

Sunday 7 January 2024

## CANHEROC CLAIMS MARTON CUP



*Canheroc strides away a dominant victor in the Listed Marton Jockey Club Marton Cup (2200m) at Hastings on Saturday.  
(Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*

A day after his connections took a leap of faith with a late nomination for the Gr.3 Wellington Cup (3200m), emerging stayer **Canheroc (NZ)** (El Roca) rewarded their confidence with a powerful lead-up performance in the Listed Marton Jockey Club Marton Cup (2200m) at Hastings on Saturday.

Canheroc had risen steadily through the North Island's staying

ranks in recent months, culminating in a close third behind subsequent Group Three winner Trust In You (NZ) (Sweynesse) in the Dunstan Feeds Stayers' Championship Final (2400m) at Pukekohe on Boxing Day.

The El Roca gelding took another step up for Saturday's \$80,000 feature, and he rose to the occasion in style with a dominant five-length win. The TAB now rates him a \$6 chance for the

Wellington Cup on January 20, sharing second favouritism with Waisake (NZ) (Zed). Mary Louise (NZ) (The Bold One) is the market leader at \$5.

"Friday was the deadline to put in a late nomination for the Wellington Cup, so we took a punt and paid up, hoping that he'd justify it with a good run today," trainer Chris Wood said.

*Continued on page 3*



# 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”





# CANHEROC CLAIMS MARTON CUP

(Continued from page 1)

"It's all worked out really well and his performance has given us a bit of confidence to have a crack at Trentham in a couple of weeks' time.

"I'm pretty sure he'll run two miles. You never know for sure until you try it, but he races like a horse who'll see the distance out strongly. We'll just have to hope that they run the Wellington Cup at a reasonable tempo and he gets every chance."

Wood admitted to some concerns about the deteriorating Heavy8 track on Saturday, but Canheroc was nevertheless sent out as a \$4.40 favourite and blew his nine rivals off the racetrack.

Kelly Myers, who was riding the six-year-old for the first time, got him to settle into a smooth rhythm in midfield as Madame Le Fay (Smart Missile) set a strong pace out in front.

The leader began to tire approaching the home turn and the field bunched up tightly. Myers brought Canheroc out into clear air down the extreme outside and let him rip in the straight. He swept to the lead at the 200m mark and romped clear to win with ease from Prince Alby (NZ) (Sacred Falls) and Never Look Back (NZ) (Shocking).

"That was a really good performance," Wood said. "I was a little bit worried when the second lot of rain came today, but he seemed to get through the ground comfortably enough.

"Kelly did a very good job on him today. She got him to settle really well and got him to the right part of the track when it mattered.

"There was a good tempo, which is always such a big help for staying

horses like him, and once Kelly got him into the clear, he was away."

Canheroc has now had 27 starts for four wins, seven placings and \$187,305 in stakes for her owner-breeders, Taranaki's Schumacher family.

Canheroc became the ninth individual stakes winner for Westbury Stud stallion El Roca, and he is the best of three foals to race out of the twice-winning Colombia mare Goldie Cantride (NZ).

– By Richard Edmunds,  
LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

Race	HRI Marton Jockey Club Marton Cup Listed 2200m
Winner	Canheroc (NZ) 2017
Owners	A D & K J Schumacher
Trainer	Chris Wood (Cambridge)
Breeding	by El Roca (AUS) out of Goldie Cantride by Colombia
Breeder	A D, B M & K J Schumacher

## WHAT IF I FALL?

**SEE YOUR POTENTIAL**

Apply now for Godolphin Flying Start  
and take flight on your journey as a future leader.

Oh, but what if you fly?



**Godolphin**  
Flying Start  
Leading to Success



racingnews.co.nz



# HOLYMANZ PUTS HAND UP FOR AOTEAROA CLASSIC

The highly talented **Holymanz (NZ)** (Almanzor) is in line for a return to the country of his birth after scoring an effortless win in the A\$300,000 Coastal Classic (1700m) at Geelong on Saturday.

The four-year-old races in the colours of Cambridge Stud owners Brendan and Jo Lindsay, who are keen to contest the inaugural \$1 million Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic (1600m) at Ellerslie on January 27. The TAB reacted to Saturday's performance by cutting his odds for the four-year-old feature from \$14 to \$8. He is now an equal third favourite alongside Desert Lightning (NZ) (Pride of Dubai) in a market headed by Legarto (NZ) (Proisir) (\$2.60) and Wild Night (NZ) (Vanbrugh) (\$6).

Regardless of what the future holds for Holymanz, Saturday's feature win was itself an enormously satisfying result for the gelding's connections. After showing bright potential as a three-year-old including a second placing in the Gr.3 CS Hayes Stakes (1400m) at Flemington, his progress was interrupted by a fall in the Gr.1 Australian Guineas (1600m) that dented his confidence.

But trainers Ciaron Maher and David Eustace have brought him back to the peak of his powers as a four-year-old, winning two of his last three races. His 12-start career has now produced four wins, three placings and A\$371,050 in stakes.

"He's progressive," assistant trainer Jack Turnbull said.

"Henry Plumptre and Cambridge Stud have always thought he was a Group horse. He had a tumble in the Guineas last year, and he was travelling at that point of the race. It knocked him around. Even for him to come back and get back into winning form is fantastic.

"We set the horse for this race, and now that we've got this result, it leads on to a nice potential option at the Karaka Millions meeting in New Zealand in three weeks' time."

Holymanz was sent out as a \$3.20 favourite, and jockey Michael Dee was delighted with how the horse was travelling throughout the race. He sat in a handy position before cruising into contention at the top of the straight while still under a tight hold.

Holymanz quickened in the straight and soon put the result beyond doubt, coasting to victory by three-quarters of a length over the fellow New Zealand-bred Bermadez (NZ) (Tavistock).

"I knew that I didn't want to lead today," Dee said. "I was confident that Keats and Independent Road would make the move and go to the front, but it did take a fair while for that to eventuate. I was happy with where we were. We were able to hold a spot one off the fence.

"I wanted to stay off the fence, because we feel that he's a better horse when he's ridden outside horses and given plenty of room. He towed me into it coming down the hill, and he made easy work of it in the end."

Cambridge Stud purchased the chestnut son of their shuttle stallion Almanzor for A\$400,000 as a yearling in Sydney in conjunction with Nicolas de Chambure of Haras d'Etreham, home to the high-class stallion in the Northern Hemisphere.

Holymanz was offered by Lime Country Thoroughbreds on behalf of breeder Jamieson Park. He is out of the winning Dubawi mare Perfect Offering, who is a half-sister to the stakes winner and Group performer My Country (Poet's Voice).

– NZ Racing Desk.

<b>Race</b>	<b>GRC Coastal Classic 1700m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Holymanz (NZ) 2019</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mr B J Lindsay, Mrs J E A Lindsay, Mr N De Chambure</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Ciaron Maher &amp; David Eustace (Cranbourne)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Almanzor (FR) out of Perfect Offering (AUS) by Dubawi (IRE)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Jamieson Park Ltd</b>



Holymanz justified his race favourite status with a win in the Coastal Classic at Geelong on Saturday. (Grant Courtney)







# LYRICAL GANGSTER HEADS KIWI-BRED QUINELLA AT RANDWICK

A gear change and a favourable race tempo helped to unlock the potential of **Lyrical Gangster (NZ)** (Proisir) with an impressive win in Saturday's A\$160,000 Climate Roofing Handicap (2000m) at Randwick.

The Proisir gelding headed a New Zealand-bred quinella in the Benchmark 78 event, beating last-start winner Monfelicity (NZ) (Vadamos) by three-quarters of a length. Lyrical Gangster has now had 10 starts for three wins and two placings, earning A\$165,150 for his co-breeders Cam and Chas Stewart, who race the four-year-old in partnership with Michael Hughes.

Since winning on the Kensington track in early November, Lyrical Gangster has been strongly supported for two subsequent starts and has been slightly disappointing in finishing third at Kembla Grange and a last-start fourth at Randwick.

Trainer Chris Waller elected to replace blinkers with winkers on Saturday, and with a perfect ride from in-form jockey Kerrin McEvoy, Lyrical Gangster turned his form around.

McEvoy had Lyrical Gangster tucked up in behind the speed for most of the race, then presented him in the straight to make his run. Six horses lined up across the track at the 200m in a desperate scramble to the finish, but Lyrical Gangster lifted and kicked strongest of all.

"That was a deserved win," Waller said. "He's been a work in progress. He's always shown ability, but he's been a bit of a heartbreak horse to watch at times.

"I said to the owners Cam and Chas Stewart that if we could get his gear right, we can win a decent race with him, and then he'll train on and get



*Lyrical Gangster strides clear of his rivals to win at Randwick on Saturday. (bradleyphotos.com.au)*

some confidence, and I think that's the way he's heading. I've just been on the phone to them – they think I'm a genius and I think they're pretty good too. They're great supporters of ours, and that's what racing is all about.

"He's a really big horse and is still growing into himself. Horses like him probably don't mature until they're four or five-year-old years, so I think he can win more races once he fills out and gets that confidence."

McEvoy was impressed with Lyrical Gangster's improvement from his last-start performance.

"I think they might have just gone a bit too fast for him the other day," he said. "He's a bit of a quirky lad. Today, with the steadier tempo, he was able to settle a bit closer.

"Chris changed the blinkers back to the winkers, and I just wanted him to be a bit more enthusiastic out of the gates. He was able to travel after a couple of furlongs, and when I gave him a bit of

a smooch around the corner, he came up underneath me and I knew we were in play.

"Full credit to the horse – he was able to do his best work and get across the line. He's heading in the right direction."

The Stewarts bred Lyrical Gangster in partnership with Goodwood Stud, who bought his dam Dream Run (NZ) (Pins) for just \$5,500 from the 2015 New Zealand Bloodstock Winter Mixed Bloodstock Sale at Karaka.

– NZ Racing Desk

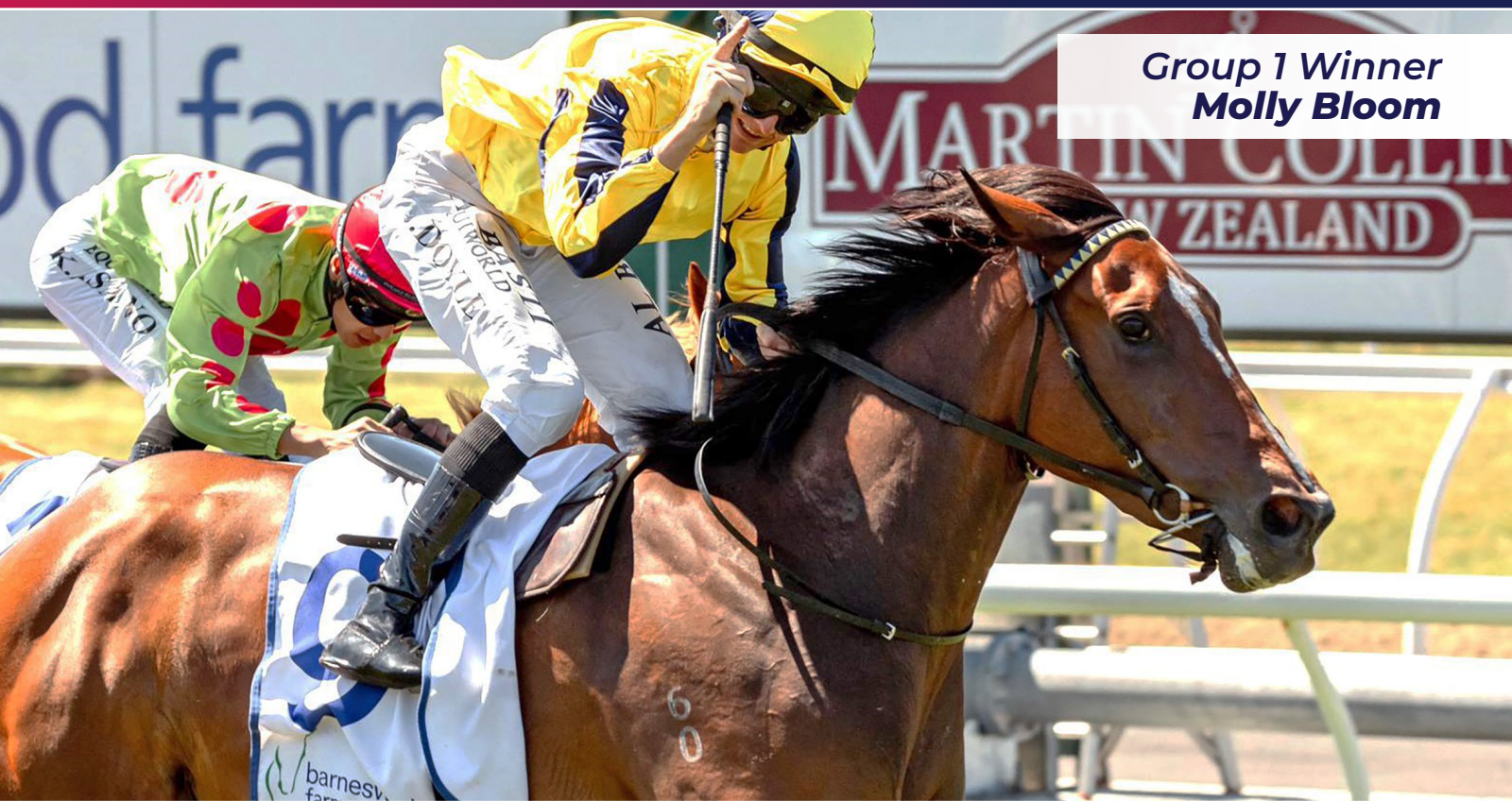
<b>Race</b>	<b>ATC Climate Roofing Handicap 2000m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Lyrical Gangster (NZ) 2019</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mr M J Hughes, Mr C E J Stewart, Mr C J W Stewart</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Chris Waller (Rosehill)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Proisir (AUS) out of Dream Run by Pins (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Goodwood Stud Ltd, C E J &amp; C J W Stewart</b>





# ACE HIGH

**NZ'S LEADING 3YO SIRE**  
for 2023/24



*Group 1 Winner*  
**Molly Bloom**

Everyone Wants to  
**RACE an ACE**

CLICK TO VIEW



**DAVID ELLIS**

TE AKAU RACING



**LANCE O'SULLIVAN**

WEXFORD STABLES



**ANDREW SCOTT**

WEXFORD STABLES



**ROGER JAMES**

KINGSCLERE STABLES

## Contact:

John Thompson +64 21 779 931 or Karl Mihaljevich +64 21 247 8892  
p +64 7 888 3833 e [richhillstud@xtra.co.nz](mailto:richhillstud@xtra.co.nz) [www.richhillstud.co.nz](http://www.richhillstud.co.nz)







# UNBEATEN CARBONADOS MAKES PERFECT AUSTRALIAN DEBUT

**E**xciting New Zealand import **Carbonados (NZ)** (Belardo) kept his unblemished career record intact with an impressive Australian debut in Saturday's A\$175,000 SCAADA Group 3YO Handicap (1100m) at Geelong.

The Belardo gelding began his career in the New Plymouth stable of Allan Sharrock, and he made a huge impression with a five-length victory on debut on his home track in May of last year. Runner-up Chantilly Lace (NZ) (U S Navy Flag) has since been a multiple Listed winner and Group Three placegetter.

Carbonados was subsequently sold to clients of Lindsay Park trainers Ben, Will and JD Hayes, who were quickly impressed by what their new recruit showed them in trackwork and trials. Saturday marked his long-awaited Australian debut, and Carbonados did not disappoint.

Ridden by Luke Currie, the three-year-old broke quickly from gate four and settled in second behind the front-running Spicy Margs (Deep Field). That rival kicked strongly at the top of the Geelong straight and provided a brief scare, but Currie released the brakes on Carbonados and he drew past to win by a length and a quarter under a hands-and-heels ride.

"He's pretty push-button," Currie said. "He's still doing a few things wrong – he's a bit hot and worked up today. Deeper into his preparation, I reckon he'll settle down and keep improving."

"He jumped well and just cruised along behind the leader with no real problems. He just took a little while to pick up. He was just looking around and is still a bit green and raw. But it was nice that he had that horse to chase. He chased it and put it away nicely in the end. He's a nice horse going places."

JD Hayes suggested that Carbonados could step into black-type company for the Gr.3 Manfred Stakes (1200m) at Caulfield on January 26.

"That performance was really pleasing to see," Hayes said. "He's shown a lot of potential, as everyone would have seen in his overseas form and at the trials."

"Luke gave him a good ride today. It was nice to see him pull out to the middle of the track and come away with a good victory."

"We've got some good owners – you'll see he's in those Rupert Legh colours, and there are a number of other great clients involved too. They've backed us in. He had a pretty nice



*Carbonados remains unbeaten after scoring in his Australian debut at Geelong. (Grant Courtney)*

price tag alongside him after he won so emphatically in New Zealand. There's still a lot of water to go under the bridge, but this win is a good start.

"We'll take things one step at a time with him, but a race like the Manfred in a few weeks' time could be a nice target for him."

Bred by David Paykel, Carbonados was purchased for \$30,000 by Sharrock out of the Haunui Farm draft during the National Yearling Sale Book 2 session at Karaka in 2022.

– NZ Racing Desk.

<b>Race</b>	<b>GRC SCCADA Group 3yo Hcp 1100m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Carbonados (NZ) 2020</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Lindsay Park Bloodstock, Glentree Racing, Mr K J Paisley, Mrs C A Paisley, R &amp; C Legh Racing Pty Ltd, Murumba Racing, Mr K N Good, Mr A Henwood, Mr J Jacobson, Mr C H Madden, Mrs J G Madden, Mr S S Roth, Werrett Bloodstock Pty Ltd, Mr T M Dickson, Mr P F Guerra, Mr D I Hollyman</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Ben, Will &amp; JD Hayes (Flemington)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Belardo (IRE) out of Humoresque by Iffraaj (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>D Paykel</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2022 National Yearling Sales – Book 2; V: Haunui Farm, P: SA Sharrock; \$30,000</b>



# WERTHEIMER BACK IN WINNING FORM

**A** long drought was emphatically broken at Geelong on Saturday as **Wertheimer (NZ)** (Tavistock) overpowered his opposition and landed a \$51 upset in the A\$100,000 Canadian Club Handicap (2400m).

It was the fourth win of a 32-start career for the New Zealand-bred son of Tavistock, and his first since taking out a Benchmark 78 at Morphettville in November of 2021 – more than 750 days ago.

Wertheimer had run several highly creditable races in between times, finishing fourth in the Gr.3 Lord Reims Stakes (2600m), fourth in the Murtoa Cup (2050m), second in the Horsham Cup (2100m), fourth in the Gr.3 Bendigo Cup (2400m), third in the Werribee Cup (2000m), second in another shot at the Murtoa Cup, and fourth in another Horsham Cup.

Saturday was finally his day. Rider Billy Egan took advantage of an inside draw and took up a handy position just behind the leaders, then pounced in the straight and took command.

He burst clear by almost three lengths with 200m remaining, and the late-finishing Kailash (Mastercraftsman) and Christmas (Palace Episode) were only able to reduce that to a length and three-quarters at the finish line.

"It's been a while between runs, but he's run some really good races in decent company in the meantime," trainer Matthew Enright said. "He's run in two Bendigo Cups, where one of his runs was really good and he possibly could have been ridden better in the other one."

"I don't know why I put blinkers on him at Caulfield last start. I'd seen before that he overdoes things when he wears blinkers. So I pulled them off today and it's worked out well."

"I asked Billy what he thought from that inside draw, and he

suggested riding handy and seeing if the horse can finish it off. That worked for me.

"He hasn't been going badly and he deserves this. I'm rapt for the syndicate, Tommy (Heptinstall) and the boys. It's fantastic for them. It's a \$100,000 race, a good stake, and it just fell into place today."

Bred and part-owned by Tommy Heptinstall, Wertheimer has now earned A\$217,335 in stakes.

He is by Tavistock out of the winning Lonhro mare Wild About Me (NZ), whose dam Like Me Wild (NZ) (Cape Cross) was a Listed placegetter in Sydney.

Wertheimer's younger half-sisters Wild Jakkal (NZ) (Jakkalberry) and Diva Kingdom (NZ) (Proisir) have both been placegetters during the current season, while Wild About Me's filly by Eminent was passed in as a yearling at Karaka last year.

– NZ Racing Desk.

<b>Race</b>	<b>GRC Canadian Club Hcp 2400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Wertheimer (NZ) 2017</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mr T G Heptinstall, Mr T M Pivac, Mr A R Campbell, Mrs T Platt, Mr D R Platt, Mr J A Barnao, Mr C V Barnao, Ms N J Cruickshank, Mr M W Cummings, Ms H M Herd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Matthew Enright (Bendigo)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Tavistock out of Wild About Me by Lonhro (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>T G Heptinstall</b>



*Wertheimer caught punters by surprise when winning at Geelong on Saturday. (Grant Courtney)*







# PATTERSON'S WINNING RUN CONTINUES IN GOLD NUGGETS

**R**egal Dice (NZ) (Zed) capped a dream first week of 2024 for trainer Robbie Patterson with her victory in the iconic \$40,000 Vernon & Vazey Truck Parts Kumara Gold Nuggets (1810m) on Saturday.

Remarkably, that was Patterson's eighth win in the last four days. The New Plymouth trainer collected a win at Greymouth on Wednesday, followed by four winners at Otaki on Thursday and a treble in front of Saturday's huge crowd at Kumara.

Earlier on the Kumara card, Patterson teamed up with jockey Craig Grylls for front-running victories with O'Ceirins Dream (NZ) (Dial A Prayer) and Snipers Dream (NZ) (Telperion) in maiden and Rating 65 events over the Nuggets distance. They attempted to do the same thing with Times Up (NZ)

(Time Test) in the main event, but a high-pressure pace began to take its toll 500m from the finish.

It was stablemate Regal Dice who capitalised as the race suddenly changed complexion coming up towards the home turn. After settling second-last in a strung-out field, rider Kylie Williams switched across heels and swooped around the outside of the field.

By the time she reached the turn into the short Kumara straight, Regal Dice had burst to the lead and was literally going for the gold.

Hail Damage (NZ) (Reliable Man) provided the sternest challenge, chasing gamely along the inside and clawing back the margin, but Regal Dice held her at bay and won by a length and three-quarters.

The Gold Nuggets was the fourth win of a 12-start career for Regal Dice, who has now earned \$84,770 for the Regal Dice Racing Syndicate. The daughter of Zed was bred by Bill Stewart, whose other notable successes include the Group Two-winning stayer Tinseltown (NZ) (Pentire).

"This is great – it's one of those iconic races that everyone loves to win," Patterson said. "We managed to win the Coupland's Mile (Gr.3, 1600m) earlier in the season as well. They're iconic races that mean a lot to people. I'm just really grateful to be here and winning these sorts of races with lovely horses and for good people."

*Continued on page 10*



Northern visitor Regal Dice reigns supreme in the iconic Vernon & Vazey Truck Parts Kumara Gold Nuggets (1810m) on Saturday. (Race Images South)



# PATTERSON'S WINNING RUN CONTINUES IN GOLD NUGGETS

(Continued from page 9)

"Bill Stewart bred this horse and is a great mate of mine, and I know he'll be super thrilled with this result too.

"It was a smart ride by Kylie. She said they were going to go crazy out in front, so she just sat back smoking her pipe and then made her run and got the result.

"Gryllsy got away with those front-running tactics in the previous two races, but he couldn't quite do it three times in a row. Regal Dice is just a horse with a lot of stamina, and that's what shone through."

Saturday's Kumara treble took Patterson to 28 wins for the season,

and his runners have now banked more than \$1 million in total prize-money through the first half of 2023-24.

"I wanted to break a million for the season, so to get there already, less than halfway through the season, is great," Patterson said. "I'd love to get to 50 wins for the season again, and maybe pick up another Group race along the way. We'll see what happens. But I've got a great crew of people around me and couldn't have days like this without them."

Regal Dice also became the first Gold Nuggets winner for Williams, who recently reached a milestone of 900

wins in her outstanding riding career.

"I've always wanted to win the Nuggets," she said. "I've come second a few times, so to finally win the race is great.

"I actually only picked up the ride yesterday, and I felt a bit better when Robert said he thought she was the better chance of his two and Craig (Grylls) picked the wrong one.

"I said to Robert that there'd be a lot of speed in the race, so I wanted to ride her patiently. At about the 800m I started to get up on heels and in all sorts of trouble, so I elected to come out and let her start to roll forward.

"I thought I might have got there too soon, but to her credit, she held them all out. I could hear the others coming at her, but she kept kicking."

Leanach Lodge will offer a half-sister to Regal Dice by Derryn in their Book 2 draft at the upcoming National Yearling Sales at Karaka.

**– By Richard Edmunds,  
LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**



<b>Race</b>	<b>KRC Vernon &amp; Vazey Truck Parts Kumara Gold Nuggets 1810m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Regal Dice (NZ) 2019</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Regal Dice Racing Syndicate (Mgr: Beda Koller)</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Robbie Patterson (New Plymouth)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Zed out of Cadenza by Thorn Park (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>W J Stewart</b>

Robbie Patterson with winning jockey Kylie Williams. (Race Images South)





Molly Bloom (NZ) (Ace High)  
Karaka 2022 Book 1, NZ\$150,000



\*Matt Cross on Molly Bloom's  
Group One NZ 1000 Guineas win

# MOLLY BLOOM

*is descending strongly...*

The blooming is done,

*A STAR IS BORN\**

*Molly Bloom* wins the  
One Thousand Guineas ”

KARAKA  
2024

28 January — 2 February



NEW ZEALAND  
BLOODSTOCK®

*Where Winning Begins*

[www.nzb.co.nz](http://www.nzb.co.nz)



# SUDBINA TO AIM FOR BIGGER TARGETS FOLLOWING HASTINGS WIN

**W**ell-related filly **Sudbina (NZ)** (Almanzor) took advantage of a step-out of stakes company at Hastings on Saturday, taking an eye-catching victory in the CACI Hawke's Bay 3YO (1400m).

Displaying promise early into her three-year-old season, Sudbina broke maiden status at start three, and subsequently was thrown the challenge of black-type racing in her following two starts in the Gr.2 Soliloquy Stakes (1400m), and the Gr.3 Bonecrusher Stakes (1400m).

After finishing a creditable sixth in a star-studded Soliloquy field, which included top-line Northern fillies in Impendabelle (Impending) and Molly Bloom (NZ) (Ace High), Sudbina finished fourth in a compact Bonecrusher field headed by Lupo Solitario (NZ) (Satono Aladdin).

Returning to open three-year-old company at Hastings, punters recognised Sudbina's class and backed her into \$4.10 second-favouritism, only bettered by consistent Central

Districts filly Fashion Icon (NZ) (U S Navy Flag) at \$3.90.

Sudbina jumped cleanly on-par with the front-runners from the 1400m, but was allowed by jockey Kozzi Asano to settle back off the rail as Bella Corno (NZ) (Charm Spirit) dictated the pace early. The daughter of Almanzor travelled comfortably into the straight, though had given Fashion Icon a healthy head-start, but as she descended down the middle of a testing Hastings track, Sudbina rocketed past the favourite to score by a ½ length.

Robert Wellwood, who trains the filly in partnership with Roger James, praised Asano's tactics which ultimately proved the winning of the race on the Heavy8 surface.

"She was ridden well, Kozzi got her into a lovely rhythm and probably found the best part of the track in the straight. It was good to see her hit the line strongly," he said.

Kingsclere Stables prepare the filly on behalf of owner-breeders Frantic Bloodstock and Haunui Farm, her dam Destined also having produced a three-time Group Two-winner in Fix (NZ) (Ifraaj).

"Haunui and Cathy (Franich) sent us the horse, she has a good pedigree and has now won two so hopefully we can carry on and get some black-type in the near future," Wellwood said.

"She's a half to Fix, so she would be a valuable filly should we get some black-type."

The Cambridge-based training partnership have enjoyed a

fruitful season with their three-year-old cohort, with Group Three-winning colt Zabmanzor (NZ) (Almanzor) currently rated a \$4.00 Tab Futures chance for the Gr.1 Cambridge Stud Levin Classic (1600m) at Trentham on January 13, while talented filly Orchestral (NZ) (Savabeel) has announced herself as a top-liner for the \$1.5 million Karaka Million 3YO (1600m) a fortnight later.

Sudbina may appear in the latter meeting during the Wellington Cup Carnival, with Wellwood indicating a step-up to the mile is on the cards with the Gr.3 New Zealand Bloodstock Desert Gold Stakes (1600m).

"We may look to head to the Desert Gold on the 20th, but we've just got to see how she comes through this and decide whether we think she can go a mile or not." – **By Jess de Lautour, LOVERACING.NZ New Desk**

*Sudbina snatches victory on the line in the CACI Hawke's Bay 3YO (1400m) at Hastings on Saturday. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*

<b>Race</b>	<b>HRI CACI Hawke's Bay 3yo 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Sudbina (NZ) 2020</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Frantic Bloodstock Ltd &amp; Haunui Bloodstock Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Roger James &amp; Robert Wellwood (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Almanzor (FR) out of Destined (GB) by Danehill (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Frantic Bloodstock Ltd &amp; Haunui Bloodstock Ltd</b>







# PITMANS CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL DAY AT KUMARA



*Third Decree headed the first of two Michael & Matthew Pitman-trained trifectas at Kumara on Saturday. (Race Images South)*

Leading Riccarton trainers Michael and Matthew Pitman played a starring role on one of the South Island's most famous racedays at Kumara on Saturday.

The father-son team came away from the eight-race card with two wins and eight placings, including back-to-back trifectas in the \$25,000 Phoenix Minerals (1150m) and the \$18,500 McMullan ITM/Greymouth Star (1150m). They also saddled Charbano (NZ) (Vespa) for a third placing in the

\$40,000 Vernon & Vazey Truck Parts Kumara Gold Nuggets (1810m).

The stable's standout performance came from highly talented sprinter Third Decree (NZ) (War Decree), who added the Phoenix Materials to her unbeaten record at Kumara.

The daughter of Inglewood Stud stallion War Decree was a maiden winner on the same day last year, and she later went on to add victories at Riccarton on January 28, the Riccarton synthetic track on June 29 and Oamaru

on July 26.

Third Decree has stepped up into stakes company as a four-year-old this season, starting with a close sixth in the Listed Pegasus Stakes (1000m) at Riccarton on November 11 – finishing only a length and a half behind the winner Not Guilty (NZ) (Not A Single Doubt). She filled the same position in the Listed Hazlett Stakes (1200m) at Wingatui on Boxing Day, crossing the line three lengths adrift of the winner

*Continued on page 14*





# PITMANS CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL DAY AT KUMARA

(Continued from page 13)

Kai (NZ) (Ocean Park).

Third Decree stamped her superiority over her Rating 80 opposition on Saturday. With apprentice jockey Abdul Najib's three-kilogram claim reducing her weight to just 52.5 kilograms, Third Decree settled in third spot before looming ominously behind O'Jessica (Deep Field) and Tengiz (NZ) (Sacred Falls) at the home turn.

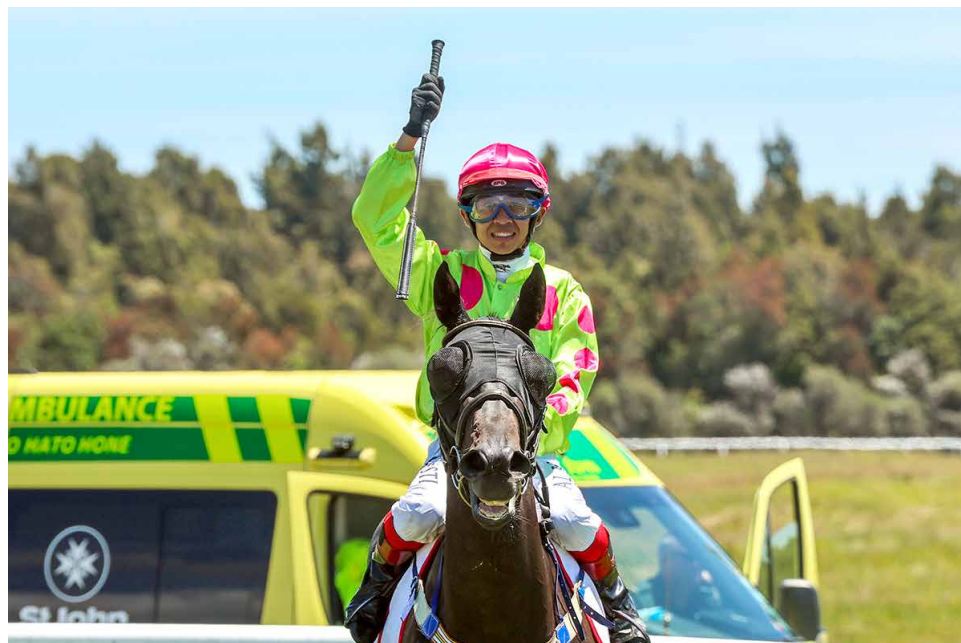
A smart turn of foot carried Third Decree straight past that pair, and she kept up a strong gallop to score by a length from her fast-finishing stablemates Makabar (NZ) (Swiss Ace) and Express Coup (NZ) (Shamexpress).

"It's good to see her win here again, after she won against a small field on this day last year," Michael Pitman said. "I'm surprised she didn't pay \$1.50 today, considering her performances in the Pegasus and the Hazlett in Dunedin. She dropped to 52.5 kilograms today.

"She was given a great ride by a jockey who's come over from Malaysia. He's a really good fella who's going to be with me for the next two years."

Third Decree's 12-start career has now produced five wins, a placing and \$76,905 in stakes. She was bred by Anne Bruford, who races her in partnership with husband Jim and 10 other co-owners.

The Pitman stable's second trifecta came just over half an hour later, when King Cougar (NZ) (Alamosa) scored a narrow victory over Tail Lights (NZ) (Burgundy) and Russian Rosette (NZ)



Jockey Abdul Najib salutes after Third Decree's victory at Kumara. (Race Images South)

(Russian Revolution).

It was a poignant result for King Cougar, who collected his 10th win at his 100th career start and who recently joined the Pitman stable after having previously been trained by the late Paul Harris.

"New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing approached us about taking over Paul's team," Pitman said. "I'm so proud to be associated with a winner for Paul Harris today. People may not know this, but Paul and I knew each other for close to 50 years. It's a bloody shame what happened."

– By Richard Edmunds,  
LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>KRC Phoenix Minerals 1150</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Third Decree (NZ) 2019</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>R Allan, Mrs A M &amp; J F Bruford, L J Green, P R Harrison, S M K Hay, B &amp; K Simpson, W Storm, Mrs H M Sutherland, Mrs C &amp; R B Tennant</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Matthew Pitman (Riccarton)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by War Decree (USA) out of Elusive Chik by Elusive City (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs A M Bruford</b>

<b>Race</b>	<b>KRC McMullan ITM/ Greymouth Star 1150</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>King Cougar (NZ) 2013</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs E R &amp; S R Tyler</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Matthew Pitman (Riccarton)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Alamosa out of Red Cougar (AUS) by Lion Heart (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>M J Morton, Pee Gee &amp; W J Bloodstock Ltd &amp; R W Potter</b>

