

## Anthony Cosgriff Racing

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### STABLE NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2009 (INCLUDES 1<sup>ST</sup> JAN)

#### NEWS AND RESULTS: New Year's Winner!

With Gorge's current campaign a prequel to his UK venture, we have naturally suffered from having to race him at the wrong time of year on firm tracks. However, some patient placement and a welcome overnight storm saw Gorge stepping out on a dead 5 surface over 2400m at Hanging Rock's traditional New Year's Day bash, and the son of Thunder Gulch showed his appreciation by storming home to a narrow win under a beautiful ride from Eddie Cassar. While this race was not over-strong, it was terrific to see Gorge stretch out under a big weight to record his 4<sup>th</sup> victory for us.



*Gorge and Onajet return to scale at Hanging Rock (Borg)*

After the race Gorge and 5<sup>th</sup> placed stable-mate Onajet celebrated by working an extra lap of the course after which they proved hard work for their riders to pull up! It was a big thrill for all involved to start the year with a win, especially in front of such a huge and enthusiastic crowd and in a race named for country Victoria's legendary race-caller, 80 year-old Jack Styring. Jack was doing the calling honours on the day, and what a pleasure it was to hear that Gorge was "coming home at a hundred miles an hour!"

### LEADING JOCKEYS:

| LEADING JOCKEYS 2008-2009 | Firsts | Seconds | Thirds | Fourths |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| Craig Durden              | 1      |         |        | 2       |
| Eddie Cassar              | 1      |         |        |         |
| Reece Wheeler             |        |         | 1      | 1       |
| Craig Robertson           |        |         | 1      |         |
|                           |        |         |        |         |

Eddie Cassar has ridden many good races for the stable and it was great to see him score his first victory for us at Hanging Rock. Eddie spends most mornings working superstar horses for leading owner Lloyd Williams, but this does not stop him giving a fully professional display on any horse he rides at any venue.

### HORSES IN TRAINING

LEICA VINO 5yog Nothin' Leica Dane – Sweet Madeleine: Slightly disappointing this month, although he seems to have some writing behind his ears instructing his riders that they must go to the front for no apparent reason! Likely to be suited by more patient tactics and some give in the ground, so will be raced selectively for now.



*Leica Vino (Westvic)*

BLARNEY (NZ) 5yog O'Reilly (NZ) – Tall Story (NZ): Took much of this month to recuperate from last month's freak accident, but showed his well-being with victory in a morning jump-out, so appears back on track.

SEA TOWN 4yog Ladoni (GB) – My Kind of Town (NZ): Remains very well and at this stage looks likely to debut for us in February.

ONAJET 7yog Superjet (USA) – Our Ampulla: Put in his best flat-racing effort for some time at Hanging Rock but as that was the wettest track he is likely to see for a while expectations remain low until the jumps season starts. As an outside travel partner for Gorge is now unlikely to materialise, Onajet may actually get a guernsey to the UK as Gorge's travelling and work companion.

MIZEN HEAD 3yof Secret Savings (USA) – Hultarani (USA): Made her debut over the Christmas period but raced greenly and was not at home on the hard tracks. Will have a freshen-up now before getting a chance to put that experience to good use.

STORMING NORTH 3yog Giants Causeway (USA) – Reem Albaraari (GB): Continues to progress and should have his first jump-out in January. Likely to need some ground to show his best, being a half brother to top European stayer Morshdi.

GORGE 7yog Thunder Gulch (USA) – Heed Zamelina: A flat race win when on a jumps campaign is always a nice bonus and it was great to see all of Gorge's old zeal in his victory at Hanging Rock. Meanwhile Gorge's history-making UK venture remains on target. You can follow the excitement by joining Gorge's Facebook page, and by reading Anthony's weekly blog in the online Racing Post.

