



Media Release
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Premier weekend of racing set to delight punters

New Zealand's top horses will be out on the race track this weekend as they continue their campaigns towards next month's \$2 million Kelt Capital Stakes.

The features race at Hastings – the \$250,000 Stoney Bridge Stakes (Race 8 at 4.02pm) – will see seven Group 1 winners – The Pooka, Fritzy Boy, Keepa Cruisin, Insouciant, Nom du Jeu, Magic Cape and Princess Coup all vying for the honours.

Fritzy Boy's owners will be hoping he can make it a double after an impressive win at the recent Mudgway PartsWorld Stakes. Fritzy Boy is currently favourite with the bookies at \$3.60 to win.

Nom du Jeu is second favourite to win the race with odds of \$4.80 after an impressive win at the recent Auckland Race Club meeting at Te Rapa. His trainers will be looking for a strong performance this weekend as he builds up to next month's Kelt Capital and the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups.

Last year's Kelt Capital winner Princess Coup was slow out of the gates at the Mudgway and will be looking to redeem herself with a strong performance in the Stoney Bridge Stakes. She is currently third favourite to win the race at \$6.

The rest of the race card at Hastings also features top horses with Katy Keen, a star mare who has won eight out of her last nine races, lining up in Race 9.

Group 1 winner Fully Fledged, one of the two-year-old stars of last season, will also be hard to beat in Race 2, after demolishing the field by seven lengths at the recent Te Rapa meeting.

Meanwhile, it will be a busy weekend for many of the country's top jockeys with Counties Racing Club hosting another premier day of thoroughbred racing at Pukekohe Park on Sunday. Jockeys including Noel Harris, Gavin McKeon, Michael Coleman and Sam Spratt have all secured rides at both the Hastings and Pukekohe meetings.

The feature race at Pukekohe - the Jim and John Evans Ltd Classic (Race 8 at 3.45pm) - will feature New Zealand Oaks winner Boundless, who won fresh up at Tauranga a few weeks ago. It also features three other Group 1 winners – Prize Lady, Gaze and Avondale Cup winner Spin Around.

Elsewhere, Harness racing also has a premier race meeting at Oamaru on Sunday with the feature race – the PGG Wrightson Hannon Memorial – set to start at 4pm. Report for Duty, fresh back from an Australian campaign, is the clear favourite with the bookies, paying \$3 for the win. Ohoka Rebel is also in superb form and is currently paying \$4.50 to win the race.

New Zealand Racing Board Racing Manager Michael Dore says it's going to be an absolutely brilliant weekend of racing.

'The weather forecast for all three meetings is for fine weather and the Hastings track is firm and in perfect condition so it will make for some great racing,' he says.

The Stoney Bridge Stakes is the second of three meetings that make up the Hawke's Bay Spring Racing Carnival with the final event – the \$2 million Kelt Capital Stakes – to take place on Saturday 4 October.

For the latest odds visit the website www.tab.co.nz

Ends