



SACRED MASTER READY FOR BIG TIME AFTER PASSING AVONDALE CUP TEST



Michael McNab is entitled to forcefully express his delight after winning the Avondale Cup on Sacred Master, his pre-race effort to meet the 52kg handicap and a calculated ride being major factors in the outcome.

The speed at which **Sacred Master (NZ)** (Mastercraftsman) progressed through the grades brought with it a worry for Tony Pike but he is now happy to let the stayer take his chance at Group One level.

The four-year-old broke his maiden on the first day of the current season and in eight subsequent starts he has added a further five wins, the latest in yesterday's Group Two Go Racing Syndications Avondale Cup.

Sacred Master's triumph at Ellerslie also propelled him to the head of betting for the Group One Auckland Cup at \$5, replacing Vavasour (NZ) (Redoute's Choice), who is out of

contention due to an injury, as the favourite.

"There was a concern that it may be coming too quickly and it was an acid test today to see if we press on to the cup," Pike said.

Sacred Master passed his final examination with flying colours and he will now defend the stable's title at Ellerslie after their success with Rock Diva (NZ) (Lucky Unicorn), who has also sported the Raffles Racing colours, twelve months ago.

"As long as he pulls up well and does everything right then we'll come back for the Auckland Cup," Pike said.

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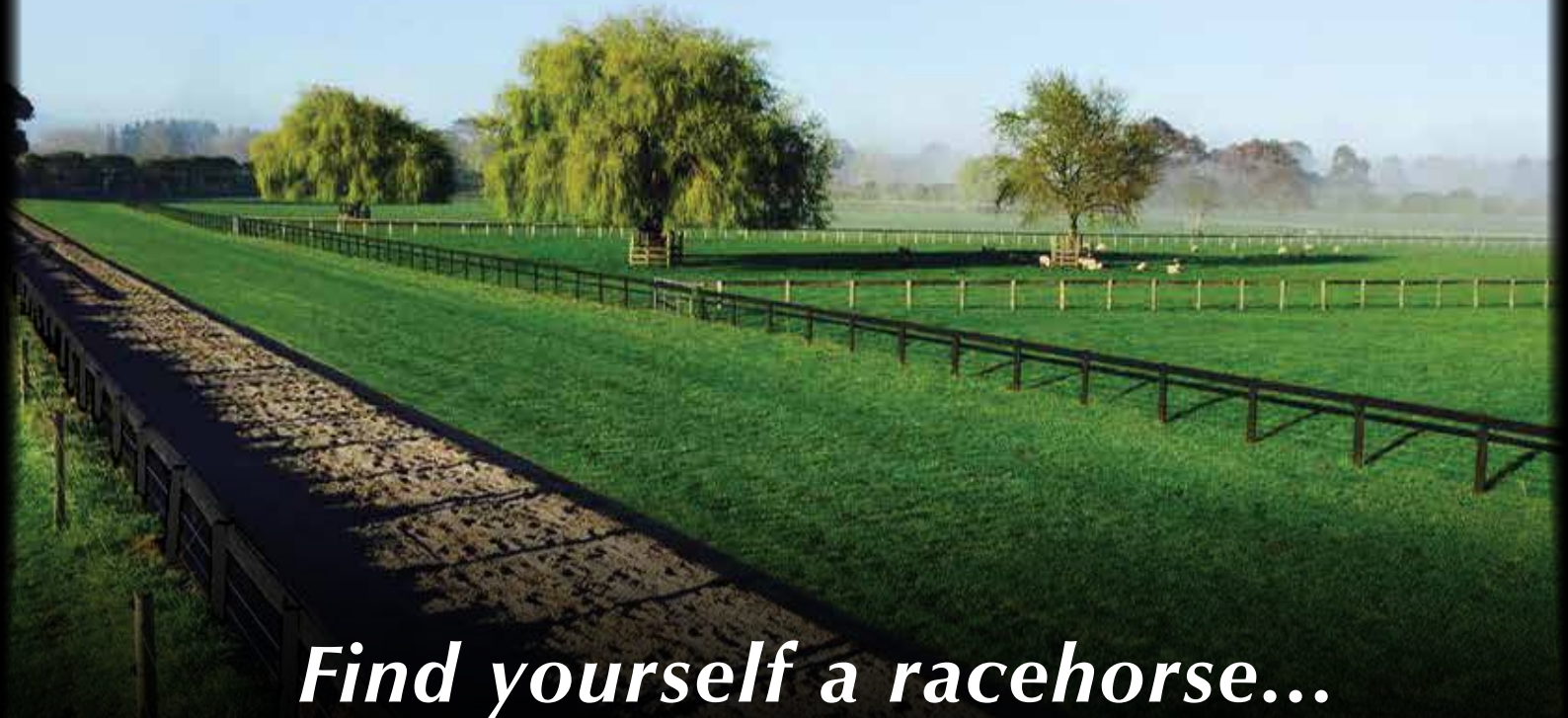


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(Continued from page 1)

Sacred Master was in a dominant mood yesterday with his effort matching the determined approach of his rider Michael McNab, who wasted hard to make the book weight.

"I'm really pleased for Michael and for him to get down to 52kg it was a great reward," Pike said.

Sacred Master settled in midfield and came with a well-timed finish under McNab to beat King Kamada (NZ) (Shinko King), who also ran second last year behind Farm Boy (NZ) (El Hermano) with the defending champion a fast-finishing third this time around.

"It was a patient ride by Michael and he let him go to sleep and then came into the race at the right time," Pike said.

The race was marred by a career-ending tendon injury suffered by the Group Three New Zealand Cup winner Jimmy Mac (NZ) (Zed).

Race	ARC Avondale Cup Gr.2 2400m
Winner	Sacred Master (NZ) 2011
Owners	Raffles Racing, B Sherwin and L Wadey
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Mastercraftsman (Ire) out of Trickle by Storm Creek (USA)
Breeder	R W E Moore
Sales	2013 Ready to Run Sale; V: Diamond Lodge, P: Raffles Dancers; \$65,000

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CLOSELY CONTESTED GUINEAS DOES LITTLE TO CLARIFY DERBY PICTURE

A see-saw New Zealand Derby market took another twist yesterday when a tenacious performance from **Rangipo** (Stryker) saw him take over as the classic favourite.

The Tony Pike-trained three-year-old earned a \$5 quote after winning the Group Two Auckland Eye Avondale Guineas at Ellerslie in a driving finish from Brighton (NZ) (Buffalo Man) and the dead-heaters Get That Jive (Street Sense) and the winner's stablemate Raghu (NZ) (Showcasing).

"He's an amazing horse as he's been in work a long time and he just keeps turning up," Pike said.

"He'll be back in a fortnight and then he can have a well-earned break."

Rangipo travelled in behind the leaders on the fence and, as he did in winning the Group Two Waikato Guineas, fought tooth and nail in the straight under Vinnie Colgan.

"Vinnie gave him a great ride with a lovely run in the trail," Pike said. "He's a really honest racehorse and quite a fast one as well."

Pike was also thrilled with the efforts of Raghu and the filly Provocative (NZ) (Zabeel), who made late ground for sixth

after dropping to the tail of the field from a wide gate.

"Raghu had to work hard from a wide gate and he just needs a good draw for the Derby," he said.

"Provocative got a long way back

and she will appreciate the 2400 metres of the Derby. She'll be better for the experience and she should go very well."

TAB bookmakers reacted swiftly to Brighton's performance and slashed his Derby odds from \$61 to \$8 while Get That Jive and Raghu remain steady at \$6 and \$12 respectively and Provocative is an \$8 chance.

The other market mover is **What's The Story (NZ)** (Savabeel), whose gallant defeat of a number of borderline Derby hopes and a handful of older horses in the Rutherford Rede 2100 saw him come in from \$51 to \$18.

The colt suffered interference in a melee at the 700 metre mark after the leader Irish (NZ) (O'Reilly) broke down, but still came with a sustained finish to press his Derby claims.

"It was a massive performance and I've got a lot of confidence in the horse," trainer Stephen McKee said.

Race	ARC Avondale Guineas Gr.2 2100m
Winner	Rangipo (Aus) 2012
Owners	J C & Mrs M A Thompson
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Stryker (Aus) out of Holloway by Zabeel
Breeder	J C Thompson



Rangipo is too tough for a trio of fellow Derby contenders in a close finish to the Avondale Guineas. Brighton (gold cap) snatches second, a nose ahead of the deadheaters Get That Jive (red cap) and Raghu.



DYLAN'S GUN RIDE GIVES NIGEL DREAM RESULT IN TARANAKI CUP

Nigel Tiley enjoyed positive results at both North Island venues yesterday with **Girl Of My Dreams (NZ)** (Gold Centre) and Brighton (NZ) (Buffalo Man).

The Pukekohe trainer produced the

Race	Taranaki RC Taranaki Cup Gr.3 1800m
Winner	Girl of My Dreams (NZ) 2010
Owners	Girl of My Dreams Syndicate
Trainer	Nigel Tiley (Pukekohe)
Breeding	by Gold Centre (Aus) out of O'Noyoudont by O'Reilly
Breeder	J R O'Brien

former for a deserved success in the Group Three Platinum Homes Taranaki Cup at New Plymouth before Brighton returned a cracking Derby trial with his fast-finishing second in the Avondale Guineas at Ellerslie.

The winner of the Group Three Phoenix Park 2YO Classic on the course when prepared by Leo Molloy, Girl of My Dreams hadn't raced since early January after she had missed a start when late scratched at the barrier before the Group One Thorndon Mile.

"We set her for this race after

Wellington and I've got no doubt that she can go further and get 2200 metres," Tiley said.

Girl Of My Dreams raced on the pace before Dylan Turner made his move to challenge three wide at the top of the straight and they strode clear to have a length on Silverdale (NZ) (Castledale) at the post.

"He's ridden him absolutely beautifully," Tiley said. "He's had four rides for me now and ridden four winners."

Visiting stables continued their domination of the black type events

on the card when, in the Listed Bob Sharrock Memorial Oaks Prelude, the Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained **Sewreel (NZ)** (Savabeel) continued her winning march toward a Group One goal.

The filly came from the back of the field to account for Maritimo (NZ) (Pins) and All In Vogue (NZ) (Pins) with a strong staying performance in the hands of Mark Du Plessis and enhance her New Zealand Oaks hopes.

Dylan Turner continues his profitable combination with the Nigel Tiley stable as Girl Of My Dreams outclasses the Taranaki Cup field.





MASA GETS CAORUNN RUNNING



Masa Tanaka announces his return to the higher levels of New Zealand racing with a well-judged win aboard Caorunn in the Phoenix Park 2YO.

The racing career of **Caorunn (NZ)** (Showcasing) may not have gone completely to script but his form line continues to make excellent reading to his connections, the precocious juvenile posting his third and most important victory to date when he proved too good for his rivals in yesterday's Group Three Phoenix Park 2YO Classic at New Plymouth.

"We had him sold to Hong Kong, but the vet knew better than us and failed him," said co-trainer Trent Busuttin, who shares in the ownership syndicate that includes Singapore-based horseman Shane Baertschiger.

The diminutive Caorunn showed his talent early on with a runner-up finish at his spring debut before he won successive races at Otaki and Awapuni and followed with a solid run for fourth in the Listed Karaka Million.

"If they're fast enough, they're big enough," said Busuttin, who prepares Caorunn with his partner Natalie Young.

A brother to Boodles, who was unbeaten in both his two-year-old starts last season, including one at New Plymouth, before his sale to Singapore interests, Caorunn was given a perfect run in the trail by Masa Tanaka.

They angled clear deep into the straight and comfortably reeled in the pacemaker Saracino (NZ) (Per Incanto) to win by three quarters of a length.

"He's a professional little horse and it was a professional ride from Masa," Busuttin said.

Tanaka was having his first ride for the stable and Caorunn provided him with his most important victory since his return last December from a two and a half year stint in Korea, during which time he rode 101 winners.

The highlight of his previous eight seasons in New Zealand was a Group One win aboard Booming (NZ) (Don Eduardo) in the 2011 Thorndon Mile.

Race	Taranaki RC Taranaki 2YO Classic Gr.3 1200m
Winner	Caorunn (NZ) 2013
Owners	S D Baertschiger, T L Busuttin, T Davis, M C Fenwick and T E Luke
Trainer	Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Molly's Dolly by Bertolini (USA)
Breeder	Mrs V A & W K Pike
Sales	2015 National Yearling Sale, Select Session; V: Longlands Stud, P: NZB as agent; \$60,000

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ENFORCED LAYOFF OVER, WINNING NOW A HABIT FOR LIM'S AFFECTION

Singapore trainer Steven Burridge made his way to Kranji's Friday night meeting for only one race and could not have hoped for a better result after he went home straight afterwards with a winner.

The Australian handler had just two runners on the nine-race card, last-start winner Baab Al Nasr (Footstepsinthesand) and the in-form **Lim's Affection (NZ)** (Elusive City), both in the S\$80,000 Kranji Stakes C race over 1600 metres.

Fourth in transit under new partner Danny Beasley, Lim's Affection finished best on the outside to outstay Ride Of Valkyries (Orpen) by three parts of a length with even-money favourite Winning Cause (Giant's Causeway) running on late for third, another half-length away.

Burridge said after the race that Lim's Affection, who raced as Karalli in New Zealand, where in two outings she won her maiden by four lengths then ran third in the Wellington Guineas Trial, should win her fair share of races if she kept going in the right direction.

"She's done a good job considering she bled last year. She should have won on that day," said Burridge.

"She kept working home very well and the longer the better for her. She's no world-beater but she came from New Zealand with a good record and now she's won two here, which is not bad for a mare."

Beasley said he knew he was sitting on a winner from the way Lim's Affection travelled from the 500 metre mark.

"When I gave her a backhander at the 500, she went from three lengths behind to only a length-and-a-half behind," said the Australian jockey, who has been riding in a rich vein of



Lim's Affection scores emphatically at Kranji on Friday night.

form since his Singapore comeback.

"In the early part, they really slowed the pace but going past the 1400 she was travelling so well for me. I took a chance early with her and she was very strong at the end. When she lay down her neck I was very confident she would win.

"I went into the race like she was the best 2000 metre horse in the race and it's worked out good in the end."

– Singapore Turf Club

Race	Singapore TC Kranji S. 1600m
Winner	Lim's Affection (NZ) 2011
Owners	Lim's Stable
Trainer	Steven Burridge (Kranji)
Breeding	by Elusive City (USA) out of En Pointe (Aus) by Carnegie (Ire)
Breeder	D J Myers
Sales	2013 National Yearling Sale, Festival Session; V: Haunui Farm, P: K T Myers; \$6000