>>>> RACING&BREEDINGNEWS

Sunday 29 October 2023

IMPERATRIZ A CLASS ABOVE IN MANIKATO



Imperatriz cruises to victory in the Gr.1 Manikato Stakes (1200m). (Bruno Cannatelli)

uperstar sprinting mare Imperatriz (I Am Invincible) maintained her unblemished record at Moonee Valley with another scintillating performance in Saturday's Gr.1 Manikato Stakes (1200m).

Te Akau Racing's freakish daughter of I Am Invincible has now had four starts at the unique Melbourne circuit for four Group wins – the Gr.1 William Reid Stakes (1200m), Gr.2 McEwen Stakes (1000m), Gr.1 Moir Stakes (1000m) and the Manikato Stakes.

Imperatriz was a red-hot \$1.40 favourite for Saturday's A\$2 million sprint feature, having produced explosive finishes from off the pace to score easy and track-record-breaking wins in the McEwen Stakes and Moir Stakes in her previous two starts.

She did things a little differently on Saturday, breaking alertly from the

starting gates and landing in the lead. Jockey Opie Bosson was happy to stay there, dictating the race from the front before increasing the tempo coming down the side of the track. Imperatriz quickly shook free of Jigsaw (Manhattan Rain) and scooted away, rounding the home turn with a three-length lead.

The result was in no doubt from there, with Imperatriz all alone down

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LOOKING FOR A PROVEN STALLION AT A VALUE FEE

STAKES WINNERS STAKES HORSES

	to runners	to runners	to runners
SAVABEEL \$100,000	72.9%	10.9%	17.8%
CONTRIBUTER \$18,000	66.9%	5.6%	14.5%
PER INCANTO \$50,000	66.5%	5.3%	10.5%
PROISIR \$70,000	61.8%	5.3%	11.4%

OVERALL STUD RECORD / MIN 100 RUNNERS

VALUE SIRE OF 2023





IMPERATRIZ A CLASS ABOVE IN MANIKATO

(Continued from page 1)

the short Moonee Valley straight. She swept past the finish line three and a quarter lengths ahead of I Am Me (I Am Invincible), stopping the clock at 1:09.59.

"It's easy when you're riding horses like this," Bosson said. "She just does everything for me, really. She's something special.

"She's the best I've ever ridden, by far. I've never ridden a horse that can just switch off and then go bang when you want it.

"It wasn't really the plan to lead, but we were there and she was doing it comfortably. She changed legs at the right time, and turning for home I knew that we were going to be hard to beat."

Bred by Malaysian businessman Dato Yap Kim San's Raffles Farm, Imperatriz caught the eye of Te Akau's David Ellis,



who secured her for A\$360,000 as a yearling. She has now earned more than \$3.5 million in prize-money for the Te Akau Invincible Empress Racing Partnership.

Her 22-start career has produced 16 wins and three placings. She is now a seven-time Group One winner, having captured the Levin Classic (1600m), New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1600m), Sistema Railway (1200m), BCD Group Sprint (1400m), and this year's Moonee Valley sprint treble in the William Reid, Moir and Manikato.

"It's great for all the ownership group," head trainer Mark Walker said. "They've been so understanding about not going to Sydney for The Everest (1200m). We're thinking about her longevity.

"It's a big thrill, and I think this mare is keeping Opie in the saddle as well. He's such an important part of our team, so that's great.

"That ride today is the genius of Opie. She jumped so well, so why take away that advantage? I think he probably expected that someone might come around him and then he'd take a trail, but no one did. She had the race in the bag a long way from home, really."

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	MVRC Manikato S. Gr.1 1200m
Winner	Imperatriz (AUS) 2018
Owners	Te Akau Invincible Empress Racing Partnership (Mgr: Karyn Fenton-Ellis MNZM)
Trainer	Mark Walker (Cranbourne)
Breeding	by I Am Invincible (AUS) out of Berimbau (AUS) by Shamadal (USA)
Breeder	Raffles Dancers (N Z) Pty Ltd

Jockey Opie Bosson is all smiles after Imperatriz's win. (Bruno Cannatelli)







PROWESS MAKES HER MARK

IN MELBOURNE

igh-class New Zealand mare

Prowess (NZ) (Proisir) put a
frustrating early spring behind
her in style with a bold Melbourne
debut in Saturday's Gr.2 McCafe Crystal
Mile (1600m) at Moonee Valley.

The daughter of Proisir was a Group One winner on both sides of the Tasman last season, culminating in a three-length demolition of her rivals in the Gr.1 Vinery Stud Stakes (2000m) in Sydney in late March.

That performance prompted her connections to set their spring sights

on Saturday's Gr.1 Cox Plate (2040m), but some cruelly timed minor setbacks disrupted her build-up through August and September. Prowess eventually made it to Cox Plate Day, albeit in a supporting race over a shorter distance, and she landed that consolation prize in impressive style.

Ridden by Mark Zahra, Prowess settled nicely in fourth place in a field of only six, enjoying a cosy run along the rail. An opening appeared on the outside of the front-running Tuvalu (Kermadec) at the top of the straight, and Prowess worked through her gears, lengthened stride and finished over the top of that rival.

Fellow Kiwi-bred Antino (NZ) (Redwood) dived through the inside in the final 100m in an outstanding performance of his own, but Prowess was out of his reach and took the win by a short neck.

"It is great to be back over here and winning again," said Robert Wellwood, who trains Prowess in partnership with Roger James.

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Prowess wins the Gr.2 McCafe Crystal Mile (1600m) at Moonee Valley. (Bruno Cannatelli)



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PROWESS MAKES HER MARK IN MELBOURNE

(Continued from page 4)

"Ideally we would have liked to have been running in the Cox Plate today, but she just had a few little niggles. They weren't major, but just stopped us at some crucial times.

"We've been able to get the preparation back on track now. All going well from here, we'll head to the last day at Flemington for the Champions Stakes (Gr.1, 2000m), and we're really looking forward to seeing her back up over further again.

"She's in awesome order, and in hindsight, the setbacks have probably been a blessing in disguise. She's developed, and I really think she'll be even bigger and stronger next year. She's pretty immature."

Prowess followed in the footsteps of another top-quality mare trained by James, Silent Achiever (NZ) (O'Reilly), who also won the Crystal Mile as a four-year-old in 2012.

"Roger has always said that they have similarities," Wellwood said. "I reckon they both had a few little struggles early in the their four-yearold preparations, and that's why they ended up in this race.

"It'll be terrific to be here next year going 440m further."

Saturday's performance made a favourable impression on Zahra, who was also in the saddle for the Vinery win seven months ago.

Roger James and training partner Robert Wellwood. (Trish Dunell) "She's as big and strong as ever," he said. "I think the barrier boys were calling her a boy. She's huge. She's a big mare and I reckon she'll improve a lot from today.

"There's still a lot of improvement to come. When I got the gap, I thought she'd scoot away. I reckon she's still a bit rusty this prep and will improve off that."

James and Wellwood went to \$230,000 to purchase Prowess out of Hallmark Stud's 2021 New Zealand Bloodstock Book 1 Yearling Sale draft on behalf of owner Dean Skipper.

One of five individual Group One winners for the remarkable stallion Proisir, Prowess was bred by the Baker family of Hallmark Stud and is out of the Don Eduardo mare Donna Marie

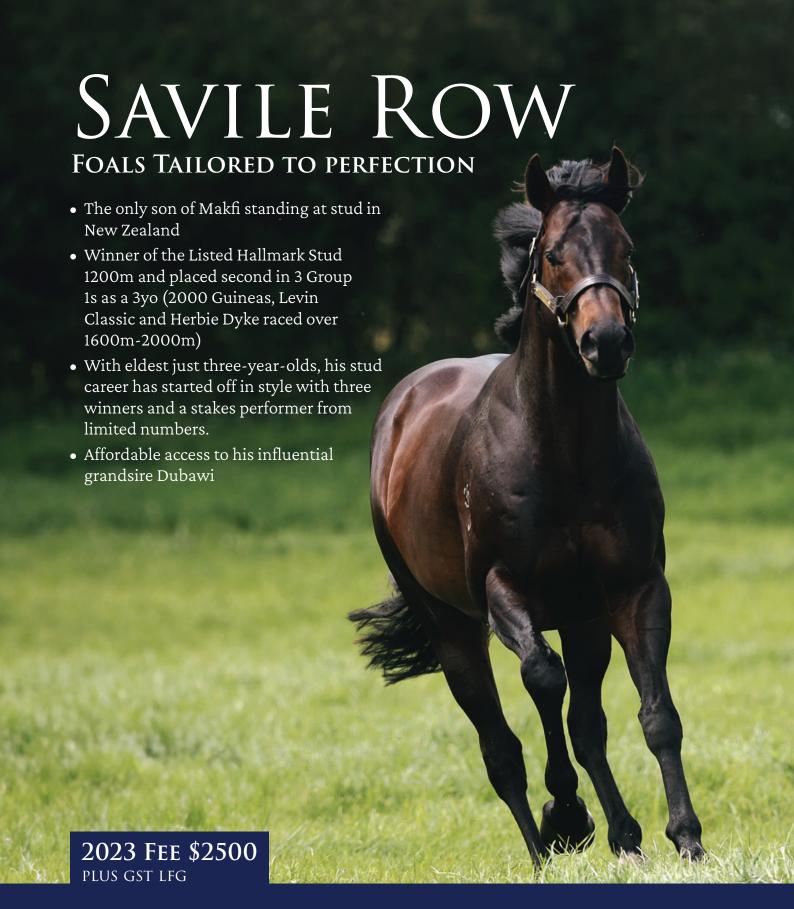
(NZ), who is also the dam of the stakes performer Ajay Tee (NZ) (Foxwedge).

From 11 starts, Prowess has now had eight wins, three placings and more than \$1.5 million in prize-money.

- NZ Racing Desk

Race	MVRC Schweppes Crystal Mile Gr.2 1600m
Winner	Prowess (NZ) 2019
Owners	D & J Skipper, C Skipper, A Skipper & M Schlooz
Trainer	Roger James & Robert Wellwood (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Proisir (AUS) out of Donna Marie by Don Eduardo
Breeder	Hallmark Stud Ltd
Sales	2021 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Hallmark Stud \$230000 P: RA James / R Wellwood





CONTACT - STANDING AT MAPPERLEY STUD

Simms Davison +64 216 078 53 simms@mapperleystud.co.nz Steven Scaglia +64 274 950 082 steven@mapperleystud.co.nz





IMPENDABELLE WINS DRAMATIC SOLILOQUY



Impendabelle reigned supreme in a dramatic running of the Gr.2 Soliloquy Stakes (1400m) at Pukekohe on Saturday. (Trish Dunell)

lassy filly **Impendabelle** (Impending) is now a Group Two winner at the ages of both two and three, surviving a protest to take out a chaotic running of the Gr.2 Jamieson Park Soliloquy Stakes (1400m) at Pukekohe on Saturday.

The \$175,000 fillies' feature brought together the majority of the leading contenders for next month's Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton and was expected to clear up the classic picture. Instead, the race created more questions than it answered.

The first 1000m of the race were relatively uneventful, with the favourite Luberon (NZ) (Embellish) shooting forward from a wide gate to lead the way until around the 300m mark.

The challengers were by that stage beginning to build momentum in behind her, and the stage was set for an exciting battle to the finish.

But Luberon suddenly threw it all away, veering sharply to the left and crashing into the outside running rail. Fortunately, she and her jockey Celine Gaudray escaped injury.

In the meantime, Impendabelle surged through to take the lead in the centre of the track with 200m remaining. She was joined by Tulsi (The Autumn sun) on her outside, while Mary Shan (NZ) (Almanzor) and Molly Bloom (NZ) (Ace High) came at her with big strides closer to the rail.

Impendabelle's margin steadily dwindled as the four fillies set down to fight out a desperate finish. The leader dug deep to cling on to her small advantage, but she raced very greenly in the final few strides, drifting towards the fence and impeding both Mary Shan and Molly Bloom.

The connections of Molly Bloom lodged a protest against the winner, but the placings stood, with Impendabelle beating Mary Shan, Tulsi and Molly Bloom.

It was the third win of a seven-start career for Impendabelle, who kicked off her career with back-to-back victories as a spring two-year-old last season including the Gr.2 Wakefield Challenge Stakes (1100m) at Trentham.

The daughter of Impending later finished third at Pukekohe on Boxing Day, then fifth in the Karaka Million 2YO

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IMPENDABELLE WINS DRAMATIC SOLILOQUY

(Continued from page 7)

(1200m) in her final start of the season.

Impendabelle was a luckless seventh when she resumed in the Gr.3 Gold Trail Stakes (1200m) at Hastings in September, clipping a heel and almost falling before recovering to get within three lengths of the winner Quintessa (NZ) (Shamus Award). In her only other start, she overcame a wide run for a solid second behind the undefeated Crocetti (NZ) (Zacinto) at Te Rapa.

"She's really had no luck at all this spring, and it looked like she might not get any today either," Pike said. "I thought she'd have a nice run following Luberon, but she ended up being left alone in front and started to race a bit greenly. But she fought it out well and it was good to see her get the win. She deserved that."

Impendabelle will now push on towards the 1000 Guineas at Riccarton on November 18, for which the TAB now rates her an \$8 chance.

"She's a really relaxed filly, so I don't expect the step up to 1600m to trouble her," Pike said. "She ran the race out strongly today in a performance that looked a bit better to me than the margin might suggest."

The minor placegetters lost little in defeat on Saturday, with Mary Shan coming into a \$7 quote for the 1000 Guineas while Molly Bloom now holds outright favouritism at \$4.50. Tulsi is rated a \$12 chance.

"It was a huge run – she should have won the race," Mary Shan's jockey Craig Grylls said. "She got shuffled back and flew home."

Joe Doyle, the rider of Molly Bloom, was similarly impressed with his mount.

"She did well in a very messy race," he said. "I'm confident that she'll get the mile, so it's onwards and upwards for her."

Luberon remains a \$7 chance for the 1000 Guineas despite Saturday's incident. It made for an up-and-down day for visiting Australian rider Celine Gaudray, who also recorded wins aboard Roc Dancer (NZ) (El Roca) and Reputation (NZ) (Iffraaj).

"She's got a mind of her own, that horse," Gaudray said about Luberon. "She was giving me such a nice feel until that stage. She still really has no idea what she's doing, but there's so much untapped ability there."

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.

Race	Auckland TR Soliloquy S. Gr.2 1400m
Winner	Impendabelle (AUS) 2020
Owners	Ms S E Bourke, J F Bruford, M L Dear, C J Griffin, M D Jaffray, L F & R C McLean, P L Sparrow & M L O Williams
Trainer	Tony Pike (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Impending (AUS) out of Applegate (AUS) by Exceed And Excel (AUS)
Breeder	Monovale Holdings Ltd
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Hallmark Stud \$80000 P: Brewers Bloodstock

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hayes: Let's get Brightside to HK

Legendary trainer David Hayes admits he can't wait to see **Mr Brightside** (**NZ**) (Bullbars) in Hong Kong following the star's narrow second in the Gr.1 Cox Plate (2040m).

Given an expert ride by Craig Williams, Mr Brightside popped up along the rails, only to be edged out on the winning post by Hong Kong's Romantic Warrior (Acclamation) in a thrilling finish.

Hayes said he couldn't be prouder of his sons Ben, Will and JD and said he was excited to see what Mr Brightside could do in Hong Kong.

"A lot of work of work goes into getting here today, and for the boys, it would have been such a thrill for them to win and it's devastating that he lost,"

"It was a great ride and her got beaten by a very good horse.

"Let's get him to Hong Kong."

When asked about his pride in how the boys have been training, Hayes said: "It's been the most pleasurable thing. I am so proud of how they've done.

"They're achieving more than people thought they would, and that's nice to prove a few people wrong.

"They've got level heads, they work hard and hopefully it will keep going."

- Racing.com





BURN TO SHINE DISPLAYS GUINEAS CREDENTIALS WITH FEATURE VICTORY

ambridge visitor **Burn To Shine** (NZ) (So You Think) threw his name into the mix of serious contenders for the Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) next month with a determined effort to take out the Gr.3 War Decree Stakes (1600m) at Riccarton.

The Stephen Marsh-trained threeyear-old had finished third behind Saturday's race-rival Lantern Way (NZ) (Satono Aladdin) in the Gr.2 Hawke's Bay Guineas (1400m) at his last start and turned the tables after enjoying a perfect run in transit for rider Johnathan Parkes.

Parkes sat Burn To Shine one-out behind a muddling speed set up by Funfetti (NZ) (Embellish) before joining issue shortly after turning for home.

In contrast Lantern Way (\$2.80) was forced to travel three-wide throughout before commencing his run at the 600m with the race favourite Trobriand (Kermadec) (\$2.70) tracking him all the way.

Burn To Shine took control at the 300m and fought doggedly when tackled by the favoured pair, holding off the charge of Trobriand by half a length with a further length back to Lantern Way.

Marsh was on track at Pukekohe for the day but admitted he had watched the race on television with some excitement.

"It was a very good win and one he deserved as he has been going cracking races," Marsh said.

"Parkesy said there was no speed on and he probably got to the front a little soon, but he was very resolute and ran the mile out very strongly.

"We train this one for The Oaks Stud, who are very big supporters of the stable, so it is great to get a win like that for them and repay the faith they have in us."

Marsh will now take Burn To Shine straight to the 2000 Guineas and is upbeat about his prospects.

"We know now he gets a good mile and has experience on the track which will stand him in good stead for what comes next," he said.

"We also know the Guineas favourite (Crocetti) is a very fine horse but we are here with no travel ahead of us and we can just do our own thing and have him cherry ripe on the day."

Raced by The Oaks Sud principal Dick Karreman, who bred the horse, Burn To Shine is out of talented race mare Smoulder who numbered the Gr.2 Eight Carat Classic (1600m) amongst her four career victories.

TAB Bookmakers quickly slashed Burn To Shine's odds for the 2000 Guineas from \$21 to \$8.50 behind red hot favourite Crocetti (\$1.75).

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk

Race	CJC War Decree S. Gr.3 1600m
Winner	Burn to Shine (NZ) 2020
Owners	D Karreman
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by So You Think out of Smoulder by Traditionally (USA)
Breeder	The Oaks Stud



Burn To Shine prevails in the feature Gr.3 War Decree Stakes (1600m) at Riccarton on Saturday. (Race Images South)





STAPHANOS

A 2YO GROUP 1 WINNER FROM HIS FIRST CROP



PIGNAN (BY STAPHANOS)

Winner of the Group 1 Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes

By proven sire of sires Deep Impact, Staphanos is the highest stake-earner at stud in New Zealand



GRINGOTTS TOO STRONG AT RANDWICK

romising New Zealand-bred gelding **Gringotts (NZ)** (Per Incanto) collected the fourth win of his nine-start career with a last-gasp victory in Saturday's National Jockeys Trust Handicap (1400m) at Randwick.

Purchased privately from New Zealand after an impressive trial win at Te Awamutu for trainers Simon and Katrina Alexander, Gringotts wasted no time in making his mark in Australia earlier this year. He began his career with second placings at Sandown and Pakenham in January and February, then strung together a winning treble at Pakenham on February 16, Sandown on March 22 and Sandown again on April 8.

Gringotts kicked off his four-yearold season with a third placing at Moonee Valley in late August, then relocated to Sydney and finished fifth and a strong-finishing third in his first two appearances.

Gringotts was sent out as a \$2.10 favourite for the final race on Saturday's Randwick card, and he lived right up to those high expectations.

Ridden in midfield by Tyler Schiller, Gringotts began to gather momentum early in the straight before a gap closed in front of him and he had to switch around heels. He got into clear air with 200m remaining and stretched out powerfully late in the piece, overhauling Russian Conquest (Russian Revolution) and Portray (Ribchester) in a tight finish.

"Early in the straight he wasn't getting there quick, but I thought he

really stretched late," Schiller said. "His last part of the race was very strong."

The Ciaron Maher and David Eustace-trained Gringotts has now had nine starts for four wins, two seconds and two thirds, earning A\$290,800 for an ownership syndicate headed by Ozzie Kheir and John O'Neill.

Gringotts was bred by Totara Park Stud and is by Little Avondale Stud's outstanding sire Per Incanto out of the Savabeel mare Miss Bluebell (NZ), whose two foals to race have both been winners. The other is Millefiori (NZ) (Iffraaj), who has won seven races and was runner-up in an open sprint at Pukekohe on Saturday.

Miss Bluebell is an unraced daughter of Operavega (NZ) (Stravinsky), who a half-sister to Vegas Showgirl (NZ) (Al Akbar), the dam of the champion Winx (Street Cry). – **NZ Racing Desk**

Race	ATC National Jockeys Trust H. 1400m
Winner	Gringotts (NZ) 2019
Owners	Mr A Kheir, Mr J A O'Neill, Deg Racing, Mr T R Maddern, Bromfield Park Pty Ltd, Mr B A Secatore, Mrs R T Secatore, Mr J Docherty, Mr P A Cook, Mr B D Nettlefold, Mr J M Simmons, Ms S M Fitzgerald, A K Racing, Carty Racing, Mr D Edmonds, Mr S A Lewin, Mamaray Racing, Mr A J Willoughby, Mr C B Secatore, Mr D J Meredith
Trainer	Ciaron Maher & David Eustace (Warwick Farm)
Breeding	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Miss Bluebell by Savabeel (AUS)
Breeder	Totara Park Stud
Sales	2021 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Archer Park \$100000 P: Kasa B/stock

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MARGINIA JORIETT

TRUST

THE TRUST

Gringotts snatched victory in Saturday's National Jockeys Trust Handicap (1400m) at Randwick. (bradleyphotos.com.au)





DESERT LIGHTNING MAKES SLICK RETURN

ast season's Gr.2 Avondale Guineas (2100m) winner **Desert Lightning** (NZ) (Pride Of Dubai) kicked off his four-year-old season with a slick performance in Saturday's Dunstan Horsefeeds (1200m) at Pukekohe.

The son of Pride Of Dubai came into the \$65,000 open sprint as one of the proven stars of the field. His Avondale Guineas victory in February headed a high-class three-year-old campaign that also featured placings in the Karaka Million 3YO Classic (1600m) and the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m), earning more than \$290,000 in the prize-money along the way.

Desert Lightning had won a trial at Te Aroha earlier this month to prepare him for Saturday's return, although he might have been expected to be looking for further, having finished outside the first three in his two previous 1200m starts. But the four-year-old gelding's class shone through in emphatic style.

After jumping from gate five in a sixhorse field, jockey Vinnie Colgan sent Desert Lightning forward to sit on the outside of the front-running Winning For All (Shooting To Win).

Desert Lightning took command at the top of the Pukekohe straight, kicking away and maintaining a comfortable lead all the way to the finish. Millefiori (NZ) (Iffraaj) crossed the line in second, a length and a quarter behind the winner, with a neck back to Winning For All in third. Last-start winner Petrucci (I Am Invincible) finished fourth as the \$2 favourite.

Trained by Peter and Dawn Williams for Barneswood Farm's Sarah Green and Ger Beemsterboer, Desert Lightning has now had 13 starts for three wins, four placings and \$350,395 in stakes.

"That was a lovely run, we're very



Desert Lightning opens his four-year-old season in style with a victory in the Dunstan Horsefeeds (1200m) at Pukekohe. (Trish Dunell)

happy with that," Peter Williams said.
"He was fresh up today and has a bit to go yet, so it was very encouraging.

"I think he's grown up a little bit. He had a few little issues last season and things going wrong along the way, but he seems to have got over all those issues now. He raced kindly today and was always travelling well.

"We thought he might be a chance today when Vinnie got off Petrucci to ride him after his trial win.

"We've got a long way to go, but it's a good start for the owners and good for the horse."

Desert Lighting is nominated for the Gr.3 Coupland's Bakeries Mile (1600m)

at Riccarton on November 15, for which the TAB now rates him a \$6 chance.

- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.

Race	Auckland TR Dunstan Horsefeeds H. 1200m
Winner	Desert Lightning (NZ) 2019
Owners	Barneswood Farm Ltd for S C Green & G C Beemsterboer
Trainer	Peter & Dawn Williams (Byerley Park)
Breeding	by Pride of Dubai (AUS) out of Isstoora (AUS) by High Chaparral (IRE)
Breeder	Mahoenui Partnership
Sales	2021 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Little Avondale Stud \$150000 P: PJ & DM Williams

