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TURN ME LOOSE MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES TOWARD AMBITIOUS TARGET



Opie Bosson guides Turn Me Loose past the post a comfortable winner of yesterday's Futurity Stakes.

The long-held ambitions to win the Cox Plate by the Australian owners of **Turn Me Loose (NZ)** (Iffraaj) came a step closer when the New Zealand-trained galloper secured his first weight-for-age win by taking out the Futurity Stakes at Caulfield yesterday.

But autumn plans remain to be completed and Turn Me Loose will head to Sydney for a start in the Doncaster Mile.

With trainer Murray Baker at Randwick, overseeing Mongolian Khan (Holy Roman Emperor) in the Chipping Norton Stakes, owner Scott Brown outlined plans for Turn Me Loose, saying connections were now looking to bigger things from the four-year-old.

Backed from \$3.70 into \$3.10 favouritism for the Futurity, Turn Me Loose was given a perfect ride by Opie Bosson in scoring by three quarters of a length from Stratum Star (Stratum) with Suavito (NZ) (Thorn Park) a long neck away third.

"Murray was a lot more confident going into today than he was first-up a fortnight ago and he was looking at this as a stepping stone to the Doncaster," Brown said.

"Murray's aim has always been the Cox Plate and, if we can get there, that would be awesome.

"I think this is a step in the right direction and being Australian owners that is the race that we are after."

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TURN ME LOOSE MAKING THE RIGHT MOVES TOWARD AMBITIOUS TARGET

(Continued from page 1)

Turn Me Loose is scheduled to have his next start at weight-for-age in the George Ryder Stakes at Rosehill on March 19.

Bosson, who missed the winning ride aboard Turn Me Loose in the Group One Emirates Stakes last spring, said the stallion was now a more furnished galloper.

"He's grown up a lot, not just mentally but he's got a lot stronger as well," the champion Kiwi jockey said.

"I just liked the way he switched off and didn't over-race, which is quite positive for later on down the track."

Rider Luke Currie said course specialist and last year's winner Suavito, conqueror of Turn Me Loose in the Orr Stakes a fortnight ago, would appreciate the 2000 metres of the Australian Cup.

"Where she was, she was chasing the whole way but she still picked up and finished off," he said.

– AAP TURF

<i>Race</i>	MRC Futurity S. Gr.1 1400m
<i>Winner</i>	Turn Me Loose (NZ) 2011
<i>Owners</i>	S Brown, L de Souza, T Hartley, J Lark, D Painter, J Robinson and P Vawdrey
<i>Trainer</i>	Murray Baker (Cambridge)
<i>Breeding</i>	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Indomitable by Danehill (USA)
<i>Breeder</i>	G W & Mrs M W Simon
<i>Sales</i>	2013 Ready to Run Sale; V: Mana Park, P: Todd Hartley; \$52,500

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VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL IMPRESSIVE IN RETURN TO WINNING FORM AT OTAKI

Donna Logan won't be rushed into making a decision on the immediate future of **Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ)** (Tavistock).

For the moment, the Ruakaka trainer is happy to bask in the glory of the four-year-old's impressive return to top form in yesterday's Group One Haunui Farm WFA Classic at Otaki.

"It's a long trip for him and I just want to get him home

Race	Otaki Maori RC WFA S. Gr.1 1600m
Winner	Volkstok'n'barrell (NZ) 2011
Owners	G J Cossey, Mrs A Gibbs, C W Gibbs, J A Gibbs MNZM, A M Goodwin, Mrs D M Logan and Rosemont Stud Pty Ltd
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Volkster by Volksraad (GB)
Breeder	IDL Breeding Ltd
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Seaton Park Ltd, P: D M Logan Racing Stables; \$50,000

and see how he is," said Logan, who prepares the Rosehill Guineas winner with Chris Gibbs.

"We're very proud of the horse and it's all about him so we'll make a decision in due course."

It was a victory that brought both delight and relief after a frustrating spring in Melbourne where Volkstok'n'barrell was below par after suffering from an asthma-related complaint.

The gelding returned home for a break and Logan was quietly confident of a bold showing after his first-up run for sixth a fortnight ago in the Group One NRM Sprint at Te Rapa.

"He did a lot of work in that race and he was still fat," Logan said. "I thought he would be at least a top three chance today."

Volkstok'n'barrell settled midfield and one off the fence at Otaki and didn't need much encouragement from rider Vinnie Colgan to hit top gear in the straight to account for Julinsky Prince (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Scapolo (NZ) (Bachelor Duke).



"It was a top effort from the horse, a top effort from Vinnie and a top effort from my team," Logan said. "The gaps opened up in the straight – it was perfect."

The Group One Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes looms as a possible option for Volkstok'n'barrell but the Ellerslie event has been ruled out for his stablemate Hasselhoof (NZ) (Tavistock).

"I'm not a hundred percent happy with him so he's gone out for a spell," Logan said. "It's nothing major, just a few immaturity issues, and smoke can turn to fire if you press ahead."

Given a perfect ride by Vinnie Colgan and recapturing the form of his outstanding three-year-old season, Volkstok'n'barrell powers away to easily win the Group One mile at Otaki.



WEXFORD BAG ANOTHER BREEDERS' AS GOLD RUSH TOO TOUGH FOR FAV

Game filly **Gold Rush (NZ)** (So You Think) struck a memorable blow for her famous father when she continued a proud stable tradition in their home track feature at Matamata.

She credited her New Zealand-bred sire So You Think (NZ) (High Chaparral), a multiple Group One winner in both hemispheres, with his first success at stud when she claimed the Group Two J Swap Contractors Ltd Matamata Breeders' Stakes at the expense of favourite Sassy 'N' Smart (Smart Missile).

Gold Rush is trained by Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott, operating as Wexford Stables, who won the event with Satinka in 2007 while the former also rode Ma Chiquita (1985), Morar (1990) and Tristalove (1993) to victory, the trio being trained by his father Dave and his brother Paul, while Phillipa Rush (1989) and Flying Babe

(2001) completed his winning tally as a jockey.

Fourth on debut, Gold Rush then finished runner-up to Mongolian Falcon, whose run for second two races earlier in the Listed Reid & Harrison Slipper had further boosted her connections' confidence.

"The form out of her last race was pretty strong so it's a fantastic result for us," Scott said. "She's pretty game and really stuck to her task – she looked gone turning in.

"Being by So You Think she will be better the further she goes. We bought her at the sales and to take her right through to this is very satisfying."

Gold Rush, likely to head toward the upcoming Group One juvenile features, broke quickly from the gates to sit on the pace.

"She jumped well but she was off the bit a fair way out and I was concerned," rider Craig Grylls said. "But

to her credit she really fought hard."

The previously unbeaten Sassy 'N' Smart went back to the tail of the field from her outside gate and finished strongly with the southern filly What Choux Want (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) taking third money.

Race	Matamata Breeders' S. Gr.2 1200m
Winner	Gold Rush (NZ) 2013
Owners	S & B Allen, Mrs B R O'Sullivan & L A O'Sullivan ONZM, K Mackenzie, Sir Colin Meads & Lady Verna Meads, W Campbell, R Vela, W D Beatty, W N Campbell, A G Dawson, P R Gall, A Johnston, M R Leach, K MacKenzie, W McLean, G Pope and B Quigley
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Gold Rocks (Aus) by Oratorio (Aus)
Breeder	G D & Mrs H J Nicholls
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Phoenix Park, P: Wexford Stables; \$60,000



Gold Rush (red cap) has burst through one off the fence and knuckles down to the task of holding out Sassy 'N' Smart (tangerine colours) in yesterday's Matamata Breeders' Stakes.



AZKADELLIA A GROUP THREE WINNER WITH LAST-STRIDE WIN IN MANNERISM



Azkadellia (nearest camera) leaves it late before capturing the Mannerism Stakes at yesterday's Caulfield meeting.

Azkadellia (NZ) (Shinko King) didn't let her army of supporters down but plenty would have been sweating as she was made to work hard to win the Mannerism Stakes at Caulfield yesterday.

The Ciaron Maher-trained mare, who had firmed in the betting from \$2.25 to \$2, arrived just in time to win by a head over Tuscan Sling (Danehill Dancer) with a short half-head to Miss Rose De Lago (Encosta de Lago) in third.

The Group Three win was Azkadellia's first black-type success.

"She's always shown that real X-factor about her," Maher said.

Azkadellia was unlucky not to win the Group One Myer Classic last campaign when flashing home for third after she was held up for a run.

The four-year-old mare, who left New Zealand as the winner of her only start, a winter juvenile at Avondale, now boasts a record of six wins from twelve starts. She will get another chance at the top level when she heads to Sydney for the Group One Coolmore Classic, over 1500 metres at Rosehill, on March 12.

– AAP TURF

<i>Race</i>	MRC Mannerism S. Gr.3 1400m
<i>Winner</i>	Azkadellia (NZ) 2011
<i>Owners</i>	B Connolly
<i>Trainer</i>	Ciaron Maher (Caulfield)
<i>Breeding</i>	by Shinko King (Ire) out of Raving by Centaine (Aus)
<i>Breeder</i>	C R Linton



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MATT JOINS THE THOUSAND-WIN CLUB WHEN HEROIC VALOUR WINS SLIPPER

Matt Cameron had a thousand reasons to be beaming after the hot two-year-old prospect **Heroic Valour** (Fastnet Rock) prevailed on his home track yesterday.

The 29-year-old posted his thousandth New Zealand winner aboard the Stephen Autridge and Jamie Richards-trained colt in the Listed Reid & Harrison Slipper at Matamata.

"To do it while I'm still in my twenties is awesome," Cameron said. "Not too many have."

Adding to Cameron's satisfaction was the milestone being achieved in the tangerine colours of Te Akau, for whom he is the retained rider.

"They've been massive supporters of mine, it's a really big thrill," he said.

Heroic Valour stalked the leader Nova Swiss (NZ) (Swiss Ace) to the turn before he took control into the straight and, despite racing greenly, had enough in reserve to hold out the late challenge of Mongolian Falcon (Fastnet Rock) by a head with a long head back to Gasoline (Pluck).

"He's a big baby and he's doing it on class," Cameron said. "There's plenty more to come from him. I knew he would

kick, he needs another horse to go with him and then he'll be even better."

A winner last month on debut at Wellington, Heroic Valour will make his next appearance in the Group One Diamond Stakes at Ellerslie on March 12.

"We think he's a Group One horse and he's going the right way," Autridge said.

"He came back from Trentham really well and he's a young horse with tons of ability. He's still doing things wrong, but he is learning."

Mongolian Falcon was unable to match the early speed in the race and lengthened stride well in the straight to take second money.

"We've got a high opinion of him," co-trainer Chris Gibbs said. "He's got gears and he's going to make a lovely three-year-old."

Race	Matamata RC Slipper S. L 1200m
Winner	Heroic Valour (Aus) 2013
Owners	Te Akau 2015 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: K W Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Fastnet Rock (Aus) out of Myrrh by Nassipour (USA)
Breeder	Katom, Cobra Bloodstock Australia Pty Ltd, Austramore Pty Ltd
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Curraghmore, P: Mr D C Ellis; \$400,000



Heroic Valour on his way to a Slipper win at Matamata; Matt Cameron on his way to the thousand win mark.



MARK'S PATIENCE PAYING DIVIDENDS AS GUARANTOR'S CUP BID ADVANCES

Mark Oulaghan has successfully played a waiting game with **Guarantor (NZ)** (Howbaddouwantit), who will now bid to double the respected Awapuni trainer's tally in the country's premier staying event.

He has his sights firmly set on the Group One Auckland Cup, a race he won in 2014 with Who Shot Thebarman (NZ) (Yamanin Vital), for the late-maturing gelding.

A Rating 85 winner at Te Rapa earlier this month, Guarantor is now a \$10 chance for the Ellerslie feature after further

success in yesterday's Listed Marks Ewen & Associates Kaimai Stakes at Matamata.

"I thought he had a bit against him today and I was a bit surprised he won," Oulaghan said.

He felt the drop back from 2400 to 2000 metres on a smaller track could have brought about Guarantor's downfall but the six-year-old was up to the challenge, being settled in midfield on a good speed by rider Michael Coleman then improving across the top.

Guarantor came with a sustained



Guarantor stamps himself as a genuine Auckland Cup contender with a comprehensive win in yesterday's Kaimai Stakes.

finish to beat Thee Auld Floozie (NZ) (Mastercraftsman) as the brave pacemaker Matimba (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) held third from the topweight Silverdale (NZ) (Castledale).

"He's taken a while to develop but he's really strengthened this time around," Oulaghan said. "He's heading in the right direction."

Meanwhile, the lightly tried mare **Perfect Fit (NZ)** (Elusive City) also confirmed a tilt at a Group feature during the Auckland Cup carnival with her runaway win in the Waikato Stud 1200.

The Ken and Bev Kelso-trained four-year-old took her record to four wins from nine appearances and will step out next in the Group Three Westbury Classic at Ellerslie on March 12.

Race	Matamata RC Kaimai S. L 2000m
Winner	Guarantor (NZ) 2009
Owners	R M Cuff, S M Davies and A G & P J Tennant
Trainer	Mark Oulaghan (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Howbaddouwantit (USA) out of Eva Kinte by Kinjite
Breeder	P J Tennant