

XXXX GOLD GRAFTON CUP CARNIVAL MEDIA BULLETIN

Monday June 27



Here De Angels; Black Piranha; Gold In Dubai; Andrew Bloomfield; Patinack Farm

RAMORNIE TARGET FOR HERE DE ANGELS

A Canberra barrier trial win has put former Melbourne barrier rogue Here De Angels on the path to a comeback in the \$130,000 Ramornie Handicap at Grafton on July 13.

Here De Angels, who had been prepared through his career by top Victorian trainers Lee Freedman and Mark Kavanagh, is now in training at Goulburn in NSW with Wendy Roche.

Roche was handed [n]Here De Angels[/n] after leading southern highlands veterinarian John Crowley purchased the problem sprinter last October for \$82,000 at the Inglis Australian Racehorse Sale in Melbourne.

The Dehere gelding was offered for sale to dissolve his former ownership.

The rising eight-year-old has not raced since last September when he failed in two starts in Melbourne, marred by his worrying barrier behaviour as he has a history of rearing badly when the gates open.

However when he was on song Here De Angels proved to be one of Melbourne's best sprinters, being a five-time Group 3 winner of the Rubiton Stakes twice, DC McKay Stakes twice and McEwen Stakes and G1 placed in the 2010 Oakleigh Plate when a close second to Starspangledbanner.

In all he has won 11 races and \$736,000 prizemoney but came to Roche under a barrier ban that has required him to pass the approval of stewards in barrier trials before he can resume racing.

He had his first trial for Roche at Goulburn on June 10, winning an 800m heat by four lengths and repeated that performance at Canberra on June 24 when he won another trial over 900m by 5.5 lengths.

Jeff Penza has ridden Here De Angels in both trials and has accepted the Ramornie ride on the sprinter now that has received a clearance from stewards to resume racing.

It would be a training triumph for Roche to win the WHK Ramornie (1200m) with Here De Angels but she can take confidence from his superb fresh record as he has won five times first-up from spells during his career.

RODD BOOKED FOR BLACK PIRANHA

Dual Group One winner Black Piranha will be facing a weight-carrying challenge in the \$130,000 WHK Ramornie Handicap at Grafton on July 13 now that he has been confirmed as a certain starter.

Melbourne star Michael Rodd has taken up the offer to ride the dual Stradbroke Handicap winner in the Ramornie after Black Piranha arrived in Grafton on June 22 to prepare for the premier country sprint.

"He's arrived safely. It's all systems go," Karakatsanis said.

"He'll have three weeks to enjoy Grafton again before the Ramornie.

"He's back where it all started for him as he won his maiden at the Grafton carnival in 2006."

The Ramornie is run under quality conditions with Black Piranha expected to carry the maximum topweight of 61kg.

The weight record for the Ramornie was set in 1923 when the winner Lord Thomas carried 9.10 (61.5kg).

More recently Scottish Crag won under 9.8 (61kg) in 1965 and dual winner The Jackal carried 58kg in his second Ramornie success in 2007.

SENTIMENTAL RETURN FOR THE RILEYS

There will be some sentimental reunions if Victorian stayer Gold In Dubai lines up in the \$150,000 Wykes Tyrepower Grafton Cup on July 14.

Gold In Dubai is trained by Mark Riley for a syndicate headed by his father Martin Riley, the former trainer of brilliant sprint star Mistress Anne.

The Rileys were based in Grafton when Mistress Anne became one of Australia's best sprinters in the late 1970s when her victories included the G1 Oakleigh Plate and G1 AJC Galaxy.

"I was born in Melbourne but I grew up in Grafton so it would be a great thrill for us to have a runner in the Grafton Cup," said Mark Riley, who turned to training after a successful riding career that included wins in the Oakleigh Plate and Galaxy on Mistress Anne.

Gold In Dubai is the last start winner of the Ipswich Cup on June 18 and will be heading to Grafton if he maintains his form in the Caloundra Cup at the Sunshine Coast on July 2.

Gold In Dubai, a winner of five races from 34 starts and placed in another 12 for more than \$500,000 prize money, has had 16 starts in the last 11 months with his longest break between runs being five weeks.

"He's done a great job. He never runs a bad race," Riley said.

"While he's racing so well and doing well I'll just keep racing him."

BLOOMFIELD BACK AFTER EIGHT YEARS

Wagga's leading jockey Andrew Bloomfield is hoping for a successful return to the Grafton Cup carnival for the first time in eight years next month.

Bloomfield has not ridden at the Grafton Cup carnival since he won the historic James Kirby Handicap on Grafton Cup day in 2003 on Wagga-trained sprinter Lock The Key.

Bloomfield, set to win this season's southern districts premiership, will be riding for Lock The Key's trainer Gary Colvin at this year's carnival.

Colvin, a regular visitor to Grafton in July, has a strong team set for this year's carnival led by the talented pair High Expectations and Snipperette.

Snipperette is the winner of four of her 10 starts and High Expectations has won two of his past three starts.

Former AFL star Wayne Carroll is another Wagga trainer set to head to Grafton with his recent winners Belfries and Lycra Lass. Bloomfield served his early apprenticeship with John 'Digger' Carroll, the father of the former Sydney Swans star turned trainer.

Bloomfield can be booked for rides at Grafton through his manager Graeme White on 0418 266 619.

PATINACK FARM SPONSORSHIP

Patinack Farm has taken up the sponsorship of the gala barrier draw luncheon that kick starts Grafton Cup week on Monday July 11.

The luncheon features the barrier draws for the Ramornie Handicap and Grafton Cup and interviews with a range of guest racing personalities.

Patinack's support points to the giant stable having its first Grafton carnival starters in 2011.

Patinack's head trainer John Thompson is the son of Vic Thompson, who trained the 1992 Grafton Cup winner Crosswords, a subsequent Sydney Cup winner.

Thompson said Metallurgical could contest the \$130,000 WHK Ramornie Handicap on July 13 after his excellent second to Pinwheel in the Group 3 Healy Stakes at Eagle Farm on June 25.

Bookings are essential for the Patinack Farm Luncheon through the Clarence River Jockey Club.

CONTACT:	BRADLEY DE MARTINO ROSAROLL	CRJC	02 6642 2566
	CHRIS SCHOLTZ	TRONTA MEDIA	02 9344 9330