

~ The Early Word ~ New Zealand

Busy Saturday with 3 meetings on in NZ stretching the length of the country. This week I will stick with the central districts meeting at New Plymouth (which is labelled the Pukekura meeting with Australian TABs). Although there are some nice fields going around at Ellerslie I just cant settle on something there. The track at New Plymouth has held up well with all the rain & should start the day Dead. We are expecting a huge day for Jockey Hayden Tinsley with him involved in both of our bets.

Our best bet for today is **Pukekura Race 3 No 1 Nabucco**. Should have clocked up another win last start but was grabbed last stride, experienced Tinsley up today should be able to extract that little bit extra. Back runner who will be well suited to the pace & small field, meets nothing it can't handle here & only the 2 Cape Fear & 6 Salthill appear as threats.

Our rated price is 2.25. Expected price 2.75

Our Value Selection for today is **Pukekura Race 5 No 3 Tweeky**. Screamed home last start in an incredible run to win going away. Extra 200 here wont worry & a repeat of that run will see another easy win on the board. Can race handy & has a draw to assist, has raced against the big guns in much of its past with very credible performances, will be very tough to hold out in this & appears overs at the quoted price of 3.20 .

Our rated price is 2.30. Expected price 3.00

Adelaide

The Banker

Race 2 # 5 Major Sweeney

Rated: 2.3

Expected: 3.2

BEST BET

Should lead or settle very close to what looks to be only a moderately run race. Incredibly drops 3kg (gets in with just 51.5kg) from last start win over Lars Boy and this is definitely no tougher. Also the drop back to 1800m appears more favourable too when was just feeling the pinch late over the 2045m. Quite keen to bet at 2.30 or better.

Sandhill Prince (1) rates as the only real danger at 3.60 with Snow Flight (6) 8.0 and Tradesman's Choice (4) 13.0 rating the best of the rest.

The Value

Race 4 # 5 Tariks

Rated: 3.0

Expected: 3.3

E/W BET

Speedy well travelled Freedman trained filly who has been specifically brought over for this Listed event. Showed customary pace when far from disgraced 2nd when taken to Sydney then travelled back to Melbourne where she broke through for well deserved win defeating Elzeeza when leading throughout. Last start again showed good toe and was most game when 2nd beaten just over a length behind the smart Come Hither after jockey dropped the whip at the 250m. Rates a good bet at 3.0 or better.

Only dangers appear to be Pergram (7) 4.40 and Zaffaan (1) 5.0.

Lacey Underall

2008 Adelaide Cup Winner

Brisbane

The Banker

Race 3 # 4 Malela

Rated: 2.5

Expected: 2.6

BEST BET

This lightly raced four year old mare is hard and fit after four runs from a spell. In those runs she hasn't finished worse than 4th. Malela is one from one at the track. The step up to the 1800 metres will suit and will no doubt be right in the finish.

The Value

Race 7 # 2 Azzaland

Rated: 2.5

Expected: tba

E/W BET

~~Another horse which is racing in sensational form not finishing worse than second in his last six runs. Getting the distance is a slight query but is value at anything better than 2.5. This gelding has won an astonishing nine from 13 runs missing the place only twice in his career to date.~~

Viewed

2008 Brisbane Cup Winner

Melbourne

The Banker

Race 5 # 9 Eagle Falls

Rated: 3.0

Expected: 4.5

BEST BET

Eagle Falls is an extremely promising galloper who has won both starts this preparation and can make it three on the trot in the Alister Clark. After a fair debut last spring, he resumed in Adelaide where he won by 7 ½ lengths in good time. Eagle Falls then came out and won well at the Valley last Friday night. He has plenty of upside and can be tried with confidence this weekend.

The Value

Race 7 # 7 Time Thief

Rated: 3.25

Expected: 4.8

E/W BET

Time Thief is an exciting colt from the Lee Freedman yard who returned to racing after a good spring campaign with a win in the Zedative Stakes. He has not finished further back than second in five outings with his best effort a very good second to Whobegotyou in the Caulfield Guineas. Weekend Hussler is obviously the horse to beat but Time Thief has the talent to go with him and with any luck could get the money. Expect Time Thief to be right in the finish.

Efficient

2007 Melbourne Cup Winner

Sydney

The Banker

Race

Rated: tba

Expected: tba

BEST BET

The Value

Race

Rated: tba

Expected: tba

E/W BET

No Wine No Song

2008 Sydney Cup Winner

~ The "Get Out" Stakes ~ Western Australia

A nine race card, with the principal event being race 6, the \$250K 2-year-old Classic. A much better meeting than in recent weeks, with the better class of horse, racing in the first half of the card. Looks to be some great each way value for punters, if they can get past a few of the favourites.

We tipped **CLASSIC DROP** (R4 #2) as a good each way bet 14 days ago, and she went down narrowly in a three-way finish, at nice each way odds. She didn't have the clearest of runs that day, and we are certainly not going to drop off her here. Has won two out of three starts over this distance, and apart from the top weight, Russian Playmate, who is struggling for form at the moment, most of the remaining runners have multiple failures over the distance. Will get back a bit, but will be very strong with clear running at the finish. In outstanding form this preparation and looks ideally placed in this event, to notch her fifth win in eight starts this time in.

Rated Price: **4.40** Expected Price: 4.4

HAY LIST (R5 #2) comes with a 21 day break, with strong rating figures to take this event out. Undefeated in both career starts to date, and led throughout to defeat Danebeela here 21 days ago. Danebeela has since franked that form by defeating a smart field of three-year-olds here last Saturday. Has drawn a little awkwardly, but will press forward and should be in the first three when they swing for home. Has great potential and should take no end of beating in this. Keep an eye on the unraced Kasabian who has looked good winning two trials easily, could be worth a saver at nice odds.

Rated Price: **3.20** Expected Price: 3.0