



## SUAVITO COMES BACK FROM INJURY TO SCORE TOUGH ORR STAKES WIN



*Suavito has the Orr Stakes in safe keeping as Lucky Hussler (multi-coloured hood) arrives too late and Turn Me Loose fades on the rails.*

Course specialist **Suavito (NZ)** (Thorn Park) yesterday returned from injury to upstage a star-studded field in the C F Orr Stakes, providing jockey Luke Currie with his first Group One win in more than a decade.

The Nigel Blackiston-trained mare missed spring racing after having a bone chip removed from a knee but her return was worth the wait as she raced to a fourth win at Caulfield and her second Group One triumph on the course.

Suavito, who had her supporters at prices around the \$15 mark, enjoyed a nice run from the inside barrier and emerged early in the straight to make her challenge. She reeled in leader Turn Me Loose (NZ) (Iffraaj) passing the 100 metre mark and had no trouble holding off the late finishing

second favourite Lucky Hussler (Husson) by three-quarters of a length. Hucklebuck (Elvstroem) made his run down the outside to finish another long neck away third.

Currie said the feeling of winning his second Group One after Roman Arch's 2003 Toorak Handicap success was hard to describe.

"It's been a long time between drinks. It means a lot," the emotional 34-year-old said.

"It's been harder to win the second one than the first, I know that. I'm married now, it will mean a lot to my wife and family.

"It was just one of the best feelings. It was a better than my first one."

*Continued on page 3*

# JIMMY CHOUX (NZ)

Second-crop yearlings in BIG DEMAND...

Jimmy Choux's Premier fillies at Karaka sold up to **\$210,000**, and the **demand for his progeny continued into the Select Sale** with 17 of his yearlings **selling up to \$210,000**.

An **\$89,324 Select average** made Jimmy Choux the **Leading Sire by Average** for those sires selling 12 or more yearlings.



Lot 64: Jimmy Choux- Shaheen Filly  
**SOLD \$210,000** Buyer: Michael Otto Bloodstock



Lot 595: Jimmy Choux-Spin Align Colt  
**SOLD \$100,000** Buyer: Paul Moroney Bloodstock



Lot 509: Jimmy Choux-Ritzzy Lady Colt  
**SOLD \$165,000** Buyer: Mr D Weir/John Foote Bloodstock



Lot 837: Jimmy Choux-Diva von Tessa Colt  
**SOLD \$210,000** Buyer: Big Red Farm (Japan)

Contact: John Thompson 021 779 931 or Karl Mihaljevich 021 247 8892  
e richhillstud@extra.co.nz [www.richhillstud.co.nz](http://www.richhillstud.co.nz)





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Currie picked up the ride after Damien Oliver committed to riding the imported galloper Amralah (Teofilo) but that horse was later ruled out for the autumn.

Suavito won the Group One Futurity Stakes over the course and distance first-up last February and Blackiston was confident the mare had returned bigger and stronger for her first start since April.

"She took a needle-eye gap at the top of the straight and she's so tough," Blackiston said.

"We've taken her along quietly and built her up slowly. Provided she comes through this in good order we'll aim for the better races in Sydney at The Championships."

Favouritism was confidently entrusted to returning Kiwi Turn Me Loose, one of the stars of last year's spring carnival. Backers would have been happy when he led clearly and

found a kick on the home turn but he was unable to sustain the run and faded late. Jockey Opie Bosson wasn't too disappointed, saying the four-year-old over-raced in the middle stages and will improve from his fourth placing.

– AAP TURF

Race	MRC CF Orr S. Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Suavito (NZ) 2010
Owners	I J Lewis, Mrs K M Lewis, Mr P Latoszynski, Mrs D Anderson, M Bowden, H J Loh, D Godfrey, A J McIntyre, Mrs N D McIntyre, P M Humphreys, Mrs K L Humphreys, R D Cotter, M Laughlin, Mrs C Laughlin and M F Racing (Mgr: V Moro)
Trainer	Nigel Blackiston (Flemington)
Breeding	by Thorn Park (Aus) out of Queen Cha Cha by High Chaparral (Ire)
Breeder	IDL Racing Ltd

27 Group 1 Winners (47 G1 Wins)

28 Group 2 Winners (45 G2 Wins)

30 Group 3 Winners (38 G3 Wins)

59 Listed Winners (78 Listed Wins)



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# TRAINERS THROW FILLY IN DEEP END – REWARDED WITH GROUP ONE WIN

The Hawkins family's faith in their trainers gained the ultimate reward at Te Rapa yesterday when youthful exuberance triumphed over a pair of seasoned Group One campaigners.

The Wentwood Grange owner-operators left the decision to run their three-year-old **Valley Girl (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) against the older horses in the Herbie Dyke Stakes in the hands of Donna Logan and Chris Gibbs.

Only four nominations were initially received for the weight-for-age contest and the Ruakaka conditioners decided the 2000

metre contest was a more favourable option than next weekend's Group Two Avondale Guineas.

"It's a huge win, we're absolutely thrilled," Dean Hawkins said. "Donna rang and said what do you think about running and we just said it's your call. It's been a great team effort and everybody has done their jobs."

Logan said the Avondale Guineas promised to also be a strong line-up and, with a Group One New Zealand Derby start already assured, they opted to take an early crack at the highest level.

It proved to be an inspired move and Valley Girl is now a \$7 equal favourite with Get That Jive (Street Sense) for next month's Ellerslie classic.

Valley Girl settled midfield on the fence before rider Lisa Allpress moved away from the rail and they came with an undeniable finish to relegate Stolen Dance (NZ) (Alamosa) to her third consecutive Group One second placing.

"At the half mile she was really flat and I was working on her and at the 600, when the pressure went on, she kept



*Lisa Allpress brings Valley Girl through centre-track to claim yesterday's Herbie Dyke Stakes at Te Rapa.*

finding," Allpress said.

The favourite Kawi (NZ) (Savabeel) ran home gamely for third without threatening while last year's winner Soriano (NZ) (Savabeel) was unable to produce a fairy-tale ending to her career.

The in-foal mare finished sixth to bring the curtain down on her racing days and the Graeme and Debbie Rogerson-trained six-year-old retires as the winner of nine races, including two Group One victories, and more than \$900,000 in stake earnings for owner Denise Howell.

Race	Waikato RC Herbie Dyke S. Gr.1 2000m
Winner	Valley Girl (NZ) 2012
Owners	D, L & S Hawkins and Llanhennock Trust
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Leigh Valley by Bianconi (USA)
Breeder	D, L & S Hawkins and Llanhennock Trust



# EIGHT LENGTH WIN WHEN MATT HUGS THE RAILS AS THE REST SCOUT WIDE

**A**n audacious move by the connections of **Xtravagant (NZ)** (Pentire) proved instrumental in the quicksilver colt bouncing back to his brilliant best at Te Rapa yesterday.

The runaway Group One New Zealand Two Thousand Guineas winner's reputation was dented by a fourth placing on wet ground in the Group One Levin Classic, but he showed that Trentham performance to be nothing more than a minor blip with a devastating return to winning form at the Hamilton course.

New Zealand's leading older short-course performers were relegated to spectators in the Group One NRM Sprint by the Te Akau prodigy, who never left the much-maligned fence to coast home by eight lengths.

A downgrade of the track from a Good 3 to a Dead 4 after two events had jockeys steering well clear of the rail, until Xtravagant's team decided otherwise.

After walking the track and consulting with former champion horseman Colin Jillings, Xtravagant's trainers Stephen Autridge and Jamie Richards and Te Akau principal David Ellis decided on a bold directive to rider Matt Cameron.

"It's been unbelievable. We made

*Matt Cameron has Xtravagant low-flying against the rails as they complete their destruction job on the NRM Sprint field.*

a plan before the race," Autridge said. "There was a strip along the fence that was perfect and the horse showed his class.

"We saved the ground and now it's the Australian Guineas – bring it on."

Xtravagant flew the gates to lead and Cameron was happy to let Allez Eagle (NZ) (Guillotine) and Trepidation (NZ) (Falkirk) go around him and then stuck to the game plan by cornering hard up against the rail.

"It was an amazing run. We took the shortest way home and he's got great acceleration," Cameron said.

"It's so exciting to see this horse back – we knew what we had. His turn of foot is blistering and he could race over a thousand metres at Flemington

and do the same thing. He's amazing for New Zealand racing."

Best of the beaten brigade was Vespa (NZ) (Elusive City), who took second from Recite (NZ) (Darci Brahma) with last year's winner Sacred Star (Flying Spur) filling fourth.

Race	Waikato RC Waikato Sprint Gr.1 1400m
Winner	Xtravagant (NZ) 2012
Owners	Te Akau 2014 Breeding Syndicate (Mgr: D C Ellis)
Trainer	Stephen Autridge & Jamie Richards (Matamata)
Breeding	by Pentire (GB) out of Axiom by Zabeel
Breeder	Rich Hill Ltd
Sales	2014 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Rich Hill Stud, P: D C Ellis; \$375,000





# BRING ON DIAMOND SAYS PHILLIP AS SAMARA DANCER WALTZES IN

**A** delaide-based filly **Samara Dancer (NZ)** (Hinchinbrook) stamped her class with an impressive win in the Blue Diamond Prelude for fillies at Caulfield yesterday, staking her claim to major honours in the juvenile feature.

The Phillip Stokes-trained flyer had firmed to start the \$4.20 favourite in yesterday's 1100 metre Group Two event to

<b>Race</b>	<b>MRC Blue Diamond Prelude (f) Gr.2 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Samara Dancer (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>J M Maclean, Mrs J A Maclean, J E Cooper, Mrs A D C Cooper, B C Dixon, Mrs M K Dixon, C A Fildes, Mrs E R Fildes and P J Stokes</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Phillip Stokes (Morphettville)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Hinchinbrook (Aus) out of Ennerdale (GB) by Singspiel (Ire)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>J E Abrahams</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2015 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Phoenix Park, P: Phillip Stokes Racing; \$130,000</b>

back up a convincing three-length win over 1050 metres at her only other start, at Morphettville last November. Naturally, Stokes has a big opinion of her.

"She's pretty good," he said. "She's shown us plenty at home but she had to measure up to this lot and she's definitely done that. And she'll only get better."

Samara Dancer settled in behind the speed before jockey Dom Tourneur angled her into the clear at the top of the straight.

She sprinted quickly to burst to the front and held off the strong finisher Concealer (Nicconi) by a length with Miss Nymeria (Stryker) another three quarters of a length away third.

Stokes said the Blue Diamond in two weeks was the aim.

Tourneur said he liked the way Samara Dancer put paid to her rivals when he asked her to sprint.

"She's a very classy animal," he said. "I really liked the way

she went past them when I pushed the button.

"She travelled nicely and she's quite a tractable filly; you can do what you want with her."

– AAP TURF



*Samara Dancer in complete control of the Fillies Blue Diamond Prelude.*



# RISQUE LOOKS A MILLION DOLLARS IN IMPRESSIVE AUSTRALIAN DEBUT

**K**iwi classic winner **Risque (NZ)** (Darci Brahma) has edged her way up the Lindsay Park pecking order with an Australian debut victory at Caulfield.

A winner of three races from six starts in New Zealand, including the Group One One Thousand Guineas at Riccarton, Risque looked all class with her win in yesterday's 1200 metre Kevin Hayes Stakes.

Now the Lindsay Park operation of David Hayes and Tom Dabernig is eyeing the Australian Guineas at Flemington on March 5, putting her on course to clash with her former stablemate and fellow Riccarton Guineas winner Xtravagant, yesterday's stand-out performer at Te Rapa.

Ridden by Damian Lane, Risque, a betting ring drifter from \$2.80 to \$3.60, came from second-last on the home turn to score by a long neck from the \$2.70 favourite Mossin' Around (Mossman) with Cana (Fastnet Rock) a length away third.

"That was a good effort to come from where she did but it didn't surprise me because she had been working electric at the farm," Hayes said.

*Risque (#2) rushes past Mossin' Around and into Australian Guineas contention.*

"I thought she'd win but we all had our hearts in our mouth at the 600 when she was so far back. Once she got in the clear, though, she really looked good."

Risque was a \$1 million purchase after bloodstock agent Mark Pilkington spotted her winning in New Zealand while attending breeze-up sales last year and thought she was a must buy.

"She looked a million-dollar filly then," Hayes said.

"She's been running exceptional times at Lindsay Park and I'm just thrilled for Darren Thomas and family as well as Neil Werrett.

"They paid a lot of money for this filly and there's always a bit of pressure

to see if they can perform."

Hayes expects Risque to be better suited on a more spacious track.

"She's got such a big stride, she'll love Flemington and she's a proven miler," he said.

– AAP TURF

<i>Race</i>	<b>MRC Kevin Hayes S. Gr.3 1200m</b>
<i>Winner</i>	<b>Risque (NZ) 2012</b>
<i>Owners</i>	<b>Seymour Bloodstock Syndicate (Mgr: D Thomas) and Werrett Bloodstock Pty Ltd (Mgr: N Werrett)</b>
<i>Trainer</i>	<b>David Hayes &amp; Tom Dabernig (Flemington)</b>
<i>Breeding</i>	<b>by Darci Brahma out of So Explicit by Straight Strike (USA)</b>
<i>Breeder</i>	<b>D P Bentata</b>





# MIME MAKES OAKS INTENTIONS CLEAR WITH SIR TRISTRAM FILLIES SUCCESS

**S**teely in colour and by nature, **Mime (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) played the tough-girl role to perfection at Te Rapa yesterday to upstage her rivals in the Group Two Cambridge Stud Sir Tristram Fillies' Classic.

While the market suggested that Coldplay (NZ) (Savabeel) provided the best hope of success for trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman, it was her determined stablemate who took the major honours.

Mime was forced to cover extra ground from a wide draw to get into the race, but she travelled comfortably in a stop-start affair.

"I wasn't too concerned in a very

slowly run race and I thought if I went back I would have no chance," rider Michael Coleman said.

"I was happy to sit three wide at the speed they were going. When they started to sprint 600 metres out I clicked her up and I was fairly confident swinging in."

Mime showed no signs of shirking her task as she held a strong gallop to the line to record her third win for Hawke's Bay breeder-owner and long-time stable client Laurence Redshaw. The win also set up a memorable day for the stallion Mastercraftsman, two races later represented by Group One winner Valley Girl.

"At times she has probably been

ridden too handy, and she was again today, but the key was that she didn't have to do a lot of work early," Forsman said.

The focus of Mime's preparation is the Group One New Zealand Oaks on March 19 and she is currently a \$10 chance for the Trentham classic.

"There are plenty of black type options but she'll probably go to the Lowland Stakes and then the Oaks," Forsman said

Last-start maiden winner Promise To Reign (Manhattan Rain) handled her toughest test in style with a bold showing for second ahead of Capella (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle), who got into trouble a couple of times during the race, and Coldplay.



Race	Waikato RC Sir Tristram Fillies Classic Gr.2 2000m
Winner	Mime (NZ) 2012
Owners	L I Redshaw
Trainer	Murray Baker & Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Maidjeu by Montjeu (Ire)
Breeder	L I Redshaw

*Mime proves too good for the staying fillies in the Sir Tristram Classic.*





# WYNDSPELLE JOINS STABLEMATE IN HUNT FOR TWO-YEAR-OLD HONOURS

**D**onna Logan and Chris Gibbs have doubled their hand in an upcoming black type two-year-old feature.

The Ruakaka trainers have the Listed Reid & Harrison Slipper on February 27 on the programme of their exciting last-start winner Mongolian Falcon (Fastnet Rock), who will now be joined by his barnmate **Wyndspelle (NZ)** (Iffraaj).

He booked his place after posting his maiden success in the Foster Maintain 1200 at Te Rapa yesterday, but not before giving his connections a few anxious moments.

"I was a bit worried at the 600 when he hit a flat spot," Gibbs said. "He was a bit tardy out of the gates again but he hit the line hard."

Runner-up on debut behind Nova Swiss (NZ) (Swiss Ace) on his home track, the colt sat at the back of the field yesterday before winding up strongly to down the first-timer Shenandoah (NZ) (Darci Brahma), who made her play for victory along the fence.

"As long as he comes through this race well, we'll definitely be looking at the Matamata race for the colts and geldings," Gibbs said.

"It's a shame he'll have to clash with the stablemate, but they both deserve their chances."

The Group One Diamond Stakes at Ellerslie on March 12 is the likely grand final for the precocious Ruakaka pair. "You only get one go at those races," Gibbs said.

Wyndspelle was ridden by Danielle Johnson, who was able to christen a shiny new pair of riding boots in style.

"I put them on for the first time for this race," she said. "He



*Wyndspelle (#2) does best in a three-way finish to the juvenile at Te Rapa as Shenandoah (rails) makes a tidy debut to relegate favourite O'Rachael to third.*

was a bit slow out of the gates, but he did everything right after that.

"Once he gets over a bit more ground he'll be a really nice horse. If he can get over his barrier issues and can run on the pace he will win a few more."

The ruling favourite O'Rachael (Northern Meteor) loomed up to challenge 250 metres from home before peaking on her effort while her stablemate Showpin (NZ) (Pins) was next home after making the early running.

Race	Waikato RC Foster Maintain 2YO H. 1200m
Winner	Wyndspelle (NZ) 2013
Owners	J Frew, S Hanna, Jen Campin Bloodstock Ltd and N P Randles
Trainer	Donna Logan & Chris Gibbs (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Western Star by High Chaparral (Ire)
Breeder	Mrs S D Hart
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Hallmark Stud, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$75,000



# COREY EARNS HIS FEE FOR 'UGLY' RIDE COAXING RELUCTANT A LA TO VICTORY

**B**ack from a spell, the talented but unpredictable **A La Victory (NZ)** (Alamosa) gained the verdict in a head-bobbing finish to the S\$100,000 Open Benchmark 97 over 1400 metres, the main event on Kranji's Friday night card.

Once again, the four-year-old looked like he would brain his rivals when motoring home after enjoying a smothered run in behind runners but the last furlong was anything but smooth sailing for jockey Corey Brown.

Resuming since running last in the Sgp-Group One Singapore Gold Cup over 2200 metres in November, A La Victory was poised for an easy win when he grabbed the lead as the field fanned across the track at the 300 metre mark but his old quirk reared its ugly head again – he “half pulled up”.

Brown had to use every trick in his book to coax the reluctant runner to the line, especially as favourite Dragon Fury (NZ) (Sufficient) was darting through on the inside with stinging acceleration. The two horses lunged at the line locked together with A La Victory prevailing by a short head.

Completing an all New Zealand-bred trifecta, the winner's stablemate Titanium (NZ) (Tavistock), also resuming, ran an encouraging third another three parts of a length away.

While delighted at the win, Brown was critical of his ride inside the last hundred metres, calling it “ugly”, but said A La Victory was again his own worst enemy, almost throwing in the towel instead of putting the race to bed.

“He got three-quarters of a length in front and just pulled up on me,” said the Australian. “He does that all the time! It's true I got in front probably a hundred metres too early but he's pulled the same old trick again. He's just got no confidence about him – he's the sort who runs in the pack, he's not the lion.

“If not for that, he should have won by

*A La Victory (nearest camera) gives Corey Brown a tough time but does enough to head off Dragon Fury.*

a length and a half going away. But he's won and that's what matters. He'll win a big one soon.”

Michael Freedman's assistant trainer James Peters has not cast in stone any ambitious plan for the gelding but has not lost sight of his age.

“You turn four only once and we would like to go to the Derby with him,” he said. “We don't really know why he didn't run well in the Gold Cup. I think he can still go 2000 metres, though I also think he's probably a better horse over 1400 metres to a mile when fresh.”

With his sixth win from sixteen starts, A La Victory has now pushed his stakes earnings just over the S\$350,000 mark.

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Benchmark 97 H. 1400m
Winner	<b>A La Victory (NZ) 2011</b>
Owners	<b>China Horse Club Stable</b>
Trainer	<b>Michael Freedman (Kranji)</b>
Breeding	<b>by Alamosa out of Everswindell by Align (Aus)</b>
Breeder	<b>Nearco Stud Limited &amp; W J Bloodstock Ltd</b>
Sales	<b>2013 National Yearling Sale, Premier Session; V: Wellfield Lodge, P: Michael Freedman; \$140,000</b>





# WAIKATO TO THE FORE AS RACING'S GREATS INDUCTED TO HALL OF FAME

High-profile Waikato racing identities and equine stars of the past and present dominated Friday night's New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame gala dinner at Skycity Hamilton.

All but one of the latest inductees have ties to the powerhouse equine region.

Pencarrow Stud's supreme staying mare Ethereal (NZ) (Rhythm), raced by Sir Peter and the late Philip Vela and trained by Sheila Laxon, champion broodmare Eight Carat (Pieces of Eight) and the Cambridge-born and bred international superstar So You Think (NZ) (High Chaparral) were among them.

Ethereal won four Group One events and her win in the Melbourne Cup created history for Laxon, who became the first female trainer to officially win the great race.

Eight Carat is the latest addition from Cambridge Stud to the Hall Of Fame, joining owner Sir Patrick Hogan and the stud's champion sires Sir Tristram and Zabeel. She is the dam of five Group One winners.

So You Think, a dual hemisphere champion, won ten Group One races, including two Cox Plates, and beat the best gallopers in Europe while the other horse inducted was the Cox Plate and VRC Derby winner Daryl's Joy (NZ) (Stunning).

Seton Otway was honoured for his contribution to the breeding industry as the founder of Trelawney Stud, home to the champion sire Foxbridge (Foxlaw), who won eleven consecutive stallion premierships.



*In a Hall of Fame performance, Ethereal completes the 2001 Caulfield/Melbourne Cups double with success at Flemington.*

Ngaruawahia-born Laurie Laxon was also inducted for his training achievements. After winning the Melbourne Cup with Empire Rose (NZ) (Sir Tristram) and the Hong Kong International Cup with Romanee Conti (NZ) (Sir Tristram), he moved to Singapore and in 2013 became the first trainer to prepare a thousand winners there, a feat to rival his record of nine Singapore champion trainer titles.

Shane Dye, formerly of Matamata, became a dual Hall of Famer, having been inducted into the Australian Hall of Fame two years ago. After being champion New Zealand apprentice twice, Dye moved to Australia and won two Sydney premierships and rode ninety Group One winners.

Racing writer John Costello began his career as a journalist in Matamata and was inducted for a legacy which covers the full spectrum of reporting, including eleven editions of the New

Zealand Racing Annual, two editions of Galloping Greats, The Linda Jones Story and, with the late Pat Finnegan, Tapestry Of Turf.

Completing the line-up of inductees was Garry Chittick, a former Wairarapa sheep farmer who moved north in 1994 when he purchased Waikato Stud. He is a five-time Breeder of the Year winner and recipient of the Outstanding Contribution To Racing Award.

A thoroughbred mare whose achievements were outside racing was also acknowledged by the New Zealand Racing Hall Of Fame.

Bess was one of more than ten thousand New Zealand horses sent overseas during the First World War and was one of just four, and the sole thoroughbred, to return home after the conflict.