

Sunday 23 March 2025

## GRINGOTTS SECURES GROUP ONE GOLD



*Gringotts scored his first Group One triumph in the A\$1 million George Ryder Stakes (1500m) at Rosehill. (bradelyphotos.com.au)*

Two hours after his close relative Vegas Queen (NZ) (Proisir) won Saturday's Gr.2 Wellington Guineas (1400m) at Trentham, quality New Zealand-bred gelding **Gringotts (NZ)** (Per Incanto) took the family's day to even greater heights with an Australian Group One triumph in the A\$1 million George Ryder Stakes (1500m) at Rosehill.

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 half-sister Miss Vegas (NZ) (Carlton House) is the dam of Vegas Queen.

Herself unraced, Miss Bluebell is a daughter of Operavega (NZ) (Stravinsky), a half-sister to the dam of the legendary Winx (Street Cry).

Gringotts was offered by Archer

Park in Book 1 of Karaka 2021, where Kasa Bloodstock bought him for \$100,000. He was re-offered at the Ready to Run Sale later that year, but failed to meet his \$450,000 reserve. He was subsequently sold privately after winning a trial at Waipa for Simon and Katrina Alexander.

The Ciaran Maher-trained Gringotts quickly made his mark in Australia,

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# GRINGOTTS SECURES GROUP ONE GOLD

(Continued from page 1)

finishing second in his first two starts before stringing together three consecutive wins at Pakenham and Sandown in February and March of 2023.

But it has been within the last 12 months that he has really come of age. He secured his first black-type win in the Listed Members' Handicap (1600m) at Doomben last May, while the early stages of his current season produced victories in the A\$3 million The Big Dance (1600m) and A\$1 million The Gong (1600m) along with placings in the Gr.3 Bill Ritchie Handicap (1400m) and this month's Gr.3 Liverpool City Cup (1300m).

Gringotts stepped up to Group One

level for the first time in his 20-start career on Saturday, and he produced a career-defining performance.

Ridden by Tommy Berry, Gringotts trailed the front-running Royal Patronage (Wootton Bassett) up to the home turn and was travelling with ominous ease coming into the straight. Berry pushed the button and Gringotts dashed to the lead, then held out the powerful finishes of Fangirl (Sebring) and Ceolwulf (NZ) (Tavistock) to win in a three-way photo finish.

"He fought hard for this win today," Berry said. "Ciaron said to me in the mounting yard, 'I know the Doncaster is our main aim, but I couldn't have him any better for today.' He turned up and

he's just a warhorse. He knows where the line is."

Gringotts has now won 10 of his 20 starts, placing on another eight occasions and banking more than A\$3.6 million.

"This is fantastic," Maher said. "He trains up at Newcastle on the beach, so I've got to thank James Harding and his team.

"Ozzie (Kheir) and heaps of the owners are here today. They just continually find these horses. Him and Jimmysstar (NZ) (Per Incanto), they come into the stable about the same time, by the same stallion, and they've both won a Group One at about a similar time. Yeah, rapt for the team, they've done a great job."

– NZ Racing Desk.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Hilal's half-sister stars in Golden Slipper

Saturday's A\$5 million Gr.1 TAB Golden Slipper (1200m) at Rosehill capped an extraordinary day for Grangewilliam Stud's stallion roster.

The world's richest two-year-old race was won by the lightly raced filly Marhoona, who is by Snitzel out of the unraced Encosta de Lago mare Salma. Marhoona became the third individual stakes winner for that outstanding broodmare, who is also the dam of Grangewilliam Stud stallion Hilal.

A son of the influential Fastnet Rock, Hilal won three races himself including the Gr.2 Stan Fox Stakes (1500m). He also placed in the Gr.1 ATC Sires' Produce Stakes (1400m), Gr.1 Champagne Stakes (1600m), Gr.1 Randwick Guineas (1600m), Gr.2 Hobartville Stakes (1400m) and Gr.2 Skyline Stakes (1200m).

Hilal's first foals will be arriving next spring. He stands for a \$7,500 service fee at Grangewilliam, who also celebrated a first Group One winner for fellow stallion Derryn when standout Kiwi filly Leica Lucy (NZ) took out Saturday's Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400m).

Saturday's Golden Slipper was the third career start for the Michael Freedman-trained Marhoona. She has now won two of those three, along with a second in the Gr.2 Reisling Stakes (1200m).

"If I'm being honest, I said to a few people earlier today that maybe it would have been nice to have had one more run under our belt, but she's a special filly," Freedman said. "When she won at Canterbury at her first start, she ripped half a foot off winning that race, and I thought 'you're tough'. And she bounced back from it and went to the Reisling a month later.

"It's a bit of an unusual preparation, I guess, going into a Slipper at your third start. But, yeah, she's a special filly."

– NZ Racing Desk.

<b>Race</b>	ATC George Ryder S. Gr.1 1500m
<b>Winner</b>	Gringotts (NZ) 2019
<b>Owners</b>	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
<b>Trainer</b>	Ciaron Maher (Warwick Farm)
<b>Breeding</b>	by Per Incanto (USA) out of Miss Bluebell by Savabeel (AUS)
<b>Breeder</b>	Totara Park Stud
<b>Sales</b>	2021 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Archer Park \$100000 P: Kasa Bloodstock





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# OAKS TRIUMPH A FITTING FAREWELL FOR NEW ZEALAND'S STAR FILLY



*Leica Lucy edges out a gallant Dubai Gold to win the New Zealand Oaks. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*

**L**eica Lucy (NZ) (Derryn) signed off the New Zealand stage of her career with a Gr.1 Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks (2400m) victory that showcased all of the class and courage that has made her this season's standout filly.

The Taranaki superstar arrived at Trentham on Saturday with a near-flawless record of five wins and a second from six starts. After running first and second in a pair of 1400m races in the spring, Leica Lucy strung together four consecutive victories with increasingly impressive performances in the Gr.3 Eulogy Stakes (1600m), Gr.3 Desert Gold Stakes, Gr.2 David & Karyn Ellis Fillies' Classic (2000m) and Gr.2 Lowland Stakes (2100m). Those four straight successes had guaranteed her the prestigious title of New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year.

Leica Lucy achieved all of this in a single preparation under the guidance of New Plymouth trainer Robbie Patterson, who farewelled his stable star with one last hurrah in Saturday's \$1

million classic.

Leica Lucy's owner-breeders Peter and Heather Crofskey sold a share in the filly to the Australian-based Ozzie Kheir in February, and her future lies on that side of the Tasman.

The lead-up to the Oaks was completely dominated by Leica Lucy, who jumped as one of the hottest favourites in the race's recent history at \$1.30. Few expected the 2400m feature to be anything other than a winning curtain call.

The first half of the race appeared to be following that script. Jockey Craig Grylls took up a handy position in fifth along the rail, keeping out of trouble as the field bunched up behind them going into the first turn.

However, not for the first time this season, there were some nervous moments coming into the home straight. Leica Lucy was briefly boxed in, and by the time Grylls found his way

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# OAKS TRIUMPH A FITTING FAREWELL FOR NEW ZEALAND'S STAR FILLY

(Continued from page 4)

through, last-start Lowland Stakes placegetter Dubai Gold (NZ) (Pride Of Dubai) had charged up on the outside with full momentum.

Leica Lucy had a fight on her hands, but again she proved that she was more than up to the task. She clawed her way level with Dubai Gold, then gradually gained the upper hand and edged her out by a long neck at the finish line. The third-placed Myakkabelle (NZ) (War Decree) was another length and a quarter behind the first pair.

"It's very special for it all to come off and get the job done today," said Grylls, who brought up his 100th win of the season with the Oaks triumph.

"She had to work a lot harder for it today, but it just shows her sheer determination and grit.

"I had to use her a bit more than I would have liked to from the barrier, but I'm glad I did, because it got very tight going into the turn. I ended up in a good spot. I was just so lucky with the run I got at the 400m.

"Dubai Gold was in for the fight in the straight and I knew it wasn't going to be easy to get past her, but she's just such a tough filly.

"She can get a bit worked up in the parade ring, but then she just switches off when you take her down to the start. When you want her to go, she's got the turn of foot. She's an outstanding filly.

"This is definitely right up there as a career highlight for me. Winning a classic for Robbie, who's probably my biggest supporter, is very special."

It was a second Oaks for Patterson, who trained the 2006 winner Legs during his partnership with Kevin Gray. But he has no doubt where Leica Lucy ranks.

"This is my biggest win by a mile, to tell you the truth," the New Plymouth trainer said. "The Oaks is a great race, the owners Peter and Heather are close friends of mine, and my parents are here today as well, so it's very special.

"I've been saying this filly is the best I've trained, and she's totally that. She's just a beautiful animal.

I've trained a lot of horses and seen a lot of horses, but she is one out of the box.

"I was a bit nervous in the straight today, but she's just such a good horse. She's had a big season, and she was in the worst part of the track, but she got the job done. I just love the horse so much and love the owners. I don't really know Ozzie, who joined the ownership recently, but I've spoken to him on the phone and he's a great bloke. He's all about the horse and is just a lovely man.

"Having my champion mate riding her today makes it even more special. Craig and I are a great team on and off the pitch. We love our golf, our fishing and having a beer and whatnot, and that goes a long way."

The first Group One winner for Grangewilliam Stud stallion Derryn, Leica Lucy has now earned \$1.01 million from her seven-start, six-win career. She finishes the Filly of the Year Series with 40 points, becoming only the third filly to crack the 40-point mark in the last 20 years – joining Justa Tad (NZ) (Istidaad) (2004-05) and Jennifer Eccles (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle) (2019-20). – **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**

Race	WRC New Zealand Oaks Gr.1 2400m.
Winner	Leica Lucy 2022
Owners	Aziz Kheir, P J & H J Crofskey
Trainer	Robbie Patterson
Breeding	by Derryn (AUS) out of Dynamite Lucy by Sir Percy (GB)
Breeder	Mrs H J & P J Crofskey



New Plymouth trainer Robbie Patterson (Trish Dunell)





# FOUR IN A ROW FOR HONG KONG-BOUND SHANWAH

**A**nother commanding performance in Saturday's A\$500,000 Gr.2 DCE Alister Clark Stakes (2040m) at Moonee Valley has booked rising star three-year-old **Shanwah (NZ)** (Too Darn Hot) a shot at the Gr.1 Australian Derby (2400m) ahead of his move to Hong Kong.

A \$750,000 Karaka yearling purchase by Cameron Cooke Bloodstock on behalf of owners Kevin and Vikki Payne, Shanwah commenced his career as a colt and was a placegetter at Canterbury in the spring. Gelding has proved to be the making of the three-year-old, who has now won four races in succession.

He was a 1600m maiden winner at Mornington on January 22, which he followed up with a win over 1800m on Caulfield's Heath track on February 10. Shanwah has kept his winning sequence intact since trainer Ciaron Maher stepped him up to stakes class, putting together back-to-back Group Two victories in the Autumn Classic (1800m) and Saturday's Alister Clark Stakes.

Sent out as a \$2.20 favourite, Shanwah was checked shortly after leaving the starting gates, but soon recovered and moved into a comfortable position in fourth and one off the rail. Jockey Ethan Brown allowed him to stride forward coming down the side of the track, taking command before the home turn.

Shanwah asserted his superiority down the straight, opening up a winning margin of two lengths over fellow New Zealand-bred Imperialist.

"He can measure up, certainly," Brown said. "The higher the pressure for this horse, the more it will switch him on. When he cruised around them, he was trying, but he had more to give, I feel."



*Shanwah books a shot at the Gr.1 Australian Derby (2400m) ahead of his move to Hong Kong. (Bruno Cannatelli)*

"I thought he was toying with them a bit there. He's a horse of very high class. He's a horse that has continued to improve. The 2000m was no worries to him at all."

Maher's assistant trainer Jack Turnbull revealed after Saturday's race that Shanwah has been sold to Hong Kong.

"It was a deal that was done privately with Kevin (Payne), but we've got him to train for the Derby," Turnbull said. "I am sure he got a good return, otherwise he wouldn't have let the horse go."

"Thankfully, the clients that bought into him have allowed us to stay in Australia to run in these two races. But I believe they take over ownership before the Derby, so you might see the horse in different colours next time."

Bred by Trelawney Stud and long-time partner John Struthers, Shanwah is by Too Darn Hot out of the Iffraaj mare Lady Sayyida (NZ) and is a half-brother

to Group Two winner Excelida (Exceed And Excel). A granddaughter of the hugely talented Sayyida (NZ) (Zabeel), it is also the family of Ocean Park (NZ) (Thorn Park), Grunt (NZ) (O'Reilly) and Zayydani (NZ) (Savabeel).

Shanwah has now won four of his eight starts with a further placing and has amassed A\$558,975 to date.

– NZ Racing Desk.

<b>Race</b>	<b>MVRC Alister Clark S. Gr.2 2040m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Shanwah (NZ) 2021</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mr K J Payne, Mrs V M Payne</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Ciaron Maher (Cranbourne)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Too Darn Hot (GB) out of Lady Sayyida by Iffraaj (GB)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Mrs D G &amp; J B Struthers &amp; Trelawney Thoroughbreds Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2023 National Yearling Sale - Book1 V: Trelawney Stud Ltd \$750000 P: Cameron Cooke B/stock</b>





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# GRINZINGER BELLE EARNS GROUP ONE OPPORTUNITY

Another powerhouse front-running performance by **Grinzinger Belle (NZ)** (Shamexpress) in Saturday's A\$300,000 Gr.2 Packaging Needs Sunline Stakes (1600m) at Moonee Valley has earned her a Group One opportunity in Sydney.

The fillies and mares' feature was the fourth stakes win for the New Zealand-bred Shamexpress mare, who had previously won the Gr.2 Let's Elope Stakes (1400m), Gr.3 The Vanity (1400m) and Gr.3 Ladies' Day Vase (1600m). She is now in line for a shot at the Gr.1 Queen Of The Turf Stakes (1600m) at Randwick on April 12.

"We could potentially give her that chance in Sydney," trainer Danny O'Brien said. "She's a mare that, when conditions suit, she gets rolling and she can be hard to get on the back of, let

alone get past."

That proved to be the case on Saturday, where Grinzinger Belle and jockey Declan Bates dominated the race from the front. They never gave their rivals a chance, romping home by two and three-quarter lengths over fellow New Zealand-bred mare Wrote To Arataki (NZ) (Wrote). The third placegetter finished another four lengths away.

"She's a lovely mare," Bates said. "She's a big mare to ride and she has that asset of a high cruising speed, and it's a matter of letting her use that in the right way. She was just better than them today.

"She probably didn't begin the best today, but it was a matter of getting her up to that high stride that she has. Once we were there, it was about keeping her

comfortable, bringing her back a little bit but not too much. I always felt she was going well enough.

"I had to keep her up to her work in the straight. She was getting a bit lonely more than anything. I don't think she was tying up tired, she thought her job was done, so I had to remind her there was a couple of hundred metres to go. It was a good, satisfying win."

Grinzinger Belle has now had 17 starts for five wins, five placings and A\$807,655 in stakes.

She was bred by Windsor Park Stud and is out of Ripsomemore (NZ), a Rip Van Winkle half-sister to Group Three winner Golden Parachute (NZ) (Montjeu).

Grinzinger Belle is another good graduate of the New Zealand Bloodstock Book 2 Yearling Sale at Karaka, where she was purchased by owner John Wheeler for \$32,000.

Despite some fertility challenges, Shamexpress almost 6 per cent stakes winners to runners and his 2020 crop of just over 20 foals includes Grinzinger Belle and Hong Kong superstar Ka Ying Rising (NZ). – **NZ Racing Desk.**



<b>Race</b>	<b>MVRC Sunline S. Gr.2 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Grinzinger Belle (NZ) 2020</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>Mr J R Wheeler</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Danny O'Brien (Flemington)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Shamexpress out of Ripsomemore by Rip Van Winkle (IRE)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Windsor Park Stud Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 2 V: Windsor Park Stud \$32000 P: JR Wheeler (NZ)</b>

*Grinzinger Belle wins Saturday's A\$300,000 Gr.2 Packaging Needs Sunline Stakes (1600m) at Moonee Valley. (Bruno Cannatelli)*





# VEGAS QUEEN UPSETS IN WELLINGTON GUINEAS

Unfancied filly **Vegas Queen (NZ)** (Proisir) survived a post-race protest from runner-up Archaic Smile to collect her biggest victory after an incident-packed finish to the Gr.2 IRT Wellington Guineas (1600m) at Trentham.

Sent to the front by rider Wiremu Pinn, the Kenny Rae-prepared daughter of Rich Hil Stud stallion Proisir looked to be full of running as she rounded the home bend two lengths clear of her rivals after making all of the pace from barrier rise.

In a desperate finish, she held out the hard-charging pair of Archaic Smile and Dramatic Miss at odds of \$34 on the tote to register the second win of her nine-race career. But her connections faced another challenge as the protest siren sounded to register an inquiry from the runner-up for alleged interference in the final 250m.

Head-on video of the incident showed Archaic Smile (Saxon Warrior) being squeezed between Dramatic Miss (NZ) (El Roca) and fourth-placed filly She's Untouchable (Capitalist) through Vegas Queen shifting inwards, however after lengthy deliberations the Judicial Committee dismissed the objection to allow placings to stand.

Rae hadn't been expecting his filly to lead in the race and was feeling a little anxious throughout as he watched her fend off the challenges presented to her.

"After 200m I was feeling a little average but she got there (in front) fairly easily although she was a little wound up before the start," Rae said. "It's the first time he (Pinn) has ever ridden the horse so you can't knock him.

"She is a very very tough horse with a lot of ability and a good turn of foot. To be honest I had no idea if she would handle the track (Soft 6) today, but luckily Mandy (Brown, co-owner) said could we have a chance of winning the Guineas as I wanted to go to Pukekohe (yesterday) for something easier.

"She is going out for a break now as this is her first time going past the Pukekohe racetrack and I don't think she will handle the wet tracks (coming up)."

Pinn admitted he had to make a new race plan after the filly bounded away from the starting gates in front.

*Vegas Queen prevails in a dramatic finish to the Wellington Guineas. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*

"We were very comfortable out in front after she jumped so well," he said. "She grabbed the bridle, so I thought there go Kenny's instructions out the window so I will just ride her how she feels and she was as happy as Larry out in front.

"She showed great grit and determination to win today as when I thought she was falling in a hole, another horse has come up to challenge and she kicked hard and fought to the line.

"I was pretty confident the whole way and she showed great fight."

Out of the unraced Carlton House mare Miss Vegas (NZ), Vegas Queen is closely related to seven-race winner Vegas Showgirl (NZ) (Al Akbar), the dam of superstar galloper Winx (Street Cry) who numbered 25 Group One victories amongst her 37 career wins.

She has now collected over \$238,000 for owners Dirk and Nicki Oberholster and The Magpies & Mandy and Matt Brown's Ngapuke Racing.

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	WRC Wellington Guineas Gr.2 1400m
Winner	Vegas Queen (NZ) 2021
Owners	Dr D & N Oberholster, The Magpies & Ngapuke Racing
Trainer	Kenny Rae (Ruakaka)
Breeding	by Proisir (AUS) out of Miss Vegas by Carlton House (USA)
Breeder	Totara Park Stud





# OUR JUMALA TAKES OUT CUDDLE STAKES

Taranaki trainer Robbie Patterson kicked off his assault on the stakes races at Trentham on Saturday with a bang as underrated mare **Our Jumala (NZ)** (Zed) prevailed in a titanic struggle in the Gr.3 Wentwood Grange Cuddle Stakes (1600m).

The six-year-old daughter of Zed has always shown plenty of promise throughout her career including a runner-up finish in the Gr.3 Manawatu Breeders' Stakes (2000m) at this time last year and finally achieved a richly deserved stakes race victory with a barnstorming finish in the hands of Joe Doyle.

A winning result didn't look likely however, as Cambridge visitor and pacemaker Electron (NZ) (Turn Me Loose) was still travelling sweetly in front at the 200m and looked difficult to catch as Doyle and Our Jumala were still a length or more in arrears but finishing powerfully along with race favourite Pearl Of Alsace (NZ) (Tavistock).

Wit several powerful bounds Our Jumala hit the front in the shadows of the post to down Pearl Of Alsace by the barest of margins with Electron, between the pair, just a long neck back in third.

Patterson admitted he had always had faith in his charge and was thrilled that she finally lived up to his expectations, despite the narrow winning margin.

"I thought we had won but didn't Pearl Of Alsace come hard," Patterson said.

"This is great for the owners who are great mates of mine, it's unbelievable actually.

"She is a good mare that has taken a long time to mature, a typical Zed. Let's get into the winter with her now as she loves the cut in the track.

"I had her mother (Baltis) who won five and she was a good mare as well.

"She got a foot abscess about six



*Our Jumala (inside) prevails in a tight three-way finish to the Wentwood Grange Cuddle Stakes. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*

months ago and everything seemed to go wrong for her, but she is a Group Three winner now so that's great."

Irishman Doyle, who had already won two races on the day including the FRAC Club New Zealand St Leger (2500m) aboard Wolfgang (NZ) (Puccini), was delighted to pick up a big-race victory for Patterson who has supported him since he began riding in New Zealand.

"Robbie said she was very straightforward, put her in behind the speed and she would have her chance," he said.

"She was very tough and the more I asked her the more she gave even though it was only a small margin (at the finish).

"It's nice to get a big one for Robbie as he always tries to support me, so it's nice to ride a big winner for him.

"We couldn't really see her (Pearl Of Alsace) as all my filly was thinking was

to get by Electron, but she is very tough and honest and has been rewarded. She is a real fun one to look forward to."

Bred by co-owner Bill Stewart out of his Al Akbar mare Baltis (NZ), Our Jumala is the younger sister of handy performer Password (Zed) (NZ) who successfully mixed racing on the flat and over the jumps while she is also a half-sister to stakes placed galloper Tibetan (NZ) (Shocking).

She has now won six of her 21 starts and \$260,000 in prizemoney.

**- LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

<b>Race</b>	<b>WRC Cuddle S. Gr.3 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Our Jumala (NZ) 2018</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>D J &amp; J E Carter, W J Stewart, N H &amp; Z N Webby</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Robbie Patterson (New Plymouth)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Zed out of Baltis by Al Akbar (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>W J Stewart</b>







# MORE AUTUMN SPOILS **FOR EPEE BEEL**

**F**or the second year in a row, a big autumn stage at Riccarton has brought the very best out of talented local mare **Epee Beel** (Epaulette).

The daughter of Epaulette secured her first black-type success in the Listed NZB Insurance Stakes (1600m) in April of last year, and she delivered a repeat result over the same course and distance in Saturday's Gr.3 Donaldson Brown South Island Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1600m).

Epee Beel went into the \$100,000 fillies and mares' feature with no wins to her name from 12 starts this season, but she had been thereabouts with three seconds, two thirds, two

fourths and a fifth. Trainers Michael and Matthew Pitman never lost faith in the four-year-old, and they were richly rewarded on Saturday.

Epee Beel drew the outside gate in a field of 14 and jumped as a \$22 outsider. The first half of the race did nothing to help her chances, with Ashvin Goindasamy caught wide and left with no choice but to push forward. She eventually hit the lead with 800m remaining, but had used up plenty of petrol to get there.

Chasers fanned out across the Riccarton track to try to reel in Epee Beel, whose tough wide run seemed likely to take its toll. But Epee Beel somehow summoned another big

effort, pulling away to score an emphatic two-length win over the strong-finishing Loftys Gift (NZ) (Ghibellines).

Epee Beel was an \$80,000 purchase from Landsdowne Park's draft in Book 1 of Karaka 2022. She has now had 28 starts for four wins, 10 placings and \$207,240 in stakes.

"She'd been going near enough without a lot of luck in this preparation," said Michael Pitman, who trains in partnership with his son Matthew. "She's an established wet-tracker, she got a (Soft7) track to suit today and she absolutely bolted in.

"We might have a crack at the Canterbury Gold Cup (Gr.3, 2000m) with her on April 26. All the way through, we've been thinking that she needed more ground. But just with the way the racing has been down south in her preparation, the races we've been aiming her at have been 1400m to a mile."

– **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk.**



<b>Race</b>	<b>Hororata RC South Island Breeders S. Gr.3 1600m</b>
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Epee Beel (AUS) 2020</b>
<b>Owners</b>	<b>R W Dalzell, M P Dunn, I &amp; W Harvey, R J O'Connell, P Silcock, T &amp; W A Thomas &amp; P K Whiston</b>
<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Michael &amp; Matthew Pitman (Riccarton Park)</b>
<b>Breeding</b>	<b>by Epaulette (AUS) out of Pipi Beel by Savabeel (AUS)</b>
<b>Breeder</b>	<b>Monovale Holdings Ltd</b>
<b>Sales</b>	<b>2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Landsdowne Park Ltd \$80000 P: Forsman Racing</b>

*Rider Ashvin Goindasamy celebrates Epee Beel's victory in the South Island Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes. (Race Images South)*



# FAVOURED PAIR FIGHT OUT LIGHTNING HANDICAP FINISH

A day of high-quality racing and tight finishes at Trentham was topped off by another ding-donger in the last race as the favoured pair of **Glamour Tycoon** (Written Tycoon) and Platinum Attack (Santos) went head-to-head in the Listed Bill Tito Book Repair Specialist Lightning Handicap (1200m).

Neither four-year-old was prepared to give an inch, however it was the Stephen Marsh-trained filly Glamour Tycoon who thrust her head down at the perfect moment to deny the Lisa Latta-prepared Platinum Attack and register her second victory at Listed level after claiming the O'Learys Fillies' Stakes (1340m) during her three-year-old season.

Rider Wiremu Pinn has struck up a profitable association with the Marsh stable lately and was once again thrilled to pick up another stakes win for the Cambridge-based operator after guiding the stable's champion middle-distance performer El Vencedor (NZ) (Shocking) to a pair of Group One victories in recent weeks.

"I wasn't confident I had won but she is a tough little filly and I love her," Pinn said. "We have a great association and I do a lot of work on her at home."

"It is great that Stephen is supporting me and that is my first winner in these colours, so hopefully they can put me on some more of their better ones."

"She jumped very good and she relaxed beautifully. They are racing quite loose today and the gaps opened up and she has done it all on her own."

"She has had to fight hard and it is very satisfying to get the job done."

"I think she is going well, a lovely filly with a great attitude, conserves energy well and pretty much just does what you ask of her. She is very genuine and she will always try."

The victory completed a double on the day for Pinn, who also took out the Gr.2 IRT Wellington Guineas (1600m) aboard Vegas

Queen (NZ) (Proisir).

Glamour Tycoon was bred by Diamond Park Breeding and Racing and is by star stallion Written Tycoon, while her dam Glamour Gal is a half-sister to the Gr.2 Doomben Roses (2000m) winner Etana.

Offered by Highline Thoroughbreds in Book 1 of Karaka 2022, Glamour Tycoon was bought by Marsh for \$220,000 and now races in the colours of part-owner Dennis Foster's Bourbon Lane Stable.

Her 17-start career has now produced five wins and just under \$330,000 in prizemoney.

- **LOVERACING.NZ News Desk**

Race	WRC Lightning H. L 1200m
Winner	Glamour Tycoon (AUS) 2020
Owners	2022 Bourbon Lane Stable New Zealand LLC Partnership, I G Benghe, R J Bibby, Mrs L J Botros, D & S J Freeman, Dr P H Mitchell & A P Saker
Trainer	Stephen Marsh (Cambridge)
Breeding	by Written Tycoon (AUS) out of Glamour Gal (AUS) by Foxwedge (AUS)
Breeder	Diamond Park Breeding & Racing
Sales	2022 National Yearling Sale - Book 1 V: Highline Thoroughbreds \$220000 P: Stephen Marsh Racing



*Glamour Tycoon snatches a narrow victory in the Lightning Handicap. (Peter Rubery (Race Images Palmerston North))*



# RESCHEDULED CUP A PERFECT FIT FOR BASILINNA

New Zealand-bred mare **Basilinna (NZ)** (Staphanos) capitalised on the reprogramming of the Yarra Valley Cup (2040m) to Moonee Valley on Saturday, scoring a hard-fought win in her first start of a new campaign.

The Yarra Valley Cup was originally scheduled to be run over 1950m last Sunday, but the meeting was called off after one race due to rain and deteriorating track conditions. The Yarra Valley Cup was instead added as an 11th race on Saturday's Moonee Valley programme, and it was Basilinna who came out on top.

"We were the big beneficiary of that," said Emma-Lee Browne, who trains in partnership with her husband David.

"We had her in for a mile here first-up, which we felt was going to be a bit sticky for her. She's an out-and-out stayer. So we came here fresh-up. It was a little bit of a gamble. David and Lucy (daughter) ride her, and they assured me she was ready.

"We had a really tough spring with this mare, trying to get her back and trying to get her to hit the line. She didn't even look like she wanted to be here, but she's come back now a different horse. I'm rapt for the ownership group. They stuck by her."

Basilinna was ridden by Dean Yendall, who settled near the tail in the early part of the race before guiding her to a narrow come-from-behind win over fellow New Zealand-bred Savoir Faire (NZ) (Savabeel).

"You're always hopeful in those tight finishes, and I was 99 per cent sure I'd got it," Yendall said. "The plan was to try and hold a spot and that didn't happen. After the first 100m, I was out the back second-last. She was kind through the bridge and travelled enormously.

"I was going to need an ounce of



*Basilinna scores a hard-fought win in the Yarra Valley Cup (2040m) at Moonee Valley on Saturday. (Bruno Cannatelli)*

luck. I had the perfect run following that Te Akau horse (Savoir Faire). Young Luke Cartwright did me a world of favours, I was able to follow him and get to his outside in the straight. She nipped to the line really well. She gave me a great feel.

"You can't be more positive after a win like that today first-up over 2000m. It was a Benchmark 100, but she's performed up to a great standard so they've got bigger and better things in store."

The Brownes also bred and part-own Basilinna, having bought her dam So Royal (NZ) for just \$500 on Gavelhouse.com in 2019. A daughter of Novara Park stallion Staphanos, Basilinna has now had 15 starts for two wins, five placings and A\$303,125 in stakes. – **NZ Racing Desk.**

<b>Race</b>	MVRC Yarra Valley Cup 2040m.
<b>Winner</b>	Basilinna (NZ) 2020
<b>Owners</b>	Sparta Racing, Mr G Devonport, Mr T J T Stewart, Mr O Favaloro, Mr M J Stewart, St James Parents, Mr M R Pollard, Mr D Silver, Mr P R Rechter, Mrs S M Ridgway, Ms D V Pope, Ms J Stewart, Mr M W Wallace, Mr D F Wallace, Mr L A Thompson, Mrs R L Thompson, Mrs R Wallace, Studleaf
<b>Trainer</b>	Emma-Lee & David Browne
<b>Breeding</b>	by Staphanos (JPN) out of So Royal by Shinko King (IRE)
<b>Breeder</b>	D S & Mrs E Browne