

Sunday 22 October 2017

PROM QUEEN GIVES STAMINA DOUBTERS AN EMPHATIC 'COP THIS' AT ASHBURTON



On her way to short-priced favouritism for the One Thousand Guineas, Prom Queen doing it easy at Ashburton.

Win machine **Prom Queen (NZ)** (Super Easy) has tightened her grip on next month's fillies' classic at Riccarton.

Her ability to master the 1600 metres of the Group One New Zealand One Thousand Guineas has been questioned but her latest performance at Ashburton provided an emphatic reply.

Prom Queen scored a hollow victory, her eighth from nine starts, in yesterday's Group Three Barneswood Farm Stakes,

over 1400 metres, and was full of running at the post.

Kenny Rae, who trains the daughter of the Listed placegetter Finishing School (Royal Academy) with his wife Lisa and their daughter Krystal Williams, can't see what all the fuss is about.

"I've never, ever worried about her going a mile," he said. "Against her own age group she's got too much class. She'll go straight to the Guineas now."

Continued on page 3



JIMMY CHOUX (NZ)

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PROM QUEEN GIVES STAMINA DOUBTERS AN EMPHATIC 'COP THIS' AT ASHBURTON

(Continued from page 1)

As a result of her Ashburton display, Prom Queen's odds for the November 18 feature have been slashed from \$6 to \$2.50.

Ridden by Sam Collett, deputising for her suspended cousin Alysha, Prom Queen flew the gates to lead before Let Her Rip Riley (NZ) (Showcasing) went to the front under a hapless Rafi Firdhaus, whose saddle had slipped soon after barrier rise.

"She's tractable but I was mindful of not getting pocketed so I got outside the leader," Collett said.

Prom Queen was in front again at the top of the straight and scooted clear to beat Sensei (Dream Ahead) by two-

and-a-quarter lengths with Age Of Fire (Fastnet Rock) three lengths further back in third.

"She's not a hard to filly to ride and Alysha has done all the work on her," Collett said. "They're going to be hard-pressed to beat her in the Guineas."

Race	Ashburton RC John Grigg S. Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Prom Queen (NZ) 2014
Owners	R H Bishop, R L Hancox, F O Hansen, D P McHugh, K I Rae, G R Smith and H & S J Whitehead
Trainer	Ken & Lisa Rae & Krystal Williams (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Super Easy out of Finishing School (Aus) by Royal Academy (USA)
Breeder	P Sells & Windsor Park Stud Ltd

NEWS IN BRIEF

Caulfield Cup a first Group One for Kiwi battler

Expat-Kiwi Cory Parish would have been happy with any ride for the powerful Lindsay Park operation, let alone in a Caulfield Cup. Now he has scored his first Group One win by guiding Boom Time (Flying Spur) to an upset victory in the \$A3 million race.

Parish had been scheduled to ride in Sydney yesterday before Boom Time's owner and co-trainer David Hayes, who heads the Lindsay Park organisation he operates with his son Ben and nephew Tom Dabernig, made a late decision to start Boom Time in the Cup.

"Tom came back to me and said, 'Oh, a change of plans, would you like to ride Boom Time in the Caulfield Cup,'" Parish said. "I said of course, I'm definitely free for that."

Parish usually spends five days a week riding for the Lindsay Park team, although he often misses out on the top Saturday races.

"I put in the work and I just get what I can," he said. "If they put me on something, I'm on it. If they put someone else on, I don't complain. I just go with the flow."

Giving the Caulfield Cup ride to Parish was an easy decision for David Hayes, who also sent him to Sydney three weeks ago to ride third-placed Snitzson (Snitzel) in the Epsom Handicap.

"He knew the horse. He knew he went a bit fast last week (in the Herbert Power Stakes) and he didn't tumble into that this time," Hayes said. "He rides a lot of trackwork for us and misses out on a lot of good Saturday rides, so it was a pleasure to give him the ride today."

"It's a great reward for all his hard work."

Parish, who served his apprenticeship in New Zealand with trainer Alan Jones at Cambridge, was savouring the thrill of his first Group One win, five years to the day after making the move from New Zealand.

"First Group One and for it to be the Caulfield Cup - you beauty."

- AAP TURF



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EAGLE PACKS A PUNCH ON FIRM GOING



Packing Eagle well clear in the Sweynesse Stakes.

A lengthy wait for the Cruz family came to an end at Rotorua where **Packing Eagle (NZ)** (Pins) showed what he is capable of given the right conditions, the seven-year-old bringing his Hong Kong form to yesterday's meeting with a sterling performance to trounce his rivals in the Group Three Sweynesse Stakes.

"We've been waiting for a decent track and finally he was able to do what we thought he could," said Trevor Cruz, who trains the Waikato Stud-bred gelding with his brother Martin for their mother Angel.

"He had to rediscover his form and he showed today that's he's still got the fight."

Packing Eagle won six of his nineteen starts in Hong Kong as Packing Pins and ran third in the Group One Champions' Mile at Sha Tin for

trainer Ricky Yiu before he joined the Cruz siblings' Cambridge operation.

He had been unplaced in his first two starts for them on heavily rain-affected tracks before Rotorua provided him with a stage to showcase his talent.

"He races particularly well on right-handed tracks and we'll keep him to 1200 and 1400 metres; a mile might be a stretch for him," Cruz said. "Ideally, we'll look for weight-for-age races for him."

Packing Eagle raced close to the pace yesterday and surged clear in the run home to have two and a half lengths on last year's winner Scapolo (NZ) (Bachelor Duke) at the post.

"He sits nicely off the speed and that's how he's raced best in Hong Kong," Cruz said.

A serious horse was how rider

Trudy Thornton described her winner.

"He felt amazing on the better surface," she said. "He's a very powerful galloper."

Packing Eagle's younger half-brother Splurge (NZ) (Savabeel) was sent out favourite but was never a factor and beat only two runners home.

Race	Rotorua RC Arawa S. Gr.3 1215m
Winner	Packing Eagle (NZ) 2010
Owners	Angel Cruz
Trainer	Trevor & Martin Cruz (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Pins (Aus) out of Splashing Out by O'Reilly
Breeder	Waikato Stud 2001 Ltd
Sales	2012 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: R Yiu; \$160,000





WILDFLOWER MARKS CUP ANNIVERSARY

Sir Peter Vela celebrated the sixteenth anniversary of the Group One Caulfield Cup victory by Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm) with a stakes success at Rotorua.

His famous colours were donned yesterday by Danielle Johnson aboard the Keeper mare **Wildflower (NZ)**, whom she guided to a gallant win in the Listed Jakkalberry Classic.

The Graham Richardson and Gavin Parker-trained five-year-old continued a good run of results for Sir Peter, who also enjoyed a black type success in the Listed Matamata Cup

Race	Rotorua RC Rotorua Challenge P. L 1950m
Winner	Wildflower (NZ) 2012
Owners	Sir Peter Vela
Trainer	Graham Richardson & Gavin Parker (Matamata)
Breeding	by Keeper (Aus) out of Zygadene by Zabeel
Breeder	P J & P M Vela Ltd

last weekend with Ethereal's relative Cote d'Or (NZ) (Makfi).

Wildflower has been honest throughout her career and she has now won four of her fourteen starts and has yet to fail to weigh in.

"We just love this mare, she's so genuine and she's only going to get better," Richardson said.

"We're chuffed to get a black type win for Sir Peter. I've been lucky enough to train for him for some time. He's a big supporter of New Zealand racing and has horses with quite a lot of trainers here."

Wildflower settled midfield on the outer in the 1950 metre event before Johnson urged her around runners across the top and they were in front 250 metres from home. Snow Secret (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret) laid down a stern late challenge only to come up a nose short.



"I thought we had been nabbed on the line, but we got the bob in," Richardson said. "We'll just be looking to get more black type with the mare whenever we can."

Angel In Bluejeans (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) coped admirably with her rise from Rating 75 company to finish a game third ahead of the well-backed Hello M'Lady (NZ) (Shocking) and last year's winner Maygrove (Authorized).

Wildflower (blue and white colours) holds out Snow Secret in a close finish to the Jakkalberry Classic.





LEE GETS POSITIVE ON IMPROVEMENT

The win of **Improvement (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) at Randwick has helped offset Gary Portelli's discontent at the non-appearance of Single Bullet (Not A Single Doubt) at the meeting.

The trainer withdrew the colt from the Listed Brian Crowley Stakes when the track was rated heavy at the 7.30 scratching time yesterday morning, the surface being upgraded to soft before the meeting started.

"If it was soft seven this morning I would have run him," Portelli said.

The track rating was of less concern for Improvement but the 1400 metres of the Clubs NSW Handicap posed a few questions.

Apprentice Lee Magorrian was positive on the \$4.20 favourite, taking her to the lead and defying others to run her down.

Collateral (Excellent Art) almost did, finishing second by a nose with King Darci (NZ) (Darci Brahma) another neck away third.

"I would have preferred 1300 metres," Portelli said.

"I told Lee to be positive. If you are going to be the leader, then show your hand early and ride accordingly.

"The runner-up is a good stayer and he hit the line well so it's a relief she got there."

The win was the second in town this week for Irish native Magorrian, who came to Chris Waller's stable from New Zealand but had a few problems



Lee Magorrian gets the best out of Improvement in a driving finish to Randwick's 1400 metre Benchmark 85.

adjusting to Sydney at first.

"I had a couple of problems early and I wasn't riding with confidence," Magorrian said.

"In fairness to Chris Waller and Liam Prior and Charlie Duckworth, they've stuck by me and done everything they could for me and it's paying off now and hopefully I can repay them."

Magorrian added a second winner later in the programme, on the Waller-trained longshot Mortar Platoon (Myboycharlie), the day having a distinctly New Zealand flavour on

the riding side with Brisbane-based Kiwi Damian Browne winning the first on the card and former champion apprentice Jason Collett landing a double.

– AAP TURF

Race	ATC Clubs NSW H. 1400m
Winner	Improvement (NZ) 2013
Owners	G Harvey
Trainer	Gary Portelli (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Upgrading (Aus) by Encosta de Lago (Aus)
Breeder	G Harvey





KAONIC TARGETS THE CARBINE CLUB

Kaonic (NZ) (Savabeel) brought back memories of Kermadec (NZ) (Teofilo) at Randwick, as the colt locked onto the same spring path as the Group One winner.

Race	ATC 2CH H. 1600m
Winner	Kaonic (NZ) 2014
Owners	N Morgan
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Fast Love by Fastnet Rock (Aus)
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd
Sales	2016 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Blandford Lodge, P: Mulcaster Bloodstock; \$425,000

Racing in the same colours as Kermadec for owner Neville Morgan, Kaonic's second win in three starts rubber-stamped Chris Waller's plans to send the three-year-old to Melbourne.

After claiming the 1600 metre 2CH Handicap by two lengths, Waller's racing manager Charlie Duckworth said Kaonic would target the Group Three Carbine Club Stakes over the same trip on Victoria Derby day at Flemington.

Kermadec won the Carbine Club Stakes in 2014, the first black-type victory for the subsequent Doncaster Mile and George Main Stakes winner.

"Hopefully he can head to Melbourne for the same target as Kermadec himself," Duckworth said.

"That was the plan before the race and it's a lot easier to make the call now that he's gone and done that on a softer track.

"What makes him good is the fact he's so laid back about it all. He takes it all in his stride."

Glyn Schofield rode Kermadec to glory in the George Main Stakes in 2015 and is keen to stay on Kaonic when he ventures to Flemington.

"He's come a long way in a short period of time," Schofield said. "He's certainly going about it the right way."

– AAP TURF



Kaonic has no trouble beating the three-year-old milers at Randwick.



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STORYTIME IN FOR A GOOD TIME AS 4YO

After boasting good form in strong company last season, **Storytime (NZ)** (Savabeel) will be given every opportunity this preparation to advance her stakes record and the Wanganui mare looks more than capable of rising to that challenge.

The daughter of the Group Two-placed mare Authoress (Fuji Kiseki) yesterday opened her four-year-old campaign in impressive fashion at Rotorua, overcoming a potentially tricky barrier for a dominant victory in the 1215 metre New Zealand Bloodstock Pearl Series Race.

"She's a very good galloper and she won nicely at the Foxton trials so we were very confident," said Evan Rayner, who trains in partnership with his daughter JJ.

"We want more black type for her so we'll be looking for that now. She'll go on to bigger things."

Storytime broke her maiden in her first three-year-old appearance last term and made strong subsequent progress to a third in the Group Three

Eulogy Stakes before finishing runner-up in the Group Two Eight Carat Classic, both times behind the gifted Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge).

She was ridden at Rotorua by Rosie Myers, who had also guided her into third in the Listed Bob Sharrock Memorial Oaks Prelude in February.

"She was the class horse of the field and I think she's really going places," she said.

Storytime was smartly into stride from a wide barrier to settle in second spot and dashed clear soon after straightening to put the issue beyond any doubt.

"Mr Rayner said to go forward and she was very fast out of the gates," Myers said. "I was able to sit outside

the leader and she was just too good."

Livin' On A Prayer (NZ) (Redwood) got home well for second without threatening the winner and Bring To The Block (NZ) (Guillotina) also made good ground for third.

Race	Rotorua RC NZB Insurance Pearl Series H. 1215m
Winner	Storytime (NZ) 2013
Owners	Duncan Equine Partnership
Trainer	Evan & J J Rayner (Wanganui)
Breeding	by Savabeel (Aus) out of Authoress (Aus) by Fuji Kiseki (Jpn)
Breeder	J E Abrahams Pty Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Phoenix Park, P: Duncan Equine; \$90,000



Class comes through as Storytime wins the Pearl Series sprint at Rotorua.





CIVILISED TOO POWERFUL AT ROTORUA



Civilised quits maidens with a strong-finishing win against better-performed rivals in the three-year-old sprint at Rotorua.

A late decision to send **Civilised (NZ)** (Civics) to Rotorua had its reward yesterday when he upset a handy field of age-group gallopers.

In his fourth appearance, the gelding finished powerfully from back in the field to open his winning account in the 1215 metre Burton Construction 3YO in the hands of Danielle Johnson.

"They left the nominations open for the race and it was worth \$25,000 so I said to the owners that we had to have a go," said trainer Lee Somervell from Napier, where he was attending a wedding.

"I gave him a very good show. He ran third at Taupo at his previous start

and he was as big as a bull. I said to Danielle on Friday before I left not to underestimate this horse, he's got a lot of ability.

"Maija Vance was going to ride him, she handles him in his work, and I feel sorry for her as she's struggling with her weight a bit."

Out of the Royal Academy mare Donna Majella, Civilised is raced by Angela Hancock (nee Hawker), a Cambridge-based vet, and her husband Bill.

"He's a big fellow and weighs in at 560kg and he's got a lovely personality and temperament," Somervell said. "He's a good advertisement for his sire Civics."

Civilised settled back on the fence

and Johnson was able to get him off the rail across the top and the horse let down impressively in the straight to beat Nucleonic (NZ) (Burgundy), who did well after a tardy start.

"I got a run around them and he hit the line strongly," Johnson said. "I looked at the replays of his last couple and he was hitting the line nicely without a lot of luck."

Race	Rotorua RC Burton Construction H. 1215m
Winner	Civilised (NZ) 2014
Owners	A & W B Hancock
Trainer	Lee Somervell (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Civics (Aus) out of Donna Majella (Aus) by Royal Academy (USA)
Breeder	Cavello Lodge Ltd



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NOVA SWISS AS GOOD AS NEW AGAIN

The recent hints that smart sprinter **Nova Swiss (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) could be back to his best were confirmed on Friday night when he landed the \$5125,000 Kranji Stakes A race over 1000 metres in record-breaking time.

The winner of each of his first five runs, the four-year-old's form then began a downward plane but his last-start second to Countofmontecristo (NZ) (Echoes of Heaven) in a Benchmark 97 1200 metre event followed by a three-length barrier trial win were omens the old spark might be smouldering again.

With blinkers ditched for blinkers and settling in a one-off berth for regular rider Manoel Nunes, Nova Swiss was always travelling like a winner, pulling away over the last 300 metres to leave his rivals struggling, Distinctive Darci (Darci Brahma) getting closest with a late rush but still 2½ lengths astern.

In clocking 57.70 seconds, Nova Swiss broke the course record of 57.76, set by Northern Lion (NZ) (Ishiguru) in 2011.

Trainer Alwin Tan could not conceal his delight after one of his favourite horses finally showed that his loss of form was only temporary.

"After his trial, I expected him to be back to his best and he didn't disappoint," said the reigning Singapore champion

trainer. "But I didn't expect he would break the record.

"It's hard to find a race for him. I will have to check the programme but it will have to be a 1100 or 1200 metre race on Polytrack.

"Next year, we will set him for races like the Merlion Trophy."

It is last year's renewal of the 1200 metre feature that Tan tagged as the tipping point to the sprinter's decline.

"This horse has always had ability and we had to be patient with him. We gave him a spell and he has slowly come back to his best."

Nunes was even more complimentary in his assessment.

"I was all smiles after the barrier trial. I know this horse well and I knew he was back," said the Brazilian. "He had issues after the Merlion Trophy and Alwin and the boys have done a good job to bring him back to his best.

"I think 1000 metres is a bit sharp for him now. And no more winkers for him."

With his sixth win from twelve starts, Nova Swiss has seen his stakes earnings bulge closer to the \$5370,000 mark.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Kranji S. 1000m
Winner	Nova Swiss (NZ) 2013
Owners	Nova Racing Stable
Trainer	Alwin Tan (Kranji)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (Aus) out of Asciano Miss (Aus) by Jet Spur (Aus)
Breeder	G J Perry
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: NZB as agent; \$10,000



Nova Swiss completes his record-breaking win at Kranji on Friday night.

