

## **THE BIG AUSTRALIAN PUNTER'S MELBOURNE CUP GUIDE 2014 (Ante-Post)**

Cup nominations are discussed in close to Current Ante-Post Market Order: as of 2nd October 2014

### **MY TOP 10 CONTENDERS IN BOLD**

#### **THE OFFER**

**Underwood Stakes run was pretty good. Very good Sydney Cup winner showed acceleration. All good wins have been on affected ground which is a bit of a query. Underwood Stakes run was on top of the ground and showed acceleration there. Winning chance.**

#### **ADMIRE RAKTI**

Reasonable closing performance in the Japan Cup last year. Think the Handicapper has found him with 58kg. Brings good enough form, and accelerates quite ok, but I'm going to risk him at the weights in terms of Winning the Melbourne Cup.

#### **BANDE**

**He is a leader and he sticks on well. Long time since we've seen a bold front runner lead all the way in the Melbourne Cup, Might and Power did it by an eyelash. Will be having the lead up run in the Caulfield Cup which is a positive. A winning chance.**

#### **LUCIA VALENTINA**

Best form on wet tracks. I'm going to risk her on reasonable ground in a race like the Melbourne Cup.

#### **SILENT ACHIEVER**

Has found something with blinkers this horse, Underwood Stakes run this time in was ok. Trainer not thrilled by a mare carrying 56.5kg in the Cup this year, so might be aimed at the Cox Plate then, but wouldn't surprise to see her run in the Melbourne Cup. I could go around it in the Melbourne Cup.

#### **CAVALRYMAN**

Ran 12th in 2012. Godolphin runner have stepped around previously.

#### **DANDINO**

Solid 5th in 2013, understand its being aimed at The Caulfield Cup this year which it ran quite well in. Unplaced previous years runners haven't the best record, the following year for a Melbourne Cup. It was a touch unlucky but I think it lacks the class to win a Melbourne Cup. Possibly wide exotics on the day.

#### **FAWNER**

Might have gone closer with more aggressive ride in 2013, but I doubt it would have run top 3, going well but I could go around as a winning hope in a Melbourne Cup. Exotics on the day perhaps if it runs. I'd say its being aimed at the Cox Plate.

#### **PALE MIMOSA**

Stays well goes ok. Trained by Dermot Weld. One to include in exotics if get's out here in one piece on the day.

#### **SPILLWAY**

Not a big fan. Just a solid runner.

## **KINGFISHER**

Just a run in hot company recently. Trained by Aiden O'Brien apparently won't be coming to this year's Cup.

## **PROTECTIONIST**

**Let down well on soft ground to win the Kergolay in France a race that Americain and Dunaden have come through previously before winning the Melbourne Cup. Has good change up speeds, has the right style to win a Melbourne Cup. Good performance on top of the ground the start prior. Top Pick for the Melbourne Cup. Reported to most likely run in the Herbert Power Hcap on Caulfield Guineas Day before running in the Melbourne Cup.**

## **PUISSANCE DE LUNE**

Last years Pre-Post favourite. Doubt its class to win a Melbourne Cup. Not being primarily aimed at the Cup but still may end up there.

## **WHO SHOT THE BARMAN**

Controlled recent Flemington win with a big weight. NZ cup Winner, stays ok. Don't think its quite classy enough, but may get a run and will beat quite a few home.

## **ANGEL GABRIAL**

Not quite for me, well beaten by Pale Mimosa. No news that its coming out for the race.

## **CARAVAN ROLLS ON**

Been in Oz for 12 months which is a plus, has won here over a trip. Not classy enough to win a Melbourne Cup.

## **HILLSTAR**

Controlled Spillway in UK 2013. On speed runner who rolls into his work nicely. Not much between it and Cavalryman. Like his style, good place if everything goes well and gets here. Still a doubt whether he is running out here.

## **MUTUAL REGARD**

**Decent stayer, capable of going pretty close won a few on end including the Ebor Handicap. Stays very well and has a turn of foot, I have seen better though. In saying that he's the kind of horse you want to include in everything you do. I believe he is coming out for the race.**

## **OUR VOODOO PRINCE**

Winter form was encouraging in lower grade. Hasn't made presence felt in better company this time in. Go around.

## **PUCCINI**

NZ'er that I will be going around at this stage.

## **RED CADEAUX**

**Evergreen 9yo? Excellent seconds in previous years. Ran on ok behind Seimos recently. You know he gets here and acclimatises, both Melbourne Cup performances have been top class, no reason he can't go close again to be honest. One to definitely include in everything you do on the day.**

## **ROYAL DIAMOND**

European with a turn of foot. Is 9yr old. Needs to find cover in a run, as can pull in a race. 3200m is a doable distance, didn't come out last year...I quite like him, but you have to catch him on his day. Interesting runner if gets out here. One to potentially consider, a low barrier would help his chances.

## **SEA MOON**

Don't rate his style, has been here from 12 months, which can help. But i'll be going around it.

## **SEISMOS**

Outsprinted but then outstayed rivals in recent win. Staying is important, class is paramount might not quite have it to win. May need a horse like Bande to really run them along and for the Melbourne Cup to turn into a staying war for him to be a chance I would think.

## **STIPULATE**

Impressive Heatherlie Handicap winner with the fast pace on, Underwood Stks run was acceptable on the improve this Spring from previous Australian form. Hayes in the press has suggested a Cox Plate hope, that combined with the fact that its a 6yr old European horse who has never been tried beyond 2000m suggests to me, 3200m is a risk.

## **THE UNITED STATES**

Has had the Williams preparation, one autumn run before launching into a Spring Campaign. Was impressive second up this time in. Recent scratching at Flemington has to be a query on its preparation. Lets down ok, only won over 2000m .

## **WILLING FOE**

2012 Ebor Handicap winner, quite impressive that day. One to keep an eye on if it makes it out here.

## **GREEN MOON**

8 yr Old stats are against them when they hit this age. A good previous winner though, and look at a horse like Red Cadeuax horses that have climbed the mountain can't be completely discounted and has come back quite well this time in. Its Australian Cup 2nd this year to Fiorente was above average. Reports are its being aimed at the Caulfield Cup.

## **HAWKSPUR**

Reports are its being tried at 1600m/2000, so may not be a horse aimed at the Melbourne Cup. Its' Caulfield Cup run last year was solid.

## **JUNOOB**

**Impressive stayer, starting to really put it together now that its been out here for 12 months. The longer distance of the 3200m looks a little query. But if can stay it has the class to be competitive.**

## **LA AMISTAD**

**Impressive 2400m winner Hawkes team had it firing late Autumn. Related to Maykbe Diva. Recent**

**run was encouraging, will need to win its way into a Melbourne Cup. Quite capable might even be able to achieve that as early as the Metropolitan this week.**

#### **SIGNOFF**

Impressive Bendigo and Moonee Valley winner in Autumn. Will be unqualified so will need to win its way into a Melbourne Cup. Son of Authorised and can run all day. Even run in the JRA Trophy. Putting a gun to my head today I'd say no, but one that you could potentially entertain.

#### **AMBIVALENT**

Average ride in Newcastle Cup, was last there but still a bit hard to recommend. Being aimed primarily at the Caulfield Cup is the reports.

#### **AMRALAH**

Solid horse, stays well, not quite classy enough to win.

#### **BRAMBLES**

**Impressive Derby winner in its 3yo life. Had injuries, looks to be on top of those and going really well as a 5yo. This is a horse worth some consideration. Better Qualified for the Melbourne Cup than Caulfield Cup. But the reports are that they are trying to win its way into the Caulfield Cup. I'm interested in this horse, but will be lead by press and information as to there ambitions.**

#### **GATEWOOD**

Lacks the elite brilliance required to win a Melbourne Cup, was a contender in 2012 when winning the Geelong Cup so does have a history of coming to Australia and performing. Just might need to keep a bit of an eye on progress.

#### **SERTORIOUS**

3200m placegetter in the Sydney Cup behind The Offer. Don't mind the horse though. Wouldn't completely dismiss if it makes it to Melbourne Cup day in reasonable form.

#### **BONFIRE**

Sticks on doubt the elite class required to win a Melbourne Cup.

#### **CAFE SOCIETY**

Purchased by Gai, would need to win its way into a Melbourne Cup. Goes ok.

#### **CONTRIBUTER**

Strong may not be brilliant enough. Another that will have to win its way into the Melbourne Cup.

#### **HE'S YOUR MAN**

Won well in Group company recently , may not be aimed aimed at the Melbourne Cup.

#### **KIRRAMOSA**

Come back quite ok on return, Oaks winners haven't the best record winning the Melbourne Cup in the following year. Not quite enough class for me.

#### **MANDURO'S SON**

Slowly gets into his work, horse needs to let down quicker to win Melbourne Cup. Trained by a local.

## **NOBLE PROTECTOR**

On a wet track he can stay, just whacks away for mine.

## **OPINOIN**

Wet Tracker.

## **QUAYSIDE**

Not one of mine but has come back well and in form. Will need to win its way into the Melbourne Cup field if that is there aim.

## **SENNOCKIAN STAR**

International finished back recent try at 2400m. Not quite the class for mine. Markets suggest won't be coming out.

## **TUPAC AMARU**

Just not fast enough to win a Melbourne Cup, does stick on and will be suited by a big track, doubt will make the Melbourne Cup field.

## **VAN PERCY**

Strong stayer not classy enough to win a Melbourne Cup.

## **ZANBAGH**

**Good Oaks performer, now trained by Paddy Payne, well bred don't completely dismiss. Hasn't been in the right race yet one to keep an eye on as the Spring unfolds.**

## **BLACK TYCOON**

Stays 2nd in Adelaide Cup not classy enough to win a Melbourne Cup.

## **DEANE MARTIN**

NZer not classy enough.

## **ENTIRELY PLATINUM**

Not one of mine, front-running Hawkes runner more likely to try and slip into the Caulfield Cup somehow, than run in a Melbourne Cup.

## **KINGDOMS**

Good trainer goes ok, not quite fast enough to win a Melbourne Cup.

## **ARALDO**

Stays but does a few too many things wrong, and not quite fast enough to win a Melbourne Cup.

## **LIDARI**

Unlikely I would have thought to end up in a Melbourne Cup.

## **RENEW**

Stays but not for me.

## ROYAL DESCENT

Doubt it will be aimed at the Melbourne Cup

## SANGSTER

Reasonable result in the JRA Trophy at Moonee Valley, interesting that Bowman came for one ride, if you want to read something into that, but if it lined up in a Melbourne Cup I'd risk it.

## ALMANDIN

Does have a turn of foot was a little exposed when 2nd recently, race before from tail again showed a turn of foot. Bit of a smokey. Owned by Lloyd Williams will need to win his way into a Melbourne Cup. Interesting if it will be this year or next year for this horse.

My Top 10

PRE-POST SELECTION ORDER	INDIVIDUAL RATING	BALLOT POSITION	HORSE	Luxbet	Centrebet	Bet365
1	74	13	Protectionist	17	21	<b><u>26</u></b>
2	72	9	The Offer	11	13	<b><u>15</u></b>
3	71	27	Mutual Regard	<b><u>26</u></b>	<b><u>26</u></b>	21
4	70	8	Bande	13	13	<b><u>15</u></b>
5	69	78	Junoob	41	<b><u>51</u></b>	<b><u>51</u></b>
6	68	76	Brambles	51	51	<b><u>67</u></b>
7	68	5	Red Cadeaux	35	41	<b><u>51</u></b>
8	67	72	Almandin	<b><u>101</u></b>	51	67
9	66	26	Zanbagh	61	61	<b><u>67</u></b>
10	66	49	La Amistad	41	51	<b><u>61</u></b>

As of 29/9/14 Best Odds in Bold and Underlined  
Odds at 2nd October 2014  
All Prices Subject to Change

I hope this Information helps in your preparation for the Melbourne Cup this year, all the best!

Thanks to those people who have helped me put this together,

Tim McDonnell.

All the best with your Spring Carnival preparation I hope this report helps. For membership details be sure to check the website - The Big Australian Punter.

<http://www.thebigaustralianpunter.com.au>

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