

# ROSEHILL PREVIEW

## March 28, 2009

### ROSEHILL GUINEAS (2000M) GROUP 1

#### Race 7, 4.10pm (Syd time)

While the Rosehill Guineas remains the most important lead-up to the Group 1 AJC Australian Derby (2400m) at Randwick, it stands alone in importance on the Australian racing calendar as the premier Group 1 2000m race for three-year-olds.

Some of Australia's greatest horses – many of whom didn't handle the extra 400m of the Derby – have won the Rosehill Guineas, including Helenus (2003) Danewin (1995), Surfer's Paradise (1991), Wenona Girl (1960), Ajax (1937), Mollison (1928) and Amounis (1925).

It was the Rosehill Guineas that first launched the great Phar Lap into prominence before he repeated his winning performance in the Derby.

This year's edition of the Rosehill Guineas certainly lacks a superstar racehorse – it was unfortunate that Whobegotyou had a setback in the autumn that sent him Doncaster bound rather than towards the Derby – but it is a race of good quality which brings together some interesting form lines.

**(3) Metal Bender** will be trying to be the first horse to win the Randwick Guineas (1600m)-Rosehill Guineas double, since the Randwick Guineas replaced the 1800m Canterbury Guineas in 2006. It is significant that Allan Denham, speaking for his father Jack Denham who trains the gelding, said after the Randwick race that the win was a bonus because Metal Bender was "a mile and a half horse" that has been set for the Derby.

"If they can't beat him over 1600m, what chance have they got when the

race get to 2000m and 2400m," Denham said.

Metal Bender, the winner of four of his six starts, deserves his Rosehill Guineas favouritism. He's on his home track – where he was an impressive winner on January 31 (1500m) – and he has drawn ideally in barrier five to settle midfield with a good trail. It will take a very good 3YO to hold out Metal Bender's powerful finishing burst.

The danger is logically **(4) Caymans**, who battled strongly for third in the Randwick Guineas after ducking in under pressure. The gelding has a change of jockey from Corey Brown to Kerrin McEvoy, and he is drawn nicely in barrier seven. Trainer Peter Snowden believes the 2000m will suit the Group 2 Sandown Guineas (1600m) winner.

Some of the staying 3YOs, unsuited by the 1600m of the Randwick Guineas, should come to the fore over this trip. Expect improvements from Group 1 Victoria Derby winner **(2) Rebel Raider**, **(8) Tobique** (trained by Allan Denham), who stormed home late at Randwick, the Bart Cummings-trained **(10) Roman Emperor** and Cayman's stablemate **(5) Sousa**, who will improve if the track is rain-affected.

**(6) Pre Eminence** is a query runner. There is no doubting his talent – his Group 2 Alister Clark Stakes (1600m) win at Moonee Valley was tremendous – but he has over-raced in his two starts since. Expect him to be ridden quietly to allow him to settle.

The NZ Derby winner, the Bede Murray-trained **(1) Coniston Bluebird** hasn't raced since March 1, and may need this outing.

**The tips:** Metal Bender, Caymans, Tobique, Pre Eminence and Sousa.

### AND ALSO

Damien Oliver has had his big win already this week, getting the Group 1 Golden Slipper ride on Real Saga for April 4. Considering he won the Slipper two years ago on Forensics for Real Saga's trainer John Hawkes, it is no surprise that he got the nod when Darren Beadman (committed to More Joyous) didn't put up his hand. And it is no surprise that this Saturday at Rosehill, Oliver will ride Stryker in R2, the last of the Slipper leadups for C&Gs – Bob Ingham, who owned Forensics as part of an expensive and huge Woodlands Stud team, owns Stryker, part of an expensive and small team he has now with Chris Waller. It is a surprise that the ace rider is on a \$35 pop. Is it a bit of a chance, or is it a favour Ollie can call in from Ingham later? Watch betting, as they say in the form guides. In the girls' heat (R3), Oliver is on Shadow Miss, who at \$10 has eachway claims.

You probably know the 2YO races better as the Pago Pago (C&G) and the Magic Night, not their new, sponsored names. They have been just as good a guide to the Slipper as last week's lead-ups won by Real Saga and More Joyous – the C&Gs' races have each provided three winners, the fillies' races have each thrown up five.

That is getting ahead of ourselves. The best chance for an early collect with Ollie is 4YO Kettledrum in R5, the Listed Manion Cup (2400m). He was blocked for a run when second over 1900m at Rosehill last week, and he has three placings from his three 2400m runs. And he's trained by Bart.

**Stephen Howell**

### SPEED MAP

Predicted positions on settling

 Rebel Raider	 Metal Bender	 Tobique	 Caymans	 Pre Eminence	 Sousa	
	 Roman Emperor	 Rhyno Chaser	 Coniston Bluebird	 Rich Endowment	 Rock Kingdom	 The Zeebac