

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

OWNERS AND THE RACING COMMUNITY, I thank you for your generosity to the Cyclone Gabrielle disaster relief fund. Your contributions have been greatly appreciated and have gone a long way in helping those affected.

I personally reside in the Dartmoor Valley area of Puketapu, Hawkes Bay and witnessed the destruction below me that transpired. It is something that I don't want to see in my lifetime again! The destruction of buildings, households and people's lives was heart-breaking and some will never recover.

Personally, I escaped any significant damage apart from no power for 5 weeks and wading through silt and debris helping my neighbours and community. That will go on for months yet.

Resilience and adversity are something that in the Army you train for, but when you come to face to face with the happenings and significance of such an event in the days after, you recognise how under prepared we all were.

There will be learnings we all must take on board, as climate events or in fact any other

major event are becoming more common and we in little old New Zealand will not be immune from such happenings again.

Entain is the new buzz word on everyone's mind. For those of you not in the know, the TAB wishes to enter into a strategic partnership with 'Entain' that is subject to Ministerial approval.

This arrangement will deliver certain, material and immediate increases in the funding to racing and sports, ensuring that these industries not only survive, but indeed thrive, and that customers like you can enjoy a world-class experience.

The Minister for Racing continues to consider the proposed partnership and we are hopeful that he will endorse this soon.

I personally wrote to him in March requesting he not sit on the proposal as we know we are in an election year and Government Departments and Treasury are not known to move or endorse matters of significance with an election pending.

I accept that due diligence must be applied but this would have surely attended to as part of the TAB process. This proposal and acceptance is crucial to survival and sustainability of our beloved industry and



I hope that an announcement will be made soon.

To all winning owners (and I), since the last Bulletin, congratulations and may the winners keep coming for the remainder of the racing season. Our thoroughbred performances have punched well above their weight this season and may it continue.

For me it's back to the drawing board as my filly after three good wins has been retired due to injury.

In the coming months your Federation will be workshopping our future direction. We need to change with the times and look at what we deliver and determine if there a better way. Ideally I want us to be the voice for all registered owners and be a member of NZTR and deliver a product that acknowledges thoroughbred owners more and better than is present today.

Kia haumaru, ā, ko ngā mea tino pai katoa "Keep safe and all the best"

Bernard Hickey (President)



REPLY FROM MINISTER FOR **RACING HON KIERAN MCANULTY**

Dear Bernard,

Thank you for your email of the 31 March regarding the strategic arrangement between TAB NZ and their preferred partner Entain. I appreciate you sharing your thoughts on this important matter with me.

Under the Racing Industry Act 2020, ultimately TAB needs my approval to partner with another organisation. When considering any such proposal, I must ensure that TAB will still be able to fulfil all its statutory obligations and that the proposal strengthens both the New Zealand racing industry and harm minimisation efforts.

I have met previously with TAB and outlined that I would not support an agreement that lead to wholesale job losses, or the introduction of an overseas brand into New Zealand through the back door. Any strategic partnership between TAB NZ

and another organisation would also need to continue providing funding back into our communities.

I appreciate your input. which will be taken under consideration, as we work through the process. I am deeply committed to ensuring the long term success of the NZ racing industry and will be taking this decision incredibly seriously.

Thank you again for writing

Yours sincerely

Hon Kieran McAnulty, Minister for Racing.





OUR COVER: THE AUCKLAND CUP

WINNERS GALLERY

Do check the Winners Gallery page of the NZTROF website to see if you can find you and/or your winning horse(s).

The page gets updated regularly in cycle with each new try to showcase photos of smiling owners as well as victorious

All images courtesy of Race Images: https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/winners-gallery/ and https://raceimages.co.nz/

EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

Where did Summer Go? Now we are in Autumn and it is so green. Islands out in front of us have never gone brown and it is the first time we recall that at this time of year.

There has been some great racing headlined I suppose by Pukekohe Park being thrust into the spotlight. Jason Fulford and the local team produced a good track which stood up well to the weather and the racing. Well done to them!

The time honoured Auckland Cup sponsored by Barfoot and Thompson was won by Platinum Invador owned by Lincoln Farms and NJ McAlister and trained by Lisa Latta. Nerve Not Verve was second and Ladies Man third. The sires of these were Redwood. Shocking and Zed respectively, so if you were a student of breeding and wagered accordingly a return was assured.

It was a beautiful day and with the largest crowd for maybe all time the facilities were stretched. But people realised the situation and were in good humour.

It's doubtful we will see an Auckland Cup at Pukekohe again so we are very pleased to record that on these pages.

Te Rapa also saw the spoils of the Ellerslie closure. Here Bart Cowan and his team presented an excellent track and we saw Sharp'N'Smart roll home in the 2023 New Zealand Derby under a confident ride by Ryan Elliot.

The Manco Easter Handicap Group 3 saw about the last of the Stakes races in the north. White Noise part owned by our Allan Fenwick and family proved to be a deserving favourite and powered though the heavy track far too well for the beaten brigade.

The NZTR Code of Conduct oppositie is a "no brainer" thing. Kind of stating the obvious don't you think?

Sally Blyth writes a piece on the NZTR Industry Development Day that she attended, where various speakers waxed on about how the future might look.

I have been to more than a few of these events and looking around can't see much in the way of outcomes.

What of course is needed is action but that requires "wherewithal" and we ain't got that. Is that coming? "ENTAIN" around the corner so maybe!

There's been a lot said about the Entain proposal and the naysayers have surfaced on the racing blogs. I was encouraged to see a somewhat independent write up on the "Independent Racing News" site. In it went for you to cogitate upon.

Also, from Sally a nice story of a good old horse Defibrillate a 9yo that's still hugely competitive. We would like more stories of good old horses. How about it?

Contact me - neilandjeanette@yahoo.com 🗸

NZTR CODE OF CONDUCT (abridged)

Purpose – This Code establishes a set of standards of behaviour aimed at protecting the values of Thoroughbred racing by ensuring that industry participants enjoy a safe, supportive and respectful environment.

Code – The overarching principle of the Code (**Overarching Principle**) is that each Person must maintain the highest standards of behaviour at all times towards every participant in the thoroughbred industry including, without limitation, Investigators, Stipendiary Stewards, Officials, members of Adjudicative Committees and Appeal Tribunals, Licence holders, Owners, lessees of horses, Club officers and employees, NZTR Board members and employees and every other person to whom the Rules apply (each a Participant) and must not engage in behaviour that is prohibited under this Code.

Treat each Participant with Dignity and Respect

- 1. Each Participant has the right to be treated fairly and with dignity and respect by a Person.
- 2. This component of the Code covers a very broad range of behaviour by a Person including, by way of example, belittling a Participant, using foul, inappropriate or aggressive language or aggressive or threatening behaviour towards a Participant, spreading malicious rumours about a Participant, persistent teasing of a Participant, condoning the mistreatment of a Participant, criticising a Participant in an unjustified and unwarranted manner or making private or public comments that are designed (or are reasonably likely) to offend, insult, humiliate, intimidate, threaten, disparage or vilify a Participant.

No Bullying or Harassment

A Person must not bully or harass a Participant.

Bullying is any persistent behaviour directed against a person which is intimidating or offensive (including making persistent negative comments, spreading malicious rumours, ongoing insensitive jokes or pranks, insulting or aggressive behaviour, ignoring or excluding a person or making unjustified and persistent criticism of a person).

Harassment includes unwanted conduct (including of a sexual nature or relating to another person's gender) which has the purpose or effect of violating a person's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment for a person.

Sexual misconduct

- 1. A Person must not engage in any form or type of sexual misconduct towards a Participant.
- 2. Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, persistent unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, sexual exploitation, verbal sexual assault, intentional sexual contact without consent, deliberate exposure, voyeurism, recording or photographing private sexual activity, without consent and distributing or further spreading recordings or images of a sexual nature, without consent.

Social media use – Every Person who uses social media must ensure that their communications on, through or using social media (including on platforms such as Twitter, WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, Snapchat and Instagram etc) do not insult, humiliate or hurt a Participant.

Abuse of Power – A Person in a position of power or responsibility must not take advantage of or abuse their position, especially in relation to, or to take advantage of, a Participant who is, for whatever reason, in a vulnerable position.

No discrimination – A Person must not discriminate against a Participant on the basis of the age, disability, gender reassignment, marital status, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender or sexual orientation of that Participant.

KAREN REMETIS RIP

I was honoured to attend Karen's Funeral service at Tuakau and speak on behalf of the NZ Owners' Federation. Karen was a recent President of the Waikato Owners' Association and the Waikato delegate. Accordingly she was an executive on the **Owners' Federation.**

From the speakers came a word to describe Karen and that was "forthright"- and she was that. Karen and I worked well together and at times disagreed amicably. What shone through was that Karen really cared.

I would like to thank Karen's great friend Katrina Salmons from Puni who cared for Karen's last days and arranged her service.

Katrina assisted current Waikato President Monique Brocx to write the obituary and supplied photos.



REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Mike Gething

The Owners' Social on February 18th 2023 at Pukekohe Park was a huge success. Seventy five tickets were taken and most attended – some had difficulty with traffic accidents en route and some had late problems making attendance impossible. In spite of that almost seventy spent a wonderful day together.

The food was good, there were plenty of prizes thanks to ATR, George Simon, NZTR, NZTROF, TAB and others and on top of that Ross Thompson's Punter's Club made a 70% profit!! And the racing was just great.

The Auckland Owners gave a \$100 prize to the best presented horse & strapper for one race. It was won by Jacob McKay. He was delighted.

Below is part of my comment from the January issue regarding our industry. I have repeated them not only to emphasise their importance, but to plead that we all write to the Minister of Racing imploring him for a speedy decision on the TAB and the proposed international partner.

"Patience is essential for owners in our sport and it is still sorely tested. Even now, nearly five years later, some of the important recommendations of the Messara Report have yet to be implemented.

Reorganisation of racing clubs, maximising the commercial role of the TAB, improving the quality of track management, increasing stakes to improve the viability of racing for owners and keep good horses in New Zealand, changing the rules so important stake holder – owners, trainers and jockeys play a more important role and adding equine expertise to the RIU are just a few areas still in need of attention."

Earlier in April a group of Auckland Owners and representatives of Auckland Thoroughbred Racing along with friends and family of Taiki Yanagida placed a memorial plaque in front of the rose we planted in the spring.

The striking pink rose is called 'Imagine.' It is planted in front of the wrought iron fence to the right of the front parade ring as you look down from the stand.

It will forever remind us not only of Taiki but also how important jockeys are and how we owners need to show the utmost care and respect for them.

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY Keith Opie

Firstly, Congratulations to all owners who have had success big or small over the last three months.

We have witnessed some great racing that we have not seen in a long time with the likes of Sharp'N'Smart, Prowess, Pier, Legarto and Levante etc. They have put that wow factor back into our racing.

Once again congratulations to everyone involved.

I thought the Pukekohe track played it's part.

During this period of time we had the flood devastation and it was great to see racing people step up again with all sorts of donations to those in need. Thanks to the people that organized it all.

I won't mention any names but you all know who you are and we all thank you for your hard work and time

I was over at the Te Aroha Racecourse recently and their new track looks in great order. Trials will be held there on the 4th of May with racing to resume early June all going well.

By the time you read this the Minister might have signed off on the TAB proposed partnership. According to what I have read, hopefully, it will save the Racing Industry (the old saying is) if it looks too good to be true – but I hope I am wrong.

To finish off on a sad note our Past Waikato Owners' President Karen Remetis passed away recently after a short illness. She put a lot of time and effort into our Association.

Condolences to her family and friends.

OBITUARY

KAREN REMETIS

Monique Brocx

Karen was born in 1949 in Hamilton to Lithuanian and Portuguese parents and passed away in Pukekohe Thursday April 13th, 2023.

Her interest in horses began as a child with pony club when the family moved to Papatoetoe and from there she moved onto thoroughbreds, on return from her time in Australia in the late 70s.

Whilst she first bought horses, she began breeding her own from about 1981, after encouragement from the now late Peter Setchell. Karen bred and raced several successful racehorses. She was passionate about breeding and studied pedigrees. She syndicated some of her horses with friends and acquaintances.

Karen sold Pelosi a mare by Puccini out of Guru Girl to Australia for \$200,000. Pelosi's dam Guru Girl was raced successfully by Karen.

She always had a soft spot for Mikiyama by Yaminin Vital out of Hildegard. Mikiyama was sold to Australia and won 5 races. He was trained by Chris Waller.

Karen had local success with Soroc, Rocco, Altiplano, Kanto, Taika and others she bred from Guru Girl and Isabella Soraya.

Trainers all tell that Karen was a very hands-on owner who kept a keen interest in her horses. going to the track often. Her move to Matamata and her dream property allowed her to be closer to her horses.

Craig Thorton says her horses were her children and she loved each one dearly. She experienced the horror of a horse breaking its leg, and the agony of finding homes for her retired horses. Karen hated seeing horses being mistreated and was passionate about improving horse welfare.

As the president of the Waikato Thoroughbred Owners Association, she was very active in holding to account other parts of the horse industry.

She studied on a part-time basis for her degree in geography and economic planning in the late 1980's, getting her BA in early 1990's. With this degree she has done extensive work with Councils – planning for economic development.

Her business passion was the creation of Town Centres that worked for local businesses and community. Some of these councils include Hokitika, Howick Greymouth, Auckland, Tokoroa and Queenstown. She excelled in this work.

Karen loved opera and the arts and sang in the mass choir at Opera in The Park Auckland.

"She was a wonderful supporter of mine in Mount Albert and a passionate supporter of local and regional economic development "said the former prime Minister Helen Clark.

Other words used to describe Karen include enthusiastic, creative, energetic, intellectual powerhouse, very onto it, bright spark, doer and so alive.

She is survived by her older brother Peter and her sister-in-law Jocelyn as her only close family. Karen leaves behind many friends. 🗸





HAWKES BAY Tony Lyndon

Havelock North's Sam and Birdie Kelt were back in the winners stall when Uderzo won a \$70,000 Rating 65 at Pukekohe on 26 December and then again at Tauranga on 25 March in a Rating75. Uderzo was a \$125,000 purchase from the 2020 Karaka Yearling Sales.

Hastings Trainer John Bary was full of praise when South African jockey Warren Kennedy won his second race in four days for him. Kennedy won on Bold Iris in a \$60,000 Rating 65 at Trentham, four days after winning the 2yo race at Matamata with Lowe Flying.

A win on La Capita in a maiden at New Plymouth on 4 February brought Kate Hercock's tally in New Zealand to 300 wins. Notably she rode 20 winners in Macau back in 2016. Now she has joined with her mother Jeanann in a training partnership and set up stables in Otane.

Napier accountant Paddy Murphy had a long wait before coming back to the winners' circle, but broke the drought when Gee String won a \$30,000 Rating 65 at Otaki on 25 February.

Paddy also owns an in-foal mare which they graze at Graham and Isobel Roddick's property. They were lucky that when the property was ravaged by Cyclone Gabrielle the horses were able to swim to safety over a two metre high fence to another property.

Local lad Mick Dee won his third Group 1 for the season when guiding Little Brose to

victory in the Australian \$2m Blue Diamond Stakes at Sandown. The 26-year-old Napier boy also won the Caulfield Cup on Deuston and the Victorian Derby on Manzoice.

Mick started his career at Hastings, then did a stint with Kevin Meyers before completing his apprenticeship with Mick Price in Melbourne.

Hawkes Bay Racing Inc closed down racing from 10 February until 15 April to make room for people affected by Cyclone Gabrielle providing meals – and temporary accommodation for animals.

NZTR donated \$50,000 to an Appeal and other racing partnerships donated \$30,000 with the bulk of this being used to purchase feed from Dunstan Feeds, and also veterinary supplies.

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Wanganui was lucky to avoid most of the recent damaging weather and so far, has enjoyed a reasonably pleasant and warm autumn with around 84 mls of rain from the 1st March to mid-April and consistent temperatures in the 20's.

The Jockey club is pleased with the track conditions that have recovered well and performed nicely over the last 3 meetings this year. There has been some good honest racing and opportunities for all performers across the track to keep owners and punters alike happy.

The next race meeting on the 11th May sees the return of jumps racing but unusually this year it will not be the first jumps meeting on the calendar in the Central Districts. Hawera was scheduled to have the first jumps meeting on the 26th April.

The Nga Tawa School Equine academy will be on-course at the May meeting to learn more

Bret Field

about the thoroughbred racing industry and get a behind the scenes look at operations.

The local jumps trainers will be out in force looking for strong performances this season and this was reflected in a big turnout at the recent point to point at Waverley.

It was great to see the Connors trained Hurry Cane win the Ecycle Solutions Bm125 Chase at Pakenham in Australia on 16 April with Aaron Kuru onboard.

The centre of the racecourse has had major developments since late last year with the introduction of the first straight greyhound racing track being created inside the training tracks. It is a grass track that is around 380m including the catchment area.

The renovations have had to be carefully managed around daily training, schooling, other equine events and now also local rugby. The project is progressing gradually and is likely to be racing by Christmas with the joint venture consolidating a strong

racing hub in Whanganui.

Greyhound racing has just commenced at Hatrick Raceway which reopened on the 14th April after 18 months of redeveloping and resurfacing the oval.

The Wanganui Jockey Club is looking forward to the King's Birthday weekend raceday on Saturday 3rd June and will have a full house with already strong bookings around the venue. It will also feature the listed AGC Training Stakes WFA 1600m and John Turkington Forestry 2YO 1200m, as well as the George Robinson Memorial Foxton Cup over 2040m.

The club has also had a change in scheduling with the 13 July meeting becoming Otaki-Maori RC's Matariki raceday on Friday 14th July, while now picking up the 23rd June fixture.

The upcoming weather patterns will be very interesting but bring on winter and jumps racing!

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

Any review of racing in our area would be incomplete if it did not feature Lisa Latta and the wonderful season she is having. He's A Doozy, currently the highest rated horse in her stable has this season won the Group 3 Coupland's Bakeries Mile at Riccarton and Group 3 Thompson Handicap and the Group 1 Thorndon Mile at Trentham making it 3 wins from 7 starts and over \$380k in stakes.

Next in the ratings is Belclare with 3 wins from 10 starts and over \$290k in stakes including the Group 1 NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes, Group 3 Valachi Downs Canterbury Breeders Stakes and the Listed Wairarapa Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes.

Platinum Invador, on the comeback from an Australian campaign captured this year's Group 2 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup, after a steady build up.

Pignan's win in the Group 1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes was a win to remember. The last time that an Awapuni trained runner had won the flagship race on the local calendar was 49 years ago.

With over 1,100 wins in her career Lisa has for so long been at the head of her profession. In the 2013/14 season she became the first solo women trainer in New Zealand history to claim the New Zealand Trainers Premiership.

Congratulations Lisa on your continued success. We are proud of you!

Pennyweka was a one-win filly, but with good lead up placings, when she lined up in the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks at Trentham. But at the 200m mark she was in no danger of defeat as she strode home an easy 3 length winner. Although, the spelling paddock then beckoned a change of heart saw her race again 3 weeks later in Australia. The best fillies that they could offer was no match for Pennyweka who won The Star Australian Oaks in decisive fashion.

Pennyweka was bred by Jim and Les Wallace and is trained at Opaki by Jim. The Santono Aladdin filly is raced by a big Syndicate, managed by Janine Wallace, who have had a ball following her on race day. Members John Macmillan and Mark and Faye Fearon are part of the ownership team.

Town Cryer won his third race for the current season when taking out the Manawatu ITM Anzac Mile at Awapuni. He has been a consistent performer with 5 wins in total. A number of members are in the ownership group including Kevin Day, Jill Dixon, Mark Fearon, John Roache and Bob Wiltshire.

At the same meeting Bradman registered his third win. Both Bradman and Town Cryer are trained by Roydon Bergerson and there are similar owners with our members Faye and Mark Fearon, John Roache, Keith Towers and Bob Wiltshire being partners in Bradman.



Town Cryer (orange colours) loved the track at Awapuni

Member Noel Buckman would have been pleased to see Sir Beets beat a big field at Trentham on Wellington Cup Day. The Proisir gelding had had a number of placings since his previous win in August, 2021.

Stepping up in distance Colorado Star has really performed with successive wins in the Taranaki Cup Group 3 and the Listed Kaimai Stakes, followed by a second in the Group 2 Awapuni Gold Cup and third in the Listed Hawkes Bay Cup. The Alamosa gelding is raced by the In To Win Elegant Emerald Syndicate managed by Tineke Balcombe and is trained by Mike Breslin.

Royal Flower raced by her breeders Gail Temperton and Stan Alexander made it win number 4 for the season when winning at Wanganui in April. She is a very promising mare. Gail was close to a 2nd success for the month when Cheeky Azz was beaten by the bob of the head in the open hurdles at Hawera

Maryweka has raced well recently with a second and successive wins in February/ March. A number of the Syndicate which race Pennyweka share in the ownership of this Time Test filly.

White Noise bounced back to winning form in the Group 3 Manco Easter Handicap. Included in the ownership of the Andrew Forsman trained gelding are members Logan and Matthew Fenwick and Tim Gillespie.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2022/2023 POINTS SERIES LEADER BOARD AS AT 24 APRIL, 2023

It is close at the top of the Leader Board with only 2 points between the first 3. Royal Flower and Maryweka have been racing consistently but with the wetter tracks now more likely the evergreen Deerfield is always a danger. As well, with 7 points for first any of the chasing pack could still win the 2022/2023 Majestic Horse Floats Points Competition.

Leader Royal Flower nominated by Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander 34 points
Second Maryweka nom by John Macmillan & Les & Janine Wallace 33 points
Third Deerfield nominated by Judith Bambry
Fourth = Bradman & Town Cryer both nominated by John Roach
Sixth Pennyweka nom by John Macmillan and Les & Janine Wallace 26 points
Seventh Yolo nominated by Sam & Philippa Trotter
Eighth Opawa Jack nominated by Chrissy Bambry
Ninth Subtle Point nominated by Roger Parkinson
Tenth = Sergio nominated by Rosy Pratt & Kamada Racing
Winning For All nominated by Logan & Matthew Fenwick 21 points

The Leader Board will be updated on the Federation website from time to time. This can be found on the Manawatu page on the drop-down box under the "Regional Associations" heading.

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND Peter Faulkner

Greetings from the Mainland. I hope the Easter Bunny found everyone and all enjoyed the recent Easter racing.

We are transitioning towards winter racing, although our meeting at Phar Lap Raceway this week (27 April) is a good 4 at the time of nominations. As usual numbers are strong and the track is arguably one of, if not the best all year round galloping tracks in the South Island, so why it is still on the chopping block is beyond me.

The first horse I would like to write about is a 4yo gelding by Ghibellines, whose stock are performing very well. The horse is Zappolino, owned by Rick and Anna Rhodes of Christchurch. He broke maidens back in January at Ashburton on a good 3 over 2200m. A reasonable size, as a few of the Ghibellines can be, he started finding his feet with a second and a fourth at start 5 and 6.

Start 7 was the charm, and going out second favourite with Kavish Chowdhoory aboard, they settled well back in the ten horse field. With a muddling pace and horses improving down the back straight, Zappalino was basically last before the turn and needing an out. They tracked the favourite into the straight and managed to come inside a couple of tiring runners. Once straightened and balanced he set out after the eventual second placed runner who tried to pinch a break. He came strongly and ground him down to win by a neck.

Gas, as he is affectionately known by Ricky, Anna and the Lance Robinson team, then went for a spell and should only be stronger next time in. With a strong staying dam side, he should go on with it and provide owners with a few more wins.

Ricky got into racing back in 2014 with his first horse Skeen, winning three staying races. Then he and Anna decided to delve deeper into the racing game and bought a 9 win mare called Elusive Tracy to start as a performer, with more to come.

When the Rich Hill stallion Vadamos began his stud career Rick and Anna liked the look of his pedigree and obtained two shares in him, to send their increasing brood mare band to the stallion.

Next they tried some Australian blood with Elusive Tracy going to Impending, and also a mare they purchased there called Lavenham, to Pride of Dubai.

They now have a number of young horses kicking off their careers with Lance Robinson at Riccarton and Cody Cole up North, I wish Ricky and Anna all the best, as what they are putting into the industry they deserve every bit of it.

When asked what the goals were as an owner/ breeder, Waimate born Rick's reply was 'the 3yo classics, and of course the Waimate Cup'.

A local horse who has come good of late is the 6yo Showcasing gelding called Aorangi Assassin. Breaking his maiden at start 20 in November he scored again for local owner Pat Collins four starts later at Ashburton in March. Drawing 1 with Krishna Mudhoo riding for trainer Len Stewart of Washdyke, he was hustled along early to hold a spot midfield on the rail. The pace was on and gaps were not appearing so that on the turn he was four wide and challenging. With a wall of horses vying for the honours at the 200m, four horses set down to it, and it was a bob of the head as they went to the line locked together. It was too tough for the commentator to call and eventually it was Aorangi Assassin who came first from the photo finish.

A good result for Pat who has been in the game a long time, as a jockey, trainer and owner.

Another long-time owner is Bill Jelley of Cromwell. His horse called Play The Field, or Pippi as she's known, is a 9yo Stravinsky mare that won three races up north before venturing south to Len Stewart's stable in 2021, where she has won a further three times.

The latest was at the local Timaru Xmas meeting over 1200m in a R65 event. Even though she has scored four times on a heavy track, she prefers the better going now and it was a good 3 on this day. Drawn six and ridden by one of our best, Lisa Allpress settled her fifth, moved to the 1x1 as they rolled to the top of the straight. They made their move and kicked for home, Lisa urged her along when the challenges started to come, but they found enough to hold on.

I see Aorangi Assassin and Play the Field are both nominated at Timaru this week so all the best to both connections.

A nice 3yo gelding on the way up is Tough Time, owned by Barry Thomas.

By Shamexpress and trained by Andrew Carston of Riccarton, he built to a nice maiden win after three placings. His second attempt at 1400 he won at Riccarton where he jumped and landed handy from gate 5, by the home turn he was coming under a ride and he and the leader cleared out from the rest of the field and went at it. He was too tough under Brandon May in the last 50m and won by a neck.

Three weeks later he lined up in the Southland Guineas over a mile and ran a very creditable third proving he is a nice one for the future.

Lastly I just want to remind everyone of our point series kicking off at Timaru on 27th of April and running until our October meeting.

Entries will be taken after the 27th but only points from day of entry will be counted.

So, get your entries in and good luck!!



COMPILED BY PAT AND SALLY

- Q1. A horse has the largest 'what' of any land mammal?
- Q2. Which year did Secretariat win the Triple Crown?
- Q 3. What is the name of the late Queen's Royal Stud?
- Q4. Which of these is the oldest racecourse -Chester, Aintree or Ascot?
- **Q 5.** Approximately how many people are employed by the racing industry?
- **Q 6.** When are jumps races held in New Zealand?
- **Q 7.** Which Champion jockey is now senior riding master and apprentice jockey mentor in the north?
- Q8. What are the two richest races in NZ?
- Q9. Which two racing Clubs combined to become Auckland Thoroughbred Racing?
- Q 10. Which horse won the 2022 Balmerino Stakes Grp3 and the 2022 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic Grp 1?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 15



REPORT FROM NZTR COO DARIN BALCOME

On behalf of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR), I would like to update you on important industry progressions that have occurred as we head into the latter end of the racing season.

TAB - ENTAIN ANNOUNCEMENT

NZTR Board and management endorse the announcement of TAB NZ's selection of Entain as its preferred partner for a 25-year strategic partnering arrangement. NZTR are excited about the opportunities it presents in relation to funding certainty, as well as activities for racing and sport enthusiasts.

We recognise the potential benefit this will have for stakeholders, providing confidence and the opportunity for growth and investment. We see this as the critical shift needed to support the long-term sustainability of the racing industry and its supporting codes.

NZTR are heartened by what the potential arrangement will bring in terms of funding security and uplift, as well as the ability to innovate within our industry. Over the coming months we will be working on how this will be shaped and as soon as the commercial confidentially agreement is removed, we will make this information publicly available.

RACING, TRACKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

We are pleased to see progress moving forward at Te Aroha, as the Club continues to build confidence in the surface with participants.

As of mid-April, locals have been conducting track work on the surface, with Shaun Clotworthy taking several horses to Te Aroha on Wednesday 19 April. Riders Masa Hashizumi, Hamish McNeill and Ace Lawson-Carroll also gave positive feedback on the newly developed track. The first set of trials is scheduled on Thursday 4 May and will be

restricted in numbers and over distances to test the entire track. All problem bare patches have now recovered, and we are moving positively towards the resumption of racing on 5 June.

The course proper reconstruction project continues at Awapuni, with decisions on profiles and drainage being finalised. Final costings are yet to be confirmed, with scheduled start for October 2023, pending available contractors. The Awapuni Synthetic Track is scheduled to begin racing on Sunday 7 May. Trials were held on the track during April and a preparation plan has been put in place by Reid Sanders from Martin Collins.

The Ellerslie track is still on target for a January 14 resumption despite the weather setbacks. This meeting will need to be run in order to gain confidence of participants heading into the 2024 Karaka Million Twilight meeting held in January.

REVIEW OF LICENCING PROCESSES

NZTR is currently in the process of reviewing its licencing processes, including the creation of new licencing categories, addition of accredited persons and transition to online services.

NZTR will look to implement new licencing categories in order to enhance pathways into the industry. The new categories proposed are: Trainer's Licence Class B, Assistant Trainer, Pre-Trainer, Stable Assistant, Visiting Trainer, Jockey and Assistant.

We will also review the list of accredited persons to be registered for oncourse passes which has never been a formal process. They will be assigned individual NZTR IDs

for: Starters, Starting crew, Judges, Clerk of Scales, Vets, Media, and all NZTR Staff. These categories have been created to ensure that appropriate raceday protocols are followed to ensure the health and safety of industry participants.

Online application forms are also being implemented for all new licence holders, bringing together several tasks into one streamlined process. All application forms are accessible by phone, tablet or PC. The transition to online services enables a shift to convenient online self-servicing, including self-application and self-payment options. Moving towards an online servicing centre generates better accuracy of data, with faster processing times for our internal licencing team.

TRACEABILITY

NZTR would like to remined all owners or trainers that they must submit an SR24 Notification of Death or Retirement of a Thoroughbred return for every horse, so NZTR can maintain full traceability on all thoroughbreds for the period between foaling and either death or retirement from racing and/or breeding, whichever is earliest. This known as 'comprehensive traceability.'

NZTR appreciates the efforts of Accountable Persons in promptly submitting the SR24 Death or Retirement forms for their horses. Whilst NZTR is proactively chasing up returns for horses that have not raced or bred in recent periods, the system of traceability for our Thoroughbred population is greatly enhanced by these returns being submitted in a timely and accurate manner.

LITTLE AVONDALE BIG ON WINNING



How good is the New Zealand bred going in Australia! Every second person who tapped me on the shoulder at Sydney Easter wanted to talk about **Per Incanto** and just how well our sires are going. In fact as I write this column I've just got off the phone to another Australian breeder booking a mare into **Per Incanto**, that makes four today alone.

Sydney Easter wrapped up the yearling sale circuit. We had just the one **Per Incanto** yearling and he fetched \$325,000, a great result for his breeders John and Adriene O'Brien, while the only other in the sale, Mapperley's colt, bought \$320,000. It's been a wonderful summer for the stallion whose 32 yearlings across all the Australasian yearling sales averaged \$191k or 7.6 times service, and \$222k at the major sales.

Little Brose's win in the Group 1 Blue Diamond means that **Per Incanto**'s colts are firmly on the radar of the stallion syndicates at the yearling sales. But **Group 1** winner No.6 for **Per Incanto** had extra significance as his breeder David Wallace's wife, Maddy, was battling leukaemia. This was a long fight that she sadly lost and she will be dearly missed by us all.

I've been really excited about the success of **Time Test**'s progeny throughout Australasia in the last couple of months. He's had a **Group 3** placed 2YO in Australia, a stakes placed 3YO filly also in Australia and a stakes placed filly in New Zealand all in the space of four weeks. Apart from **Savabeel** and **Per Incanto** I can't recall the last New Zealand sire to leave an Australian 2YO Group performer.

Time Test's best books of mares are still to come online. He's served 359 mares at LA over the last three seasons and his yearlings sold up to \$160,000 at Karaka this year. It gives you a lot of confidence when the likes of John Foote and Paul Moroney are buying his yearlings.

Per Incanto's seventh **Group 1** winner meant some sore heads across the Wairarapa for a few days. On the same day the Wairarapa bred and trained **Pennyweka** won the Oaks in Sydney, **Belclare** gave her Opaki breeder David Woodhouse his biggest day in 50 years of horse ownership and breeding when she won the **Group 1** Thoroughbred Breeders at Pukekohe. It feels like lifetime ago now but Karaka was a special sale after all the upheaval of the last few years. So many of our Australian

a special sale after all the upheaval of the last few years. So many of our Australian and overseas friends made a point of returning and the atmosphere, despite the biblical rain at times was memorable.

I was stoked at Karaka to get a result for

Jim Barlow and Lib Petagna with their **Per Incanto** – Sharvasti colt who sold for \$450k to Queensland's KPW Bloodstock, on behalf of Ron and Judy Wanless. The Auret's from Wanganui also got a very good result when they sold their **Per Incanto** colt for \$400k. After a good deal of thought we've decided

After a good deal of thought we've decided to leave both stallions at last years' service fees. With three **Group 1** winners this season and 12 stakes performers we felt, particularly compared to where some other stallions have been pitched, that **Per Incanto** warranted an increase but at \$50k there's still plenty of upside for breeders.

AUTUMN 2023

TAB TO COME UNDER CONTROL OF BETTING GIANT ENTAIN

THE STATE-OWNED BETTING AGENCY, TAB, IS SET TO COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF A BRITISH BETTING GIANT IN A BILLION DOLLAR DEAL AIMED AT REVITALISING THE ORGANISATION AND RACING.

Subject to government approval, British firm Entain, which operates the well-known Ladbrokes chain, will take operational control of the TAB for 25 years after a 2018 review recommended the need for a strategic partnership to guarantee the agency's future.

TAB chief executive officer Mike Tod said the deal would boost the fortunes of racing, sport and communities.

"TAB NZ faced an uncertain future in a David and Goliath battle with international wagering operators and a lack of capital to both compete and meet its potential.

"In the absence of a strategic partnering arrangement, TAB NZ would be further cutting distributions in the next financial year... This proposed strategic arrangement

with Entain provides a certain, material and immediate uplift in the funding TAB NZ can provide New Zealand racing and sports ensuring that these industries not only survive but thrive.

"It will allow us to greatly improve our harm minimisation and responsible gambling efforts, and provides immediate job security and long-term job creation in New Zealand to the advancement of our nation at large.

BILLION-DOLLAR BOOST

Under the terms of the deal Entain would invest \$1 billion over the next five years in the TAB, provide \$10m sponsorship for racing carnivals, refresh the TAB brand, systems and facilities, and guarantee the jobs of all staff for the next two years.

Entain's Australian chief executive Dean Shannon said the agreement would improve the betting experience for New Zealand and support racing and sporting industries.

"We have a compelling vision for the future of TAB NZ, which includes a renewed focus on innovation and technology, and a longterm commitment to all racing, sport and industry stakeholders."

"As the partner of choice for New Zealand, we have made a firm commitment to employment continuity for at least 24 months, with the team at TAB NZ essential to our future vision and growth of the market in New Zealand."

Racing Minister Kieran McAnulty said he wanted to make sure that racing was guaranteed for the future and he would take time before signing off the deal.

"I want to have a look and make sure that it meets the statutory obligations that the TAB has to meet ... the TAB has a monopoly in New Zealand and I want to make sure that is retained," he told 1News.

"I gave a pretty clear steer to the TAB that I wouldn't be signing off on anything that meant wholesale job losses, and that's been reflected in the agreement and what I've seen so far and that's reassuring, but I still want to make sure of the detail."

DEFIBRILLATE:

The racehorse that keeps on giving

This well-named and highly talented 8YO bay gelding by Shocking (AUS) out of Our Chickaroonie (NZ) is part-owned by Graeme McInteer, a Wellington-based long-time member of the Manawatu Owners Association. Sally Blyth spoke to Graeme about his pride and joy and his road to racing glory.

Graeme's passion for racing was formed in his early years through his family's love of the sport. His parents would take the kids to picnic race days at Trentham and Graeme was hooked from a young age. He has been a thoroughbred racehorse owner for some 30 years now and manages the McInteer Family Syndicate which races Defibrillate in partnership with G Richardson (who trains the horse), A Harris, D Lumsden, B McCullum, S Swap, L O'Sullivan & B Priest.

Graeme started with a gelding he raced with Kevin Gray back in the 1990s. He struck up a friendship with Kevin's son Stephen (now a prominent trainer in Singapore) and together they had success with a gelding called Final Forecast who provided Lisa Allpress her first winning ride. The horse won six out of 46 starts and clocked up plenty of placings, thus giving Graeme a taste of the winning thrill.

Final Forecast was retired in 1998 and when Graeme heard trainer Graham Richardson on the radio back in the early 2000s, his interest was piqued again. At the end of the interview Graham R was asked if he had any horses available. Caught somewhat off guard, he mentioned he had a Groom Dancer mare. So, Graeme rang Graham R to find out more and decided to take a small shareholding in that horse. Called Our Chickaroonie, she had just one start in 2004 before being retired due to injury.

As the other syndicate members dropped out, Graeme suggested to Graham R that they should breed from Our Chickaroonie. While Graham R wasn't initially keen on the idea, he eventually conceded and along came the talented Italian Princess (Bertolini) who won on her second start in November 2009. There was great hope in the ownership camp when she lined up as favourite in the 2011 Railway at her ninth start after two back-to-back wins. Alas, the result was a disappointing 11th of twelve runners. After a few more runs. it was evident she had decided she didn't want to be a racehorse anymore and was retired. With five wins from 12 starts, her good, albeit shorter-than-hoped-for, racing career was over.

Our Chickaroonie had a couple more [slow] foals and then a goodie that was sold to Hong Kong and had success there (Love

Shock, by Shocking). The team decided to send their mare back to Shocking and on 2 September 2014 Defibrillate was born.

His first start was in May 2019 as a 4YO but he got no favours and it was a tough run for 8th. He turned the tables by winning his next two in a row in August and September 2019. Confidence was high and, given the horse had quickly got to a level beyond NZ racing at the time, connections decided to take him to Australia where he went to Paddy Payne.

After immediately clocking up two wins from his first two starts in Australia (Moe in October and Moonee Valley in November 2019), it was evident that this was a very worthwhile call. It was also serendipitous that Graeme and his family already had flights to Melbourne booked and were lucky enough to be there on course to see him in action.

Defibrillate went on to give his owners six more wonderful wins during his Australian campaign (October 2019 to May 2022). That's 8 wins from 24 starts over there and included an impressive four-in-a-row winning streak between December 2020 and February 2021 at both Caulfield and Flemington. Of particular note, he won the Lord Stakes 1700m Listed Race on Boxing Day 2020 and the Victoria Cup 2000m Listed Race on 20th February 2021, both at Caulfield. He also had plenty of placings during his Australian campaign.

The initial reasoning around taking him to Australia was to pick up the odd race but he showed more ability than his owners had dared hope for. Once he got to his level in Australia, the options were to stay there and run him at WFA against extremely good horses or in handicaps where he would get huge weights to carry. The other option was to bring him back and have some fun in New Zealand's richer races.

The team chose the latter and, back on NZ turf, Defibrillate lined up in the Livamol Classic at Hawkes Bay on 15 October 2022 with Jonathan Parkes on board. On a Heavy10 track, he put in a gutsy effort for a third placing behind Mustang Valley.

Next up was the Balmerino Stakes on 1st November 2022 at Pukekohe Park with Craig Grylls at the helm. On a Soft 6 track he put in a huge bid to get up on the line by a head, beating The Mayor and Demonetization.

On Boxing Day 2022 he lined up in the Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic, again at Pukekohe, this time with Warren Kennedy on top. It was a decisive and very stylish win, his 12th from 30 starts. On a Good 3 track, he took over at the



200m mark and ran away to win by $1\frac{3}{4}$ lengths.

Next up was the Herbie Dyke Stakes at Te Rapa on 11th February 2023. Being topweight and up against a field of talented youngsters, he had his work cut out but showed his mettle running a strong fourth behind the outstanding Redwood galloper Sharp 'N' Smart. It was a brave effort especially considering he'd had to go forward earlier than planned.

A month later, on 11th March 2023, he was back to contest the Bonecrusher Stakes at Pukekohe, again as topweight and again with Warren Kennedy on board. The pair copped a major check on the run home when making a winning bid. Badly bumped and squeezed out of contention, they had to settle for fifth. Needless to say, these sorts of incidences are when owners can justifiably get cross as the difference in stakes at this level is significant. But it's a case of taking it on the chin, for owners, jockeys and trainers alike - this is racing, and there are so many variables. There is a mention in the Steward's Report but at the time of writing there is still no Stewards video footage of the race available to view although seeing the head-on footage on the day created a few gasps.

Graeme has bred and owned a few other horses over the years, one being the delightfully named (but not so easy to spell) Zedeedudadeeko, a versatile type who raced over the jumps as well as on the flat between 2012 and 2019. By Zed, he won seven, with four of those being over the hurdles including the Great Northern and Wellington Hurdles.

Defibrillate will now have a well-earned spell and then follow a similar programme in his next campaign. He prefers better going, so connections are hopeful for an improved spring/summer season this coming year. It's heartening that the plan to bring him back to aim for Group 1 winning glory in New Zealand paid off and the team must be so proud of this boy who keeps on giving.

With over \$1m in prize money, and so many thrilling wins both here and across the Tasman, a horse like Defibrillate is the sort we all dream of owning. The syndicate has a couple of horses in the pipeline and we wish Graeme and the family all the best for a happy racing future – with Defibrillate and any other horses who take to the turf for them.

















AUCKLAND CUP DAY PUKEKOHE PARK 11 MARCH 2023













Photos: Auckland Thoroughred Racing

NZTR INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT DAY

Held on 30th March 2023 at Ellerslie, this Racing Industry event was created by NZTR and attended by representatives of Racing Clubs around the country as well as Stakeholder groups. President Bernard Hickey, Vice President Sally Blyth and Executive Officer Denise Mayhew attended on behalf of NZTROF.

NZTR CEO Bruce Sharrock welcomed everyone and gave a brief overview of the recent announcement by the TAB regarding its intention to partner with Entain, a global betting operator. Subject to ministerial approval, this is an initiative that was recommended in the Messara Report and one that is welcomed by the industry as a step in the right direction.

Andrew Jones (CEO of Racing Victoria)

addressed attendees. An engaging and charismatic speaker, he outlined challenges he has faced in his role and made it very clear to all that the intrinsic enemy to racing, here and elsewhere, is "other sports and entertainment". Infighting within the industry serves no purpose and it is important that everyone works together for the betterment of racing as a whole.

Andrew spoke of the main purpose of Racing Victoria:

- To bring joy to fans and owners.
- To care for and celebrate racehorses.
- To provide jobs and growth for the community.

Some of the comments he made regarding racing and betting in Australia include:

- Racing as a betting prospect has grown by 6% over the last 15 years; Sports betting has grown by 14%.
- Wagering increased by around 30% during Covid but is now down 5•10% on that.
- Young people generally bet on Sports rather than Racing. Most young people don't understand the racing industry or how to bet on racehorses meaning they opt to bet on Sports rather than Racing.
- Melbourne Cup Day attracts only about one-quarter or less of events like Big Bash cricket.
- Interest in the Melbourne Cup race peaked in 2006 following Makybe Diva's triple victory (2003, 2004, 2005). Since then, interest has declined.
- There is a competitive element between Racing NSW and Racing Victoria – a difficult and unhelpful situation. Andrew's mission is to focus on working together to grow the whole pie.

In summary, Racing has fallen behind Sports betting and is going backwards. Racing is a powerful yet vulnerable business that needs to focus and grow again. The important thing is that all stakeholders need to act in unison to survive and win.

The six main components are: Fans; Government; Infrastructure; Workforce sustainability; Commercial aspects; Media. In terms of infrastructure, there are currently many racecourses in and around Melbourne. but the ideal would be to have just two or three "mega-clubs". Andrew highlighted the negative effect of the current training regime that requires trackwork riders and jockeys to get up at ridiculous hours of the morning, especially given the full schedule of twilight and night meetings over there. This is not sustainable. His question "What 18-year-old with a brain would desire and decide to do that?" elicited just one answer - none. There is a mission in Victoria to change the schedule and initiate later training times. This would go down well in New Zealand too. This ultra•early morning training regime was started many decades ago but we now live in a different world and it's no longer appropriate with issues of fatigue and safety to consider.

In the mission to improve the industry Andrew urged that it is necessary to work out the right answer, go do it, and ideally use the Patton theory of constant advance – attack enemies, not allies

He opened the floor to questions. Here's an overview.

- NSW versus Victoria: Racing NSW views Racing Victoria as a competitor but it takes cooperation and a collaborative approach to be on the road to a best future for all.
- Animal welfare: Perceptions around this create a barrier to bringing people into the industry and to betting. Those in the industry know how well-cared for thoroughbred racehorses are but those who are not, or do not work with or around horses, have no idea. There needs to be good messaging and communications and an opportunity for real participants to tell their stories and thereby create more understanding around the welfare aspect of racing.
- Whips: Both a steering wheel and an accelerator, whips are also a barrier due to public perception. Whip•free racing is probably not too far away, with whips being used for safety only.
- Marketing challenges: Racing Victoria has recently appointed a GM of Fans & Customers with the aim of making the game fun and promoting animal care and welfare via social media. This can only be positive.
- Free to view TV: It is available in Victoria and it makes a difference. NZ would benefit if it was available. (Alas, we don't even have regular races available on a radio frequency!)
- Mainstream media: Coverage depends on the journalists. Racing Victoria has developed its own media channels. The reality is that bad news and drama sells, so if there are any negative stories to portray, the media will jump on that, which is not helpful to the industry. Money and incentives can generate positive coverage (sad but true).

Next up was Dean McKenzie, a consultant to NZTR, who gave a presentation about the **SOTI (State of the Industry)**. It was, in essence, a financial check•up of the industry

By Sally Blyth

in relation to Racing Clubs. Tony Severinson, NZTR's Head of Funding and Analytics, then gave a presentation of the **Business Plan overview**. This section mainly covered how Racing Clubs operate and gave an interesting picture. A sobering takeaway was that there is a predicted decrease in Clubs' surpluses.

Corporate Lawyer Barry Brown then gave an overview of **Sports Club Mergers** with an overview of process and benefits as well as good governance. He's been involved in a number of mergers, most notably the recent merger of Auckland and Counties Racing Clubs to form Auckland Thoroughbred Racing. Barry is currently working on a proposed merger between the Auckland Bridge Club and Remuera Bowling Club. He strongly advocates that mergers are the way of the future for sports clubs across the country, including racing clubs.

Nikki Burgess, Director of The Sports Shop NZ, gave a presentation around **Marketing trends and themes**. Main points were:

- Technology (e.g. Web3, NFTs, data capture, regional platforms)
- 2. Experiential (off•track activities)
- 3. Women's Sport (diversity matters, going from strength to strength)
- 4. Investment (revenue generating success, Road Shows etc)
- ESG (climate change and sustainability

 sharing stories, finding purpose, being mindful of the environment).

This was followed by a **Panel discussion** with Nikki who was joined by Laura Madden (ATR), Noelle Prince (Wingatui RC) and Andrew Castles (Waikato RC). Some interesting initiatives and concepts were shared and discussed including the "ODT Southern Mile" concept as outlined by Noelle Price. This involves qualifying races, points allocation and a final, run within a set timeframe.

Andrew Jones, Victoria Racing, returned to discuss "The Fan". He shared about "The Insider Problem" – just because we love racing, it doesn't mean everyone else does, and this can cause tunnel vision. He also talked about the need for alignment within the industry itself and the many opportunities that need to be captured at this time. He focussed on the various products on offer (Racing, Media, Wagering, Life Event, Social Licence Messaging) and shared three bullet points in relation to each, ending up back at the purpose of Racing Victoria, as mentioned at the beginning of this article.

The final part of the day was a **Q&A session** with rugby's Rieko loane and Roger Tuivasa•Sheck – Butch Castles facilitated the session with plenty of questions and it was a great way to end the programme. Drinks, food and fellowship followed with lots of good connections made.

It was an excellent day with interesting and informative speakers. Let's hope that all parts of New Zealand's Racing Industry can work together to make racing great again – the opportunity is now!

HOW NEW ZEALAND RACING 'SOLD THE FARM' TO ENTAIN AND LEFT TABCORP AT THE ALTAR

Bren O'Brien
INDEPENDENT HORSE
RACING NEWS. 24/04/2023

WHEN NEW ZEALAND'S MINISTER FOR RACING KIERAN MCANULTY SIGNS OFF ON A 25-YEAR MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR DEAL FOR ENTAIN TO TAKE OVER THE COUNTRY'S WAGERING LICENCE, HE WILL DELIVER A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME FINANCIAL BOOST TO THE THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY.

In the wake of John Messara's landmark 2018 report into the troubles of the New Zealand racing industry, Tabcorp was seen as having an open shot for the licence to run wagering in the country.

The path was laid for Tabcorp to waltz in and add another dominion to the empire, giving the publicly listed Australian corporation a much-needed boost to its international profile.

It had even been reported that a deal between Tabcorp and the New Zealand Racing industry was at an advanced stage of negotiation, but when details of that deal, which was significantly inferior to the one Entain has now put forward, were leaked, administrators and legislators got cold feet.

It then became a truly competitive process, a battle between Tabcorp, Sportsbet and Entain after BetR had opted out at an early stage. The result, announced last month, has been a prospective 25-year commitment from Entain, in what is a game-changing deal for New Zealand racing.

The headline numbers hit all the right notes. There will be NZ\$160 million (US\$98 million) up front for the deal, plus a minimum guarantee of NZ\$1 billion (US\$614 million) over the first five years. There is also a \$NZ100 million (US\$61.4 million) sweetener to be paid if the New Zealand government passes geoblocking legislation which would give the new Entain-powered entity a virtual monopoly in a potential market of five million people.

The final deal is now before Kieran McAnulty, the Minister For Racing and former bookmaker with the NZ TAB, for final approval but his assent is seen as a fait accompli.

For many involved in racing and wagering, it is viewed as the right solution at the right time. The broader public sentiment surrounding TAB NZ has diminished as the relative riches enjoyed by racing bodies in a much more mature Australian wagering environment have become apparent.

Meanwhile, overseas corporate bookmakers, particularly Bet365, have made strong inroads with New Zealand punters, further undermining financial returns from the NZ TAB.

The way which the Trackside media product has been managed in recent years has also been cited as a reason for reform. There is considerable anecdotal evidence that New Zealand punters have become less interested in the local product as a result and this has concerned stakeholders.

Entain has used this and its burgeoning pedigree in the media space, chiefly through its Ladbrokes content offering in Australia, as a key 'non-financial' consideration for its bid.

Every deal has its costs and there has, of course, been trepidation and misgivings from some quarters.

"Once you have done this, you can never undo it," one source said. "You can't put the machine back together."

The length of the deal has been questioned, perhaps understandably when you consider Entain has only existed as a corporate brand since 2020, yet it has put forward a deal which will take New Zealand racing, with its long history, in a commercial marriage until 2048.

There are those who would prefer a homebuilt solution, rather than one imported from overseas, while others are concerned whether the flood of money from the deal simply goes to those who are already doing particularly well out of New Zealand racing.

But that all depends on where the money is spent.

Firstly, the upfront NZ\$160 million payment will undoubtedly help set the new company up for success as well as provide a sugar hit in terms of infrastructure investment for the broader racing industry. It will enable the industry to invest into areas neglected under the previous funding model and, as one source put it, 'fix a whole lot of things that need fixing'.

The NZ\$1 billion guarantee, the equivalent of NZ\$200 million (US\$123 million) a year in the formative years of the new marriage, will be the aspect which helps underwrite future funding for prize money, the lifeblood of the industry.

The NZ\$200 million would be a NZ\$60 million (US\$37 million) a year increase on what the NZ TAB contributed to the broader industry last financial year. Given the thoroughbred industry currently represents about 55 per cent of the wagering market, the respective annual uplift for it in terms of revenue would be in the realms of NZ\$35 million (US\$21 million), or 30 per cent of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's (NZTR's) current revenue.

Nobody at NZTR is willing to put the cart before the horse and speculate ahead of McAnulty's decision what the extra cash means to prize money but reporting elsewhere, chiefly through noted New Zealand journalist Michael Guerin, suggests the changes will be far-reaching.

Minimum prize money for thoroughbred races is expected to increase from \$14,000 to \$20,000, underpinning the bottom end of the industry, but it is also highly likely New Zealand's best races will get a much-needed boost

The average prize money for a Group 1 race in New Zealand has lagged well below that of

Australia for many years and that is expected to be addressed, while minimum prize money for premier Saturday racing in Auckland is expected to be boosted to around \$80,000 by the time Ellerslie re-opens later this year.

That is well short of the Saturday minimum of \$150,000 offered in Sydney, but still an enormous incentive for those trainers and owners with quality horses to keep them racing at home, rather than selling to Australia or Hong Kong.

Logic would say that if racing returns to New Zealand owners through prize money are going to increase by 30-40 per cent, then we can expect the value of bloodstock to increase at similar levels.

While New Zealand has been famous for exporting its best thoroughbred talent for generations, it has become a particular commercial reality in the past 10 years to the detriment of the local racing industry.

Suddenly, those previously compelled to 'sell the good ones' overseas might be convinced to chance their arm at the larger prize money available at home, forcing prices and competition up for investors from Australia, Hong Kong and elsewhere, be it on the private market or through yearling or breezeup sales.

It will set them up with a monopoly for the foreseeable future, with safeguards apparently set to be put in place for punters around minimum bet limits to provide a fair betting environment.

There are cases for and against betting monopolies. Certainly, Hong Kong and Japanese racing benefit from the monopoly models which help power their racing industries, while Australia's 'free-for-all' corporate bookmaker approach has led to increased returns, greater innovation, but complexity when it comes to taxation and regulation.

The Entain deal allows New Zealand racing to benefit from much of the corporate bookmaker innovation that has happened across the Tasman, while having the security of ongoing funding. It also gives the industry a five-year window to get its house in order in terms of prize money, infrastructure, media and marketing, aspects which have been sorely neglected in the past decade.

The pending agreement is a massive feather in the cap for Entain, which has battled to erode the dual dominance of Sportsbet and Tabcorp in Australia, where it has been the third wheel for some time. It tried to buy Tabcorp's wagering and media arm for AU\$3.5 billion (US\$2.3 billion) in 2021 but having failed on that front has changed tack with the New Zealand deal.

It certainly puts Entain in a stronger position for consideration for the Victorian wagering licence, currently held by Tabcorp, which is due to expire in August 2024.



By Adam Pengilly SMH

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S RICHEST RACE

For more than 100 years, Australian racing had been built on tradition.

But a little more than five years ago, that all changed when a mega money race was announced which would instantly make it the richest in the country.

The Everest has been accused of being many things, but it could never be accused of being boring.

WHAT IS THE EVEREST?

A concept unique in Australian racing which involves wealthy investors, ranging from big business to individuals, buying a position in a 1200-metre sprint race and then either racing their own stock or brokering a deal with a horse owner to represent them in the race. There are 12 different slotholders who are racing for prizemoney scaled from first to last. The Everest was first run in 2017 in October – two weeks after the NRL grand final – and has been a runaway success since.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST TO OWN A SLOT IN THE EVEREST?

It's not cheap. To be one of the 12 foundation investors it took a \$1.8 million, three-year commitment, meaning each slot costs \$600,000 per year just for the privilege of choosing a horse to contest the race. Once the initial three years had expired, the price of a slot remained at \$600,000 per year.

WHO OWNS THE SLOTS?

Those with deep pockets! The slotholders range from a mix of individuals, partnerships and big business. International breeding and racing giants including the Irish-backed Coolmore and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Godolphin pay for the privilege of competing in The Everest alongside companies such as The Star and Tabcorp. Australia's pre-eminent trainer Chris Waller has a group of investors in a slot, while businessman Bon Ho funds his own position.

I OWN A GOOD HORSE, BUT HOW DO I GET IT INTO THE EVEREST?

Do a deal with a slotholder. One of the peculiarities of the concept is you can have the best sprinter in the world, but you still need to broker a deal to secure a position in the race.

The better horses provide bargaining power for their owners, and the deals aren't just restricted to a split of the prizemoney but can include other add-ons such as a multi-year agreement and breeding rights which can help sweeten the deal.

CAN THE EVEREST SLOTS CHANGE HANDS?

Yes. The slots are wholly transferable and can be sold or leased for a period of time. One of the concept's original investors, GPI Racing, have leased their slot regularly. Such is the demand for a position in the race, they can offer it for more than the \$600,000 per year it costs to maintain it. It's one way to guarantee to make a return on your investment without having to do anything.

HOW MUCH PRIZEMONEY IS ON OFFER IN THIS YEAR'S RACE?

\$15 million. There's a reason why it's called the world's richest race on turf. First prize is \$6.2 million, which will be split between the slotholder and owners of the winning horse according to a deal they strike before the race.

WHERE DID THE IDEA FOR THE EVEREST COME FROM?

The Everest was based on a concept which originated in the United States called The Pegasus, which was first run in January 2017. It, too, involved a large buy-in with US\$1 million required to purchase a starting gate and the race was originally run for US\$12 million prizemoney. That was increased to US\$16 million in its second year, but the race has quickly fallen away and carries just a US\$3 million purse with free entry this year. Racing NSW boss Peter V'landys seized on the concept of a slot race and has quickly grown The Everest into a publicity machine.

WHY HAS IT BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL?

Australian racing's strength has always been its sprinters. And the concept tailors perfectly to that, with punters familiar with the best sprinters in Australia who naturally make up the field. That results in strong betting returns. There has also been a massive marketing budget allocated to the race, which has seen glitzy promotions built around the Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour. The nature of the concept also keeps The Everest in the news year-round because of incessant speculation about which horses are suitable for the race and the slot holder announcements in advance about which horse will represent them.

RICCARTON PARK POLYTRACK RACING RESUMES

Canterbury Jockey Club Media Release

Racing resumes on the Riccarton Park Polytrack for the second year on Thursday 4 May 2023.

This is the start of a run of eleven racemeetings on the Polytrack from May through to September. Effectively there is a racemeeting on the synthetic surface every fortnight.

Notable aspects from the first Polytrack season in 2022 included:

- From 1 May to 9 September 2022 nine midweek South Island meetings on the Turf averaged \$103,399 betting per race whilst the average of the Riccarton Park Polytrack meetings was \$105,140.
- The average field size was 9.84, not too far behind the national average. It was impacted by low average on the very first meeting and the meeting on Thursday 25 August which was a new meeting added to the calendar.
- The national average field size was exceeded at five of the 11 meetings.
- The Polytrack evolved to be kind to punters with favourites winning 31.3% of the races which is ahead of the national average of 28-30%.
- BUOYANT won on the Polytrack on Friday 3 June 2022. In five subsequent starts on the turf he won three and ran two seconds. Wins included the Group 3 Lindauer Stewards Stakes and the Listed Property Brokers Hazlett Stakes.
- CAMPIONESSA won on the Polytrack on 1 September 2022. She raced on to win two races including the Listed Nautical Boat Insurance Metropolitan Trophy and the Group 2 Rich Hill Mile. CAMPIONESSA was also Group 1 second in both the Herbie Dyke Stakes and Bonecrusher NZ Stakes.
- On Wednesday 10 August LIGHT UP won on the Polytrack and three months later won a \$60,000 race on the support card of New Zealand Cup Day.
- JUNE BUG also won a similar race on New Zealand Cup Day after having raced four times on the Polytrack for placings.
- In September ILLICIT MISS won a double on the Polytrack going on to win a \$60,000 race over 2500 metres at the NZ Cup Meeting.
- Champion trainer Mark Walker won with BELLE OF THE BALL on the final Polytrack meeting of 2022. She continued racing to win two more races and run second in Group 3 company.
- MEGALOMANIAC raced at six of the Polytrack meetings winning on three occasions.
- GLOBAL BEAUTY won on the Polytrack and has gone on to win two more races on the turf.
- In June and July FRANKIE THE FOX won consecutive open 'metric mile' handicaps on the turf and the Polytrack.
- Michael and Matthew Pitman have trained most winners on the Polytrack with 10.
- Michael McNab with the same number holds the most wins amongst the jockeys.



It came from members expressions of deep regret for the loss of the life of a fine young man.

Taiki had ridden their horses, at times in success and that service and Taiki's winning smile had touched their hearts.

The memorial rose "IMAGINE" is planted in the Ellerslie Racecourse birdcage. It is by the fence between the Ascot and Public stands. "Imagine" is a pink rose and that will stand out among all the other roses that line the fence, which are white.

Assisting in the placement was Auckland Thoroughbred Racing CEO Paul Wilcox.

Notably those in attendance were Taiki's sister Chiaki Yanagida, his Manager Ted McLachlan and wife Lynda, jockey friends Masa Hashizume and family, and Kozzi Asano.

Also attending were Adele McLeod from the NZ Breeders Association and Alan Fu of Pegasus Bloodstock. From the Owners side there was Sally Blyth, Auckland Committee and NZTROF Vice President, Auckland Owners President Mike Getting and most of the Auckland committee members.

Afterwards Alan Fu kindly invited all to go the "Jockeys Club" on the Ascot Stand for a drink where we enjoyed an Asahi and the fellowship that defines our community.

It was here that Taiki's great friend Kosi did a big reveal of his Tiger tattoo. Tiger was Taiki's nickname.

A report of the placement appeared in the racing blog. RaceCafe and I posted the above group photo. Twelve "likes" that were hearts appeared.



PET REFUGE



Pet Refuge, which provides temporary shelter for pets affected by domestic violence, is now catering for horses, including former racehorses.

The Refuge, located on the outskirts of Auckland, keeps pets safe while their owners escape abuse.

Animals are transported from around the country. One recent pick up was a former racehorse from Rotorua, who Shelter Case Worker Alice says was in very bad health.

"We nearly lost him through a pedal bone infection that was untreated, but we got on top of it, and he has now been adopted as a paddock mate and is very happy. He probably could still be ridden but his owner thinks he deserves to rest out his days."

The Refuge cares for all animals; dogs, cats, budgies parrots, horses, pigs, lizards and pigs.

The facility opened in July, 2021, the brainchild of Julie Chapman, Founder and CEO of children's charity KidsCan.

Fear for their pet's safety is a major factor that prevents people leaving abusive relationships. A 2018 Women's Refuge survey of women whose partners had abused or threatened their pets found 53% delayed leaving family violence out of fear for their pet's safety.

Women escaping family violence are usually unable to take their pets with them to safe houses. Pet Refuge has partnered with the NZ Police and women's refuges and is available to receive calls from families in need seven days a week.

New Zealand has the highest rate of domestic violence in the OECD - police attend a family harm or violence call out every four minutes - and high rates of pet ownership, at 63% of families.

Since opening the Shelter has helped 272 pets and their families. Forty-two pets are currently boarding.

Demand is increasing even including a number of calls from women sleeping in cars to keep their beloved pets safe, after fleeing domestic violence.

Pet Refuge plans to build another shelter in the future.

To donate visit www.petrefuge.org.nz or call 09 975 0850 to donate what you can afford or join our monthly giving programme. \$25 a month to give a pet a safe bed. 🧳

QUIZ ANSWERS

COMPILED BY PAT AND SALLY



- **A 1.** Eye
- **A 2.** 1973
- A 3. Sandringham
- A 4. Chester 16th century.
- **A 5.** More than 40,000
- A 6. May to September
- A 7. Noel Harris
- **A 8.** Karaka Millions [1600m for 3yos & 1200m for
- **A 9.** Counties Racing Club [Pukekohe] and Auckland Racing Club [Ellerslie]
- A 10. Defibrillate (see article on page 10)



CONGRATULATIONS TO FEDERATION MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT WINS!

We continue to track winning horses owned by Owner's Federation members. As we only have visibility of owner's named in the race book, we know we will have missed members involved in winning syndicates and may have inadvertently missed others. We apologise to any member we have missed and extend our congratulations to all members who have recently experienced the thrill of winning.

15 DECEMBER 2022 - 31 MARCH 2023

S R Autridge HELLY BELLY, FAIRSHARE

B J MNZM & Mrs J E A Lindsay TOKYO TYCOON

L M Bonnington CAN I GET AN AMEN

W G Bunting ACTING UP

I M Chapman CORNWALLIS

R K Doidge COOL CHANGE

J L Egan AVALENE, MC GRATH

C R Ferguson FIRESTORM

HA& Mrs S Fletcher KINGFISHER

A R Galbraith KC THEODEN, MONTAND (AUS)

Go Racing FREEDOM REINS, DIVINE SAVA, GEE CEE

C & S Grammer ZAHER

K A Grass SILK 'N' DALE

C B Jones KAIDU'S PRIDE

C A Leishman ZOULANDER, SHARP 'N' SMART.

KIKIMORE, IN HER PRESENCE

B & J Lindsay POLYGON, ZENDORA, HABANA, AQUACADE, MARVELOUZ, ZOURION, FUNNY

GIRL, FLAMEBIRD, TOKYO TYCOON

Lion Racing Ltd SYNCHRONIZE, FELICIENNE,

FASHION SHOOT

R McKenzie SEARCHLIGHT, STAR OF WONDER,

THIS LITTLE LIGHT

N & J Miller DOUBLE O' SEVEN

D Nakhle OUR THE WINE

J M Newman SACRED DREAM

A D Pate HAII DAMAGE

A & K Paterson SEARCHLIGHT

D & W Pye BURGUNDY IFF

D S Shuker ASTRON

I B Struthers PIZZAZZ

J & R Stubbs RIPROAR

J & M Thompson CHURCHILLIAN

R M Tunnicliffe PURE IMAGINATION

BWP Wright MARIA FARINA

L G Dobbs EMANON

R L Johnstone ARCHERFIELD

M R Svensson SASSY CHOUXS

B C Thomas TOUGH TIME

L & C Robinson ARCHERFIELD, ZAPPOLINO, ARCHERFIELD, TAVI WITH ME, DELPHILLIUS, LIVE

K & L Spence THE RACKETEER

P J Blacktopp EARS BACK, POMANDER, EARS BACK, EPTIMUM, MADAME GISELLE, KIKIMORE

I O Burrows FARAH

P M I Collins AORANGI ASSASSIN

I D Coupland EXPRESS COUP

P & S Faulkner OUR CLARRY, FAME SHINE, MAKE **BFI IFVF**

L J Green THIRD DECREE

S C Green SAINT ALICE

C K Hunter BACK HUT

W J C Jelley PLAY THE FIELD

Mrs A S & P | Kennedy BOW HILL

I J Nichol HAGGLE

H & T Parish NOBLE KNIGHT

A T Penny STREET FIGHTIN MAN

T Proctor ZOULANDER

R & A Rhodes ZAPPOLINO

J G G Bary LOWE FLYING, BOLD IRIS, ROCKBURN,

DELPHINE

C J Cameron TASER

B M Caryl GEE STRING

P M Murphy GEE STRING

P & S Reynolds RAPID FALLS

M J Sanders LOWE FLYING, ROCKBURN, DELPHINE

Mrs L J Scoular FREE BEE

E B Smyth MOONLIGHT HUSTLER

CA Walker ASTERIAL

S J E Wilson SCUTAR, VIDIANO

S L Wood ONE DREAM ONE SOUL

R R Algar SHOWBASTIAN COE

R G Allen RUBY ROCKS

InToWin COLORADO STAR, PEPEHA

A & J Bambry LA CAPITA, OPAWA JACK,

CHANTILLY LACE

K N Buckman SIR BEETS

E Connors TRAV

S J Cunningham NOBLE KNIGHT

K S Day TOWN CRYER

I Dixon TOWN CRYER

D M Duncan INSATIABLE

M Fearon TOWN CRYER, SIR BEETS

P G Gillespie MANIFIOUE

Dame L Goddard CODIGO

A Groves ATTRIBUTE

M D Haydock EXPRESS YOURSELF

S P Herbert KIWI MAN

I A MacMillan OHIWA SUNSET

F L McSweeney SUGAH SWEET

M M Oldershaw BELLE'S ECHO

A Porter RAFFLE

J A Roache SIR BEETS, TOWN CRYER

F J Smith KRONE

A S Trotter TAKE ON

R J Wiltshire TOWN CRYER

D I Brook IT'S THE VIBE

M C Cole LEICALOT

A B Coombe KHAFRE

R de Courcy VAL DI ZOLDO

P G Doughty PINION

F & F Drummond TASER

B & M Harvey LASER'S FURY, ROCABURY,

ROCKLAND

M I Johnston I AM A ROCK

A & T Jones SEEUINABIT

A N Lempriere TYLER EIGHT

D & I Lunn IMBLAZE

S F Massey THE RACKETEER

G J McCarthy SIR STERLING

LR Noble POLYGON, HABANA, AQUACADE, **FUNNY GIRL, FLAMEBIRD**

D G Price NEST EGG

JLE Ridley-Smith THUNDER

D W J Sexton FUNTONIC, SIDE EYE

K Smith VOLVIK

B & C Taylor DONTTELLTIMMY, DOUBLE O' SEVEN, PETRUCCI, INSATIABLE

Te Akau Stud SYNCHRONIZE, IMPERATRIZ, BELLE OF THE BALL, ROYAL KHAN, MILLEFIORI,

Te Akau Stud BELLE EN ROUGE, PATRIARCA, SAFURA, FELICIENNE, FASHION SHOOT, TOKYO

Te Akau Stud ROMANCING THE MOON, I CHOOSE YOU, INSATIABLE, CHALLA, ELEGANT LADY

Te Akau Stud PURE IMAGINATION, AOTEA LAD, MERLOTTI, IMPERATRIZ, ALMINETTE, PUZZLE

Te Akau Stud SOLVED, DIGNITOSA, TENEBROSI, MARVELOUZ, BELLO MIO, ZEITAKU, SAVOIR FAIRE, FIERCE FLIGHT,

Te Akau Stud FIERCE FLIGHT, PERFECT SCENARIO, SUPREME KHAN, BRANDO, WILD NIGHT,

Te Akau Stud SANS DOUBT, TROBIAND, ESPIONAGE, CAMPIONESSA, STONYBREAK, FELICIENEE,

Te Akau Stud MAVEN BELLE, FREEZE FRAME, PURE IMAGINATION, COGNITO, DYNASTIC

Te Akau Stud BELIEVE IT OR NOT. HERO WORSHIP (AUS), ZANTABULOUS, CU CHULAINN

Te Akau Stud QUINTESSA

C L Wade WFY TOO COOL

Whakanui Stud Ltd DONTTELLTIMMY, ROEDERER, TUTAKAKA

C & W Bolton ACADEMY AWARD, NOM DE PLUME

M J Corcoran BOURBON ROAD

P J Cowley NIGHT RAIDER

W P Darling WINKLE BAY

A J Dravitzki TOBIAS

D M Handley SUGAH SWEET

A I Hawken ANOTHER BELLA **C C Hobbs** ANOTHER BELLA

C & P Lynskey MAOLLA MISS

C & J Oakes ZOLA EXPRESS

G R O'Dea SOLDIER BOY

B C Schumacher NOM DE PLUME, UKHANT **TOUCH THIS**

N & S Stanley DARCI LA BELLA, LADIES MAN, SHAMUS, SOUTHROAD

R T Stanley DARCI LA BELLA, LADIES MAN, SHAMUS, SOUTHROAD

W T Stewart OUR JUMALA

THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

10 JANUARY 2023 - 17 APRIL 2023

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Kirstie Brown & Sam Ward Tauranga

AUCKLAND

Cathie PerrottPukekohe Christine SharpePukekohe

HAWKES BAY

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