

## ~ The Early Word ~ New Zealand

Wellington Cup day at Trentham with some excellent fields going around. Looks like a fine warm day so firm track is in order, will be staying well away from the cup race as no obvious fav in the race & possibly one of the toughest races of the day to sort out. Going to settle for 2 of the more obvious ones this week.

Our best bet of the day is **Trentham Race 6 No 5 Vosne Romanee**. Last start run was absolutely huge a repeat of that & he would destroy this field. Nicely weighted & Walker rides, been specifically freshened for this race & has an outstanding record fresh & at this distance. While not likely to get its own way in this race, it is renowned for a powerful sustained finish which might just find some of its major competitors out. Dangers are 2 Culminate and 10 Striker.

Our rated price is 3.00. Expected price 4.00

The value selection for today is **Trentham Race 5 No 1 Daffodil**. Best 3 year old filly in NZ drawn the outside fence who shouldn't be too hindered by it. She does meet some nice up & comers in this who could test her but on a tough day to find winners she does look to be our best shot at nice overs. She has won at Trentham which is a positive with only a couple having even run on the course.

Our rated price is 3.25. Expected price 3.80

### Adelaide

#### The Banker

Race 5 # 6 Honourable Kind

Rated: 2.2

Expected: 3.0

BEST BET

Still a maiden after 10 starts but has run some more than handy races behind some smart types. Resumed with a very good 3rd beaten just over a length behind Jaalippy when made good ground late against slow tempo. 2nd up had no luck when caught wide throughout and last start never stopped trying when finishing 2nd beaten just 1/2L behind Manilla Jewel. The step up to 1600m appears ideal and this is a drop in class. Quite keen here and rates a good bet at 2.20 or better. Dangers are Rockin Rapture (7) 5.50, Sir Roseland (4) 6.50 and Vetinari (2) 8.50.

#### Next Best

Race 3 # 2 All About Annie

Rated: 1.7

Expected: 2.1

Was good to us 2 weeks back and see no reason why we should jump ship. Again meets a field of plodders with only 1 likely danger(Coradorian). Is creeping up in the weights but with a likely genuine tempo up front she again looks far too strong for these. A good bet at 1.70. Coradorian (1) 3.80 with Sparkling Top (3) 13.0 and Manila Heat (4) 13.0 the only real chances.

Lacey Underall

2008 Adelaide Cup Winner

### Brisbane

#### The Banker

Race 1 # 1 Funtantes

Rated: 1.7

Expected: 2.3

BEST BET

Broke a class record first-up when winning at the Sunshine Coast which had stood for seven years (previously held by Star of St. Covet). Taken to Eagle Farm last week just going down to the smart Kiss Me Katy although beating Temple of Boom who was headed to the Golden Slipper had it won.

The 1000 mtr last week seemed a touch short. Stepping up to the 1200 mtr should be ideal. Has enough early speed to get into a position from barrier nine. The filly should get through the going if the track is rain affected being out of Easy Rocking.

If she runs up to her form last week she will be winning this.

#### The Value

Race 6 # 2 Montoux

Rated: 4.5

Expected: 9.0

E/W BET

Resuming from a let-up. When resuming was beaten by the Stradbroke headed On The Fridge by three lengths. The assignment today is much easier. Race tempo is a concern though but should be comfortably over the odds. A big tick next to the jockey in Colless who replaced Spinks. Bet her each-way. A bit of rain around will be most welcome.

Viewed

2008 Brisbane Cup Winner

## Melbourne

### The Banker

Race 2 # 1 Youthful High

Rated: 2.5

Expected: 3.8

BEST BET

Youthful High has been racing in great form over the holiday period with her best effort a 1¼ length victory over subsequent winner Soul Diva on Boxing Day. She raced well last start when finishing a distant second to the handy Go Missy and can turn the tables this weekend. Her record over the mile is impeccable and the claim will assist immensely. The form of older mares tends to hold so she can be supported with confidence.

### The Value

Race 6 # 10 Red Buttons

Rated: 3.8

Expected: 5.5

E/W BET

Mick Kent is a master placer of his gallopers and he seems to have found the right race for his consistent gelding Red Buttons. Red Buttons has a poor winning strike rate but is rarely far away and has placed at both runs on this track and two of three times over the 2400 metre journey. The draw is ideal and the claim has him looking a weighted special. He has plenty of talent. He should be able to put it all together on Saturday.

Efficient

2007 Melbourne Cup Winner

## Sydney

### The Banker

Race 4 # 5 Falling In Love

Rated: 2.0

Expected: 1.8

BEST BET

On a card lacking numbers and depth, this filly interests me a lot. The rise to 1400m, with the little trial in between, is perfect. I rate her very short on anticipated ability. I don't want to be on anything else.

### Next Best

Race 8 # 5 Anatomica

Rated: 1.8

Expected: 4.2

Apologies for value players. Hopefully Australia Day brings better prices. Due to the small and skinny fields, I have to submit 2 "best" bets today. Anatomica in the last off a last-start win is absolutely thrown in at 52kg, after Ganderton's claim. She's a group filly 3rd up, in a restricted 2 metro win race, over 1200m again, with no weight. Looks a steal.

No Wine No Song

2008 Sydney Cup Winner

## ~ The "Get Out" Stakes ~ Western Australia

The Australia Day Cup 1200m is the big attraction on this card, which sees the best two sprinters in the state at the moment in Danny Beau and Dante's Volonte go head-to-head in a race that many believe, that the track record may go by the wayside. However, it seems there is some doubt as to Danny Beau taking his place due to some hoof problems. Let's hope this doesn't happen, as this impending clash will ensure a very healthy crowd.

~~We are going to stick with **SEARCH ME** (R7 #10) This horse had no luck last start, when jockey ignored riding instructions by taking his mount into unfamiliar territory by leading. Search Me's three career wins to date have come from the filly being ridden cold early, and then produced for one sweeping run at the finish. Last start jockey has been sacked, and expect her to be ridden back in the field in this race. Rises in class here by taking on older mixed company, but this filly is richly talented and expect her to be storming home over the top of them late. Proud Falcon has been close-up in recent starts, and appeals as a logical danger on that form.~~

~~Rated Price: 3.50 Expected Price: tba~~

Another one we've tipped recently and are also going to stick with is **CHINA BAY** (R8 #5) , This galloper was totally devoid of luck at his last run, when he was blocked for clear running in the early stages of the straight, then copped some severe buffeting when he finally did get clear. China Bay was sixth past the post but was promoted to fifth placing after successfully protesting against the fourth place getter. Also has a riding change, which sees top hoop William Pike take the mount this week. Looks a terrific chance to atone for a luckless run last time. In form mare Galldora appeals as the main danger.

Rated Price **3.60** Expected Price: 3.5