## \*>>> RACING&BREEDINGNEWS

**Sunday 16 October 2016** 

# ELEONORA WINS STAKES RACE NAMED FOR HER CUPS-DOUBLE GRANDDAM ETHEREAL



Eleonora coasts to the line with the Ethereal Stakes in safe keeping.

granddaughter of the dual Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup winner Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm) yesterday won the stakes race named in the great mare's honour.

**Eleonora (NZ)** (Makfi), from Ethereal's daughter Sopra Tutto (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy), scored a strong staying win in the 2000 metre Group Three New Zealand Bloodstock Ethereal Stakes at Caulfield. Ethereal won the 2001 Queensland Oaks at Eagle Farm before going on to claim the Cups double later that year.

Ridden by Damien Oliver, Eleonora was a betting drifter yesterday, easing from \$5 to \$7 on course, but belied the lack of punters' faith in scoring by 1¼ lengths from Tiamo Grace (Monaco Consul) with Savvan (NZ) (Savabeel) three quarters of a length away third.

Continued on page 3



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## ELEONORA WINS STAKES RACE NAMED FOR HER CUPS-DOUBLE GRANDDAM ETHEREAL

(Continued from page 1)

The Cambridge-trained filly is in Melbourne with the VRC Oaks at Flemington on November 3 as her prime target. Co-trainer Andrew Forsman, who trains in partnership with Murray Baker, said the filly was an early Melbourne arrival to ensure she earned enough prizemoney to gain a start in the Group One feature.

After three seconds and a third in her four homeland starts, Eleonora broke her maiden status with a win on the Geelong synthetic track last month before being held up for a run when eleventh in the Edward Manifold Stakes at Flemington on October 2.

"It panned out a treat today," Forsman said.

"She was boxed in a bit but got a dream run through and after the bad luck she had last time she made up for it today.

"To win the Ethereal Stakes, named after her grand-dam,

it's a pretty special moment."

Forsman said the Wakeful Stakes at Flemington on October 29 would be the filly's final lead-up to the Oaks, for which she has shortened from \$11 to \$6.50 in pre-post markets, if she needed another start.

- AAP TURF

Race	MRC Ethereal S. Gr.3 2000m
Winner	Eleonora (NZ) 2013
Owners	Dame Lowell Goddard and JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr L Petagna)
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Makfi (GB) out of Sopra Tutto by Van Nistelrooy (USA)
Breeder	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$60,000

#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### Vale Octagonal

Ten-time Group One winner Octagonal (NZ) (Zabeel), Australia's Horse of the Year in 1996, was euthanised at Godolphin Woodlands yesterday morning. Aged 24, The Big O as he was affectionately known, was still bright and alert mentally but was struggling physically.

Octagonal was bred at Cambridge Stud and was from the first crop of champion sire Zabeel from the top-class imported broodmare Eight Carat (Pieces of Eight). Purchased by Jack and Bob Ingham, he was trained for his entire career by John Hawkes at their headquarters Crown Lodge.

Next Saturday marks the 21st anniversary of Octagonal's stirring victory as a three-year-old in the Group One Cox Plate. The following autumn he won Sydney's three-year-old Triple Crown of the Canterbury Guineas, Rosehill Guineas and Australian Derby.

Octagonal quickly developed a cult following and was revered for his ability to continually prevail in close finishes. As a fiveyear-old, he recorded his tenth Group One win in the Mercedes Classic, a victory that saw him become the highest-earning horse in Australian racing history at the time.

Retired to stud in 1997, Octagonal made the perfect start to his new career, siring Horse of the Year Lonhro in his first crop. An eleven-time Group One winner, Lonhro is the only Australian Horse of the Year to go on and become a champion stallion.



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#### SAM HAS WORK-FREE PAYDAY ON SCAPOLO

ew feature race wins come more easily than yesterday's victory romp by **Scapolo (NZ)** (Bachelor Duke) in the hands of Sam Spratt, neither horse nor rider blowing after they coasted home by four and a half lengths in the Group Three Sweynesse Stakes at Rotorua.

"It was as easy as it looked," Spratt said. "It's pretty cool to ride a horse like him – it makes life a whole lot easier."

Scapolo, who finished runner-up to the Group One-winning sprinter Ryan Mark (NZ) (Thorn Park) in the event twelve months ago, sat back before he was asked to circle the field and come widest at the top of the straight.

Under a soft ride from Spratt, the seven-year-old strode clear to thump the last-start Group Three Taranaki Breeders' Stakes winner Underthemoonlight (NZ) (El Hermano) by four and a half lengths with North And South (NZ) (Strategic Image) taking third money in front of Nomisma (NZ) (Thorn Park).

"He was the best-rated horse in the race and at weight-for-age on that track he had everything going for him," Spratt said.

Scapolo has now won sixteen of his 47 starts for trainer Kevin Myers and he is the equal \$10 favourite with Seize The Moment (NZ) (Pins) and Son of Maher (Al Maher) for the Group Two Coupland's Bakeries Mile, a race he won in 2013, at Riccarton on November 9.

Spratt has rarely teamed up with Myers, but they have an outstanding

strike rate together with three wins from five starts.

"I won the Rotorua Cup on Balmuse for Kevin a few years ago and the only other winner was down south," she said. "I don't mind picking up the odd ride – we've done pretty well."

Race	Rotorua RC Arawa S. Gr.3 1215m
Winner	Scapolo (NZ) 2009
Owners	Anne, Khalif, Rick, Sandy & Teneka Hill
Trainer	Kevin Myers (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Bachelor Duke (USA) out of Kadesa by Zabeel
Breeder	The Oaks Stud
Sales	2011 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: The Oaks Stud, P: Mr K T Myers; \$40,000



Scapolo strides clear to win at Rotorua, a couple of classy performers in Underthemoonlight (#5) and North And South unable to make an impression.





### LA DIOSA DAZZLES AT ASHBURTON

lying southern filly La

Diosa (NZ) (So You Think)
yesterday upstaged the
northern colts at Ashburton
where she returned a perfect
dress rehearsal ahead of her
debut on the Group One
stage.

The Matt and Mandy
Browne-trained three-year-old
turned in a dazzling display to
claim the Listed Barneswood
Farm Stakes at the expense of
the Matamata visitors Heroic
Valour (Fastnet Rock) and
Savile Row (NZ) (Makfi).

The winner of the Listed Canterbury Belle Stakes at her previous appearance, La Diosa is now the favourite at \$4.50 for the Group One New

Zealand One Thousand Guineas at Riccarton on November

"A pass mark would have been to beat the other fillies," Matt Brown said, "but to beat the colts like that was great.

"She's gone to another level and this race will tighten her up for the Guineas."

The daughter of the Group Two-winning mare Star Affair (NZ) (Star Way) jumped well from the gates before she was allowed to drift toward the tail of the field by rider Racha Cuneen to get closer to the fence.

"We told Racha not to panic and ease back and it's not always easy to come from there at Ashburton so it was a very good effort," Brown said.

When the field fanned out on straightening, Cuneen was able to pick a path between runners and a willing La Diosa surged through to win going away by a length.

"I had to ride for luck and we got the splits and she did all the rest," he said.



La Diosa bursts through mid-track to land the three-year-old stakes race at Ashburton and claim favouritism for the One Thousand Guineas.

Runner-up Heroic Valour, who has remained steady at \$6 in the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas market, looked set to return to his winning ways when he hit the front on straightening, but had no answer to the filly's finishing burst

Savile Row made the pace and rallied well for third ahead of Sweepstake (NZ) (Per Incanto), whose One Thousand Guineas price has come in from \$31 to \$14, while Sweet Leader (NZ) (O'Reilly) finished fifth after having his chance.

Race	Ashburton RC John Grigg S. L 1400m
Winner	La Diosa (NZ) 2013
Owners	Calder Bloodstock Ltd, G L Currie, Bruce Honeybone & Deborah Martin, M L Gibson, P B C Sipos and T W Archer Trust
Trainer	Mandy & Matt Brown (Ngapuke)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Star Affair by Star Way (GB)
Breeder	T W Archer Trust



Sunday 16 October 2016



#### WEIGHT AND WET CAN'T STOP MAYGROVE

ound one went to **Maygrove** (Authorized) yesterday but Gentil Tonton (Yeats) will get his opportunity to turn the tables in the near future.

Both six-year-olds have been set for next month's Group Three New Zealand Cup at Riccarton on November 12 and they furthered their causes when quinellaing the Listed Jakkalberry Classic at Rotorua.

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained Maygrove had to give Gentil Tonton six kilos and did it in fine style with the well-performed gelding taking major honours under rider Michael Coleman.

"He's a good horse and he's been consistent all the way through, especially going left-handed," he said.

"I had a look back at his Awapuni Gold Cup win on a heavy track and even with 60kg today that gave me confidence."

Maygrove settled toward the back of the field before Coleman let him stride around runners to take control at the top of the straight.

"He travelled sweetly and we probably got there too soon but you can't lose momentum in that ground," Coleman said.

They surged clear and had enough in reserve to score by one and a quarter lengths.

The grey was making only the second appearance of his current campaign following a sound fifth when resuming at Hastings behind Humidor (NZ) (Teofilo), who went on to finish second in the Group One Livamol Classic on the final day of the Hawke's Bay carnival.

In colours carried to a seemingly endless stream of wins on both sides of the Tasman, Michael Coleman is given an armchair ride to the post by Maygrove.

Maygrove subsequently missed two races due to rain-affected going and his connections had little choice other than to run him yesterday to keep him on a path to Christchurch.

Gentil Tonton's co-trainer Andrew Scott said the Irish-bred gelding also had to run well to remain in the cup mix and delivered with his bold late run for second.

Race	Rotorua RC Rotorua Challenge P. L 1950m
Winner	Maygrove (Aus) 2010
Owners	JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr L Petagna) and P W O'Rourke
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Authorized (Ire) out of Lady Zhivago by Zabeel
Breeder	Laurel Oak Lady Zhivago Syndicate
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock Ltd; \$110,000



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#### CHA SIU BAO ON TARGET FOR GUINEAS



Cha Siu Bao continues his winning form at Ashburton with a 3½ length beating of a handy Rating 65 line-up.

Hong Kong-based ownership syndicate is on target to complete a memorable New Zealand Group One double.

The colours of Hermitage
Thoroughbreds were carried to victory
by Craig Grylls aboard the Lance
O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott-trained
Willie Cazals (NZ) (Aussie Rules) in the
Livamol Classic and yesterday they
successfully combined again with **Cha Siu Bao** (Smart Missile) at Ashburton,
the colt producing a dominant
performance to beat the older horses
in the JJ Ltd Rating 65 Handicap to
draw further attention to his New
Zealand Two Thousand Guineas
prospects.

"He's coming into it at the right time," O'Sullivan said. "He can be a bit tricky but he's getting the job done well and he's continuing to improve." Cha Siu Bao was placed in both of his starts last season and returned this term with a first-up fourth at Te Rapa before a return to the Hamilton track last month was rewarded with his breakthrough victory.

Flown south in the company of his stablemate and fellow Guineas hope Sweet Leader (NZ) (O'Reilly) last week, Cha Siu Bao settled three back on the fence at Ashburton before Grylls angled him into the clear at the top of the straight.

The three-year-old was in control 200 metres from home and surged clear to beat Boxachocolates (NZ) (Alamosa) by three and a quarter lengths.

While Cha Siu Bao has impressed in both of his wins over 1400 metres on dead going, O'Sullivan believes the best might yet be to come in the Riccarton feature, for which his price has been cut from \$14 to \$9, on November 5.

"We've always thought a mile on a rock hard track would really suit him," he said.

By contrast, Cha Siu Bao's stablemate Keepherinmind (NZ) (Keeper) excelled in the heavily rain-affected conditions at Rotorua to win the NZB Insurance Pearl Series Race and give the stable an early double.

Race	Ashburton RC JJ Ltd H. 1400m
Winner	Cha Siu Bao (Aus) 2013
Owners	Hermitage Thoroughbreds Pty Ltd
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Smart Missile (Aus) out of Ballet Society by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	F J Frost









### YOUNG RIDER AND AULD FLOOZIE IN SYNC

airi Marzuki repaid the faith showed in him by his employer Stephen Marsh when he guided stable runner **Thee Auld Floozie (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) to victory at Rotorua yesterday, success in the Lowe Schollum Jones Insurance Brokers 1400 representing the promising apprentice's first New Zealand victory.

"He's a really good rider and sits on the horses very well," Marsh said. "She's not the easiest horse to ride and can miss the start but he's got her out and done a great job."

Marzuki, who has ridden one winner in his native Singapore, was happy to sit three wide near the pace before

Race	Rotorua RC Lowe Schollum Jones Insurance H. 1400m
Winner	Thee Auld Floozie (NZ) 2011
Owners	P D Craighead, L G Ford, S B Marsh, M C Roughead, Two Fat Cows Syndicate and J G & Mrs S K Young
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Thee Auld Hussie by Spinning World (USA)
Breeder	J G Young

he let Thee Auld Floozie improve and they had their noses in front 700 metres from home.

They were hotly challenged in the straight by Seventh Up (NZ) (Shinko King) and his veteran rider Grant Cooksley, but the younger pairing weren't to be denied and prevailed by a head.

"It's the second time I've ridden her and she did well last time," Marzuki said. "All thanks to my boss for the opportunities."

He also said he had benefited from the guidance of Marsh's partner and leading rider Danielle Johnson and the former top jockey and apprentice mentor Noel Harris.

"Danielle has given me a lot of tips and Noel has been helping me out a lot as well."

Sixth when resuming last month at New Plymouth, Thee Auld Floozie's performance confirmed that she is on target for a trip south.

"I was really happy with her first-up, she needed the run, and we've always had her aimed at the Coupland's Mile so



she'll have one more run and then fly down for that," Marsh said.

She is currently an \$18 chance for the Group Two feature on the second day of Riccarton's Cup carnival.

Hairi Marzuki (red cap) scores his first win in New Zealand as Thee Auld Floozie holds off Seventh Up in the Rating 85 sprint at Rotorua.









#### LATE FLOURISH FROM OLYMPIC ANTHEM

lympic Anthem (NZ) (Starcraft) and jockey Michael Rodd again proved they form a lethal combination with another win at Kranji on Friday night.

The Australian rider had partnered the James Peters-trained six-year-old at six of his previous fourteen starts for three wins from his total of five and that statistic was further improved with a brilliant winning display in Friday's highlight, the \$\$125,000 Kranji Stakes A race over 1100 metres on Polytrack.

Not one of the best away, Olympic Anthem was able to slot into a midfield berth while the early leaders Italian Job (Saint Anddan), hot favourite Eclair Choice (California Dane) and The General (Mutakddim) contested the pace in a line of three.

While Eclair Choice did knock up the other two kept going but not well enough to stop Rodd, having his only ride of the night and keen to make it count, bringing Olympic Anthem with a late flourish to score by three parts of a length from The General with Italian Job doing well to hang on for third.

Rodd was not sure if it was the chemistry between himself and Olympic Anthem that was behind the winning streak but knew who has found the key to the "difficult" horse.

> Olympic Anthem is a clearcut winner from The General at Kranji on Friday night.

"James rides him in trackwork and knows what to do to get him fit," he said. "He's not an easy horse to train. You can't do too much with him and he's also got a bad mouth.

"He was back in the field and the fast pace suited him. He just gets on with the job and was too good tonight."

Peters said the gelding has stacks of potential but needs to have things his way.

"He has lots of ability and Michael gets along well with him," said the Englishman. "He's the kind of horse who needs to tuck in behind and come around the outside for clear galloping room and that's exactly what happened tonight.

"He was a little bit fresh at his last

start and overraced. We took the edge off him in the last couple of weeks and he's come back good.

"We tried 1200 metres with him and he didn't quite handle it; he's better off over those 1000 to 1100 metre races."

- Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Kranji S. 1100m
Winner	Olympic Anthem (NZ) 2010
Owners	China Horse Club Stable
Trainer	James Peters (Kranji)
Breeding	by Starcraft out of Fire Song by Senor Pete (USA)
Breeder	P Webb
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Trelawney Stud Ltd, P: DGR Thoroughbred Services; \$150,000





#### BIG-HEARTED WIN TO HELLO MICHELLE

utsy filly Hello Michelle (NZ) (Minstrel Court) showed she has improved by leaps and bounds when she produced great determination to come off a sticky spot to score in the \$560,000 Class 4 Division 1 race over 1100 metres at Kranji on Friday night.

Swinging for home, the three-yearold wasn't travelling like an odds-on favourite should, spotting Rainbow Royal (Captain Sonador), who looked certain to win, about eight lengths and not flattening out as expected.

But as soon as jockey Alan Munro started to scrub her up hopes were

rekindled and the margin melted away as she bore down on the leader with a relentless gallop, levelling up close home and going on score by half a length.

With trainer Mark Walker not around to lead in the Synthetic Stable-owned filly to her third win, his assistant Gus Clutterbuck did the honours.

"She was a lot quicker out of the gates when she drew out the last time. She was drawn better tonight but she was quite slow," he said. "She's not the best beginner but she's done a great job to win tonight. And for her to win

three races when she's only a threeyear-old is pretty amazing. It was a very brave effort."

Munro said he was a little concerned when Hello Michelle failed to show any dash on despatch but the further they went the more she started to gather momentum.

"She had no speed tonight. I'm not sure what it is because she was a lot quicker at her last run," said the English jockey. "But she showed a very good kick when she went after the leader in the straight. She chased him down really well."

The winner of a leg of the Singapore Golden Horseshoe series as a two-year-old, Hello Michelle has now taken her handy record to three wins and a third from eight starts for stakes money in excess of \$\$130,000 for her connections.

- Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m
Winner	Hello Michelle (NZ) 2013
Owners	Synthetic Stable
Trainer	Mark Walker (Kranji)
Breeding	by Minstrel Court (Aus) out of Paixanito by Zabeel
Breeder	D C Ellis & K W Fenton- Ellis

Hello Michelle (nearest camera) sweeps past Rainbow Royal to claim a determined win at Kranji on Friday night.



#### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

#### New Zealand-bound stallion hits form in Melbourne

A return to his pet distance helped Group One winner Vanbrugh (Encosta de Lago), raced by Windsor Park and destined for a stud career in New Zealand, return to winning form in the Group Three Coongy Cup at yesterday's Caulfield meeting.

Trainer Chris Waller had kept Vanbrugh on the fresh side early in his preparation to target the Group One Epsom Handicap during the Sydney carnival. But the trainer admitted it may have been his fault the four-year-old had under-performed in his home state. "He had been a little disappointing in his runs early in the preparation and that may have been my fault in the lead-ups to the Epsom last start," Waller said.

"He is a Group One winner as a three-year-old in the Spring Champion Stakes last spring so it's good to see him back in this type of form. We'll edge our way closer to something a little bigger."

Waller said he was keeping his options open but suggested the 2000 metre Emirates Stakes at Flemington on the final day of the four-day carnival could be a target.

- AAP TURF





