

Sunday 20 April 2025

JIMMYSSTAR BRILLIANT IN ALL AGED TRIUMPH



Former Kiwi galloper Jimmysstar confirmed his status as one of Australia's most exciting sprinters with a dazzling win in the Gr.1 All Aged Stakes (1400m) at Randwick on Saturday. (bradleyphotos.com.au)

Former Kiwi galloper **Jimmysstar (NZ)** (Per Incanto) has stamped himself as one of the most exciting sprinters in Australia with a brilliant victory in the Gr.1 All Aged Stakes (1400m) at Randwick on Saturday.

The Ciaron Maher-trained five-year-old was given a masterful ride by Ethan Brown, tracking Broadsiding midfield on the fence throughout before patiently waiting for the gaps to appear.

When the son of Per Incanto found

clear air, the acceleration was instant as he ran out a ready winner from Joliestar and Sunshine In Paris.

Jimmysstar has now won nine of his 18 starts with a further five placings and commenced the campaign with a stunning win in the Gr.1 Oakleigh Plate (1100m).

He was subsequently third on an off track at The Valley in the Gr.1 William Reid Stakes (1200m) and fourth after blundering at the start in the Gr.1 T.J.

Smith Stakes (1200m).

"He is such a ripper," a delighted Ciaron Maher said. "This prep, he has come out this time with the Oakleigh Plate (Gr.1, 1100m) and his next two runs have been absolutely outstanding. He has run in four Group Ones and to claim two of them is pretty special.

"He's a cool horse, Jimmy with a great ownership group and he's got a pretty cool jockey as well. I'm just

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JIMMYSSTAR BRILLIANT IN ALL AGED TRIUMPH

(Continued from page 1)

thrilled. This has been a real come-out preparation for Jimmy”.

“Credit to Ozzie (Kheir, part-owner) and his team, with Matt Becker finding these horses. They’re very good at it”.

“A couple of states, it doesn’t matter, he performs and I take a lot of pride in that.”

The winner of two of his three starts in New Zealand for Hastings trainer Guy Lowry, a majority share in Jimmysstar was sold to clients of Maher following a Rating 65 win at Hawke’s Bay, and the chestnut has now gone on to amass A\$2,139,272 in prizemoney.

Further lucrative targets loom, with the A\$20 million The Everest (1200m) an obvious target in the spring and Maher drawing comparisons with recently retired stablemate Bella Nipotina, who won the lucrative contest.

“I was thinking about The Everest after the Oakleigh Plate,” Maher said. “The other day, he ran home a quicker time in the TJ Smith than he did in the Oakleigh Plate, and his Oakleigh Plate was blistering”.

“He’s just a very good horse and I’m sure he’ll make his presence felt in The Everest.”

Jimmysstar was bred by Wairarapa couple Pete and Chrissy Algie in partnership with Masterton’s Little Avondale Stud.

Stud proprietors Sam and Catriona Williams along with the Algies remain in the ownership of the star galloper.

The chestnut gelding is by Little Avondale Stud’s outstanding stallion Per Incanto out of Anniesstar (NZ) (Zed).



Trainer Ciaron Maher (Bruno Cannatelli)

The Zed mare won five races including the Listed Feilding Gold Cup (2100m), while her full-brother Jacksstar (NZ) (Zed) was a seven-time winner up to Group Two level and also placed in the Gr.1 Auckland Cup (3200m) and her half-brother Bourbonaire was runner-up in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m).

Anniesstar is the dam of three named foals, all of them have been winners, including Charms Star (NZ) (Per Incanto), winner of the Gr.3 Manawatu Breeders’ Stakes (2000m), and she was also runner-up in the Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks (2400m) and Queensland Oaks (2200m) as a three-year-old. **-NZ Racing Desk**

Race	ATC All Aged S. Gr.1 1400m.
Winner	Jimmysstar (NZ) 2019
Owners	Mr A Kheir, Mr J A O’Neill, Mr P A Cook, A K Racing, Mrs C A Algie, Ciaron Maher Racing, Mr J Steet, Carty Racing, Mr T R Maddern, Red Rocks and Crocks, S and D Racing, Mr B D Nettlefold, Mr S A Lewin, Mr D Edmonds, GC 600 Syndicate, Mrs C R Williams, Mr A S Williams, Solscaf Racing
Trainer	Ciaron Maher (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Anniesstar by Zed
Breeder	Mrs C A & P M Algie & Little Avondale Trust; Central; NZ

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MARSH HITS MILESTONE IN THRILLING CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES FINISH

Kiwi Skyhawk's (NZ) (Contributer) last-gasp thriller in the Gr.3 Trelawney Stud Championship Stakes (2100m) at Ellerslie on Saturday delivered a milestone result for his trainer Stephen Marsh.

Having also won the Listed Skycity Star Way Stakes (1200m) with unbeaten two-year-old Little Black Dress earlier on the Ellerslie card, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing statistics now credit Marsh with 97 wins at Group or

Listed level in New Zealand.

He has also won three in Australia – the Gr.1 Australian Oaks (2400m) with Sofia Rosa, the Gr.2 Brisbane Cup (2200m) with Chocante and the Gr.2 Alister Clark Stakes (2040m) with Antrim Coast – to give him an overall total of 100.

Marsh was en route to Hong Kong on Saturday to oversee **El Vencedor's** (NZ) (Shocking) shot at the Gr.1 QEII Cup (2000m) at Sha Tin next weekend.

The Cambridge trainer was represented at Ellerslie by Dylan Johnson.

"It's been a really rewarding day for the stable at Ellerslie today, and 100 black-type wins is a fantastic milestone that the team can be very proud of," Johnson said.

Saturday's win also completed a unique achievement for Kiwi Skyhawk himself, who added the Championship Stakes to his last-start success in the

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Kiwi Skyhawk winning the Gr.3 Trelawney Stud Championship Stakes (2100m) at Ellerslie on Saturday. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))



MARSH HITS MILESTONE IN THRILLING CHAMPIONSHIP STAKES FINISH

(Continued from page 4)

Gr.3 Manawatu Classic over the same distance at Trentham on March 29.

In the decade since the Championship Stakes was shifted from New Year's Day into its current autumn slot, no other horse has won both races. **Joy Alone (NZ)** (Roc De Cambes) went the closest in 2021, winning the Manawatu Classic before being beaten by a nose by **Hezashocka (NZ)** (Shocking) in the Championship Stakes.

Kiwi Skyhawk's Group Three double caps a super-consistent season for the Contributor gelding, who had previously finished third in the Gr.3 War Decree Stakes (1400m), fourth in the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m), fifth in the Karaka Millions 3YO (1600m), seventh in the Gr.2 Avondale Guineas (2100m) and fifth in **Willydoit's (NZ)** (Tarzino) Gr.1 New Zealand Derby (2400m).

"He's a lovely horse who's been so consistent," Johnson said. "We've run him in good company all the way through the season and he's just kept doing a great job in every race. It's nice to see him pick up a couple of good wins in the autumn, because he certainly deserves it."

Kiwi Skyhawk had to work for Saturday's Championship Stakes success. His jockey Matt Cartwright positioned him in midfield and just behind the highly regarded filly **Zormella (NZ)** (Almanzor), who jumped as the \$2.80 favourite.

Zormella showed push-button acceleration around the home turn

and quickly ranged up alongside the leaders, the Marsh-trained pair of Bourbon Proof and **Roctave (NZ)** (Roc De Cambes). She left Kiwi Skyhawk half a dozen lengths behind in fifth and with limited time remaining make up that lost ground.

But Cartwright moved Kiwi Skyhawk through his gears and he began to build up his momentum. He hit top gear in the final 50m, diving through in between Roctave and Zormella to snatch victory by a nose.

Marsh and Johnson paid \$240,000 to buy Kiwi Skyhawk from Cambridge Stud's draft in Book 1 of Karaka 2023. He has now had 11 starts for three wins, three placings and \$281,975 in stakes.

"We'll have a team talk on Monday about what we do with him from here, but I'd be leaning towards saying he's done enough for the season," Johnson said. "He's done a good job and is only going to get better with a bit more maturity."

The Marsh team narrowly missed out on a clean sweep of Saturday's black-type features at Ellerslie. Tardelli was edged out by a neck by **Doctor Askar (NZ)** (Derryn) in the Gr.3 Manco Easter Handicap (1600m), in which

he was attempting to join Eastern Joy (1985), Status (1990) and Time Keeper (2010) as only the fourth three-year-old to win the race in the last 40 years.

"He ran a terrific race and I thought he looked the winner at the 200m," Johnson said. "But all credit should go

to Doctor Askar, who's obviously a very good horse. Joanne Moss has done a super job with him.

"Michael McNab and I were both very pleased with Tardelli's performance, and we just agreed that we were beaten by a better horse on the day."

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	Auckland TR Championship S. Gr.3 2100m.
Winner	Kiwi Skyhawk (NZ) 2021
Owners	2023 Bourbon Lane Stable New Zealand LLC, Dennis E Foster, D Honiss, G Wilson, S Freeman, J Gray & S B Marsh
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Contributor (IRE) out of Pouter (AUS) by Dubawi (IRE)
Breeder	W Doughty; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2023 National Yearling Sale - Book1 V: Cambridge Stud \$240000 P: Stephen Marsh Racing / Dylan Johnson B/ stock



Trainer Stephen Marsh. (Nicole Troost)





DOCTOR ASKAR ADDS EASTER CROWN TO STELLAR RUN



Doctor Askar upon winning Saturday's Gr.3 Manco Easter Handicap (1600m) at Ellerslie. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))

Saturday's Gr.3 Manco Easter Handicap (1600m) at Ellerslie capped a rapid and popular rise to stardom for Waverley visitor **Doctor Askar (NZ)** (Derryn).

The time-honoured \$150,000 feature was the fifth win in a row for the Derryn gelding, who has now earned \$271,145 from a 15-start, six-win career. Doctor Askar is trained by his owner-breeder Joanne Moss, who named him after a Waikato Hospital doctor who she credits with saving her son's life.

The equine Doctor Askar took nine starts to win his first race, eventually leaving maiden ranks with a narrow victory over 1400m at New Plymouth on December 27. He ran third in his next start at Trentham on January 11, and the four-year-old has never looked back since then.

His next four races produced four wins in succession. He took out a special conditions maiden at Trentham on January

18, followed by Rating 75 successes at Waverley on February 28 and Trentham on March 22. Moss raised the bar with a first black-type assignment in the Listed Flying Handicap (1400m) on March 29, and Doctor Askar rose to the challenge and scored another narrow win.

Saturday's Easter was by far his toughest test. It was his first time at Group Three level, first time at Ellerslie, first time right-handed and first time racing over 1600m. But Doctor Askar took all of those new challenges in his stride and came out on top again.

"That's pretty impressive, I wasn't expecting that," Moss said. "He's a homebred horse that's really done us proud. A lot of people are following him and backing him now, so it's been great."

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DOCTOR ASKAR ADDS EASTER CROWN TO STELLAR RUN

(Continued from page 6)

"I always wanted to come to Auckland and win the Great Northern Steeplechase (6400m), but that's not run here at Ellerslie any more. But I'll take an Easter!"

Moss said the human Dr Askar has been following his namesake's progress with interest.

"He's very happy and says it's funny hearing his name being called out by the commentators," Moss said. "He'll be watching again today."

Another major player in the Doctor Askar story has been jockey Joe Doyle, who has guided the horse to five wins and a placing from six rides.



Irish jockey Joe Doyle. (Trish Dunell)

Gate 14 in a 16-horse field presented another challenge on Saturday, but Doyle drove Doctor Askar forward to sit just behind the front-runner **Electron (NZ)** (Turn Me Loose) by the time the field reached the turn out of the back straight.

The pressure was on all the way around the track, but Electron and Doctor Askar were both still full of running as they turned for home.

Doctor Askar slowly but surely got the better of Electron down the straight, but she was not the only rival he had to worry about. Talented three-year-old Tardelli launched a big run down the outside of the track and quickly drew up alongside the leading pair.

Doctor Askar saw him coming and lifted again, holding on to win by a neck. Electron was another nose away in third.

"It's been a fantastic training performance by Jo with this horse," Doyle said. "I don't think you'd find a more popular winner in the country today. There's such a great story behind the horse and they've been rewarded again. It's fantastic."

"I can't wait until next year with this horse. He still has a touch of greenness and newness, so he's only going to improve."

"I said before the race that with the long run up to the first turn, we'd be able to roll forward from our wide gate. I was hoping they wouldn't be going mad in front, but the pace was certainly strong, so fair play to the horse."

"He was probably running on fumes near the end, but it's a credit to his toughness and resilience that he had his head out at the right time."

"He's such a fun horse. He's a great horse for the public to follow, with that story behind him and his fantastic will to win."

Doctor Askar's six wins have come by margins of a short neck, half a length, a long head, a length and a quarter, a head and a neck. - **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	Auckland TR Easter H. Gr.3 1600m.
Winner	Doctor Askar (NZ) 2020
Owners	Joanne & Mrs R Jill Moss
Trainer	Joanne Moss (Waverley)
Breeding	by Derryn (AUS) out of Petipas Delight by St. Petersburg (AUS)
Breeder	Ms J R Moss; Central; NZ



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BANKERS CHOICE STARS WITH MORNINGTON CUP VICTORY

Versatile Kiwi-bred galloper **Bankers Choice (NZ)** (Mongolian Khan) has provided himself with a shot at one of the biggest prizes on the Victorian spring racing calendar with victory in Saturday's Listed Mornington Cup (2400m).

The seven-year-old son of Mongolian Khan provided trainer Glen Thompson with his first solo victory since the shock passing of his co-trainer Mike Moroney when he won his last start at Caulfield.

Bankers Choice has often looked a capable stayer and Saturday's victory was not only his second straight success over 2400m but the victory also makes him ballot exempt for the Gr.1 Caulfield Cup (2400m) later this year.

Regular rider Daniel Stackhouse was all out to hold off a strong late challenge from the Ciaran Maher-trained Strawberry Rock who lunged late to get within a nose of Bankers Choice at the winning post.

Stable representative Anthony Feroce was all smiles as he provided a glowing report on the change to the horse who had gone through a form slump during the spring.

"It's just amazing as last year the plan was to get him into the Caulfield Cup after he ran second in the Sandown Classic (Gr.2, 2400m) but he ran poorly during the spring," Feroce said.

"He went out to Jake Noonan's partner Mariah's place and she freshened him up nicely, so a big thank you to her.

"Daniel gets on really well with him and when he jumped on him at Moonee Valley he decided to go forward on him, which worked out well and ever since he has been a different horse".

"It worked out perfectly today as we got into the place we wanted (third) early on, although I thought he was tugging a little bit and he hit the wall. Thank God that post came up when it did".

"We may look at Warrnambool (Cup, 2300m) next or we might just put him away until the spring. He is the sort of horse that seems to like continual racing so we will look at that when we are making any decisions."

Stackhouse was also rapt with the victory after the pre-race plan went exactly as he had hoped.

"A big thanks to Glen Thompson as he has done an amazing job with this horse," he said.

"The plan worked out perfectly, near the speed which was just fine and he travelled so well".

"I nursed him into it at the 600m with plenty of horse underneath me and he was just too tough".

"He is jumping out of the gates so well now and is a very happy horse."



Versatile Kiwi-bred galloper Bankers Choice claimed victory in Saturday's Listed Mornington Cup (2400m), securing a valuable spring opportunity. (Bruno Cannatelli)

Bred and raced by South Waikato farming couple Ross and Corrine Kearney under their Okaharau Station banner, Bankers Choice won five of his ten starts for Cambridge trainer Stephen Marsh before a majority interest was sold to clients of the Moroney stable in a private transaction.

Out of the Conatus mare Signorina, Bankers Choice is a full-brother to the highly talented three-year-old **Checkmate (NZ)** (Mongolian Khan), a Listed winner and third-place getter in last month's NZ\$3.5 million NZB Kiwi (1500m).

With nine wins and eight placings from 45 starts, Bankers Choice has been a great money spinner for connections, amassing A\$1,475,502 in prize money.

-NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC (Mornington) Mornington Cup L 2400m.
Winner	Bankers Choice (NZ) 2017
Owners	Ballymore Stables (Aust) Pty Ltd, R & C Legh Racing Pty Ltd, Mrs J G Madden, Mr C H Madden, Mr K Lowe, Mr S P Grant, Mr R A Ford, Mr D G B Cobcroft, Mr G Lygoyris, Mrs S Lygoyris, Musk Creek Farm P/L, Mr D W Reynolds, Mr J B Hart, Mr M Paterson, Mr C W Reynolds, Mrs M P Lowe, Mr R Kearney, Mrs C J Kearney, Mr A J Reynolds, Mr J C Bayley
Trainer	Glen Thompson (Flemington)
Breeding	by Mongolian Khan (AUS) out of Signorina by Conatus (AUS)
Breeder	Okaharau Station Ltd; Waikato; NZ





OAKS TARGET **FOR MOVIN OUT**

Kiwi-bred filly **Movin Out (NZ)** (Staphanos) made a successful switch from Sydney racing to a tilt at Victorian riches when she came from well back to race to a dominant victory in the Mornington Guineas (1600m) on Saturday.

The three-year-old daughter of Novara Park- stallion Staphanos originally began her career out of the Bill Thurlow stable at Waverley where she broke maiden status at her second start before finishing a meritorious third in the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) behind Captured By Love and Alabama Lass at her third and final New Zealand run.

Subsequently purchased by thoroughbred powerhouse Yulong, the filly joined Chris Waller's operation in Sydney where she ran an eye-catching fourth first up in the Gr.2 Phar Lap Stakes (1500m) before dropping out to finish last in the Gr.1 Vinery Stakes (200m) behind Treasure The Moment.

Sent south by Waller, Movin Out was having just her third Australian outing on Saturday and she showed just what she is made off as she buried her rivals with a powerful home straight surge in the hands of Ben Melham to power away with the Guineas by more than two lengths.

Waller stable representative Lizzie Collett was delighted with the filly who has already shown the stable she has a few tricks up her sleeve, both on and off the track.

"She only arrived Monday morning with us but she travelled down well," Collett said.

"She is a fairly quirky character and I think the Sydney stable would agree with that, but she did everything right today as she was quiet and relaxed, and you couldn't fault her in the mounting yard.

"I was happy with the way she settled and she just did everything perfectly and next week we hope to back her up and go to Adelaide for the (Australasian) Oaks (Gr.1, 2000m)."

Melham was taken by the run and is keen to stick with the filly if she makes it to Adelaide.

"She was very good and has been running in the right races where she was very unlucky in that first start in a slowly run race," he said.

"She got it all wrong in the Vinery but she has good ability and is still learning. She's very aggressive and was much better today. You just have to switch her off and you can see the turn of foot she has.

"I wasn't happy to come around the lot of them but she had a class edge on them and when she relaxed, I was happy to take luck out of the equation and she was too good.

"I would definitely ride her in Adelaide as she is more than good enough to win as long as she can get some tempo in the race."

Movin Out is a daughter of the Stravinsky mare Wahaha, a half-sister to four-time Group One winner Wall Street and was bought out of Anistay Lodge's Book 2 yearling draft for NZ\$24,000 at Karaka last year. **-NZ Racing Desk**

Race	MRC (Mornington) Mornington Guineas 1600m.
Winner	Movin Out (NZ) 2021
Owners	Yu Long Investments
Trainer	Chris Waller (Flemington)
Breeding	by Staphanos (JPN) out of Wahaha by Stravinsky (USA)
Breeder	Ms E Shattock; Waikato; NZ
Sales	2023 National Yearling Sale - Book 2 V: Anistay Lodge \$24000 P: GD Thurlow



Kiwi filly Movin Out powers home in Mornington Guineas. (Bruno Cannatelli)



IMMEDIACY PRODUCES STRONG STAYING PERFORMANCE

The Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young-trained four-year-old **Immediacy (NZ)** (Tarzino) was back in the winner's circle with a strong win in the Enchanted Adventure Handicap (2000m) at Mornington on Saturday.

The gelded son of Tarzino was a Group Two winner at three and has built towards another raceday victory.

Ridden by Michael Dee, Immediacy was put into the race, settling one out and one back and went on to score by a length and a half from Foujita San with Golden Crusader back in third.

Immediacy came into the race off a solid fresh-up sixth over a mile at Flemington and covered the 2000m in a slick 2:03.09.

"We were confident he could win," stable representative Darren Saunders said.

"He was very good first up at Flemington and stepped up to the 2000m but still with some improvement in him.

"There are nice races coming up in South Australia and we will assess in a few days and then find something for him."

Winning rider Michael Dee ensured Immediacy had every opportunity to reward his backers who supported Immediacy into \$2.80 favourite.

"He showed me a lot as we wanted to be one off the fence and in a position where we could use his momentum," Dee said.

"He came off the bridle coming down the side and I wasn't sure just how well we were going but he really built through his gears and he was strong to the line.

"I popped out and took about 100m to wind up but on the bend I knew at that point the race was ours but also keeping in

mind he was only second up at 2000m so there is plenty more in store going forward.

"He pulled up having a nice healthy blow so there is plenty of improvement to come as he goes through his grades."

Immediacy was bred by Cambridge Stud owners Brendan and Jo Lindsay and is by Westbury Stud stallion Tarzino.

The dam of Immediacy is the three-race-winning Pivotal mare But Beautiful, who is also the dam of Group Two winner Bella Waters.

Originally bought as a yearling by Guy Lowry's Game Lodge for \$15,000 from the draft of Kiltannon Stables at Karaka 2022, Immediacy returned to Karaka later that year as a member of Riverrock Farm's draft at the Ready to Run Sale. He was bought by Busuttin Racing and Group 1 Racing for \$200,000.

-NZ Racing Desk

Race	MRC (Mornington) Enchanted Adventure H. 2000m.
Winner	Immediacy (NZ) 2020
Owners	Mr A Kheir, Mr J A O'Neill, Mr M B Lee, Mr B D Nettlefold, Carty Racing, Mr D Edmonds, Mr G J Skien, A K Racing, Mr B A Secatore, Mrs R T Secatore, Mr C B Secatore, Mr C Schembri, Busuttin Racing
Trainer	Trent Busuttin & Natalie Young (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by Tarzino out of But Beautiful (IRE) by Pivotal (GB)
Breeder	B J Lindsay MNZM & Mrs J E A Lindsay; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 2 V: Kiltannon Stables Ltd \$15000 P: Game Lodge



Immediacy returned to winning form on Saturday, with the Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young-trained four-year-old powering home in the Enchanted Adventure Handicap (2000m) at Mornington. (Bruno Cannatelli)



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LILAC ADDS FURTHER STAKES SUCCESS TO BURGEONING RECORD

Promising three-year-old filly **Lilac** further enhanced her future value in the matrons paddock when she dictated terms to take out the Gr.3 James HB Carr Stakes (1400m) at Randwick in the hands of James McDonald.

A graduate of Gordon Cunningham's Curraghmore draft at the 2023 New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sale at Karaka, Lilac is trained by Annabel Neasham and Rob Archibald who had the daughter of Justify tuned to the minute after some strong recent performances including finishing fourth to Lady Shenandoah in the Gr.1 Surround Stakes (1400m) last month.

Despite holding the start up for five minutes due to her shifting a plate, Lilac appeared unperturbed as McDonald took her straight to the front before setting a moderate pace throughout.

Lilac kept her main rival Clean Energy blocked away on her back in the early part of the home straight before booting clear to comfortably hold out a late challenge from More Territories with Clean Energy fighting on well in restricted room to finish third.

Neasham was delighted to secure the victory, one that she felt was much deserved.

"She's been brilliant all preparation and been thereabouts running great races in the Light Fingers (Gr.1, 1200m) and the Surround behind those really good fillies," Neasham said.

"I thought she ran a gallant race two weeks' ago and we were keen to end the prep on this run and we were happy to get James on. He rated her perfectly and cuddled her to the top of the rise and she was very tough.

"I don't think she came off the bridle at all. It was probably a painful watch for her owners but she's a very exciting filly going forward.

"She's so quick out of the gates and maybe she's relaxing a bit better now. I've always thought that 1400m would be her max but the way she relaxed today, it was pretty comfortable in the end."

Neasham is keen to see the filly have a good break now as she believes she will be even better next season.

"We'll chat with Champion Thoroughbreds and Coolmore as well (owners) now," she said.

"There's a great team of owners in this filly and the racing for four-year-old mares, there's such a good program for them.

"There'll be lots and lots of races for her like The Invitation (A\$2 million, 1400m). Onwards and upwards for her."

McDonald also enjoyed the victory on the free-going filly.

"She was good. She's a solid horse who enjoys a gallop and that's what she did today," he said.

"The drop back in grade was perfect for her and while maybe



Lilac, a graduate of Curraghmore's 2023 NZB Karaka draft, claimed victory in the Gr.3 James HB Carr Stakes. (bradleyphotos.com.au)

she was a tad keen from (the barrier) seven, as she gets older, she'll get better.

"She's run against the best of them, you know, in a race where Lady Of Camelot and Lady Shenandoah dominated and while she's a tier below them that's her race (today)."

Lilac was bred by Katom and is by Coolmore Stud stallion Justify. Her dam is Paulownia, who raced in the Coolmore colours and was trained by Jamie Richards to finish second in the Gr.2 Wellington

Guineas (1400m) at Trentham in 2018. Paulownia is also a full-sister to Group One winner and sire Foxwedge.

Offered by Curraghmore in Book 1 of Karaka 2023, Lilac was bought by Jason Abraham's Champion Thoroughbreds and Annabel Neasham Racing for \$300,000.

Previously a Listed winner, Lilac has now had nine starts for three wins and A\$374,975 in prizemoney. **-NZ Racing Desk**

Race	ATC James HB Carr S. Gr.3 1400m.
Winner	Lilac (AUS) (2021)
Owners	Champion Thoroughbreds, Chimaera Racing, Mr D J Kelly, Thug Thoroughbreds, L N J Foxwoods, J E Abrahams Pty Ltd, Dr C M Rogers, RKH Thoroughbreds, Ms S R Smith, Coolmore, Mr T A Janssens, Loftus Park, Ursino Racing, Esquin, Hon. G J Williamson, Mr F F Fairthorne
Trainer	Annabel Neasham & Rob Archibald (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by JUSTIFY (USA) out of PAULOWNIA
Breeder	Katom
Sales	2023 National Yearling Sale - Book1 V:Curraghmore \$300000 P: Champion Thoroughbreds / Annabel Neasham Racing





MAYOR NORWOOD PROVES SUPERIOR W/ COMMANDING RIVERTON CUP VICTORY

Consistent sayer **Mayor Of Norwood (NZ)** (Ghibellines) continued a run of consistent form when he took full advantage of a rails hugging ride by apprentice Donovan Cooper to take out the feature event at Riverton on Saturday, the Kennedy Building Riverton Cup (2170m)

Cooper only secured the mount on the Brian and Shane Anderton-trained six-year-old after regular pilot Corey Campbell broke his foot late in the week, but produced an absolute gem as he never went around a horse throughout the race to secure victory

The winner of the Waikouaiti Cup (2200m) four starts back, the son of Ghibellines was rock hard fit for his assignment on a testing Heavy 8 surface that had favoured horses staying closer to the inside rail throughout the day.

Allowed to settle in behind pacemakers **Taimate Diva (NZ)** (Telperion) and **Complicate (NZ)** (Complacent), Cooper bided his time on his mount before starting his closing push with 300m to run. Mayor Of Norwood dashed through and quickly put a winning break on his rivals as he ran out a comfortable four length winner at the finish.

Brian Anderton was at home watching all the action in the comfort of his living room and was chuffed with the performance of his charge.

"He can be a tricky horse to ride and a lot of jockeys have got back on him, but young Donovan got him away nicely and had him the perfect spot all the way," Anderton said.

"He had him nice and handy, stayed hard on the rail and the horse found a tremendous turn of foot just when he needed it.

"It was a ten out of ten ride and I'm thrilled for Donovan and for the owner of the horse, Janice Smith, as she is a wonderful person and took over the horses with the very untimely death of her husband Pat.

"I rang her when we knew Corey (Campbell) couldn't take the mount and she just said go ahead and put Donovan on and run the horse if you think you should.

"He (Mayor Of Norwood) hasn't had a lot of luck lately but he definitely made amends today.

"He is not really a heavy track horse so we might have a look at going to Brisbane with him if the travel works out, but we won't be doing that without speaking with Mrs Smith and getting her approval first."

Raced by the estate of his breeder, the late Patrick Smith, Mayor Of Norwood is out of the useful race mare Gallant Babe and is the younger brother of his stakes placed stablemate Capo Dell Impero (NZ) (Ghibellines).

He has now won six of his 30 starts and \$218,750 in prizemoney.

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

Race	Riverton RC Riverton Cup 2147m.
Winner	Mayor of Norwood (NZ) 2018
Owners	Est late P E Smith
Trainer	Brian & Shane Anderton (Wingatui)
Breeding	by Ghibellines (AUS) out of Gallant Babe by Gallant Guru (AUS)
Breeder	Est Late P E Smith; Canterbury; NZ



Mayor Of Norwood winning the Kennedy Building Riverton Cup (2170m) on Saturday. (Monica Toretto)





MAKABAR UPSET LEADS PITMAN TREBLE AT RIVERTON

The 600km journey from Christchurch to Riverton paid off on Saturday for Michael and Matthew Pitman, who kicked off the annual two-day Easter fixture with three wins including a \$44 upset by **Makabar (NZ)** (Swiss Ace) in the feature sprint.

Makabar went into the Riverton Butchery Aparima Handicap (1200m) with unplaced finishes to his name in all of his last six starts. However, he had been a star performer at the Easter meeting 12 months ago, where he ran third in this same open 1200m sprint before winning over 1400m on Easter Monday.

Saturday's return to Riverton brought the very best out of Makabar. The nine-year-old dropped out to the back of the 14-horse field in the \$50,000 sprint, then began to warm into his work along the rail in the home straight.

In the meantime, the front-running **Industrialist (NZ)** (Sweet Orange) had been tackled and headed at the turn by **Vanderdonk (NZ)** (RIP Van Winkle), but fought back and gradually clawed

his way back into the lead with 100m remaining. Just when it looked like Industrialist was home free, Makabar drove through on his inside and snatched a last-stride victory by a nose.

It was the 10th win of an 89-start career for Makabar, who has now earned \$208,574 in stakes. He was a \$55,000 purchase as a yearling at Karaka in 2017.

Makabar's victory headlined Saturday's winning treble for the Pitmans, who also won the Todd & Co Realty/Ruahine Dairies (1600m) with **The Immigrant (NZ)** (Tavistock) and the Forde Auto Services/Speights Fairfax Handicap (1200m) with **Express Coup (NZ)** (Shamexpress).

The Immigrant has now won three times in a 34-race career and has banked \$72,060. Express Coup, who races in the colours of long-time South Island racing supporter Ray Coupland, has earned \$116,855 from a 29-start, five-win career.

"It's been a great day's racing down here today and I'm thrilled that we picked up the three wins," Michael Pitman said. "It's a perfect way to start

off the weekend.

"They're a very good club here at Riverton, great people, and I've always maintained it's the best track in the South Island. So I'm always happy to make the trip down to support this meeting every year.

"We hadn't seen the best of Makabar lately, but he's a true heavy-track horse. He's a superior wet-tracker and he showed that today.

"All of our three winners today were suited to the wet ground and really like the track here at Riverton. Makabar had won and placed in his two previous races here, Express Coup had a one-start, one-win record here, and The Immigrant's couple of runs here included a placing. They showed what they can do in suitable conditions today.

"All of them are entered for the second day of the meeting on Monday too, and at this stage I'd say they're likely to back up."

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**



Race	Riverton RC Butchery Aparima H. 1200m.
Winner	Makabar (NZ) 2015
Owners	P C Connolly, J Heald, P MacCormick, I W McNicholl, M R Pitman, A T Reid, C B Stott & R V Taylor
Trainer	Michael & Matthew Pitman (Yaldhurst, Riccarton Park)
Breeding	by Swiss Ace (AUS) out of Sierra Gold (AUS) by Encosta de Lago (AUS)
Breeder	G Harvey; Auckland; NZ
Sales	2017 National Yearling Sale - Select V: Westbury Stud - \$55000 P: Team Rogerson

Makabar winning the Aparima Handicap (1200m) at Riverton on Saturday. (Monica Toretto)

LITTLE BLACK DRESS SNATCHES THRILLING STAKES WIN

Flashy filly **Little Black Dress** (Snitzel) maintained her unbeaten record with a dramatic victory in Saturday's Listed SKYCITY Star Way Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie.

The only thing that seemed certain with 200m left to run in the two-year-old feature was that it looked like a Stephen Marsh-trained quinella with pacemaker **Lady Iris (NZ)** (U S Navy Flag) clinging resolutely to a narrow lead from Little Black Dress as the pair went stride for stride at that point.

Lady Iris suddenly made a beeline to her left and hampered both her stablemate and the late closing Too Sweet, before being straightened by rider George Rooke, however Little Black Dress still had momentum in her favour as she stretched out nicely to snatch victory by a head from Lady Iris with a further long neck back to **Too Sweet (NZ)** (Satono Aladdin).

With Marsh en route to Hong Kong to link up with stable Star **El Vencedor (NZ)**

(Shocking), who travelled there on Thursday, it was left to stable representative Dylan Johnson to sum up the final result.

"We have been in this position before with stablemates challenging each other late in the piece at Ellerslie, but when you have runners in nice races it is lovely when they are at the sharp end of it," Johnson said.

"It was nice to quinella the race and the winner is a lovely, well-bred filly by Snitzel that Albert (Bosma) and Matt (Allnut) did a great job sourcing as they didn't have to pay overs for her and they now have a very valuable stakes winner, who is two from two, on their hands.

"The second filly has also gained valuable black type and although there is not a lot to her she just fought and fought.

"There is not a lot more for them so they can go out in the paddock before we get them back in to attack the spring."

The Arrowfield Stud-bred Little Black Dress is by Snitzel out of the Street Cry mare Star Fashion, who won the Gr.3 Ladies' Day Vase (1600m) and placed in the Gr.1 Australasian Oaks (2000m) and Gr.2 Edward Manifold Stakes (1600m). Star Fashion is now the dam of four winners from five foals to race.

Arrowfield offered Little Black Dress at the 2024 Inglis



Little Black Dress winning Saturday's Listed SKYCITY Star Way Stakes (1200m) at Ellerslie. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))

Australian Easter Yearling Sale, where Go Racing secured her for A\$240,000.

Jockey Wiremu Pinn was also impressed by how his filly picked herself up and finished off so resolutely to the line.

"She is a very good horse with class written all over her," he said.

"She is beautifully bred and won her first start in good fashion and has put away a smart field here today.

"Even with the bump she picked herself up, pinned her ears back and had a real go.

"I think she is a Group One horse as what she is doing now is on ability only, whereas in six months she will be even better."

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**

Race	Auckland TR Star Way S. L 1200m.
Winner	Little Black Dress (AUS) 2022
Owners	Go Racing Hepburn Syndicate (Mgr: Albert Bosma)
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Snitzel (AUS) (2002) out of Star Fashion (AUS) (2010) by Street Cry (IRE)
Breeder	Arrowfield Pastoral Pty Ltd



EL VENCEDOR GIVES NEW ZEALAND HOPE IN FWD QEII CUP

With four consecutive victories highlighted by the last three at Group 1 level and being named the equal 10th best galloper in the LONGINES World's Best Racehorse rankings, the timing is perfect for New Zealand stayer **El Vencedor (NZ)** (Shocking) to tackle the G1 FWD QEII Cup (2000m) at Sha Tin on 27 April.

El Vencedor will go into the HK\$28 million feature after being freshened up following last-start victory in the G1 Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes (2000m) at Ellerslie on 8 March.

El Vencedor arrived in Hong Kong on Thursday (17 April), having pleased Marsh.

"He is going super, he really is," Marsh said. "He just keeps on winning. He is tough, puts himself in the race and is as genuine as all hell.

"He has had a little freshen since his last race and it's fair to say we've given him a fair bit of racing but he is just going so well and has freshened nicely."

The six-year-old gelding, sired by 2009 G1 Melbourne Cup (3200m) winner Shocking, had his final hit-out before the flight to Hong Kong with a solo gallop on the course proper in between races at Te Rapa last Sunday (13 April).

Marsh's stable star galloped over 1400m after also having a recent 1300m trial, which he won by three and a half lengths, on 3 April.

"The gallop will really bring him on," Marsh said. "He trialled up great about

and week and half ago.

"It was a 1300m trial and he won it well and I just sort of let him roll past the post a bit and sort of into the back straight so he had a great, solid hit-out. The track was a little bit off. He just won as he liked."

A versatile galloper, El Vencedor usually jumps well to put himself in the race – either leading or settling in the first four – which Marsh says normally takes bad luck out of the equation.

"The last four races he has led, he has trailed, he has sat in the one-one and has sat outside the leader and he has done a bit of everything," Marsh said.

While Marsh said he is excited with the challenge of competing against world-class opposition, he is thrilled to have booked Hong Kong's leading rider Zac Purton for the ride.

"When you are going to Hong Kong, he is the king, so I am very happy to have him," he said.

After starting out as a sprinter, El Vencedor did a lot wrong early on but, since tackling staying races, he has gone to another level but Marsh admits he would never have predicted the three Group 1 victories in a row.

"But he just keeps on doing it and now he just seems to be the ultimate racehorse," he said. "He just keeps getting better and better and has surprised us how dominate he has been and we always knew he was a very good horse."

El Vencedor's dam Strictly Maternal also produced 2021 BMW Hong Kong Derby (2000m) winner Sky Darci for Caspar Fownes.

-Daryl Timms (HKJC)



*El Vencedor has won three Group 1s in a row.
(Trish Dunell)*