

Sunday 18 September 2016

## OPTIONS APLENTY AT HOME AND ABROAD AFTER KAWI'S TENACIOUS HASTINGS WIN



*The margins are just a long head and half a head as Kawi (chequered cap) beats Mime (inner) and Rasa Lila but considering the effort required to get him there, this was a performance that had trainer Allan Sharrock labelling his current star as "the best I've trained".*

**K**awi (NZ) (Savabeel) is within touching distance of his slice of New Zealand racing history but whether he gets the chance to rewrite the record book is up in the air.

The superstar galloper earned a gold star for bravery when he overcame a horror run to claim yesterday's Group One Windsor Park Plate at Hastings following his previous victory there in the Group One Makfi Challenge Stakes.

Kawi is now on the verge of completing the first ever Triple

Crown clean sweep if his winning sequence can also take in the Group One Livamol Classic on October 1.

"It's tempting but I've got to talk to the owners on Sunday morning," trainer Allan Sharrock said.

"He's done it hard today and they still couldn't get past him. He's the best I've trained and I've had a few good ones."

Kawi is in line for a trip to Australia with options there including the Group One Mackinnon Stakes in Melbourne

*Continued on page 3*



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(Continued from page 1)

and two Perth features – the Group One Railway Stakes and the Group One Kingston Town Classic – but the lure of completing the domestic Triple Crown will be hard to resist.

The six-year-old is currently in the company of outstanding performers such as Starcraft (NZ) (Soviet Star) and Seachange (NZ) (Cape Cross), who both kept their hopes alive until the final contest.

Starcraft, who subsequently enjoyed European Group One success, won the first two legs in 2004 before he finished runner-up to Balmuse (NZ) (Lord Ballina) in the closing event.

The mighty mare Seachange was twice on course to scoop the pool after she won the first two events in 2006 and in '07, but the step up to 2000 metres in the classic proved a touch beyond her and she ran third and fourth in her attempts for glory.

The Livamol trip shouldn't be an issue for Kawi, who was caught out on a limb without cover yesterday but flattened out resolutely in the straight to beat the mares Mime (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) and Rasa Lila (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

"We didn't have much luck out three wide so full credit to the horse, he dug deep," rider Leith Innes said. "It didn't go to plan and he still won."

<b>Race</b>	<b>Hawkes Bay Windsor Park P. Gr.1 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Kawi (NZ) 2010</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>A A Baeyertz, J P Goodin, G A MacDonald, G H Phillips and Est late R W Sharrock</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Allan Sharrock (New Plymouth)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Savabeel (Aus) out of Magic Time by Volksraad (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs C M &amp; J P Goodin</b>

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Ex-Kiwis experiencing the ups and downs of Aussie racing

Jockey Michael Walker's day ended on a bright note when he guided **Freshwater Storm (NZ)** (One Cool Cat) to a long-priced win in the last race at Caulfield yesterday. The expat-Kiwi had been hit with a twelve-meeting suspension following his ride on Blue Tycoon (Written Tycoon) in the second race after pleading guilty to careless riding. The suspension rules Walker out of the Underwood Stakes meeting at Caulfield next Saturday.

Freshwater Storm's victory came in the Gold Nugget, usually run at Ballarat but transferred because of wet weather to the Geelong meeting on Friday, only to end up at Caulfield when the Geelong meeting was transferred to the all-weather track. The eight-year-old gelding was having his second successive win in the race.

A fifty to one chance, Freshwater Storm charged home between runners to defeat \$6.50 second favourite Refulgent (Hard Spun) by an increasing two lengths with topweight Foundry a nose away third.

Meanwhile, at Randwick, another ex-champion New Zealand apprentice in Rory Hutchings received a seven-meeting suspension for careless riding, banned for his ride aboard the Clarry Conners-trained On The Spot (Beneteau), who finished fourth in the Listed Heritage Stakes. He will start his suspension on September 25 and is free resume riding in races on October 7.

Hutchings won the Sydney apprentices' premiership last season with 33 winners, his last year as a junior rider.

– AAP TURF

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# DRAMA ALL ROUND **IN HONEY'S GOLD TRAIL**

**H**oney Rider (NZ) (Pins) gave Andrew Forsman a pre-race scare before the highly regarded filly trumped her rivals at Hastings yesterday, opening her three-year-old campaign in perfect style with victory in the Group Three Hawke's Bay Breeders' Gold Trail Stakes.

"I was very confident going into the race but my confidence dropped a bit when she broke into a sweat and I thought she may have been a bit fresh," said Forsman, who prepares Honey Rider with Murray Baker.

"She got the job done though and she's a pretty high-class galloper."

Forsman said the filly's programme through to the Group One New Zealand One Thousand Guineas had yet to be locked in.

"We'll see how she comes through

this first and then it's about getting her down to Riccarton in the best possible order."

Honey Rider settled in the trail before in-form jockey Michel Coleman was able to ease off the fence into the straight.

"I was a little bit anxious about getting out and once we did she showed good fight," he said.

Honey Rider was a debut winner at Hastings last season and finished runner-up at her only other appearance in the Listed Castletown Stakes. She had trialled at Te Teko and Cambridge ahead of resuming.

"In her first trial she wasn't very flash but she had improved out of sight when I rode her in the second one," Coleman said.

Honey Rider accounted for the fast-

finishing Glass Slipper (NZ) (Pins) and Mystery Show (NZ) (Sakhee's Secret) to give Baker his fourth win in the race.

Bella Gioia (NZ) (Swiss Ace) came home strongly from last for fourth while there was also drama before the start with the favourite Volpe Veloce (Foxwedge) a late scratching on veterinary advice after she had lashed out in the gates.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Hawkes Bay Gold Trail S. Gr.3 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Honey Rider (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>A J Lockyer and C A J Whyte</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Murray Baker &amp; Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Pins (Aus) out of Southern Heights by Align (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>A J Lockyer and C A J Whyte</b>



After taking the lead early in the run home, Honey Rider (white colours) keeps up a strong gallop to win the Gold Trail Stakes.





# LA DIOSA IMPROVES IN CANTERBURY BELLE

**L**a Diosa (NZ) (So You Think) furthered her Group One prospects when she inflicted first defeats on two rival fillies at Riccarton yesterday, the Matt and Mandy Brown-trained three-year-old finishing strongly to account for Starvoia (Starcraft) and O'Naturelle (NZ) (O'Reilly) in the Listed New Zealand Bloodstock Canterbury Belle Stakes.

The trio are all heading toward a rematch in the Group One New Zealand One Thousand Guineas with La Diosa's path to the classic to be confirmed in the coming days.

"We haven't decided how we get there yet, we'll leave it for a few days and talk to the clients and see how she comes through this race," Mandy Brown said.

"There's a couple of options – there are 1400 metre three-year-old races at Ashburton and Riccarton."

La Diosa was a two-year-old winner in the autumn and following a minor placing at her next start she was turned out and returned earlier this month to finish third over 1000 metres.

"I knew she would be better over more ground and I was very happy with the way she had trained on since that last run," Brown said.

"I feel there is a lot more improvement in her yet and she will appreciate getting up to a mile."

La Diosa joined their stable off the back of their success with another black type winner in Peach Cove (NZ) (Buffalo Man).

"We got her through Totara Park Stud and Dirk and Nicci



*La Diosa (nearest camera) comes with a strong late run to down the favourite Starvoia in the Canterbury Belle Stakes.*

Oberholster," Brown said. "We had Peach Cove for them and they are very good friends with Terry Archer."

Archer is the breeder and part-owner of La Diosa, who is out of a half-sister to the dual Group One winner The Jewel (NZ) (O'Reilly).

"After Peach Cove won the Champagne Stakes we got a call from Terry asking if we would like to take La Diosa," Brown said.

<b>Race</b>	<b>CJC Canterbury Belle S. L 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>La Diosa (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Calder Bloodstock Ltd, G L Currie, Bruce Honeybone &amp; Deborah Martin, M L Gibson, P B C Sipos and T W Archer Trust</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Mandy &amp; Matt Brown (Ngapuke)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by So You Think out of Star Affair by Star Way (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>T W Archer Trust</b>





# GUINEAS, OAKS **BECKON HARLOW GOLD**

A victory against the colts and geldings at Caulfield has provided the springboard to Group One targets for the filly **Harlow Gold (NZ)** (Tavistock).

Harlow Gold will be aimed at the Group One Thousand Guineas and then at the VRC Oaks after winning yesterday's National Jockeys Trust Plate by 1¼ lengths in a field which contained several Victoria Derby hopefuls.

The corresponding 1600 metre race last year was won by another Tavistock product in Tarzino (NZ) on his way to winning the Victoria Derby.

"She really looks like she'll get over ground and she's bred to," co-trainer Tom Dabernig said.

"I thought today she relaxed nicely and she's got that good turn of foot as well. She's got bigger things in front of her.

"The short term goal is we'll run her in the Thousand Guineas and then we'll be stretching her out in trip after that.

"She's very tough and very talented, so she could be the right sort of filly to do it."

A \$4.60 favourite after drifting from \$3.60, Harlow Gold settled midfield under apprentice Regan Bayliss and worked into the race to be ready to pounce in the straight.

She hit the front inside the 200 metres and went on to comfortably beat second favourite Rocketeer

(Smart Missile) with third favourite Kaching (So You Think) coming from last to finish another three-quarters of a length away in third.

Bayliss has ridden Harlow Gold in all of her races and said she is open to plenty of improvement.

"She's very good this filly and will only keep improving," he said. "She's only had the four starts and got better with each one."

– AAP TURF

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC National Jockey Trust P. 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Harlow Gold (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Wylie Dalziel Roy Higgins Racing (W Dalziel), P Sambor, Ms J Aldous, T Urwin, Wagu Racing (A Aarons), Ms M Smith-Beale, D Todd, Oaksbound (A Winwood), J Blacker, Snow Road Thoroughbreds (G McNulty), Ms M Jenkins, Mrs W Rechter, P &amp; Mrs J Cormack, M Mitchell, M Zuker, W Patullo, R Atkinson and C Ogilvie</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>David Hayes, Ben Hayes &amp; Tom Dabernig (Flemington)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Tavistock out of Belongs in Lights (Aus) by Belong to Me (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>T G Heptinstall and T M Pivac</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Highden Park, P: Moody Racing/Dalziel Racing; \$200,000</b>



The lightly raced Harlow Gold showcases her staying credentials with a commanding win against the three-year-olds at yesterday's Caulfield meeting.



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# OUR ROKKII SETS HIS SIGHTS ON TOORAK

Toorak Handicap-bound **He's Our Rokkii (NZ)** (Roc De Cambes) has capped a big day at Caulfield for the Lindsay Park team and jockey Dwayne Dunn, the four-year-old's convincing victory in yesterday's 1400 metre Sheen Group Handicap bringing up a winning treble for the training partnership of David and Ben Hayes and Tom Dabernig, after wins to Harlow Gold and Keen Array (Bel Esprit).

He's Our Rokkii justified his \$2.45 favouritism as he proved a class above his rivals in the open handicap to extend his winning streak which started with back-to-back Group Three victories in Sydney at the end of his autumn campaign.

As well as landing a treble on the day, Dunn posted his own winning quadrella on He's Our Rokkii, having been aboard in those two April wins at Randwick and again when the ex-Kiwi resumed with a win at Caulfield three weeks ago.

The two wins in 1400 metre races to start this preparation have launched He's Our Rokkii to his main spring targets, the first of them the 1600 metre Group One Toorak Handicap next

month.

Dunn had He's Our Rokkii midfield on the fence and he cut the corner on straightening as others stayed away from the rail looking for better ground.

The gelding then sprinted clear to win by 3¼ lengths. "He's a horse really going places" Dabernig said.

– AAP TURF

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Sheen Group H. 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>He's Our Rokkii (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>M A Pilkington, J R Collinson, C Feneridis, Seymour Bloodstock Syndicate (Mgr: D S Thomas), D L Elliott, G R Lechte, R W &amp; Mrs A M Hill-Smith, J Lechte, R Chapman and Hall Thoroughbred Syndicate (Mgr: K M Hall)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>David Hayes, Ben Hayes &amp; Tom Dabernig (Flemington)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Roc de Cambes out of Clerihew (GB) by Lomitas (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>J R Collinson and C Feneridis</b>



He's Our Rokkii has slipped clear of his rivals and coasts to an easy win in the open sprint at Caulfield.







# CUP BID A STEP CLOSER **FOR KING OBERON**

The prospects of **King Oberon (NZ)** (Savabeel) crediting Wanganui trainer Raymond Connors with a third New Zealand Cup have been given a further boost, the progressive galloper successfully bridging the gap to premier company at Hastings yesterday when he took full advantage of a lucky break to triumph in the Trinity Hill 2100.

Connors acknowledged the good fortune in a rails run opening up in time for the five-year-old to surge through and continue his impressive run of form.

"I thought we were going to need luck and we got it so I'm thrilled," said Connors, who races King Oberon with his father Mark.

The same combination celebrated consecutive wins in the Group Three two miler with Blood Brotha (NZ) (Danzighill) in 2011 and '12.

King Oberon has now won four of his six starts and will make one more appearance before he heads to Christchurch.

Apprentice Shaun McKay, who is unbeaten in three rides on the horse, is in no doubt that King Oberon can cope with the 3200 metres of the Riccarton feature on November 12.

"He was better on top of the ground today than on a wet track," he said. "He's still looking for more ground as well."

McKay had King Oberon loping along behind the pace on the fence but was worried when runners began circling the field 800 metres from home and they were hemmed in.

"I was hoping a gap would open up and we got the dream run," McKay said.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Hawkes Bay Trinity Hill H. 2100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>King Oberon (NZ) 2011</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 Savabeel (Aus) out of The Faerie Queene by King of Kings (Ire)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Windsor Park Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: NZB as agent; \$18,000</b>



*After a patient rails ride by Shaun McKay, King Oberon finishes too well for Lincoln Bay in the Rating 75 stayers race at Hastings.*

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# FRANCALETTA CONTINUES **PETAGNA RUN**

Unbeaten mare **Francaletta** (High Chaparral) has continued the golden run on both sides of the Tasman being enjoyed by her Wellington-based owner Lib Petagna.

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-prepared mare was a runaway debut winner at Matamata ten days ago and she was again untested to take top honours in yesterday's Hastings – Heart of Hawke's Bay 1300.

"Let's hope it keeps going for a little while longer yet," Petagna's racing manager Bruce Perry said of the purple patch of results.

"She's very good and Murray and Andrew have always had a lot of time for her. She's very well bred and we didn't have to pay a lot for her so hopefully she can get some black type."

The daughter of English mare Snow Peak (Arazi), a two-time winner in France, is a stablemate of two other recent winners in the Petagna colours – Saracino (NZ) (Per Incanto), who was successful in the Group Two Danehill Stakes at Flemington a week ago, and the Group One VRC Oaks contender Eleonora (NZ) (Makfi), who bolted in at Geelong on Friday.

Petagna will also be represented at the Melbourne spring carnival by the high class Group One-winning mares Lucia Valentina (NZ) (Savabeel) and Sofia Rosa (NZ) (Makfi).

Yesterday, Francaletta jumped quickly to race on the pace and she was far too good when asked for an effort in the straight.



*Francaletta proves to be in a class of her own in the Special Conditions race at Hastings.*

"She's a quality mare and we found a soft sit in second," rider Michael Coleman said. "When I popped her the question she found a length quickly."

Co-trainer Forsman said they had expected Francaletta to be hard to beat again with the improved going in her favour after she had to overcome a heavily rain-affected track first time out.

"It was pretty testing at Matamata and she's better off on good ground. We think she's pretty good."

<b>Race</b>	<b>Hawkes Bay Heart of Hawke's Bay Maiden S. 1300m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Francaletta (Aus) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr L Petagna)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Murray Baker &amp; Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by High Chaparral (Ire) out of Snow Peak (GB) by Arazi (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Raffles Dancers (NZ) Pty Ltd</b>

