

Sunday 10 September 2017

## SPRING RETURN OFF TO FLYING START FOR DUAL OAKS HEROINE BONNEVAL



*Bonneval strides home at Moonee Valley to open her four-year-old season with a Group Two win.*

The winner last season of Group One Oaks on both sides of the Tasman, **Bonneval (NZ)** (Makfi) has made an immediate impression in her spring return, winning an action-packed Group Two Dato Tan Chin Nam Stakes at yesterday's Moonee Valley meeting.

The drama began at the start of the 1600 metre feature when \$4.40 favourite Star Exhibit (Statue Of Liberty) reared as the barriers opened, losing his rider Mark Zahra.

Bonneval was one of two Group One winners from the New Zealand stable of Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman beginning their Melbourne campaigns in the race.

And while Bonneval showed her class to storm to a first-up win under jockey Damian Lane, her stablemate Lizzie L'Amour (NZ) (Zabeel) dropped out of contention before the home turn and finished 27 lengths away in seventh.

*Continued on page 3*






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(Continued from page 1)

A post-race veterinary examination showed Lizzie L'Amour had suffered atrial fibrillation.

Well supported as a \$5.50 third favourite, Bonneval beat outsider Abbey Marie (Redoute's Choice) by a neck with four lengths to Mike Moroney's veteran campaigner Rhythm To Spare (NZ) (Pins) in third.

The manner in which Bonneval was able to win the weight-for-age race first-up surprised Baker.

"I thought my other horse would beat her home," he said, "but obviously there's something that happened in the run.

"Bonneval is a good filly, though.

"She's probably fitter than I thought she was. It's very hard to judge them when you come from New Zealand. It's been the wettest winter for forty years and we didn't quite know where she was.

"Lizzie L'Amour easily beat her in a trial at Taupo and we thought if she could be running on for fifth or sixth we'd be happy.

"But she's got that electric sprint at the finish."

Baker said Bonneval was targeting the Group One Caulfield Cup for which she is now second favourite at \$9 behind the imported Hartnell (Authorized).

The winner of the Dato Tan Chin Nam Stakes earns a ballot exemption into the Group One Cox Plate but Baker indicated that was not in his thoughts.

"Not unless Winx drops out," he said. "That's a pretty obvious one."

Lane said Bonneval had improvement in her.

"She has still got her New Zealand winter coat on her," he said. "She'll benefit fitness-wise and it just shows how good the win was."

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Three-year-old features to be run on Wednesday

Take two of the Wanganui Jockey Club's feature black type events for three-year-olds will now be run on Wednesday.

The Listed H. S. Dyke Wanganui Guineas and the Listed O'Leary's Fillies' Stakes were part of yesterday's abandoned meeting due to unsafe track conditions.

"They had 16mls of rain overnight and after a look at the track at 7am this morning it was thought to be safe after a horse galloped, but since then they had another 13 or 14mls and more to come," stipendiary steward Neil Goodwin said.

"The rail is okay, but after a couple of races they would be going wider and the further out the wetter it is with water pooling and the track is not fit for racing.

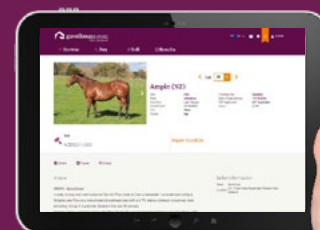
"It's not a matter of horses slipping, it's a visibility issue. It's terribly gutting for the club and driving in I've never seen water like it on the roadside and in the paddocks."

Fortunately, the Wanganui meeting has been reprogrammed by New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing to Wednesday, an open day after the earlier cancellation of the Matamata meeting due to a lack of nominations.

<b>Race</b>	<b>MVRC Dato Tan Chin Nam S. Gr.2 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Bonneval (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>A R Lawrence, J A Rattray and T W Jarvis</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Murray Baker &amp; Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Makfi (GB) out of Imposingly (Aus) by Zabeel</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>City Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Westbury Stud, P: Baker Racing; \$150,000</b>

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# WISE MEN SAY, 'THIS PAIR ARE WINNERS'

The jumping fortunes of trainer Raymond Connors and jockey Isaac Lupton turned around in dramatic fashion after a dismal start to yesterday's proceedings at Ellerslie.

Our Jackson (NZ) (Gallant Guru) finished a distant fifth for them in the Barfoot & Thompson Steeplechase before Max (NZ) (Gallant Guru) tired badly in the Schweppes Great Northern Hurdles and was pulled up.

However, everything went to plan in the Irvines Great Northern Steeplechase and with **Wise Men Say (NZ)** (Yamanin Vital) the pair celebrated their fourth win together in the feature, which they had won three times with Hypnotize (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) in 2007, '08 and '10.

Wise Men Say had claimed the

McGregor Grant Steeplechase in June and subsequent placings in the Manawatu and Wellington Steeplechases and in the Pakuranga Hunt Cup made him favourite for the Northern.

"It was a great win and he's had good form all year," said Connors, who also trained and rode Our Jonty (NZ) (Random Chance) to victory in 1998. "It looked like the race was going to suit him, but it was a good field and you never take anything for granted."

A plan to ride Wise Men Say closer to the pace in the 6400 metre contest also proved significant.

"I suggested that to Isaac; keep him up there a bit closer," said Connors, who races the eight-year-old with his father Mark. "He's a very good stayer –

Yamanin Vital is a big help."

Wise Men Say had the leaders within his sights going up the hill the final time and Lupton made his move on the descent. They were clear at the top of the straight and strode away to score by twelve-and-a-half lengths.

"Raymond said to be positive today. He's the best stayer and I had to ride him with that in mind and thankfully he was good enough to do the job," said Lupton, who also rode the 2013 winner Rangatira (NZ) (Deputy Governor).

Two-time Grand National Steeplechase winner Upper Cut (NZ) (Yamanin Vital) was second with Tizza Secret (NZ) (Zed) third and more than twenty lengths back in fourth was The Oysterman (NZ) (Yamanin Vital), who was down to a walk.



<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Great Northern Steeplechase 6400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Wise Men Say (NZ) 2009</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>M S &amp; R M Connors</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Raymond Connors (Wanganui)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Yamanin Vital out of Vaguely Famous by Famous Star (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>B J &amp; Mrs L E Anderton and Parr Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2011 South Island 2YO &amp; Mixed Sale; V: White Robe Lodge, P: Mr K T Myers; \$37,500</b>

*The toughest test in New Zealand racing nears its conclusion as Wise Men Say and Isaac Lupton make a typically neat job of the final fence in the Great Northern Steeplechase. In the background, Upper Cut battles on bravely for his second placing.*





# THE DEEPER THE BETTER **FOR 'DEEKO**

**C**harlie Studd's unwavering belief in **Zedeedudadeeko**

(NZ) (Zed) proved on the money when they combined to take top honours in yesterday's Great Northern Hurdles at Ellerslie.

He went into the Schweppes-sponsored feature in high spirits off the back of a fourth placing seven days ago, although the Cambridge jockey's optimism wasn't entirely shared by Tauherenikau part-owner and trainer Jamie Phillips.

"The horse has had his ups and downs and ins and outs," Phillips said. "He

went a good race at Te Aroha – and he needed it. Charlie was full of praise for the horse and he was the one who was super confident."

One thing Phillips was certain of, though, was Zedeedudadeeko's ability to cope with Ellerslie's testing going.

"He ran second in the Parliamentary at Trentham and he was knee deep in mud that day – that's the sort of conditions he likes. This is pretty special."

Zedeedudadeeko travelled comfortably in midfield and edged closer when the pressure went on a thousand metres from home.

"He was pulling my arms off all the way," Studd said. "He relaxed well and it all worked out beautifully.

"He's some animal with some heart and he's only had a handful of starts in the open grade. He's still relatively



*Zedeedudadeeko clears the last obstacle in yesterday's Great Northern Hurdles, Charlie Studd having him safely ahead of Stormin Norman (claret colours) and Monarch Chimes.*

inexperienced and he's got a really nice future ahead of him."

Zedeedudadeeko was in front before the final fence and cruised clear to beat Stormin Norman (NZ) (Istidaad) by ten lengths with Kipkeino (NZ) (Sunray) taking third money.

The favourite and previously unbeaten hurdler Monarch Chimes (NZ) (Shinko King) went to the front on the final lap but was in trouble at the top of the straight and weakened to finish fourth with Raisafuasho (NZ) (Johar) grinding home to run fifth.

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Great Northern Hurdle 4190m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Zedeedudadeeko (NZ) 2008</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>J P Phillips and The McInteer Family Trust</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>James Phillips (Tauherenikau)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Zed out of Cheeko Beeko by Straussbrook (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>J P Phillips and The McInteer Family Trust</b>



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# ETHEREAL'S BOY ON TRACK FOR CUP

The well-related **Imperium (NZ)** (Encosta de Lago) was on his best behaviour at Riccarton to open his spring campaign in perfect style.

Despite racing at a distance well short of his best, the son of the Melbourne Cup winner Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm) got home strongly from the tail of the field to win the Phil & Corin Murfitt and Ray & Jill Coupland 1600. "We were a bit surprised by that, although we were very pleased with his trial at Te Teko," said Jamie Richards, who trains in partnership with Stephen Autridge. "He's a nice staying horse and obviously he's sprinted very well fresh."

"He's pretty good when he's got his mind on the job; we're just not always sure when that is."

Imperium's main aim this preparation is the Group Three New Zealand Cup on November 18.

"He ran third in it last year so on his best form he's a good chance again," Richards said. "We'll keep him a bit fresh and probably run in the Listed Spring Classic here on October 28 and then the Metropolitan before the Cup."

Imperium loped along in last spot under rider Michael McNab before he improved wide near the turn and came with a sustained finish for the fourth win of his twenty-start career.



Imperium's big finish for Michael McNab sees him a long-head winner of the opening event at yesterday's Riccarton meeting.

The stable also produced Age Of Fire (Fastnet Rock) to finish runner-up on debut behind Greenpark Gem (NZ) (Highly Recommended) in the Shearings, More than Moving Earth 3YO. A subsequent protest against the winner was dismissed.

"He needs the better tracks and as long as he was running home well we were going to be happy," Richards said.

A son of the Galileo mare Dragon's Tail, Age Of Fire holds a nomination for the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas.

<b>Race</b>	<b>CJC Phil &amp; Corin Murfitt and Ray &amp; Jill Coupland H. 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Imperium (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Te Akau 2013 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stephen Autridge &amp; Jamie Richards (Matamata)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Encosta de Lago (Aus) out of Ethereal by Rhythm (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>P J &amp; P M Vela Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Pencarrow Stud, P: D C Ellis; \$425,000</b>

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# WEIGHT AND WET CAN'T STOP SHINE

**H**ong Kong millionaire **Brilliant Shine (NZ)** (Guillotine) coped admirably with yesterday's testing conditions at Ellerslie to open his New Zealand account, the well-travelled galloper making light of his topweight to win the JRA Trophy by a wide margin from the early pacemaker Admiral (NZ) (Align).

"It's taken us a while to sort things out with him – he was quite fired up when we first got him – but he settled well today and with sixty kilos it was a good effort," said Peter Williams, who prepares Brilliant Shine with his wife Dawn.

"Kevin Crampton, the blacksmith, said he's been coming here for forty years and he's never seen it this wet."

Brilliant Shine won a trial in New Zealand before joining Bjorn Baker's Warwick Farm operation and the gelding was successful for the expatriate Kiwi trainer.

He then transferred to Dennis Yip's Hong Kong stable and won a further six races to take his career earnings beyond the seven-figure mark.

"His best performances have been over 1400 metres, although he has won at 1800," Williams said. "I'm not sure where we'll go next; we'll

see what happens when we get him home."

Brilliant Shine travelled comfortably in second spot to the turn and quickly asserted his superiority in the run home to have six lengths to spare at the post.

"He's had a few problems and with 60kg on a track like that it was a terrific effort," rider Mark Du Plessis said.

"He's a good horse and this race will give him a lot of confidence. Hopefully, it's onwards and upwards from here."

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC JRA Trophy H. 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Brilliant Shine (NZ) 2010</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Terror Syndicate</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Peter &amp; Dawn Williams (Byerley Park)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Guillotine out of Brilliant Kiwi by Brilliance (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs A A Corcoran and Windsor Park Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2011 National Weanling, Broodmare &amp; Mixed Sale; V: Landsdowne Park Ltd, P: Baker Racing; \$8000</b>



*Class tells as Mark Du Plessis brings Brilliant Shine home a six-length winner under 60kg in the JRA Trophy.*







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# GREY FALCON ENDS **ALWIN'S DROUGHT**

Reigning Singapore champion trainer Alwin Tan heaved a huge sigh of relief after **Grey Falcon (NZ)** (Align) scraped home by the barest of margins at Kranji on Friday night.

Tan had not led in a winner since the first week of August, a dry spell that had caused him to lose second

place in this year's title race to Ricardo Le Grange, with both looking at a yawning gap established by expat-Kiwi Mark Walker.

Sent out a warm favourite at a touch over even money, Grey Falcon looked to have the \$S60,000 Class 4 1100 metre race all stitched up when he came off his handy spot in running and went for broke at the top of the straight.

But Tan felt a familiar sinking feeling again when Decreto (NZ) (Red Giant) launched his threatening late charge and had to wait for the photo verdict to confirm the win, Grey Falcon surviving by a nose in a classic bob-of-the-heads finish.

"It's been a very stressful month. Many seconds, I think around ten," said Tan. "This horse always puts in a very hard fight and tonight he had luck on his side."

Rider Manoel Nunes said he felt the four-year-old had improved even if he had to wrest that win by a hair's breadth.

"I feel this horse has actually got better. He settles better and is a lot more mature," said the three-time Singapore champion.

"He always tries a hundred percent and tonight it was heads-up, heads-down. I was really happy to see him get through because I've had so many seconds on this horse."

With his second win and a remarkable haul of eleven placings from eighteen starts, Grey Falcon has rewarded his Thai owners Falcon Racing No 6 Stable with more than \$S165,000 in prizemoney.

– Singapore Turf Club

<b>Race</b>	<b>Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Grey Falcon (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Falcon Racing No 6 Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Alwin Tan (Kranji)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Align (Aus) out of Volta by Senor Pete (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>W D Jolly</b>



Grey Falcon (blue colours) outbobs Decreto at Kranji on Friday night.

