

Sunday 25 September 2016

## PRELUDE WIN STAMPS ELIXIR AS A GUINEAS CHANCE – TONY EXPECTS BETTER IN DERBY



*Sacred Elixir kicks off his classic year with a grinding win in the Caulfield Guineas Prelude.*

New Zealand gelding **Sacred Elixir (NZ)** (Pour Moi) has made an immediate impact in Melbourne, winning the Caulfield Guineas Prelude, and his trainer is adamant he will only get better.

Last season's Group One JJ Atkins Stakes winner in Brisbane, Sacred Elixir resumed in yesterday's Group Three Caulfield Guineas Prelude and chased down Revolving Door (Sebring) to win by a long neck.

New Zealand trainer Tony Pike considers Sacred Elixir's win

a bonus as he was concerned the 1400 metres was going to be too short in his first try around Caulfield.

"He's a horse that's only going to get a lot better once he gets over further," Pike declared.

"Damian Lane gave him a peach of a ride. He got him out at the right time and gave him plenty of time to wind up into his top gear.

"It was a super result and he'll only improve from here.

*Continued on page 3*







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# PRELUDE WIN STAMPS ELIXIR AS A GUINEAS CHANCE – TONY EXPECTS BETTER IN DERBY

(Continued from page 1)



Cambridge trainer Tony Pike.

“His main target is the Victoria Derby, that’s what he’s bred to do. So to win over 1400 metres here at Caulfield, it’s a really pleasing effort first-up.

“It’s a bit of a surprise, but he’s got a lot of class on his side which probably helped. And just being fresh today, he travelled super.”

The win stamped Sacred Elixir’s Caulfield Guineas claims, with the 1600 metre Group One in two weeks his next target.

“At least he’s had a look around Caulfield now and the extra 200 metres is only going to help,” Pike said.

– AAP TURF

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Caulfield Guineas Prelude Gr.3 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sacred Elixir (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Raffles Thoroughbred Racing (Mgr: KT Yap)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Pour Moi (Ire) out of Baltika by Stravinsky (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G W de Gruchy</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Wentwood Grange, P: Raffles Racing/Mulcaster Bloodstock; \$170,000</b>



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# LEGLISS SHOWS A CLEAN PAIR OF HEELS

Last start Sale maiden winner **Legless Veuve (NZ)** (Pins) stepped up a fistful of grades to win yesterday's Group Two Thousand Guineas Prelude at Caulfield, backed from \$17 into \$12 in a mid-level betting plunge.

Ridden by Mark Zahra, Legless Veuve raced on the speed in the 1400 metre event before holding off New Zealand visitor La Luna Rossa (NZ) (Written Tycoon) to win by a half length with \$51 outsider Sword Of Light (New Approach) a short half-head away third.

Trainer Stuart Webb said the win did not surprise despite the leap in class and confirmed that the filly would now head to the Thousand Guineas on October 8.

Webb said Legless Veuve had shown him ability right from her early days on the training track but needed to get a win on the board after two runs in Listed grade as an autumn two-year-old.

"To beat this lot the way she did today, I think she's real high class," the local trainer said. "She's still got her winter coat and is so, so far behind.

"If she won in two weeks' time, that would probably be it

for her but she's going to be a really nice filly in the autumn.

"She won't go on to an Oaks as she's still a bit babyish."

Webb said the filly earned her name following a meeting of the ownership group at a Sydney race meeting last year.

"We had a naming day at Randwick and it's fair to say a few of the owners were a bit legless on the Veuve Clicquot and so that was it."

Zahra rode Legless Veuve to victory at Sale and said he

refused other mounts in yesterday's race.

"She's a filly with a lot of talent and I was always wanting to ride her," he said.

"If you look at her she's got a heap of improvement, too. They were pressing me at the hundred metres but she found plenty and was holding them on the line.

"She'll be hard to beat in the Guineas."

– AAP TURF & racenet.com.au

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Thousand Guineas Prelude Gr.2 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Legless Veuve (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>P J Fitzgerald, B D Fitzgerald, Ms A Canal, P S Wiggs, K Hart, Mrs C M Chappell, Mrs M O Corigliano, C Hart, P W Waters, G &amp; Mrs P L Minton, S M Roberts, G H Burge, J M Azzopardi, P Evans, N Windsor, P Aspropotamitis, P A Young and Ms T Harcourt</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Stuart Webb (Caulfield)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Pins (Aus) out of Hyades by O'Reilly</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Waikato Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Waikato Stud Ltd, P: Aquanita Racing; \$150,000</b>



*Legless Veuve puts a break on the opposition on her way to success in the Thousand Guineas Prelude.*





# SOULTAKER SMART IN GROUND HE HATED

Classic hopes for **The Soultaker (NZ)** (Iffraaj) gained winning momentum when he overcame yesterday's heavy track at Ellerslie to open his three-year-old account, the grey showing his quality when taking top honours in the Group Three Manuka Doctor Bonecrusher Stakes at the expense of the well-credentialed maiden Hello M'Lady (NZ) (Shocking) and the lightly raced Mongolianlightning (NZ) (Bullbars).

The Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs-trained The Soultaker is now an \$8 chance for the Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas at

Riccarton on November 5.

"His last furlong was pretty strong on a track he was hating," rider Mark Du Plessis said. "He's a very good horse and will be much better on top of the ground."

The Soultaker looked to be making heavy weather of it 600 metres from home before he rallied.

"He was five hundred to one, but once we straightened up and I got back to nearer the fence and the stick in my left hand he really took off," Du Plessis said.

The Soultaker, who finished runner-up when resuming in the

Listed Northland Breeders' Stakes, has now won two of his seven starts after his success last season in the Listed Murdoch Newell Stakes at Avondale.

He drew out in the closing stages at Ellerslie to beat Hello M'Lady, who was placed in the Listed Wanganui Guineas behind the unbeaten Highlad (High Chaparral) at her previous start, by a length and a quarter.

"I walked the track and the instructions were to stay closer in," Gibbs said. "There was no reason to come out wide.

"Mark rode him beautifully and when he came off the bridle he kept working on him. The horse showed his class today and there's huge upside to him."



<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Bonecrusher S. Gr.3 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>The Soultaker (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>G D Lemon, Mrs D M Logan, I Pearson, G W &amp; Mrs M W Simon and D K T Tay</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Donna Logan &amp; Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Iffraaj (GB) out of Miranda Miss by Reset (Aus)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>G W &amp; Mrs M W Simon</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Seaton Park Ltd, P: D M Logan Racing Stables; \$50,000</b>

*Although he looked all at sea early on, the further into the straight The Soultaker forged the better he handled the going... at this stage, close to home, striding out purposefully for Mark Du Plessis towards a Bonecrusher Stakes win.*







# PACORUS RECAPTURES WINNING FORM

Chris Wood's feature race aspirations for **Pacorus (NZ)** (Tavistock) are firmly back on track after a minor blip earlier this month.

The Cambridge trainer will early next week confirm a path to the Group Three New Zealand Cup for his charge after the gelding destroyed his opposition in yesterday's Ray White NZ Mitchelson Cup at Ellerslie.

It was a dominant performance and more in line with his hat-trick of wins through the winter at Tauranga, Te Rapa and New Plymouth before a fifth placing at his previous appearance.

"A lot of horses don't cop Ruakaka and he got beaten fair and square on the day," Wood said.

Pacorus jumped straight to the front at Ellerslie for stable apprentice Viktoria Gatu and, after putting a break on the field 300 metres from home, the five-year-old coasted home.

"It was a great win and I've just got off a plane from Queensland so the staff have done a great job and Viktoria rode him a treat," Wood said.

"We came with a plan to lead. I didn't think there was much pace in the race and he's a horse that can just keep rolling.

"He doesn't take a lot of racing and I'll map out a plan to the New Zealand Cup in the next few days."

At the post, Pacorus had four lengths to spare on the favourite Megablast (NZ) (Shinko King), who had his chance.

"He was nice and relaxed and he had a good kick," Gatu said. "That's my fifth win on him and he's a lovely horse to have around the stable."

Meanwhile, debutante **Veearma (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) provided her breeder and part-owner Sir Patrick Hogan with a welcome boost when she claimed the opening event, the Harold Says Happy Birthday Heather Samu Maiden.

"She's a nice filly and it's a bit of a tonic for Patrick who had an operation yesterday," said Peter Williams, who trains the three-year-old with his wife Dawn and Paul Richards.

Sir Patrick's spirits were further lifted later in the day when his colours were carried to a fresh-up victory by Doni Prastiyou aboard four-year-old **Ronchi (NZ)** (Stravinsky) in the Ray White City Realty 1200.

<b>Race</b>	<b>ARC Mitchelson Cup 2200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Pacorus (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>John &amp; Jennifer Morison, John Borich, Tony Craig, Ian Goodlet, Ken Green, Neville Jamieson, John Morgan, Trevor Palmer and Tim Vince</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Chris Wood (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Tavistock out of Za Tiara by Zabeel</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs A A Corcoran</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Landsdowne Park Ltd, P: D C &amp; J E Morison; \$15,000</b>



*The final stages of a dominant front-running display . . . Pacorus and Viktoria Gatu have the Mitchelson Cup in safe keeping.*





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# WINNING STREAK CONTINUES FOR ANTONIO



The ease of the win and the significant margin are plain to see as Antonio Giuseppe lands his fourth in a row.

Chris Waller kicked off yesterday's Rosehill meeting on the right note for punters when in-form stayer **Antonio Giuseppe (NZ)** (Shocking) led throughout to notch his fourth successive win.

Apprentice Koby Jennings overcame the outside gate with a positive early move, sliding forward and taking up the running aboard the ex-Cambridge galloper in the Benchmark 78 Handicap over 2000 metres.

The four-year-old, who remained favourite while easing in betting from \$2.70 to \$3.40, was never challenged at any stage, enjoying an easy time in front then kicking clear in the straight to score by a comfortable 2¾ lengths and break 34 seconds for his final 600 metre sectional.

"They just let us have an easy time in front and he made the most of it," Waller's foreman Charlie Duckworth said.

Antonio Giuseppe has been working stylishly through the grades and passed his first test at 2000 metres with flying colours, giving Jennings an armchair ride.

"He went awesome," the 2kg-claiming apprentice said. "I haven't had one feel like that for a while.

"He's a serious horse over 2000 metres plus. At the top of the straight all I did was drop my hands and the rest was all

him.

"He's a powerhouse."

While the next test could be a much bigger one, betting markets reacted to the win by moving Antonio Giuseppe into \$6 equal favouritism for the Group One The Metropolitan, to be held at Randwick next Saturday, although, with Waller in Melbourne, Duckworth was reluctant to confirm the horse a certain starter in the 2400 metre event.

"I'd imagine that would be the case but I'd rather leave that up to Chris to decide tonight and see how he pulls up on Monday," Duckworth said.

"At least it was a nice easy victory and shouldn't have taken too much out of him if he does decide to back him up." – racenet.com.au

<b>Race</b>	<b>ATC #theraces H. 2000m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Antonio Giuseppe (NZ) 2012</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>A M Muollo &amp; Mrs G L Muollo</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Chris Waller (Rosehill)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Shocking (Aus) out of Crystalthecowgirl by High Chaparral (Ire)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>R H &amp; Est late E M Rutherford</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2014 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Beltana, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$97,500</b>







# BONNIEGIRL IN ALL-THE-WAY PEARLER

Andrew Forsman had a slight reservation yesterday about **Bonniegirl (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) continuing her outstanding first-up record but any doubt was quickly put to one side.

The Cambridge trainer, who prepares the black-type contender with Murray Baker, was able to watch with pride from afar when she bolted away with the New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Pearl Series Race

at New Plymouth.

"I was just a little bit concerned that she might get into an awkward spot from the draw but it was all over in 200 metres once she got to the front," said Forsman, who was attending to stable runners at Ellerslie.

Bonniegirl crossed the field under Jonathan Riddell to make the running and when she was given more rein into the straight the five-year-old mare left her rivals to it.

She went to the line with four and three-quarter lengths on **Heni (NZ)** (Towkay) to remain unbeaten in four first-up assignments. Te Hana (NZ) (Falkirk) came home well to cut It's Bianca (NZ) (Alamosa) out of third.

"She'll probably go to Hawera next for the fillies and mares' race," Forsman said. "We'll have another crack at that with her."

Bonniegirl finished a close fifth in the Group Three Taranaki Breeders' Stakes last season before she gained a stakes credit with her third placing in the Listed New Zealand Bloodstock Leasing Sprint at Hastings.



<b>Race</b>	<b>Taranaki RC New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Pearl Series H. 1200m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Bonniegirl (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>I E McCarrison</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Murray Baker &amp; Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Darci Brahma out of Electricity (Aus) by Geiger Counter (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>P Chen</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Lyndhurst Farm, P: M P Baker; \$85,000</b>

*The further into the straight they went, the further in front they were . . . Bonniegirl and Jonathan Riddell coasting to victory.*







# IMPRESSIVE RETURN BY SAINT EMILION

Quality galloper **Saint Emilion (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman), who won an impressive seven races last season, looks set for another profitable campaign after a sterling performance for a first-up victory in yesterday's Powerworx Grey at New Plymouth.

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained five-year-old, resuming following a five month break, was able to overcome the rain-affected going to give all his rivals six kilos and a beating.

The slow nature of the New Plymouth track wasn't ideal for Saint Emilion, but his class was apparent and he duly provided the stable and jockey Jonathan Riddell with a winning double following Bonniegirl's runaway success in the previous event.

"He's come back well and we wanted to get a run into him but he is much better in good ground," Forsman said.

The gelding sat outside the leader to the turn in the 1600 metre event and stuck grimly to his task in the straight to wear down Watch Your Man (NZ) (Sandtrap) by half a neck with Woodsman (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) coming on from the back for third.

Saint Emilion has now taken his winning tally into double figures off the back of an impressive four-year-old season.

The gelding went from a Rating 75 success last October through to open

handicap victories in the autumn at Ellerslie and Te Aroha, as well as a runner-up finish behind Chenille (NZ) (Pentire) in the Listed Hawke's Bay Gold Cup.

<b>Race</b>	<b>Taranaki RC Powerworx Grey H. 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Saint Emilion (NZ) 2011</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Est. Late R A Horton</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Murray Baker &amp; Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Roseario by Pentire (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs R A Horton</b>



A tougher ride for Jonathan Riddell as Saint Emilion has to overcome a significant weight disadvantage to overcome the handy mudlark Watch Your Man.

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# HELLO MICHELLE **BACK A BETTER FILLY**

**F**ormer handy juvenile **Hello Michelle (NZ)** (Minstrel Court) came back a brilliant winner at only her second run as a three-year-old at Kranji on Friday night.

The filly showed early promise when she captured a leg of the Singapore Golden Horseshoe series in May but then fell by the wayside at her next three runs, including the Sgp-Group Two Aushorse Golden Horseshoe.

Trainer Mark Walker gave her time to grow and strengthen up and the results were plainly visible when she ran an eye-catching third to stablemate Distinctive Darci (NZ) (Darci Brahma) in an 1100 metre Novice a month ago.

Her trackwork has been top-notch

since and following a positive ride from Alan Munro the three-year-old looked the goods when she powered away to a commanding break at the 300 metre mark in the \$560,000 Class 4 Division 1 race over 1100 metres.

Jelly Bean (NZ) (Darci Brahma) came with a sizzling burst at the 200 metre mark but Hello Michelle held her off comfortably to score by a length.

Walker said his only concern prior to the race was the wide barrier but had left the tactics in Munro's hands and was glad the results had panned out the way the English jockey wanted.

"From the wide draw, Alan said he would ride her positive. I wasn't going to argue with him on this one," said the champion trainer.

"She travelled across quite well and I think the 52½ kilos also helped her. She has developed into a nice filly during the break."

Munro said Hello Michelle has really come into her own now.

"Her two-year-old form was probably closer to Class 4 but she's had a break and has come back a much better filly," said Munro. "She's not far off the Class 3 company now."

Hello Michelle has now taken her record to two wins from seven starts for stakes earnings inching closer to the \$5100,000 mark for the Synthetic Stable.

– Singapore Turf Club

<b>Race</b>	<b>Singapore TC Faithful Gould Cup 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Hello Michelle (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Synthetic Stable</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Mark Walker (Kranji)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Minstrel Court (Aus) out of Paixanito by Zabeel</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>D C Ellis &amp; K W Fenton-Ellis</b>



*Hello Michelle in no danger at Kranji on Friday night.*

