

22 FEBRUARY, 2019

Weekend @Waikato

ISSUE #293

ROCK 'N' POP FIRING ON ALL CYLINDERS

Rock 'n' Pop continues to go from strength to strength as a sire with stakes winners and winners dominating on racetracks throughout Australasia.

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ROCK 'N' POP'S SON A QUALITY ACT

Waikato Stud graduate Surely Sacred's name is up in lights after his Gr.2 Avondale Guineas victory at Ellerslie

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At the farm



WS-bred and sold Surely Sacred after winning the Gr.2 Avondale Guineas.
Photo credit: Race Images Photos

ROCK 'N' POP'S SON A QUALITY ACT

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Waikato Stud graduate Surely Sacred's name is up in lights after his Gr.2 Avondale Guineas victory at Ellerslie



BELOW / Surely Sacred
Photo credit: Race
Image Photos

It propelled the son of Rock 'n' Pop to favouritism for next month's Gr.1 New Zealand Derby.

He is trained by Tony Pike, who also prepared Rangipo to win both races three years ago.

"I think this horse is more of a genuine stayer," Pike said.

"Rangipo was a true professional. He was having his 10th run for the season when he won the Derby.

"He was a real warrior, but I think this one has a touch of class. I hope we can do it again."

The winner of the Gr.2 Auckland Guineas on New Year's Day, Surely Sacred settled back in the field before rider Vinnie Colgan improved 800 metres from home.

"They put the pressure on a fair way out and opened up the field," Pike said.

"Vinnie elected to get on his bike and that was probably the winning of the race."

Surely Sacred made the lead 350m out and he held a strong gallop to earn top honours.

"It was a good, tough win and there's a bit more juice in the tank yet," Pike said.

"It's all pretty straight forward from now over the next two weeks. It's just about maintenance work and keeping



him happy."

Surely Sacred was purchased by Raffles Racing from Waikato Stud's yearling draft for \$160,000 in 2017.

He is out of the Masterclass mare Not Sure and is a half-sister to the Gr.3 Tasmanian Derby winner Betwixt.

She subsequently produced the Gr.1 Queensland Oaks winner Provocative.

[VIEW ROCK 'N' POP](#)

ROCK 'N' POP 4YO IMPRESSIVE

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Rock Idol gave a strong indication he can make his mark in stronger company with a commanding performance at Wairoa.

The son of Rock 'n' Pop struck at the fourth time of asking yesterday with an effortless win over 1400 metres.

Rider Craig Grylls had the gelding outside of the leader before striding to the front before the turn.

The four-year-old surged well clear and held a strong gallop to win untouched by three and a-half lengths.

Trained by Jamie Richards, Rock Idol is raced by a syndicate that includes his co-breeder and Te Akau principal David Ellis.

He is a son of the O'Reilly mare Edesia, who hails from the family of the Gr.1 Epsom Handicap winner Rock Kingdom.



BELOW / Rock Idol

Photo Credit: Race Images Photos

[VIEW ROCK 'N' POP](#)

OCEAN PARK'S SON A 3YO TO FOLLOW

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Nordic has made a highly encouraging start to his career and looks a potential stakes performer.

The Ocean Park three-year-old placed at his first two starts before his breakthrough success at Avondale.

Trained by Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman, he is part-owned by Waikato Stud.

Nordic is a son of Queen Cha Cha, an unraced High Chaparral mare who is proving an outstanding producer.

All four of her foals to race have been successful and include the dual Group One winner Suavito and the stakes winner Sultan Of Swing.

There is also an international flavour to the pedigree with the presence of the European Group winners Pyrrha and Everything Nice.



BELOW / Nordic

Photo Credit: Race Images Photos

[VIEW OCEAN PARK](#)

MADISON COUNTY SYDNEY BOUND AFTER SALE FALLS THROUGH

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Dual Group One-winning three-year-old Madison County will head to Sydney in preparation for an autumn campaign after his sale to Hong Kong fell through.

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained gelding won the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas (1600m) at Riccarton in November followed by the Gr.1 Levin Classic (1600m) at Trentham before finishing a gallant third behind Long Leaf in the rich Karaka Million 3YO (1600m) at Ellerslie in January.

He was set to start in the Gr.1 Herbie Dykes Stakes (2000m) at Te Rapa earlier this month, but was scratched with the seven figure sale to Hong Kong pending.

However, that sale was not to eventuate and the son of Pins will now head to Sydney next week where he is nominated for a number of races, including the Gr.1 Randwick (1600m) and Gr.1 Rosehill Guineas (2000m).

"The sale fell over," Baker said. "We will take him to Sydney and race him. He is nominated over there.

"We are not disappointed, we have still got a good horse to train, it just happens now and then (sales falling through).

"He has missed very little work because we just kept him ticking over and we'll probably go over there (Sydney) early next week." - **NZ Racing News**



BELOW / Madison County
Photo credit: Race Images Photos



The *anatomy* of a
GROUP ONE WINNING
SON OF FASTNET ROCK

Rock 'n' Pop

SERVICE FEE: TBC

Million dollar looks

A \$1 million Karaka Sale topper, he was one good looking yearling and has let down into a magnificent stallion

Strong, well-rounded back end

A prominent feature seen in his multiple Stakes performers, including dual Group winner Surely Sacred as well as Gold Spice, Go Dixie, Rock 'n' Affair and The Lord Mayor

The ultimate blueblood

By champion sire Fastnet Rock, his dam Popsy, by Sir Tristram was a dual Group One winner

Muscular, athletic frame

The perfect asset for stamina and speed. As a three-year-old, he won the Group One NZ 2000 Guineas and Listed Karaka Mile over 1600m and was runner-up in the Group One NZ Derby over 2400m

Correct and well balanced

A trait so frequently seen in his beautifully put together progeny which have sold for up to \$220,000



Waikato Stud

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FIND OUT MORE

WS SIRED STAKES RUNNERS

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SATURDAY 23 FEBRUARY

AOTEA LAD

Savabeel – Corsage

Gr.3 Waikato Stud Slipper, 1200m

Matamata, 2:10 pm (NZT)

(MR) CLARIFY

Savabeel – Claretta

Listed Mornington Cup Prelude, 2000m

Caulfield, 2:35 pm (NZT)

TWINSPIER

Savabeel – Impulsive Dream

Gr.2 Autumn Classic, 1800m

Caulfield, 3:10 pm (NZT)

RONDINELLA

Ocean Park – Valpolicella

Listed Kaimai Stakes, 2000m

Matamata, 3:55 pm (NZT)

PRINCE JABEEL

Savabeel – J'Adane

Listed Kaimai Stakes, 2000m

Matamata, 3:55 pm (NZT)

KYRIE ELEISON

O'Reilly – Kilfenroa

Listed Kaimai Stakes, 2000m

Matamata, 3:55 pm (NZT)

TIPTRONIC

O'Reilly – Tiptoes

Listed Kaimai Stakes, 2000m

Matamata, 3:55 pm (NZT)

FLAMINGO

Pins – Bird

Gr.1 Haunui Farm Classic, 1600m

Otaki, 4:14 pm (NZT)

SUPERA

Savabeel – Sopra Tutto

Gr.1 Haunui Farm Classic, 1600m

Otaki, 4:14 pm (NZT)

PURPLE SECTOR

Pins – Eden Valley

Gr.2 Hobartville Stakes, 1400m

Rosehill, 5:15 pm (NZT)

SAVVY COUP

Savabeel – Eudora

Gr.2 Millie Fox Stakes, 1300m

Rosehill, 6:30 pm (NZT)

SHILLELAGH

Savabeel – Trocair

Gr.2 Peter Young Stakes, 1800m

Caulfield, 7:30 pm (NZT)

BLACK TYPE SPOTLIGHT

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FLAMINGO

GROUP 1 HAUNUI WFA CLASSIC



Flamingo / By Pins, from Bird

WS-owned Pins mare Flamingo will look to add the Gr.1 Haunui Farm WFA Classic to her impressive record before she starts her new career as a mother. The talented galloper has won her last two starts, including the Listed Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (two weeks ago) and will no doubt be fit and ready for tomorrow's assignment.

Trained by David and Emma Haworth, she has drawn barrier 12 and will be ridden by Robert Hannam.

RONDINELLA

LISTED KAIMAI STAKES



Rondinella / By Ocean Park, from Valpolicella

The progressive daughter of Ocean Park has won her last two starts and was extremely dominant last time out at Te Rapa where she won by a very easy six-length margin. Trained by Roger James and Robert Wellwood, she should relish the trip (2000m) and will be ridden by Vinnie Colgan from barrier 8.

AOTEA LAD

GROUP 3 WAIKATO STUD SLIPPER



Aotea Lad / By Savabeel, from Corsage

Savabeel's Group 2 Wakefield Challenge Stakes winner Aotea Lad is one of Te Akau Racing's/Jamie Richards' three runners in the race and looks primed and ready for the win. He ran a brave second to fellow Savabeel stable mate Probabeel in the \$1 million 2YO Karaka Million last time out and should be hard to beat on his home track tomorrow. He has drawn well in barrier 3 and will be ridden by Michael McNab.

SAVVY COUP

GROUP 2 MILLIE FOX STAKES



Savvy Coup / By Savabeel, from Eudora

Dual Group 1 winning Savabeel mare Savvy Coup is making her first race day appearance since the Spring and will step out for trainer Chris Waller in the Gr.2 Millie Fox Stakes (1400m) at Rosehill tomorrow. She will be taking on her own sex but will be the top weight of the field, carrying a hefty 59kg's. She should be fitter from the run and her Group 1 targets this prep include the Doncaster Mile, Queen Elizabeth Stakes and Coolmore Legacy.

AT THE FARM

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BOTTOM (L) (from left to right) Ernie Martinez, Duncan Taylor, Mark Chittick and Jim Curtin

BOTTOM (R) Duncan Taylor, Mark Chittick, Ernie Martinez and Jim Curtin inspecting Tivaci



TOP Taylor Made Farm's Duncan Taylor with champion sire Savabeel

AT THE FARM (CONT'D)

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TOP American Bloodstock Agent Ernie Martinez clay bird shooting at Waikato Stud's Game Gully



BOTTOM Lunch at Game Gully with Taylor Made's Duncan Taylor, Bloodstock Agent Ernie Martinez, standardbred trainer Jim Curtin, NZB's Kane Jones and Waikato Stud's Chris Phillips and Mark and Pippa Chittick

MARK'S MAIL

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Catch up with Mark Chittick in this week's edition of Mark's Mail.

Click the video below to watch.



GARRY'S CORNER

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Is it time to be serious. I mean I have lightened up lately. A Chief Executive attempting to be a frogman, a wedding in Tarras, these distractions were just that.



[Click here](#)
to read Garry's Corner



RACING THOUGHTS

Former racing journalist Mary Burgess shares her thoughts on the current issues faced by the New Zealand Thoroughbred Industry.

READ THE STORY:

[Racing hierarchy still confuses those who should know better](#)



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