

Cameron McKinnon – Moneyball**RAILWAY STKS – KISSONALLFORCHEEKS – Race 8 No.10 (Ascot)**

Outstanding mare, only blip in radar this prep was against the pattern when leading. Gate one could be tricky but with any luck, she is the one I want to be on.

THE GONG – ARAMAYO – Race 8 No.3 (Kembla)

James McDonald goes on here after disappointing slightly in the Group 1 Cantala Stakes last start. Form prior was outstanding and expect him to bounce back and be in the money here.

BALLARAT CUP – SKYMAN – Race 8 No.15 (Ballarat)

Progressive stayer that should be primed fitness wise now fifth-up, gets in well at the weights here and should enjoy the expected cushion in the surface.

BEST – DUCHESS OF DORSET – Race 4 No.6 (Ballarat)

Gone from our lay of the day last start to our best of the day this week. She was outstanding in defeat last start and can make her own luck here it what looks an easier race.

VALUE – KYLEASE – Race 7 No.6 (Kembla)

Kylease is a fast Queensland mare with a great strike rate. Perfect jockey booking of Tim Clark and think she is enormous value at current quote on offer.

**Glenn Munsie – TAB.com.au****RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)**

Looking for his sixth straight win. Has taken all before him including the WA Derby last time in. Toyed with them first-up and only has 53kg here on an upward spiral.

THE GONG – ARAMAYO – Race 8 No.3 (Kembla)

His Sydney form is vastly superior to his Melbourne runs with placings in the Epsom Handicap and Tramway Stakes, notably behind Zaaki. Just another bonus is he now gets the services of James McDonald.

BALLARAT CUP – SKYMAN – Race 8 No.15 (Ballarat)

Held by Thought Of That two runs back at The Valley then came back in distance last start when solid at Flemington. Back to 2000m here where his stats are strong and gets a 1.5kg swing on the favourite.

BEST – SHOOTING FOR GOLD – Race 7 No.4 (Sunshine Coast)

Takes on a hot race first-up but so do many of his rivals. Won all three last time in from a benchmark 80 to open handicap grade. Trialled well recently so looks ready to go.

VALUE – LAUGHING OR CRYING – Race 2 No.11 (Kembla)

Been with him a few times lately at big odds and has run well at all of them. Just needs to go forward and find the fence as he is at his best on the rail. Good value.

**Tim Hickman – Sportsbet****RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)**

Hard to look past the favourite here. The best horse in the race that's on the limit and perfectly drawn. From a stable that makes a habit of winning this race and can grab another one here.

THE GONG – ARAMAYO – Race 8 No.3 (Kembla)

The ex-Singapore six-year-old has been racing in terrific form and gets a good drop in class here. The Chris Waller and James McDonald combination are certainly a positive in present form.

BALLARAT CUP – FOXY FRIDA – Race 8 No.16 (Ballarat)

Dominant winner last time at Flemington and gives every impression she will run out 2000m. Draw is a slight concern but she will get back anyway.

BEST – MARABI – Race 6 No.8 (Ballarat)

Was good at Flemington over the carnival when heavily supported. Unbeaten in three starts and looks a star in the making. She should lead and win.

VALUE – SEAWHATYOUTHINK – Race 7 No.14 (Ballarat)

Should have won the Ararat Cup by as far as you can throw your shoe and would be a much shorter price if he had. This is a big step up in class but happy to take him each-way.

Tom Hackett – Ladbrokes**RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)**

Ticks every box in the Railway Stakes. Has recorded five wins on the trot and his last start effort at the Asian Beau Stakes was nothing short of outstanding. Barrier three is ideal and he will have every chance.

THE GONG – RELOADED – Race 8 No.9 (Kembla)

Was never able to get into the race in the Epsom Handicap and before that he was good thing beaten in the Shannon Stakes. The Snitzel gelding is a much better horse than his record suggests.

BALLARAT CUP – THOUGHT OF THAT – Race 8 No.11 (Ballarat)

Has recorded three wins on the trot and he can continue his winning ways in the Ballarat Cup. He has won his past three starts by a combined margin of over 10 lengths.

BEST – LIGHTHOUSE – Race 1 No.4 (Ballarat)

After an impressive career in the United States, she made her Australian racing debut with a dominant four length win at Kyneton and the scary thing for her rivals is she still has the scope to improve.

VALUE – BUZZOOM – Race 7 No.10 (Ascot)

Had her winning streak ended in the WA Champion Fillies Stakes, but she did have excuses and her win before that was excellent. The Safeguard filly will get a long way back but will be storming home late.

**Paul Sebastiani – Bet Deluxe****RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)**

Hard to go past the favourite here after his dominant win first-up. Looks a star in the making and can deliver Bob Peters and Willie Pike with another Railway Stakes win.

THE GONG – COUNT DE RUPEE – Race 8 No.4 (Kembla)

Narrowly edged out in the Golden Eagle behind a potential superstar in I'm Thunderstruck. This is his home track and he can deliver Rob and Luke Price a big race win.

BALLARAT CUP – THOUGHT OF THAT – Race 8 No.11 (Ballarat)

Looks the one to beat in this year's edition of the Ballarat Cup. Put a big space on them last time out at The Valley and a similar effort has him winning this.

BEST – ALCYONE – Race 7 No.5 (Ballarat)

Went well behind Group 1 performed Mr Brightside earlier this preparation and scored a win last start at Flemington. This looks no harder so expect Alcyone to be in the finish.

VALUE – SPACEBOY – Race 7 No.11 (Kembla)

Did it tough on speed last time out but was the only runner sticking on when the swoopers came. A similar effort will see Spaceboy run a solid race at an each-way price.

**James Early – Pointsbet****RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)**

Comes here second-up after dominating last start should be fitter for the run. Drops in weight and draws well. Bob Peters has won plenty editions of this race and Western Empire will be hard to beat.

THE GONG – COUNT DE RUPEE – Race 8 No.4 (Kembla)

Looked the winner before being run down late by a potential superstar in the Golden Eagle. With average luck from the wide draw he looks hard to beat on his home track.

BALLARAT CUP – THOUGHT OF THAT – Race 8 No.11 (Ballarat)

Comes here off a freshen up and is shooting for four wins on the trot after winning well at The Valley last start. Draws perfectly in barrier seven and looks the one to beat.

BEST – MISS HIPSTAR – Race 6 No.1 (Sunshine Coast)

Resumes here and has trialled well for the return. Has an outstanding record when fresh and draws to receive every chance. Miss Hipstar looks a good bet.

VALUE – TOTALLY CHARMED – Race 7 No.7 (Sunshine Coast)

Resumes and has an outstanding fresh record, only missing the placings once from six attempts. Has an equally impressive record at this track and trip, winning four from five.



Chris Gregory - Playup

RAILWAY STKS – MASSIMO – Race 8 No.2 (Ascot)

Warhorse that will look to take up a forward role. Winner of the Group 2 Lee Steere Stakes last start, holding off all challenges. Fitter now and set for this race. Should take some running down.

THE GONG – NUDGE – Race 8 No.6 (Kembla)

Ran on well when beaten less than two lengths in the Hot Danish Stakes last start. Now drawn for a perfect run behind the speed and reaches her ideal trip at a mile.

BALLARAT CUP – ONLY WORDS – Race 8 No.13 (Ballarat)

Chris Waller-trained mare which impressed winning at The Valley last start. Drawn for a similar run here from an ideal gate to remain unbeaten at the trip.

BEST – LIGHTHOUSE – Race 1 No.4 (Ballarat)

Toyed with an above average field last start, winning by four lengths at Kyneton in his first Australian start. Proven under any conditions and should look to relish the step up in distance.

VALUE – LADY PLUCK – Race 4 No.2 (Ballarat)

Not beaten far after finding trouble in a decent race at The Valley. Back in class here with a cosy sit on a solid pace. Enjoys a 3kg allowance and should be storming home late.



Matt Shean – BlueBet

RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)

Looks his race to lose. Put a space on them on resumption in the Asian Beau Stakes and ran time. Suited at the mile and Willie Pike can put him where he likes from the draw.

THE GONG – ATISHU – Race 8 No.11 (Kembla)

Comes out of the proper form races and was luckless last start in the Golden Eagle from an awkward alley. Drawn well here for an economical run and will appreciate any expected juice in the track.

BALLARAT CUP – THOUGHT OF THAT – Race 8 No.11 (Ballarat)

If it's dry Thought Of That looks hard to toss. He's flying at present and gets all map favours here for the gun front running rider in Linda Meech. Hard to beat.

BEST – DRAGONSTONE – Race 3 No.8 (Kembla)

Resumes off a solid first preparation when mixing it with good horses. Kept fresh for the 1000m with the one trial where he went like a jet. Looks hard to hold out with the light weight.

VALUE – BRUTALITY – Race 9 No.3 (Kembla)

Hoping he lines up here as is over the odds. Has won on the seven-day back up before and was good last week at Newcastle when getting back off a slow tempo.



Clint Wallis – Neds

RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)

Took out the WA Derby at the end of his three-year-old campaign. Resumed three weeks ago in the Asian Beau Stakes and bolted in there. Will no doubt be fitter for that effort and has drawn ideally.

THE GONG – ATISHU – Race 8 No.11 (Kembla)

Impressive when winning the Bill Ritchie Handicap three starts ago and wasn't far off the placegetters in the Epsom Handicap. Didn't have much go right in the Golden Eagle where she blew the start.

BALLARAT CUP – ONLY WORDS – Race 8 No.13 (Ballarat)

Was unlucky in the Stocks Stakes three starts back and should have won there. Followed that with a good run at Caulfield before chalking up a deserved win last time out at The Valley.

BEST – ALCYONE – Race 7 No.5 (Ballarat)

Was a good run three starts back behind Mr Brightside, then stepped up to 2000m at Caulfield and didn't have a whole lot of luck. Was given a perfect ride last start at Flemington and won well.

VALUE – TATUNKA – Race 9 No.10 (Ballarat)

Has been nearly 18 months since he last won a race, but he has a good record at 1600m, only missing the placings once from five attempts. Drops back to something more suitable.



James Thomas – Palmerbet

RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)

No surprises with the Bob Peters-owned Western Empire on top. Six straight wins and Willie Pike sticks with him. Will get a lovely run from barrier three and prove hard to beat.

THE GONG – COUNT DE RUPEE – Race 8 No.4 (Kembla)

Thought he was home in the Golden Eagle only to get run down on the line by I'm Thunderstruck. Drawn the carpark but Brock Ryan knows him well and they can push forward from the wide gate.

BALLARAT CUP – ZAYYDANI – Race 8 No.6 (Ballarat)

Loved her last start effort to win the Matriarch Stakes and I think she can go on with it here. Zayydani should be winning if she's within range on the turn.

BEST – MARABI – Race 6 No.8 (Ballarat)

They have taken their time with this mare and it has paid dividends with her winning three in a row in exciting fashion. This looks a suitable race to kick off in and she should be winning.

VALUE – SPACEBOY – Race 7 No.11 (Kembla)

Kathy O'Hara has ridden him in all four victories and she gets back aboard today. Will push forward from the wide gate and be in the race for a long way.



Matthew Steed – Bet365

RAILWAY STKS – WESTERN EMPIRE – Race 8 No.16 (Ascot)

Local gelding taking all before him at the moment. Impressive first-up and should only be improved by the extra distance. No spoil at the price but if he gets any luck should be hard to beat.

THE GONG – ARAMAYO – Race 8 No.3 (Kembla)

Had been in sparkling form in Sydney, just touched off in the Epsom Handicap. The premier hoop James McDonald now jumps aboard and with a quiet ride from the gate expect him to be steaming home.

BALLARAT CUP – ZAYYDANI – Race 8 No.6 (Ballarat)

Looks to be going better than ever this time in judging by her win in the Matriarch Stakes over the carnival. Effective once she gets to this distance range and the soft draw gives her options.

BEST – SELBUROSE – Race 5 No.3 (Kembla)

Just edged out at her first run for eight weeks. Should derive benefit from that and now gets the services of James McDonald. Should be in the firing line throughout and take plenty of catching.

VALUE – THE GURU – Race 1 No.10 (Kembla)

Local gelding that loves his home track having won here twice. Strong win last start in town and albeit this is a tougher assignment he should run well at the juicy odds on offer.

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