

OCTOBER 2016

SENDING RAINBOWS

THE WINDERMERE FARM MONTHLY UPDATE

MELBOURNE CUP 2016!

Dear valued clients and friends,

By the time you read this letter, another Melbourne Cup will have been run and won.

Our MC day will be spent, as usual, with friends celebrating this zenith horse racing euphoria. Every MC day brings back a memory of me at 9, saying to Dad, 'I'm not going back to the MC until I own one of those horses.' I hope I'm not repeating that line for the next twenty years, now let me see, that will make me 85. How old was Bart at his final win?



What a finish to the great race as Almandin and Heartbreak City singled out for a two-horse war in the final 200 metres



Getting ready for the MC at Windermere Farm



1866 Melbourne Cup

Earliest Melbourne Cup trophy

The 1866 Melbourne Cup won by The Barb is the earliest known Melbourne Cup in its original state.

First run in 1861, the Melbourne Cup was a cup in name only, with prizes including a gold watch and cash purse. The first official trophy cup was awarded in 1865. The 1865 trophy was sold by its owner, who reportedly found it unattractive. It was rebranded and presented as the Flemington Hunt Club Cup.

The 1866 trophy is therefore the oldest Melbourne Cup in original condition. The National Museum of Australia acquired the 1866 cup in 2012.

The Barb, regarded as the first great Australian racehorse was trained by 'Honest' John Tait, the 'Father of the Australian Turf'.



History of the Melbourne Cup

When the Melbourne Cup was first run in 1861, there were two organising committees controlling horse racing in Victoria, the Victorian Turf Club (1852) and the Victorian Jockeys Club (1857).

The Melbourne Cup was introduced in 1861 by the Victorian Turf Club to trump the success of Victorian Jockey Club races such as the Two Thousand Guineas.

As a handicap race, the Melbourne Cup introduced a level of speculation that the club hoped would attract more entries, and therefore higher prize money. The two competing organisations disbanded in 1864, before merging to form the Victorian Racing Club, which has controlled racing in Victoria and the Melbourne Cup ever since.

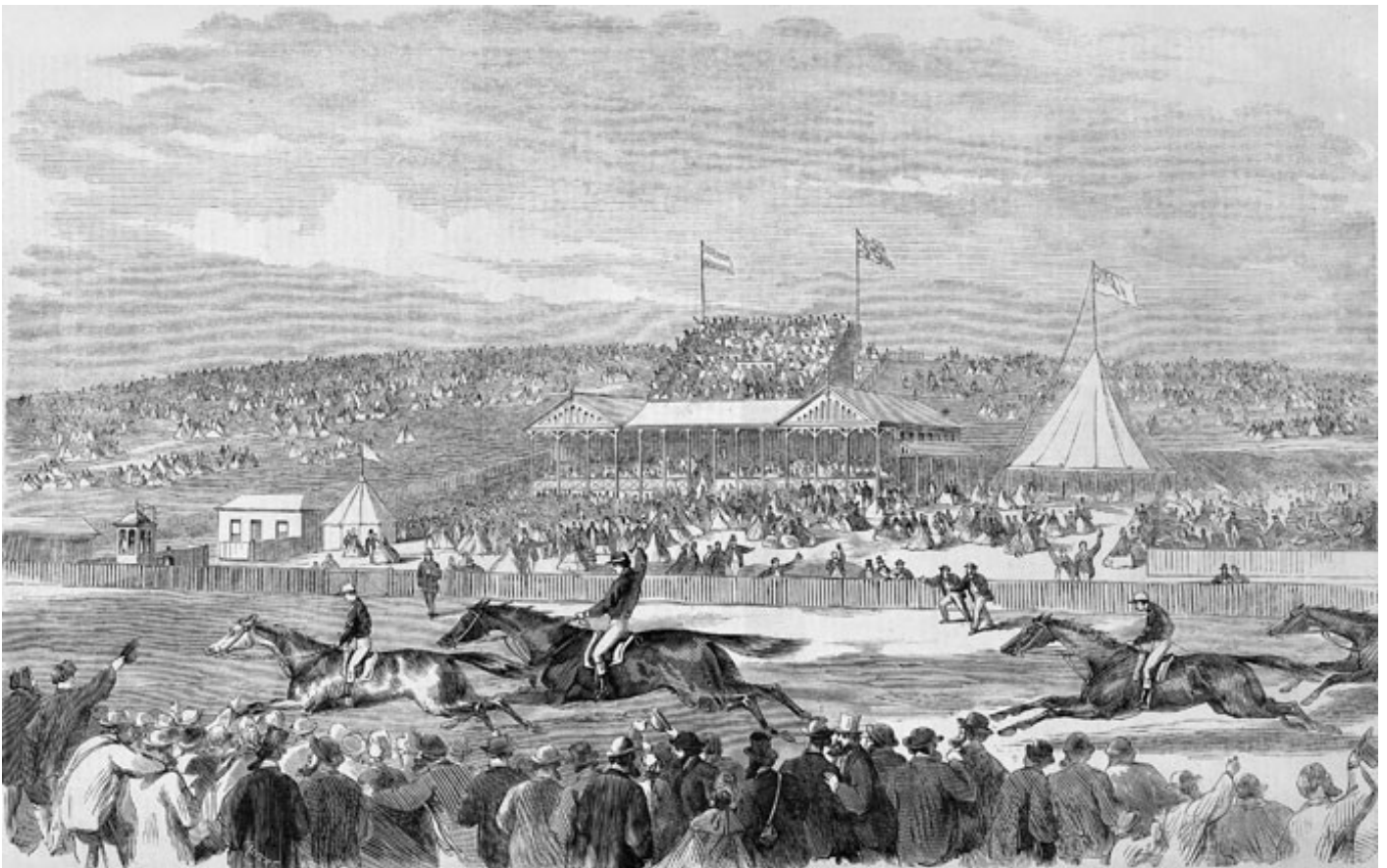
Although the Melbourne Cup today is well-known in Australia for being run on the first Tuesday in November, this hasn't always been the case. The 1866 Melbourne Cup race was run on a Thursday, and in 1867 the Cup was run in October. It wasn't until 1875 that the race was run on the first Tuesday of November.

Although the three-handled loving cup is widely recognised as the traditional cup design, this has only been the case since 1919. Before then the cups came in a variety of styles, with each year having a completely original design. Some years no trophy was presented at all. In fact, for the first few decades of the race, it was more common for no trophy to be awarded.

Prize money and 'a monstrosity'

The winner of the 1861 Melbourne Cup was awarded a gold watch, and for the next two years a cash purse was the major prize. A trophy was first awarded in 1865.

The owner of the winning horse Tory Boy, Mr Marshall, is claimed to have described the English-made trophy as a monstrosity. He immediately sold it to the Flemington Hunt Club, which rebranded it as the trophy for its annual cup. This trophy therefore is now inscribed as the Flemington Hunt Club Cup awarded to the 1873 winner, Babblar. This trophy was sold in the 1970s by Christies and is now owned by wine merchant Wolf Blass.



***The spring meeting of the Victoria Racing Club
The Cup Day, 1865, print from wood engraving by Samuel Calvert. State Library of Victoria.***

The 1866 Melbourne Cup trophy

The 1866 Melbourne Cup is therefore the earliest known Melbourne Cup that remains in its original state. It was made in London in 1865 by Daniel and Charles Houle and imported to Australia by Walsh Brothers Jewellers, who ordered it on behalf of the Victorian Racing Club.

Silver-gilt chased with gold leaf, the cup is 75.5 centimetres high and reflects the Renaissance revival style seen in England around the middle of the 19th century. The protruding horse's heads closely resemble those featured on the 1867 Queen's Plate, made by Melbourne silversmith William Edwards, and give weight to the argument that the 1867 Queen's Plate was made with the intent of it being presented as a Melbourne Cup.

'Honest' John Tait

John Tait was born in Scotland in 1813 and emigrated to Australia in 1837. He was successful in business as a jeweller in Hobart and later as a hotel owner in Sydney and Bathurst. Legend has it he used his fists to control unruly patrons.



Tait is recognised as one of the first individuals to enter horseracing as a serious business venture. By all accounts he was very successful, not only as an owner and trainer, but also as a punter.

The moniker 'Honest' John appears to reflect the high regard with which he was held by the community, but it may also contain a hint of irony in that Tait's gambling success may have been linked to his involvement as an owner and trainer. In 1868, for example, Tait won the Melbourne Cup with his second-string horse, Glencoe, whom he had backed heavily at good odds before scratching his more fancied champion, The Barb, who was the clear pre-race favourite.

Regardless, Tait is recognised as one of the greats of Australian racing and was even referred to by some as the 'Father of the Australian Turf'.

Tait was inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame in 2006 and his impressive winning record includes four Melbourne Cups, four Victorian Derbies, two Queensland Derbies, four Australian Jockey Club Derbies, two Epsom Handicaps, two Sydney Cups and three Victorian Racing Club Champion Stakes.

The 'Black Demon'

The 1866 Melbourne Cup was won by The Barb, a magnificently proportioned black entire, known as the 'Black Demon' for his fiery temperament, a reputation forged when he threw off his rider before the start of his first race. The Barb was bred at Bathurst by George Lee, son of one of the earliest free settlers of the region, William Lee.

Some reports suggest the horse was stolen by bushrangers while still a foal at foot, but was released when he became lame, and was later returned to his owners. It has even been speculated that ill treatment from his captors at this time may have contributed to the horse's fiery temperament. George Lee sold The Barb as a yearling to John Tait.

The Barb had an exceptional record of 16 wins from 23 races, including, as well as the 1866 Melbourne Cup, two Sydney Cups, the Australian Jockey Club Derby and the Metropolitan Stakes. He was Australia's first great champion racehorse, dominating the period of Australian racing that saw it transformed from a mainly amateur to a mostly professional pursuit. The Barb remains the earliest of all the horses inducted into the Australian Racing Hall of Fame.



'The Barb', 1886, pencil and pastel drawing from the sketchbooks of Richard Wingfield

This past month, our little champs all shook the money box with promises of opening it soon. The old saying is, if everything goes their way they win, unless of course you own Winks. Wink, wink!

We found our usually on the ball Jockeys this month, in the middle of the doldrums, or not quite returned from another planet. They all either gave lame excuses for bad rides, or in one case owned up. Not even a slight breeze from Lady luck blessed us. So, I won't go into scathing reports, I shall just give results.

The 9th of October, Hawkesbury, we heard the one and only confession from STRADAZZLES jockey. 'Sorry Wade that was a bad ride, sorry mate.' Sorry doesn't make it when we have to pay the feed man.

THE BLUE SWAN was given a checked passage all the way down the straight, same place, same date. She finished mid field - running on.

LEGISTATION kept up the bad luck (bad ride syndrome) he ran 5th.

Then it was back to Hawkesbury 20 / 10, where after a setback, ROVING EYE, placed 5th over 1500, far too short, but a good try.

THE BLUE SWAN joined Rove and once again was not disgraced, though still trying to break her maiden.

TOO CHIC was also present that day and was annihilated by her young apprentice, over 1800.

She should have won!! Off to Gosford, up in distance, 2100, 27/10, she looked the winner coming to the home turn, but lost her place - a perfect fourth on the fence - to the last horse running, then wove her way doggedly through the field to run 4th.

24/10 we travelled SACRED JOURNEY - JEWEL OF HONOUR - VENCEDORA, AND STARDAZZLE to the Hawkesbury trials, where we were happy to report, they all performed with vigour and tenacity and are now being prepared for a suitable race in the near days to come.

Newcastle is not our favourite track to race, it's too far away and we don't seem to get the luck we deserve. And so it was the same on the 29th, when LEGISTATE was ridden poorly and STRADAZZLE gave a lack lustre effort.

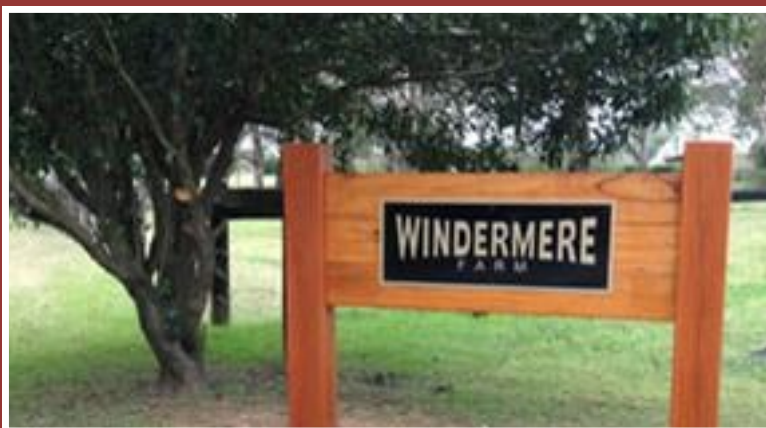
I'm pleased this month is over and we can look forward to the horses who trialled 24/10 racing, plus, many more youngsters who are coming along stupendously!!

INCL, OUR ANNIVERSAIRE, she should be trialling before November end.

Sending rainbows
Dor & Wade



WINDERMERE FARM.. a small piece of heaven



CONTACT US

Here at Windermere Farm we love your feedback. If you have any questions about your horse's training or the newsletter, don't hesitate to get in contact.

Doreen and Wade Slinkard
Windermere Farm
PO Box 7033 Wilberforce NSW 2754 Australia
Phone: (02) 4575 1487
Mobile: 0419 976 078
Email: doreenslinkard@bigpond.com
Website: www.doreenslinkardauthor.com.au



Doreen Slinkard

AUTHOR



I've recently accepted a publishing offer from the UK, for my adult novel, 'For The Love of Patrick', as it needs to be in paper form ASAP.

Well, that's my spin on it and my agent agrees.

On shelves, hopefully early 2017.

FINALLY, I'm physically holding my Bi – lingual, Chinese book; 'Wicky Wacky Farm stories.' And waiting for 100 more copies to arrive – on a slow boat from China no doubt!

Never mind, patience is a virtue, they say. What a hoot, fancy being published in China, I just love it.

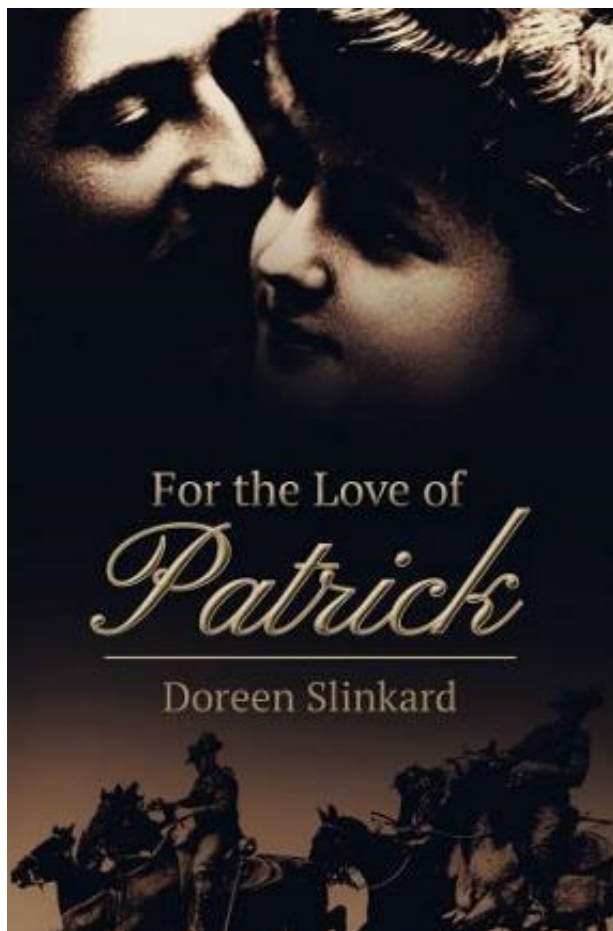
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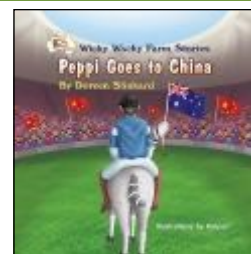
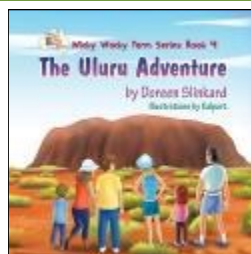
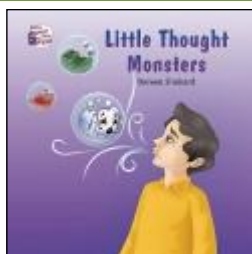
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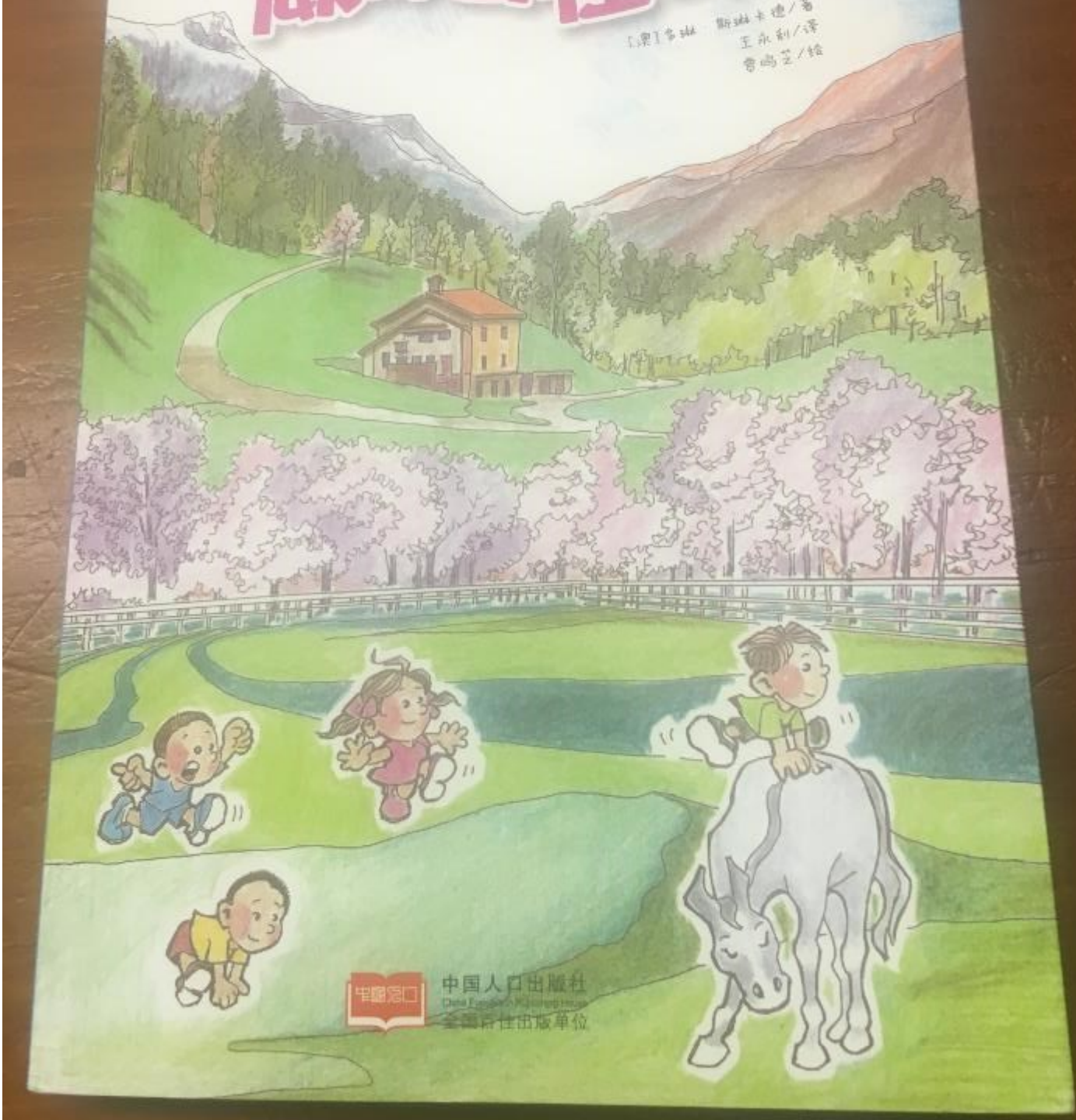


北京市绿色印刷工程——优秀青少年（婴幼儿）读物绿色印刷示范项目

Wicky Wacky Farm

威奇古怪农场

【澳】卡琳·斯琳卡德/著
王永利/译
曹尚芝/绘



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China Population Publishing House
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Wicky Wacky Farm Stories
Front Cover

子。“喵喵——”，麦克斯不停地叫着，直到多尼发现麦克斯不对劲了。多尼说：“麦克斯从没这么古怪过，璐璐，一定是出事了！”这时，麦克斯开始向河岸边跑去。

多尼和璐璐紧随麦克斯跑向河边。他们大吃一惊，看见公猫咪史密根躺在独木舟上随着汹涌河水在漂向远处。被吓坏了的璐璐说：“我们能做点儿什么？”

多尼说：“我知道。我们登上爸爸的船，你划船，我来抛绳套索，套住独木舟。”猫咪麦克斯不想错过这一切，它也跳上了船。不久，他们就赶上了独木舟。让

