

Sunday 23 April 2023

MCNAB DOMINATES AT PUKEKOHE



Michael McNab makes a clean sweep of the feature races at Pukekohe with a win aboard White Noise in the Gr.3 Manco Easter Handicap (1600m) (Trish Dunell)

Defending New Zealand Champion Jockey titleholder Michael McNab, who currently sits atop the National premiership ladder with 124 victories for the season, showed all his undoubted class when he dominated the three feature events at Pukekohe on Saturday.

After earlier taking out the Listed Staphanos At Novara Park Champagne Stakes (1600m) aboard Loch Katrine (NZ) (Ardrossan) followed by the

Gr.3 Trelawney Stud Championship Stakes (2100m) on Cheval D'Or (NZ) (Almanzor), McNab made it three from three in the black type races on the card with a polished performance aboard the Andrew Forsman-trained **White Noise (NZ)** (El Roca) in the Gr.3 Manco Easter Handicap (1600m).

McNab never put a foot wrong as he maneuvered White Noise into a handy position tracking the pace before heading to the outer reaches of the

Pukekohe home straight to lodge his challenge.

White Noise quickly assumed control and never looked like being caught as he stretched away to win by two lengths from Habana (Zoustar), who chased him hard, with Taranaki visitor Tavattack (NZ) (Tavistock) back in third.

"It looked like a good race for him on paper and then we got nervous

Continued on page 3

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MCNAB DOMINATES AT PUKEKOHE

(Continued from page 1)

when the track came up so heavy," Forsman said.

"He handled it well and as one of the better performed horses in the race, it was good to see him get a win on the board.

"We asked a fair bit of him in the Spring (in Melbourne) and we brought him home and gave him another prep, which probably wasn't the right thing to do.

"We backed off him and he has come back in good order and is now rewarding the patrons."

Forsman didn't envisage there were many local targets left for the horse in this campaign so will contemplate heading back across the Tasman for another shot at some Australian riches.

"There is not a lot here so we will talk to the owners and see what our options are," he said.

"It was a really good win today as I was a little bit worried when Tavattack loomed up as he looked like he might

get the drop on us, but to his (White Noise) credit he dug deep and was strong to the line."

McNab admitted his charge had been a little wary on the testing surface.

"He was a little unsure although he had raced on wetter tracks before," he said.

"His run the other day was very good so I made sure I got on the phone and got on him for today and he was probably never in doubt from the half mile.

"He is a progressive horse in this type of race and he did a very good job today.

"I wanted to get out and get a spot so I could dictate where I was in the field.

"Once I started tracking up coming to the bend it was pretty easy from there.

"To ride three stakes winners is pretty good and I have been having a good season so far."

Owned by a large syndicate that includes his breeders Mike Gatt and Matthew and Allan Fenwick, White Noise is out of the unraced Sir Percy mare White Nymph (NZ), the dam of useful stayer El Nymph (NZ) (El Roca).

He has now won six of his 20 starts and over \$242,000 in prizemoney.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Auckland TR Easter H. Gr.3 1600m
Winner	White Noise (NZ) 2018
Owners	AR, MC & L Fenwick, M Gatt, C Leahy, D Anderson, Black Rabbit Racing #3, Calags Racing, Clover Racing, Terry Crowther, A Craw, TP Gillespie & D Harnett
Trainer	Andrew Forsman (Cambridge)
Breeding	by El Roca (AUS) out of White Nymph by Sir Percy (GB)
Breeder	M J Gatt & Mangaone Bloodstock Ltd



Sponsors and connections pose with White Noise after his win at Pukekohe (Trish Dunell)





CHEVAL D'OR TAKES OUT THREE-YEAR-OLD FEATURE AT PUKEKOHE



Cheval D'Or and Michael McNab took out the Gr.3 Trelawney Stud Championship Stakes (2100m) at Pukekohe (Trish Dunell)

In a race affected by the late scratching of pre-post favourite Desert Lightning (NZ) (Pride Of Dubai) due to the downgrade of the track to a Heavy 10 earlier in the day, it was consistent filly **Cheval D'Or (NZ)** (Almanzor) who mastered the testing conditions to take out the Gr.3 Trelawney Stud Championship Stakes (2100m) at Pukekohe.

The half-sister to multiple Group One winning sprinter Bostonian (NZ) (Jimmy Choux), who had finished in the first four in all of her previous five starts without notching up a win, came in for some inspired late support to start as the \$3.40 race favourite ahead of Gr.3 Manawatu Classic (2000m) winner Arby (NZ) (Proisir).

Rider Michael McNab had earlier taken out the two-year-

old feature, the Listed Staphanos At Novara Park Champagne Stakes (1600m) aboard Loch Katrine (NZ) Ardrossan) and had been enthusiastic about his chances after discussing pre-race tactics with trainer Tony Pike.

"She travelled really well although I didn't really know what to expect from her," McNab said.

"When Tony gave me the colours I asked him what he thought and he said he thought she would love it (the wet track).

"He wasn't wrong as the whole way she just travelled beautifully.

"She probably wasn't as effective the last 400m, but getting

Continued on page 5





CHEVAL D'OR TAKES OUT THREE-YEAR-OLD FEATURE AT PUKEKOHE

(Continued from page 4)

through the track makes her effective as the way she was able to conserve energy on that sort of track is very good.

"I think she is one of our better three-year-olds and you will see that at the latter end of the season as she is going the right way."

Pike was also full of praise for the daughter of Almanzor who he purchased for The Oaks Stud boss Dick Karreman for

Race	Auckland TR Championship S. Gr.3 2100m
Winner	Cheval d'Or (NZ) 2019
Owners	The Oaks Stud
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Almanzor (FR) out of Keepa Cheval by Keeper (AUS)
Breeder	Archer Equine Investments Ltd
Sales	2021 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Waikato Stud Ltd \$420000 P: The Oaks Stud / Pike Racing

\$420,000 out of the Waikato Stud draft during the Book 1 Yearling Sale at Karaka in 2021.

"She has been in great form throughout this preparation and deserved that win today," Pike said.

"She is a half-sister to Bostonian and he got through this type of track, so we were crossing our fingers a little, but she has done it well and is a good, staying filly."

Pike advised he has bigger things earmarked for his charge who looks likely to contest some of the feature three-year-old filly races during the upcoming Brisbane Winter carnival.

"We've been over in Brisbane a few times when conditions haven't been ideal so it's nice to know you can cop a track like that," he said.

"She has form on good ground so is very versatile and as long as she pulls up well there is no reason why we won't go.

"She has been a little unlucky not to win a race before today and as a slow-maturing filly she is now starting to put things

together.

"It is six weeks until the Queensland Oaks (Gr.1, 2200m) so we might consider running her in The Roses (Gr.2, 2000m) first but that will be determined by how she pulls up today."

Cheval D'Or becomes the eighth individual stakes winner for Cambridge Stud stallion Almanzor who will stand his sixth southern hemisphere season at the famed Cambridge nursery later in 2023.

- NZ Racing Desk



Trainer Tony Pike (Trish Dunell)



MACGREGOR AND TIMES TICKING AT IT AGAIN AT RICCARTON

The combination of trainer Alby MacGregor, jockey Jacob Lowry and warhorse **Times Ticking (NZ)** (Tavistock) proved once again that Riccarton is their happy hunting ground when they combined to win the feature race of the day, the Gr.3 Coca Cola Canterbury Gold Cup (2000m).

The trio had taken out the main lead-up event to the weight-for-age contest seven days earlier when successful in the Listed Avon City Ford Easter Cup (1600m), although MacGregor wasn't on course to cheer his champ home, preferring to do that from the comfort of his Opaki lounge that day.

MacGregor wasn't missing Saturday's live performance and he had plenty to be thankful for as Lowry produced another copybook ride to land the son of Tavistock an imperious two-length winner

Lowry had Times Ticking smoking his pipe in midfield for most of the race before defying the wide-running pattern of the day by cutting underneath runners on the home bend and saving many lengths.

Lowry shot his mount clear and the pair maintained their advantage to the finish line as they defeated a gallant Capo Dell Impero (NZ) (Ghibellines) with

Lightning Jack (NZ) (Per Incanto) filling third.

For MacGregor it was the culmination of months of planning and an extremely satisfying result.

"It was a great thrill and we will definitely be enjoying ourselves tonight," he said.

"We planned to come south for the two races and we have been lucky enough to win them both.

"He is a pretty durable and tough bugger and he showed that.

"I've got him back in a paddock now and he has his head in his feed bin,

Continued on page 7



Alby MacGregor with Jacob Lowry at Riccarton (Race Images South)



MACGREGOR AND TIMES TICKING AT IT AGAIN AT RICCARTON

(Continued from page 6)



Times Ticking is clear in the Gr.3 Coca Cola Canterbury Gold Cup (2000m) (Race Images South)

scoffing the lot so he looks like he will pull up pretty good from the race."

MacGregor was pleased with how his charge travelled during the running but wasn't too sure when he saw Lowry take an inside run coming to the home turn as the majority of winners on the day had swooped home down the outer of the track.

"He (Lowry) came back in and told me that we didn't do everything to the plan but the horse was going that good he thought he might as well save as much ground as possible and put him

right in the race," MacGregor said.

"You could see when he was behind them, he was dying to get out and get going so I think it was the right thing to do as if he had of got held up it could have been a completely different result.

"He will have a few days off now as there is nothing left for him down here.

"He can go back home and we might look at another couple of runs, but he has done us proud and I can say without a word of a lie, there will be some celebrating tonight."

Times Ticking has now made it

back-to-back stakes victories and has ten wins from just 29 career starts, with prizemoney in excess of \$316,000.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	CJC Canterbury Gold Cup Gr.3 2000m
Winner	Times Ticking (NZ) 2015
Owners	A R MacGregor
Trainer	Alby MacGregor (Opaki)
Breeding	by Tavistock out of Laoghaire by Pins (AUS)
Breeder	Mrs V A Lackner & A R MacGregor



CHAMPAGNE ALL AROUND FOR LOCH KATRINE



Loch Katrine heads to the start before taking out the Listed Staphanos At Novara Park Champagne Stakes (1600m) (Trish Dunell)

Lightly raced filly **Loch Katrine (NZ)** (Ardrossan) lived up to her breeding when she scampered through the heavy conditions at Pukekohe to break her maiden status in the Listed Staphanos at Novara Park Champagne Stakes (1600m).

Having been placed at her first two starts the Daniel Miller-trained daughter of Ardrossan went into the race as one of the well fancied candidates and when the rain came

overnight, which saw a resulting Heavy10 surface for the day, the deeds of her well-performed dam Cong'er (NZ) (Zenno Rob Roy) helped sway punters in her direction.

The winner of the 2012 Listed Karaka Classic (1600m) at the venue, Cong'er revelled in the deep winter tracks on which she posted all five of her career victories.

Her daughter appeared to have inherited those traits as she travelled

sweetly throughout Saturday's contest in the hands of leading rider Michael McNab, before launching her challenge wider out in the home straight.

Hotly challenged by race favourite To Catch A Thief (US Navy Flag) for most of the final 400m, Loch Katrine found plenty in the closing stages to deny the late charge of The Matador (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and a weakening To Catch A Thief.

Continued on page 9



CHAMPAGNE ALL AROUND FOR LOCH KATRINE

(Continued from page 8)

Miller had been encouraged by the first two runs from the filly and admitted he had some confidence before the race.

"Very very gutsy effort," Miller said.

"I was quite happy coming into today, although it is always a bit of a question mark when they first cop these tracks, but she had trialled well in the wet.

"I thought up to the mile, on a nice roomy surface, that she should get every chance."

Miller was also delighted for owners Paul Sullivan, Annie Phillips, Dave Paterson and Bruce Browne, after Sullivan had purchased Loch Katrine

off the gavelhouse.com website for just \$1,300.

"I got approached by some owners to seek out a horse for them and I told them to buy her off gavelhouse," he said.

"I said to them today that if we could get some black type with her, then she is looking pretty good.

"It is all still ahead of her, as she is lightly raced and to get her maiden win in Listed company is just a bonus.

"After today you would think she will get a mile as a three-year-old and probably even further.

"She is blessed with a cool, calm attitude and that is only going to help if

we end up taking her to other places."

McNab was also taken by the grit shown by the filly.

"She got through the ground ok, but she's not very big and is pretty good on a better track, so I made a point of trying to keep her in fresh ground," he said.

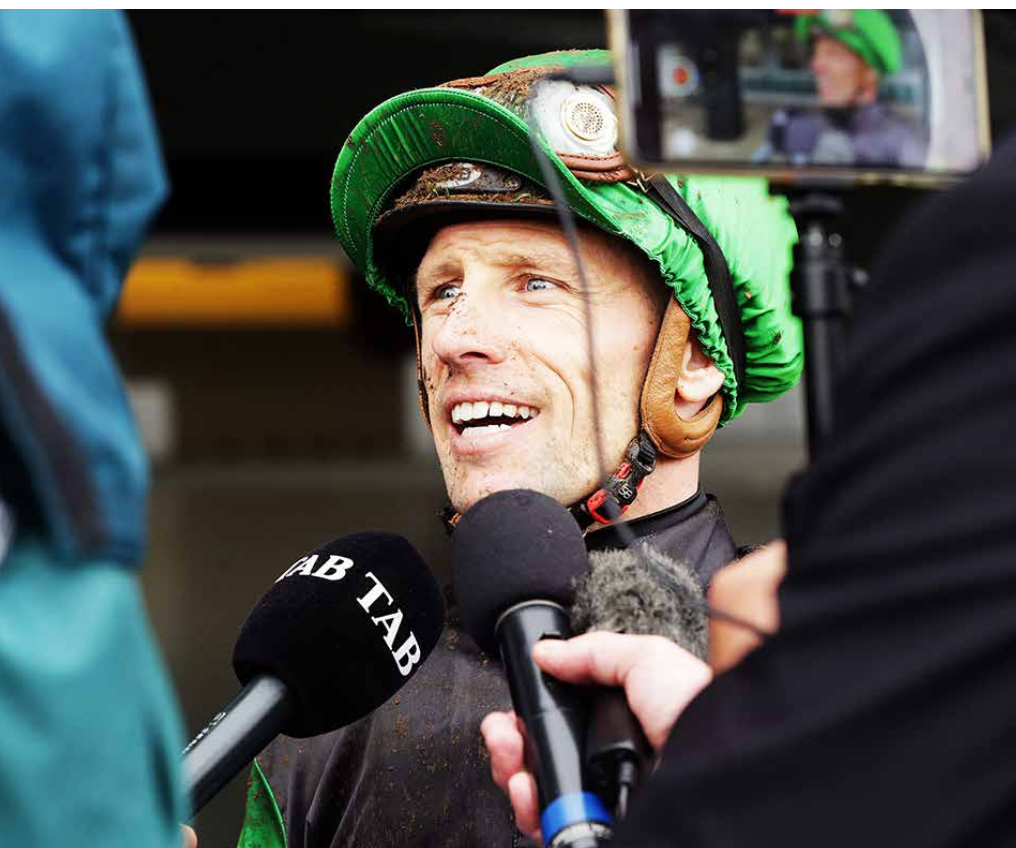
"I kept her rolling and she was just so tough the last bit.

"I let To Catch A Thief scoot up on my inside at the half mile as that wasn't a spot I wanted and he took me into the race at the right time.

"She definitely deserved that, so well done to the team."

Bred by Colette Hosking, Loch Katrine becomes the second individual stakes winner from the first crop of Waikato Stud resident stallion Ardrossan, who was retired to stand at Waikato Stud in 2019 after a racetrack career that saw him win four of his nine starts including twice at stakes level while also finishing third in the Gr.1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa.

– NZ Racing Desk



Race	Auckland TR Champagne S. L 1600m
Winner	Loch Katrine (NZ) 2020
Owners	Paul Sullivan, Annie Phillips, Dave Paterson, & Bruce Browne
Trainer	Daniel Miller (Matamata)
Breeding	by Ardrossan (AUS) out of Cong'er by Zenno Rob Roy (JPN)
Breeder	Ms C Hosking
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 2 V: SG Stud \$6000 P: Wilko B/stock Ltd

A smiling Michael McNab after his win on Loch Katrine (Trish Dunell)





TEAM TYLER TAKE WARSTEP STAKES WITH SHE'S A CON

Last start winner **She's A Con (NZ)** (Contributer) proved her maiden victory at Riverton was no fluke when she stepped up her game to claim the Listed New Zealand Bloodstock Warstep Stakes (2000m) at Riccarton in a thrilling finish with northern raider Luella Cristina (Snitzel).

The Contributer filly had relished the 1600m journey at Riverton and the extra 400m of Saturday's black-type contest also played in her favour as she found plenty in the final stages to down a gallant Luella Cristina after the pair went to war for the final 400m.

Jockey Kylie Williams, who was having her own red-letter day with the win making it four victories in the first eight races, was content to sit back off a hot speed set up by Luella Cristina's stablemate Doddle (NZ) (Dundeel), before sweeping into contention at the 600m.

Luella Cristina, who nearly fell at that point after being squeezed between runners, went with her and appeared to be travelling slightly better as she put her head in front at the 200m.

She's A Con refused to be denied and fought back to finally claim victory by half a length at the line, with Alminette (NZ) (Burgundy) battling into third a further four lengths away.

Co-trainer Kelvin Tyler, who prepares the filly in partnership with daughter Aimee, had fancied his chances of a good result and felt she was the best of their team for the day.

"I knew she would be tough enough and we just needed that little bit of luck to go our way," Tyler said,

"When I was sorting out the team for the day, I really did think she was our



Kelvin Tyler with She's A Con (Race Images South)

best chance and that's how it played out.

"I also knew the 2000m wouldn't bother her as she was wide and did it tough over the mile last time and got the win.

"All we wanted was to be off the rail and to try and come with the last run at them.

"I left it up to Kylie (Williams) to sort out how the race was going to pan out as she was on fire so I didn't need to be telling her what to do."

The win was an all-Tyler family affair as the filly is raced by Tyler's brother Allan and sister-in-law Marie, so there will be plenty of celebrating in the household as they plan out where to go next with She's A Con.

"We normally don't go home (Riverton) until the Sunday after a Riccarton meeting so we might have to celebrate a little tonight," Tyler said.

"We haven't got any real plans for her and now she has some black type

under her belt it is pretty satisfying.

"She has the makings of a nice horse as she had already run well in some good fields and the one thing we know about her is she won't lie down in a tight finish."

She's A Con is out of the Fastnet Rock mare, Rocks For Me and comes from an extended family that includes Gr.1 Blue Diamond Stakes (1200m) winner Sleek Chassis (Flying Spur) and multiple stakes winner Marble Halls (NZ) (Nassipour). – **NZ Racing Desk**

Race	CJC Warstep S. L 2000m
Winner	She's a Con (NZ) 2019
Owners	A K & Mrs M E Tyler
Trainer	Kelvin Tyler & Aimee Tyler (Riverton)
Breeding	by Contributer (IRE) out of Rocks for Me (AUS) by Fastnet Rock (AUS)
Breeder	Raffles Dancers (NZ) Pty Ltd
Sales	2020 NZ 8 Jun Online Auction V: Raffles Farm \$800 P: Allan Tyler



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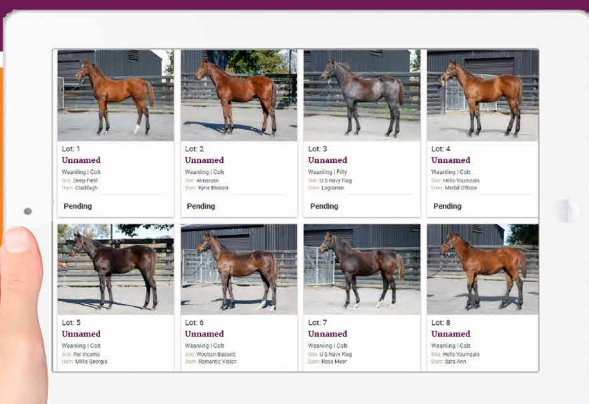


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STARRING ROLE GOES BACK-TO-BACK

Former New Zealand mare **Starring Role (NZ)** (Showcasing) lived up to her name on her home track with an upset victory in Saturday's Asset Painting Services Handicap (1600m) at Morningson.

Despite her last-start win at Pakenham on March 23, the six-year-old daughter of Showcasing went into Saturday's A\$80,000 Benchmark 70 handicap as a \$17 outsider.

But Starring Role quickened smartly to score an impressive come-from-behind win, driven through a narrow gap one off the rail by jockey Fred Kersley and edging out fellow New

Zealand-bred Thought Provoking (NZ) (So You Think) in a photo finish.

Starring Role is trained locally by Max Hinton, and Saturday's win was her third win from just six starts at the track.

"Time and time again, the horses that are trained here have shown how much they love racing here," Kersley said. "Max has a small team that he trains here on course, and his attention to detail with all his horses really speaks volumes.

"This horse loves Morningson, and I like riding here too, so we're all happy.

"They went really quick for the first half-mile today, and when things opened up near the inside, that was where I had to be. She won well."

Starring Role has now had 42 starts for six wins and nine placings, earning A\$249,296 in stakes.

Starring Role was bred by Mike Farquhar, Grant Mitchell, Bill Tutty and the estate of the late Rob Lund. She is co-owned by her breeders, along with Matamata trainer Glenn Old, who oversaw her 13-start career in New Zealand in 2019 and 2020. She placed in five of those 13 starts and was also an unlucky seventh in the Gr.3 Desert Gold Stakes (1600m) at Trentham.

Race	MRC (Morningson) Asset Painting Services H. 1600m
Winner	Starring Role (NZ) 2016
Owners	Mr R W Tutty, Mrs R J Tutty, Mr M D Farquhar, Mrs J Farquhar, Mr B F Hill, Mrs D E Hill, Mr J D Landels, Mrs K R Landels, Mr G J Old
Trainer	Max Hinton (Morningson)
Breeding	by Showcasing (GB) out of Donelmi by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	M D Farquhar; G S Mitchell; R W Tutty & Est Late R J Lund



The dam of Starring Role is Donelmi (NZ) (Stravinsky) – a daughter of dual Group One winner Staring (NZ) (Fiesta Star), and half-sister to the dam of champion racehorse and leading sire Dundee (NZ) (High Chaparral). Donelmi has been represented by four winners from five foals to race.

– NZ Racing Desk

Fred Kersley pushes Starring Role clear at Morningson (Bruno Cannatelli)

AUSTRALIAN BREAKTHROUGH FOR PALMETTO

Previously a multiple Guineas winner in New Zealand as a three-year-old, **Palmetto (NZ)** (Ghibellines) broke through for a first Australian victory in Saturday's A\$150,000 Clarendon Tavern Benchmark 88 Handicap (1500m) at Hawkesbury.

The Ghibellines gelding had gone winless in his first six appearances across the Tasman but brought an improving form line into Saturday's race with a last-start third placing over 1600m at Warwick Farm on April 10.

He went to a new level at Hawkesbury, where he was ridden by Kerrin McEvoy for expat Kiwi

trainer John Sargent. He pounced at the top of the straight and soon put the field away, kicking away to win by just over two lengths.

"He travelled really nicely," McEvoy said. "This is the first time I've ridden him. He's not all that much to look at, but he's a real athlete.

"Sarge gave me a push, and young Tom Sherry did too during the week – he's in Brisbane to ride a couple of horses up there. He rode this horse last time and told me he'd run well. He's duly delivered.

"At the top of the lane, I just pressed the button and he quickened up really nicely. He's open to further improvement, and Sarge has done a good job."

Palmetto was offered by Three Valleys at the 2020 South Island Sale on Gavelhouse Plus, where he was passed in with a \$10,000 reserve.

He began his racing career in the Ascot Park stable of Sally McKay, for whom he had nine starts for three wins. He



Palmetto dashes clear to win at Hawkesbury (Bradleyphotos.com.au)

collected a black-type double in the Listed Dunedin Guineas (1500m) and Southland Guineas (1600m) in February of 2022.

Now racing in the colours of prominent Australian owner Carl Holt, but with some of his original New Zealand ownership still involved, Palmetto has had a total of 16 starts for four wins, two placings and A\$198,079 in stakes.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	Hawkesbury RC Clarendon Tavern H. 1500m
Winner	Palmetto (NZ) 2018
Owners	Mr C R Smith, Mr C E Holt, Mr B M Fechney, Mr C C Rycroft, Mr D A Berry, Mr I J Ryan, Mr M R Taylor, Mr I G Baylis, Mr M C Stokes, Mr G Griffiths, Mr D C McLachlan
Trainer	John Sargent (Randwick)
Breeding	by Ghibellines (AUS) out of Carolina Island by Darci Brahma
Breeder	C R & Mrs M N Smith; M C Stokes & Est late L J Howard

MARACANA BACK IN THE WINNING GROOVE

Former stakes-performed three-year-old **Maracana (NZ)** (Shamexpress) snapped an 18-month win drought with a determined performance in Saturday's A\$130,000 Catanach's Jewellers Handicap (1600m) at Mornington.

The lightly raced daughter of Shamexpress won her first two starts in September and October of 2021, then placed in the Gr.2 Moonee Valley Fillies' Classic (1600m) and the Listed TAB Trophy (1800m) at Flemington. But she had only two further starts before spending close to a year on the sidelines.

She returned to action with starts

at Sandown and Pakenham last month, and on Saturday she was right back at the peak of her powers. After settling in midfield for jockey Celine Gaudray, she swooped to the lead at the top of the straight.

She found herself challenged on both sides in the final 150m but dug deep and held on for a narrow win.

Maracana is trained by Danny O'Brien, who also bred and part-owns the four-year-old. She is out of a half-sister to Group Two winner Natalie Wood, who is the dam of Gr.1 Melbourne Cup (3200m) placegetter Maluckyday.

From nine starts, Maracana has

now had three wins, two placings and A\$156,600 in stakes.

– NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC (Mornington) Catanach's Jewellers H. 1600m
Winner	Maracana (NZ) 2018
Owners	Mr D T O'Brien, Mrs J O'Brien, Mr D B Johnson, Mr D Erez, Mr J F Curtin, Mr A Taghavi, Mr M S Harrington, Dr S Adele
Trainer	Danny O'Brien (Flemington)
Breeding	by Shamexpress out of Rita Moreno by King's Chapel (AUS)
Breeder	D T O'Brien



Maracana (inside) took out the last of the day at Mornington. (Bruno Cannatelli)