

~ The Early Word ~ New Zealand

An outstanding days racing coming up at one of NZ's best venues, the largest crowd to attend Te Rapa Racecourse since Rod Stewart & Rachael Hunter in the 80's is expected. Cannot fault the racing with incredibly even fields & a terrific carnival family atmosphere created, hallelujah finally someone is attempting to pull NZ racing back from the brink. Precipitation is expected overnight on Friday but clearing early Saturday, I see no problems for this 15mm sand lined track.

Our best bet of the day is Te Rapa **Race 9 No 6 Veloce Bella** . Has had 2 runs back to peak for this, Te Rapa favours those that steam home from behind out wide amongst the crowd as Veloce Bella will do. A solid pace will be set by Ruud Van Slaats & this will play right into Veloce's hands. Has run against the Princess Coups & Seachanges many times in the past (& performed admirably) neither of those or anything like them lines up here. Looks a top bet at nice odds.

Our rated price is 3.50. Expected price 5.00.

The value selection for today is Te Rapa **Race 7 No 12 Six O'Clock News**. Comes into this on the back of 3 top runs, very lightly weighted, with a top Jockey/Trainer combination. Distance is made to order with the pace being solid suiting again the come from behind Six O'Clock News.

Our rated price is 4.50. Expected price 5.00-6.00.

Adelaide

The Banker

Race 4 # 5 Jaalippy

Rated: 2.20

Expected: 3.20

BEST BET

Looks a pretty smart type after coming from a seemingly impossible position to win at first start after doing plenty wrong early. Was simply not entitled to win especially over just 1000m. Has since trialled well and the step up to 1200m here looks made to order. Can only have benefitted from the experience and with any natural improvement whatsoever looks horribly hard to beat.

Looks a good bet at about 2.20 or better.

Dangers are Where's My Wagon (6) 5.50, Do The Dash (1) 6.50 and Honourable Kind (4) 11.0.

The Value

Race 6 # 8 Miss Daea

Rated: 4.00

Expected: 7.50

E/W BET

Has been most consistent this time in. Massive run when only narrowly beaten behind Esprit De Roses last start. Had absolutely no luck after racing wide without cover for the final 1200m, was then flattened at the top of the straight yet had the audacity to keep chasing to be beaten in a driving 3-way go. Before that was beaten just over a length behind Tassie Gold.

Can most definitely win this and rates on top at 4.0 or better. The danger is By Sea (5) 4.50 with Orme (6), Hiconi (11) and Amici Forever (3) rating next best all at about 10.0.

Lacey Underall

2008 Adelaide Cup Winner

Brisbane

Value Bet

Race 5 #12 Lucky Luna

Rated: 5.00

Expected: 5.50

E/W BET

Drops back to the 1400 metres since last start when a good third behind Jacaranda Charm after being disappointed for a run. Look for Lucky Luna late – we rate him a 20% chance so take anything better than 5.0.

The Value

Race 6 # 9 Onalar

Rated: 5.50

Expected: 10.00

E/W BET

On the seven day back-up (and third run within the month), Onalar can provide owners with another cheque today. Racing in terrific heart of late with a win and two placings from his last three starts. Wiggins back on board having tasted previous success on Onalar with a win and a second from two rides is a decided plus. He will get back but will be running home late. His right price is around the 5.5. I wouldn't be surprised to see plenty of money arrive for him today.

Viewed

2008 Brisbane Cup Winner

Melbourne

The Banker

Race 6 # 1 Orbit Express

Rated: 2.20

Expected: tba

BEST BET

~~Orbit Express got the job done last Saturday when downing Danzylum. That win came after two exceptionally good efforts behind promising gallopers Rightfully Yours and Chasm. He is flying and is going to be very hard to hold out over 1400 metres, particularly after the claim. He should make it back to back city wins.~~

The Value

Race 2 # 3 Ulysses

Rated: 3.00

Expected: 7.00

E/W BET

Old-timer Ulysses is racing in great heart, recoding wins at Ararat and Cheltenham before running a quality second behind Instructor last Saturday. He was tried by punters that day and just kept on fighting. There may be some money around for Last Man Out and Ballack so Ulysses may go around over the odds. He has a class edge on these and if he maintains his form he will be fighting out the finish.

Efficient

2007 Melbourne Cup Winner

Sydney

The Banker

Race 2 # 7 Rock Me Baby

Rated: 2.30

Expected: 2.75

BEST BET

Talented filly, untried in the going, but the Rock of Gibraltar's invariably handle it. Only start at Rosehill was a debut win, beating Love and Kisses. Still lightly raced with 2 city wins and a second from 5 starts, and raced in the high grade races as a 2yo. Looks to have come back well, and clearly the one to beat again with barrier 4 and 52kg after Quinnell's claim.

The Value

Race 8 # 1 Something Anything

Rated: 3.50

Expected: 3.80

E/W BET

I expect this last start winner might be decent odds, with 59.5kg to carry. Goes up to his best distance (1400m), 3rd-up and loves the wet. Gets all the ticks today. Certain each-way or 1x2 collect.

No Wine No Song

2008 Sydney Cup Winner

~ The "Get Out" Stakes ~ Western Australia

A 9 race card with the highlight being race 5 the group 3 Scahill Stakes over 1400m which will see the irrepressible Takeover Target lead 4 other combatants a merry dance at a very restrictive price. A reasonable support card, with both wide and tight markets. The first half looks more receptive to favourites with the second half a lot tougher.

Our first this week comes per way of **Race 4 # 5 VOLCANIC CAUSEWAY**, who will be looking for the hat trick after two stylish wins at Pinjarra. Equalled his best career rating last time, with strong win (1500m) over Star Of Danetime, who franked the form by winning easily here on Wednesday. Volcanic Causeway was obliged to race wide on that occasion adding further merit to the performance. On pace runner who should have no problems with the extra 100m here. Kereign is quoted short pre post but looks a shade vulnerable on just average form this time in.

Rated Price: **4.50**. Expected price : 5.00

ROCK MY PAGO appeals as a great each way commodity in race 8 (# 8) the Starstruck Classic (1600m). Produced a powerful finish from 14th on the home turn last time, to run 4th when held up prior to turn, and unable to get a blended run into the finish. Only 1.8 lengths adrift, in a very strong field. Steps up from 1400m to 1600m for this but has won up to 2000m and looks admirably suited by the distance change. Very good last time in winning 3 races including one at listed level and looks ready to return to the winners circle here. Uraly Nook looks a strong chance from a nice draw and should also appreciate the return to the 1600m.

Rated Price: **5.00**. Expected price : 5.00