

# WALLER WEEKLY NEWS

MARCH 10, 2013



Four metropolitan winners in three states capped another exciting weekend for the team on Saturday, with French import Studio kicking off proceedings and making it clear he much prefers the sunny Gold Coast rather than the soggy Sydney surface he was forced to race on last start.

In Sydney Zoustar and Coup Acclaim (pictured) made good use of the new longer straight at Hawkesbury's well-received stand-alone meeting. The new winning post angle provided some touch and go moments for the team and few fun debates while the judge zoomed in on pixels. Unfortunately, tough galloper Beaten Up was one on the day that fell foul of the post for a close second in the day's feature, the Rowley Mile. Meanwhile at Flemington the tough-as-teak Thubiaan produced a similar situation and thankfully after a spate of second placings and minutes of deliberation, he got his turn in the winner's circle and deserved his trip to the beach this week with stable-mate Fulgur.

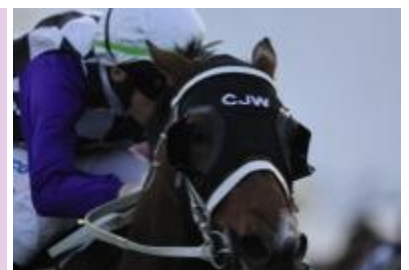
It was a sad week for the stable and the Grimish family as we had to say goodbye to the well-performed and talented Stout Hearted. A real character, he liked to keep his riders on their toes and was a much-loved member of the team.

Wednesday saw two more metro winners with the lovely Loophole and import Instrumentalist contributing to see us head into this Saturday's racing with 133.5 metro winners so see the stable the clear Sydney and Australian premierships leaders for metropolitan winners. At Eagle Farm we have Hawkspur and Vilanova contesting stakes races, at Rosehill we have no less than 20 entered and at Caulfield Fulgur will step out over 2000m. For a full list of runners and form, see the [homepage of the website](#).

**Wishing you all a safe and successful weekend, the team at Chris Waller Racing.**

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## COUP ACCLAIM

After failing on the heavy track at Randwick in his last start, Coup Acclaim produced a gritty performance in the hands of Hugh Bowman to win the \$100,000 Provincial Stayers Final Handicap. An unassuming character around the stables, it was a well-deserved victory for a horse who always tries his hardest as reflected by his race record with 27 starts resulting in 5 wins 9 seconds and 8 thirds.

## ZOUSTAR

Showing good gate speed and relaxing like a real professional in the lead, Zoustar deserves the big wrap jockey Hugh Bowman gave him after the race. In the straight he was headed but the exciting son of Northern Meteor quickened and fought back for a 1-length victory, keeping his perfect record intact. As Chris often says, with youngsters it's a 'one-day at a time policy' and so it's yet to be decided if a trip to Queensland is on the cards or a trip to the spelling paddock to rest up for what will hopefully be a big Spring for the connections.

## THUBIAAN

Having been based at our Flemington stable since late March, Thubiaan had been hard done by with three seconds since heading South. The tables turned on Saturday however with jockey Craig Newitt full of praise for the hardy galloper who lead throughout. Being challenged and headed in the straight, his tenacity saw him fight back for the narrowest of wins. It took the judge several minutes to announce the victor and thankfully, Thubiaan emerged on top. He will now head to the Listed 3200m Andrew Ramsden at Flemington on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

## STUDIO

After a tough run on a heavy track that he didn't appreciate at Randwick, it was heartening to see Studio turn it around and win convincingly, albeit by a small margin, over 2200m at the Gold Coast. The horses appreciate the warmer weather in Queensland at this time of year and tend to thrive in the environment. After Saturday's performance Studio has earned the privilege of staying on for some more of the carnival's staying races.



Coup Acclaim



Zoustar



Thubiaan



Studio



Instrumentalist



Loophole

## TIM CLARK COMBINES WITH CWR FOR CANTERBURY DOUBLE

Recently returning from a successful 20-month stint riding in Hong Kong, Tim Clark has hit the ground running and rode two winners for the stable at Canterbury on Wednesday. First up he combined with recent import **Instrumentalist** who was having his third Australian run and looks to have put it all together to record narrow but decisive win.

Also having his third up run, **Loophole** edged up the inside to break maiden ranks and provide a special victory for part-owner Debbie Kepitis as he was the first yearling she had selected herself. "He was sold at Karaka and when he came into the ring ... he looked up at me the way Lonhro did when he was going to the barrier for Darren Beadman, so I thought 'I have to have him'".

## PRE-TRAINING – DUKE WEEK 5

After a few days off last week after standing on his toe clip, Duke's back in the routine at Boynton Park and has now been in work for around 40 days. He continues to do lots of trotting and walking around the farm to build his base fitness up while twice a week he works at quarter and half-pace up the Boynton Park hill to really get his heart rate up and improve his cardiovascular fitness. He's pictured at the top of the hill this week.



## NEWS BITES

### Vilanova Kicking off Australian Career

Vilanova will kick off his Australian racing career with the stable tomorrow in the Group 2 Champagne Classic at Eagle Farm over 1200m.

[Read more...](#)

### Waller Team to Play Leading Hand at Rosehill

Chris Waller's team for the Lord Mayors Cup is likely to be reduced by one but he still looks set to play a leading hand in Saturday's staying feature at Rosehill.

[Read more...](#)

### Thubiaan Wins for Waller at Flemington

Thubiaan's recent activities could be a hint to a future over jumps but on Saturday his staying ability and toughness was good enough to earn him victory on the flat at Flemington.

[Read more...](#)

### Two From Two for Zoustar

Hugh Bowman predicted a bright future for the Chris Waller-trained Zoustar after he made it two from two at Hawkesbury on Saturday.

[Read more...](#)

Jess on Vilanova.



Justine on Fulgur & Rob on Thubiaan at the beach in Melbourne.



Specific Choice & Alysha Collett on Wednesday morning.



The CWR wool rugs are out of storage – Done Nothin' Wrong drying off in his after work.



Sarah on Plenty Special & Jess on Vilanova.



Alicia on Hoylonny.