



PRIME DISPATCH

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Zizzis winning at Caulfield on Cup Day
Important date at Caulfield this Saturday in the Cockram Stakes!!!

I will be back in the office on Wednesday after a very interesting and informative visit to New Zealand. I have written a summary of my visit later in this Dispatch. The industry in NZ isn't in great shape but with some government backing and a change of direction could become a force again. It will be interesting to see how it pans out. We have some important runners stepping out this week.

Almerheri kicks off proceeding on Wednesday when she heads back to Warwick Farm where she scored such an impressive win two weeks ago. She is maturing into a lovely mare and has the pedigree to continue to improve. Unfortunately, Nash Rawiller who rode her so well has been suspended with Glen Boss taking the ride. Her trainer John Thompson has started the season off in great style and is sitting in 4th position on the Sydney Trainer's Premiership. His five wins have come from just 14 runners compared with the leading trainer Chris Waller with nine wins from 80 runners. Hopefully John can get a couple more on Wednesday.

On Thursday Casa De Lago is set to return to Warrnambool where she was so effective winning a couple of starts back. Bill Egan takes the ride for Patrick Payne who has continued on from his record

season with 6 wins at a strike rate of 20.7%. Casa de Lago is at her best on very wet ground and is likely to get these conditions at Warrnambool. Congratulations to Patrick on winning the Grand National Steeplechase yesterday. He is a master horseman.

We have a big day on Saturday with Husson Eagle running in the Penny Edition Stakes at Morphettville and Zizzis running in the Cockram Stakes at Caulfield. Both these horses are in very good form with Husson Eagle coming off a strong win in the Mildura Cup and Zizzis a fast finishing 4th in the Listed Cockram Stakes in Adelaide. This race was won by Assertive Approach which won the Carlyon Stakes at Moonee Valley on Saturday. Patrick trains these two gallopers.

Black And Tan heads to Eagle Farm on Saturday for Kris Lees who is also had a remarkable start to the season and is currently leading the Australian Trainer's Premiership. The mare is in good form and the wide-open spaces at Eagle Farm should suit her. Chalmers is likely to head to the Moree Cup on Sunday.

I have had a long association with each of these three fine trainers. I have worked with John Thompson since he was Bill Mitchell's foreman in 1998 in Sydney and went in to support him when Patinack Farm collapsed. He is a very good horseman and like Kris and Patrick an excellent person.

I sent the first horses to Kris in 2005 when Bill Mitchell retired. This wasn't long after his father Max sadly passed away. He has come a long way since then.

Patrick did a good job with a couple of tried horses I sent him with the first yearling I purchased him being Husson Eagle. We have had some remarkable success together with moderately priced horses.

MY THOUGHTS ON NZ

I have enjoyed my journey around NZ and I have a much clearer picture of where the industry here is placed at present.

NZ has a long racing history and for many people my age the big Cup winners coming from NZ seemed to be never ending. This has certainly changed with Australian buyers looking elsewhere to secure that elusive Melbourne Cup winner, often for ridiculous prices and few NZ bred horses gaining starts in our major staying races.

The biggest impact this visit has had on me is for me to now understand the industry is much smaller over here than I would have imagined. The studs here are picture perfect and the hospitality first class. Maree and I were received with welcome arms with nothing being too much trouble. In the coming breeding season NZ will breed about 3000 mares. I was told this is about half the number of five years ago.

These figures aren't good but paint a similar picture to the situation in South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia. Many smaller owners have decided not to continue breeding. It is an expensive exercise with a lot of hurdles to overcome. I expect we will see a downturn in numbers in NSW and Queensland in the coming season as well. The drought is having a big impact.

The sires at the six studs I visited will provide about 2000 of these foals. A huge amount of money has been invested by Brendan and Jo Lindsay of Cambridge Stud, Gerry Harvey and Kevin Hickman of Valachi Downs in recent years to try and reinvigorate the industry which is struggling. These are not the only people to show enough faith in the NZ industry to try and get things going. It will take time. The news that Roaring Lion had to be put down on Friday was very sad, not only for

Cambridge Stud where he was due to stand this season but also for the industry as a whole. I saw the horse on Tuesday. It appears to me one of the biggest issues facing the industry is the weak racing side of the equation. The standard of racing isn't strong with 70% of the yearlings sold at the Karaka Sales going overseas. This doesn't leave much to fuel the domestic market.

On Saturday two race meetings were held in NZ with the meeting in Auckland offering \$197,500 in stakes money in total with just 64 runners competing in the seven races. The other meeting was at New Plymouth with \$350,000 of offer in eight races with slightly more runners per race. The seven races in Auckland were jumping races.

Racing is well covered here with two channels featuring the local races and all meetings run in Australia and some from other countries. I'm pleased I came across. You can never stop learning. Ours is a dynamic industry and I use the information I glean speaking with people and also using my own observations to help me select which yearlings or weanlings I will try and purchase. I rarely take any notice of and advertising in our industry. For example, in my opinion if a sire is being heavily advertised then he is off with the market or standing for too much.

I intend keeping a close eye on the breeding industry in NZ and have a couple of sires whose progeny caught my eye. In time I may purchase a filly from NZ but will have done plenty of homework before I do.

John Messara was commissioned by the industry in NZ to investigate and write a report on the industry in NZ. I believe he tabled the report here about 15 months ago. Hopefully the recommendations from the Messara Report will start to be implemented. For the leaders in the industry here that I spoke to it can't come soon enough. I believe John put forward over 50 recommendations.

Good luck to the many people Maree and I met during the past 11 days. It has been a very worthwhile exercise.

If any of our owners are visiting NZ and would like to visit Cambridge Stud I can arrange a visit for you. It is worth the time to have a look.

THE SEASON KICKS OFF IN STYLE

It is important not to get caught up in the constant barrage of information being put out by the major studs. I have done a quick analysis of the first four Saturday metropolitan meetings in Melbourne and Sydney for the new season. I'll only concentrate on the Listed races as they are the important ones. 14 Group or Listed races were run over the eight meetings. These provided 42 all important 'Black Type' placings. I'm certain the results will surprise you.

It is interesting that high profile sires Fastnet Rock, Pierro, Smart Missile, Star Witness, All Too Hard, Choisir, Savabeel, Hinchinbrook and Nicconi are yet to strike a blow but that could change quickly with a host of stakes races to be run in the coming weeks. The Carnival has well and truly arrived.

In total 31 different sires were represented across the 42 placings. The origin of the 42 placed horses is laid out below with the runner's sire location at the time of conception used:

NSW	33 (I Am Invincible 5 – Libertini WON Silver Shadow Stakes)
Victoria	5 (Written Tycoon 2 – Hightail 2 nd in McKenzie Stakes)
SA	1 (Akheed Mofeed – Assertive Approach WON Carlyon Stakes)
Tasmania	1 (Needs Further – Mystic Journey WON Lawrence Stakes))
NZ	1 (Showcasing – My Xpression 3 rd in Toy Show Quality)
Imported gallopers	1 (Authorized - Hartnell 3 rd in Lawrence Stakes)

The figures lean heavily in favour of NSW as I expected. There haven't been a lot of races to suit the imported gallopers but this will always be the case with our racing geared towards the sprinter/miler types.

The only stakes winner by a new sire was Condo's Express by Rubick who is doing an incredible job and looks the real deal. He is the sire of our good filly Rubisaki.



Almerheri kicks off proceedings on Wednesday at Warwick Farm

More Winners – More Often – More Fun

WEANLING SYNDICATIONS

I purchased two yearlings at the Magic Millions National Weanling Sale. These colts by Rubick and Sizzling are growing out at Ascot Farm near Pitt Town. They are nice colts with the Rubick heading to Kris Lees and Sizzling going to Patrick Payne. I have had great success over the years purchasing weanlings and offering them to our clients. In my opinion we are purchasing them for less than half what they would have cost as yearlings at next year's sales. The best horse in our team at present purchased as a weanling is Invincible AI who cost \$50,000 and has won six races and \$389,590 in stakes earnings. Here is some information on these colts.



Rubick colt out of Ciavenna (Ire.) 20
Kris Lees to Train 10% shares \$11,500 (5% shares \$5,750)

I was thrilled to secure this colt at the Magic Millions National Sale. I have purchased just the one yearling by Rubick with her racing as Rubisaki and being one of the most exciting horses we have raced for some time. This colt was offered by Edinglassie Stud which is one of our very best nurseries with Michael Talty being a breeder who I have enormous respect for. Edinglassie has been a wonderful nursery producing outstanding horses including Shooting To Win, Deep Field, Nechita, Bentley Biscuit, God's Own, Wonderful World, Nadeem, Sharscay, Miss Margaret and Suntain.

I have had very good success buying horses from Edinglassie including the very good gallopers Savoureux, Eramor and Shine On Anna. **I purchased Eramor as a weanling and she went on to win the MRC Debutante Stakes.**

This colt really grabbed my attention. He has a great hindquarter, good shoulder but most importantly he is a great walking horse. I loved him from the moment I inspected him and was determined to purchase him.

Rubick

Rubick has started off his career at stud in wonderful fashion. He is currently 3rd on the First Season Sire's List for winners which is a great effort. Importantly, he is represented by some outstanding gallopers who look to have very bright futures. His best to date is the classy colt Yes Yes Yes. **He is also represented by our outstanding filly Rubisaki which has won two of her four races and is stakes placed.** A young sire couldn't do much more and he looks like having a very successful career at stud ahead of him. His yearlings this year sold up to \$900,000.

Ciavenna (Ire.)

Ciavenna is a very well related young mare that was purchased in Ireland and brought here to go to stud. Her first foal is a Foxwedge colt which is yet to be named. This is the 2nd foal and she is in foal to Hellbent. The matings done at Edinglassie are amongst the best of any of our studs with the mare certain to be well mated. She is the ½ sister to three stakes performers.

On the pedigree page is the Group 1 Hollywood Oaks winner Cambina. I love buying out of families with Oaks winners on the page.

I'm thrilled to have secured this colt and I look forward to his racing career. At \$11,500 for a 10% share he looks very well priced particularly when you consider the results his progeny could produce over the next six months before the 2020 Yearling Sales Series.



Rubisaki winning at Flemington
3rd highest stakes winner for Rubick
Out of Rubick's first crop of yearlings!!!



Sizzling colt out of Distant Symphony 2018
Patrick Payne To Train 10% shares \$7,500 (5% \$3,750)

I have been very bullish about Sizzling since day one and my opinion of him continues to strengthen as his progeny mature and get older. This colt is a ripper and a full brother to Miss Divine Em which I syndicated last year. The reports on this filly are very positive and the pedigree has taken a big step up since I purchased her with **Anaheed** coming out and winning the Group 2 Sweet Embrace Stakes and Group 2 Percy Sykes Stakes and \$954,200. These are two very good races. She was also placed 6th in the Golden Slipper. She is out of Distant Symphony's half-sister. This family has a lot of upside.

I was very active at the 2017 sales series and purchased two yearlings and was the under bidder on a third one by Sizzling. These horses have displayed great potential already with Zizzis winning three races and \$234,490 already. She won the 2018 Adelaide Magic Millions 2YO Classic where she trounced a very good field and then won again at Caulfield on Cup day which was a big thrill for her owners.

The other yearling that I purchased was Addocarr who was an impressive winner recently. Like many of the progeny of Sizzling he looks like he is looking for a middle-distance trip and he is being aimed at the Grafton Guineas over 1600m.

I was the under bidder on a 3rd yearling which races under the name Sizzling Belle. She is a beautiful filly, is a Sydney winner and was placed in the Listed Black Opal Stakes. She was the one that got away.

I jumped in and supported him again last year and this year have three rising 2yo by the sire. I have also purchased a breeding interest in Sizzling.



Anaheed

Sizzling

I really liked what I saw in many of the progeny of Sizzling from the start. To me it is a no brainer that he will be a success at stud. He was a terrific racehorse and precocious two years old from the most dominant sire line in Australia for the past 20 years out of a 'black type' mare by one of the greatest sprinters of the modern generation in General Nediym. Sizzling also won one of the five 2yo Group One races run in Australia winning the JJ Atkins Stakes.

Sizzling's pedigree page is very strong with a host of very good horses down the page. In fact, it couldn't be any stronger with both the 2nd and 3rd dams being superior producers.

I love the General Nediym (1st dam), Alzao stakes winner (2nd Dam) and Without Fear stakes producer (3rd dam) down the page. Estate Label, the 3rd dam was a very high-class producer also throwing the outstanding two years old filly Loving Cup.

I must say I had a bit to do with both sides of this pedigree with Sizzling's sire Snitzel being out of Snippet's Lass. Both General Nediym and Snippet's Lass were trained by Bill Mitchell when I was his Racing Manager. They were both high class racehorses with Snippet's Lass being one of the toughest mares I have had anything to do with.

Sizzling has started out his stud career in great fashion finishing 3rd on the Australian First Season Sires List for both Stakes earnings and winners and is currently 4th on the Second Season List for winners. He is in a very strong crop of young sires that includes Zoustar, Spirit Of Boom, Dundee, Fiorente and Akheed Mofeed and Epaulette. There are 52 sires represented with runners on this List which is a big number.

Distant Symphony

Distant Symphony has done a good job with four winners to her credit including the stakes winner Mystic Master. Her results are better than they look because she really hasn't been too a top sire with this mating being the best she has had in my opinion.

Distant Symphony has a nice record being a ½ sister to the Group 1 winner Rostova. She is by Distant Music who has done a remarkable job at stud with seven stakes winners from limited chances. His best is Bella Martini by Stratum with two stakes wins to her credit. This reads very well to me. Other well-known horses out of Distant Music mares to race here include Miss Promiscuity, Upbeat, Meteoroid and Volcanic General.

All in all, this colt represents great value and heads to an outstanding trainer who has done a remarkable job for us.



Zizzis winning the 2018 Adelaide Magic Millions 2YO Classic
Out of Sizzlings first crop of yearlings!!!
Highest stakes earner for Sizzling!!!



A couple of stars here Patrick Payne and Husson Eagle!!!
3rd highest stakes winner for Husson!!!



Tye England winning the \$2million Magic Millions Gold Coast Guineas on Flying Jess
Highest earning stakes winning filly by Hinchinbrook!!!