

THE BIG AUSTRALIAN PUNTER'S - 2016 EARLY MELBOURNE CUP FORECAST

Horses in Market Order as of 11th October 2016.

(Please Note: Bookmaker Prices are at the time of publication and are subject to change.)

Horse	Comments	Luxbet	Bet365	Unibet	Crownbet
Hartnell	Was supreme in the recent Turnbull Stakes, the key to this horse has been getting it to settle in its races. It was sent out odds on favorite to win the Sydney Cup last year, but pulled too hard in the run to produce its best. His win in the UK at 3200m he had a dream run and wobbled under the gun but prevailed. That has been the risk with the horse, but the Godolphin team have seemed to found a way to get him to settle in his races, which obviously has helped him finish off his races.	5.5	5.5	5.00	5.5
Jameka	This horse won a strong edition of 2015 VRC Oaks at Flemington. This time I've got it marked as an improver through its campaign, its win in the Naturalism was a little flattering given that the ride probably helped it by as much as 2 Lengths on the field. Last start in the Turnbull I liked it's run thought it was quite impressive despite being beaten 3 lengths by Hartnell. It for example beat Sofia Rosa there and others by 7 Lengths. In the Autumn Sofia Rosa finished in front of Jameka. Its getting better with age this mare which few VRC Oaks winners are capable of achieving.	10	10	10	13
Almandin	We've seen plenty of this horse this time in with Lloyd Williams giving it the full preparation. It seems to be thriving on its racing. This horse beat Protectionist the impressive 2014 Melbourne Cup winner when racing in France two years ago. Its had to win its way into the Melbourne Cup field this year and it has achieved that with a recent win in the Bart Cummings. Top Pick.	11	13	11	15
Big Orange	Big Orange finished fifth in the 2015 Melbourne Cup, probably flattered by the way the track played last year, but still a commendable performance. It has gone well since that race winning well in Europe. I like the horse, never really fell a strong one pacer is suited by the Cup, but certainly one to include in exotic betting. Watch track on day for leaders...he's a strong leader!	15			

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Bondi Beach	Not my kind of horse, but he goes ok. Stepping around			15	
Wicklow Brave	Performs on soft or dry, if he brings his A-game - he could win!		17		
Heartbreak City	Has the correct stlye to win, one to include for exotics, I've got a couple in front of him but respect. Slight concern most wins are the one race track.				17
Exospheric	Not my kind of horse, the reports are its settled in well aimed primarily at the Caulfield Cup.				21
Curren Mirotic	Pretty good a year ago in the Tenno Show, group 1 3200m Japan. 9 years old though.		26		
Scottish	Strong one pacer, can't see it winning the Melbourne Cup.	21			
Gallante	Lloyd Williams import who has a season under his belt, have a few in front of it.		34		34
Our Ivanhowe	Come back steady this campaign, would need it wet to be a contender I feel.		34		
Real Love	Going well probably not quite good enough to win a Melbourne Cup but wouldn't shock to see it in the finish.		34		34
The United States	Don't mind the horse but not overly keen in a race like the Melbourne Cup		34		
Beautiful Romance	A Galloper with flaws i'm risking it.	35			
Zanteca	Local horse who performed well in the Bart Cummings behind Almandin recently. Very wide exotics on the day.	35			
Secret Number	Lacks the push button accelaration to win.	35			
Preferment	Steadily improving but not for me.		51		
Sir John Hawkwood	In form Metropolitan winner, win would still shock.		51		
Tally	Steady stayer not quite good enough, was probably a better run than looked in the Turnbull, not a complete dismiss for exotics.		51		51

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Tazrino	2015 VRC Derby winner. Typically Derby winners who go on to the Melbourne Cup have a poor strikerate can see that continuing here.		51	51	
Sacred Master	Run in the Metropolitan a little better than reads on paper. One to include in Very wide Exotic Betting on day.		51		51
Excess Knowledge	Exotics chance. Should get a run based on the ballot order. Decent performance recently in the Bart Cummings, ok performance last year.		51		
Oceanograher	Runs on... but not for me.		67		
Almoonquith	I think there is some hidden talent in this horse, but the excuses are piling up.				67
Howard Be Thy Name	Was dissapointing last start, one for wider exotics if regains best form, may find a length or two back at Flemington.				67
Assign	Should sneak into the field, last start Hebert Power Handicap winner, just franks the Almandin form for mine, it was two lengths of him there. No for me.	71			
Grey Lion	Oti purchase lacks the accelation required to win a Melbourne Cup. Finished last in recent lead-up.		101		
Grand Marshal	Noted wet tracker. If it is wet I will be including it in exotics betting.		101		
Francis of Assisi	Only long distance wins have been over the hurdles, will need to win here on the flat to gain a run.	151	151		
The Bandit	This is a Japanese import that has been in Australia for some time. They seem to have got him right this year, a game 2nd in the Andrew Ramsden at 3200m Flemington over the Winter. Not generally a recommended formeline for a race like this but I thought the performance was impressive enough.	151	301	101	101
Pemberley	Quite like this horse, will need to win his way into the race. Impressive a horse like him was able to win convincingly at Murtoa and was the best run in the Herbert Power at Caulfield. He is suited at Flemington where he has won convincingly in the past. In terms of breeding has some stoutness on the Mum's side.	301	301	301	201

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MY FUTURES PLAY

I think there is quite a few capable of winning it this year, I wouldn't mind playing a number of them, as you see below. Obviously if **Hartnell** can produce its current form at 3200m he looks very hard to beat. It's probably taken until his Turnbull Stakes where you could feel quietly confident about his Melbourne Cup chances. I've felt for longer period of time that **Almandin** shapes as a Melbourne Cup horse and that has swayed my staking position below. Can't get **Wicklow Brave**'s second to Dartmouth at Chester the anti-clockwise of going, repeat that here and it is right in it, of the travelling imports just have him a hair in front of **Heartbreak City**. They are right about **Jameka** being an improver this campaign and through its campaign, i'm agreeing with that and now see it as a winning hope.

Couple of horses that need to get qualified but provide enough appeal to speculate small if they manage to win there way into the field in **The Bandit** and **Pemberley**. I'm respecting **Big Orange** for a little bit of insurance, I like him as a horse, the ordinary Melbourne Cup doesn't necessarily suit his style, but if there is a freak occurrence like last year where on speed was favoured, you will like him in your corner, one to perhaps wait for the prevailing conditions on the day.

Below is My FUTURES Staking Plan for \$100 placed on the WIN at Current Prices.

Horse	Stk Amount	Best Odds	Potential Return
Almandin	45	15	+\$575
Hartnell	25	5.5	+\$37.50
Wicklow Brave	12	17	+\$104
Jameka	11	13	+\$43
Big Orange	3	15	-\$55
The Bandit	2	301	+\$500
Pemberley	2	301	+\$500

The Links are paired up with the best Available Odds as at 11th October 2016. Note Prices are subject to change.

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

Tim McDonnell.

All the best with your Spring Carnival preparations I hope this report provides you with assistance. Updates are available to [Members](#) - [The Big Australian Punter](#)

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