



Friday 25 February, 2022

Racing update

## TAB Australian Cup: Armchair Guide

By Gerard Guthrie

Champion trainers Andrea Dailly and Jason Thompson loom as key players in Saturday night's \$450,500 Group 1 TAB Australian Cup (525m) at The Meadows, but the prolific feature race specialists will take very different records into the \$300,000 to-the-winner showpiece.

Dailly has dominated the Australian Cup over the last decade and is chasing a remarkable sixth win since 2010, having been successful with Dyna Lachlan (2010), Spud Regis (2013), Dyna Double One (2015), Hecton Bale (2018) and Dyna Patty (2019).

'Team Dailly' will have numbers on its side after dominating last Saturday night's heats, winning four of the eight qualifiers.

The 'fantastic four' (in time order) were fastest heat winner Lala Kiwi (29.61sec), Zippy Tesla (29.75sec), Daph's Ascend (29.80sec) and Gypsy Bun (29.83sec).

Melbourne Cup runner-up Lala Kiwi (Box 4), which upset series favourite Aston Rupee in her heat victory, sits atop TAB's market at \$3.30, with Zippy Tesla (Box 3), winner of the G1 Silver Chief at The Meadows on New Year's Day, the \$3.50 second elect.

Daph's Ascend (Box 2) is \$7.50, with Gypsy Bun (Box 7) the outsider of the home-bred quartet at \$26.

On the third line of betting is Immunity (Box 5) at \$5, trained by Jason Thompson, who in stark contrast to the Daillys is yet to win the Australian Cup and is striving to fill one of the very rare gaps on his resume.

Immunity, which posted the second fastest heat run of 29.74sec, is a half-sister to Thompson's 2019 Australian Cup runner-up Black Opium.

The other finalist at single figures is Paddy Wants Pats (Box 6), trained by Kelly Bravo, at \$7.50.

Bravo and husband Brett are no strangers to G1 success at The Meadows, having won the 2018 Temlee with Paddy Wants Pats' brilliant mother Striker Light, while they also won the Hume Cup in 2013 and 2015 with Alpe D'huez and Secret Spell respectively, and 2011 Silver Chief with Kilty Lad.

At the other end of the scale, rising young trainer Daniel Gibbons is eyeing his first G1 victory with Silver Chief placegetter Titan Blazer (Box 8), and Lee Moore is contesting his first ever G1 event with \$28 heat surprise packet Orlando (Box 1).

Despite being first reserve, superstar Aston Rupee, which became the first sprinter to complete the Topgun – Temlee invitational double on the opening night of the Australian Cup Carnival, is \$2.30 favourite.

A total of four group finals will occupy Saturday night's card at The Meadows – the G1 TAB Australian Cup (525m), G1 Fanta Bale Super Stayers (725m), G3 Vic Bred Maiden Final (525m) and G3 Country Championship Final (525m).

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**Here's a rundown of the contenders:**

## **\$450,500 Group 1 TAB Australian Cup (525m)**

**The Meadows Saturday, 9.03pm**

**\$300,000 (1<sup>st</sup>); \$86,000 (2<sup>nd</sup>); \$43,000 (3<sup>rd</sup>); \$21,500 (4<sup>th</sup>)**

### **1 ORLANDO**

**Trainer:** Lee Moore (Bagshot VIC)

**Breeding:** June 2019 Fabregas x Dewana Dimie

**Record:** Won 11 from 24

**The Meadows PB:** 29.80sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$21

**Trainer Says:** "He's never run poorly at The Meadows and Box 1 is a bonus, as long as you jump. If he begins, he can hunt up and be somewhere near them."

### **2 DAPH'S ASCEND**

**Trainer:** Andrea Dailly (Anakie VIC)

**Breeding:** November 2018 Fernando Bale x Zippy Daph

**Record:** Won 15 from 68

**The Meadows PB:** 29.73sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$7.50

**Trainer Says:** "She's a nice type, but she'll have to be in the first couple early to have a chance."

### **3 ZIPPY TESLA**

**Trainer:** Andrea Dailly (Anakie VIC)

**Breeding:** August 2019 KC And All x Zippy Daph

**Record:** Won 8 from 28

**The Meadows PB:** 29.60sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$3.50

**Trainer Says:** "He's racing beautifully; he's in with a good chance. He's not a brilliant box dog but musters quickly."

#### **4 LALA KIWI**

**Trainer:** Andrea Dailly (Anakie VIC)

**Breeding:** May 2019 Aussie Infrared x Lala Shim

**Record:** Won 19 from 48

**The Meadows PB:** 29.61sec (Heat)

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$3.30

**Trainer Says:** "She's just a very good sprinter. Hopefully it will be her turn this time."

#### **5 IMMUNITY**

**Trainer:** Jason Thompson (Pearcedale VIC)

**Breeding:** December 2018 KC And All x Captivating

**Record:** Won 20 from 34

**The Meadows PB:** 29.74sec (Heat)

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$5

**Trainer Says:** "Her record shows she's a winner, she goes good at The Meadows, and she can run the time that's needed to win the race. From the draw, she's going to have to do everything right, but she's very capable of doing that."

#### **6 PADDY WANTS PATS**

**Trainer:** Kelly Bravo (Freshwater Creek VIC)

**Breeding:** August 2019 Black Magic Opal x Striker Light

**Record:** Won 12 from 31

**The Meadows PB:** 29.75sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$7.50

**Trainer Says:** "It depends on what happens early but if he finds the lead, he'll be hard to run down."

#### **7 GYPSY BUN**

**Trainer:** Andrea Dailly (Anakie VIC)

**Breeding:** August 2018 Fernando Bale x Dyna Gypsy

**Record:** Won 22 from 90

**The Meadows PB:** 29.83sec (Heat)

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$26

**Trainer Says:** "She's in career-best form. But she's up against it; she really needed to draw near the 'fence'."

#### **8 TITAN BLAZER**

**Trainer:** Daniel Gibbons (Avalon VIC)

**Breeding:** November 2019 Mepunga Blazer x Miss Tron

**Record:** Won 14 from 28

**The Meadows PB:** 29.80sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$14

**Trainer Says:** "It's one of the worst boxes he could've drawn. He needs to avoid any sort of contact getting around the first corner to have a chance."

#### **Reserves**

### **9 ASTON RUPEE**

**Trainer:** Glenn Rounds (Devon Meadows VIC)

**Breeding:** April 2019 KC And All x Aston Miley

**Record:** Won 22 from 40

**The Meadows PB:** 29.47sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$2.30

### **10 RICCARTON RICK**

**Trainer:** Robert Redenbach (Cranbourne VIC)

**Breeding:** November 2018 Walk Hard x Rosie Riccarton

**Record:** Won 14 from 54

**The Meadows PB:** 29.95sec

**TAB Fixed Odds:** \$15

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### **HEAT WINNERS (fastest to slowest)**

29.61sec Lala Kiwi

29.74sec Immunity

29.75sec Zippy Tesla

29.80sec Daph's Ascend

29.83sec Gypsy Bun

29.86sec Orlando

29.87sec Paddy Wants Pats

29.92sec Titan Blazer

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### **KEY TIMES**

6.37pm First race

7.19pm G3 GRV Vic Bred Maiden Final (Race 3)

7.38pm G3 Country Championship Final (Race 4)

7.59pm First Quaddie leg (Race 5)

8.18pm G1 TAB Fanta Bale Super Stayers Final (Race 6)

8.40pm TAB Australian Cup Consolation (Race 7)

9.03pm G1 TAB Australian Cup Final (Race 8)

10.22pm Last race (Race 12)

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## **GROUP 1 TAB Fanta Bale Super Stayers (725m)**

**The Meadows Saturday, 8.18pm**

**\$100,000 (1<sup>st</sup>); \$28,500 (2<sup>nd</sup>); \$14,250 (3<sup>rd</sup>); \$7,125 (4<sup>th</sup>)**

- 1 OVERFLOW LISA (Robert Camilleri, Lara VIC)
- 2 ORCA (Steve Nagy, Traralgon VIC)
- 3 FLYING LANTERN (Tim Britton, Lara VIC)
- 4 MEPUNGA RUBY (Jeff Britton, Anakie VIC)
- 5 FERNANDO'S QUEST (Michelle Mallia, Avalon, VIC)
- 6 MICKS RECALL (Jamie Hosking, Churchable QLD)
- 7 SIR TRUCULENT (Walter Harkins, Jervois SA)
- 8 BECK'S MONELLI (Robert Camilleri, Lara VIC)

### **Reserves**

- 9 HERE'S TEARS (Robert Britton, Lara VIC)
  - 10 DRAKO BALE (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
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## **RECENT AUSTRALIAN CUP WINNERS**

- 2011 St. Pierre (Debbie Cannan, Mangalore TAS)
- 2012 Zara Zulu (Rosalyn Hume, Wattle Flat VIC)
- 2013 Spud Regis (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 2014 Buckle Up Wes (Edward Medhurst, Mangalore TAS)
- 2015 Luca Neveelk (Gerald Kleeven, Denison VIC)
- 2016 Dyna Double One (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 2017 Fanta Bale (Robert Britton, Lara VIC)
- 2018 Hecton Bale (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 2019 Dyna Patty (Andrea Dailly, Anakie VIC)
- 2020 Fernando's Riot (Anthony Azzopardi, Rowsley VIC)
- 2021 Tommy Shelby (Steven Withers, Casuarina WA)

## **HOW TO FOLLOW THE ACTION**

- FREE four-page TAB Australian Cup lift-out in Friday's Herald Sun.
- Comprehensive live telecast trackside with Jason Lincoln and Jason Adams on **Sky Racing**, the **Watchdog app** and at **watchdog.grv.org.au** from 6:30pm.
- Behind the scenes Twitter coverage with '@MelbourneGreys' and '@WatchDogRacing'.
- Regular updates with Trent Langskaill on **RSN Racing and Sport (927 AM)**.
- Coverage of the TAB Australian Cup Final with Andrew Copley from 8:55pm on **3AW (693 AM)**.

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