

Sunday 8 October 2023

## LIFE LESSONS SECURES FIRST STAKES SUCCESS



*Life Lessons scores a determined victory in the Gr.2 Furphy Rose of Kingston Stakes (1400m) at Flemington. (Bruno Cannatelli)*

Despite the last-minute defection of Skew Wiff (NZ) (Savabeel), New Zealand maintained a strong influence on Saturday's A\$300,000 Gr.2 Furphy Rose of Kingston Stakes (1400m) at Flemington thanks to a determined victory by Kiwi-bred mare **Life Lessons (NZ)** (Tavistock).

There had been plenty of pre-race attention centred around the Waikato

Stud homebred Skew Wiff, who was a last-start winner of the Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) at Hastings and was being pointed towards next month's A\$10 million Golden Eagle (1500m). However, her race was over before it began on Saturday. She became fractious in the starting gates and was backed out before being late-scratched on vets' advice.

But there was another quality New Zealand-bred mare waiting in the wings. Life Lessons had announced her arrival on the Group-racing stage with a last-start second behind boom mare Amelia's Jewel (Siyouni) in the Gr.2 Let's Elope Stakes (1400m) on September 16, and this time she went one better.

Ridden by Daniel Stackhouse, the

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# LIFE LESSONS SECURES FIRST STAKES SUCCESS

(Continued from page 1)

five-year-old daughter of Tavistock settled in second place behind the pace-setting Starlight Scope (Night Of Thunder).

Life Lessons pounced at the top of the Flemington straight and went to the lead. Multiple Group One winner Princess Grace (Karakontie) loomed up alongside her and threatened to rush past, but Life Lessons kept digging in and held her out by a long neck. Another New Zealand-bred mare, Wrote To Arataki (NZ) (Wrote), was close up in third.

"My plan was to be in front of Princess Grace," Stackhouse said. "I knew the turn of foot that my mare had, and I knew Princess Grace would fight hard if I had her in front of me.

"I always wanted to be positive on that tempo and I thought I was controlling the race for a while. She's done a good job. She's tough.

"I think she is mentally and physically more filled out now. She gave me a good feel the other day. I felt there was more improvement to come, and I think she showed that today."

Trained by Peter Moody and Katherine Coleman for owner-breeders Ramsey Pastoral Pty Ltd, Life Lessons has now had 11 starts for four wins, three seconds and A\$414,525 in prize-money.

"We're thrilled with her," Coleman said. "She's come up well after that run behind Amelia's Jewel, and she couldn't have done much more that day. She's maintained her condition. We brought her here thinking she'd run very well.

"She was good over summer last year. We tried to give her a short freshen-up and then have her up for the autumn and it just didn't work out. She just needed a good break, which she's had. She's come back stronger and she's a mare in form. If we can keep her happy, we'll be in for a very good prep."

Moody and Coleman could even consider a shot at the Gr.1 Empire Rose Stakes (1600m) at Flemington on November 4.

"The way she was finishing that race off there, I wouldn't be saying no," Coleman said.

The 46th individual stakes winner for former Cambridge Stud stallion Tavistock, Life Lessons is one of three winners from six foals to race out of the Group Three-winning mare Brockman's Lass. The Encosta De Lago mare slipped a foal by Preferment the following year and has subsequently returned to Australia, where she produced an Invader filly in 2020.

– NZ Racing Desk

<b>Race</b>	<b>VRC Rose of Kingston S. Gr.2 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Life Lessons (NZ) 2018</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Ramsey Pastoral Co Pty Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Peter Moody &amp; Katherine Coleman (Pakenham OC)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Tavistock out of Brockman's Lass (AUS) by Encosta de Lago (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Ramsey Pastoral Co Pty Ltd</b>



Jockey Daniel Stackhouse. (Bruno Cannatelli)





# TOWN CRYER RINGS HER BELL IN UPSET VICTORY

**W**hile most people were surprised to see **Town Cryer (NZ)** (Tavistock) hold out the late charge of multiple Group One winner Prowess (NZ) (Proisir) as she took out the Gr.3 Grangewilliam Stud Taranaki Breeder's Stakes (1400m), trainer Roydon Bergerson wasn't necessarily one of them.

Bergerson had expected Prowess to be the hardest to beat in the feature race at Hawera on Saturday but when he heard the track would be in the Soft range on the day, his confidence grew that he could spring an upset with his six-year-old daughter of Tavistock

Rider Johnathan Parkes took the bull by the horns from barrier rise as he set up a steady pace on his charge, who

looked to be travelling easily approaching the home bend.

Town Cryer shook off the challenges of Darci La Bella (NZ) (Darci Brahma) and Mazzolino (NZ) (Savabeel) shortly after straightening before Prowess appeared out wide with a powerful burst.

Having her first start for the season after a delay caused by a minor injury, Prowess peaked on her run slightly as Town Cryer kicked strongly at the 100m to hold a one length advantage at the line, with Mazzolino battling nicely for third.

"It was great to come back to my old hometown and pick up the big one today," Bergerson said.

"We knew she was flying, so we waited and waited and I

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Town Cryer (orange & black) strides away from Prowess to score in the Gr.3 Grangewilliam Stud Taranaki Breeders' Stakes (1400m) (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))



# TOWN CRYER RINGS HER BELL IN UPSET VICTORY

(Continued from page 4)

said to the manager of her syndicate of owners that we would chuck her in the deep end have a crack at a big one.

"I didn't think we would be racing against Prowess and beat her, maybe the track tripped her up, but you take the wins where you can and I'm proud of her.

"As soon as she came into the stable as a two-year-old I said to my old mate GV (Gary Vile) she was a Group horse and he laughed at me.

"She has just matured and it was a great ride by Parkesy, who rode her at the trials the other day and was confident as well."

Bergerson had been contemplating sending the mare south to the Gr.3 Coupland's Bakeries Mile (1600m) at Riccarton on 15 November but admitted he may change those plans.

"I had been thinking I would send her to the Coupland's Mile, but I might keep her back and aim her at something a little bigger in the North Island now," he said.

Parkes admitted he heard the footsteps coming when Prowess launched her claim but was confident he had the situation in hand.

"Full credit to Roydon as he had this mare spot on for today," Parkes said.

"She looked amazing and trialled up really well.

"She got a nice lead, put pressure on when I wanted to and stuck on really well.

"She pinned her ears back and fought hard, Prowess is a superstar but I was on the better horse on the day and that is a nice win to get."

Town Cryer has now won six of her 25 starts for Bergerson and her large group of owners and just under \$200,000 in prizemoney.

Co-trainer Roger James, who prepares Prowess in partnership with Robert Wellwood, was satisfied with the run by his stable star, who had trouble negotiating the tricky Soft7 surface.

"She dipped quite badly in the ground and he (rider Michael McNab) said he had to pick her up and get her travelling again," James said.

"She has got such a big action, so it just wasn't ideal for her and she was beaten by a better horse on the day.

"It's six months since she has a run and two and a half months since she had a trial, so like the All Blacks having their first game of the season, she will improve with it."

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**



Trainer Roydon Bergerson.  
(Race Images)

<b>Race</b>	<b>Egmont RC Taranaki Breeders S. Gr.3 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Town Cryer (NZ) 2017</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>K S Day, J D Dixon, M Fearon, G A McTaggart, Naenae Bowling Club No.2 Syndicate, A R Osborne, J A Roache, Mrs J Sellars, Mrs B C &amp; P J B Smith, W L Wildbore, R J Wiltshire &amp; R Yemm</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Roydon Bergerson (Awapuni)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Tavistock out of The Speaker by Volksraad (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>P J B Smith Family Trust; Mrs B C &amp; P J B Smith</b>





# SHOCKING <sup>(AUS)</sup> GROUP 1 SIRE

**A great season-start for 2023/24...  
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Rank	Stallion	Rnrs	Wnrs	Wins
1	<b>Shocking</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>
2	Tavistock	32	9	11
3	Burgundy	30	9	12
4	Jakkalberry	27	9	9
5	Savabeel	32	8	8

*Figures: ARION, 4 Oct 2023*

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# LEGARTO ALL CLASS **IN LOCAL FEATURE**



*Legarto will head to the A\$10 million Golden Eagle after her Listed Matamata Cup (1600m) victory on Saturday. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))*

**W**ith a dominant home-track performance in Saturday's Listed Team Wealleans Matamata Cup (1600m), **Legarto (NZ)** (Proisir) has put last week's weather woes behind her and set her sights on Sydney.

The exceptional daughter of Proisir was a Group One winner on both sides of the Tasman as a three-year-old last season, blowing her rivals away in the New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) before launching an incredible late burst to become the first New Zealand-trained winner of the Australian Guineas (1600m).

After producing another eye-catching finish from an awkward position to resume with a third in last month's Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) at Hastings, she was a hot favourite to return to her Group One-winning ways in last Saturday's Arrowfield Stud Plate (1600m) at the same venue. However, relentless rain pushed the track down into the heavy range and forced Legarto to be scratched on race morning.

Trainers Ken and Bev Kelso looked closer to home for their back-up plan, lining up in the Matamata Cup seven days later. Legarto got in with some

weight relief courtesy of fellow Group One winner La Crique (NZ) (Vadamos), whose higher rating of 107 pushed her impost down to 58.5kg. Legarto was sent out as a \$1.60 favourite, and there was barely a nervous moment.

Rider Ryan Elliot settled in seventh, three wide but with cover – deliberately keeping her well away from the rail to minimise the risk of traffic trouble at the business end of the race.

Legarto began to stride forward coming down the side of the track, and by the time the field rounded the home turn, she had swooped up alongside

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# LEGARTO ALL CLASS IN LOCAL FEATURE

(Continued from page 7)

the front-running La Crique and thrown down the gauntlet.

La Crique lifted bravely in response to Legarto's challenge, with quality staying mare Aquacade (NZ) (Dundeel) diving through in between the pair in an eye-catching resuming run.

But Legarto's superstar qualities shone through in the final 150m and she pulled ahead, winning by three-quarters of a length from Aquacade.

It was a second Matamata Cup win in the last six years for the Kelsos, who saddled Cote D'Or (NZ) (Makfi) to win the local feature in 2017.

"I just told Ryan to ride her like the best horse in the race – give her clear air and she'll do the rest," Ken Kelso said. "And he did. He gave her plenty of room, got her into the clear and it was very pleasing.

"Ryan has got to know her pretty well. He's had a couple of bad-luck runs on her – there was the Karaka Million (1600m) last season, which wasn't his fault, and then she got in an awkward

spot at Hastings as well. She probably should have won both of those races, so she should probably be unbeaten. But that's racing. They don't race in lanes.

"She's an excitement machine and it's a privilege to train her for nice people. Bev and I are getting to the stage where we're close to retirement, but when you get a horse like this, you can't really do that. It's a big thrill for both of us. We're slowing down numbers-wise, but we'll keep going for a while yet when we have a horse like her.

"I think it was great for the Matamata club that they had a field like this for the Cup today. It's a great little club to train at, the facilities are good and they really look after us trainers. It's good to have horses like this here today."

Bred by Warwick Jeffries, Legarto was offered by Highline Thoroughbreds in Book 2 of Karaka 2021. Her nine-start career has now produced seven wins, a third and a fourth, earning more than

\$1.17 million in stakes for her dozen owners.

The Kelsos are now working their way towards the A\$10 million Golden Eagle (1500m) on November 4.

"We've got a month now between this race and the Golden Eagle, so we'll probably give her an exhibition gallop or a trial or something in between," Kelso said. "We're pretty well on track again now, I think."

The TAB now rates Legarto a \$6 chance for the Golden Eagle, with Amelia's Jewel (Siyouni) the favourite at \$4.50. Elliot has no doubt that the Kiwi star will make her presence felt.

"She got a nice drag into the race today and has done it easily enough," he said. "She's had a really good blow, so this should clean her up nicely.

"I've never ridden another horse like her, and I think she's a lot stronger now than she was as a three-year-old. She can carry herself properly now, and she's so switched on. The penny has finally dropped. Onwards and upwards for her.

"Just wait until she hits a good track. Watch out, Aussie."

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**



Alice Jeffries leading Legarto as a yearling at Karaka in 2021 (Trish Dunell)

<b>Race</b>	<b>Matamata RC Matamata Cup L 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Legarto (NZ) 2019</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mrs C J &amp; P H Brown, A C &amp; Mrs M E Enting, W J Foster, Mrs B J &amp; K S Kelso, A M &amp; Mrs P J Kirton, G &amp; M Maloy &amp; E J Verheyen</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Ken &amp; Bev Kelso (Matamata)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Proisir (AUS) out of Geordie Girl by Towkay (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>W E Jeffries</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2021 National Yearling Sale - Book 2 V: Highline Thoroughbreds \$90000 P: Ancroft Stud</b>





# LUBERON PRIMED FOR RICCARTON MISSION

Promising filly **Luberon (NZ)** (Embellish) confirmed she is right on schedule for a trip to Christchurch later in the spring with a comprehensive winning performance at Matamata.

The Lance Noble-trained daughter of Embellish had opened her three-year-old campaign with a comfortable win at Te Rapa over 1200m last month and took a rise in distance in her stride on Saturday as she overcame her six rivals in the 1400m contest.

Settled outside pacemaker Tears Of Victory (NZ) (US Navy Flag) by rider Warren Kennedy, Luberon took over rounding the home bend and quickly established a winning break.

Although wanting to race greenly in the final 200m she comfortably held out a late charge from Loch Katrine (NZ) (Ardrossan) and Tulsi (The Autumn Sun) who both closed off nicely to fill the minor placings.

Noble was happy to excuse the wayward behaviour of his charge, preferring to praise the way she accomplished her task.

"She wants a little more practice left-handed as it was only her second start going that way around," Noble said.

"She came around the corner a bit green and was out on her own for a fair way, while she was also getting a little tired near the end.

"I think there is a lot of improvement to come.

"It has been three weeks since her last run and she has done well so I was a little worried she may have been underdone, but to her credit she has stuck to the task and got the job done."

Noble indicated the filly would have one more start in the north before heading to Riccarton where she holds a nomination for both the Gr.1



*Luberon dashes to Gr.1 1000 Guineas (1600m) joint-favouritism with her win at Matamata on Saturday. (Kenton Wright (Race Images))*

Barneswood Farm New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) and the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m).

"The Soliloquy Stakes (Gr.2, 1400m at Pukekohe) is in three weeks and I think we will go to that option and then head to Christchurch," he said.

"Her father won the 2000 Guineas so I don't think she is going to have any problem getting the distance (1600m) down there."

Kennedy was also pleased to see how well Luberon finished off her task.

"She is still learning about left-handed racing and just needs some practise," he said.

"She was quite green and never really let down as she was running about, so it was a good win and done purely on ability.

"Lance is doing the right thing giving her the practise and it will stand her in good stead when she goes to those bigger races down south."

TAB Bookmakers reacted swiftly to the win by moving Luberon in from \$26 to \$5 on the Fixed Odds market for

the 1000 Guineas where she is equal favourite with Molly Bloom.

Bred and owned by Cambridge Stud couple Brendan and Jo Lindsay, Luberon is the second foal of Fastnet Rock mare Elegant Achiever and comes from a family littered with European stakes performers along with Industrialist, the champion middle distance performer for the 1999-2000 season in Hong Kong.

Noble made it a winning double for the day when producing Iffin Doubt Dance (NZ) (Iffraj) to win the third race on the card, again with Kennedy in the saddle. - **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Matamata RC Matamata Veterinary Services-Equine S. 1400m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Luberon (NZ) 2020</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Brendan Lindsay MNZM &amp; Mrs J E A Lindsay</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Lance Noble (Karaka)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Embellish out of Elegant Achiever (AUS) by Fastnet Rock (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>B J Lindsay MNZM &amp; Mrs J E A Lindsay</b>



# SAVILE ROW

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# POETIC CHAMPION PRODUCES OUTSTANDING **FIRST VICTORY** **FOR SUPER SETH**



*Poetic Champion surges home to provide young sire Super Seth with his first winner (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*

**E**xciting two-year-old prospect **Poetic Champion (NZ)** produced an emphatic first victory for young Waikato Stud stallion Super Seth at Hawera on Saturday.

Prepared by Cambridge trainer Tony Pike, Poetic Champion exuded confidence in the birdcage before the 950m contest and he looked every part the professional from the jump, striding up to sit outside the leader and race-favourite Cognoscenti (Castelvecchio)

through the running.

The imposing chestnut travelled seamlessly under a hold into the home straight and bounded to the lead for jockey Craig Grylls when he released the gelding, displaying a dashing turn-of-foot to score by an extending six-and-a-quarter lengths.

"He's a real little beauty, he knows what he's here for and he's been a dude from day one," Pike stable representative Mark Hills said.

"From his trial at Cambridge, his turn of foot was good and his jump-out the other day was good, he's a real little professional."

Grylls couldn't have been more impressed with the two-year-old in his race-day debut, which followed a sharp trial win on the Cambridge synthetic track last month.

"He jumped really good and sat outside the leader, he was travelling

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# POETIC CHAMPION PRODUCES OUTSTANDING **FIRST VICTORY** **FOR SUPER SETH**

*(Continued from page 11)*

well but once I straightened him up and gave him a squeeze he absolutely took off," he said.

"He's not big but he's quite well put together and strong for his size, he's a very nice little galloper."

Poetic Champion was passed in when not reaching his \$80,000 reserve at the 2023 Karaka Yearling Sales, which saw the gelding's breeders GSA Bloodstock, who were also the previous owners of Super Seth, retain full ownership.

The two-year-old produced shades of his sire's devastating finishing sprint when claiming the 2019 Gr.1 Caulfield Guineas (1600m), bolting home to defeat eventual six-time Group One-winner Alligator Blood (All Too Hard).

Super Seth's impressive record for trainer Anthony Freedman also included victories in the Gr.3 McNeil Stakes (1200m), Gr.3 Manfred Stakes (1200m), and a runner-up finish in the Gr.1 Futurity Stakes (1400m) against the older horses in his three-year-old season.

A son of Dundee, Super Seth was retired to Waikato Stud in 2020 and stands at the Matamata nursery for a fee of \$35,000, Poetic Champion's victory rewarding the belief that stud principal Mark Chittick had in the

stallion from the beginning.

"It was just amazing," Chittick said.

"It will be four years ago next week that Super Seth won the Caulfield Guineas and beat the unbeaten Alligator Blood, and immediately after that there was a move made between myself and Mike Rennie to secure him, because I felt like he was just the right horse that we wanted to be breeding racehorses by.

"The deal between Jonathan Munz (GSA Bloodstock) and Dean Hawthorne (bloodstock agent) went through smoothly, but it involved a hell of a lot of money and the last four years we've been under intense pressure, today we hope was the start of what we believe in.

"We've always had the most belief in him because he's the sort of horse that makes a great stallion and that was the ultimate start.

"It's only early days, but what we've seen and heard so far is just what we wanted."

**LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

<b>Race</b>	<b>Egmont RC M J Concept &amp; Construction Maiden S. 950m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Poetic Champion (NZ) 2021</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>GSA Bloodstock Pty Ltd</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Tony Pike (Cambridge)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Super Seth (AUS) out of Regally Blonde (AUS) by Royal Academy (USA)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>GSA Bloodstock Pty Ltd</b>



Cambridge Trainer Tony Pike (Trish Dunell)

