

Weekend @ Waikato

23 SEPTEMBER 2016



BLAST FROM THE PAST

OCEAN PARK

winner of the 2012 Gr.1 Underwood Stakes (1800m)

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lucia Valentina seeking Gr.1 Underwood success
Suavito off to perfect start

BLACKBOOKER OF THE WEEK

Kris Lees-trained maiden winner, Reach For Heaven

SIXTY SECONDS

With 5x Gr.1 winning Kawi's breeder/ owner Christine Goodin

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

On Courtza Park stablehand Clannad Herman

LUCIA VALENTINA TAKES IMPORTANT GR.1 STEPPING STONE

Savabeel's three-time Gr.1 winning racemare **Lucia Valentina** takes an important stepping stone towards her Cox Plate goal, when she heads postward in Saturday's **Gr.1 Underwood Stakes** (1800m) at Caulfield.

“ Whatever Lucia Valentina does, she will take improvement from. The 1800m is a nice stepping stone.

She is really well. I'm looking forward to Saturday.

-Trainer, Kris Lees



Lucia Valentina is the \$4 second elect in the race behind **Black Heart Bart**, who if successful would also notably add to **Savabeel's** pedigree.

Bred by Graham and Helen-Gaye Bax and raced by Lib Petagna, Lucia Valentina has registered 7 wins and 5 placings to date, with her barnstorming win in April's **Gr.1 Queen Elizabeth Stakes** (2000m) at Royal Randwick significantly contributing to her career earnings figure of A\$4,231,589.

Lucia Valentina was originally purchased by Bloodstock Agent Bruce Perry for \$60,000 at the 2012 Premier Yearling Sale.



Gr.1 Cox Plate (2040m)
Moonee Valley
October 22

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

The Gr.1 Underwood Stakes represented the first stepping stone in a feat that saw OCEAN PARK's join company with of Australia's very best gallopers of all time.

Namely, in completing Australia's G1 Underwood Stakes-Caulfield Stakes-Cox Plate treble, OCEAN PARK emulated the mighty deeds of champions AJAX, BONECRUSHER, ALMAARAD, NORTHERLY and SO YOU THINK.



OCEAN PARK
Thorn Park - Sayida
2012 Gr.1 Underwood Stakes

The Underwood winners list also sees another subsequent Cox Plate winner on its winners list, this time in the shape of the 4x Gr.1 winning Pins gelding EL SEGUNDO.



EL SEGUNDO
Pins - Palos Verdes
2006 Gr.1 Underwood Stakes

BLACK-TYPE RUNNERS

SATURDAY



ROSA CAROLINA 13f
Savabeel - Ombre Rose (O'Reilly)
Listed Reginald Allen Hcp, 1400m
Rosehill, 4:00pm



CAPED CRUSADER 11g
O'Reilly - Aria (Centaine)
Gr.2 Shannon Stakes, 1500m
Rosehill, 6:35pm



LEGLISS VEUVE 13f
Pins - Hyades (O'Reilly)
Gr.2 Thousand Guinease Prelude, 1400m
Caulfield, 4:55pm



LUCIA VALENTINA 10f
Savabeel x Staryn Glenn (Montjeu)
Gr.1 Underwood Stakes, 1800m
Caulfield, 6:55pm



POSITIVE CARRY ON DERBY PATH

Melbourne-based trainers Natalie Young and Trent Busuttin have **Gr.1 Victoria Derby** (2500m) hopes for Savabeel gelding Positive Carry (pictured above at two).

“ He’s going to be a good stayer – he’s got Derby written all over him,”

-Co-trainer, Trent Busuttin

Busuttin and Young produced **Positive Carry** to finish runner-up in his Victorian debut at Sale earlier this month, and when stepped up on Wednesday from 1400m to 1738m, he gamely went one better.

Having successfully trained **Sangster** (pictured left) in its 2011 edition, Busuttin and Young know all too well the suitability of **Savabeel’s** stock in the **Gr.1 Victoria Derby**.

Bred by Gary Wallace, **Positive Carry** was sold to Ohukia Lodge for \$150,000 at the 2015 Premier Yearling Sale.

Positive Carry is a full-brother to the **Gr.3 Eulogy** Stakes winner **Coldplay**.

Their dam **Forty Two Below** was covered by **Savabeel** in 2016.

SNOWDROP EYES TOP SPRINTING COMPANY

Talented WS-bred and raced mare **Snowdrop** (Pins - Daffodil) is progressing well toward a new preparation that could see her mixing it with the country’s top sprinters.

The well-related 5YO dashed through the grades during her last campaign to take her record to six wins from 11 appearances.

“ She’s been back in work here for about three weeks and she needs good tracks, so there’s been no rush with her. We’ll be targeting some of the good summer sprints with her. The Railway is set weights and penalties now so she won’t get in as well as a handicap, but if her form warrants it we’d have a go,”

-Trainer Tony Pike





O'REILLY

APIATA

Sacred Falls' little brother wins trial



PINS

CROSS STITCH

Talented filly ex Lowland takes record to 3 starts, for 1 win and 2 placings



SAVABEEL

ROSA CAROLINA

Aiming for Gr.1 Thousand Guineas at Caulfield



SAVABEEL

QUEEN OF ZEALAND

Stakes placed filly crosses Tasman to join stable of Michelle Payne.



O'REILLY

BULL RUSH

Primed for strong outing at Rosehill tomorrow.



O'REILLY

WAR AFFAIR

Recent trial win points to a big run in Singapore on Sunday.

BLACKBOOKER

REACH FOR HEAVEN

- AGE/SEX: 3YO gelding
- BREEDING: Savabeel - Eloa by Volksraad
- BREEDERS: Little Avondale Trust
- TRAINER: Kris Lees
- OWNERS: Ron and Judy Wanless.
- REASON: Slashing win at his second start last Friday.

“ He'll head to a 3YO race at Randwick in a fortnight Saturday and we'll just take things step-by-step from there,”

-Trainer, Kris Lees





SIXTY SECONDS

WITH GR.1 HERO KAWI'S NEW PLYMOUTH BREEDER/OWNER, CHRISTINE GOODIN



FAVOURITE FOOD?	Fresh Gurnard and salad.....But Red's Roast Dinner is pretty good!!
DO YOU HAVE ANY NICKNAMES?	Shack (from Sharrock). If I didn't marry Steak I'm sure I wouldn't still have it 50 years on.
BEST HORSE INVOLVED WITH?	Kawi...of course! But Shez Sinsational before him!! And our first horse Mirikau Lass will always be special.
BOOK ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE?	Fashion Quarterly
WHAT ELSE MIGHT YOU HAVE DONE?	Still nursing...running a boarding school or a pub.
WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?	Just spending time with the 6 kids or the 12 grandies...they are the best!! Gardening...have a big one...In the Taranaki Garden Spectacular....28th October to 7th Nov. Come down!
FAVOURITE TV SHOW?	Ellen. The Races. Discovery.
WHO WOULD YOU LOVE TO MEET?	Adele, Michelle Obama, Van Morrison, Ellen. Oprah. Gai Waterhouse.
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?	The Netherlands. Our eldest son married a gorgeous Dutch Girl and theres 2 granddaughters there.
FAVOURITE THING ABOUT WAIKATO STUD?	Savabeel....But I won't be going near him anytime soon. Magic Time is due to visit again though. Those Chitticks are Ok too!!
HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN RACING?	My uncle was Bob Sharrock....say no more... Steak is 7/8ths Irish.....I think horse is in his blood.
FAVOURITE MOVIE?	Eddie the Eagle just recently!!
CHILDHOOD HEROES?	Both of my grandmothers. One had 14 kids and loved family...the other had only one.... She was styly...great fun and ahead of her time. I adored them both.
CAREER HIGHLIGHTS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To breed a Group 1 Winner!!• As a dressmaker I have travelled the world with Dame Malvina Major.• To have raised 6 kids who are pretty good people....• To have helped Steak survive a nasty stroke."
NAME 3 PEOPLE YOU'D INVITE TO DINNER	Steak, Emma and Red.
BEST PIECE OF GOOD ADVICE?	Be kind to each other.
WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVE?	Melissa McCarthy or Rebel Wilson...with a bit of age make-up!
WHAT'S SOMETHING NOT MANY PEOPLE WOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU?	Not many people would know that Steak and I have made 65 Harold Giraffes for Life Education Trusts throughout NZ (7 foot tall costumes). And that for many years we have looked after troubled youth on our farm.



DAVO'S TIP OF THE WEEK

BULLRUSH

Saturday 7:15pm, Race 9 at Rosehill.

"Worked hard at his last start. This time hopefully gets the staff happy again!"



PERFECT START

SUAVITO

Dual Gr.1 winning racemare **Suavito** has made a dream start to her breeding career.

Fast on the racetrack and just as fast off, she arrived Sunday, had a day on the good WS grass and when checked by the Vet on Monday morning, presented as being ideally ready for cover.

Suavito was subsequently covered by **Savabeel** on Monday morning.



OPINION PIECE

When I decided to occasionally comment on NZ racing and breeding, I never envisaged a weekly commitment, let alone engaging in any "I said-you said" debates.

I call my views, my corner for a reason ... corners can't be shared. Every now and then, extricating myself is not that easy. So, these will not be weekly. But this week I had to respond!

Respond to what? Well not many of you will have received John Allen's summary of his 'meet the people trip' or the Racing Board's Statement of Intent (SOI). This report and the SOI are available and should be read.

A suggestion to Allen that there is a basic disconnect between the Board and the industry that could be resolved with more racing experience was dismissed. Allen held and expressed the view that the board required people with commercial ability and experience, which implies a lack of commercial experience by those who are actively involved in breeding and racing.

I am sure this view will be well received by the remarkably successful businessmen and women who have, as part of their significant portfolios, a large investment in our industry. I would love to name them, but it would cause many embarrassment to have their CV 's compared to the track record of our succession of executive staff who have passed through, or remained in, our industry's employment. Suffice for me to say, those of you who take the time to poke your nose into my corner, will without much effort identify many of those who I am referring to.

Part of the reason for the Allen go round was to soften the industry up for the proposal to raise \$70mil to supposedly catch up with lack of investment in previous years. I have no axe to grind over raising capital for the advancement of the industry.

The problem the Racing Board has, is their past record - for which I recognise some of the current participants are not responsible - is abysmal. As such, the industry is rightfully cynical. It is a very difficult position to recover from (perhaps one or two of those lacking commercial nous should be engaged).

I could list many examples of questionable results, which my corner struggles to have room for.

- The infamous Typhoon betting platform springs to mind, a cool \$15mil + written off.
- I questioned the cost overrun on a building upgrade in Auckland of \$4mil, to be cheerfully told 'amortise it over 10 years and nobody will notice'.
- I would question the sale of the Petone building. This was sold for half the development cost and was quickly syndicated, returning 10% to investors. The suggestion is, it was a good decision as the building is non earthquake compliant, I wonder how the board employees feel about this.
- A previous corner identified the \$25mil increased cost of personnel over the 2010 to 2015 period, only to be told by Allen: 'You would be surprised if you amortised the annual figures over that period'. Well I was surprised... nationally over that period a 3% annual increase was above the norm. The result in round figures \$5mil. A distribution based on turnover of the industry's share of the \$20m is roughly \$12m or \$36k per day, or \$4200 per race.

I could go on-and-on and no doubt have my views questioned, and so they should be.

If I, or any of those less qualified, were part of this decision-making, we would be thrown out for lack of commercial nous .

Go figure!



GARRY'S CORNER

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Clannad Herman

Twenty-one-year old Clannad Herman is into her first full year of employment as a stablehand at Courtza Park. While this may seem ordinary, Clannad has challenges many people her age don't, she is developmentally delayed with an auditory processing problem.

However, since working, Clannad has significantly developed both mentally and physically and gained an incredible amount of confidence. Her mother Jackie Gieschen is hopeful it will be an example for employers to provide employment opportunities for others with disabilities.

Clannad has challenges with communicating, which is especially heightened in a social environment or with strangers. As a young child, Jackie says Clannad had to be taught every developmental milestone, including crawling and walking.

Her introduction to Waikato Stud came just over a year ago, when the previous Waikato Stud, Courtza Park Manager Celia Corcoran offered to take Clannad to feed the horses for a few hours one weekend, which became weekends and ultimately progressed into full-time employment.

Clannad's duties at Courtza Park, overseen by managers Dale and Katie Bussey include general care of the horses, such as cleaning horse boxes, taking covers off and grooming.

Jackie says Clannad has a calming effect on the horses, and they have a calming effect on her. In a peaceful environment and with the support of her family and Waikato Stud team, Clannad's mental development and physical strength has improved.

Jackie says an example of Clannad's development growth is she always used to write things down if she didn't know how to ask for it, but now Clannad asks. She is also learning to drive and wants to eventually live independently.

After Celia left Waikato Stud, Jackie feared Clannad would no longer feel comfortable there, but she says in fact 'she totally stepped up to the plate' and seized the opportunity to stay on.

"I honestly thought Clannad wouldn't cope, I was only 30 per cent sure she would stay on her own. I really felt it would all fall to pieces. But other people stepped in."

"Clannad is very grateful, she loves it at Waikato Stud, she wears her uniform in public so proudly."

Jackie's desire to see others with disabilities offered the same opportunities as everyone else, is shared by CCS Disability Action's National Communications, Marketing & Fundraising manager Melanie Gamble, who lives here in Matamata.

"People in her (Clannad's) situation are often on the outer," says Melanie. "They can be a bit excluded from community and forming close networks with people, so getting a job provides that segue into parts of life that able bodied people take for granted. It means a lot, often giving people a feeling of community, of feeling worthwhile - all those positives are brilliant for those with a disability."

Melanie says for some employers, giving a job to a person with disabilities can be seen as 'taking a chance' but what CCS Disability Action advocates for is a paradigm shift to recognise it's not a risk, but an opportunity.

Waikato Stud owner Mark Chittick says he is proud of Clannad for seizing the opportunity presented to her and he has enjoyed witnessing her transform from a shy young woman she was when she first started.

"I love giving anyone an opportunity and if they take that opportunity and if I see them flourish, that's just so satisfying for me. That's what happened with Clannad, we gave her an opportunity and she flourished and achieved and like anybody around here, the opportunities are there for them to take. She's taken it and everybody has got on and done what they have to do, and so has she.

"I have seen her come out of her shell, seen her excited about what she has achieved, and for all of us, that is the best result we can get."

"She certainly has a gift with the horses. They are relaxed with her and she is comfortable with them."

-Rexine Hawes, Matamata Chronicle

WITH GARETH DOWNEY

DOUBLE YOUR CHANCES

In the last week, **Savabeel** has been represented by two Group winners. In a display of toughness and class that had to be seen to be believed, **Kawi** scored the **5th Gr.1** win of his career in taking out the **Windsor Park Plate**. In his post-race comments, Alan Sharrock declared **Kawi** as the best horse he has trained – a pretty big statement for someone who has nurtured the careers of many a talented horse. On the other side of the Tasman, **Spirit Bird** kicked off her first campaign for new trainer James Cummings in perfect style when scoring victory in the **Gr.3 Tibbie Stakes** at Newcastle. As this was just her first up run, and being over 1350m, the victory signalled a very good preparation ahead for her and her owner Neven Botica.

Both of these Group winners are out of mares carrying **Danzig**; with **Kawi** being out of a **Volkraad** mare, and **Spirit Bird** being out of a **Rock Of Gibraltar** mare. Given the proliferation of **Danzig** in our global stallion population, it can be difficult for owners of broodmares carrying **Danzig** to find the stallion option that is going to maximise their chance of success – especially for all those broodmare owners now keen on avoiding a duplication of **Danehill**

and/or **Danzig** in their matings. As indicated by these two Group winners in the last week, **Savabeel** provides an excellent solution to this challenge.

Interestingly, for broodmares carrying **Danzig** in their pedigree, their overall production records to date average **3.5% SW/Rnrs**. However, when such mares are sent to **Savabeel**, this rate of success doubles to **7.0% SW/Rnrs**. Apart from **Kawi** and **Spirit Bird**, other stakes winners by **Savabeel** out of mares carrying **Danzig** have included **Pasadena Girl, Savvy Nature, Tullamore, My Emotion, Mabeel, You're So Good** etc.

So, if you have a mare carrying **Danzig**, sending her to **Savabeel** is already proven to substantially increase your chances of producing a stakes winner of this class.

Should you have any queries about this or who might suit your mare, please feel free to contact me via gareth@waikatostud.co.nz or 021 433 073



KAWI



SPIRIT BIRD



THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT

Well its been another big old week!

Kawi's bold effort in the **Windsor Park Plate** was just massive! The outstanding son of **Savabeel** has now achieved **5 Gr.1** wins, which is a huge. Special congrats to Red and Christine and Steak Goodin.

The same Hastings racecard also saw three other **WS**-sired winners, not the least being the **Pins'** sired winner of the **Gr.3 Gold Trail Stakes, Honey Rider**.

Honey Rider, who is bred and raced by Andrew Lockyer and Charlie Whyte, now looks a great chance of repeating what fellow **Pins** filly Katie Lee did in the **Gr.1 One Thousand Guineas**.

In other news, the dual **Gr.1** winning racemare **Suavito** arrived last Sunday and after just one day on the good Waikato Stud grass, she was 100% ready for cover. It all happened so quick, I didn't even have time to knock the mud off **Savabeel**, when I took him down to cover her.

Speaking of Gr.1 racemare, good luck to the team with **Lucia Valentina** Saturday!

Mark.

