

Sunday 21 May 2023

STAKES SUCCESS FOR THOUGHT PROVOKING



Thought Provoking enjoys stakes success at Morphetville (Atkins Photography)

An inch-perfect ride from Ben Melham has aided **Thought Provoking (NZ)** (So You Think) to land the Listed Thomas Farms Centaurea Stakes (2028m) at Morphetville on Saturday for trainers Mick Price and Michael Kent jnr.

The New Zealand-bred daughter of So You Think had finished runner-up in her three previous starts and under an expertly-rated front running ride from Melham, the five-year-old mare

edged out the fast-finishing Agreeable (Sebring).

"It is good to have the black-type on her CV, being a mare, and an unlucky one at that," Melham said.

"This preparation she had no luck first-up and she was a bit unlucky the other day (when second to Unusual Culture at Sandown).

"She broke through for a well deserved win today."

Thought Provoking advanced her

career record to four wins from 14 starts, with a further six placings and in excess of A\$220,000 in prizemoney.

After doing his pre-race form, Melham always thought he would be close to the pace.

"On paper, I didn't see a lot of pressure," he said.

"I was always wanting to be handy and nothing was keen to lead so I was able to get some pretty easy sectionals

Continued on page 2



STAKES SUCCESS FOR THOUGHT PROVOKING

(Continued from page 1)

through the first half of the race.

"It was probably a little bit too easy, which just flushed a couple out that put a bit of pressure on us from the 700m.

"She was well-trained, well-prepared and able to maintain that gallop from the 700m and stave off the late challengers."

Despite the late challenge of former Victorian galloper Agreeable, who these days races for Will Clarken and Niki O'Shea, Melham was confident he had

the runner-up's measure.

"It doesn't win out of turn that horse, so I was pretty comfortable when I saw it chug up alongside me," he said.

By So You Think out of the Listed winning Zerpour mare Zerello (NZ), Thought Provoking was bred by Windsor Park Stud's marketing manager Mike Moran and his wife Helen, with close friends Chris and Carol Chamberlain.

A half-sister to Group Three placed

Zaperb (NZ) (Volksraad), Thought Provoking was purchased for \$120,000 from the draft of Windsor Park Stud at the 2019 New Zealand Bloodstock Book 1 Yearling Sale.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	SAJC Centaurea Stakes L. 2028m
Winner	Thought Provoking (NZ) 2017
Owners	Mr T D Tonkin, Ms S E Wilson, BMD Racing , Dynasty No. 26, Mr B R Broomhead, Mr J J Borg, Mrs J M Borg, Mr C C Chamberlain, Mr M J Davidson, Mr N J Emmett, Mr M P Heaney, Mr D W Rothwell, Mr M J Moran, Mr J G Toll, Mr B R Wilkes, Miss M M McGovern
Trainer	Mick Price & Michael Kent Jr (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Zerello by Zerpour (IRE)
Breeder	Mrs C A & C C Chamberlain, Mrs H M & M J Moran
Sales	2019 National Breeding Sales – Book 1; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Mick Price Racing; \$120,000



Michael Kent Jr, co-trainer of Thought Provoking (Natasha Morello (Racing Photos))



KING OF COMEDY



2023 FEE \$7000

PLUS GST LFG

BY KINGMAN – THE BEST YOUNG SIRE IN EUROPE

KING OF COMEDY – 26 JUNE 2019 TIMEFORM – “THE BEST 3YO IN EUROPE”

KING OF COMEDY – TIMEFORM – “BRED IN THE PURPLE AND A MOST TAKING SORT ON LOOKS”

BOOKINGS 027 827 4995 | INFO@NOVARAPARK.CO.NZ | WWW.NOVARAPARK.CO.NZ



PARKES CAPS RED-LETTER DAY ABOARD JUSTASKME

Leading Central Districts rider Johnathan Parkes capped a magnificent day at the office when he rode four winners at Awapuni, including the main event on the card, the Listed Happy 90th Birthday Edith Bull Rangitikei Cup (1550m) aboard **Justaskme (NZ)** (No Excuse Needed).

After taking the first race aboard the Mike Breslin-trained Papa Surf (Dalghar), Parkes brought up career win number 1000 when taking race two on the Mark Walker-trained Fellini (NZ) (Belardo).

Parkes wasn't finished there, winning race six on the Peter Didham-prepared Fabian Hawk (NZ) (Turn Me Loose) but saved his best for the Listed feature as he guided the Allan Sharrock-trained Justaskme to a hollow victory.

Sharrock had exuded some pre-race confidence after the seven-year-old son of No Excuse Needed had finished off powerfully when runner-up to One Bold Cat (NZ) (The Bold One) last start and with the blinkers applied for the first time in this campaign, he looked an obvious candidate for top honours, albeit carrying topweight of 60kgs.

Parkes obliged with a superb effort, seizing the initiative on the wet track specialist by swooping to the front out wide at the 600m as the bulk of his rivals struggled on the Heavy10 surface.

Kept up to the mark by Parkes, Justaskme went further in front as the pair approached the winning post, cruising home

Continued on page 5



Talented wet track specialist Justaskme clears out from his rivals at Awapuni (Peter Rubery – Race Images)





PARKES CAPS RED-LETTER DAY ABOARD JUSTASKME

(Continued from page 4)

by five lengths over race favourite Mary Louise (NZ) (The Bold One) and taking his career record to ten wins from just 31 starts and more than \$373,000 in prizemoney.

"I didn't think we could give Mary Louise (53kgs) that much weight and beat her," Sharrock said.

"As it turned out he did it in a canter and shows just what a special horse he is.

"Parkesy said that when he let him go coming to the turn, he just went woosh and it was a done deal at that stage.

"The way he had worked during the week gave me plenty of confidence and he finds a few lengths when we put the blinkers on so there was plenty in our favour despite the weight he had to carry."

Justaskme was bred by Sharrock, who co-owns him with his brother Bruce and former Kiwi rugby league international, Tony Kemp.

The Taranaki conditioner was quite emotional after the victory as he described just how much the horse means to him.

"He is just one of those horses that you have a soft spot for and it's just fantastic to see him back winning again," he said.

"He is at the stage now where he gets weighted out of most things so his main aim is the weight-for-age at Wanganui next

month, then we might tick along and hope they get a wet spring at Hastings and we can have a crack at the early Group Ones there.

"He could also go to the Winter Cup (Gr.3, 1600m) at Riccarton before that, as it is a maximum topweight of 60kgs,

but that is a bit of a gamble as if he struck a firm track it would bugger up your chances at Hastings."

The Listed AGC Training Stakes (1600m) will be held at Wanganui on June 3 while Riccarton's traditional winter flat feature, the Gr.3 Winning Edge Presentations Winter Cup (1600m), is run on August 5.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	RRC Happy 90th Birthday Edith Bull – Rangitikei Cup L. 1550m
Winner	Justaskme (NZ) 2015
Owners	T Kemp, B R & S A Sharrock
Trainer	Allan Sharrock (New Plymouth)
Breeding	by No Excuse Needed (GB) out of Often by O'Reilly
Breeder	A S Sharrock



Johnathan Parkes celebrates his victory aboard Justaskme (Peter Rubery – Race Images)



GROUP ONE OPTION FOR LE ZEBRA

Smart two-year-old **Le Zebra (NZ)** (Rip Van Winkle) will be considered for a tilt at the Gr.1 JJ Atkins (1600m) at Eagle Farm on June 10 after another strong on-speed metropolitan victory when scoring over 1400m at Flemington on Saturday.

Prepared by Emma-Lee and David Browne, the son of Rip Van Winkle had previously prevailed over 1300m at Sandown on May 6 and the Brownes will now consider a trip north.

"We'll possibly put him away, possibly, but we might look at going to Queensland," David Browne said.

"I think he's earned a path there if we want to go there, but we'll just make sure he comes through it alright."

Le Zebra (\$4.40) took his record to two wins from four starts with his one-length all-the-way victory over Mojave Desert (I Am Invincible) (\$9). Stellar Mofeed (Akeed Mofeed) (\$14) was three-quarters-of-a-length away in third.

The handsome grey has appreciated the step up in distance from two starts over 1200m to start his career and Browne is confident the gelding's best will be seen over further.

"We think he's a pretty tidy horse because he's going to get over a bit more ground too, which is going to be perfect for him," he said.

"There is a lot more in store for him because we haven't really got into him properly yet. We've just let him do it naturally.

"It always helps if you can go forward. It takes a lot of bad luck out of the equation."

Le Zebra is out of the My Halo mare Angel Del Dinero (NZ), who herself was a winner and finished second in the Gr.3 Desert Gold Stakes (1600m) at Trentham.

Le Zebra is the fourth winner from five foals to race out of Angel Del Dinero, who is also the dam of the Brownes' four-race winner Bifrost (NZ), a son of Turn Me Loose.

The Brownes bought Bifrost for \$40,000 at Karaka 2020, followed by the \$60,000 purchase of his half-brother Le Zebra two years later.

Adding to their investment in the family, the Brownes went online for the 17 April auction on gavelhouse.com and secured Angel Del Dinero for \$26,000.

"He is actually the third member of the family we have



Le Zebra records his second career success with a front-running effort at Flemington (Bruno Cannatelli)

bought and he is probably the best type, so we thought we better not miss out," Browne said. "We're pretty happy."

Le Zebra was rated to perfection by Blake Shinn, who rode Le Zebra on debut when fourth to Amur (Snitzel) at The Valley in January, then took over from Mark Zahra, who was aboard for the Sandown win, and was taken with his professionalism.

"Physically he is quite an advanced two-year-old. He was that type back then in January. But full credit to Emma-Lee and David. They have targeted this time of year," Shinn said.

"He is a horse that handles wet ground and you can take advantage of great prizemoney in town when the fields fall away. He has got good talent and he has capitalised on that.

"He's just an unphased, uncomplicated horse with good talent and well done to them."

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC Jockey Appreciation Plate 1400m
Winner	Le Zebra (NZ) 2020
Owners	Sparta Racing, Mrs P Dean, Mr D C Dean, Mr C W Kwok, Mr J E Schick, Ms J Stewart, Mr M R Pollard, Ms M E Ellis, Mr S J Caught, Mr M Brindle, Mr T J T Stewart, Mr G Devonport
Trainer	David & Emma-Lee Browne (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by Rip Van Winkle (IRE) out of Angel Del Dinero by My Halo (ARG)
Breeder	C W Kwok
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Windsor Park Stud, P: Sparta Racing; \$60,000



GOING THE EXTRA MILE

 NZB
Airfreight®

We provide a first class service with frequent and regular flights for your horse's that reach all corners of the globe, from Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Macau, Malaysia, Korea, Philippines, Japan, South Africa, USA and China. You name the place, we'll get your horse there with safety and care at heart!



Contact the NZB Airfreight team today.

+64 9 298 0055 | airfreight@nzb.co.nz | nzb.co.nz/airfreight



NEW ZEALAND
BLOODSTOCK®
Where Winning Begins

DAYTONA BAY GETS IMPORTANT BOB



Daytona Bay (white nose roll) gets in the deciding stride at Flemington (Bruno Cannatelli)

A 'Goldilocks' track has helped **Daytona Bay** (American Pharoah) find his way back to the winner's circle when he nosed out the previously unbeaten Altivo (Wootton Bassett) in a photo finish at Flemington on Saturday in the In Memory of Dean Holland (1800m).

Prepared by Peter Moody, Daytona Bay won four of his first five starts, with the consistent galloper returning a winner for the first time since August.

Bred by Rangiora's Geoff Taylor, the son of American Pharoah sat second throughout under Tom Stockdale before digging deep to narrowly get the better of Altivo.

Coleman said that the Soft 5 conditions were perfect for Daytona Bay.

"I think we've finally found a track that really suits him," Coleman said.

"He doesn't like it too firm, and he also doesn't like it too soft, so I said to Tom Stockdale pre-race that we might have a Goldilocks track today that is just right.

"I think we've had everything work out in our favour today and it's just fantastic.

"We were very lucky to get it, but I was so thrilled because this horse really deserves it.

"He's a really tough horse and connections Ron and Judi Wanless have been very patient with him and persevered with him.

"For Tom Stockdale as well, he's ridden him really well today. He stuck to instructions, and he's done a lot of work at home, so rapt for him to get the reward today."

Daytona Bay was purchased by Moody for \$360,000 from the

Curraghmore draft at the 2020 New Zealand Bloodstock Book 1 Yearling Sale.

The four-year-old is out of the Group Three winner Soubrettes (NZ) (High Chaparral) and is a half-brother to stakes performer Toscanini (Fastnet Rock).

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC In Memory of Dean Holland 1800m
Winner	Daytona Bay 2018
Owners	Mr R M Wanless, Mrs J M Wanless
Trainer	Peter Moody (Pakenham)
Breeding	by American Pharoah (USA) out of Soubrettes by High Chaparral (IRE)
Breeder	Mr G Taylor
Sales	2020 National Yearling Sales – Book 1; V: Curraghmore, P: Moody Racing; \$360,000



GOSPODIN ON TOP AGAIN AT TE RAPA



Gospodin cruises to victory at Te Rapa (Trish Dunell)

Race	WRC Dunstan Horsefeeds 1300
Winner	Gospodin (NZ) 2017
Owners	Markwood Lodge Ltd
Trainer	Jim Pender (Tauranga)
Breeding	by Proisir (AUS) out of O'Gosh by O'Reilly
Breeder	Markwood Lodge Ltd

C lassy winter performer **Gospodin (NZ)** (Proisir) extended his impressive record on the Te Rapa track when he made it back-to-back victories at the venue on Saturday.

Successful there over 1200m a fortnight ago when having the second run of his current campaign, the Jim Pender-prepared five-year-old once again relished the Heavy10 surface in the hands of apprentice Kelsey Hannan.

Hannan made good use of her 2kg claim, that saw the son of Proisir carry 59kgs in the open 1300m handicap event, as she positioned Gospodin beyond midfield before setting out after pacemakers Crystallize (NZ) (Ifraaj) and Tightlign (NZ) (Align) entering the home straight.

Gospodin produced a powerful burst to strike the front at the 200m before easing clear of Crystallize, who fought gamely for second, with Thunder (NZ) (Niagara) finishing off nicely in the final stages for third.

Pender believes that once his charge strikes form, he is more than capable of mixing it with the best, pointing to his six consecutive victories in the 2021/22 season along with his runner-up finish in the Listed Takeover Target Stakes (1200m) at Gosford last winter.

"He's a very good but underrated galloper," Pender said.

"When he won six in a row, he did it at six different tracks and went from maidens to open company.

"He took on some pretty handy types in Sydney in the Takeover Target and only just got pipped, so I have no doubt

he is up to most when he gets conditions to suit.

"In saying that he is not just a heavy track horse, he is just a very good horse who tries hard every time."

Pender will resist the temptation to return to Australia this winter after plans went awry during a brief Brisbane campaign following his Gosford effort.

"We won't go back to Brisbane as he is just not a horse that is suited there," he said.

"He had all sorts of problems and we didn't see the best of him, so we will stick closer to home this time.

"He is going to be carrying big weights but I might just give him one or two more starts before taking a break and then concentrating on the first two days of the Hastings Spring carnival.

"The Tarzino Trophy (Gr.1, 1400m) in September is the goal and then maybe the Arrowfield Stud Plate (Gr.1, 1600m) on the second day."

A grandson of hardy racemare Tough Call (NZ) (Val Dansant), who won twice at Listed level, Gospodin is raced by his breeders the Matijasevich family under their Markwood Lodge banner and has now won eight of his 27 starts for over \$217,000 in prizemoney.

The victory also brought up a treble for Hannan, who has just returned to riding after sustaining a broken wrist that saw her spend over eleven weeks on the sideline.

– NZ Racing Desk





COLLETT KEEN ON IMPRESSIVE THREE-YEAR-OLD MARTELL

Lightly raced galloper **Martell (NZ)** (El Roca) lived up to his trainer's expectations when he downed a handy field of three-year-olds over 1100m at Te Rapa.

Prepared at Matamata by Jim Collett, the son of Westbury Stud resident stallion El Roca had impressed winning first up on heavy ground in maiden company at Rotorua last November before failing to cope with a firm surface at the same venue a month later.

Collett put him aside for a summer break and after finishing an unlucky fourth back at Rotorua again last month he returned to winning form in fine style on Saturday.

Allowed to find his feet in the early stages by rider Jasmine Fawcett, Martell was still a conspicuous last as the field rounded the home bend.

Taken to the outside by Fawcett, Martell unwound powerfully to gather in the pacemakers at the 150m as he out-finished Taranaki visitor Librarsi (NZ) (Reliable Man) to win by more than a length at the line.

Collett was delighted to see his charge perform so capably on the testing Heavy10 surface.

"He's a very handy horse and he loves the wet ground," Collett said.

"He was very unlucky first-up in this campaign as he didn't get a lot of room in the run home, so there was a fair bit of confidence today that he would improve on that.

"He won his maiden on a similar wet track at Rotorua, but I made a mistake running him there a month later on a very hard track as he just doesn't cope that well when it is dry.



Trainer Jim Collett with Martell after his impressive Te Rapa win (Trish Dunell)

"We put him aside and let him get over that, while he really grew into himself at the same time.

"It is quite surprising that he does like it so wet but that's what we are going to strike for the next few months and it is good to have one who likes those conditions."

Collett doesn't have any firm plans for the Gerry Harvey-bred and raced runner although he does think that there is far better in store for him.

"We will play it by ear a little and just see how he develops," he said.

"I could have run him the rating 65 grade but he would have had to carry 59kgs so the three-year-old race held much more appeal.

"We might look for another race with similar conditions and maybe tip him out again and get him ready for the spring.

"Those spring tracks can be pretty wet as well and with the upside I can

see in him I think he could get to a fairly good level."

Martell is out of the four-race winning mare Myrcella (NZ) (Makfi) who is a half-sister to the well performed dual Australian Group Two winner Fontelina (Testa Rossa), who also finished runner-up in the Gr.1 Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes (1400m).

The race provided a highlight for Westbury Stud owner Harvey who also bred and races the Allan Sharrock-trained runner-up Librarsi.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	WRC Jarvis Trading 3yo 1100m
Winner	Martell (NZ) 2019
Owners	NZ Thoroughbred Holdings Ltd
Trainer	Jim Collett (Matamata)
Breeding	by El Roca (AUS) out of Myrcella by Makfi (GB)
Breeder	G Harvey



DWYER HOPES TO BE RIDING HIGH AGAIN

Henry Dwyer assesses the best run of his fencer **Riding High's (NZ)** (Raise The Flag) career was two years ago when he won the Australian Steeplechase by seven lengths.

Riding High hasn't returned to the course and distance since then, until now anyway, as he will run in the Australian Steeplechase on Sunday at Ladbrokes Park Sandown Lakeside.

"The Sandown 3900m is his absolute wheelhouse. He loves being on top of the ground which he should have on Sunday, he's a nice, big horse who has won the race previously and he could do the same again," Dwyer said.

Last year, Dwyer set him for the race, but he had to put him away as he damaged a tendon when he won the J.E.H. Spencer Memorial Steeplechase at Pakenham in April.

Riding High had four flat runs this year before he returned to jumping when he finished fourth behind last year's Australian Steeplechase winner Britannicus (Roman Emperor) in the Brierly Steeplechase in early May. Britannicus will defend his crown on Sunday.

"The steeplechase course through the paddocks was very heavy and he just didn't get into a rhythm going through it. I know the course proper

wasn't a genuine Heavy, but he never felt comfortable in it and he never got into a good spot," Dwyer said.

"This is the race he has the best chance of winning each year so you could call it his grand final. I think he will run well on Sunday."

A winner of three of his seven starts over the fences, Riding High will be ridden by Willie McCarthy, who has partnered him four times for two wins and a second placing.

Riding High is a \$10 chance with Sportsbet, with Amy McDonald's Flying Agent (NZ) (Raise The Flag) a \$3.10 favourite ahead of Britannicus at \$3.40.

-racing.com



Australian Steeplechase hopeful Riding High. (Natasha Morello, Racing Photos)