

## ~ The Early Word ~ New Zealand

Two meetings today with eyes to Ellerslie & a nice even card lined up, fine weather is the order of the day & a good day's entertainment should be on offer. One of the last opportunities of all day flat racing before wet tracks & jumps racing appear on the scene.

Our best bet for today is **Ellerslie Race 8 No 8 Vonusti**. Top run last start in group 2 race, back to rating 90 here on a track it relishes. Should settle midfield in a race stacked with speed which will suit its big finishing style, experienced Harris on top will see it in the mix at the finish.

Our rated price is 2.50. Expected price 3.00

Our Value bet for today is **Ellerslie Race 10 No 3 Princess Road**. Has come back a better performer this prep & another win looks close. Last 2 runs have been unlucky not to score & in this event gets her chance from a good draw, she will sit in the lead or 1 back & take a power of catching with Trudy on board. Could be at great value & a nice way to finish Easter weekend.

Our rated price is 5.00. Expected price 7.00

### Adelaide

#### The Banker

Race 2 # 1 Glaneuse

Rated: 1.8

Expected: 1.8

**BEST BET**

Lightly raced three year old gelding (6-3-2-0) who looked good when resuming with a strong closing runner-up to Cerberus Gal after getting well out of his ground early. The form lines around Cerberus Gal are enormous with that filly running two very good seconds behind Typhoon Tracy and Champagne Harmony in recent starts...need we say anymore. Won second up last campaign and drops grades in class for rising just 1kg in weight. 1400m appears ideal and really should be winning this. A good bet at 1.80 or better.

Chances to Eureka Reign(5) 6.0 and Dieselfuel(2) 8.0.

#### The Value

Race 1 # 3 Sparkling Xaar

Rated: 2.5

Expected: 3.0

**E/W BET**

Resuming. Won impressively in stronger grade first up last campaign defeating Predestined running away by two lengths. Has also very importantly won here at only Oakbank start. That's a massive pointer as many horses quite simply don't handle this track. Should be able to slot in handy just off what only looks an evenly run 1100m race and prove too strong in the run home. Keen to bet at 2.50 or better.

Only two other chances with Fabric Of Dreams(1) and Sellers(2) both rated at 3.80.

Lacey Underall

2008 Adelaide Cup Winner

### Brisbane

#### The Banker

Race 9 # 11 Hodges Street

Rated: 6.0

Expected: tba

**BEST BET**

~~This meeting hasn't got me too excited but I have found a couple that are well worth an each-way play. We will start with Hodges Street. This Baldwin trained four-year-old hasn't had the best of luck with barriers of late. Amy Taylor will drive this gelding forward from the wide draw. Last start beaten well by the Frosty who won on Saturday at Eagle Farm. In an open market, try Hodges Street each-way.~~

#### The Value

Race 4 # 1 Lusting

Rated: 5.0

Expected: 12.0

**E/W BET**

Has the inform Evans on board fresh from riding a treble on Tuesday and again on Saturday. This seven year old gelding is hard and fit after three placed runs back from a spell all at Rockhampton. The barrier is naturally the concern but he will represent super value at double each way odds. He handles the slow track with a win and a placing from as many starts.

Viewed

2008 Brisbane Cup Winner

## Melbourne

### The Banker

Race 7 # 3 Sermon

Rated: 4.6

Expected: 6.0

BEST BET

Sermon was impressive last start when being stepped up over a trip, downing the handy Grand Destiny and solid Arapaho Miss at Caulfield. He looks a real staying type so the extra 100 metres should help and the draw should ensure he gets the run of the race. Any rain enhances confidence.

### The Value

Race 6 # 1 Our Smoking Joe

Rated: 6.5

Expected: 7.0

E/W BET

Our Smoking Joe is a classy galloper who looks well suited in this despite his aging years. After a good spell he returned to the track in fine order for new trainer Ray Coombes with a tremendous 5th over 1400 metres in the Anniversary Vase. He should improve today and against a field made up mainly of whackers, the old champion is a red hot go.

Efficient

2007 Melbourne Cup Winner

## Sydney

### The Banker

Race 3 # 2 Cat's Diamond

Rated: 1.9

Expected: 3.2

BEST BET

Most impressive debut winner at Randwick Jan 1 when well backed. Really found the line like a good horse. Was then immediately sent to the paddock. The fact the stable are prepared to resume in this 1400m affair would suggest that he is quite forward. Drawn ideally and wins this well if reproduces first run effort. A good bet at 1.90 or better. Next best are Purrpurlena(3) 6.50 and Balmont(1)7.50.

### The Value

Race 4 # 1 Shadow Miss

Rated: 3.0

Expected: tba

E/W BET

~~Smart filly who is screaming out for the 1600m. Drew out in the carpark (barrier 15) when had to be restrained well back at the tail to the turn before working home strongly beaten just 2 1/2 lengths behind Indian Ocean in the G2 Magic Night Stakes. Before that again worked home stylishly beaten less than two lengths by eventual Golden Slipper runner-up Headway. Will be able to position a lot more forward here from the good gate and looks horribly hard to hold out. A good bet at 3.0 or better.~~

~~Dangers are Fitness Fanatic(2) 4.0, Euphemism(5) 4.50 with Triumphant Choice(3) next best at 9.0.~~

No Wine No Song

2008 Sydney Cup Winner

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

No metropolitan meeting on Easter Monday in Western Australia, sees racing switch to Pinjarra. It is a very poor meeting on paper, with the eight race card consisting of four maidens and four restricted events. Needless to say, it looks a tough meet the punters with no real standouts and very evenly graded races.

**IT'S NIKOV (R2 #8)** 3yo filly taking on older gallopers here, but looks well-placed to break her maiden status at her fourth race start in this weak affair. Ran a nice race in town at her race debut when fifth of 14 behind Shock Value at Ascot, ran poorly next at Bunbury but still finished only three lengths adrift when 7th of 10 in an 1100 m affair. Stepped up to 1200 m next run and ran a nice second after being held up early in the straight in a class one event. Drops back to maiden company here and drawn beautifully in barrier 4, has sat just off them last two starts and should get a good run in transit by doing similarly here. Looks as though she will be further suited by the extra 100 m step up in distance, and should take some holding out in this one.

Rated Price: 3.75 Expected Price: 5.0

**FOREVER GENEROUS (R6 #7)** another 3yo taking on older gallopers here, but looks really well placed to annex his 3rd career win at his 12th race start. Recorded a nice win first up this preparation at Bunbury, and has had little luck in two subsequent starts. Second up he was blocked for clear running the entire length of the straight when running 9th at Ascot behind Hide The Loot, similarly, his latest run was also devoid of luck when he copped the buffeting after the start, and then was forced to race wide in the latter stages of the race. Has beaten the smart Valentine Miss at Belmont last preparation in open three-year-old company, and will take some beating in this class 4 event.

Rated Price: 4.20 Expected Price: 5.0