



# Gai: get to know her better

One of the joys of this job is that I occasionally get a racing book before it is released. The theory is I read the book and give it a favourable review then you the reader go and buy it.

Not that I can be bought that easily, as one publisher found out a couple of years ago.

They sent me a copy of a book they were due to release. After wasting several hours of my life on it I sent an e-mail saying it was no good.

Not surprisingly that particular company has dropped me off its distribution list.

Now I have read plenty of racing books over the years and, sadly, most of them tell me stuff I already know.

Several recent biographies of horses and leading hoops fall into that category. So I have to say it was with some trepidation that I noted the arrival of a copy of *Gai — In My Words* by Gai Waterhouse.

I figured it was going to be more of the same material that had been covered by previous books on her or in the press.

I couldn't have been more wrong.

*Gai — In My Words* (Slattery Publishing, \$50), is actually a diary account of her life as a trainer from August 2007 through till July this year.

It is compiled from blog entries on her website.

Gai can overwhelm the viewer with her positivity when she's interviewed on TVN, but when putting her thoughts on paper she is fascinating.

This book offers much more of an insight into the sort of person and trainer Gai is than you will have gleaned from the media.

And as well as detailing her own life, she offers her thoughts on topical issues from the period in question.

She tells in depth what it was like trying to run a stable during the crippling equine influenza crisis.

As punters, many of us see horses as objects that provide us joy or frustration. After reading this you'll know that one horse "can't bear the sight of needles", another "props himself up on the ledge to look at the schoolchildren playing next door" while another was "ready to strike with both forelegs".

Gai takes the reader from the highs of Sebring and More Joyous winning features to the lows of Amelia's Dream breaking down and Meurice being euthanased.

The big issues are also covered — beleaguered Randwick track managers Turnpoint, the whip debate, jumps racing, barrier trials and "cartoon racing" in TABs.

She touches on several points close to my heart.

On charging admission prices to the races: "Get rid of rotten, outdated and completely constipated entry fees. Throw the gates open and make racing a bit exciting."

And she shares my frustration at stars retiring to stud early: "It is a shame as these colts are retired before displaying their full racing potential."

Gai even chimes in on celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay's vocabulary.

I thoroughly recommend this release. If you can't wait to see if you'll win one in the competition below, get down to your local book shop and grab a copy.



## Are you our best tipster?

It's your last chance to stake a claim as the best tipster in the country with our annual Group 1 Tipping Competition (spring edition) for 2010 and it couldn't be any simpler.

What you need to do is scour the list of horses, jockeys and trainers below. Then circle the EIGHT horses, ONE jockey and ONE trainer you think will accrue the most points from the Group 1 races this spring.

Points will be allocated on the basis of five for first, three for second and one for third, in the following races:

- Caulfield Guineas
- Yalumba Stakes
- Toorak Handicap
- Thousand Guineas
- Caulfield Cup
- Cox Plate
- AAMI Victoria Derby
- Mackinnon Stakes
- Coolmore Stud Stakes
- Myer Classic
- Melbourne Cup
- Crown Oaks
- Emirates Stakes
- Patinack Farm Classic

Just go to our website [www.winningpost.com.au](http://www.winningpost.com.au) and follow the links to enter your stable. It couldn't be any easier.

If you don't have internet access, you can fax your list to me at 03 9258 4397. Include your name, street address and a contact number.

### Horses

Pick eight from this list

- Ajhar
- Alcopop
- All Silent
- Allez Wonder
- Anacheeva
- Avienus
- Bank Robber
- Black Caviar
- Black Piranha
- Bullbars
- Carved in Stone

### Catapulted

- Danleigh
- Dariana
- Decision Time
- Definitely Ready
- Descarado
- Divorces
- Dysphonia
- Faint Perfume
- Fanjura
- Griffon
- Hay List
- Herculan Prince

### Hinchinbrook

- Hot Danish
- Ilovethiscity
- Kudakalari
- Jessicabeel
- Latin News
- Linton
- Liveandleddie
- Love Conquers All
- Master O'Reilly
- Masquerader
- Melito
- Metal Bender

### Mic Mac

- Military Rose
- More Joyous
- More Strawberries
- Moudre
- Mr Charlie
- Neeson
- No Evidence Needed
- Obsequious
- Once Were Wild
- Palacio de Cristal
- Parables
- Precedence

### Pressday

- Purple
- Rekindled Interest
- Response
- Ringa Ringa Rosie
- Rothsay
- Shellscape
- Shocking
- Shoot Out
- Sistine Angel
- Skilled
- Slater
- So You Think

### Speed Gifted

- Toorak Toff
- Triple Honour
- Typhoon Tracy
- Valdemoro
- Vigor
- We're Gonna Rock
- Whobegotyou
- Woorim
- Yosei
- Zabrasive
- Zipping

### Trainers

Pick one from this list

- Grahame Begg
- Bart Cummings
- Lee Freedman
- David Hayes
- Robert Hickmott
- Mark Kavanagh
- Peter Moody
- Peter Snowden
- Chris Waller
- Gai Waterhouse

### Jockeys

Pick one from this list

- Steven Arnold
- Glen Boss
- Corey Brown
- Luke Nolen
- Damien Oliver
- Nash Rawiller
- Michael Rodd
- Blake Shinn
- Craig Williams
- Mark Zahra

## Take on the Post men

To add to the fun, we've set our staff the same challenge to see whether they really are smarter than the readers. Sadly, pride alone is the prize for knocking us off. I've gone for: Anacheeva, Metal Bender, More Joyous, Palacio De Cristal, Response, Shocking, So You Think, Whobegotyou, Mark Kavanagh, Michael Rodd.



**John Barker**  
Brazilian Pulse  
More Joyous  
Precedence  
So You Think  
Bart Cummings

Metal Bender  
Moudre  
Shocking  
Whobegotyou  
Michael Rodd



**Tony Kneebone**  
Hay List  
More Joyous  
Shocking  
Toorak Toff  
Bart Cummings

Metal Bender  
Precedence  
So You Think  
Whobegotyou  
Glen Boss



**Joel Marshall**  
Alcopop  
Metal Bender  
So You Think  
Woorim  
Bart Cummings

Hay List  
Ringa Ringa Rosie  
Toorak Toff  
Yosei  
Michael Rodd



**Tony Rickards**  
Faint Perfume  
Ilovethiscity  
Moudre  
Shoot Out  
Bart Cummings

Hay List  
More Joyous  
Response  
So You Think  
Michael Rodd

## Eye Catchers

**BRAZILIAN PULSE** (Melbourne): Talented filly who should continue to improve.

**CAPECOVER** (Melbourne): Looks on track to claim a minor cup this spring.

**ECLAIR SURPRISE** (Melbourne): Top derby trial.

### Update

**NEESON, VIGOR, WE'RE GONNA ROCK, MAGICAL PEARL: unplaced.**



## System of the week

All the ticks (quaddie version)

We have slightly adjusted this successful system to try to snare a quaddie this weekend.

**Step 1:** Look only at the final four races on the card.

**Step 2:** Look only at horses who have won at least once in their past five starts.

**Step 3:** Eliminate any with a winning strike rate (W%) of less than 20%.

**Step 4:** Eliminate any drawn barrier 12 or worse.

**Step 5:** Eliminate any who have raced at the track but haven't won.

**Step 6:** Eliminate any who have raced at the distance but haven't won.

**Step 7:** Eliminate any whose weight has risen by more than 1.5kg from their latest outing.

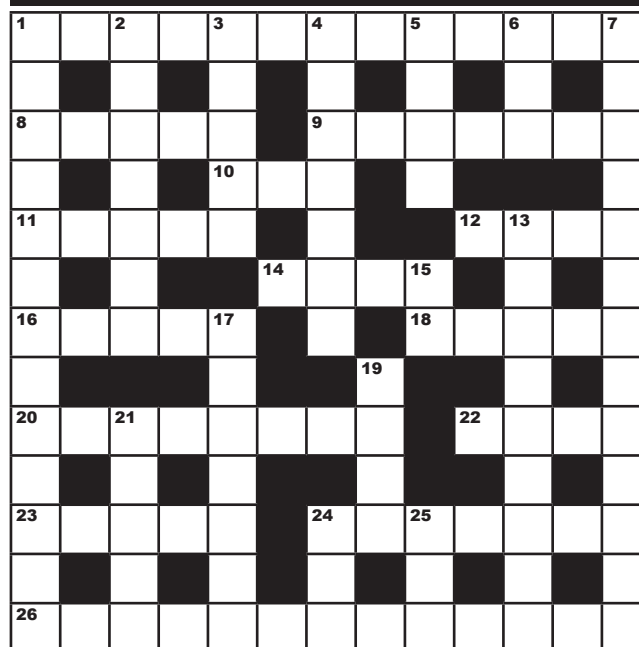
**Step 8:** Eliminate any who are first up and haven't won fresh.

**Step 9:** Combine all qualifiers in a flexi quaddie for \$10.

## Last week

Last week's All The Ticks managed a profit for the third week in a row, though it was a narrow one. Lucky Dubai (\$7.10) was one of three winners from 10 selections. This week's system picks and Eye Catchers will be up from 2pm Thursday at [winningpost.com.au](http://winningpost.com.au), where you'll also find Whiteway ratings for every meeting. The system picks will be in the news section of our website, rather than under its usual banner.

## RACING CROSSWORD



### ACROSS:

1. Peter Morgan-trained runner in Saturday's Caulfield Guineas (9,4)
8. Darren Bell-trained 1000m winner at Eagle Farm last Saturday: Carry The ---- (5)
9. Sire of Fasliyev, Spinning World and King Charlemagne (7)
10. Sire of Almaarad: --- Mana Mou (3)
11. Balaklava and Strathalbyn winner in the Macdonald/Gluyas camp: Wendy ---- (5)
12. Sire of Defiant Dame: More ---- Ready (4)
14. Sire of Swell Time Girl and Nick On The Run: Niccolo ---- (4)
16. Godolphin horse who ran fourth in the 1998 Mackinnon Stakes after an interesting ride by Frankie Dettori: ---- Mirabilis (5)
18. 2003 Wiggle Quality winner and second in the 2005 Coolmore Classic: ---- Floozie (5)
20. First name of Victorian jockey Payne (8)
22. John Sargent-trained multiple NZ stakes winner by Van Nistelrooy: ---- van Slaats (4)
23. Sire of Black Bean, Ramyah and Paint (5)
24. Former Tasmanian Danzig sire who produced Dartington (7)
26. Ron Macrae-trained 1400m winner at Eagle Farm last Saturday (5,8)

### DOWN:

1. Grahame Begg-trained winner of last Saturday's Flight Stakes (6,7)
2. Son of Ideal Planet who won the 1995 Stradbroke (7)
3. Rode Kensei to win the 1987 Melbourne Cup (surname) (5)
4. Roger Milne-trained winner of last Saturday's Epsom Handicap: Captain ---- (7)
5. UK track that hosts the Ebor Handicap (4)
6. Fourth to Avenue in last month's Testa Rossa Stakes: Okay --- (3)
7. Mark Kavanagh-trained 2007 Myer Classic winner (6,7)
13. Gai Waterhouse-trained winner of last Saturday's Metropolitan: ----- Prince (9)
15. Second to 8 Across last Saturday: Temple -- Boom (2)
17. 1988 Gadsden, Lightning and Newmarket winner (7)
19. Third to Helenus in the 2002 Victoria Derby and later successful in Hong Kong: Ain't ---- (4)
21. Sire of Clangalang (5)
24. City-winning sprinter trained by Darren Weir: --- Leoni (3)
25. Son of Slavic who won the Wellesley Stakes at Trentham in 2002 as a two-year-old and won a rating 80 at Awapuni last month as a 10-year-old: --- Tat (3)

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