



**Media Release**  
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### **Top horses kick off their campaigns with start of spring racing**

This weekend's race meeting at Hastings signals the start of spring racing with several of New Zealand's top horses set to kick off their campaign for October's \$2 million Kelt Capital Stakes.

The quality of the field is highlighted by the fact that the majority of the runners have either won or been placed in Group 1 races in the past season.

This includes four Group 1 winners – The Pooka, Keepa Cruisin and last year's New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year Insouciant as well as last year's Kelt Capital Stakes winner Princess Coup.

Keepa Cruisin owner Dick Karreman will be looking to make it a treble after his outstanding mare Seachange won the last two runnings of the Mudway PartsWorld Stakes.

New Zealand Racing Board Racing Manager Michael Dore says it's going to be an exciting weekend of racing with plenty to delight punters.

'It's been a tough winter season with a number of abandoned meetings and some dismal track conditions over recent months due to record levels of rain.

'The Mudway PartsWorld Stakes this weekend is a fantastic start to spring racing as the race is worth \$250,000 and the Pick6 and Six Pack will also be worth \$250,000 each. That's some serious money up for grabs,' Mr Dore said.

Current favourite for the Mudway PartsWorld Stakes is Fritzzy Boy after his winning return to racing at Otaki on 16 August. Rising star Sterling Prince has also been listed as one of the favourites.

The rest of the race card at Hastings also features some top horses with three-year-old Altered Image, who is unbeaten after three starts, lining up in Race 4.

In Race 6, former New Zealand Cup winner Pentathon will face tough competition from Katy Keen, a star mare from last season who recorded an impressive seven wins in a row, and Magic Cape, who finished third in last year's Kelt Capital Stakes.

The Mudway PartsWorld Stakes is the first of the three meetings that make up the Hawke's Bay Spring Racing Carnival with the Stoney Bridge Stakes to take place on 20 September and the \$2 million Kelt Capital Stakes on 4 October.

Meanwhile, there is are also racing at Tauranga on Saturday where the return of New Zealand Oaks winner Boundless in Race 8, who is also seen as another Kelt Capital Stakes contender, will be a highlight.

This weekend's racing will be followed with a premier day of racing at Te Rapa, next Friday (5 September). The meeting was originally scheduled for Ellerslie but due to the recent bad weather has been transferred to Te Rapa in Hamilton.

The meeting will consist of the eight flat races originally scheduled to be run at Ellerslie on Saturday 6 September 2008.

Ellerslie will instead hold a jumping-only nine race meeting on Saturday, which will include the Sharp Great Northern Steeplechase and Great Northern Hurdle.

Ends

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