

# MELBOURNE CUP PREVIEW

## November 3, 2009

### OVERVIEW

#### (Based on a track rated dead)

Before Efficient's withdrawal from the Emirates Melbourne Cup on Saturday morning, I was probably going to tip the grey to win his second Cup.

With Efficient out of the way, plus stablemate Zipping, Godolphin's Kirklees and Vigor, the race has lost some of its depth. There are six internationals, who, for a variety of reasons, look way below standard, a trio of old New Zealanders making up the numbers and a few well-worn locals who have proven in the past that they are not up to winning Australia's greatest race.

But what we do have is a small but exciting batch of stayers poised to fight out the race. I honestly believe there are no more than eight possible chances, and that's stretching it.

Last year's winner **Viewed** stands out as the horse to beat. There are a host of reasons, even more telling than the fact he is trained by the great Bart Cummings, who has won 12 Cups and, rising 82, continues to rewrite the record books – even if it is beating his own record.

Viewed's Caulfield Cup win – and there is no better guide to the Melbourne Cup than the Caulfield Cup – was so dominant, he looks to have taken such a significant step from top-class stayer to superior horse right up with some of Cummings' great Cup winners.

No horse has ever won the Melbourne Cup, Caulfield Cup and Melbourne Cup in that sequence – Viewed is poised for a place in history.

The 6YO looked imposing in finishing third behind Scenic Shot in the G1 Mackinnon Stakes (wfa 2000m) on Saturday. He's a big, gross stallion, and the Mackinnon run will have brought him to his peak.

This year, we have the legend of Cummings up against the fairytale story of **Alcopop**, the farm horse who is trained and ridden by a couple of unknowns. There is no doubting Alcopop is a raw talent – his G2 Herbert Power Handicap (2400m) win was a phenomenal performance, easily beating Saturday's The Lexus winner Shocking. Trainer Jake Stephens took the gelding back to the farm in South Australia, so we can only

TAB	HORSE	JOCKEY	TRAINER	BR	WGT	TAB Odds	DP* Ratings
1	Viewed	Brad Rawiller	Bart Cummings	9	58	\$4.80	\$5.50
2	C'est La Guerre (NZ)	Nicholas Hall	John Sadler	7	55.5	\$26	\$31
3	Fiumicino (NZ)	Steven King	Michael, Wayne, John Hawkes	24	55.5	\$71	\$51
4	Master O'Reilly (NZ)	Vlad Duric	Danny O'Brien	16	55	\$14	\$12
5	Mourilyan (IRE)	Glyn Schofield	Herman Brown	14	54.5	\$26	\$41
6	Roman Emperor (NZ)	Hugh Bowman	Bart Cummings	15	54	\$8	\$9
7	Ista Kareem (NZ)	Luke Nolen	Colin Little	23	53.5	\$81	\$101
8	Crime Scene (IRE)	Kerrin McEvoy	Saeed bin Suroor	11	53	\$51	\$101
9	Munsef (GB)	Zac Purton	Ian Williams	5	53	\$61	\$101
10	Zavite (NZ)	Mark Zahra	Anthony Cummings	3	53	\$71	\$81
11	Alcopop	Domenic Tournour	Jake Stephens	12	52.5	\$5.50	\$7
12	Harris Tweed (NZ)	Craig Newitt	Murray & Bjorn Baker	20	52.5	\$101	\$81
13	Kibbutz (NZ)	Chris Symons	Jarrold McLean	8	52.5	\$61	\$201
14	Newport	Peter Wells	Paul Perry	18	52.5	\$35	\$17
15	Warringah (GB)	Damien Oliver	Chris Waller	17	52.5	\$35	\$41
16	Gallions Reach (NZ)	Dwayne Dunn	Richard Yuill	6	52	\$201	\$401
17	Spin Around	Mark du Plessis	Steven Cooper	4	52	\$201	\$101
18	Basaltico	Danny Nikolic	Luca Cumani	10	51.5	\$41	\$34
19	Capecover (NZ)	Noel Harris	Alexander Fieldes	19	51.5	\$81	\$101
20	Daffodil (NZ)	Chris Munce	Kevin Gray	21	51.5	\$16	\$26
21	Shocking	Corey Brown	Mark Kavanagh	22	51	\$12	\$10
22	Allez Wonder	Michelle Payne	Bart Cummings	13	50.5	\$26	\$51
23	Changingoftheguard	Glen Boss	David Hayes	1	50.5	\$23	\$51
24	Leica Ding	Craig Williams	Darren Weir	2	50.5	\$23	\$26

Percentages: TAB (114.4%); DP (100.62%)

\* Danny Power's ratings are a guide only. TAB Price as at 9.00pm Monday.

take it on trust that he has the horse right. For me, I know Cummings will have Viewed peaking on Saturday, and that's where my allegiance will lie.

**Shocking** might have chased home Alcopop at Caulfield, but Saturday's win was so decisive, running his last 600m under 34 seconds, that it is safe to say he has improved. Had he drawn better, I would have placed him ahead of Alcopop.

Cummings' other top hope **Roman Emperor** needs a damp track, but his second in the Caulfield Cup was the ideal lead-up, while **Master O'Reilly** will run well and **Newport** is the roughie to follow.

### RECOMMENDED PLAY







While I rate Viewed a \$5.50 chance, I concede that he might start shorter. I think \$5.50 is his right price in a Melbourne Cup. Betfair is the best place to bet, as there will be those who bet early looking to lay-off.

As much as I would like Alcopop to win – what a great story – and I have tipped him second, I feel that he is way under the odds. I'll be happy to lay him at \$5.50.

The other play is to lay the internationals as they look way off the mark this year and there will still be those wanting to back them.

## SPEED MAP

### Predicted positions on settling

								
Fiumicino	Mourilyan	Roman Emperor	Basaltico	Capecover	Harris Tweed	Shocking		
								
Crime Scene	Warringah	Munsef	Alcopop	Viewed	Master O'Reilly	Allez Wonder	Ista Kareem	
								
Zavite	Gallions Reach	Spin Around	Changing of the guard	Leica Ding	Kibbutz	C'est La Guerre	Newport	Daffodil

← INSIDE RAIL

### THE TOP SIX

1. Viewed
2. Alcopop
3. Shocking
4. Roman Emperor
5. Master O'Reilly
6. Newport

### ANALYSIS BY RUNNER

#### 1. VIEWED

**(br h 6, Scenic (IRE)–Lovers Knot, by Khozaam (USA))**

Viewed deserves his Melbourne Cup favouritism, not because he is last year's winner, nor because his trainer is the master Bart Cummings, who has won 12 Melbourne Cups. It's because traditionally the best guide to the Melbourne Cup is the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m), a race that Viewed dominated. He is attempting to be the 12th horse to complete the Caulfield-Melbourne Cup double, but significantly, he is aiming for his own piece of Melbourne Cup history, because no horse has won consecutive Melbourne Cups with a Caulfield Cup in between. History says it a tough assignment to win two Cups (only six have done it) and his impost of 58kg is the same that Makybe Diva carried in 2005, but in real terms he is in 2.5kg better off because of the allowance for mares. Viewed's Mackinnon Stakes (WFA 2000m) third behind Scenic Shot was a top-class hit-out for the Cup, although he was galloped on (vets have since passed him as fit to run). Viewed is an outstanding, tough, seasoned stayer, who is going better than last year – he will need to as he has 5kg more – and despite the history, he is the horse to beat.

#### 2. C'EST LA GUERRE (NZ)

**(b g 5, Shinko King (IRE)–La Magnifique (NZ), by Kampala (GB))**

Four days ago, trained John Sadler and co-owner Lloyd Williams had three serious chances to win the Melbourne Cup, now they are left with C'Est La Guerre following the withdrawals of Efficient and Zipping. C'Est La Guerre last year finished third behind Viewed and Bauer in the Melbourne Cup as a raw, lightly-framed 4YO. He was bought as a Cups horse by Williams' son Nick after the gelding won 2008 G1 New Zealand Derby (2400m) at Ellerslie (NZ). Sadler gave the horse a light autumn, but the gelding has struggled to recapture his best form this campaign due to a nagging back complaint. He hasn't raced since his weakening 15<sup>th</sup> behind Viewed in the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m). Wet ground will help his chances.

#### 3. FIUMICINO (NZ)

**(b g 6, Zabeel (NZ)–Latte (NZ), by Marroof (USA))**

Punters have a love-hate relationship with Fiumicino. The horse has wonderful ability when everything goes right – his two Group 1 wins, the 2006 AJC Derby (2400m, Randwick) and the 2009 The BMW (WFA 2400m, Rosehill) have been on very heavy ground – but he can also mix his form dramatically. He didn't run in last year's Cup after pulling up sore in the G1 Caulfield Cup. This time he comes off what was one of his best career performances, fifth behind Viewed in the Caulfield Cup after working on the pace. Interestingly, for breeding buffs, he is a ¾ brother to the 2000 Melbourne Cup winner Brew (Zabeel-Horlicks), as his dam Latte is a daughter of Horlicks. He needs rain, and lots of it, and barrier 24 is a tough assignment. Expect him to go forward. Jockey Steven King won the Cup on Let's Elope in 1991.

#### 4. MASTER O'REILLY (NZ)

**(b or br g 7, O'Reilly (NZ)–Without Remorse (NZ), by Bakharoff (USA))**

The 2007 G1 Caulfield Cup winner has run in the last two Melbourne Cups for an eighth in 2007 (\$3.80 fav) and a luckless fourth last year behind Viewed. He hasn't won a race since his Caulfield Cup win, but there is a lot to like about his form this spring. His powerful finish for seventh behind Viewed in the Caulfield Cup was eye-catching as he was very wide on the bend when most of those who beat him home took the short cuts, and again he powered late for fifth behind Scenic Shot in the G1 Mackinnon Stakes (WFA 2000m) at Flemington on Saturday. He showed last year that he can run the distance and he's going a lot better this year.

#### 5. MOURILYAN (IRE)

**(b h 5, Desert Prince (USA)–Mouramara (IRE), by Kahyasi (IRE))**

The highest weighted of the internationals, and he made headlines when he arrived for being owned by the Chechyan dictator. Mourilyan has travelled the world to do his racing after winning his maiden (2000m) at the Curragh in October 2007. He's been to England, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore and Canada, but his only win at Stakes level was at his last start in the oddly-named March Stakes (2800m, Goodwood) run in August. Before that he chased strongly for second behind the high-class stayer Schiaparelli on a form track in the G2 Goodwood Cup (3200m), beaten only a length. He's a grinding stayer, who is with an astute South African trainer, Herman Brown. Might find the locals too quick for him.

## 6. ROMAN EMPEROR (NZ)

**(b h 4, Montjeu (IRE)–Gussy Godiva (NZ), by Last Tycoon (IRE))**

Roman Emperor won the 2009 G1 AJC Australian Derby (2400m, Randwick) on a heavy track, thanks to an aggressive ride by Jim Cassidy. Trainer Bart Cummings, also a part-owner, has brought him along beautifully for this and he burst into Cup calculations with his second behind stablemate Viewed in the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m, Caulfield). Cummings said after Caulfield: "I have beaten myself, but at least he won't get a penalty", which is a key point. I believe Roman Emperor has come on brilliantly since then; his work has been as good as Viewed, but he needs some give in the ground, which he is likely to get. Unfortunately, the record books are against him as the last horse to win the ACJ Derby and a Melbourne Cup (as 4YO) is the great Phar Lap in 1930 – 28 have since tried and failed. Of course, if anyone is going to meddle with history, it's Cummings who has trained 12 Cup winners.

## 7. ISTA KAREEM (NZ)

**(ch g 9, Germano (GB)–Princesses Touch (NZ), by Touching Wood (USA))**

The 2009 Sydney Cup (3200m) winner, who is trying to break new ground as the oldest horse to win a Melbourne Cup – no horse older than eight has won the great race. Only four horses have won the Sydney Cup and Melbourne Cup in the same year – the last was Makybe Diva in 2004. Ista Kareem is an honest, little gelding, who is proven at 3200m. Terribly drawn in 23. Needs a bog to be in calculations.

## 8. CRIME SCENE (IRE)

**(b g 6, Royal Applause (GB)–Crime (USA), by Gulch (USA))**

Crime Scene came to Australia as a second-stringer for Godolphin to Kirklees, but he is left as the stable's only hope after Kirklees was withdrawn on Saturday. The gelding is nothing more than a Group 3 class horse in Europe – one win at that level from five tries (St Simon Stakes (2400m) at Newbury, on a slow track, in October 2007). This is his first try at a level higher than Group 3 and he showed by his battling one-paced sixth behind Leica Ding in the G3 Geelong Cup (2400m) 13 days ago, that a Melbourne Cup victory is beyond him. Godolphin has been trying since 1998 to win the Cup, and it looks like they

have come up short again. Jockey Kerrin McEvoy won the Cup on Brew in 2000.

## 9. MUNSEF (GB)

**(b g 7, Zafonic (USA)–Mazaya (IRE), by Sadler's Wells (USA))**

Another of the international visitors with dubious credentials. Last December he was sold by Sheikh Hamdan for only 25,000 guineas, and in May he was offered again for sale by his new owner and didn't reach his 10,000 guineas reserve. Around the same time, he competed in a Claiming Stakes (a horse can be claimed by a new owner) when having his first run for trainer Ian Williams – he won but wasn't claimed, much to Williams' relief. Since then, the gelding's form has improved and he earned his trip south with a win in the Listed Chester Stakes (2680m), in which he lumped 61kg. Drops to 53kg here but he's very one-paced and a win would be a big surprise.

## 10. ZAVITE (NZ)

**(b g 7, Zabeel (NZ)–Miss Vita (USA), by Alleged (USA))**

Zavite sits just below the level of a Group 1 stayer, but still he has amassed more than \$1 million in prizemoney. His two runs at G1 level have been poor – 10<sup>th</sup> in the 2009 The BMW (2400m, Rosehill) and ninth in the 2009 Caulfield Cup (2400m). In 2009, Zavite has won the G2 Adelaide Cup (3200m, Morphettville) and the G3 Launceston Cup (2400m, Mowbray), which is where Zavite fits in the scheme of things. He led in the Caulfield Cup and he's likely to roll forward again.

## 11. ALCOPOP

**(b g 5, Jeune (GB)–Iota Of Luck, by Blevic)**

The best story in this year's Melbourne Cup. He had his first start on Melbourne Cup day in 2008, winning a maiden at Morphettville, but this little known gelding has emerged dramatically this spring winning the Listed Balaklava Cup (1600m), Listed JRA Cup (2040m, Moonee Valley) and the G2 Herbert Power Handicap (2400m, Caulfield), (more than three weeks ago) where he showed a remarkable turn-of-foot to thrash Shocking by two lengths. Shocking has franked that form with his dominant win in the Lexus (2500m, Flemington) on Saturday. Since his last run, Alcopop has returned to hill and beach training on the property of trainer Jake Stephens near Victor Harbour in South Australia, so we can only take Stephens' word that he has Alcopop as well as he can have him to win a Melbourne Cup. What we do know

is that this gelding is bred to run the trip as his sire Jeune won the Cup in 1994, as too did his granddam's sire At Talaq (1986). Stephens and jockey Dominic Tournour, who a couple of years ago was riding on the red dust of outback racetracks, face their greatest challenge, each in their first Melbourne Cup – let's hope they are up to it.

## 12. HARRIS TWEED (NZ)

**(b g 4, Montjeu (IRE)–Sally (NZ) by Prized (USA))**

The lightly-framed Harris Tweed has a Melbourne Cup history in his pedigree. His great-granddam My Blue Denim finished second behind Beldale Ball in the 1980 Melbourne Cup. Harris Tweed qualified for this race by finishing second behind Roman Emperor in the G1 AJC Australian Derby (2400m, Randwick) in the autumn, but unfortunately he doesn't seem to have come on as well this spring as has Roman Emperor. While he finished a seemingly moderate 10<sup>th</sup> behind Viewed (in which Roman Emperor finished second) in the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m), jockey Craig Newitt was encouraged to tell trainer Murray Baker that it was a "good Melbourne Cup trial". Harris Tweed might be 12 months away from being mature enough to win a Melbourne Cup, but he will stick the trip and he comes into it if the track is rain-affected.

## 13. KIBBUTZ (NZ)

**(b g 5, Golan (IRE)–Misskap (NZ), by Kaapstad (NZ))**

When Kibbutz won the 2007 Victoria Derby (2500m, Flemington), he looked every bit a Melbourne Cup horse, but a severe hoof injury has curtailed his career – he hasn't been placed in 11 starts since. Transferred this year from David Hayes to Jarrod McLean to take advantage of the beach training environment at Warrnambool, the big horse showed encouraging signs when fourth behind The Sportsman in the G2 Cathay Pacific Cup (2500m, Moonee Valley). Only a bog track will help his cause to be considered a place chance.

## 14. NEWPORT

**(gr g 7, Encosta De Lago–Sibeliene (GB), by Nishapour (FR))**

This tough campaigner, at aged seven, looks to be racing at his



peak. Last year, he finished a solid 10<sup>th</sup> in the Cup, coming from near last, but that was off a campaign in which the G1 The Metropolitan (2400m, Randwick) was his mission and he won that race. This spring trainer Paul Perry has been single-minded in setting Newport for the Melbourne Cup. Newport missed a run in the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m), so Perry sent him around in the G2 Coongy Handicap (2000m) on the same day – Newport was 15<sup>th</sup> at the 450m, but charged late to finish ninth behind Baughurst. In Saturday's G1 Mackinnon Stakes (wfa 2000m, Flemington), Newport ran as well as Master O'Reilly and Viewed in finishing sixth – while carving out the fastest final 200m of the race in 11.2 secs. The last grey to win the Cup was Subzero in 1992. Newport, who has a bad habit of missing the start, is right in the mix at big odds if on his best behaviour.

### 15. WARRINGAH (GB)

**(b g 5, Galileo (IRE)–Threefold (USA), by Gulch (USA))**

Warringah is the only international contender that is a young, lightly-raced stayer and who seems to have more to give. Trainer Sir Michael Stoute has handed over to Sydney horseman Chris Waller after Warringah was bought by a group of Australians and New Zealanders following his fifth under a big weight in the Ebor (2800m) at York after leading strongly at the 100m. Originally, he was going to be set aside until the autumn, but Waller has had a change of mind. Afterthoughts rarely produce good results in Melbourne Cups. Warringah hasn't won at Stakes level but he's a progressive horse who races on the pace. Importantly, Damien Oliver (two Melbourne Cup wins) takes the ride.

### 16. GALLIONS REACH (NZ)

**(b g 7, Victory Dance (IRE)–Dorinka (NZ), by Straight Strike (USA))**

This late-maturing stayer hit his straps in 2008, winning four times at Stakes level, including the G1 Zabeel Classic (WFA 2000m, Ellerslie) that followed a second behind Prize Lady in the G1 Auckland Cup (3200m). He hasn't shown any of that form this preparation. Worked on the pace before tiring for fifth in the Bendigo Cup. Not likely.

### 17. SPIN AROUND

**(ch g 9, Spinning World (USA)–Be Yourself (USA), by Noalcoholic (FR))**

The much-travelled Spin Around was bred in Victoria and did his early racing in Hong Kong where he won four times. He was sent to race in New Zealand in 2007 when he won the G1 Avondale Cup (2200m) and G2 Counties Cup (2100m, Ellerslie). He didn't win in 2008, but returned to form this year with a win in the G1 Auckland Cup (3200m, Ellerslie) in March. His two runs in Australia have been poor. No horse aged nine has won a Melbourne Cup.

### 18. BASALTICO (IRE)

**(b h 6, Shantou (USA)–Sfilza (GB), by Indian Ridge (IRE))**

Basaltico came to Australia as the understudy to Cima de Triomphe, who will miss the Cup after two poor performances. This is trainer Luca Cumani's fourth attempt to win the Cup – he has finished second in the last two years with Purple Moon and Bauer – although it's safe to say that Basaltico doesn't rate with those two horses. His run in the G3 Geelong Cup (2400m), when seventh behind Leica Ding, after coming from last and running into dead-ends, was sound, and suggests this horse is not hopeless. Basaltico did his early racing in Italy and Cumani only took over his training in July.

### 19. CAPECOVER (NZ)

**(b g 7, Cape Cross (IRE)–Set Up (NZ), by Zabeel (NZ))**

Last year, Capecover had a good spring carnival, winning the G2 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2500m) at Flemington, but he has struggled to repeat that form since, winning once over 2200m at Ellerslie, beating Auckland Cup winner Spin Around. His seventh behind Zupacool in last Wednesday's Listed Bendigo Cup (2200m) was solid, as he came from well back, but it's not good enough to suggest he's a contender here. He'll struggle to run the trip. Veteran Noel Harris had his first ride in the Cup in 1973 when he rode Glengowan into second place behind Gala Supreme.

### 20. DAFFODIL (NZ)

**(b m 4, No Excuse Needed (GB)–Spring (NZ), by O'Reilly (NZ))**

The 2009 AJC Oaks (2400m) winner is attempting to be the third in history to win the double as a 4YO – the other two were champions Light Fingers (1965) and Evening Peal (1956). The last New

Zealand-trained winner was Ethereal in 2001, and she won the G1 Queensland Oaks (2400m) that same year. Daffodil ran a terrific fourth behind Viewed in the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m), after tracking wide on the turn. She put her head down and kept on solidly to the line. That's the strongest form line to this year's Melbourne Cup, but she will need to find a few lengths to match Viewed and runner-up Roman Emperor. Her pedigree raises doubts about her ability to run a strong 3200m, and trainer Kevin Gray said the mare took a while to get over her hard run at Caulfield. If she can stay the trip and overcome the barrier 21, she's a chance.

### 21. SHOCKING

**(b h 4, Street Cry (USA)–Maria Di Castiglia (GB), by Danehill (USA))**

A young, exciting stayer who is emerging at the right time. In the winter, at the end of a long campaign, he finished second behind Court Ruler in the G1 Queensland Derby (2400m) at Eagle Farm after a long hard run from the rear, in heavy going. Trainer Mark Kavanagh has been meticulous in his preparation to get this horse to peak at the business end. Shocking was beaten by two lengths by Alcopop in the G2 Herbert Power Handicap (2400m, Caulfield) but missed a start in the G1 Caulfield Cup. He compensated with an outstanding win on Saturday in the G3 The Lexus (2500m) at Flemington, in which he carved out his last 600m in under 34 seconds, easing down. Kavanagh said that the 4YO pulled up "big" and he will improve further. Unfortunately, he has drawn very wide in barrier 22, but he will run the trip and he possesses a brilliant sprint. The last winner of the Lexus-Cup double was Brew (2000) who also drew 22. One of the real contenders. Jockey Corey Brown rode Bauer to be beaten a nose in last year's Cup by Viewed.

### 22. ALLEZ WONDER

**(b m 4, Redoute's Choice–Luna Tudor, by Military Plume (NZ))**

The third of Bart Cummings' three starters in this year's Cup. This mare was placed third, as a maiden, in last year's G1 VRC Oaks (2500m) at Flemington and finally broke

through for a win in the Listed Keith Nolan Classic (1600m, Kembla Grange) in the autumn. She went into the G1 Caulfield Cup (2400m) as one of the leading fancies after her good win in the G1 Toorak Handicap (1600m, Caulfield) the week before at 40/1. Jockey Michelle Payne rode her too close to the speed and she didn't finish her race off, coming in eighth behind stablemate Viewed. Galilee (1966) is Cummings' only Toorak-Melbourne Cup winner, and this mare is definitely not another Galilee. There are doubts about her running a strong 3200m, but her dam won the Perth Cup over that trip.

distance. Leading jockey Craig Williams will give her a good ride from her inside draw. She can run into the first five.

### **23. CHANGINGOFTHEGUARD (IRE)**

**(b h 4, Montjeu (IRE)-Miletrian (IRE), by Marju (IRE))**

Goes into this race as the only 3YO (to northern hemisphere time), just as Mahler did in 2007 when third behind Efficient. The last locally bred 3YO to win the Cup was Skipton in 1941. Changingoftheguard was originally entered for the Cup by Irish trainer Aidan O'Brien, but those plans were quashed when the colt was bought by Australian connections with the 2010 Cup in mind. However, new trainer David Hayes has had a change of mind, as he believes the horse is fit enough to run well in the Cup. He finished second in the Ebor (2800m) at York when ridden quietly, and that's how Hayes plans to have him ridden. He has the right jockey in Glen Boss, who has won three Melbourne Cups, in that quietly-ridden fashion, all on Makybe Diva. Changingoftheguard has had a foot abscess and he has been off his feed in quarantine at Sandown – not the ideal preparation going into a Melbourne Cup.

### **24. LEICA DING**

**(ch m 5, Redding (NZ)-Leica Mine, by Belong To Me (USA))**

Game little mare who came out of mares' company to win the G3 Geelong Cup (2400m), coming from well back thanks to a terrific ride from Danny Nikolic. Last spring, Leica Ding began racing with wins at Casterton and Stawell – she has come a long way. Trainer Darren Weir nearly won the Cup with She's Archie in 2003 when she beat all but Makybe Diva and she, too, came through the Geelong Cup (finished second). Weir doesn't rate Leica Ding with She's Archie, but the mare is very honest and she'll run the