



# PRIME DISPATCH

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**Flying Jess winning at the 2017 Magic Millions Carnival!!! Will we have a winner in 2018?**

I love this week of the year as we get ready for the NRL and AFL Grand Finals. Good luck to our owners and supporters who are lucky enough to have their sides lining up at the MCG on Saturday and ANZ Stadium on Sunday. I hope you enjoy the week. The clash between the Crows and Tigers at the MCG should be a great one with the best two sides from the home and away season meeting in the Grand Final. This is also as much about the great rivalry between South Australia and Victoria.

Sunday's game in Sydney is a clash of the dominant Melbourne Storm against the North Queensland Cowboys who deserve a special mention for reaching the NRL Grand Final. This game is also testament to the changing powerbase in Rugby League. Queensland has dominated NSW for over a decade at State Of Origin level with three of the four sides to make this year's semi-finals coming from outside NSW. These three sides have many Queensland players on their rosters. This Grand

Final is also another great advertisement for the salary cap with 12 of the 16 NRL Clubs winning Grand Finals since 2000.

On top of this feast of football we have three high class race meetings at Moonee Valley, Royal Randwick and Caulfield spread across the weekend. I am particularly interested in the two year old races at Randwick although the attrition rate from these early juvenial races can be quite high particularly if the track is as expected very firm.

Enjoy the weekend and count your blessing being lucky enough to live in Australia and have such incredible sporting entertainment on offer in a world which seems to becoming more disfunctional each day.

### **MAGIC MILLIONS 2018**

It is time to start to get ready for the 2018 Yearling Sales commencing with the Gold Coast Magic Millions Carnival which is set to be the biggest ever and starts in just 106 days. I am starting my preparations in earnest today heading to the Hunter Valley where I will continue to form my opinion on the yearlings by the new sires on the block. This is important with so many good mares going to these young sires. Only a small percentage of these sires will be successful and quite often not the high profile and over promoted ones. You only have to look at the results from recent years to witness the failures.

I am inspecting quite a few yearlings and I am keen to purchase one if I find the right one to put on the market before Christmas. I have a feeling the sales could continue to be very strong heading into the New Year. As a general rule the yearlings I purchase privately before Christmas go on the market at about \$30,000 under what you would expect to pay at the sales in 2018.

This strategy has been a very good one for us over the years and while we won't always get it right we have been able to purchase some very good horses privately from the studs. Some of the horses purchased directly from studs include Unchain My Heart, Too Many Reds, Holding, Pitt Street, Believe 'n Achieve and more recently Invincible Al and Isthmian. The most expensive of these was Pitt Street for \$55,000. These seven horses won 53 races and \$1,812,295 in stakes money with Invincible Al and Isthmian still racing.

### **THE EVEREST**

The Everest is starting to come together with eight of the slots filled. I expect the field will be finalised by early next week with probably the most important lead up races being run this weekend. As I see it these races are in order of importance The Premiere Stakes at Randwick, The Moir Stakes at Moonee Valley and The Rupert Clarke Stakes at Caulfield.

The Premiere Stakes sees the favourite Chautauqua lining up. His run in The Shorts was unbelievable and if he remains sound is the one to beat. His rating of 122 sets the standard. His opposition on Saturday includes Clearly Innocent that will be ridden by Hugh Bowman. Other runners of interest are Fell Swoop, English, Takedown, In Her Time and perhaps Nieta.

The Moir Stakes sees She Will Reign, Malaguerra, Russian Revolution, Viddora, Hellbent and Derryn as the most interesting runners but with a full field likely to run barriers are going to be vital.

In an interesting move Houtzen will avoid the Moir and run against her own age over 1200m in the Scarborough stakes. If she doesn't win this race she is no hope in The Everest but was reported to have worked well at Moonee Valley on Monday morning. I was at Moonee Valley for the gallops and it was amazing just how many trainers took advantage of the opportunity to use the course proper. It looked in good shape although quite soft.

The Rupert Clarke is of less importance with only a couple of outside chances running. It will be very interesting to see how these races pan out but the race has certainly created enormous interest and I'm certain the slot holders are much wiser now than a few weeks ago and will be far less likely to jump in with their selected runners as early next year.

As I see it there are just two slots to fill with Clearly Innocent likely to get one of these but there is a lot of water to pass under the bridge in the next few days. The break up for prizemoney for the race is as follows:

*1st \$5,800,000, 2nd \$1,425,000, 3rd \$800,000, 4th \$400,000, 5th \$250,000, 6th \$175,000, 7th \$175,000, 8th \$175,000, 9th \$175,000 and 10th \$175,000.*

The slot holders have each paid \$600,000 for the slots. I'm not sure I'd like to be running further back than 3<sup>rd</sup>!!!

### **AT THE TRACK**

Makeadane heads to Rosehill tomorrow where he will have his second run for the preparation. He was good first up and the 1500m should be ideal. He will gain further improvement from this run. On Thursday we have Not Surprising running at Hawkesbury.

Flying Jess heads to The Stocks Stakes at Moonee Valley on Friday. She is in good shape and it will be interesting to see her at 1600m with Tye Angland back on her. She went to Moonee Valley to work on Monday morning and get a feel for the track which went well.

Quirion will most likely run at the Gold Coast on Saturday and Lomazzo heads to Muswellbrook on Monday. Husson's Kiss cast herself in her box and needed treatment which forced her to be scratched on Sunday in Hobart.

**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.

- racecourse admission
- dining package – sit down four course lunch
- beverage package
- car parking
- race books
- exclusive tote facilities

*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.