



# PRIME DISPATCH

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**Flying Jess ran a terrific race in the Group 2 Stocks Stakes at Moonee Valley on Friday night and is on target to run in the Group 1 Myer Stakes on VRC Derby Day – Bring it on!!!**

What a week of sport we have had!!! Firstly congratulations to the Richmond Tigers on their great win in the AFL Premiership. I've got some good mates who support the Tigers and I was thrilled for them to at last win a flag. It certainly was a 'long time' coming but well received.

For me Sunday was a special day. I've followed Rugby League for all of my 61 years and I thought I would never see a better club side than Eastern Suburbs 1975 side. They were a magical outfit lead by Arthur Beetson who is possibly the very best forward the game has ever produced. In 1975 Easts finished a wopping 10 points in front of the next best side in the home and away series and boasted some of the greats of the game in Beetson, Coote, Mayes, Pickett, Peard, Brass, Schubert, Walters, Mullins, McKay, Hayes, Hedger and Stevens. This was a magical side coached by the great Jack Gibson who was a long way in front of his rival coaches at the time.

In that year Easts won the Grand Final against St George 38 nil. The Saints were also a very good side with Langlands, Beath, Smith, Stone, Finch, Goodwin, Tatana and Drake just to name a few of their number, but they were no match for the Roosters.

Through circumstances rather than by design I had quite a bit to do with a few of the 1975 Easts side over the years. I was very fortunate to become good friends with John Peard who had a cement truck and used to drop into the North Cronulla SLSC for a beer when I was rowing surf boats for the club in 1979. John does a lot of good work for The Men Of League Foundation these days and is not far off being a National Treasure.

Later on when I was in the Army and posted to Randwick Barracks Grant Hedger was my Financial Officer, a lovely man and also a great swimmer as well as being a tough second row forward. John Rhenberger and his brother played cricket for Waverley Cricket Club during my two seasons with the club and Bruce Pickett used to drop into the Coojee Bay Hotel where we had a lot of fun along with Peter Ryan who is one of my very best friends. Peter Ryan didn't play for Easts but his career is a highlight of the latest edition of The Men Of League Magazine. I see Elwyn Walters at Tweed Heads each year and enjoy his company. He was a very good forward and a true gentleman.

And to finish off I was sent on my way from Jack Gibson's home in 1979 after a surf club party by none other than big Jack himself. Twenty years later I had a few beers with him at the Cronulla Surf Club where he remembered me as that young Toowoomba fellow who used to drink too much!!! We had a good laugh about that night. He had an amazing memory and it was sad to see him deteriorate with alzheimers towards the end of his life. At the time I had just set up Prime Thoroughbreds and Jack asked me what I was doing with myself and Andrew Speedy who owned Racetrack magazine jumped and explained that I had started up a syndication company called Prime Thoroughbreds. Jack was quiet for a few seconds and then said 'son never invest in something that eats!!!'

This win by the Melbourne Storm was every bit as impressive as Easts in an era when the game has become so professional. The Storm's owners, coaching staff and supporters can feel very proud of the way the team performed during the season but also more importantly how they conducted themselves after the win in the Grand Final. It may be a long time before we see such a professional performance in every facet of the game by any side in any sport in this country. The Storm players are great role models for their young supporters. We need more of this in our country.

## **THE EVEREST**

Well we are only 11 days away from the big race with the field finally set. I'm certain there will be a few changes to the format going forward and that the slot holders may be more patient in allocating their spots. It is disappointing In Her Time didn't get selected but that is the way the marbles fell. Her win on Saturday was outstanding and she beat four of the main contenders in 'The Everest' home.

In any case the race has created enormous interest and the meeting at Randwick on 14 October is certain to be a huge event with some outstanding supporting races and of course the Caulfield Guineas meeting being run as well. The best of luck to our owners and friends with runners in the race.

I hope the Melbourne Cup starts to get some traction in the media. It is hard to believe it is only five weeks from being run. It has received very little coverage. Overall the Carnivals in Melbourne and Sydney are shaping well. It is an exciting time of the year.

### **AT THE TRACK**

I was very pleased with Flying Jess's run at Moonee Valley where she ran terrific sectionals to run down all but I Am A Star who is a Group 1 winner. The mare now heads to Caulfield and then on to Flemington for the Myer Classic.

Kris Lees has done a great job with Not Surprising. The mare had over a year off after injuring herself but has won three of her six starts since resuming. Well done not only to Kris but also his staff and our thanks go to Harry Mitchell at Yarraman Park for his efforts during her enforced layoff.

Our other runners Lomazzo and Quirion ran competitively with both being placed.

Lord Elliott runs today at Canterbury where he steps out in distance but has a tricky gate to overcome. Nothing makes a horse's task more difficult than a bad gate. More horses are beaten due to poor draws than any other reason. Makeadane is likely to be our next runner at Warwick Farm next Wednesday.

### **TWO YEAR OLDS KICK OFF**

A few months ago I highlighted the big investments Chinese companies and individuals were making in our industry. The extent of this investment has been highlighted with large numbers of two year olds appearing at the early barrier trials wearing the colours of their Chinese owners. Many of these two year olds are top end purchases. We wish them well and hope they have some luck.

We have seen the progeny of 30 sires represented in the early two year old races with 47 runners competing. The four winners to date including a filly by Star Witness. I will have the details of the Star Witness filly I recently purchased available in the next Dispatch.

I'm pleased with the way our babies are coming along but they won't be rushed. Having written that we may well have a runner or two before Christmas.

### **IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RICKY STUART FOUNDATION** **FLEMINGTON COMMITTEE ROOM LUNCH** **20 JANUARY 2018**

I am pleased to announce that our lunch in the Committee Room at Flemington on 20 January 2018 will be conducted in partnership with the Ricky Stuart Foundation in support of autism.

Ricky is an owner with Prime Thoroughbreds and is very well known in Rugby League and Rugby Union circles. He had distinguished careers firstly in Rugby Union where he toured Argentina with the Wallabies but as a Rugby League player and coach he has few peers. He is the current coach of the Canberra Raiders a club he won three premierships with as a player.

Ricky represented and coached the NSW State Of Origin Side, went on two tours of Great Britain and France with the Australian Rugby League Kangaroos and has won an NRL Premiership as a coach with Eastern Suburbs in his first year as an NRL coach. In 1993 he was awarded the Rothman's Medal being recognised as the finest player in the competition.

It is our aim to firstly have a great day while doing so raising some money for this very worthwhile cause. We will deliver further information as we get closer but I can assure you it will be a memorable day for those lucky enough to attend. The cost for the day in the Committee Room is \$225 per head. The VRC Committee Room over looks saddling enclosure and is the prime position at the great course.

I'm expecting the function to be very popular given the number of replies I have already had for the day. This is a superb venue and Shawn Cosgrove will be our host for the day.

*To book this function email: [primefunctions@outlook.com](mailto:primefunctions@outlook.com)*

On Sunday 21 January we will be visiting Fulmen Park on the Mornington Peninsular for a bbq lunch. This will also give you the opportunity to inspect the facilities available at the property where we spell many of our horses.



**Billy Slater with 'the team' after Invincible AI's win at Pakenham**