengths from the stablemates Arzak (NZ) (Towkay) and



Bowie (NZ) (Iffraaj).

"He was jogging all the way and I just had to be patient and not to give him too hard a run first-up,"

A nine length win entitles the winners to take it easy over the concluding stages, as Michael Coleman and Megablast do as they cross the line in the open mile at Ellerslie.





BIG WEIGHT NO BOTHER TO CLOSE UP

strong weight-carrying performance from the well-related **Close Up (NZ)** (Shinko King) at Ellerslie continued his unbeaten run this preparation, the seven-year-old making light of his topweight to down Fire Jet (NZ) (Tavistock), who was in receipt of six kilos, in the Equilume 1200.

Close Up had been successful when resuming at the Taranaki meeting a fortnight ago and has now won nine of his 23 starts for Cambridge co-breeder, part-owner and trainer Shelley Hale.

"He blew the house down after New Plymouth so I gave him a couple of quiet days and he's bounced back really well," she said.

Close Up settled toward the back of a small field at Ellerslie before rider Grant Cooksley brought him down the outside and one cut of the whip was enough for the gelding to down the Peter and Dawn Williams-trained Fire Jet and his stablemate Brilliant Shine (NZ) (Guillotine).

"He's a neat horse and I was worried about the 60kg in the heavy conditions but he's a tough horse," Hale said.

"I might bring him back here next Saturday – there's a 1400 metre race for him – and then perhaps the Opunake Cup."

Close Up is a brother to the Group Two Easter Stakes winner Seventh Up, whose Group One Stradbroke Handicap plans have been abandoned.

"We scoped him earlier this week and he had a bit of muck in his trachea so he's actually going out," Hale said.

"You've got to be 120 per cent if you are going to take on that level of competition."



Grant Cooksley's well-timed run gets Close Up home a decisive winner in Ellerslie's open sprint.

Race	ARC Equilume 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

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DOLCETTO THE STAR OF SYLVIA'S DAY

xciting prospect **Dolcetto (NZ)** (Per Incanto) was yesterday part of a near perfect day at Trentham for Sylvia Kay, who believes the best is yet to come from her talented fouryear-old.

"He's a very good horse and he'll be even better in the spring," said the Levin trainer, who co-bred and part-owns the son of her multiple stakes-winning mare Our Shiraz (NZ) (Nediym).

Dolcetto showed his talent last preparation when he beat Eleonora (NZ) (Makfi) – who subsequently won twice at Group Three level and placed in the Group One VRC Oaks - on the first day of the Hastings spring carnival and was then twice runner-up to Francaletta (High Chaparral) on the last two days of the carnival.

He successfully returned to racing at Awapuni last week and yesterday accounted for a competitive Rating 85 line-up in The Hanley Formula Autumn Sprint Championship.

His victory followed the earlier winning lead of his stablemate Dr Watson (NZ) (Handsome Ransom) in the 100% Appliances Magness Benrow Trentham Gold Cup while Kay's Sylvester (NZ) (Road To Rock) finished runner-up in the Jon Snow ATC Derby Premier.

However, it wasn't all plain sailing for Dolcetto, with rider Sam Collett forced to change ground on straightening when she was denied a run down the outside fence.

She switched inside and the gelding responded in style to register his fourth win in seven appearances.

"I'm thrilled for Sam as well, she's such a good rider," Kay said. "I was a bit worried at the start of the week as the horse had a stone bruise, but thankfully we got over that."

Manhattan Street (Manhattan Rain) showed he was close to his best form. with a solid effort for second ahead of Art Deco (NZ) (Road To Rock), with their respective riders Chris Johnson and Alfred Chan sporting the Wellfield Stud silks.

	Race	WRC Hanley Formula Sprint H. 1200m
	Winner	Dolcetto (NZ) 2012
> < V	Owners	Dr H M & Dr W J Bishop and P J & Mrs S L Kay
	Trainer	Sylvia Kay (Levin)
Wagne	Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Our Shiraz by Nediym (Ire)
	Breeder	Dr H M & Dr W J Bishop and P J & Mrs S L Kay

Dolcetto stamps himself as a genuine prospect for higher honours with his win in the \$50,000 Autumn Sprint Final at Trentham, beating a back-in-form Manhattan Street.





MASSIVE WIN TO MIGHTY CONQUEROR

seful sprinter **Mighty Conqueror (NZ)** (Patapan)
never gave his legion of backers
any anxious moments in the \$S60,000
Class 4 Division 1 race over 1200 metres
at Kranji on Friday night.

From the moment the Mark Walkertrained four-year-old hit the ground from barrier 1 he went on to dictate terms and his rivals realised they had their work cut out when he swung for home full of running and yet to be tested by apprentice jockey Zawari Razali.

The moment the rider did ask for an extra effort the response was immediate and the winning margin of 5½ lengths summed up his clear

superiority on the night, a shellacking which could have been greater had Zawari not stepped off the accelerator.

In a Kiwi-bred trifecta, O'What A Feeling (NZ) (O'Reilly) rattled home late to snatch second place from joint favourite Terms Of Reference (NZ) (Per Incanto).

"He's the type of horse who likes to be left alone and will just keep going," said Walker's assistant trainer Gus Clutterbuck.

"He was beaten by a smart horse in Darc Bounty last time and he will have to keep stepping up."

The win enabled Zawari to consolidate his second place on the apprentice jockeys' table with eight winners, five behind reigning champion Wong Chin Chuen.

"He's a very strong horse. I had to hold him back down the back straight," said Zawari.

"At the top of the straight, I knew

he would be hard to beat. I gave him a couple of smacks just to remind him he still had a job to finish and he did it very well."

With his fourth win from eleven outings, Mighty Conqueror has amassed prizemoney exceeding the \$\$160,000 mark for his connections.

- Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1200m
Winner	Mighty Conqueror (NZ) 2012
Owners	Synthetic Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Kranji)
Breeding	by Patapan (USA) out of Sarah San by San Luis (Aus)
Breeder	Mrs J E C & Est late P M Dean



Mighty Conqueror is well clear and cruising at Kranji on Friday night.

