

Sunday 9 October 2016

DWAYNE'S ESCAPE FROM ALCATRAZ GETS OUR ROKKII HOME IN TOORAK HANDICAP



He's Our Rökkii is strong through the line in his Toorak Handicap win.

The win of **He's Our Rökkii (NZ)** (Roc de Cambes) in yesterday's \$A500,000 Group One Toorak Handicap at Caulfield will forever hold a special place in the heart of trainer David Hayes.

The victory provided the first Group One win for son Ben, who trains in partnership with his father and Tom Dabernig.

"Very special," David Hayes said. "It's Ben's first Group One winner. We've been in eight Group Ones this year and either been second or placed in all of them – so it's good to win one."

The plan to target the Toorak was hatched in the autumn when He's Our Rökkii won back-to-back Group Three races in Sydney. He added two more wins in lesser grade to start his spring campaign, building in confidence before getting his chance to shine at Group One level.

He's Our Rökkii enjoyed a charmed run midfield on the fence in the 1600 metre feature before Dwayne Dunn angled clear 250 metres from home.

Continued on page 3



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(Continued from page 1)

Race leader Great Esteem (Redoute's Choice) offered stubborn resistance but the Hayes, Hayes and Dabernig team had already landed three winners on the Caulfield Guineas programme and a late lunge by their in-form miler made it four for the day – this time a Group One.

He's Our Rokkii, sent out a well-backed \$2.50 favourite, scored by a long neck over outsider Great Esteem with the Mike Moroney-trained Tivaci (High Chaparral) a half length back in third.

"I was getting sucked into a pretty ordinary spot," Dunn said. "It was a little bit like Alcatraz – I had to get out of there.

"The tempo wasn't as hot as I expected it to be and I thought those leaders would kick hard.

"But this has been his real mission. He's come through the grades beautifully and it's just a pleasure to be a part of the team."

The stable has placed He's Our Rokkii to perfection, yesterday's win improving his record to seven wins from

sixteen starts and David Hayes appears destined to keep his charge in winnable races, which rules out this year's Cox Plate.

Instead, the four-year-old former Kiwi galloper will run in the million dollar Group One Emirates Stakes, the 1600 metre feature switched this year to the Derby Day card to allow the 2000 metre Mackinnon Stakes to move to the final day.

– racenet.com.au & AAP TURF

Race	MRC Toorak H. Gr.1 1600m
Winner	He's Our Rokkii (NZ) 2012
Owners	M A Pilkington, J R Collinson, C Feneridis, Seymour Bloodstock Syndicate (Mgr: D S Thomas), D L Elliott, G R Lechte, R W & Mrs A M Hill-Smith, J Lechte, R Chapman and Hall Thoroughbred Syndicate (Mgr: K M Hall)
Trainer	David Hayes, Ben Hayes & Tom Dabernig (Flemington)
Breeding	by Roc de Cambes out of Clerihew (GB) by Lomitas (GB)
Breeder	J R Collinson and C Feneridis

NEWS IN BRIEF

Surgery for Prince Of Penzance

Prince Of Penzance (NZ) (Pentire), who shot into Australian racing history when winning last year's Melbourne Cup with Michelle Payne in the saddle, requires surgery on a leg fracture sustained when finishing fourth in the Herbert Power Stakes at Caulfield yesterday.

Trainer Darren Weir said the injury was not life threatening.

"Unfortunately he's sustained an injury that needs three screws put in a fracture in the off-side foreleg," Weir said. "He'll come through it really well.

"They're very capable surgeons at Ballarat and hopefully he can recover well and who knows what happens from there."

Weir said Prince Of Penzance could make a return to the racetrack but a decision on the gelding's future would be made by connections.

"The first thing is making sure the horse recovers fully," he said.

Prince Of Penzance had been progressing well in his Melbourne Cup title defence with rider John Allen saying his Caulfield effort was full of merit.

– AAP TURF



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UNDERTHEMOONLIGHT'S LUCK CHANGES

Underthemoonlight (NZ) (El Hermano) gained an overdue reward at Hawera where she demolished her weight-for-age opposition with a minimum of effort.

Lady Luck hasn't ridden with the lightly raced northern five-year-old in recent times and apprentice Tim Johnson left nothing to chance when he cut the corner to set up a runaway victory in yesterday's Group Three Rich Hill Stud Taranaki Breeders' Stakes.

"In her last couple of starts she has been held up and not getting a fair crack at them or she's been knocked around," said Matamata co-breeder, part-owner and trainer Karyn McQuade.

"She always tried very hard and she's popped up in the stipes' reports a few times."

The winner of two of her previous fourteen starts, Underthemoonlight had placed in each of her last four outings including an unlucky fourth in the Group Two Foxbridge Plate behind the talented colt Saracino (NZ) (Per Incanto).

She was then narrowly beaten into second on the opening day of the Hawke's Bay carnival before she was runner-up to Ronchi (NZ) (Stravinsky) at Ellerslie where she had trouble finding clear air in the straight.

Underthemoonlight was in behind the pace to the turn at Hawera and

when the rest of the field fanned wide, Johnson stayed nearer to the fence. The mare showed good acceleration on the Slow 9 ground to streak clear and score by six lengths.

"She travelled down here well and I was very happy with her but every wet track is different and until they run you don't really know if they will handle it," McQuade said.

Slice Of Class (NZ) (Guillotine) was second ahead of Rocknrolla (NZ) (Towkay), who came from last, and Bonniegirl (NZ) (Darci Brahma), whose stablemate and favourite Honey Rider (NZ) (Pins) dropped out to eighth after being prominent to the turn.

For Johnson, it was his second major success in Taranaki having ridden his only other black type winner at New Plymouth earlier this year when he successfully combined with Longchamp (NZ) (Tavistock) in the Listed Opunake Cup.



Race	Egmont RC Taranaki Breeders S. Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Underthemoonlight (NZ) 2011
Owners	H & K McQuade and C Solomon
Trainer	Karyn McQuade (Matamata)
Breeding	by El Hermano out of Midnight Dip by O'Reilly
Breeder	H G W & Mrs K L McQuade

Apprentice Tim Johnson raises his whip in a victory flourish as Underthemoonlight coasts home a six-length winner of the Taranaki Breeders' Stakes.





Sunday 9 October 2016

PACORUS TOO STRONG IN EGMONT CUP

Hot staying prospect **Pacorus (NZ)** (Tavistock) yesterday took yet another winning step toward his main goal with a dominant performance at Hawera advancing his burgeoning record and swelling his travel fund for Riccarton as he was untroubled to bank the thick end of the stake in the Kaponga Hotel Egmont Cup.

"Everything has fallen into place for him," Cambridge trainer Chris Wood said. "He worked well during the week and he's a very genuine horse."

Pacorus has now won six of his last eight starts, including the Mitchelson Cup at Ellerslie, as he makes his way to Riccarton for the Group Three New Zealand Cup on November 12.

"He will probably drop back to a mile at Te Rapa next and then we'll make our way down for the cup," Wood said.

As usual, Pacorus was ridden by the stable apprentice Viktoria Gatu, who had the five-year-old travelling comfortably in fourth spot and one off the fence. She eased out three wide

to challenge for the lead 600 metres from home and they surged clear to comfortably hold their rivals at bay in the straight.

"He's a real stable favourite and Viktoria has had a great run on him," Wood said.

Fellow New Zealand Cup entry Pump Up The Volume (NZ) (Savabeel) finished on gamely from the tail of the field for second with Brad Thorn (NZ) (Thorn Park), who is also nominated for the Riccarton feature, claiming third ahead of last year's winner Sampson (NZ) (Dubai Destination).



Race	Egmont RC Egmont Cup 2100m
Winner	Pacorus (NZ) 2011
Owners	John & Jennifer Morison, John Borich, Tony Craig, Ian Goodlet, Ken Green, Neville Jamieson, John Morgan, Trevor Palmer and Tim Vince
Trainer	Chris Wood (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Za Tiara by Zabeel
Breeder	Mrs A A Corcoran
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Landsdowne Park Ltd, P: D C & J E Morison; \$15,000

In a decisive display, Pacorus and Viktoria Gatu add the Egmont Cup to their growing collection.

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FIVE TO MIDNIGHT'S FRESH-UP FLYER A POINTER TO STAYING-RACE PROSPECTS

Black type performer **Five To Midnight (NZ)** (Domesday) looks a stayer to follow this preparation following his perfect return to racing at Hawera yesterday, the four-year-old drawing serious attention to his future prospects with a comprehensive defeat of his Rating 75 rivals in the Andersons Pies 1600.

"He has come back very well," rider Darryl Bradley said. "He has strengthened and improved ability-wise."

Bradley has been the regular rider of the Lisa Latta-trained gelding and last season they beat older horses over ground before finishing second in the Listed New Zealand St Leger and in the Group Three Manawatu Classic behind the subsequent Group One Livamol Classic runner-up Humidor (NZ) (Teofilo).

Five To Midnight was put aside after an unplaced run in the Group Two Championship Stakes at Ellerslie, where he was hampered by a fallen runner.

"He trialled well but I didn't expect him to win, so to do what he's done today just shows how good he is," Bradley said.

Five To Midnight settled off the pace before unleashing wide on the track with an undeniable finishing run that saw him sail clear to score by a length and three-quarters.

"He had a good campaign last time and Lisa is looking at some of the cup races," stable representative Andy Rennie said.

"He paraded really well today and it was a lovely ride by Darryl."

The favourite Art Deco (NZ) (Road to Rock) was given every chance in the trail by apprentice Alfred Chan and fought on for second ahead of the pacemaker Watch Your Man (NZ) (Sandtrap) while the runner-up's stablemate Carlow (NZ) (Lucky Unicorn) cut the corner to come from the back for fourth.

Race	Egmont RC Andersons Pies H. 1600m
Winner	Five to Midnight (NZ) 2012
Owners	Kamada Racing
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Domesday (Aus) out of Fastnet Lady (Aus) by Fastnet Rock (Aus)
Breeder	The Oaks Stud
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: The Oaks Stud, P: Lisa Latta Racing; \$165,000



Under a flawless Darryl Bradley ride, Five To Midnight returns to racing with an overpowering win against the Rating 75 milers.



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STEPHEN'S PATIENT APPROACH **PAYING OFF**



Robbie Hannam gets Come Fly With Me home an easy winner at Gore last month and they should be a force to reckon with in today's Winton Cup.

Headstrong mare **Come Fly With Me (NZ)** (St Reims) has been a work in progress for Stephen Blair-Edie, but his patience continues to be rewarded as he follows a path to one of the country's premier distance events.

The Riverton six-year-old has won two of her last three starts and has an ideal opportunity to add to her record today when she steps out in the AON Insurance Brokers Winton Cup.

Co-trainer Blair-Edie also bred and races the daughter of the multiple winner of a decade ago Fly The Coop (NZ) (Flying Pegasus).

"She's been a very difficult horse and she still can be. She has to be blindfolded to go in the gates and she can dig her toes in a bit," he said.

"She's seventeen hands so she's a big mare and you don't lead her, she leads you. She can be pretty flighty.

"A while ago we had a huge offer from Melbourne for her but she was born just behind our house and it's not always

about the money and you develop a loyalty to a horse."

Come Fly With Me was a regular ride of the champion jockey Lisa Allpress before her departure to Japan and Robert Hannam stepped in to guide her to a last-start victory at Gore.

"I rang Robbie, who had never ridden for me before, and he was happy to commit to her," Blair-Edie said.

Hannam will take the reins at Winton and in the Group Three New Zealand Cup at Riccarton on November 12.

"It's difficult because we're 625 kilometres away from Riccarton, but I'll be keeping her around here and just run in the cup and not the Metropolitan as well," Blair-Edie said.

Being by a Group One-winning son of the mighty Zabeel, he is confident she can master the 3200 metres of the cup.

"She's thrown to Zabeel and a lot of his good stayers don't come right until they are five- and six-year-olds," Blair-Edie said.





PERTH TRIPLE CROWN THE TARGET AS KAWI'S SPRING PROGRAMME CONFIRMED

Leading weight-for-age performer **Kawi (NZ)** (Savabeel) will head to Australia earlier than originally intended with trainer Allan Sharrock confirming the six-year-old's travel and racing plans for his upcoming Perth venture.

The Taranaki horseman had considered a run at Awapuni in an open handicap on October 29 before departing but he has now opted for an extra start in Western Australia.

"He would have been given 67.5kg

here and that's a lot of weight and there's the possibility of a wet track," Sharrock said.

Kawi will instead be on a flight at the end of this month and after a stop-over in Melbourne he will travel to Perth where he will open his campaign in the Group Two Lee Steere Stakes over 1400 metres on November 5.

"It's worth \$A250,000 and at weight-for-age so it was a no-brainer really," Sharrock said.

He will then run a fortnight later

in the \$A1 million Group One Railway Stakes over 1600 metres followed by the 1800 metre Kingston Town Classic, also at Group One and worth \$A1 million, on December 3. All three races will be run at Ascot.

Kawi has won both his starts at Hawke's Bay this season where, following his first-up success in the 1400 metre Group One Makfi Challenge Stakes, he overcame a three-wide run to claim the 1600 metre Group One Windsor Park Plate.



Kawi (centre) in his Windsor Park Plate win . . . now confirmed as heading to Western Australia for a crack at Perth's spring triple crown.





SUPER LINE **STICKING TO SHORT SPRINTS**

The connections of **Super Line (NZ)** (Shamoline Warrior) will not be upping the distance for the grandson of Australian Listed winner and successful broodmare Top Dance (NZ) (Brilliant Invader) – whose eight wins came in a 1600 to 2200 metre range – even after watching him steam home to edge out favourite Jobodwana (Congrats) in a thrilling finish to Friday night’s \$580,000 Open Benchmark 74 at Kranji.

A progressive path towards more ground seemed to be the way to go early at his first preparation. Following a winning debut over 1000 metres, the Michael Clements-trained galloper went on to double up over 1200 metres but at his next run, over 1400 metres, he went backwards.

Super Line was dropped back to 1200 metres next time out and although he did sprint home late to run third the finishing burst was clearly not as effective. Clements then decided to go back to short sharp sprints and picked out Friday’s 1100 metre dash to test his theory.

Ridden in midfield by regular partner Vlad Duric, Super Line enjoyed a brisk tempo before taking closer order by the home turn and came with a well-timed run to get the verdict by a neck.

Super Line (red cap) gets up late to claim victory at Kranji on Friday night.

“He looks like the kind of horse crying out for 1200 metres but I think 1000 to 1100 is more his go. He’s a get-back sort and is more effective over the short course,” said assistant-trainer Michael White, deputising for Clements, who is overseas.

Duric echoed White’s sentiments. “The speed was on and that suited him,” he said. “I remember they went mad at his first run and he came off the speed brilliant.

“He’s better off ridden quiet on the short course and then let rip in the straight. He’s still immature but he’s a progressive sort and can only get better.”

Raced by the MC Racing Stable, Super Line, who traces to The Grate (NZ) (Salmagundi), a member of

Mosgiel horseman Dave Wilson’s wonderfully successful Fireside family of mid-20th century New Zealand racing, was registering his third win from five starts for stakes earnings in excess of \$5110,000.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Benchmark 74 1100m
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

