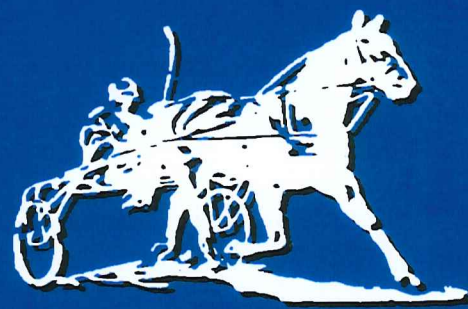


NATIONAL Trotguide



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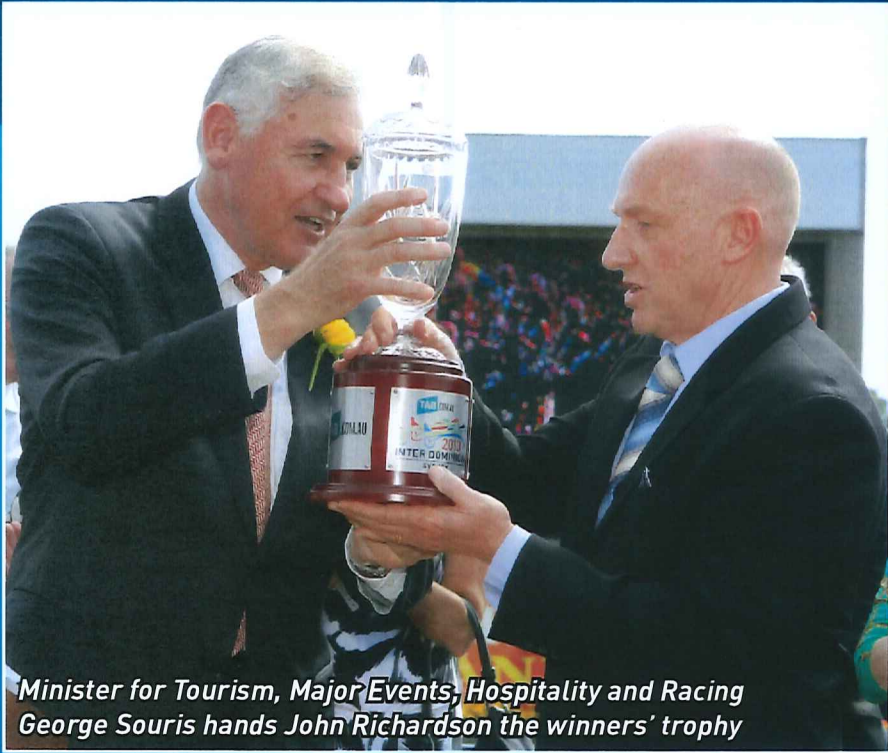
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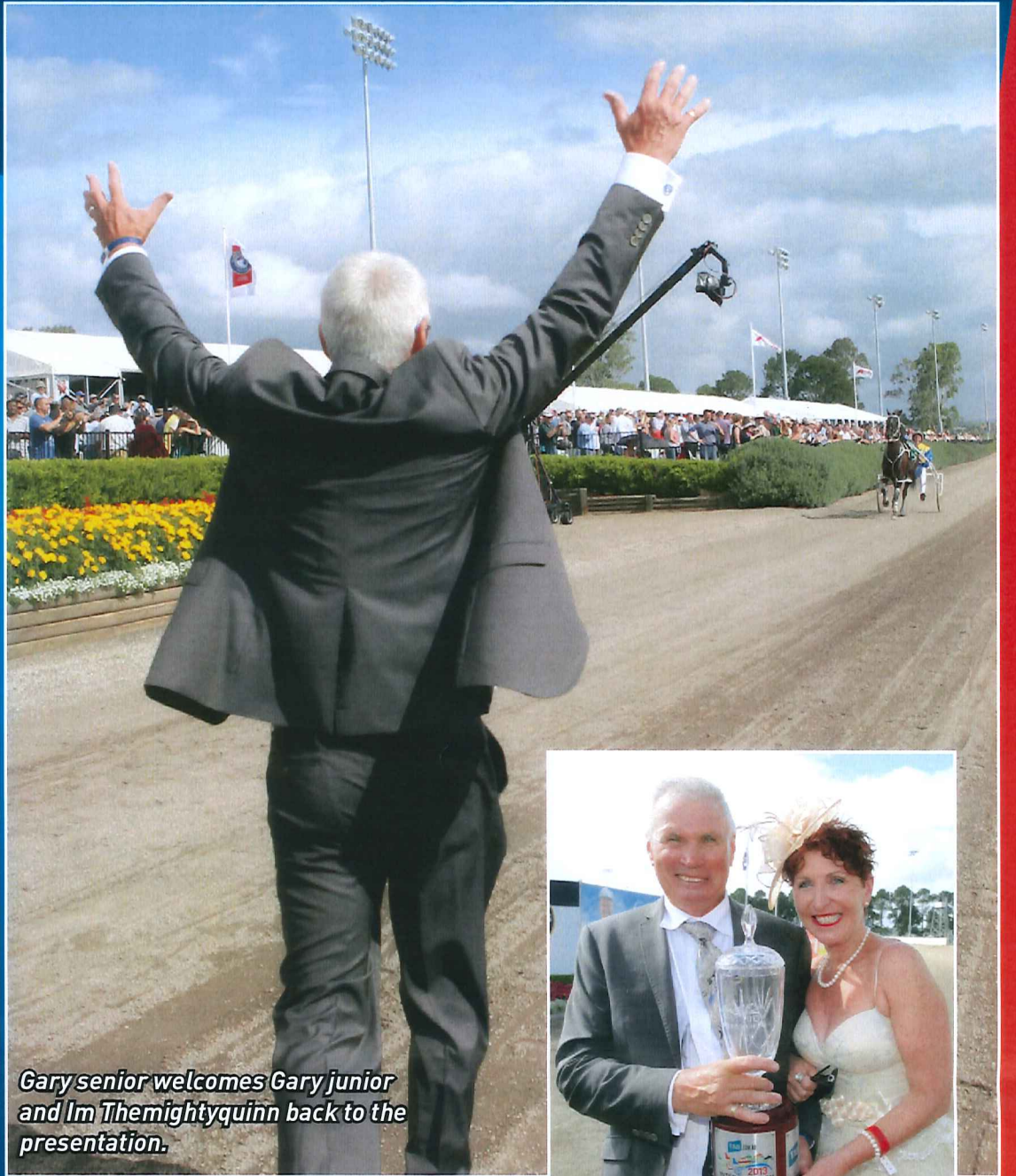
Was there ever a doubt about Im Themightyquinn's champion status? Not really. But his third successive Inter Dominion championship has certainly confirmed the West Australian star's status alongside the greats. Gary Hall junior salutes the crowd as the champion pacer hits the line to win Sunday's TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion Grand Final. Full story Page 3. PHOTO: Gary Wild.

8-PAGE TAB.COM.AU INTER DOM GRAND FINAL COLOUR LIFTOUT STARTS PAGE 35

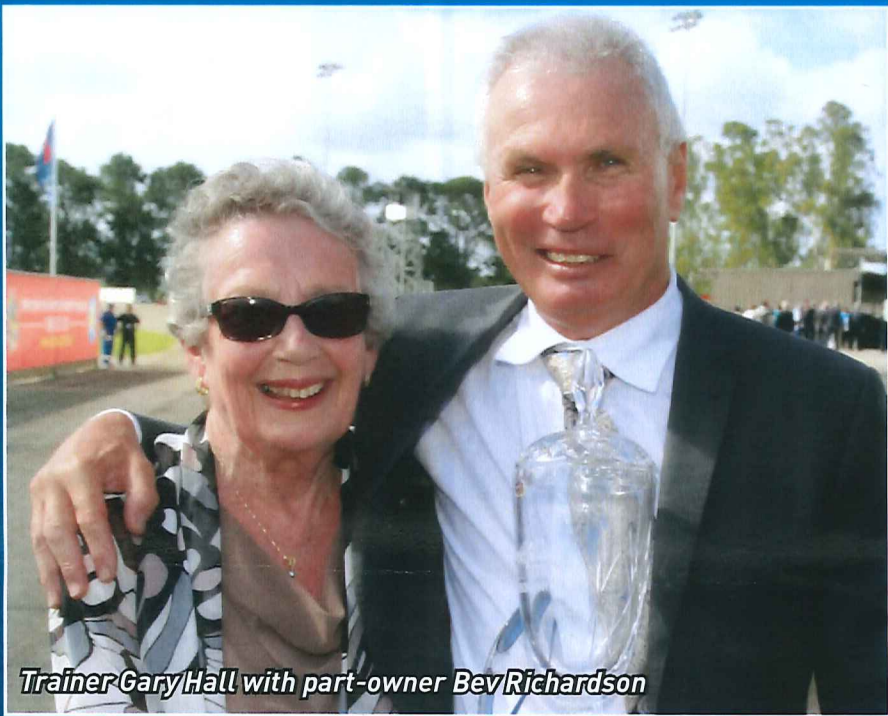
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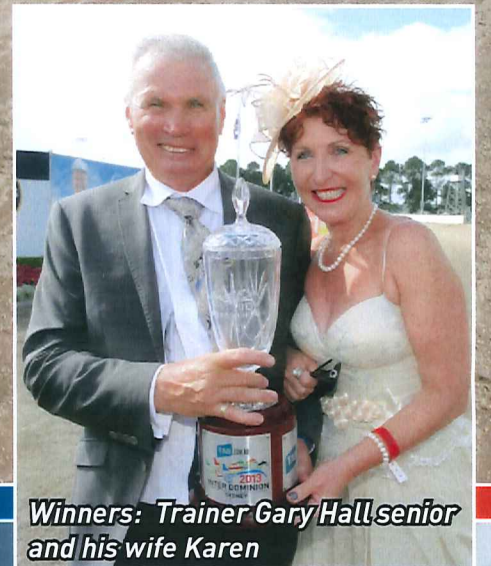
Minister for Tourism, Major Events, Hospitality and Racing George Souris hands John Richardson the winners' trophy



Gary senior welcomes Gary junior and Im Themightyquinn back to the presentation.



Trainer Gary Hall with part-owner Bev Richardson



Winners: Trainer Gary Hall senior and his wife Karen



Winning connections with chairman of the NSW HRC Rex Horne

ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY 'QUINN'



By **AMANDA RANDO**

By **AMANDA RANDO**

HE'S won an Inter Dominion on home soil.

He also won an Inter Dominion in New Zealand, via a drug inquiry.

But trainer Gary Hall senior admits there was nothing like winning the TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion with Im Themightyquinn at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.

And the loss of his voice just proved the Perth mentor isn't getting accustomed to the feeling.

Hall could barely talk after 'Quinny' claimed Grand Circuit immortalisation on Sunday, and a couple of days later nothing had changed.

"I screamed quite a fair bit when I saw him coming down the straight," Hall said.

"I don't know what's going on because I don't feel sick. I've just lost my voice but I must admit I did get pretty excited on Sunday.

"He would have to be the fastest horse in Australasia and it's much more exciting to see a horse come at them with a fast sprint like he does rather than one that's racing up outside the leader and just grinding away.

"I guess that's why he is so popular back home."

And Im Themightyquinn certainly gained some more supporters with his barnstorming finish to claim the \$750,000 Group One.

Settled at the tail of the field early from barrier six by reinsman Gary Hall junior, the third favourite Mah Sish and driver Anthony Butt controlled the tempo in front.

As the first quarter of the last mile of the 3009m event was posted in 31.2 seconds, Hall junior managed to flush out Mach Alert (Shane Graham) and gain a three-wide trail into the race.

With the second and third quarters 29.7 and 28.3 seconds, Hall angled Im Themightyquinn four wide in the turn of the home straight.

Sprinting sharply, the eight-year-old gelding overcame a

last split of 26.7 seconds to beat the Hunter Cup winner Mah Sish by four metres.

Local pacer Excel Stride fought on for third ahead of a Terror To Love, the equal \$3.20 favourite with the winner.

Clocking his last half in 54.3 seconds, Im Themightyquinn set a new world record of 1:58.1 in the process.

"Dad and the horse are absolute superstars," Hall junior said.

"They just know how to do the right thing on night or day.

"Dad had him peaking at the right time.

"It wasn't a great deal of concern when we were last, even though there were a lot of rumps in front of us.

"There was no better feeling than getting to the outside and going past Terror To Love and Mah Sish."

Im Themightyquinn's electrifying sprint is nothing new, it's just that it has been rarely seen on the eastern seaboard of Australia.

But even those who dared call him 'a powder-puff champion' were forced to eat their words when the West Australian star claimed his third successive Inter Dominion.

"He won his first Inter Dominion through a positive swab inquiry so we didn't get to experience the thrill of winning it on race day," Hall snr said.

"Last year he won the race in front of a home crowd and that was phenomenal... not much more can come close to that.

"But on Sunday it was a different feeling again - there were a few people knocking this horse and saying he is only a champion in Perth but I knew what he was capable of and it was great to see him prove it."

With earnings of \$4,179,866, Im Themightyquinn is slowly closing in on Blacks A Fake's for the title of the richest standardbred in Australasia.

He now joins Blacks A Fake and Our Sir Vancelot as the only horses to win three Inter Dominion Grand Finals.

Blacks A Fake is the only pacer in history to win four.



Im Themightyquinn returns to earn the cheers of the massive crowd at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.

Turnbulls earn the first 'hero' plaudits

By **MICHAEL COURT**

IT'S fair to say A.D. (Tony) Turnbull doesn't have a lot of time for donning suits and driving four hours to have dinner these days.

As a matter of fact, neither does his son Steve.

So getting the pair of them to The Star Event Centre for the TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion Grand Final Ball and the induction of the inaugural Sydney Inter Dominion heroes was no mean feat.

As a matter of fact it was nigh on impossible.

Both men suggested they were too busy with working horses and keeping their respective properties at The Lagoon ticking to be heading down to Sydney for one night out.

It took some fast talking and more than a few little white lies from Tony's eldest daughter Ann and Steve's wife Jenny, just to get the pair of them there for one of the biggest surprises of their lives.

Neither of these Inter Dominion Sydney winners/heroes had any inclination they were to be the recipients of their recognition in Inter Dominion history.

And in the end Ann and Jenny had to tell them the "other" one was getting something special, just to get them to make the trip.

Fortunately most of their families were aware and two tables of the Turnbull clans were on hand with more than 300 other guests to applaud Tony and Steve for their Inter Dominion achievements in Sydney with Hondo Grattan (Tony) and Smooth Satin (Steve).

According to HRNSW chief executive Sam Nati, for each of the three years we will have the Inter Dominion in Sydney they will recognize an Inter Dominion hero (or two).

It was a proud moment for both men as the appreciative audience sat captivated by a historical video tribute and on-stage interview with both rather stunned gentlemen.

As usual AD's dry wit enthralled the audience as he told tales of the days at Harold Park when the crowd just picked you up and you were carried along to where ever they were heading - such was

the massive numbers of people packed into the place.

Even at the age of 83, Tony couldn't barely contain that impish grin as he recalled a police escort into Bathurst after winning the Inter Dominion with Hondo Grattan in 1973.

"I couldn't believe it, I thought I might get a police escort out of the place one day, but never into it," he smiled.

Steve was just as entertaining when he stepped up to the mike he explained that with a father like Tony he always had a hard act to follow: "And tonight's no different," he said.

Both 'heroes' were unaware of the tribute, but it took plenty of cloak and dagger stuff to get them all there - and all were glad they made the effort.

"We are already working on next year," said Nati.

On a night to remember at The Star and one that stretched into the early hours of the morning

for some of the Inter Dominion revelers, Queensland's Kevin Seymour officially received the prestigious Ern Manea Gold Medal that he had been awarded several months ago by Harness Racing Australia.

The Ern Manea Gold Medal is awarded for significant long term contributions to Australian and New Zealand Harness Racing affairs, or significant long term contribution to the Inter Dominion Pacing and Trotting Championships.

And as if the authorities knew what was going to occur on Sunday, West Australian hero Im Themightyquinn was inducted into the Inter Dominion Hall of Fame.

Still this pacing superstar was home in his stable, preparing for his big day and couldn't be present until Sunday when if he had doubters they were cast aside in his dominant third Inter Dominion triumph.

Now for the next challenge: Auckland

By **AMANDA RANDO**

JUST as he finished one job Im Themightyquinn was straight onto the next.

Not even 24 hours after he had won the TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday, he was flown over to New Zealand to focus on his next test.

The three-time Inter Dominion champion will line up in Friday's Auckland Cup against the likes of Terror To Love, The Gold Ace and Bettor Cover Lover.

And trainer Gary Hall senior admits this was a last-minute decision.

"He was going to have to go on a 12-hour float trip to Melbourne and when he eventually

got there we weren't sure when he would get a flight back to Perth," Hall said.

"The trip to New Zealand is only two and-a-half hours from Sydney and he is going to get a direct flight back to Perth so it was a no-brainer really.

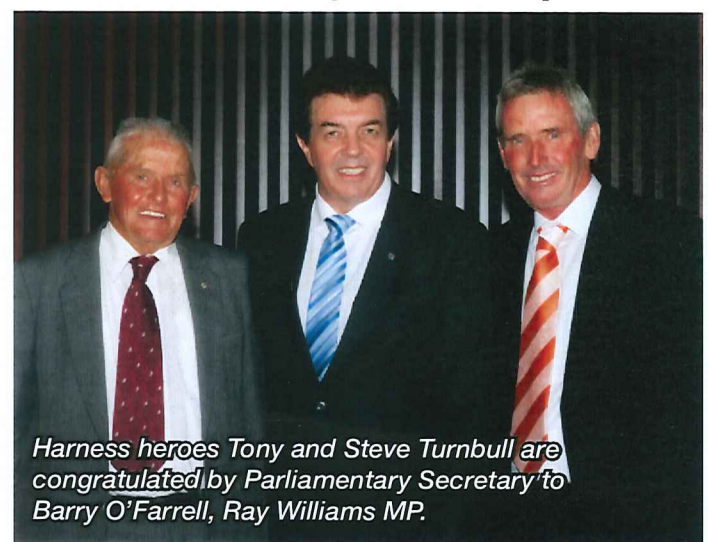
"Junior is there with him at the moment and he said the horse has settled in well."

Im Themightyquinn will then be sent to the paddock for a spell after this and subsequently will miss out on the SEW Eurodrive Miracle Mile at Menangle on April 28.

"That's the plan at this stage," Hall said.

"I really want to have a crack at the NZ Cup with him before he gets too old.

"We missed out on it last year because he had that heart fibrillation problem so this year I mainly want to aim at that."



Harness heroes Tony and Steve Turnbull are congratulated by Parliamentary Secretary to Barry O'Farrell, Ray Williams MP.

FORM 700 CHARIOTS OF FIRE MIRACLE MILE ON THE RADAR

But next year's Inter Dom will suit Christen Me even more, says Dalgety

By **PAUL COURTS**

HAVING just left Australia, Cran Dalgety is already contemplating a return.

To be more precise, the top New Zealand horseman is considering another trip to Tabcorp Park Menangle – the scene of his latest Group One victory.

Last Sunday Dalgety captured the prestigious Chariots Of Fire with boom pacer Christen Me, prompting the trainer to consider a Miracle Mile tilt.

Australasia's premier sprint, the SEW-Eurodrive sponsored feature is scheduled to be staged at the world class venue on April 28.

With rich qualifying heats being conducted during the three weeks leading into the main event, Dalgety will weigh-up the option of making the trek back across the Tasman.

Only two pacers have managed the Chariots Of Fire-Miracle Mile double, with Holmes D G the first in 1999.

Smooth Satin followed suit two years later.

The difference between Christen Me and those two is the fact they returned to win the latter event the following season as five-year-olds.

Ironically, the last four-year-old to annex the Miracle Mile was Christen

Me's sire, Christian Cullen, which captured the 1998 edition at Harold Park.

"Having those high-staked sprints as heats before the Miracle Mile is a great incentive," Dalgety said.

"It is something I will really have a look at.

"For now I will get him home and recharge his batteries and then work it out

"He would have to lift a wee bit more for a race such as the Miracle Mile, but that said, he just keeps on improving.

"He is even surprising me with the way he is racing as he gives no indication at home on the training track that he is racehorse, but he just lifts on race day, which is what you want."

Christen Me certainly 'lifted' to new heights last weekend when driven a treat by outstanding reinsman Dexter Dunn.

Caught wide early from barrier four as Mach Beauty led from gate three, Christen Me was forced to work hard during the middle stages as the leader set a cracking tempo.

Making his way to the 'death seat' along the back, the gelding then had the audacity to forge his way to the front at the top of the home straight.

Digging deep along the stretch, Christen Me completed a two-and-a-

half metre win from Smolda, which enjoyed a three-wide trail from the bell.

Victorian star Restrepo was two metres away an unlucky third, after locking wheels with fellow Victorian Keayang Steamer for almost 100 metres.

"That was a hell of a thrill," said Dalgety.

"I know how good he is and we expected a big run, but you can never be too confident in a race where the competition is so fierce.

"He's done plenty of work and still proved too good, it was just a terrific run."

With the final 800m run in 55.3s, Christen Me covered the mile in a brilliant 1:50.5 – fast enough to win two of the three Miracle Miles run at Menangle.

The 'other' was captured by Smoken Up in 1:50.3!

Stretching his record to an imposing 10 wins and two seconds from 14 starts, Christen Me is expected to continue improving as he gains experience.

"He is only lightly-raced and I like to think he will keep getting better the more he races," Dalgety said.

"That combined with maturity and natural strength, he should be a very nice type for next year's Inter Dominion."





CORDINA CHICKEN FARMS LADYSHIP MILE (Group One)

Gibson tops off busy week with Sixpence



Our Sixpence holds off a classy field to win the Cordina Chicken Farms Ladyship Mile at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.

Jackie Gibson receives the winners' trophy from sponsor John Cordina of Cordina Chicken Farms.



By **MICHAEL COURT**

IT'S normally the busiest week of the year for Jackie Gibson and her parents John and Mary.

They are usually camped in some stables somewhere getting hordes of yearlings from their Success Stud at Young ready for the Australian Pacing Gold Sale at Kensington.

And despite their biggest day of the year on Saturday, they were there – with bells on – when their six-year-old mare Our Sixpence led all the way to give them a Group One “Success” in the Cordina Chicken Farms Ladyship Mile at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday afternoon.

All three were on hand to watch Our Sixpence, owned by Harvey Kaplan and Jackie Gibson, score an all-the-way win in one of the seven big Group One races on the biggest days harness racing this country has ever seen.

Indeed champion reinsman Luke McCarthy's biggest hurdle in scoring was holding the lead out of the mobile gate.

Subjected to a urgent charge from Shane Graham with Queenslander Torque In Motion, McCarthy had to pull out all stops to hold the lead and only just managed to withstand the charge from the defending champion.

Yet McCarthy remained as cool as ever, urging Our Sixpence through and eventually hanging onto the lead as the field sped through the first quarter of the mile in a slick 26.9 seconds.

And that's Our Sixpence remained, travelling beautifully for McCarthy and scoring her 22nd win from just 63 starts and taking her earnings to just beneath the magical \$500,000 mark – a remarkable achievement for a mare who has won only six times in 12 starts this season.

“She just keeps stepping up to the challenge. It's such a pleasure to finally get a Group One on her CV,” McCarthy explained as he was returning to scale with the daughter of Holmes Hanover.

“I've been really happy with the horse this week.

“It's nice going through the final two splits in 28.9 and 26.5 seconds.”

The mare eventually rated 1:52.6 to hold off the Queensland pair of Torque In Motion, who gained a late split after trailing Our Sixpence all the way, and Forever Gold (Darren Weeks), who had a one-one trail for most of the journey before charging around to put herself in the race as they turned for home.

There were some hard-luck stories, of course.

Plagued by a horror draw, star New Zealand mare Bettor Cover Lover couldn't get into the action and after Brent Mangos settled her near the tail of the field, she ran on fairly to finish fifth, about six metres from the winner.

In-form Victorian Pembroke Caesar (Jodi Quinlan) settled last and made little ground in the straight, finishing ninth, while 2011 winner Broadways Best (Chris Alford) returned after a disappointing eighth with blood in its right-side nostril.

The horse was stood down until it completes in one requalifying trial.

Highly-rated Victorian Bluecolla Tigerpie (Michael Stanley) raced in third and fourth place to the turn before dropping out to finish sixth while Baby Bling (John McCarthy) finished just behind the placegetters.

FORM 700 NSW OAKS (Group One) HITTING THE OAKS TRAIL

That's the plan for Itz Nosurprisesthere

By **PAUL COURTS**

PROMINENT couple Tony and Pam Coniglio enjoyed the thrill of their first Group One win last Sunday.

Thanks to boom filly Itz Nosurprisesthere, the Coniglios were standing on the winners' dais at Tabcorp Park Menangle accepting the Form 700 New South Wales Oaks trophy.

According to trainer Dean Braun, the Coniglios should start clearing a space in their home for more silverware as Itz Nosurprisesthere is "just warming up".

Having just her third start for her new connections, Itz Nosurprisesthere is destined to add to her tally as she follows the Oaks trail around Australia.

To be given an easy week upon her return to Braun's Victorian stable, the youngster will be primed for her home state Blue Riband on April 19.

Itz Nosurprisesthere will then be sent across the Nullarbor for the Western Australia Oaks on May 10 before heading to the Sunshine State for the Queensland Oaks on June 29.

That trip will precede a tilt at the Australian Oaks at Melton on July 12.

"She is a class filly and can certainly give Tony and Pam plenty more trophies for their cabinet," Braun said.

"I'll sit down and map out a program for her, but I am looking at the various state Oaks at this stage.

"They are actually spaced out quite nicely, so if the transport can be arranged, there is no reason why she can't compete in all of them.

"I've actually nominated her for Melton next week as well, but I'll see how she is after the float ride home before I decide on that run.

"She's an exciting filly with plenty of potential and Tony and Pam deserve a good one like her.

"They've put a lot into the sport and are a wonderful couple to train for.

"This was their first Group One win and they're over the moon.

"But seriously, this filly is just warming up.

"She has strength, speed and is getting better every time I put the hobbles on her."

Winner of her Oaks heat a fortnight ago when driven by Luke McCarthy, Itz Nosurprisesthere teamed up with the local reinsman again in last weekend's Final.

Caught three-wide early from barrier six as Frith dashed to the lead, Itz Nosurprisesthere was settled in the ideal one-one trail at the expense of Rozelski.

Angled into the clear at the top of the long home straight, the daughter of Mcardle sprinted to a two-and-a-half metre win from pacemaker Frith.

Im Smouldering, which trailed the leader throughout, was two-and-a-half metres away third.

"You couldn't have dreamt of an easier win for her," Braun said.

"Luke gave her the perfect trip along and then she just won as she pleased in the end.

"It was a great effort and the best part is she still has a lot of improvement in her."

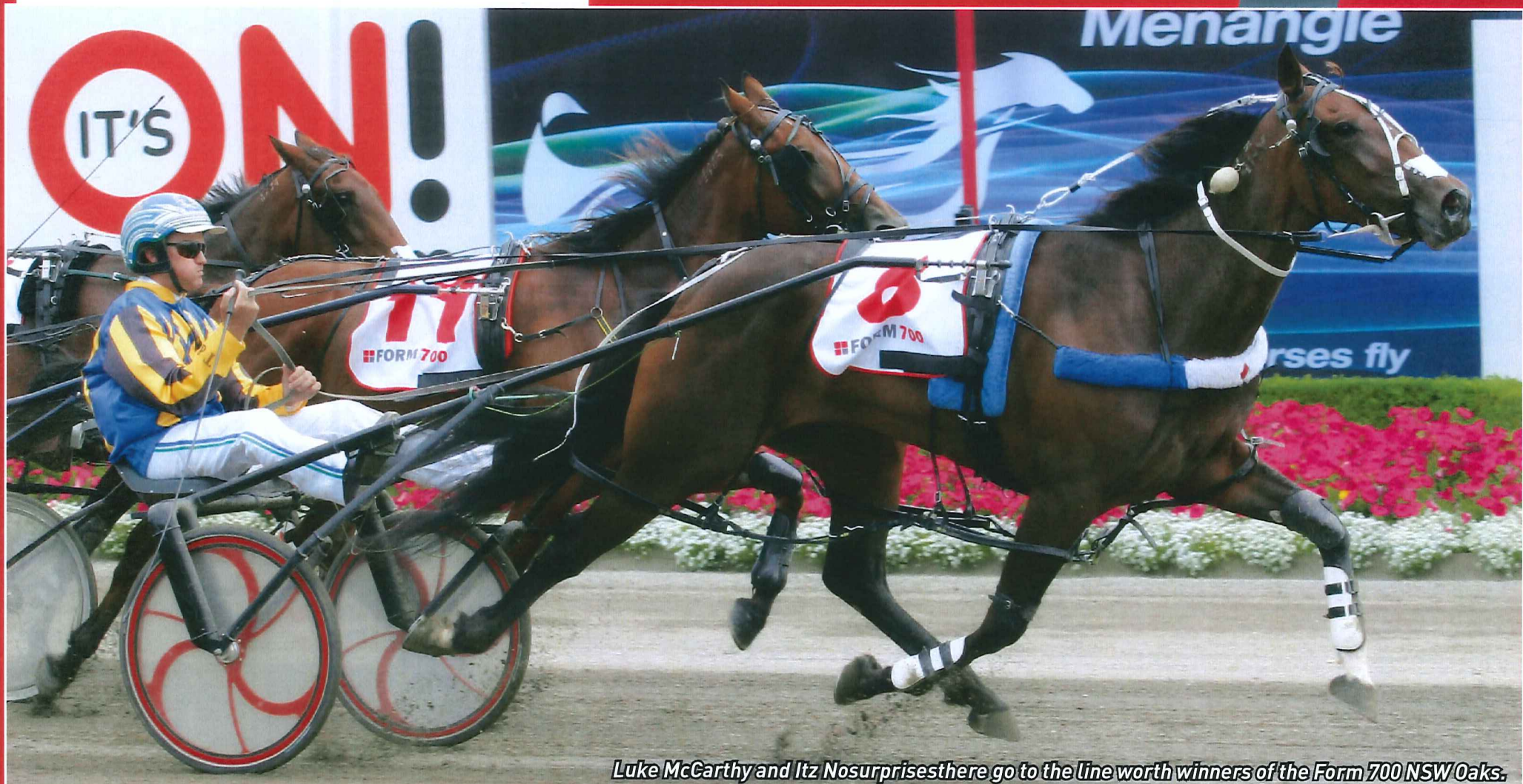
Rating 1:59.5 for the 2400m, the three-year-old covered the last half in 55.7s, taking her record to four wins and three placings from nine starts for earnings of \$151,797.



Sponsor Emilio Rosati congratulates trainer Dean Braun following Itz Nosurprisesthere's win in the Form 700 NSW Oaks



A happy team of connections after their win in the Form 700 NSW Oaks.



Luke McCarthy and Itz Nosurprisesthere go to the line worth winners of the Form 700 NSW Oaks.

All the action from a week of highlights at the



Night out: Rebecca Bartley, Amanda Turnbull, Kelli Dawson and Ellen Tormey relax at the Grand Final ball.



John Dumesny, Rex Horne, Tony Turnbull, Ray Williams MP, Steve Turnbull and Sam Nati at the Grand Final Ball.



Nicole Zaccaria and John Dumesny at the Grand Final Ball.



KerryAnn Turner, Daniel Cordina and Robbie Morris enjoying their night out before the big one.



NSW Derby winner John Justice shares his moment of glory with a young fan.



The Halls celebrate their win



Fashions In The Field winners Ricky Alchin and Jessica Croall with sponsor Rod Smith.

TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion Grand Final



The cream of our young driving talent was on display at the Slingsby Holdings Australasian Young Drivers Championship



Fashions in the field was a huge success at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.



A smiling trainer Gary Hall senior signals three straight when connections, sponsors and officials lined up after Im Themightyquinn won the TAB.COM.AU Inter Dominion Championship on Sunday.



Luke McCarthy and Jackie Gibson (sixth from left) with connections, officials and sponsors after Our Sixpence won the Cordina Chicken Farms Ladyship Mile on Sunday.

Inter Dominion photos in this issue: Gary Wild, Emily Wild, Chips Lett & Michael Court

CAMARDA & CANTRILL NSW DERBY (Group One)

LENNY EARNS A FEW WEEKS OFF

Justice may consider a Tassie trip

By **PAUL COURTS**

A COUPLE of easy weeks before another feature-race campaign.

That's the plan for promising youngster Lennytheshark, which registered an overdue top-shelf victory at Tabcorp Park Menangle last Sunday.

Having competed in four previous Group events, Lennytheshark was rewarded for his consistency with a triumph in the \$200,000 Camarda & Cantrill New South Wales Derby.

As such, the John Justice-trained colt has earned a short break.

Following his 'R & R', Lennytheshark will be aimed at the Vicbred Super Series and Breeders' Crown.

Next month's Tasmania Derby has also been tentatively placed on the agenda.

The Blue Riband is scheduled to be run at Hobart on April 7.

"Tassie is a possibility, but only a slim one at this stage," Justice said.

"I want to give him at least two weeks off now, so I won't rush him to Tassie just for the sake of it.

"He has the Sires and Crown later on and I would prefer to keep him freshen and concentrate on the local races.

"I'll just see how he is after his time off, and if I think he is ready enough for Tassie, we'll head across."

As for his latest success, Lennytheshark upstaged a star-studded field in the time-honoured classic.

Driven by Justice, Lennytheshark was pushed forward from his outside of the front row draw to settle close to the leader, Bit Of A Legend.

Gaining cover as several moves were made during the middle stages, including Caesar Augustus claiming the front and Majestic Mach being moved to the 'death seat', Lennytheshark was angled into the clear at the top of the home straight.

Finishing stoutly along the stretch, the son of Four Starzzz Shark sprinted to a two-and-a-half metre win from the previously unbeaten Majestic Mach.

Ultimate Art also finished strongly to be two-and-a-half metres away third.

"That was a fantastic win," said Justice.

"I'm totally stoked.

"I knew he was good enough to win, but how can you be confident going into the race from the outside of the front row?"

"I couldn't believe how good he felt down the back and on the turn he was just coasting and I could see a few around me were under pressure.

"It took a few strides for him to get going once balanced, but when he did I knew he had them covered."

Covering the last half in a quick 54.6 seconds, Lennytheshark rated 1:57.3 for the 2400m.

Owned by Kevin and Martin Riseley, the three-year-old extended his record to seven wins and 10 placings from 20 starts for earnings of \$213,208.

Kevin is no stranger to Derby glory in New South Wales, with his former top youngster Right Interest capturing the trotters' category in 2006.

Following his Derby triumph, Right Interest capped off the season with a Breeders' Crown win, a feat the Riseleys hope Lennytheshark can emulate.





GLENFERRIE FARM CHALLENGE

Nicole's great gamble now paying dividends

By **AMANDA RANDO**

JUST when Nicole Molander didn't think things could get any better, the Menangle Park trainer trumped herself.

Admittedly, it has been a big couple of years for the young mother of two.

But the Kiwi-born horsewoman has taken a few gambles in this time but they have certainly paid dividends for her.

Having never trained on her own before until she moved to Australia two years ago, the modest Molander did not expect to achieve what she has in this time.

Just three weeks ago Molander qualified her horse Pure Power for the TAB.COM. AU Inter Dominion.

And she managed to outdo this on Inter Dominion Grand Final Day last Sunday at Tabcorp Park Menangle when scoring her first Group One winner when Keystone Del took out the inaugural Glenferrie Farm Challenge.

After wiping away her tears of joy Molander dedicated the milestone to long-time friend and fellow New Zealand trainer Brian West.

"He started us off over here (Australia)," Molander said.

"I really owe a lot to Brian and I'm dedicating this win to him as without him we wouldn't be in this position today.

"It was a step back to go forward but it was the best move we've made."

West shifted a portion of his operation to Australia and Molander was keen to take it on board.

After all she had success preparing horses such as Secret Potion, Collectable and Lancome, under the Mark Purdon/Grant Payne banner when their Auckland stable opened in 2009.

So she was no stranger to preparing top class horses.

Now she has built up a stable of her own clients and trains for them.

Molander has had Keystone Del in her stable since December last year and in this time the gelding has secured six wins in eight starts.

And while his recent Group One assault was a step up in class, the eight-year-old handled the challenge with ease clocking 1:56.3.

The \$14.40 chance gained a gun run behind the leader and was driven to perfection by top reinsman Blake Fitzpatrick to come out and score by more than three metres.

New Zealand trotters Sovereignty and Vulcan, a late inclusion for the Kiwi team, finished second and third respectively.

Keystone Del has now been automatically invited to contest the Pryde's Easifeed Great Southern Star Final at Tabcorp Park Melton on March 23.



Keystone Del trots away from a class field to win the Glenferrie Farm Challenge at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.

The Glenferrie Farm Challenge was a first of its kind where five horses from Australia and as many from New Zealand were

selected for the \$200,000 feature.

The Australian team consisted of Keystone Del, Cyclone Jake, Mister Zion,

My High Expectations and I Didnt Do It while the New Zealand team consisted of Stig, The Fiery Ginga, Vulcan, Sovereignty and My Escapee.

So considering Keystone Del was bred in New Zealand and is trained by a Kiwi-born horsewoman does this mean it was a win to the Kiwis?

Panella bags her first Group One

By **MICHAEL COURT**

IT'S difficult to believe that leading reinswoman Lauren Panella is still a teenager.

Yet this effervescent young driver has learned a lot since making the move from Newcastle to establish herself at Tabcorp Park Menangle.

The bigger the occasion, the more she loves it and Panella has now established herself as one of the "winningest" drivers at Australia's No 1 track.

So it was hardly surprising when she informed Darren Binskin that she would be steering Gaius Caesar in the \$100,000 Bohemia Crystal Free-For-All at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.

That left the good-natured Darren to drive last-start winner Glengowan – even though he threatened to make her switch.

Yet the astute horseman knew Panella had an affiliation with Gaius Caesar and she did the rest, scoring her first Group One success, parking the six-year-old gelding outside The Big Mach before taking the lead at the 500m and then, after being headed in

the straight by Left Loaded (Darren Hancock), fighting back and defying all efforts to get past her in the straight.

Left Loaded finished second while winner's stablemate Glengowan ran on well for third.

An elated Panella punched the air in delight as she past the winning post.

Panella, 18, has had a sensational season in the sulky and is currently on the top-10 drivers' list in NSW.

Binskin, who chose to drive Glengowan, had nothing but praise for the youngster.

"She drove him a treat and he hadn't been racing with any luck," Binskin said.

"They (Gaius Caesar and Glengowan) are both just behind the better horses but I might steal the drive back soon."

Panella thanked Binskin for believing in her and paid tribute to her mother, Kirsten Lamb, who is the trainer's partner.

"Mum and Darren put many hours into the horses, dawn till dusk," she said. "I'm really happy just to be here."

Gaius Caesar clocked 1:56.2 for the 2400m, covering the last mile in slick 29.8, 28.9, 28.7 and 27.9-second quarters.



SLINGSBY HOLDINGS LEXUS of Parramatta

SLINGSBY HOLDINGS AUSTRALASIAN YOUNG DRIVERS CHAMPIONSHIP & LEXUS OF PARRAMATTA INTERNATIONAL LADY DRIVERS STAKES

Voak's a 'spark' of young talent

By MICHAEL COURT

IT was a comforting thought for young West Australian reinsman Chris Voak that he virtually only had to 'turn up' at Tabcorp Park Menangle to be named the Australasian Young Drivers Champion.

When Voak finished second-last with Im On Target in the final heat, he still returned to receive the plaudits as the winner of the series.

New Zealand up and comer Josh Dickie won the race, steering outsider Scarrymcleary to an impressive win for trainer David Thorn.

But it was Voak's title and the 24-year-old qualified electrician showed his professionalism by flying home to Western Australia 48 hours earlier to land a winning double before returning to seal the series.

Voak had secured victories at Goulburn, Tabcorp Park Menangle (Tuesday) and Penrith to take an almost unassailable lead in the event.

It wasn't the first time Voak had won a Junior Drivers series and he had already shown his love of the Premier state by taking out the NSW Rising Stars in 2011.

"I had a great time with a terrific bunch of people," said Voak.

"New South Wales really know how to put on a show and I was stoked to be a part of it. "It's been absolute pleasure to be with all the young drivers and I'm sure there's been connections made that are going to stay with us for life."

The Slingsby Holdings Australasian Young Drivers Championship Stakes, the final heat of a busy week for the young drivers saw Scarrymcleary hold off Rupeeno Cullen and Garnet River to score in a 1:55.9 mile rate.

That meant the final standings were:

	Driver	Points
1st	Chris Voak (WA)	80
2nd	Josh Dickie (NZ NI)	77
3rd	Ellen Tormey (VIC)	72
4th	Rebecca Bartley (VIC)	71
5th	Zac Butcher (NZ)	60
6th	Kelli Dawson (QLD)	55
7th	Matthew Williamson (NZ SI)	50
8th	Amanda Turnbull (NSW)	46
9th	Todd Rattray (TAS)	36
10th	Jayson Finnis (SA)	29

Voak's win was the start of a great Grand Final day for Ian Thorn, who landed the first two features of the day.

After scoring with Scarrymcleary, Thorn sent handed out another plumb drive when Ash Siejka took the drive on Poacher in the Lexus of Parramatta International Lady Drivers Stakes.

Siejka, who has been an Inter Dominion Ambassador in recent months, rated Poacher to perfection and sizzled home in a 26 second final quarter, to beat My Temudjin and Our El Nino.

Poacher joins the likes of Lombo Pocket Watch and Mr Feelgood who now share the fastest final quarter to be run at Tabcorp Park Menangle.

Siejka, who has been an Inter Dominion ambassador for the past few months, explained what an honour it was to be involved in the whole series.

"While I wasn't lucky enough to have a horse qualify for the Grand Final, the build-up and the whole carnival has been something special," she said.

"It's part of the reason we come to the races and I love being a part of it."



Scarrymcleary and Josh Dickie race away to score a convincing win at Tabcorp Park Menangle on Sunday.



Ash Siejka was all smiles after Poacher won the Lexus of Parramatta International Lady Drivers Stakes



Chris Voak receives his Australasian Young Drivers Title trophy from Harness Racing Australia's Andrew Kelly.



Poacher and Ash Siejka race away to score a convincing win on Sunday.

FORM 700 Chariots of Fire



Winner: Dexter Dunn



Impressive: Christen Me hits the line in the Form 700 Chariots Of Fire.



A happy day for connections as they receive their trophy from Emilio and Mary Rosati.



Connections cheer Christen Me to the line.

