

Sunday 2 June 2024

I WISH I WIN BACK ON TOP IN KINGSFORD-SMITH CUP



I Wish I Win strides past Bella Nipotina to win the Gr.1 Kingsford-Smith Cup at Eagle Farm. (Grant Peters, Trackside Photography)

After placing in all of his first four starts of the season, Waikato Stud's sensational sprinter **I Wish I Win (NZ)** (Savabeel) returned to the top of the podium in Saturday's Gr.1 EVA Air Kingsford-Smith Cup (1300m) at Eagle Farm.

It was the seventh win of a remarkable 21-start career for the Savabeel gelding, who has now earned more than A\$11.8m in prize-money. His previous triumphs included last year's Gr.1 TJ Smith Stakes (1200m) at Randwick, along with the A\$10m Golden Eagle (1500m).

Before Saturday's breakthrough, I Wish I Win's five-year-old season had featured a third in the Gr.1 Memsie Stakes (1400m), second in the A\$20m The Everest (1200m), third in the TJ Smith

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(Continued from page 1)

Stakes and second in the Gr.1 Doomben 10,000 (1200m).

I Wish I Win's inside gate worked against him in the Doomben 10,000 and he was upstaged by star mare Bella Nipotina (Pride of Dubai), who was among the opposition again on Saturday. Despite drawing the inside gate again, this time I Wish I Win emphatically turned the tables.

I Wish I Win was reunited on Saturday with his TJ Smith and Golden Eagle-winning jockey Luke Nolen, who took up a position in sixth along the rail as Uncommon James (Cable Bay) set the pace.

Nolen moved away from the fence coming up to the home turn, and he presented I Wish I Win on the outside of the favourite Think About It (So You Think) at the top of the straight.

I Wish I Win accelerated sharply and burst into contention, with Bella Nipotina chiming in closer to the inside. The Doomben 10,000 first and second placegetters went to war again through the final 200m, with I Wish I Win edging ahead this time to beat a gallant Bella Nipotina by a neck.

I Wish I Win is trained by his part-owner Peter Moody along with Katherine Coleman, who joined him in a training partnership at the beginning of this season. The Kingsford-Smith Cup was Coleman's third Group One victory, but the first she has witnessed in person.

"I haven't been on course for the other Group One wins, so this is incredibly special," she said. "We've got the whole crew here today and it's just amazing.

"There was plenty of confidence in the horse today, but he was going to

need a good ride from barrier one. We needed a bit of magic from Luke, and he provided that. I'm so thrilled for Luke as well – he worked very hard to get back on this horse, and that adds another layer to this win.

"Everything has been super with this horse since the Doomben 10,000. I was so happy when I saw him today. He looked incredible. Huge credit to the team that's been up here in Brisbane looking after him. The horses have been staying at Desleigh Forster's stable, and she's been a big help as well."

The Kingsford-Smith Cup is likely to bring the curtain down on I Wish I Win's season.

"I'd say he'd have a little break now and then we'll prep him for the spring," Coleman said. "Another shot at The Everest is the plan."

Nolen was delighted to regain the mount on I Wish I Win, who he has ridden to four wins and four placings from nine previous mounts. He missed the ride in this year's TJ Smith Stakes due to injury and was replaced by James McDonald, who then retained the mount for the Doomben 10,000. McDonald was absent this week due to commitments in Japan, which allowed Nolen to put the green, blue and white Waikato Stud colours back on.

"I'm just really grateful for the privilege of being back on this horse," Nolen said. "Obviously I've done a lot on him previously, so I was a bit disappointed to be taken off, but we made amends today.

"The race worked out pretty well. He can get a bit stirred up in amongst horses, but today he showed a bit of grit.

"We gained a run outside the leader in

the straight. I knew we could finish over them, but two weeks between runs isn't his usual style. He was only tradesman like today, and on softer ground as well. On top of the ground, I don't think they would have seen which way he went."

I Wish I Win began his career in the Matamata stable of Jamie Richards, for whom he won two of his nine starts, along with Group One placings behind On The Bubbles (Brazen Beau) in the Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m) and behind Imperatriz (I Am Invincible) and On The Bubbles in the Levin Classic (1600m).

I Wish I Win is out of the Pins mare Make A Wish (NZ), whose five winners from seven foals to race also include the well-performed Another Dollar (NZ). That daughter of Ocean Park won five races including the Gr.3 Premier's Cup (2200m) and Listed Gosford Gold Cup (2000m), while her seven black-type placings included a second in the Gr.1 Queensland Oaks (2200m).

Make A Wish had two further foals after I Wish I Win. A colt by Ocean Park was born in 2021 and was bought by Moody Racing for \$375,000 at Karaka last year, while a filly by Super Seth followed in the spring of 2022.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	BRC Kingsford Smith Cup Gr.1 1300m
Winner	I Wish I Win (NZ) 2018
Owners	Mr M J Chittick, Mr P G Moody
Trainer	Peter G Moody & Katherine Coleman (Pakenham)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Make A Wish by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd



STUNNING WARMONGER EXTENDS KIWIS' QUEENSLAND DERBY DOMINANCE



Warmonger makes easy work of his rivals when winning the Gr.1 Queensland Derby at Eagle Farm. (Grant Peters, Trackside Photography)

Warmonger (NZ) (War Decree) became the fourth consecutive New Zealand-bred winner of the Gr.1 Queensland Derby (2400m) with a breathtaking performance in the A\$1m classic at Eagle Farm on Saturday.

A spectacular first Group One winner for Inglewood Stud stallion War Decree, Warmonger blew his rivals away by more than 10 lengths. He joined the Queensland Derby honour roll alongside the other recent Kiwi-

bred winners Kovalica (NZ) (Ocean Park) (2023), Pinarello (NZ) (Tavistock) (2022) and Kukeracha (NZ) (Night Of Thunder) (2021).

This year's Queensland Derby produced a New Zealand-bred quinella, with the Andrew Forsman-trained filly Moonlight Magic (NZ) (Almanzor) launching a late run into second. Forsman and owner-breeders the Sunlight Trust had celebrated a Listed win in New Zealand earlier that afternoon with the filly's half-brother

Belardi (NZ) (Belardo).

But the Derby belonged entirely to Warmonger. A Listed winner of the TAB Trophy (1800m) at Flemington in the spring, the gelding had caught the eye with strong finishes for second in the Listed Port Adelaide Guineas (1800m), fifth in the Gr.3 Chairman's Stakes (2000m) and second in the Gr.1 South Australian Derby (2500m) in his three most recent starts.

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STUNNING WARMONGER EXTENDS KIWIS' QUEENSLAND DERBY DOMINANCE

(Continued from page 4)

Those performances gave trainers Mick Price and Michael Kent Jnr the confidence to carry on up to Brisbane, where Warmonger produced one of the most dominant performances in Queensland Derby history.

Drawn the outside gate in a full field of 18, Warmonger was caught four wide as the field rounded the first turn out of the home straight. Jockey Blake Shinn never panicked and allowed him to roll forward, taking up a position in fifth behind runaway leader Navy King (NZ) (U S Navy Flag).

Warmonger cruised up into second as Navy King began to come back to the field down the side of the track, and he soared past that tiring leader soon after straightening for home.

Warmonger had opened up a lead of more than two lengths by the 300m mark, but he was just getting started. He effortlessly moved further and further in front from there, crossing the finish line 10 and a half lengths in front of Moonlight Magic.

"What a great run by that horse," Shinn said. "He did it the tough way out wide on the track, but he was just so comfortable all the way. He was really enjoying it and had his ears pricked going down the back of the track. It was like a track gallop.

"I asked him to extend from the 500m and he just kept building. The horse really deserved this. He's been putting up some big performances and running second.

"The wide barrier may have played

into our hands a little bit, with the inside really cutting up now. I was happy being wider out in the fresher ground, and he just enjoyed it all the way around."

Going into Saturday's race, Price and Kent were unsure about how Warmonger would handle a track that appeared to be on the worse side of Soft6.

"The wet track was definitely the query," Kent said. "I was wondering what Blake was thinking at some points during the race, but he made all the right calls and put the horse in the race.

"In the end it was a real stamina test, and it was just a huge staying performance from this horse.

"He's just flying at the moment. It's a credit to the whole team. The horse travelled to Queensland so well."

Warmonger is now clearly the best performer among the 37 winners from 75 runners for War Decree, whose oldest crop are four-year-olds.

His other leading performers include the Gr.2 Lowland Stakes (2100m) winner Val Di Zoldo (NZ) and the stakes-placed Luvnwar (NZ), Hakadecree (NZ) and Third Decree (NZ).

Out of the winning Savabeel mare Princess Sapphire (NZ), Warmonger was bred by Kevin Hickman and sold as a yearling for \$75,000 before being presented by Prima Park at the 2022 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale. Riccarton trainer Shane Kennedy went to \$165,000 to secure the youngster, having prepared his

Almanzor half-sister Blue Solitaire (NZ) to finish third behind Legarto (NZ) (Proisir) in last season's Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m).

Warmonger carries the colours of OTI Racing, who purchased him after a dominant 800m trial victory at Ashburton in April of last year for original trainers Shane Kennedy and Anna Furlong.

Inglewood's Gus Wigley took enormous excitement out of Warmonger's Derby demolition.

"He won that like a superstar," he said. "It's so great for War Decree."

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	BRC Queensland Derby Gr.1 2400m
Winner	Warmonger (NZ) 2020
Owners	O T I Racing, Balmerino Racing Partnership, Prestige Racing 7, Mr A P Grant, Mr M Neale, Mrs K Neale, Mr J C Slattery, Mrs C M Slattery, YES Bloodstock, Mr T Bleakley, Mr T M Dickson, B B W W S Group, H M M W W Group, Mr J P Spence, Mr L Webb, Ms D McKeown, Mr M P Stone, Mrs A G Stone
Trainer	Mick Price & Michael Kent Jnr (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by War Decree (USA) out of Princess Sapphire by Savabeel (AUS)
Breeder	K J Hickman ONZM
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sales – Book 2; V: Valachi Downs, P: Prima Park / Bevan Bloodstock Bloodstock; \$75,000 – 2022 Ready To Run Sale; V: Prima Park, P: Mr SJ Kennedy; \$165,000



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HEZASHOCKA TOO GOOD IN PREMIER'S CUP

Hezashocka (NZ) (Shocking) has proven himself in far stronger company than Saturday's Gr.3 Living Turf Premier's Cup (2400m), and that big-race quality shone through with a comfortable victory at Eagle Farm.

Although last month's Listed Gosford Gold Cup (2200m) was his first win since 2022, Hezashocka has made his presence felt right up to the highest level. He has placed in the Gr.1 Champions Stakes (2000m), Gr.3 JRA Plate (2000m) and Listed Mornington Cup (2400m), along with a fourth in the Gr.1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2000m) and fifth in the Gr.1 Australian Cup (2000m). He was a close last-start seventh in the Gr.1 Doomben Cup (2000m) on May 25.

The son of Shocking stepped down in class and up in distance on Saturday, and he produced a performance befitting his \$2.25 favouritism.

Jockey Jamie Kah took up a perfect position in fifth, one off the rail, then began to move closer coming down the side of the Eagle Farm track.

Kah pushed the button at the home turn and Hezashocka bounded past Goldman (NZ) (Verdi) to take the lead. Alegoron (Teofilo) gave his all and chased bravely down the straight, but Hezashocka maintained a comfortable advantage and won by a length and a half. Goldman crossed the line in third, six lengths adrift of the first pair.

"What a ride by Jamie," said Michael Kent Jr, who trains in partnership with Mick Price. "She said before the race that she was going to be fifth and one off the rail – there you go. He was always travelling like the winner.

"He won the Gosford Cup and we had a plan to come here as our next target. We thought we'd give him a spin around in the Doomben Cup for a run, and he went super in that race.

"He loves soft ground and he's going great. There's a big group of owners here today, so I'm delighted for them."

The stable will now consider a tilt at the A\$1.2 million Gr.2 The Q22 (2200m) at the same venue on June 15.

"The Q22 might appeal as an obvious target," Kent said. "When this horse finds form, he usually holds it. We lost him for a while this season on firm tracks, but he's thriving at the moment. For \$1.2 million, why wouldn't you go there?"

Hezashocka began his career with Shaun and Emma



Hezashocka was at his winning best taking out the Gr.3 Premier's Cup at Eagle Farm. (Grant Peters, Trackside Photography)

Clotworthy and won the Gr.2 Championship Stakes (2100m) at Ellerslie before OTI Racing bought into the horse. Emma Clotworthy and Keith Haub have retained a share of the ownership along with the Australian syndicate.

Originally purchased at Karaka for \$18,000 out of the draft of Grangewilliam Stud, Hezashocka has now won five of his 32 starts with a further eight placings and A\$1,376,203 in prize-money.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	BRC Premier's Cup Gr.3 2400m
Winner	Hezashocka (NZ) 2017
Owners	O T I Racing, Mr R Menchise, Mr T N Porter, Mr W S Pelchen, Mr K J Jones, Mrs E M Clotworthy, Mr H K Haub, Mr J A Scalmer, Mrs E E Mountfort, Mr W L Mountfort, Mr G W Fielding, Mr R L Henriksen, C S Racing, Mr J C Slattery, Mr N Miaoulis, Mr A Miaoulis, Mr T J Erridge, Mrs B E Porter, Mrs V L Pelchen
Trainer	Mick Price & Michael Kent Jr (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by Shocking (AUS) out of Shezakiwi by Brilliance (USA)
Breeder	Mrs A A Corcoran
Sales	2019 National Yearling Sales – Book 3; V: Grangewilliam Stud, P: Mr S Clotworthy; \$18,000





BELARDO BOY TOO STRONG IN BLACK-TYPE FEATURE

Proven miler and winter track specialist **Belardo Boy (NZ)** (Belardo) bounced back to winning form when he produced a powerful home straight surge to capture the feature event at Wanganui on Saturday, the Listed AGC Training Stakes (1600m).

The 2023 Gr.3 Winter Cup (1600m) winner was having just his second run in a new campaign for trainer Lisa Latta and stripped in good condition after taking plenty of benefit from his first up run for eighth at Te Rapa a fortnight ago.

The five-year-old son of former Haunui Farm shuttle stallion Belardo settled near the rear for rider Joe Doyle, but travelled sweetly as he saved ground underneath runners approaching the home bend.

Last start winner Bradman (NZ) (Pins) went for glory as he shot two lengths clear shortly after straightening, however Belardo Boy had a full head of steam as he surged in the final 200m to hit the front in the shadows of the post, winning by a long neck from Bradman with last year's winner Justaskme (NZ) (No Excuse Needed) finishing resolutely for third.

Latta was delighted to see the popular stable runner step back to the winner's enclosure so early in his preparation.

"He was pretty fresh first up and he can get up and pull when he's like that and is not an easy horse to ride," Latta said.

"I said to Joe it's not the pattern of racing today but just get him to relax as I know he has a great turn of foot if you can get him to do that.

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Belardo Boy powers through the heavy conditions to win the Listed AGC Training Stakes (1600m) at Wanganui. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))



BELARDO BOY TOO STRONG IN BLACK-TYPE FEATURE

(Continued from page 8)

"When he got him relaxed, I knew he could finish it off."

Latta was pleased for the big team involved with the horse although she was wary about what the immediate future holds for him.

"He is a stable favourite and it was good for the team to get the result," she said.

"He is going to be hard to place in the handicaps now, so we will have to have a think about things.

"We were considering the Winter Cup again but possibly not now as he will get weighted out of it.

"I think he is up to good company and if we could get a track with the fire out, he might be a chance in the first of the big races at Hastings in the spring (Gr.1, Tarzino Trophy 1400m)."

Doyle admitted Belardo Boy was one of his favourite mounts although he could be quite a handful when he wanted to be.

"He's probably my favourite horse in the country as I've won quite a few on him now," he said.

"He's not a straight-forward ride but when he really lets down it takes a fair horse to beat him on that sort of surface.

"All Lisa said to me was bury him but he still got a bit keen as he's still a bit fresh but that just means there is plenty of meat left on the bone.

"He could have a really, really good winter and he feels as good as I've ever felt on him."

The victory brought up a stakes race double for both Doyle and former Haunui Farm stallion Belardo with Belardi (NZ) scoring in the Listed John Turkington Forestry Ltd Castletown Stakes (1200m) earlier in the day. He also sired Wanganui winner Caitlyns Wish (NZ) and Pukekohe winner Hey Hey Baby (NZ).

Belardi joined Belardo Boy, Verona (NZ), Avonallo (NZ) and Southern Warrior (NZ) as the fifth southern hemisphere stakes winner for Belardo, who shuttled to Haunui Farm between 2017 and 2022.

Belardo Boy has now won four of his six starts over 1600m and nine of his 36 career runs for a touch over \$330,000 in prizemoney after Latta purchased him for \$28,000 out of the Haunui draft during the Book 2 Sale at Karaka in 2020.

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**



Trainer Lisa Latta (Trish Dunell)

Race	WJC AGC Training Stakes L. 1600m
Winner	Belardo Boy (NZ) 2018
Owners	S Dias, Winsome Dormer, D J McLean, J C McNeill, Rabbitohs Racing Partnership & Mrs P A Shearer
Trainer	Lisa Latta (Awapuni)
Breeding	by Belardo (IRE) out of L'Amour by Towkay (AUS)
Breeder	J E Fokerd & Haunui Farm LP
Sales	2020 National Yearling Sales – Book 2; V: Haunui Farm, P: Lisa Latta Racing; \$28,000



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BELARDI BAGS BLACK-TYPE WIN

Three and a half hours before Moonlight Magic (NZ) (Almanzor) took her place in Saturday's Gr.1 Queensland Derby (2400m) at Eagle Farm, her half-brother **Belardi (NZ)** (Belardo) kicked off a huge day for the family with victory in the Listed John Turkington Forestry Castletown Stakes (1200m) at Wanganui.

Both Belardi and Moonlight Magic are trained by Andrew Forsman for owner-breeders the Sunlight Trust, and they are among the five winners from just five foals out of the Encosta De Lago mare Japonica.

Belardi became the second stakes winner in that group, with Moonlight Magic having previously captured the

Gr.3 Championship Stakes (2100m) at Ellerslie in April.

Saturday's Castletown Stakes was the third career start for Belardi, who was well supported for his debut appearance at New Plymouth on May 11 after a stylish trial win. He finished only sixth that day, but bounced back strongly to lead all the way for a maiden success at Taupo on May 22.

The two-year-old Belardo gelding faced a steep class rise on a sharp 10-day turnaround on Saturday, but he showed that he was up to the task.

Jockey Joe Doyle adopted similar front-running tactics, driving him forward from his inside gate to take up a leading position after the first 100m.

The previous two races on Saturday's Wanganui card had established that the outside part of the track was clearly the place to be down the home straight, and Doyle was able to bring Belardi across the front of the field at the turn and into that better ground.

Raziah (NZ) (Niagara) and He's Lucid (NZ) (Contributer) finished strongly out of the pack and tried their hardest to pull Belardi back in down the straight,

but the Cambridge gelding kicked away from them again in the last 50m to win by a length and a half.

"He didn't break particularly well, but he was quick into gear and then just travelled so smoothly from there," said Doyle, who has now ridden 14 Group and Listed winners this season.

"He's a Belardo, and these kinds of tracks often seem to suit them. When we got on to the better ground in the straight and I gave him a squeeze, he picked up very nicely. He might have idled a touch when he was in front in the straight, so I'd say there's still more in the tank.

"He's not overly big, but he's a very willing horse. That tendency to idle won't be there for much longer and I'm sure we'll see more improvement from him."

Belardi's three-start career has now produced two wins and \$57,725 in stakes.

With Forsman in Brisbane to saddle Moonlight Magic and First Innings (NZ) (Contributer) in Saturday's Queensland Derby, he was represented at Wanganui on Saturday by assistant trainer Trina Riddell.

"That was a really good win, and with his half-sister racing in the Queensland Derby today, it's a big day for the Sunlight Trust," Riddell said.

"Belardi is a really nice horse, and I thought Joe did a great job to lead and get him to that outside ground in the straight."

Belardi became the second stakes-winning two-year-old in the space of a week for former Haunui Farm shuttle stallion Belardo, who also sired last Saturday's Listed Champagne Stakes (1600m) winner Southern Warrior (NZ).

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

Race	WJC John Turkington Forestry Ltd Castletown Stakes L. 1200m
Winner	Belardi (NZ) 2021
Owners	The Sunlight Trust
Trainer	Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Belardo (IRE) out of Japonica (AUS) by Encosta De Lago (AUS)
Breeder	The Sunlight Trust



Belardi (outside) pulls away to win the Listed John Turkington Forestry Castletown Stakes (1200m) at Wanganui. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))



GERIATRIX SHINES ON AUSTRALIAN DEBUT

New Zealand three-year-old **Geriatrx (NZ)** (Almanzor) made a big impression when making his Australian debut at Eagle Farm on Saturday, albeit not in the race his trainers Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott had hoped for.

The Almanzor colt headed across the Tasman as a three-race winner from nine starts, most recently at Rotorua on May 11, and he had also produced strong finishes to be close up behind the placegetters in the Gr.3 Wellington Stakes (1600m), Gr.2 Wellington Guineas (1400m) and Gr.3 Cambridge Breeders' Stakes (1200m).

That career record and his \$86,285 in prize-money put Geriatrx in fourth on the ballot for his intended first Australian start in Saturday's A\$300,000 Gr.3 Fred Best Classic (1400m). O'Sullivan and Scott opted for the A\$85,000 HKJC Handicap (1400m) as their Plan B, and they came away with a perfect consolation result.

Geriatrx was patiently ridden by expat Kiwi jockey Michael Dee, who settled him near the tail of the field before unleashing him down the outside in the straight. The Kiwi colt swept past his rivals in the last 300m and scored impressively by half a length.

O'Sullivan and Scott are now hoping to step Geriatrx up into black-type company for the A\$200,000 Gr.3 Gunsynd Classic (1600m) at Eagle Farm on June 15.

"We brought him over hoping to run in the Fred Best today but ended up a wee way down the ballots for that race, so this is a great consolation," Scott said.

"He handled a long summer in New Zealand very well, and we thought there was a bit more juice left in the tank to bring him over here. He's got a good turn of foot and handles a range of track conditions.

"This is a great result for the owners. They've been very patient with him and they've got the reward today. For a young colt to beat older horses the way he did was fantastic.

"Now we're hoping to carry on to the Gunsynd in a couple of weeks' time. We'd love to pick up a bit of black-type with him."

Geriatrx was bred by Cambridge Stud owner Brendan Lindsay and is by that operation's outstanding shuttle stallion Almanzor. Since August 1, Almanzor has

Geriatrx makes an immediate impression since arriving in Australia, winning at Eagle Farm.
(Grant Peters, Trackside Photography)

sired 69 winners across Australia and New Zealand including Gr.1 Sydney Cup (3200m) hero Circle Of Fire and fellow stakes winners Positivity (NZ), Athabaskan, Zabmanzor (NZ), Moonlight Magic (NZ), Sudbina (NZ), Nucleozor (NZ) and Ahuriri (NZ).

The dam of Geriatrx is the Showcasing mare It's Our Showtime (NZ), whose two foals to race are both winners. Geriatrx's half-sister Proscenium Arch (NZ) (So You Think) finished fourth in last year's Gr.2 Doomben Roses (2000m).

Cambridge Stud offered Geriatrx in Book 1 of Karaka 2022, where he was bought for \$675,000 by Bruce Perry Bloodstock.

It's Our Showtime produced a colt by Merchant Navy in 2021, followed by another Almanzor colt in 2023.

– NZ Racing Desk.

Race	BRC HKJC Hcp 1400m
Winner	Geriatrx (NZ) 2020
Owners	Brown Thoroughbreds Ltd, Hawridge Developments Ltd, JML Bloodstock Ltd (Mgr: L Petagna), P W O'Rourke, D A & B N Kelt, A & L Scott
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Almanzor (FR) out of Its our Showtime by Showcasing (GB)
Breeder	Mr B Lindsay
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Cambridge Stud, P: Bruce Perry Bloodstock; \$675,000





CARPE DIEM CLAIMS FOXTON CUP

Carpe Diem (NZ) (Jimmy Choux) relished the heavy track and returned to the winner's circle for the first time in over a year in The Foxton Cup 2040 at Wanganui on Saturday.

The winter specialist had recorded four of his prior five career victories in heavy conditions, most recently last May at Trentham, and that factor was duly noted by punters who backed him into a \$5 second-favourite behind King Of Hearts (NZ) (Jakkalberry) (\$4.10).

Waitare Beach trainer Brendon McDermott secured the services of Warren Kennedy for the Cup and he allowed Carpe Diem to settle one off the fence in fourth while Rocktilyoudrop (NZ) (Rock 'N' Pop) controlled proceedings boldly in front.

Nearing the 800m, Kahu Rock (NZ) (Alamosa), who defeated Carpe Diem by the narrowest of margins in last year's edition, took control and made his claim for back-to-back titles, but Kennedy directed the gelding to the outside rail in the home straight in search of better ground and he burst to the lead at the 400m.

Phats (NZ) (Embellish) and So Call Me (NZ) (Sweynesse) fought hard to catch Carpe Diem, but the victory was all sewn up as he stormed home by 1 ¾ lengths.

Kennedy had studied the track pattern prior to his first ride at Wanganui since entering New Zealand's jockey ranks 18 months ago and was pleased to see his plan come to fruition.

"I watched replays of it being wet here, and it seems that generally the outside is the better going," he said.

"It was a nice 2040m race, I could



Carpe Diem (outside) powers through the heavy conditions at Wanganui to win The Foxton Cup 2040 on Saturday. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))

just bide my time and have a good look at the track.

"He enjoys the wet track, and when they're going well you just have to let them go. He started to track up really nicely at the 800, so I just said if you want to run, you go boy.

"He had a look around at the 200 and had a little shift, but when they came at him he rallied again. It was a really courageous win."

A son of Jimmy Choux, Carpe Diem was bred by Lisa Dunbar of Timberlee Thoroughbreds, out of a Scenic mare in Fashion Society.

McDermott co-races the eight-year-old, who has earned over \$157,000 in stakes in 64 starts.

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	WJC The Foxton Cup 2040
Winner	Carpe Diem (NZ) 2015
Owners	C J Dodds, Go With The Flow Racing Stables Ltd, B Judd & B C McDermott
Trainer	Brendon McDermott (Waitare Beach)
Breeding	by Jimmy Choux out of Fashion Society (AUS) by Scenic (IRE)
Breeder	Mrs L J Dunbar
Sales	2016 National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale; V: Timberlee Thoroughbreds, P: Phill Cataldo Bloodstock; \$30,000



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MATAMATA MARE CAPITALISES ON WANGANUI TRIP

Apprentice Ciel Butler made good use of her 2kg claim when she guided Matamata visitor **Caitlyns Wish (NZ)** (Belardo) to victory in the Open 1200m Handicap at Wanganui on Saturday.

The Stephen Autridge-prepared four-year-old daughter of Belardo had been thereabouts of late without securing top spot on the podium and was well backed in the TAB Fixed Odds market to start a \$3.90 second favourite behind the heavily supported Wewillrock (NZ) (El Roca) (\$2.30).

Wewillrock (59.5kgs), who carried a full 7.5kg more in weight than the eventual winner with senior rider Jonathan Riddell in the saddle, made a swift beginning and disputed the early pace with Caitlyns Wish (52kgs), before Bold Belle (NZ) (The Bold One) attacked the pair out wider as Butler eased her mount into a perfect trail.

Rounding the home bend, Wewillrock took a direct path to the better going on the outside of the track however Butler had already angled into a similar space with Caitlyns Wish, and the pair set down to stage a length of the straight battle that went in favour of the Matamata mare by a long neck at the line.

Butler was all smiles afterwards as she explained the instructions that Autridge had encouraged her to follow.

"He (Autridge) said just be positive as she likes to be up there and although it didn't go exactly as he thought she relaxed lovely behind the pace and it was just a matter of letting her go today," Butler said.

"Once Bold Belle went around us, she really started breathing well and relaxed so nicely.

"They will all be coming down the outside today and I was always going to follow Riddell across (to the outside rail).

Bred by Dame Wendy and Don Pye from their lightly raced St. Petersburg mare Sinalot (NZ), Caitlyns Wish is a half-sister to former top South Island sprinter Carnival (NZ) (Showcasing) who numbered the Gr.3 Stewards Stakes (1200m) amongst her four career wins.

Autridge outlaid \$38,000 to purchase her from the Haunui Farm draft during the Book 2 sale at Karaka in 2021 and she is raced by the estate of the late Stan Painton, who passed away in 2022 after many years as a loyal client of the Autridge stable.

This was her fifth career win from just 14 starts and she has now earned over \$101,000 mark in prizemoney.

The victory took Butler to 24 wins for the season and inside the top 25 on the National Jockey's Premiership ladder.

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**



Race	WJC TAB Odds Surge Every Race At Whanganui 1200
Winner	Caitlyns Wish (NZ) 2019
Owners	Est late S L Painton
Trainer	Stephen Autridge (Matamata)
Breeding	by Belardo (IRE) out of Sinalot by St Petersburg (AUS)
Breeder	Don Pye & Dame Wendy Pye
Sales	2021 National Yearling Sale – Book 2; V: Haunui Farm, P: Mr SR Autridge; \$38,000

Eventual winner Caitlyns Wish (outside) and Wewillrock battle out the Open 1200m at Wanganui. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))





LITTLE BIT OF LOVE CAPS SUCCESSFUL DAY FOR WEXFORD STABLES

Wexford Stables enjoyed a winning afternoon on both sides of the Tasman on Saturday, including a fourth win in a row for breakthrough performer **Little Bit Of Love (NZ)** (Time Test) in the Elsdon Park (1400m) at Pukekohe.

Little Bit Of Love's heroics came less than an hour after his three-year-old stablemate Geriatrix (NZ) (Almanzor) took out the A\$85,000 HKJC Handicap (1400m) at Eagle Farm in his first Australian start.

"It's been a very special day today, and it's a credit to all of our team," said Lance O'Sullivan, who trains in partnership with Andrew Scott at Matamata.

This has been a coming-of-age campaign for Little Bit Of Love, who made his debut with a well-beaten ninth on his home track in December. The four-year-old son of Time Test was a maiden winner at Tauranga second-up in early January, followed by seventh and fifth placings in his next two starts. Then he started winning and never looked back.

Little Bit Of Love strung together three victories in a row at Te Rapa, producing booming finishes out wide on the track to win a 1300m Rating 65 and two 1400m Rating 75 events.

He stayed in the same grade again on Saturday but rose to the top of the handicap at 60.5kg, with apprentice jockey Ngakau Hailey reducing that impost to 57.5kg with his 3kg claim.

Hailey was in no hurry in the early stages of the race, easing back to third-last as his best-credentialled rival Wessex (NZ) (Turn Me Loose) took up her customary role in the lead.

Wessex still had plenty to offer at the top of the straight and scooted away from the field, while Hailey brought Little Bit Of Love to the outside to produce the finishing flourish that is becoming his trademark.

Little Bit Of Love hit top gear and soon drew up alongside Wessex, who fought back hard on his inside. In a head-bobbing battle through the last 100m, Little Bit Of Love gradually gained the upper hand and edged out Wessex by a head. The third-placed Jack In The Box (NZ) (Jakkalberry) finished another two lengths behind the first pair.

Little Bit Of Love has now had a total of eight starts for five wins, earning \$99,725 in stakes.



Little Bit Of Love won his fourth-straight race at Pukekohe on Saturday. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))

"He's really put things together this autumn," O'Sullivan said. "It's probably fair to say that he's no oil painting, but he tries very hard and that's a big part of the battle. It's not easy to win four races in a row.

"We'll get him home now and see how he comes through this race before deciding on our next move. He could go to the paddock, or there might be another race for him coming up somewhere. He's in such good form at the moment and gets through rain-affected ground well, and that's what we're racing on at the moment."

Little Bit Of Love was bred by Graham and Helen-Gaye Bax and is raced by the One Second Syndicate, managed by their daughter Kylie. He is a half-brother to the four-race winner and multiple stakes placegetter Cork (NZ) (Complacent).

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	ATR Elsdon Park 1400
Winner	Little Bit of Love (NZ) 2019
Owners	One Second Syndicate (Mgr: K. Bax)
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Time Test (GB) out of Little Bit of Irish by O'Reilly
Breeder	Mrs H G & W G Bax