

# KANGO LOOKING GOOD AHEAD OF FOURTH FREE FOR ALL

By Brigette Solomon

## Confident but cautious is how Cambridge trainer Arna Donnelly is approaching Kango's fourth tilt in the Group 2 Auckland Co-op Taxis City of Auckland Free for All Mobile Pace

The American Ideal seven-year-old starts in the race for the fourth consecutive year. The winner of 14 races, he placed second behind Copy That in 2021 and 2023, and fourth in 2022 when the race was taken out by South Coast Arden. He's currently at \$11 on the fixed odds, with hotpot Don't Stop Dreaming a \$1.90 favourite.

"Going into the race on Friday I'm really happy with him," says Donnelly, "he's looking the best he's looked in a long time and has trained on well since his fresh up win a fortnight ago."

Kango resumed with a tough win in the Group 3 Founders Cup at Alexandra Park on March 8 where he led from start to finish for David Butcher, running his last 800 metres in 54.6 seconds.

"I didn't have any expectations heading into the Founders Cup as he'd had a big spell and just one quiet trial heading into that race," says Donnelly.

"It was really pleasing to see him back to his best though after he had mixed results in his campaign leading into Cup Week last year."

"The 1700 metre trip probably isn't his best distance either so it was nice to see him so sharp."

Kango has drawn two in Friday night's assignment with the Mark and Nathan Purdon trained Self Assured starting inside him.

"I'm happy with our draw but I'll leave it to David Butcher to make the call as to what we do early in the race," says Donnelly, "it really depends on what the other runners do."

Also trained by the Purdons, Don't Stop Dreaming has drawn three, and has his first start on home soil after a successful Australian campaign.



The gelding was successful in his last race at Alexandra Park taking out the Group 2 Franklin Cup on New Years Eve beating Old Town Road and Akuta. The four year old will be driven by Natalie Rasmussen on Friday.

While Donnelly is confident that Kango is primed for Friday's assignment, she is diplomatic about the outcome.

"The field are all quality horses and each and every one needs to be respected," says Donnelly.

"Self Assured from one is always a threat and Old Town Road and Mach Shard have recently won well plus there's Don't Stop Dreaming who was good in Australia."

**"Where the horses end up in transit often plays a large part in the final result so we'll be hoping we get a good run."**

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