

Sunday 15 December 2024

SNAZZYTAVI STORMS TO VICTORY IN TE RAPA FEATURE



Snazzytavi winning Saturday's Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes (1600m) at Te Rapa. (Trish Dunell)

Raging hot favourite **Snazzytavi (NZ)** (Tavistock) more than justified the torrent of support she received in the final minutes of betting prior to Saturday's Gr.2 Cal Isuzu Stakes (1600m), the feature event for the fillies and mares at Te Rapa.

The Graham Richardson and Rogan Norvall-prepared five-year-old was

making her first appearance since taking out the Gr.1 Livamol Classic (2040m) at the venue in October with a barn-storming late run and she repeated the pattern of that victory on Saturday.

Punters who backed her into the \$1.30 Fixed Odds favourite may have been feeling a little anxious when

regular pilot Warren Kennedy had her back equal last on a muddling speed set up by Reputation (NZ) (Iffraaj) and No Secret (NZ) (Niagara) for most of the contest.

Still second last approaching the home bend as things began to get serious near the lead, Kennedy made

Continued on page 2

SNAZZYTAVI STORMS TO VICTORY IN TE RAPA FEATURE

(Continued from page 1)

sure he had the daughter of Tavistock well balanced before asking her to extend in the run home.

With a few huge strides Snazzytavi ranged up to fellow Group One winner Campionessa (NZ) (Contributer) before breezing past her at the 150m mark as she headed to the winning post two lengths to the good of Campionessa with Hi Yo Sass Bomb (NZ) (Complacent) shading Bella Waters (NZ) (Sacred Falls) for third.

Richardson had been looking to see his charge relaxed during the running as he sets her for another Group One target on Boxing Day at Ellerslie and got exactly what he wanted with the performance.

"I was nervous but she keeps winning and she is such a good horse, those are the ones that make you the most nervous," Richardson said.

"They walked (in front) and she still settled which is just so important. I'm over the moon for her and all her connections.

"The goal for the season is the Zabeel Classic (Gr.1, 2000m) which I would love to win for her owners.

"She is just athletic, has an amazing stride on her and is tough. You wouldn't want to be married to her."

Kennedy stressed the importance of keeping the mare in a good rhythm during her races which allows her to deliver her best.

"She is something special and has really stepped up," he said.

"I was a little concerned about the pace as there didn't look to be a lot of speed, but I didn't want to change anything with her as we have been teaching her to get back (and relax).

"Full credit to Graham and Rogan as they have taken their time with her.

"She has been learning her craft and now it is paying dividends. She was absolutely cruising when she got sling-shotted into the race and I gave her one flick when we got up to Campionessa and it was all over.

"She has lived up to the Group One win she had and it's all systems go from here."

Bred by Gordon Cunningham under his Suncroft Bloodstock banner, Snazzytavi has now earned \$682,900 from her 14-start, eight-win career, for owners Brendan and Jo Lindsay, who stood the ill-fated Tavistock at Cambridge Stud before his untimely passing in 2019.

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

Race	Waikato TR Cal Isuzu S. Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Snazzytavi (NZ) 2019
Owners	Brendan Lindsay MNZM & Mrs J E A Lindsay
Trainer	Graham Richardson & Rogan Norvall (Matamata)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Ritzy Lady by Zabeel
Breeder	Suncroft Bloodstock



Snazzytavi co-trainer Graham Richardson (Trish Dunell)



THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK IN GOLD RUSH

The Grant and Alana Williams-trained **Western Empire (NZ)** (Iffraaj) has powered to victory in the A\$1.5 million Gr.3 Gold Rush (1400m) at Ascot in Perth on Saturday.

Ridden by Billy Egan, who was called off the bench when regular rider Willie Pike became unavailable earlier in the week, Western Empire travelled wide with cover throughout but unleashed a devastating turn of foot to defeat Magnificent Andy (Magnus) and favourite Super Smink (Super One).

It was shades of Western Empire's best as the now seven-year-old son of Iffraaj returned to the form that had seen him dominate Perth racing as a younger horse.

The son of Iffraaj won seven of his first 12 starts in 2020 and 2021, including a stunning four-length romp in the Gr.1 Railway Stakes (1600m) and victory in the Gr.2 WA Derby (2400m).

Western Empire was trained through those glory days by Grant and Alana Williams for leviathan Perth owner Bob Peters. The gelding subsequently had two campaigns in Victoria, finishing fifth in the Gr.1 Memsie Stakes (1400m) and Gr.1 Makybe Diva Stakes (1600m) for Danny O'Brien and finishing outside the placings in five appearances for John Leek Jr.

The Williams team jumped at the opportunity when Western Empire was placed on an Inglis Digital Sale last October, purchasing him for A\$150,000 and bringing him back to their Karnup stable.

Having campaigned over shorter distances this preparation including a last-start ninth to Overpass (Vancouver) in the Gr.1 Winterbottom Stakes (1200m), all looked on track for the grand final effort in the Gold Rush.

But when Willie Pike had a tumble from an e-scooter on Monday and as a result, broke his wrist, the cat was really put amongst the pigeons as the



Jockey Billy Egan gives Western Empire a pat as they cross the line in the A\$1.5 million Gr.3 Gold Rush (1400m) at Ascot in Perth on Saturday. (Western Racepix)

Williams scrambled for a replacement rider before eventually calling on Victorian Billy Egan, who they had never met previously.

"Everyone close to me knows I threw the teddy out of the cot on Monday and Tuesday. It is lucky Alana is the solid part between the two of us because she takes the emotion out of it," Grant Williams said.

"The Gold Rush has been our goal all along but he was working that good before the Winterbottom, we thought we were a chance to win it, and obviously we weren't.

"It has been a hectic week. A lot of people over East said this guy is a ripper. He is Paddy Payne's main rider and he is one of the hardest markers.

"He is a champion bloke they said and my first impressions when we met before the first were really good."

Egan, who had never previously ridden in Perth, was pleased he had a few sighters on some stablemates.

"It has been a pretty good week. I found out on Monday night in Melbourne that I was going to ride the

horse, so I've had the week to prepare and I have been looking forward to it all week," he said.

"First time riding here and I've had a great experience and even better, I've ridden a winner.

"I needed to get a feel for the track and a feel for the surroundings."

Bred in New Zealand by Peters Investments, Western Empire is by former Haunui Farm shuttle stallion Iffraaj and is out of Gr.2 Perth Cup (2400m) winner Western Jewel (Jeune).

The gelding has now won in excess of A\$2.7 million in prizemoney with 10 wins from a 28-start career.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WATC Gold Rush Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Western Empire (NZ) 2017
Owners	Mrs A D Williams, Mr A Latassa, Ms S J Leury
Trainer	Grant & Alana Williams (Karnup)
Breeding	by Iffraaj (GB) out of Western Jewel (AUS) by Jeune (Gb)
Breeder	Peters Investments Pty Ltd



ARMORY

CHAMPION SON OF GALILEO

- ▶ GR.1 HORSE AT AGES 2, 3, & 4
- ▶ 3YO COX PLATE PERFORMER
- ▶ FIRST YEARLINGS SELLING



MAPPERLEY STUD

CONTRIBUTER

PROVEN GROUP 1 SIRE

- ▶ 15.4% STAKES PERFORMERS
- ▶ 74% WINNERS IN AUSTRALIA
- ▶ 2 GR.1 WINNERS IN HIS 1ST CROP



BEAU DAZZLER STAMPS DERBY CREDENTIALS WITH GRAND PRIX ROMP

Kiwi-bred three-year-old **Beau Dazzler (NZ)** (Ardrossan) has flagged his staying ability with a strong victory in the Gr.3 Grand Prix Stakes (1800m) at Eagle Farm on Saturday for trainers Tony & Maddysen Sears.

The son of Ardrossan was the winner of the Listed Phelan Ready Stakes (1000m) as a juvenile and performed with credit when crossing the Tasman to finish seventh in the Karaka Million 2YO (1200m) when closing well.

The gelding again ran meritoriously and without luck when fourth in the Listed Phoenix Stakes (1500m) and fifth in the Gr.1 JJ Atkins Stakes (1600m) through the Queensland Winter Carnival, but all indicators are Beau Dazzler will appreciate getting out further in trip.

Now in his Classic season, Beau Dazzler overcame the inside draw on the deteriorating Heavy 8 surface under a well-plotted Jag Guthmann-Chester ride and relished the tempo added by eventual fourth Apuntar (The Mission) to power to a three-

length win from Sun Worshipper (Sun City) with Madame Lexis (Pariah) third.

"He has always shown us a lot but he is a very tricky horse," Maddy Sears said.

"He is not an easy horse to do things with and I do have to make mention of James who rides him every day as he is very naughty, but we thought he was a very good chance today.

"We bought him as a Derby-style of horse, and we didn't think the distance would be any problem whatsoever and when the rain came in it was almost like a 2000m race with how heavy it was.

"His ability prevailed, and it was a great ride by Jag. He drew barrier one, but he kept him off the fence and he just speared through and put them away."

Sears said Guthmann-Chester was an underrated rider.

"He is very strong and he vary rarely does things wrong on horses and he got the job done today," she said.

With a Gr.1 Queensland Derby (2400m) campaign the focus through the winter, Beau Dazzler is likely to have one more run this campaign.

"I believe there is a 2000m race in two weeks' time that he will run in and then we will put him away and I think he will be a force to be reckoned with in the Queensland Derby," Sears said.

"Paul Moroney and Catheryne Bruggeman bought him for us in New Zealand and we have had a lot of luck in those colours with Melvin (Foo) and Suat (Wee). He was obviously a stakes winner as a two-year-old and now he has gone on to do it as a three-year-old, so who knows what the future holds but he is a horse that keeps on improving.

"He is a very cool horse and I think there is a lot more in-store for him."

Beau Dazzler was offered by Mapperley Stud in Book 2 of Karaka 2023, where he was bought for \$85,000. Bred by the Dewar Partnership, Beau Dazzler is by Waikato Stud's promising young sire Ardrossan out of the Pentire mare Pwerfect, who comes from the family of northern hemisphere Group One stars such as Fame And Glory (Montjeu) and Legatissimo (Daneshill Dancer).

Beau Dazzler's juvenile younger full-brother Toretto is an early qualifier for next year's Karaka Million 2YO (1200m), having prevailed at Ellerslie a fortnight ago for Hollie Wynyard, while another full-brother will be offered as Lot 228 from the draft of Elsdon Park at next month's New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales. – **NZ Racing Desk**

Beau Dazzler scores a strong victory in the Gr.3 Grand Prix Stakes (1800m) at Eagle Farm on Saturday. (Grant Peters)

Race	BRC Grand Prix S. Gr.3 1800m
Winner	Beau Dazzler (NZ) 2021
Owners	Mrs S E Wee
Trainer	Tony & Maddysen Sears (Charlton)
Breeding	by Ardrossan (AUS) out of Pwerfect (AUS) by Pentire (GB)
Breeder	Dewar Partnership
Sales	2023 National Yearling Sale - Book2 V: Mapperley Stud Ltd \$85000 P: Paul Moroney B/stock / Catheryne Bruggeman / Sears Racing





BLUE SKY DREAMS COME TRUE AT TE RAPA

It may have only been a nose at the finish but it might as well have been a mile for trainer Shelley Hale after **Blue Sky At Night (NZ)** (Shamexpress) took out Saturday's Gr.3 SKYCITY Hamilton Waikato Cup (2400m).

Hale, who has battled ill-health in recent years, is one of the most popular figures at the Cambridge training establishment and has rejuvenated the career of the seven-year-old Shamexpress mare who has struck a rich vein of form, winning three of her seven starts since May, before tackling her biggest challenge on Saturday.

Ridden by Tayla Mitchell, who has formed a strong bond with the quirky mare, Blue Sky At Night was content to lob along in midfield before being eased into contention approaching the home bend.

Mitchell started to get busy as the widest runner in a line of five across the track at the 300m, shooting the mare two lengths clear and looking set for a comfortable victory.

No-one told Warren Kennedy aboard second favourite Sassy Lass (NZ) (Staphanos) who finally found clear air and charged after Blue Sky At Night, coming up just a nose short of victory in a thrilling photo finish.

Hale and owner-breeders Alistair and Isabel Barker were ecstatic when the judge announced the official placings after having to hold their breath for several minutes as they waited for word to come through.

"It's wonderful as we've always thought she might be capable of this," Hale said.

"It's a great thrill when you come to



Blue Sky At Night (outer) winning Saturday's Gr.3 SKYCITY Hamilton Waikato Cup (2400m) at Te Rapa. (Trish Dunell)

a race like this on your home track and just lovely.

"The Barkers are just wonderful and patient as there are not many seven-year-old mares still going around.

"She is a really relaxed horse who can get a little cranky at times, but these days she's very relaxed.

"Tayla was great as comes and rides work for us and the horses just run for her."

While the Barkers were ecstatic after the race, they are not strangers to big race success having also bred outstanding galloper Veyron (NZ) (Thorn Park) who won 15 races, including four individual Group One

victories and more than \$1.15 million during his 40 race career.

Blue Sky At Night is the first of just two living foals for Viking Ruler mare After Midnight (NZ) and has now won six of her 23 starts and more than \$234,00 in prizemoney.

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

Race	Waikato TR Waikato Cup Gr.3 2400m
Winner	Blue Sky at Night (NZ) 2017
Owners	A J & Mrs I M Barker
Trainer	Shelley Hale (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of After Midnight by Viking Ruler (AUS)
Breeder	A J & Mrs I M Barker



KELLY COE SPRINGS J SWAP SPRINT SURPRISE

Former Manawatu mare **Kelly Coe (NZ)** (Proisir) continued a golden run for her connections with a \$28 upset victory in Saturday's Gr.3 J Swap Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa.

Kelly Coe is trained by Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott, who racked up a career-best 66 winners last season and are setting a red-hot pace so far in 2024-25. Their 31 wins put them in second on the national premiership, and they have tasted black-type success with Grail Seeker (NZ) (Iffraaj) in the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m), Checkmate (NZ) (Mongolian Khan) in the Listed Armacup 3YO Stakes (1500m), Sethito (NZ) (Super Seth) in the Gr.3 Bonecrusher Stakes (1400m) and now Kelly Coe.

The Proisir mare races in the red and white colours of her owner-breeders Humphrey and Fiona O'Leary, who saw those same silks carried to Group One glory by Ladies Man (NZ) (Zed) in last Saturday's TAB Mufhasa Classic (1600m) at Trentham.

"They're pretty famous colours, and it's great to have them racing out of Wexford Stables with this mare," O'Sullivan said. "They just keep winning."

Kelly Coe has spent most of her career in the Awapuni stable of Ashley Meadows, for whom she won five of her 35 starts including last year's Listed Wanganui Cup (2040m). She also placed in the Gr.2 Awapuni Gold Cup (2000m) and Gr.3 Manawatu Breeders' Stakes (2000m), and she ran sixth in the Gr.1 Zabeel Classic (2000m).

All of those previous career highlights came over significantly longer distances than the 1400m of Saturday's J Swap Sprint, but Kelly Coe had resumed with an eye-catching finish from second-last among a 16-horse field in the Gr.3 Spring Sprint (1400m) in October. That was the seven-year-old's first start for O'Sullivan and Scott, who later set their sights on Saturday's \$120,000 feature over the same course and distance.

Kelly Coe drew the inside gate in the J Swap Sprint and was given a dream run in fourth spot by in-form jockey Masa Hashizume. She loomed on the outside of the front-running Mercurial (NZ) (Burgundy) after rounding the home turn, and that pair went to war through the final 250m.

Group One winner Mercurial fought for all he was worth under his 59kg topweight, but Kelly Coe kept coming and gradually got the upper hand. She pipped him by a head at the finish line, with Witz End (NZ) (Savabeel) another length and a quarter away in third. The 1400m were run in a quick 1:21.90.

"We just had a beautiful run from gate one," Hashizume said. "I knew Opie's horse (Mercurial)

was going to kick on the corner. I got up next to him quite easily in the straight, but he was hard to pass. We finally got there on the line, so I'm very happy. She'll definitely take a lot of improvement from this as well."

Kelly Coe has now had 37 starts for seven wins, nine placings and \$293,000 in stakes.

O'Sullivan admitted that Saturday's performance took the Wexford team by surprise.

"The owners sent her up to us to train this season, so it's really nice to win a race like this with her," he said. "We probably didn't expect her to settle in such a handy position and then finish it off like that. We actually thought she might be a better chance in a race like the Rich Hill Mile (Gr.2, 1600m) in a couple of weeks than she was today, but it's a great result. Who knows, we could still carry on into something like the Rich Hill now. But we're very happy to get this result today."

Kelly Coe holds nominations for the Gr.1 Thorndon Mile (1600m) at Trentham on January 11 and the Gr.1 Herbie Dyke Stakes (2000m) back at Te Rapa on February 8.

One of 15 individual stakes winners for Rich Hill Stud stallion Proisir, Kelly Coe is out of the Fasliyev mare Floiridita, who herself won two races and placed in the Listed Canterbury Belle Stakes (1200m). The O'Learys paid just \$3,500 to buy Floiridita from the 2017 New Zealand Bloodstock National Broodmare Sale at Karaka. – **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**

Race	Waikato TR J Swap Sprint H. Gr.3 1400m
Winner	Kelly Coe (NZ) 2017
Owners	F J & H T O'Leary
Trainer	Lance O'Sullivan & Andrew Scott (Matamata)
Breeding	by Proisir (AUS) out of Floiridita (AUS) by Fasliyev (USA)
Breeder	F J & H T O'Leary



Kelly Coe winning Saturday's Gr.3 J Swap Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))

RICH HILL STALLION POWER @ KARAKA 2025

BOOK 1 **53** BOOK 2 **10**



PROISIR

CHAMPION NZ SIRE of 2022-23.

SIX GROUP 1 WINNERS in the last two seasons.

Sold up to \$1.6 MILLION @Karaka 2024.

BOOK 1 **40** BOOK 2 **17**



**SATONO
ALADDIN**

**ELITE SIRE STATS for Australasia's
Leading DEEP IMPACT SIRE...**

11.9% GROUP WINNERS-TO-FOALS for 2023-24 3YOs.

Sold up to \$900,000 @Karaka 2024.

BOOK 1 **7** BOOK 2 **18**



ACE HIGH

Rich Hill's RISING STAR...

**Sire of first-crop Group 1 winner &
3YO Filly of The Year MOLLY BLOOM.**

BOOK 1 **2** BOOK 2 **11**



SHOCKING

**Australasia's PROVEN
CUPS & CLASSICS SIRE...**

**His 43 STAKES PERFORMERS includes
GROUP 1 STARS - I'M THUNDERSTRUCK,
EL VENCEDOR, DEFIBRILATE & FANATIC.**



Contact:

John Thompson +64 21 779 931 or Karl Mihaljevich +64 21 247 8892

p +64 7 888 3833 **e** richhillstud@xtra.co.nz **www.richhillstud.co.nz**

WELL-BRED STAYER **BAGS CHRISTMAS CUP**

Progressive stayer **Kadavar (NZ)** (Tarzino) maintained his perfect record over 2400m when recording a strong win in the Listed Christmas Cup (2400m) at Randwick on Saturday.

The Chris Waller-trained four-year-old is in a rich vein of form, notching a hat-trick of victories including bouncing between assignments in Sydney and Melbourne and has now won all four of his 2400m starts.

Ridden by Kerrin McEvoy, Kadavar took up a more forward position after initially settling midfield and tracked eventual runner-up Alalcance (Mastercraftsman), who shot to the lead before being gradually worn down by the winner.

The son of Gr.1 VRC Derby (2500m) winner Tarzino and Gr.1 VRC Oaks (2500m) winner Arapaho Miss (Danehill Dancer) is now doing exactly what his pedigree suggests.

"He has turned into a winner, that's for sure," Waller said.

"He has been up and down the country-side but he is enjoying his racing and he keeps going to another level each time he runs.

"I think he is four from four over 2400m and he is out of an Oaks winner and he is a sibling to an Oaks winner.

"I think he will get to a higher-level. That will do for this prep but if you have got a good stayer, there are some good races for them."

Winning jockey Kerrin McEvoy was not surprised to see Kadavar again perform well, especially off the limit weight of 53kgs.

"I knew he would run the trip well and he got out into a nice spot and the horse in front of me wasn't really travelling and taking me along and was almost getting detached from the horses I thought were going to be hardest to beat," he said.

"I was able to come out, make a bit of a move and be a bit closer around



Kadavar maintained his perfect record over 2400m with a strong win in the Listed Christmas Cup (2400m) at Randwick. (bradleyphotos.com.au)

the back lane and he showed a good attitude when I asked him."

Kadavar has had 13 starts for six wins and two placings, earning A\$351,525 for owners Neville Morgan and David Devine.

Kadavar was bred by Gerry Harvey and was offered in Westbury Stud's draft at Karaka 2022, where Mulcaster Bloodstock and Chris Waller Racing bought him for \$300,000.

He is one of seven winners from nine foals to race out of the Danehill Dancer mare Arapaho Miss, who won the 2007 Gr.1 VRC Oaks (2500m).

Her daughter Miami Bound (NZ) (Reliable Man) followed suit with her

own victory in the Flemington fillies' classic in 2019, while De Little Engine (Encosta De Lago) won eight races up to Listed level. – **NZ Racing Desk**

Race	ATC Christmas Cup L 2400m
Winner	Kadavar (NZ) 2020
Owners	Mr N Morgan, Mr D H T Devine
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Tarzino out of Arapaho Miss (AUS) by Danehill Dancer (IRE)
Breeder	G Harvey
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Westbury Stud \$300000 P: Mulcaster B/stock/Chris Waller Racing

JEDIBEEL EXPLOSIVE IN RAZOR SHARP

Talented sprinter **Jedibeel (NZ)** (Savabeel) took his career to a new peak when successful in the Listed Razor Sharp Handicap (1200m) at Randwick on Saturday after gaining a late split under Tyler Schiller to grab victory from the jaws of defeat.

Schiller, who rides with a calmness rarely seen, was hell-bent on waiting for a gap after being cluttered in midfield and he took full opportunity when presented with a needle-eye to defeat Pereille (Fastnet Rock) and Eagle Nest (Shalaa).

The Brad Widdup-trained son of Savabeel has now won seven races from 17 starts, with a further seven placings as he advanced his career earnings to A\$527,150.

"It was a hard-watch until the last few strides but full credit to Tyler, he knows him, and it is great to see the horse get rewarded," Widdup said.

"He has got a great record. I think he is a black-type horse every day of the week and he has proved that today."

Schiller rode conservatively to give Jedibeel the best opportunity to prevail over a distance he had never previously won over.

"I knew he wouldn't have been strong at the 1200m and he has never won at Randwick, so I was pretty patient and I didn't want to expose him too early and do anything rash on him," Schiller said.

"He has got a great turn of foot and I thought I put him into a dead-end at one point but I was very grateful I was on a very good horse. He is probably better off ridden like that, but maybe not that close.

"He is such a genuine horse. I think his sprint is not very long which is probably why he doesn't get 1200m all the time and especially at Randwick

coming up the rise but Brad has done a great job with him and it is great to get winners for these owners, they are great people and he is just a really good horse for me."

Jedibeel was bred by Waikato Stud and is out of their unraced O'Reilly mare Starry (NZ). The five-year-old gelding is one of five winners from six foals to race out of Starry – a group that also includes the Dunstan Feeds Stayers' Championship (2400m) winner and multiple Group Three placegetter Starrybeel (NZ) (Savabeel).

But despite being a full-brother to that genuine stayer, there is also no shortage of speed in Jedibeel's pedigree, which notably features multiple Group One winner I Wish I Win (NZ) (Savabeel).

Waikato Stud offered Jedibeel during the National Weanling Sale on Gavelhouse Plus in 2020, where he was bought for \$35,000 by Dengaroka Lodge in New South Wales. Jedibeel was later purchased by Widdup as a

yearling for \$190,000 at the Sydney Classic Sale after fielding a phone call from Sydney businessman Mike Gregg.

Gregg races Jedibeel in the bumble bee colours of his Sydney University of NSW cricket club, along with his grandson Locky Sheridan.

The Oaks Stud will offer a three-quarter sister to Jedibeel as Lot 329 of next month's New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales, with the filly from the first-crop of Savabeel's son Noverre and out of Starry.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	ATC Razor Sharp H. L 1200m
Winner	Jedibeel (NZ) 2019
Owners	Mr M J Gregg, Mr L Sheridan
Trainer	Brad Widdup (Hawkesbury)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Starry by O'Reilly
Breeder	Waikato Stud Ltd
Sales	2020 National Weanling Sale V: Waikato Stud Ltd \$35000 P: Dengaroka Lodge



Jedibeel was explosive in the Listed Razor Sharp Handicap (1200m) at Randwick on Saturday. (bradleyphotos.com.au)



RANDWICK BREAKTHROUGH FOR SALTCOATS

Four-year-old gelding **Saltcoats (NZ)** (Ardrossan) has posted his first victory on Australian soil when coming with a sustained run to land the Coolmore Spelling @ Mount White Handicap (1800m) at Randwick on Saturday.

The Chris Waller-trained son of Ardrossan came from near the rear of the field under Tommy Berry and made a long sustained run to defeat fellow Kiwi-breds So Dazzling (NZ) (So You Think) and Tavi Time (NZ) (Tavistock) by the best part of a length.

Winner of the Listed Auckland Futurity Stakes (1400m) in May of his juvenile year for original trainer Samantha Logan, the talented galloper was sold across the Tasman and sports the colours of prominent owner Ozzie Kheir. He races for a syndicate with breeder and original sole owner of the horse Lib Petagna retaining a share.

"He has always shown us promise but we didn't know what to expect today from the draw (13)," Waller said.

"I said to just go back and ride him quietly and hope that he can blend into the race, which he certainly did and he sustained a long run.

"He had a small incident before the start of this preparation which has held him back and it looks like he is in good shape now."

Sent out a \$12 chance, Saltcoats had been a well-beaten tenth first-up on a Good3 track at Kembla Grange.

"It was definitely too firm at Kembla Grange last start, which was disappointing because he was going so well," winning rider Tommy Berry said.

"I said to my manager that we just need to draw a gate and I think he can win next start. He has just been doing everything right at home and working very well.

"I had in the back of my mind to go forward and Chris said nup – not today, we'll go back and get a little bit of luck.

"Probably the winning was down the side. There was a three-wide line and I was able to improve into the race

still with cover and he is only second-up at 1800m, so he has got a bit of improvement and Chris is taking his time with him, which is dearly needed.

"He is quite a keen going horse and you don't know what is there until you let him off the bit but he deserved that today."

Now the winner of two of his 10 starts with a further five placings, Saltcoats was third in the Gr.2 Tulloch Stakes (2000m) won by Wymark back in March.

By promising Waikato Stud stallion Ardrossan, Saltcoats is out of the lightly raced Savabeel mare Savanite (NZ), a half-sister to the Gr.2 Waikato Gold Cup (2400m) winner Singing Star (NZ) (Danisinga), who in turn is the dam of Group Three winner Miss Selby (NZ) (O'Reilly).

A Group One performed half-brother to Incentivise (Shamus Award), Ardrossan stands at a fee of \$20,000+GST at Waikato Stud.

With just 52 runners to date, Ardrossan has sired seven stakes performers and four stakes winners for good early figures of 7.7% stakes winners to runners. – **NZ Racing Desk**



Race	ATC Coolmore Spelling at Mount White H. 1800m
Winner	Saltcoats (NZ) 2020
Owners	Mr A Kheir, Mr J A O'Neill, YES Bloodstock, Carty Racing, Mr L Petagna, A K Racing, Mr B D Nettlefold, Mr D Edmonds, Cookie Racing, Mr B J O'Brien, Baggers Naggers
Trainer	Chris Waller (Rosehill)
Breeding	by Ardrossan (AUS) out of Savanite by Savabeel (AUS)
Breeder	JML Bloodstock Ltd

Saltcoats scores his first victory on Australian soil. (bradleyphotos.com.au)





KING OF COMEDY

*"The **BEST** 3yo in Europe,"* – TIMEFORM, 2019



BY KINGMAN – The Best Young Sire in Europe – Two Group 1 winners from 5 runners
in Australia from his 2020 Southern Hemisphere crop – King Colorado & Zardozi
TIMEFORM – “Bred in the purple and a most taking sort on looks”

KENNEDY DRIVES MARBLE ARCH TO CAULFIELD TRIUMPH

It was a case of ex-pat Kiwis combining as Jaylah Kennedy enjoyed another memorable day at the Caulfield Heath on Saturday, as she celebrated a double on the program.

Seven days after starring at Ballarat by winning the Ballarat Cup aboard Berkeley Square (Territories), Kennedy guided Thailless and former Kiwi galloper **Marble Arch (NZ)** (Per Incanto) to glory at the main Melbourne race meeting for the weekend.

Saturday's success was the second this preparation for Per Incanto mare Marble Arch, who won the inaugural A\$300,000 Future Stars Series Final at Pakenham last year.

The Ben, Will and JD Hayes-trained mare stormed over the top of the hot favourite Warnie to claim victory in the Ive – idea – execution Handicap (1500m).

"We drew really well, there was going to be good speed on always, then I was just able to get in behind that and I wasn't a part of that battle," Kennedy explained.

"We had plenty of horse underneath me, we got off the fence at the right time and followed the right horses into the turn, and she was really good with the lightweight."

Kennedy has capitalised on her recent opportunities at metropolitan level. Prior to Saturday, the Kiwi apprentice had ridden two other winners at the Heath track this month and was also in the winners' circle at Caulfield on Thousand Guineas Day last month.

A daughter of Little Avondale Stud's outstanding sire Per Incanto, Marble



Marble Arch claims victory in the Ive – idea – execution Handicap (1500m). (Bruno Cannatelli)

Arch was purchased privately by the Lindsay Park team after finishing third at Wanganui in her only start in New Zealand for trainer Wayne Marshment.

Bred by Goodwood Stud, Marble Arch is out of the four-win Sakhee's Secret mare Jonquil (NZ) and stems from the family of Group One winners Atishu (NZ) (Savabeel) and Daffodil (NZ) (No Excuse Needed).

The now five-year-old mare was initially sold as a weanling for just \$3,100 via gavelhouse.com.

Saturday's victory was Marble Arch's seventh career win from 18 starts, with a further three placings, as she advanced her career earnings to A\$456,546.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC Ive Idea Execution H. 1500m
Winner	Marble Arch (NZ) 2019
Owners	Lindsay Park Bloodstock, Mr S R Thompson, Mrs V M Thompson, Blacktype Racing, Mr R M Jarvis, Mr M D Antill, Mr S W Bruhn, Mrs L J Bruhn, Mrs T De Pasquale, Mr P C Kane, Ms L Marlow, Proline Thoroughbreds, Mr A J Serry, Mr M J Gamble, Mr A J Graham, Miss B J Francis, The Firm, Mr S A Fitzgerald, Mr M Gilbert, Mrs S D Jarvis
Trainer	Ben, Will & JD Hayes (Flemington)
Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Jonquil by Sakhee's Secret (GB)
Breeder	Goodwood Stud Ltd
Sales	2020 NZ 25 May Online Auction V: Goodwood Stud \$3100 P: Peter Wood

PATIENCE PAYING OFF WITH PROMISING ROSE

The Akau Racing resisted the temptation of a big spring campaign with promising filly **Damask Rose (NZ)** (Savabeel), and their patience could be rewarded in a pair of seven-figure races at Ellerslie later in the season.

The lightly raced daughter of Savabeel made her first raceday appearance since September in Saturday's Wentwood Grange 3YO (1200m), where she lived up to her \$1.80 favouritism with an effortless win.

It was the second victory of a four-start career for Damask Rose, who won on debut at New Plymouth in late December of last year before finishing second to Velocious (Written Tycoon) in the Karaka Millions 2YO (1200m) at Ellerslie. In her only other start, she ran an eye-catching third behind quality fillies Alabama Lass (Alabama Express) and Captured By Love (Written Tycoon) in the Gr.3 Gold Trail Stakes (1200m) at Hastings on September 7.

The \$550,000 Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton was an appealing spring target for a filly who had performed so strongly in her three-year-old debut, but trainers

Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson decided to play a longer game. They still won the 1000 Guineas with Captured By Love, and now the summer might be Damask Rose's time to shine.

"We resisted the temptation of going to Riccarton with this filly," Walker said on Saturday. "We're working our way backwards from the Karaka Millions 3YO (1600m) and the NZB Kiwi (1500m).

"We just thought we'd give Riccarton a miss, and that would give her the best chance of getting to those two big races in Auckland. They can't go to every dance. I think we've done the right thing.

"She had a few weeks out at the farm after the Gold Trail, where she put on some good condition and has come back looking super.

"She's a really nice filly. She could potentially end up being pretty good, I think. Her next start will be in the Auckland Guineas (Gr.2, 1400m) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day."

Ridden by Opie Bosson with a testing 59kg topweight,

Continued on page 15



Damask Rose winning the Wentwood Grange 3YO (1200m) at Te Rapa on Saturday. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))

Sunday 15 December 2024

PATIENCE PAYING OFF WITH PROMISING ROSE

(Continued from page 14)

Damask Rose took up a comfortable position in fourth as her stablemate Maracatu (NZ) (Ardrossan) set an even tempo. Bosson began to urge Damask Rose along just before the home turn, and she clicked into gear in the straight and soon strode to the front.

Damask Rose cruised away from a tiring Maracatu and opened up a big lead, ultimately winning by a length and three-quarters over the strong-finishing Sought After.

"She gave me a great feel," Bosson said. "I had her off the nickel for a fair bit of the race, but she's quite a laid-back type of horse.

"She feels like she's back, big time. The further she goes, the better she'll be. I think she has a chance to go on and win races like the Karaka Millions and the new slot race."

The TAB reacted to Saturday's win by cutting Damask Rose from \$8 into \$4 for the Karaka Millions 3YO at Ellerslie on January 25. She now also holds a prominent position at \$10 in the market for the NZB Kiwi on March 8, for which Te Akau Racing owns a slot.



This three-year-old race on Waikato Cup Day at Te Rapa is a proven springboard to better things for Te Akau Racing. Quintessa (NZ) (Shamus Award) placed in the race last year and went on to win the Gr.1 Levin Classic (1600m), while the stable has previously won this event with subsequent Group Two winners Wild Night (NZ) (Vanbrugh) and Brando (NZ) (Savabeel).

Damask Rose was bred by Tony Rider, who offered her under his Milan Park banner in Book 1 of Karaka 2023. David Ellis secured the well-related filly for \$200,000.

"I'd like to congratulate everyone for the patience they've shown with this filly," Ellis said. "We deliberately turned her out for good spell after racing earlier in the season, because our goal was to have her ready for top races after New Year's Day, and after seeing her win like that, we feel that we're on target.

"It was her first start for some time, so to win like that was really impressive. Congratulations to Mark and Sam and all the staff that look after her for the way they've prepared her."

Runner-up Sought After (NZ) (Tivaci), who is locked in as Waikato Stud's representative for the NZB Kiwi, lost no admirers with his performance on Saturday. He settled in a clear last after a slow start, but made up plenty of ground in the final 200m.

– LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.

Race	Waikato TR Wentwood Grange H. 1200m
Winner	Damask Rose (NZ) 2021
Owners	Te Akau Coming Up Roses Racing Partnership (Mgr: Karyn Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Mark Walker & Sam Bergerson (Matamata)
Breeding	by Savabeel (AUS) out of Sombreuil (AUS) by Flying Spur (AUS)
Breeder	T V Rider
Sales	2023 National Yearling Sale - Book1 V: Milan Park \$200000 P: DC Ellis CNZM (BAFNZ)

Co-trainer Mark Walker (Ajay Berry (Race Images South))



Evaporate (Per Incanto x Savanna)
1st Gr.2 Bill Stutt Stakes
3rd Gr.1 Caulfield Guineas



Jimmysstar (Per Incanto x Anniestar)
1st LISTED Weekend Hussler Stakes
2nd Gr.2 Damien Oliver Hcp

PER INCANTO'S STARS OF SPRING 2024

"Currently NZ's leading sire on the Australian General Sires Premiership in 9th place"



Belclare (Per Incanto x Miss Rhythmic)
1st Gr.2 Hot Danish Stakes
1st A\$2 million THE INVITATION



Gringotts (Per Incanto x Miss Bluebell)
1st Gr.3 Illawarra Mercury The Gong
1st A\$3 million The BIG DANCE
2nd Gr.3 Bill Ritchie Hcp



Sunday 15 December 2024

SWEET START FOR TE RAPA LOCAL

Local trainer David Greene made the best possible start to SkyCity Waikato Cup Day on his home track at Te Rapa when his debutant **Sweet Ice (NZ)** (Frosted) took out the ICIB Brokerweb-Insurance Brokers 2YO (1100m).

Greene, who produced his 100th career winner back in May with Goldiluxe (NZ) (Ghibellines), had the well-named son of Frosted ready to go at his first time on race day after two placed efforts at the Te Awamutu trials and he delivered in fine but wayward style for rider Sam Spratt.

Spratt bounced Sweet Ice out nicely from a midfield barrier and took up a position at the head of affairs throughout.

It was apparent the gelding was travelling nicely rounding the home bend as he shot two lengths clear from the chasing pack headed by Curzon Park (NZ) (Ribchester) and Towering Vision (NZ) (Circus Maximus).

Despite being dominant in the closing stages Sweet Ice drifted out sharply at the 100m before balancing up again to win by a neat length from Curzon Park who shaded Towering Vision for the runner-up slot. Shortly after pulling up the protest siren sounded however, despite the outward

movement, Sweet Ice held the race much to the delight of his large group of owners.

Greene was sporting a smile a mile wide when questioned about the performance.

"It's pretty nice as it has been a couple of years since we won on Cup day here," Greene said.

"It's good to win on my favourite day of the year.

"We've never really asked too much of him although has always appealed as a well above (average) athlete.

"He still has a few things to learn as you could see, but he is a talent.

"It was a field of two-year-olds going past big screens and the like, while it can get a bit lonely out there in front on your own, so he might have been looking for his friends (when running around)."

Whilst the horse had been paid up for the rich Karaka Million series, Greene hadn't been considering a start in the TAB Karaka Millions 2YO (1200m) at Ellerslie next month but admitted he may have to reassess his plans now.

"I didn't think he was really a Karaka Million type of horse this year," he said.

"However, the owners won't let me get away with not having a crack at that race now."

Spratt was also suitably impressed as she noted there was plenty of petrol left in the tank despite the wayward finish by the horse.

"He has got huge ability and has always shown a lot but he is as green as," she said.

"He got me his first trial but improved a little bit for his second one and still has lengths left in him.

"I thought I was going to do a U-turn halfway up the straight but he managed to stick on.

"He did that with his ears pricked despite running around everywhere, so when he puts it together and knuckles down he will be pretty good."

Purchased by Greene for \$55,000 out of the Pencarrow Stud draft during the Book 1 Sale at Karaka back in January, Sweet Ice is the son of stakes placed Darci Brahma mare, Deliciano (NZ).

His granddam is Group Two winner Santagostino (Giant's Causeway), a half-sister to Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks (2400m) winner Vapour Trail (NZ) (Jetball).

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	Waikato TR ICIB Insurance 2YO S. 1100m
Winner	Sweet Ice (NZ) 2022
Owners	L W Greene, I G King, Q Maisey, J C Morell, OBM Syndicate, J & Mrs S Thorburn & G N Trotter
Trainer	David Greene (Te Rapa)
Breeding	by Frosted (USA) out of Deliciano by Darci Brahma
Breeder	Pencarrow Thoroughbreds Ltd
Sales	2024 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Pencarrow Stud \$55000 P: Greene Racing Ltd



Sweet Ice winning the ICIB Brokerweb-Insurance Brokers 2YO (1100m) at Te Rapa on Saturday. (Trish Dunell)



WILLIS DIGS DEEP FOR ASCOT PARK SUCCESS

Talented local gelding **Willis (NZ)** (Vadamos) overcame a tough wide run and a determined rival to score a narrow victory in Saturday's Howley Joinery Handicap (1400m) at Ascot Park.

Willis was one of the South Island's notable improvers last season, winning in Rating 65 and Rating 75 grade before finishing third in the \$200,000 Southern Mile Final (1600m) at Wingatui and second in the inaugural \$350,000 Southern Alps Challenge (1600m) at Riccarton.

The Vadamos gelding went into Saturday's race on the back of a third placing in the Winton Cup over the same course and distance on November 24, where he was fractious in the gates, very slow to jump and dropped out to be a distant last. He made up an impressive amount of ground in the straight to end up only two and three-quarter lengths from the winner.

That performance saw Willis step out as one of the favourites on Saturday at \$3.40, and he produced another top-drawer performance.

Race	Southland RC Howley Joinery H. 1400m
Winner	Willis (NZ) 2018
Owners	B J, H R, Mrs S C & Ms V E Howden
Trainer	Barry Howden (Makarewa)
Breeding	by Vadamos (FR) out of Valee by Savabeel (AUS)
Breeder	B J Lindsay MNZM & Mrs J E A Lindsay
Sales	2020 NZ 25 May Online Auction V: Cambridge Stud \$1600 P: Virginia Howden

Drawn gate seven in a field of eight, Willis and jockey Tina Comignaghi found themselves caught out wide in the early stages of the \$50,000 feature. Comignaghi had no choice but to push forward, surging around the outside of the field to move up alongside the front-running The Radiant One (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

That pair kicked away from the rest of the field at the home turn and then had the finish all to themselves. They fought out a head-bobbing duel through the final 200m, with The Radiant One refusing to surrender, but Willis slowly but surely gained a narrow advantage and prevailed by a head. The Radiant One finished two and a half lengths ahead of the third-placed Inflamed (NZ) (Ghibellines).

Willis was a \$1600 purchase from Gavelhouse.com in May of 2020. He has now had 19 starts for four wins, six placings and \$170,780 in stakes. The six-year-old is trained by Barry Howden, who shares ownership with a number of family members.

"I'm pretty pleased with that," Howden said. "He brought himself undone last time, so it's good to see him turn it around today. He didn't have an easy time of it either, being caught wide and having to push forward. I think he's better when he gets up over a mile too, so it's very pleasing.

"He placed in a couple of those big races last autumn and has a fair bit of ability. I'm not sure where we'll go with him this time in, so I'll talk to Tina and see what she thinks. But one possible target might be the Timaru Cup (1600m)."

The \$80,000 Timaru Cup will be run at Phar Lap Raceway on

December 28.

Willis headlined a strong start to the locals on Saturday's Invercargill card. The previous race was won by Stygian (NZ) (Redwood) for Ascot Park owner-trainer Kalai Selvan.

"It's been a pretty good day for us locals," Howden said. "I'm very pleased for Kalai that he got that win. His father died a few days ago, so that will mean a bit to him."

Fellow Ascot Park trainer Robert Dennis won the first two races of the day with Medina (NZ) (American Pharoah) and On Song (NZ) (The Bold One).

– LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.



Willis winning the Howley Joinery Handicap (1400m) at Ascot Park on Saturday. (Monica Toretto)