

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



WINTER 2023



VICE PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

This update comes from your Vice President. President Bernard Hickey has had a compromised year in terms of health, with two stints in hospital and various complications. Not to mention dealing with the aftermath of the Hawkes Bay weather events alongside his work with the NZ Army. I'm pleased to report he is well on the mend now but is mindful of taking things a bit easy.

The Executive held a Workshop at Ellerslie Racecourse on Sunday 18 June, with Delegates from all regions attending. Our last in-person workshop was in March 2021, and we appreciated the chance to be together again to get an update on the industry and do some brainstorming. While we met in the warmth of an Ellerslie meeting room, track managers from around the country were on site in the pouring rain to inspect the developments at Ellerslie.

NZTR CEO Bruce Sharrock attended the first part of our Workshop and gave an informative presentation regarding stakes increases, new initiatives and opportunities, welfare matters and also a comprehensive update on the ENTAIN Agreement. This included information about the TAB, geo-blocking, and proposed broadcasting improvements. In addition to answering our questions, he took away some points to ponder – and hopefully action – that we had raised. This included a question about how many owners are present on race day when their horse is running. No statistics are currently held but we believe it is important information to gather and analyse and this will be investigated further by NZTR through the Racing Clubs.

One thing worth mentioning is that, to date, Racing Clubs are the only members of NZTR. However, with the passing of the Racing Industry Act 2020, Bernard has been advocating strongly that the organisations representing Owners, Trainers, Breeders and Jockeys should also be members, representing their interest as participants in the industry. Progress has been made on this, with these organisations now submitting a report to the monthly Stakeholder Meetings which enables wider contribution and therefore improves communication and understanding across the industry. The NZTR Constitution will require a rewrite around governance matters to align with the intent of the Act and also with the new Incorporated Societies Act which will come into force in October 2023.

At the Workshop, the Executive discussed NZTROF's purpose and future direction, with acknowledgement that NZTROF becoming an advocate for all registered owners is the way of the future. A full proposal document on this concept is being prepared for consideration and we'll keep you informed. This won't impact our current Associations who all do a great job on behalf of our members. I'd like to thank the officers, delegates and committee members of all our Regional Associations for their efforts.

Whilst racing has had a myriad of challenges recently, there is plenty of raceday action to keep us enthused and amused. Racing over the New Zealand winter can be a bit hit and miss, given the heavy tracks, smallish fields, ongoing inclement weather and switching of race venues for one reason or another, but the jumpers have been putting on splendid displays. It's a hard slog for horses and jockeys in such conditions and the effort put in by everyone involved in getting our horses to the races, and past the finish post, is to be applauded.

The NZTROF website Winners Gallery and Racing Tales pages have recently been updated. I randomly select winning horses owned by members, choose images (with appreciation to Race Images and Monica Torreto), research past form and analyse the recent win to provide a snapshot in time. It takes time to do all this, but it is always enjoyable to capture a thrilling racing moment and share it online.

<https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/news/>

I do love following the winning horses of our members and finding out the stories of horse and owners – see the article about Manolo on page 11.

Whilst I don't have a current runner myself, I'm excited to follow the journey of an Eminent filly I'm in a syndicate with (a 2YO for the new season). She is growing nicely and doing all the right things and currently being broken in. We wait patiently in anticipation of watching her run at Ellerslie once the new track is complete and ATR is back in business. President Bernard has an interest in a Te Akau syndicate Rubick colt who seems very forward and may race as an early 2YO. Watch this space!

I'd like to thank our Executive Officer, Denise Mayhew, for picking up the reins so capably following Jim Keyte's retirement. She joined us at a time of incredible change and challenge for the industry and has got involved, boots and all, streamlining systems and processes and introducing a few new initiatives. Your invoice for the new season will be coming out shortly and we appreciate



you tending to this at your earliest opportunity so we can continue to advocate for owners, produce the *Bulletin* etc. Invoices are emailed to those with emails and posted out to those without one. Denise, thank you for your work.

I wish to acknowledge all the work that Neil Miller, the *Owners Bulletin* Editor, puts into producing each issue of our Bulletin. It's no mean feat to pull it all together and Neil has been doing this since 2011 – that's a dozen years and dozens of issues. Neil does this gratis, and it can sometimes feel like a thankless task, but we do thank you Neil. A reminder that you can access *Owners Bulletins* from 2019 on the NZTROF website. <https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/news/>

Finally, I'm pleased to have an opportunity to formally acknowledge the huge amount of effort that Bernard has put in on behalf of owners during these very challenging times in the racing industry. During his tenure as President (since 2018) he has worked tirelessly, and often invisibly, to advocate for owners, posing important questions and putting forward a wide range of valuable suggestions. Bernard continues to be a strong voice for us on the Members Council and he also attends the monthly NZTR Stakeholder Meetings. He has wide networks within the industry, and I know he has many and varied conversations with those involved in every aspect of it. Indeed, Bernard and I regularly have lengthy phone discussions to share information and ensure we remain updated on all things racing. The time and energy that Bernard puts into our organisations cannot be underestimated. On behalf of all NZTROF members, I'd like to thank you Bernard for all that you do!

Congratulations to all winning owners – and good luck to everyone as the new 2023-24 season rolls around. May the winners abound!

Sally Blyth (Vice President)

EDITORIAL *Neil Miller*

Well, here we go again with another new season. After all the inclement weather surely better lies ahead. At least we start anew with a substantial boost to stakes. This will be very welcome to our industry providers as well as long fiscally expectant owners.

Our regional scribes are really appreciated for their good value that is backed by "skin in the game."

HOTY, that is the Horse of The Year event is on the horizon and we congratulate all the Award winners that are fortunate to be named. But it is excellence that brings fortune in these things.

Below the advertisement for the event is an essay that came from Emma Thompson (head of Comms and PR) for NZTROF on equine welfare and re-homing of horses. It is a reinforcement to what we are acutely aware of.

It mentions NZTR's wish to transfer some costs to Owners that was borne by the 1% from stakes fund. It rapidly comes to mind that there will be a substantial increase in the fund due to the Entain partnership. I have no doubt this will be discussed by NZTROF Board.

Photographer of Racing and Sports in the deep south Monica Toretto joins us with a "mates rates" support similar to Race Images with photos for the bulletin. We are looking forward to working together and would be grateful if you can use her services.

Mike Gething's better half Pat has a re-homing story of their mare Garnet. It is very plain the love these owners have for their horses and the expense involved in the re-homing process.

Sally (most of our assets are women) writes up a storm of an "active" horse Manolo and his owners who are newish and very involved in the racing game now.

You will recall a rehoming story on two Hong Kong horses re-homed to New Zealand written by Cathie Perrott in the Summer edition. They are old and one died.

I had wanted to see how the surviving one was getting on without his mate so I emailed Cathie who promptly replied. That email to me went in to this file in its entirety but not before I went to take a photo of Coco the handsome old gent and his woolly young buddy.

I called into the Ellerslie course very recently. The work continues apace. Cars were leaving the "pitch and putt" in the middle of the course and heading east to the new underpass. The adjacent carpark on the course interior is complete and marked out. The pond is now brimming. Ain't that a surprise? - Not!

But the most enjoyable afternoon was at Byerley Park and meeting the students. It left me enthused for the future.

With the increase in stakes and the new energy arising from that it is my deduction there will be no reduction, as far ahead as I can see.

Contact me - neilandjeanette@yahoo.com

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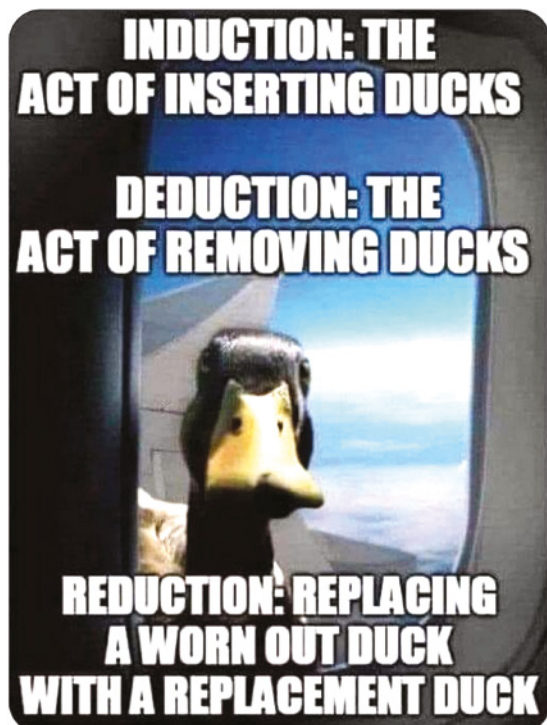
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REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Sally Blyth and Mike Gething

Members of our Auckland Association Committee have had some winners over the last quarter.

Virginia Healey and her family (the Webbs) had a wonderful debut win at Avondale on 3rd June with their 2YO US Navy Flag gelding named Geldof. Trial form was superb with a second placing and a win, so expectations were high. He'd gone out favourite and he delivered on a Heavy10 track with a strong and convincing win. He had to fight for it, but jockey Warren Kennedy made sure he never gave up. A great training performance by Peter and Dawn Williams who had Geldof primed and good to go. The family were there on course cheering him on.

Neil & Jeanette Miller have had four wins with their Belardo – Boundless gelding Double O' Seven. He got his maiden win in April, 2022 at Counties. After his third win in February 2023 on the Cambridge Synthetic he went off the boil a little and was sent south to Terri Rae in Riccarton looking for dry tracks. Then with Terri Raes magic he lined up at Oamaru and promptly had a smart win.

Craig Leishman had two recent winners – In Her Presence (a 3YO filly by Churchill) and Zoulander (a 5YO gelding by Zoustar).

In Her Presence had two wins on the trot in March and April 2023, paying a whopping \$56 for her maiden win! This filly is also part-owned by Toni Croon who runs Hotel Chatham. Toni hosted those of us on the "Racing in the Chatham's" trip in January this year.



Zoulander had her maiden win at Tauranga in April 2021, but another win was elusive. He went south to the Pitman's towards the end of 2022 and has since clocked up three more wins, including his latest on 10th April 2023 at Riverton with Kavish Chowdhoo on board. A move south can be a good one, but it's not so easy for the owners living at the other end of the country, as Neil will attest to.

Craig also has an interest in the New Zealand Derby winner, Redwood 3YO Gelding Sharp 'N' Smart. With six wins from 12 starts, including two in Australia, he's a horse to watch for the future.

Congratulations to our winning Committee members – and to all Auckland members who have experienced the thrill of the win over this April to June period. *Sally*

The Auckland Owners AGM is to be held on Sunday 15th October 2023 in the Lady Fisher Room Ascot Stand Ellerslie at 2.30pm. Paul Wilcox, CEO of Auckland Racing, has kindly agreed to speak with us again and give us an update on the new StrathAyr track. Agenda and annual report will be available in September.

An Owner's social is planned for Saturday 28th October 2023 at Pukekohe. More information will be distributed closer to the time. The event we held in February was enjoyed by 75 members and friends so hopefully we can repeat.

I attended the NZTR Welfare Forum recently on behalf of NZTROF. The big message is that we owners along with all the other participants in the racing industry are all responsible for ensuring we maintain the necessary "Social Licence" to continue racing horses. It can never be taken for granted.

Best wishes to all. *Mike*

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY *Jill Lunn*

It was a brisk sunny day on Wednesday 26 July for the final race meeting of the Cambridge Jockey Club. From the start of the new season the clubs of Te Rapa, Cambridge and Te Awamutu racetracks will combine under the banner of Waikato Thoroughbred Racing.

It was also the final of the Martin Collins sponsored races for Maiden horses as at the 16 May 2023. Horses are eligible to race in these races as they gain points for racing on the synthetic throughout the season. Martin Collins New Zealand are the world leaders in synthetic surfaces for horses. They put in this synthetic track, and they have a 10-year maintenance contract to keep it in top condition. Martin Collins have sponsored these races of \$40,000 for three years since 2021, with NZTR and the Cambridge Jockey Club. The thinking behind this was to encourage owners and trainers to race on

the synthetic. The owners of the winning horse receive \$23,000.

With the new merger for the next season Waikato Thoroughbred Racing will again be seeking sponsorship for this event.

There are four races each year: 970 metres, 1300 metres and 1550 metres, and over 2000 metres. There were a number of horses in each race who had won their maiden race on this course since 16 May, which made for interesting racing.

In the end Team Rogerson's Just As Sharp won his first start in the 970 metre race, Ben Foote's Kakadu won the 1300 metre race, Andrew Forsman's Medina won the 1550 metre race and Martin Da Cruz's Elusive Capital won the 2000 metre race. While Medina and Kakadu had won on the track, Just As Sharp and Elusive Capital had not won on the synthetic before. It was a good payday for all.

The owners of all these horses were thrilled with their horse's performance and the team behind Elusive Capital were particularly excited. Elusive Capital is a 6yo who has had 10 starts on the synthetic and was up against the favourites of Hammer Time and So The Fox, so they thought it might have a chance of a place.

The final race of the day was a race celebrating the Waikato Thoroughbred Racing Merger 1 August. This race was over 2000 metres and carried a purse of \$35,000. The hot favourite "Jimmy Dean" trained by Ben Foote prevailed.

Over the day Michael McNab rode 4 winners and Elen Nicholas rode 2 winners, and Martin Da Cruz and Ben Foote trained two winners each. Congratulations to all!

There was a great vibe at the Cambridge track among the owners, trainers, jockeys, officials and other racegoers and the positioning of the facilities allows for much mingling and interaction. It is a great social day at the Cambridge track. *Jill*

HAWKES BAY

Tony Lyndon

The leading jumps trainers Paul Nelson and Corrina McDougal continued their successful winter winning two races at Trentham at the end of May. The first win was in the \$70,000 Awapuni Hurdles with Suliman then the \$35,000 Open Handicap with Nedwin.

Nelson and McDougal finished the season with a flourish when they picked up two wins at the Taumarunui meeting at Te Rapa at the end of July. Their rider Jack Power saluted the judge on Taiko in the Stewart Browne Memorial Hurdle and again with Raucous in the Woods Contracting Steeplechase for them.

Local lad Shaun Fannin the leading jumps jockey for 2022/23 season was at his best when winning the Hawkes Bay Hurdles on Happy Star and later in the day the Hawkes Bay Steeples on West Coast. This brought his tally to 146 wins.

Former Hastings jumps jockey Aaron Kuru proved he is one of the best jumps jockeys in Australasia when winning all 4 jumps races at Te Rapa in June. Included in his 4 wins were the Waikato Hurdles and Waikato Steeples. It was his 4th Waikato Hurdles following wins in 2015, 2018, and 2022. Kuru is now domiciled in Australia but makes himself available for our big jumping carnivals.

Hasting's trainer Guy Lowry had success on both sides of the Tasman when Penny Royal won at Awapuni and later in the day Wewillrock won a \$163,000 race at Sydney.

Waipukurau Owner Trainer Lucy de Lautour had her most successful day at the races when winning with Metallo and Ian's Legacy at Trentham in July. Her biggest success has been the Hawkes Bay Hurdles with Kip Keino who won 10 races and \$227,000 dollars in stakes.

Hawkes Bay jockey Katie Hercock has had her best season ever with 52 wins, which has brought her NZ tally to 327 wins. Hercock not only rides but trains a small team of horses in partnership with her mother Jeanann at Otane.

The Hawkes Bay Owners' Association had a successful Members Day at the Hastings Races in April. There was a \$10 surcharge for the members and their partners and a payment of \$43 a head for additional guests to pay for the two course meal. 🍷

WANGANUI & TARANAKI *Brian O'Dea*

The Hill family who has had numerous winners out of the Anna Clement stable had another recently with Wheelitin, bred by John Wheeler, making her 3rd salute to the Judge.

Carey Hobbs, soon to retire from managing Taranaki Racing, continues to have success with his five-win Oso Savvy.

Dawn Symes one of the original owners-with late husband Eddie of get up and go again gelding Des De Jeu was hoping it would compete in the Grand National Steeple. He was a recent winner and probably is one of the few horses to change the rules of racing.

Puntura, winner of his eighth race at Waikato for Carole and John Lynskey, has been transferred to Australia for future racing.

PJ and Mrs SJ Cowley, part owners of Christchurch trained Night Raider, were able to celebrate his 3rd win.

Wayne Darling, one of a syndicate of twelve involved with Winkle Bay were able to see him salute the judge for the second time recently.

Nigel and Adare Auret with a win for Something Unusual continue to promote their stallion with the "Unusual" name.

Tony Dravitzki with the big smile - why does he only tell me about his winners after the race - had a good win with Tobias at Hawera.

Dave Macnab, one of the stalwarts of racing in the Wanganui region over many decades passed away in early July aged 97.

He farmed at Upokongaro at the start of the Parapas and was active until recent months.

Dave was involved in many aspects of the thoroughbred industry. As an owner he won the prestigious Duke of Gloucester Cup three times including one success as the rider of his own horse Red Lancer.

Dave's roles with the Wanganui Jockey Club included many years on the committee, President in 1984-85 and as Patron from 2001 to 2010.

Outstanding horses he was involved with included Young Pirate, sharing ownership with George Bristol and Ian Boyland. The horse won six races, one of them over two miles at Flemington and was in the field for the Melbourne Cup, to run midfield.

Another was the magnificent jumper Tallyho Twinkletoes who won the Grand National Hurdles and Steeplechase at Riccarton then crossed to Australia to win their National Hurdles and Steeples as well. More Twinkletoes have followed but the bar was set too high.

In the mid 1960's a new rugby club was established in Dave's home area at Kaiwhaiki called Counties Rugby Club. Club rooms were established and were called the D.H. Macnab Pavilion and the grounds the Macnab Domain.

It was appropriate that Dave's Memorial Service was held at Macnab Domain.

The Macnab name in the racing industry is being carried on by descendants, his son Scotty, daughter-in-law Kayla Macnab and grand - daughter Sarah.

Dave was one of those that didn't like the limelight. One of his early trainers was the late Rita Jackson and he regularly visited her stables as part of his involvement with his thoroughbreds. 🍷

Happy Star, happy day at the Bay



MANAWATU/WELLINGTON *Allan Fenwick*

Rangitikei owner John Roach and his nominated runner Bradman was the big winner in the 2022/2023 Majestic Horse Floats Points Competition. In a close finish Bradman just headed the very consistent Deerfield.

John Roache has been a long-time owner and has enjoyed plenty of success over the years especially from the Noel & Matthew Eales and Roydon Bergerson stables.

Bradman finished the season with 4 wins, including a hat trick and 7 minor placings from 15 starts. Other Association members Fay & Mark Fearon, Bob Wiltshire and the late Keith Towers, who passed away recently, are in the ownership group of the Roydon Bergerson trained Bradman.

Charlotte's Way, along with her trainer Roydon Bergerson and jockey Wiremu Pinn will go down in history as she was the winner of the very first race to be held on the new synthetic track at Awapuni, when it opened in May. The Pentire mare, raced by Tineke Balcombe's "In To Win" Syndicate backed up with another victory on the synthetic track at her next start.

Owner/Trainer Roger Allen has had a great run with Kahu Rock over the last 3 months of the season with 2 wins, 2 seconds and 2 fifths in her last 6 starts. The Alamosa mare has now won 8 races and close to \$150k in stakes.

The Tony, Judith & Chrissy Bambry owned filly Chantilly Lace was a runaway winner of the John Turkington Forestry Ltd Castletown Stakes (Listed) at Wanganui, scoring by a massive 10 lengths, in the hands of Lily Sutherland. Chantilly Lace became the first southern hemisphere stakes winner for her sire U S Navy Flag. Standing now at The Oaks Stud, U S Navy Flag was the champion New Zealand first-season sire for 2022-23.

The evergreen Deerfield had a busy season with 24 starts for 2 wins and 12 minor placings and over \$130k in stakes for the Bambry family. The Falkirk gelding from The Dazzler and bred by the Dennis Bros has been another flagbearer for trainer Chrissy Bambry.

Neil and Erin Connors who generally have a useful horse or two around them have had Script, a winner at Woodville and Amend representing them in the latter part of the season. Amend was a dual winner on the Awapuni synthetic track but also had 3 other minor placings. Ilone Kelly trains Amend who like Script is by the Highview Stud based stallion, Wrote.

Interlectus was a winner over hurdles at Wanganui for Douglas Duncan and Des De Jeu won the LJ Hooker Manawatu Steeplechase, run at Trentham for Len Haydock.

Association Committee Members Kevin Tod and Mark Fearon share in the ownership of Get Funky, a winner at Woodville, Elaine Vine has a share in Bee Enchanted a winner in July and Cam Arnott has a share in the Hawkes Bay winner, Benefactor. Lisa Latta trains all three horses. Other Association Members Kevin and

Kristina O'Donnell bred Bee Enchanted and share in the racing partnership for him, along with Debra Masters

The Sue Walsh trained Jus Wing It was a winner at Otaki in May. David and Caroline Marner and Mark Fearon are part of the racing syndicate for this mare, who is by the Australian based sire, Hellbent.

Sister Jane bred by John & Liz Hancock and raced by them in a partnership from the Niall Quinn stable was a winner at good odds at Rotorua at the end of April and the Neil Managh bred and raced Gohugo was a winner at Hastings. Guy Lowry trains the latter.

Successful horsewoman Sylvia Kay bred and races Enrico who won at Awapuni in June at just his 3rd start. He is by El Roca and is in the stable of Ilone Kelly.

Hamish & Shannon MacDonald share in the ownership of Canbiteabit a winner at Awapuni in June. He is trained by Shaun Fannin and is likely to be seen out as a jumper in the near future. Now combining riding and training Shaun had a memorable 2022/2023 season, claiming the Leading Jumps Jockey title with 17 wins to go with another 8 flat wins. As a trainer he had 10 wins. Shaun has now established his training base in a barn on the Awapuni Racecourse

PASSING OF NELLA SKELTON

The Association acknowledges the passing in May of our Life Member Nella Skelton. She was the widow of the late Bill Skelton, a champion jockey and NZ Racing Hall of Fame inductee.

MEMBERS SOCIAL FUNCTION AT AWAPUNI, ON SATURDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER, 2023

The Committee is planning to have a private hospitality room for Association Members at the Marton Raceday on 23 September. The event will be run in conjunction with members of the In To Win Syndicate. Details will be emailed to Members.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2022/2023 POINTS SERIES

The final result of the Majestic Horse Floats 2022/2023 Points series really did come down to the wire with Bradman nosing out Deerfield by just one point.

As at 15 July Deerfield held a one point advantage only to be headed a couple of days later when Bradman was promoted to first as a result of drug irregularity returned by the winner of a race held on 10 June, 2023 in which Bradman was originally placed second. Deerfield had one last chance at the Otaki meeting on 29 July but came up short when he could only finish 5th.

Final results were as follows

First.....	Bradman nominated by John Roach	44 points
Second	Deerfield nominated by Judith Bambry.....	43 points
Third	Royal Flower nominated by Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander	37 points
Fourth	Maryweka nom by John Macmillan & by Les & Janine Wallace	33 points
Fifth	Subtle Tease nominated by Roger Parkinson.....	31 points
Sixth =	Kick On nominated by Sam & Philippa Trotter;	
.....	Town Cryer nominated by John Roach	27 points
Eighth =	Pennyweka nom by John Macmillan & Les & Janine Wallace;	
.....	Subtle Point nominated by Roger Parkinson	26 points
Tenth	Yolo nominated by Sam & Philippa Trotter.....	25 points

The Association acknowledges and appreciates the cash and the voucher sponsorship of Majestic Horse Floats. The top five points earners between them shared the \$5,000 prize pool.

Reminder a similar competition is being conducted for the 2023/2024 season so don't forget to put your entries in. Remember, points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. Entry is free. 🍀

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

Hi and welcome from the mainland, we are well into winter now and that means National week at Riccarton is just round the corner. Some great flat racing and hopefully some better field's numbers wise for the Jumper's. Also, I'm sure the increased stakes will be well received by all for the upcoming season.

One horse that is really flying heading to National week is Third Decree, a 3yo filly by War Decree, raced in partnership by Lyall Green of Waimate. This progressive youngster has saluted in back to back races in the last month, bringing her tally to 4 wins from only 6 starts for trainer's Michael and Matthew Pitman of Riccarton. She won on the synthetic on the 29th of June in a R75 1200. She had earlier run a very fast trial over 800m so the track was going to be no problem.

Settling 5th on the outer for Kavish Chowdhury, they popped out on the corner and set out after the leader who had kicked in the straight.

She wore Over to You down and was strong in the finish to score by a length.

A month later it was Oamaru in a 2&3yo race and showing her versatility on a heavy 10 track. Again Kavish was aboard, and settled in the trail from a handy barrier, waiting till the straight in the testing conditions. They came off the leaders back and headed down centre track where she hit the lead with 200m to go. Not completely loving the wet nature according to Lyall, she still ploughed through it to hold on by a head from the other Pitman runner Express Coup.

Lyall Green came from the Waikato and was in horses there since the 80's. He ventured south in 2000, had a win with Captain Corelli in 2004, before hooking up with Jim Bruford who syndicates horses with the Pitman's, about eight years ago.

One of the first syndicate horses was the very speedy First Serve, which won 7 of her first 9 starts before faltering tragically in the Telegraph at Trentham.

Another was Miss Tycoon Rose who won 4 from 13 and was a close second in the 1000 Guineas. Then there was Sensei who won 6 including a Hazlett Stakes and Pegasus Stakes. Two seconds in the Steward's Handicap and a third in the Telegraph were also highlights.

So far 9 horse's with Jim and the Pitman's, all winner's and north of 25 wins between them including 4 Pearl Series wins. A lot of good memories and I'm sure Third Decree will bring more of both.

Third Decree came about for them because they didn't have any racing at the time as a couple had gone to Australia. Lyall asked Jim if he had anything to syndicate, he didn't but had a young one he had bred himself, Lyall asked Jim if he liked it, he said yes and Lyall said can we get in, the rest is history, four

wins and counting, a good decision I would say.

Kerri and Lance Spence had a winner on the Riccarton synthetic in May. There 3yo filly by Per Incanto called Forever Babe broke maidens at start three in a fillies & mares maiden 1200. She was labelled urgent by jockey Krishna Mudhoo from the outside gate. They did a fair amount of work to find the lead, rounding the bend into the straight, the expected challenges came but she was very brave and was strong right to the line to prevail by half a neck. Trained and also owned by Lance and Christine Robinson of Riccarton, I'm sure there will be more success in store.

Another horse to score a double recently was Powerful Moss. The 5yo gelding by Power owned by DJ Brook, and trained by Russell McKay and daughter Ashley Harrington of Riccarton, became a 5-win horse from 28 starts. After scoring 3 on heavy tracks, the good 4 surface at Timaru over a mile in June might have looked beyond him. After an awkward beginning, from near the outside barrier, jockey Diego Montes de Oca got him to sit outside the



Third Decree with authority

leader till the turn, they just kept giving and denied everyone, to win by three quarters of a length. Next it was back to a heavy 10 at Riccarton over the shorter 1400m. Again Diego was the pilot and from a much better draw was able to lead. When tackled on the corner, he found a kick which ultimately was too much for the opposition to win by 1 and a quarter lengths. Powerful Moss holds a nomination for the upcoming Winter Cup at Riccarton, all the best to connections to get into the field and I'm sure track conditions will suit him.

Good luck to everyone heading to the 3 day carnival, it should be a good one. 🍀

Photo: T Strong

JENNY ON AN EPIC JOURNEY *Jenny Cowan*

The Specialist Tour Event Group, Epic Journeys, created a racing orientated tour for folk with those interests in June 2023. The tour was 30 days, the fourth such, with a gap for the Covid years.

The first half of the tour took in the UK, with visits to London, Epsom Derby Day, Newmarket, York and Oxford. Including a visit to Juddmonte Stud and some connection and photos with the great Frankel.

Thoroughbred Racehorse Owner members, Steve Lindsay and I are recalling most parts of the tour. I joined the second half, which was a week in Paris and a week in London, with Royal Ascot the main attraction. Approx. 40 people made up the group, a glamorous, active and adventurous lot.

On arrival in Paris, we stayed at the Novatel, beside the Seine, cafes, shopping and lovely walks, all handy, it was beautiful, elegant and historic to behold.

A days racing at Longchamp, a beautiful wide track, rated good, and scenically different to NZ. We had to go by numbers, as the French commentary was difficult for most! The races started at 3 pm and gave us the morning to explore Paris.

The lively young travellers found a taxi and per favour of Mr Google, were guided to a group of op shops and all sorts of Parisian clothes, hats and shoes, in perfect condition, and of course, procurable at their prices. Our days were full, a coach tour of Paris, a cruise on the Seine and visits to their famous historic museums, sites and shops – the days just weren't long enough.

The racing at Chantilly gave us a day to remember with a race package to cater for

every need. A long walk from the coach park was not much fun before the first, and worse, after the last.

An outstanding fashion parade, considering we were in Paris, was breath taking to view, with one of our party a part of it, but not with luck.

A huge, beautiful Chateau beside the course, gave us photo opportunities, and gave a different look to our Riccarton, Ellerslie or Te Rapa courses. A well-known and champion trainer joined us and contributed elegance and knowledge to many – Andre Fabre.

Farewell Paris. Their buildings, bridges, history everything, cycles by the hundred, stone and left bank artistry and the Notre Dame in repair, decor at every turn. We felt safe, calm and happy to have been there.

Our train trip, per the Eurostar, back to UK, about 1 and half hours, flew past interestingly and easily – Paris to St. Pancras.

Our London Hotel, The Strand Palace, in the theatre land of Covent Garden, and near a host of attractions provided everything we needed. Much planning and fittings for the men with morning suits and top hats – and our men looked fantastic, just a breeze for them – good business for the hire shops. All the ladies wore beautiful outfits and hats of every hue. Royal Ascot enclosure has rules about attendance and dress code. No fascinators, ladies must wear proper hats and men must wear morning suits and top hats.



Jenny and Maryann Simon



Epic Journeys took care of every part of each day, corporate hosting, tickets, dining, taxis, directions, and timing – it all worked. Many enjoyed 4 to 5 days racing at Ascot, with close up views of the Royals, King Charles went every day, presentations, carriages and photo ops.

The Frankie phenomenon was a finale we will never forget, everyone wanted him to win well... not everyone, but his every move was watched. A documentary "Dettori" on the flight over about his life, prepared us for some of it and is well recommended.

He doesn't just ride winners, he is decent, he's entertaining, and humorous – larrikin, might fit in somewhere. LAND OF HOPE AND DETTORI. 🍀



NEW ZEALAND
- THOROUGHBRED -
**HORSE
OF THE YEAR**
- AWARDS 2022-23 -

**SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER
SHED 10, AUCKLAND CBD**

For more information visit
NZTR.CO.NZ/AWARDS



NZTR PROMOTES RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP & REHOMING RESPONSIBLY

To obtain a 'Social Licence' and operate successfully, Thoroughbred racing needs approval and acceptance from society, with horse welfare often coming under scrutiny.

This spotlight on welfare is motivation to assess and improve systems and practices, not only to keep the abolishers at bay but also so those who love the sport can be confident that the horses are getting the best care possible.

Rehoming is important to racehorse ownership. Given that Thoroughbreds can live to well in their twenties, of which many spend around five years in the racing system, a horse has around 15 years that should be lived with purpose, quality and dignity.

Current rehoming options include private transactions or going via one of NZTR's 13 Acknowledged Retainers who are located throughout the country. The network has rehomed 383 thoroughbreds in the 2022/23 season a significant increase from the 286 in 2021/23.

"Rehoming is an area NZTR has identified as a risk to our social licence and somewhere we can improve our practices," NZTR's Alice Riggins said.

"The majority of horses finish racing sound and have the temperaments to go on to

successful careers in a wide variety of disciplines.

"We currently have a strong network of Acknowledged Retainers throughout the country who have the skills and facilities to ensure our thoroughbreds are given the best chance to be rehomed responsibly and thrive in their lives after racing," she said.

Though the NZTR approved Acknowledged Retainers, receive some financial assistance from the 1% Welfare Levy on prizemoney, the network only succeeds with industry wide support. NZTR encourages owners to take responsibility for the duty of care of their horses not only while racing, but during the rehoming process.

The list of requirements is small but the impact it has on successful rehoming is huge. If a horse has come to the end of its racing career and an owner or accountable person has contacted an NZTR Acknowledged Retainer it is expected that the following conditions are met:

- Transport to the NZTR Acknowledged Retainers property is paid by the owner or accountable person
- The horse should arrive in good body condition and be recently shod
- There should be full disclosure of medical and behavioural history. This will not negate the horse being taken but it will help place it in an appropriate career later and ensure safety of riders

- An SR24 Death or Retirement of a Thoroughbred Form is filled out by the owner or accountable person and lodged with NZTR

Acknowledged Retainers work with tight profit margins so if the above conditions are met then it is more likely they will be able to remain financially viable and continue to provide a valuable service to the industry.

NZTR acknowledges that there are currently pressures on rehoming Thoroughbreds both domestically and internationally, some of this can be attributed to the cost-of-living crisis, extreme weather events and so on.

In the 2022-23 season NZTR spent over \$55,000 of the 1% prizemoney levy supporting acknowledged retainers with transport, farrier work or initial health concerns.

If these costs were covered by owners this significant sum could be redirected to provide further support to the retainers network and in other areas such as supporting the Thoroughbreds in Equestrian Sports (TiES) Series and dedicated Thoroughbred sport horse events, training clinics, Thoroughbreds in polo prizes and research.

More information about NZTR's Acknowledged Retainers can be found at nztr.co.nz/acknowledged-retrainers

LA LITTLE AVONDALE BIG ON WINNING



Stud chat with Sam

Firstly, thank you for all the get-well messages for **Per Incanto**. He is in the best of care with Waikato Vets and the prognosis is promising. I don't want to put him under any unnecessary pressure to serve this season, despite the fact he works well under pressure 😊, but it will be a case of wait and see for a few more weeks.

Per Incanto and Karaka are as synonymous as the Crusaders and finals footy. Outside of his feed bin, Karaka is certainly his happy place, and it was exciting to see him top the Weanling Sale. Sam Beatson isn't afraid to put the money up when he sees a quality weanling and even at \$150,000, there should be plenty of capacity for Sam to turn that into a nice profit. Henrietta Lady Tavistock, who has been a great supporter of the stallion and bred a number of nice horses by him was the breeder of this sale topping colt.

Per Incanto has just missed out on his third consecutive Hong Kong winner's premiership. He's run a close 2nd to Deep Field who has had the benefit of greater numbers. **Per Incanto** currently shares top billing with I Am Invincible on the Singaporean premiership for winners.

Little Brose, last season's **Group 1** Blue Diamond Stakes winner, jumped out at

Flemington last week with the Hayes boys saying in the media that the **Per Incanto** colt will initially target the **Group 1** Caulfield Guineas. While he doesn't have much male representation domestically these days, Allan Sharrock's progressive gelding **Fleming** and Lisa Latta's **Bee Enchanted**, bred by Kevin and Kristina O'Donnell, have both been patiently handled and they should run well across the Hawke's Bay Spring Carnival.

It's been exciting to see the number of breeders who have transferred bookings from **Per Incanto** to **Time Test**. No need for much salesmanship from myself, his results over the last couple months speak for themselves.

As a studmaster you always want to see your new stallion's progeny hit their straps as Autumn 3YO's and that's exactly what **Time Test** has achieved, with 3 NEW Australasian black type performers in April and finishing 2nd on the NZ 3YO Winners Premiership with 16 winners just behind Savabeel on 18. For those breeders looking for value with the opportunity to gain a large win either in the sales ring or on the track, at \$10,000 + gst LFG he has got to be on your hit list.

The list of progressive **Time Test** progeny is a bit like a shopping list for the Brady Bunch, there are so many it's difficult to single any particular horse out. A number of his horses have been running extremely well on debut, and importantly, going on with it. He had three starters in the ITM/GIB Winter Final

at Ruakaka with the LA bred and sold, Kylie Fawcett trained **Delorean** clearly relishing the step to 1600m to win for an excited group of owners comprising J and O Henderson, R Joyce, N Otto and J Vaughan. The Simon Niblett bred favourite **Tough Test Harry**, who ran a meritorious fourth with top weight, is also a horse to follow.

I wasn't surprised to see the **Time Test** filly **Elsie May** win in Melbourne for Maher/Eustace. Part owned by the Stewart family from White Robe Lodge, I thought she had little luck in the South Island Guineas races. In fact, the Maher/Eustace stable has two promising **Time Test** progeny because they also train the stakes placed filly **Running On Time**.

And what about leading Hong Kong trainer Douglas White talking about the **Time Test** 3YO **Flaming Rabbit** after he won recently and declaring him a stakes winner in waiting. **Flaming Rabbit** was previously raced as **Rocchigiani**, winner of **Group 3** Bonhams Stakes. It's important for a stallion to have runners performing in Hong Kong as it really helps the market for horses off the trial track.

Stay dry and best wishes to everyone for a safe and productive breeding season. Not sure whether duties on the farm will allow me to get up to the Hawke's Bay for the Spring Carnival but if some of these promising **Time Test**'s get to a race like the Hawke's Bay Guineas then try and keep me away.

Sam

WINTER 2023

Monica Toretto

CAPTURING RACING IN THE SOUTH

MONICA TORETTO IS A RACING AND SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER WHO COVERS RACE MEETINGS FOR GALLOP SOUTH, SOUTHLAND RACING CLUB, OTAGO RACING CLUB AND OAMARU JOCKEY CLUB. SHE CAN BE SEEN IN ACTION AT RACECOURSES THROUGHOUT SOUTHLAND, PLUS WINGATUI AND OAMARU, AS WELL AS CROMWELL AND ROXBURGH IN CENTRAL OTAGO.

Monica photographs both codes (gallops and trots) and, for winning owners wanting to capture that thrilling moment forever, she offers custom enlargements professionally framed, loose prints and album pages. She also offers stable visits for trainers to have content for their websites and social media accounts. Monica can also be commissioned to do Equine Portraiture.

As an all-round sports photographer, Monica also covers other sports and is accredited with NZNBL, FIFA and, of course, with NZTR and HRNZ, just to name a few.

Monica operates independently from Race Images.

Her website is www.monicatorretto.co.nz



Emanon winning on 8th April 2023 at Riverton for owners LG Dobbs & J C Young – photo by Monica Toretto

NB: Check the Winners Gallery of our website to see if you and your winning horse features. We love profiling happy victorious owners, as well as their winning horses. We showcase photos taken by the Race Images team and by Monica (as specified). We acknowledge **Peter Rubery** (www.raceimages.co.nz) and **Monica** (www.monicatorretto.co.nz) for use of their awesome racing photos. <https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/winners-gallery/>

GARNET HAS A FUTURE LIFE

Mike Gething
Pat Woolaston

When Garnet finished racing last year Moira and Keiran Murdoch facilitated her going to Tracey Stobie to be retrained as a pleasure horse. This was a new aspect to owning a racehorse and we wanted to find out more. Tracey was most welcoming when we asked if we could visit, see Garnet and find out what is involved in giving a TB a useful and happy life after racing.

We headed down to Taupo thinking that we were going to write a simple article about retraining an "off the track TB." How wrong we were!

The retraining part is straightforward but the whole welfare situation anything but.

Tracey is an experienced horsewoman who loves horses and says that getting a new OTT (Off the Track) retrainer is "like opening a Xmas present – you never know what you are going to get." Her facilities are wonderful: paddocks plus open space for hacking and a dressage and jumping arena. The land is well drained – not a gumboot to be seen.

"Garnet" is an attractive, sound, athletic mare with a sensible sweet nature who had been professionally handled and trained since birth and had no bad experiences to unlearn. Garnet's trainers Moira and Keiran Murdoch have a reputation for producing and knowing horses suitable to retrain. Even so, Tracey took Garnet along slowly and carefully so that when she was eventually re-homed, she would be safe and pleasurable to handle and ride.

So, she was worked in the arena, hacked over hills, learned to jump and even had a couple of days out hunting. Garnet made Tracy smile and she was looking for a home where Garnet would make someone else smile too. After 6 weeks retraining Garnet was ready to rehome and people were looking but they weren't the right homes.

Placing a horse in the right home with the right rider is so very important. Say a really keen but inexperienced sixteen-year-old girl who had had two years riding at a riding school but who had never owned a horse [neither had her parents] was not a sensible option. A girl with such limited experience could have an accident, then retraining, and thoroughbreds generally, would perhaps have been blamed.

However, the right person was out there, and Garnet is now enjoying life in Canterbury, being fussed over, hacking in the high country, doing dressage and a little jumping.

Retraining Garnet had been a pleasurable experience for all those involved. Tracey kept in touch with videos and photos, and we were able to see her progress and we are all on the new owner's contact list for Canterbury updates.

There are currently twelve Accredited Retrainers on the NZTR website all of whom

have significant equestrian expertise. Tracey first became involved with retraining through family connections and Hong Kong contacts and four years ago started taking retired racehorses from Hong Kong for International Thoroughbred Retirement (ITR). She takes two horses at a time and usually completes the retraining in 6-8 weeks. The horses are free to their new owners but a legal contract between them and ITR outlines care, management and ongoing requirements and proof of such. Tracey says these horses always come with good temperament and having lived in a big city are pretty bombproof to loud noises, people, machinery and confined spaces, and are more used to boxes than open paddocks!

An NZTR advertisement prompted Tracey to become involved with Accredited Retrainers with some of her retrainer horses now coming from NZ trainers. Tracey is aware that NZ trainers have to be those she trusts, because unlike in Hong Kong where absolutely everything that happens to the horses, from track work to veterinary treatment, is published daily on a public forum, information about the NZ OTT horse here can be woefully lacking, or at worst misleading.

At the conclusion of retraining Tracey provides a report to NZTR Welfare outlining date of arrival, date of departure and to whom the horse is going. She receives \$100 from NZTR plus she gets reimbursed for any extraordinary costs like dental work or veterinary fees.

Tracey and her partner Steve are both involved with care of the horses, but Tracey does all the riding so a maximum of two retrainer horses at a time is the norm. It is a boutique operation as she does have her own horses to ride and school [dressage with one – and hunting with the Taupo Hunt with Lenny]. Her contacts throughout the equestrian world help to rehome her horses – be they for hacking, hunting, dressage, pony club, showing, endurance eventing or polo. In fact, one of her HK rehomes is currently a very successful endurance horse.

Unfortunately, not all horses are suitable for rehoming and sadly for those who don't there are not many options.

Your options are: -

- Talk to your trainer about your horse's potential to be retrained
- If your trainer feels that your horse has a future off the track find a retrainer
- Breeding is a possible option for those winning mares bred in the purple.
- Some horses can have a retired life in a paddock – perhaps being a companion for another horse or 'nanny' for weanlings or a buddy to talk to. But they must be cared for.

If your horse is not sound enough or has a temperament that makes life off the track

not possible there are not many options, but it is still your responsibility. Most good horse people would say that it would be better for a racehorse to be humanely euthanised than to spend a life of neglect in a paddock, in discomfort and possible pain because its feet and teeth need attention and the feed and shelter aren't suitable for a Thoroughbred.

If you are the sole owner, the buck stops with you. If you have even just a small share you are still technically the owner. Be the good guy that talks to the rest of the syndicate to find the right solution for life after racing for the horse that has entertained you.

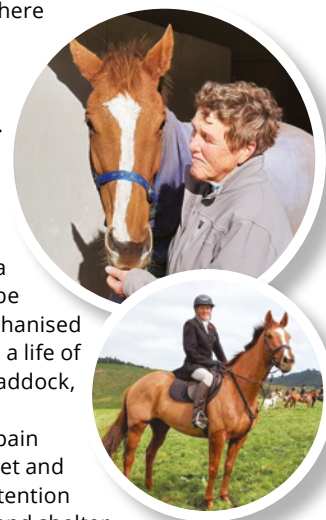
In a perfect world retraining is an option

Breeding – in a perfect world speed would not be the main criteria for choosing breeding animals – but we are trying to breed a horse that is faster than all the others and to achieve that compromises of soundness and temperament will be made.

Education – in all animals [horses and humans included] education starts as babies and because what happens in the developmental stage has a huge influence on the future, education should be firm, fair and expert. This starts with the first person who puts a hand on a foal, through to the person who teaches it to pick up its feet and lead out nicely, to the calm person who is first to sit on its back and teach it manners under saddle. Your trainer is at the end of the chain here and also very important.

Summary of the most pertinent points –

- Owners have a responsibility to ensure when the racing career is finished a practical solution is found for their horse's future.
- It is pointless investing money retraining a horse that is mentally or physically unsuited to being a hack, pony club/show horse or eventer/hunter. Trainers know which horses do not have the necessary temperament – if not able to be retired and well cared for in a paddock they sadly should be euthanised.
- Placing an off the track horse in an appropriate home is essential for the long-term future of that animal.
- The reality is that there are not enough homes for retired racehorses. 🐾



MANOLO (MAGOO)

A VERSATILE, SUCCESSFUL AND MUCH-LOVED RACEHORSE

By Sally Blyth

After developing a bit of an interest in racing later in life, Shane and Raye McDonnell thought they'd quite like to own a racehorse. Horseracing wasn't in the family history or DNA, although Shane's father used to break in working farm horses as a young boy. But living on a 5-acre block in Whanganui, they decided "Let's do this" and, in 2017 they headed to Karaka to take a look, where Shane caught up with a friend - Singapore-based racing trainer Stephen Crutchley who was also at the sales and whom they trusted to give them guidance. Shane liked a horse by Jimmy Choux out of Jungle Queen and Stephen gave them the nod. Next thing they know, the McDonnell's own a racehorse!

Hence, the McDonnell's had got themselves involved in the highly complex horseracing game as self-confessed greenhorns, albeit they now had great support from other race people they had met.

The ownership journey has had its ups and downs for Shane and Raye, along with plenty of learning curves. Their new acquisition proved immature and, although he won his first trial as a 2YO, it became evident he needed time to strengthen and develop so it was a case of taking things slowly to allow him to mature.

Raye had already settled on the name Manolo, even before purchase - stemming from his sire's name and referencing the Spanish shoe designer Manolo Blahnik. Stable name Magoo.

Shane tells the story of when the couple were in New York in May this year and visited the Manolo Blahnik store on Fifth Avenue. The shop assistant happened to be a racing person, they told her about their beloved Manolo, showed her a photo and the woman asked them to send it to her so she could forward it to Manolo Blahnik himself in the Canary Islands! Racing connections are most definitely far and wide and random.

They decided early on to get their own silks and were keen on a black and white combo (Shane's old rugby playing colours). Once they established availability of their design and had approval, they registered the colours and engaged Donna Beck, the local agent, to get them made up through Hyland Race Colours. The black and white is certainly distinctive as it flies past the winning post in front of a field of mostly colour.

Manolo is trained by Stephen Nickalls at Rangiotu. The horse took to him like a duck to water and the McDonnell's enjoy Stephen's training style and whole approach. An honest and open relationship has unfolded and the days of "greenness" for Shane and Raye and their horse are behind them. They recognised early on that patience is indeed a virtue in this game and kept the focus on Manolo's future. After waiting things out, they are now reaping the results of their perseverance and optimism. Shane also loves the fact that Manolo spends time out on Stephen's farm mustering cattle, among other styles of training good for the mind and the muscles, and the horse loves it.

Now an 8YO (as of the new 2023-24 season), Manolo's maiden win came at Awapuni on a Heavy10 track in May 2019. Unfortunately, neither Raye nor Shane could be on course that day. Shane was in Tauranga for work, resigned to watching the race at the local sports bar. The locals were interested to know he had a horse running and he was the toast of the pub when Manolo got up for the win. Beers, buzz and beaming smiles all round!

The good news is that Shane and Raye were able to be on course for his next three wins. They love going to the races, following other horses trained by Stephen Nickalls and, naturally, they love celebrating racing success. They have also forged a lovely connection with regular rider Temyia Taiaroa

Meanwhile, the McDonnell's also have a share in the ownership of an 8YO gelding called Fame Star (by Twirling Candy) who has been racing successfully in Singapore. Trained by their friend Stephen Crutchley, he has ten wins under his belt.

As Shane's love of racing unfolded (there's no going back!) he became a member of Whanganui Jockey Club. He also googled to find out more about owning racehorses in New Zealand. He found the Owners Federation and they joined the local Whanganui Owners Association.



Celebrating Manolo's win at Trentham, 16th July 2022

The McDonnell's have an old broodmare and a rescue gelding/hack from Ruatoria on their property, acquired after they had purchased Magoo, although not for breeding purposes. Having the resident mare and gelding on the farm as a mate for Magoo has been a bonus as it has given Shane and Raye the opportunity to handle a horse themselves. Shane says the mare has a bit of attitude, which keeps him on his toes, although it must be said, given Shane's professional work, he is no stranger to risk and challenge.

Shane is a self-employed construction diving company owner, working out of Whanganui and around the country. He has a team of divers who undertake complex underwater construction projects including welding, bridge infrastructure, salvage work etc. Whilst Shane has been diving for 33 years himself, he now leaves most of the active diving work to his long-term staff and focuses more on the management side of things, although occasionally does the QA dives himself for standards and compliance. It's highly specialised work and vital for infrastructure, even though hidden beneath the depths

Shane is thrilled to be in the racing game and appreciates the many components involved to make the industry tick. His main focus is that the horse's best interests are always at the heart of things. There's nothing like a healthy, happy horse - and, even better, having a successful one makes for very happy owners too!

NB: Shane and Raye are also cat lovers, in particular, "Rodney the Cat" (World Famous in NZ). They are the humans that Rodney chose to be his Kai Tiaka (caretakers) after several "lost and found" episodes, and various wanderings in and around Marton and Taranaki. He is now safely (and permanently!) ensconced in Whanganui living his best life with the McDonnell's who say that looking after him is a privilege. The ongoing tale of Rodney is shared through a website, a Facebook page and even a book! His celebrity profile continues to raise awareness of all lost, dumped, abandoned and stray cats everywhere.



ELLERSLIE TRACK UPGRADE REPORT

EX ATR MEMBERS BLOG

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SINCE THE LAST UPDATE?

Up until mid-June, the following has been completed:

UNDERPASS

- The underpass construction is now 95% complete with fencing and landscaping works to be completed. The completion of the underpass is expected in early July
- Anti-graffiti coating in the underpass has been completed

POND

- Pond earthworks are now complete with approximately 32,000m³ of earth removed which included 2,500m³ of hard basalt rock
- Installation of the pond liner and the fencing of the pond has been completed

OTHER

- Main track earthworks have been completed (apart from the construction crossings)
- Carpark and access road earthworks are now complete
- 70% of the carpark and access road pavement is now constructed with HEBs focused on sealing the pavements from the beginning of July
- More than 4000m³ of basalt rock has been excavated and crushed offsite and imported back to be used as subbase for the carpark
- 99% of ambulance earthworks now complete
- 97% of main stormwater drainage complete
- 99% of kerbing in the carpark, access road and underpass complete
- 97% of services ducting (for power, CCTV, speaker, and other communications)
- New signage boards have been installed

STRATHAYR TRACK PROFILE

- The mainline drainage has now been completed with the instalment of the final three catchment mainlines between the track and the pond.
- Apart from the 60-metre construction crossings, subsoils drains have been installed around the track as well as the gravel laid.
- All sand has now been delivered (35,000 ton)
- The sand layer has been completed across 100% of the track
- Mixing of the StrathAyr profile (sand/peat/mesh) is complete
- In regard to the pond, the manifolds are installed ready to connect to the delivery lines with the installation of the pumps
- Fencing is 75% complete with the remainder to be completed by the middle of July
- StrathAyr is commencing the topping layer this week with the view to seeding the first section of the track in early July with the final section to be seeded two weeks after

WHAT'S NEXT TO BE COMPLETED?

- Carpark and access road pavement construction
- Ambulance track pavement construction
- Underpass fencing and landscaping
- Infield earthworks
- Offsite rock removal
- Landscaping around the pond

WHAT'S GONE WELL SINCE THE LAST UPDATE?

- Ensuring the subsoil drainage and gravel layer is laid across the track apart from the construction crossings which ensures the track is now waterproofed – a significant milestone!

WHAT CHALLENGES HAVE BEEN FACED SINCE THE LAST UPDATE?

- As expressed in previous editions, the main challenge has been wet weather with nearly all of Auckland's annual average rainfall reached before the official start of winter (1 June) which thus includes the, traditionally, driest months in January and February.
- COVID-19 and the resulting absences continue to be a resourcing challenge. ↻





BELOW IS AN EMAIL FROM CATHIE PERROTT

HONKY THE BABY SITTER?

Hello Neil,

Thank you for your email and for the feedback re the article I wrote. It was a compliment considering I do not consider myself much of a writer. I just put thoughts on paper.

You will be pleased to know that Coco (the remaining Honky) has taken on the role of "Babysitter" to my Zed colt who is now 23 weeks today and I could not have wished for a better "big brother." I used to feed them separately, but they preferred to have their heads together in the large plastic half barrel.

Oscar was branded and microchipped on 9th March and had his first hoof trim on 16th March and on 25th March at 19 weeks old, I moved him from his mum's care into that of Coco's. The transition went perfectly. Because Oscar developed a taste for hard feed at a very early age (he has inherited his love of hard feed from his mother) he was quite content to leave the "milk bar" and join forces with Coco.

I have been asked by friends – who named the foal and how did he come by the name of "Oscar"? It was like this. – When he was two days old, I took the float over to Haunui where Red Forest was cared

for leading up to her foaling in the very capable hands of Keith Konn and his staff. My daughter, son-in-law and their two children have been living in the cottage adjacent to my home since my husband passed away.

Naturally there was much excitement when they arrived home from school on Tuesday 15th November and they came straight to the paddock where Forest and her foal were. The first question was "What are you going to call him Nannie?" Because he has a big white face I decided to string them along a bit and replied "Well, I am thinking I will call him Hereford" to which they asked "Why would you call him that?" My response was "Well, he has a big white face like a Hereford bull. You can't call him that" was their horrified reply so I responded by telling them that they had better get their heads together and come up with a name for him.

Later that afternoon they came flying over to my house and announced they had both decided on a name, OSCAR. I responded that they had chosen a fine name for him BUT – with a name like that he had better win some awards.

He has grown into quite a big foal (for a first foal) and has a wonderful temperament. When my grand-daughter had her 10th birthday on 23rd April, she had organised a scavenger hunt and had left clues at certain spots around the property – one of which read – go to the gate leading to the paddock the foal is in and beside the gate post you will find a clue. As Oscar has had many admiring visitors, when he saw six little girls arrive at his gate he naturally assumed they had come to see him and obligingly came up to the gate and put his head over so that they could all scratch him between his ears.

He has grown a really thick woolly coat already but I am looking forward to the Spring when he sheds it and has grown into a handsome, strapping yearling colt. It would be great to have a magic ball that could tell us if he had ability to run. I guess only time will tell. I believe he has a good mixture of blood in his veins with the pedigrees of Zed and Redwood.

Well Neil – that has brought you up to date with Coco and his young paddock mate. It has given him a worthwhile task and a reason for growing older.

With having been born in Argentina – Northern Hemisphere time he must now be 26 years and is still a fine figure of a horse.

Kind Regards, Cathie ↻

EDITORS COMMENT:

DENISE OUR ADMIN HAS RECEIVED CALLS FROM DISTRESSED OWNERS THAT ARE IN DISPUTE AND SEEKING ADVICE. NZTRF DOES NOT WISH TO INTERVENE IN A CIVIL MATTER BETWEEN PARTIES WHETHER CONTRACTUAL OR SPOKEN.

IN ORDER TO SUPPORT DENISE IN FURTHER SUCH CONTACTS WE SOUGHT NZTR'S POSITION ON THEIR RESPONSE TO OWNERS DISPUTES. THEREBY FOLLOWS...

DISPUTES BETWEEN AN OWNER AND ANOTHER OWNER.

NZTR also regards disputes between owners as private, civil matters which must be resolved between the parties themselves. NZTR does not have any jurisdiction or authority in this area, to either mediate between the parties to make any binding decisions or orders. If the disputing owners are co-owners of the same horse then there is a standing agreement which governs that relationship, the NZTR Co-Owner agreement. This agreement covers the racing relationship but does not extend to disputes of a more inter-personal nature. The agreement does not cover the situation, for example, where there is a dispute about whether a person has purchased a horse or a share in a horse or not or where there may be unpaid monies. These disputes would have to be sorted out in the Courts if they cannot be resolved otherwise.

DISPUTES BETWEEN AN OWNER AND A TRAINER.

Disputes between Owners and Trainers are governed by the Trainer Owner Reform (TOR) process. This process governs the two situations, namely (1) where an Owner disputes an invoice from a Trainer and (2) where an Owner has not paid the Trainer by the due date.

Where an Owner disputes the invoice sent by the Trainer, the Owner can lodge a Dispute Notice with NZTR. If the dispute is not resolved, NZTR can appoint a Dispute Tribunal to hear the matter and decide an outcome. The decisions of the Dispute Tribunal are empowered by the Rules of Racing and are therefore binding on the parties.

If an Owner fails to pay a Trainer by the due date of an invoice, the Trainer can make an Enforcement Action Application. NZTR will consider the Enforcement Action Application and can refuse to register any change of ownership of a horse owned by that owner, refuse the transfer of any horse to another trainer and/or freeze the stake payments earned by the Owner and transfer them to the Trainer. Again, the Rules of Racing provide NZTR with the authority to make these orders. ↻

NEW ZEALAND EQUINE ACADEMY

A collaboration between education-provider Skill New Zealand Limited and Byerley Park Limited, New Zealand Equine Academy was created as YOUR pathway to a career in New Zealand's exciting equine industry.



What is the most important thing for the future? Of course, it is those that come after us and carry on what we and that those that went before have put in place. IT IS THE YOUNG!

Some years ago I wrote a story on Byerley Park, meeting Daniel and Elias Nahkle down there at the facility. Daniel said they had a plan to enable an equine academy to provide an education for young aspirants in the equine industry.

To that end they built a classroom on a rise and were seeking a collaboration with NZQA accreditation in mind. Retired jockey Donovan Mansour was lined up to teach and I resolved to see where this went. Then Covid intervened.

But we lead a fairly busy life and when recently I heard Donovan was transferring to Cambridge to set up an Apprentice Jockey Academy, as well as recruiting more students and upskilling students in the workplace. I thought I had better get cracking before he goes.

Auckland Owners President Mike Gething and I headed down, met Donovan at a repurposed barn and were introduced to a roomful of delightful girls who were in the main very engaged. They were from all over the country.

There was maybe a dozen in the class, and they were at week 4 of a 14-week course.

The cost of which is zero as it is partially funded by the TEC (Tertiary Education Commission) and Daniel Nahkle.

Byerley Park teamed up with Education provider Skills New Zealand Ltd to create the New Zealand Equine Academy.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS – A passion for horse, Physical fitness – Age 16 + years.

GRADUATE PROFILE OUTCOMES – Knowledge, skills and confidence – Ability to safely handle horses in an equine facility – Proficiently create and maintain a clean and safe equine environment.

The course rises to level 3 and the girls said that they did not have a pre-conceived decision of where they ended up. The first thing was to get a stable hand certificate which assured a proficiency to care and handle horses. And then look at options. There was a lot of enthusiasm to gain riding skills for trackwork. Two girls said they definitely wanted to be jockeys,

Donovan leads the group with a developed syllabus that covers work – life skills and all aspects of equine care.

The course work is varied and wide ranging. Guest speakers attend and provide valuable additional information.

Dunstan Feed nutritionist Gretel Webber is a regular who pitches her talks to whichever level of class present.

Behind the classroom is a well-appointed gym with a lot of apparatus, some for-riding exercises. Notably there was a full sized exercise horse that had a large mirror on the near side so the rider could check the style.

But it is not all classwork and likely it is the "out of class" experiences that keep the group fizzing. There is the "self-care and pitching in" that is part of the course. The students live in on site in the main and prepare their own meals and maintain the living spaces. There are prizes of Countdown and New World vouchers to be won for good effort.

The cost to live on-site is \$180 per week.

Then there are visits where they see vets at work, stud farms and racing stables. They visit feed companies, museums and attend bloodstock sales. They can go to the races with the float driver, see the starter, camera crew and stewards at work.

And then there are the jockeys the strappers – and us the owners to observe.



Prior to going to the Academy, I had sought from a handful of associates what I should say to these young aspirational equine workers. Well I got a page of those comments... who hasn't had a jockey leap off the horse and wordlessly dive for the jockeys room? Maybe a stablehand that ignored you?

But as many grizzles as there were there was supportive comments that wanted the youngies to know how important we see the people who look after our investment. And how we appreciate them sharing a word with us.

The class listened attentively. Mike and I thought it was great to imprint our thoughts on young minds.

I left the sheet of those comments with Donovan. He was with visiting jockey Warren Kennedy. I light-heartedly offered a copy to Warren. He laughingly refused and said, "I know all those."

Change is coming, Donovan is transferring to Cambridge to set up a jockeys' apprentice school and level 3 Equine skills programme. Donovan will remain Programme Leader and under his wing will be Amber Sims, the well-known rider/trainer. Amber is 30 years old and the daughter of local trainer Patsy Riley. Amber is a past Ellerslie "Fashions in The Field" winner so she is an all-round class act. The other tutor/riding coach is Renee Faulkner. Renee is from a racing family and is a talented events rider.

Donovan says, "The Academy gets some funding from TEC which does help but Daniel Nahkle has in the main been funding the programme. We do have support from Dunstan Horse Feeds and Majestic Horse Floats and have just brought on NZB as an official sponsor. We are always open to industry supporters, whether its financial, products or even volunteering their time to come and share their expertise with the students."

We recognise the vision of the Nahkle family for the inception of the NZ Equine Academy and the where-with-all to bring it all into being. Donovan has been there from the start and then there is Skill New Zealand the education provider.

In an all-round word, commendable!

Lastly Mike and I would like to say thank you to the girls (class). We thought you were great. If you can – go on and take your chance. We need you. The industry needs you!

What you are learning is a skill that will give you a job around the world. But we would love to see you here.

Neil Miller



RED A REALLY GOOD BUGGA

By Sally Blyth

THERE'S A GROUP OF KEEN RACING ENTHUSIASTS WHO MEET AT "THE RUSTY" SPORTS BAR IN MATAKANA, NORTH OF AUCKLAND, ON A SATURDAY AFTERNOON. THE TABLE IS RESERVED, THE SCREENS ARE ON, THE TAB MACHINE IS READY FOR ACTION AND THE CREW BEGIN TO ARRIVE.

Wiri is usually first on the scene, followed by Jimmi and Stretch. Carl, Evan, Paul, Guy, Allan, Dave and others drift in during the afternoon. I usually show up around 2pm, along with Missy (we're the girl power amongst the blokes). Terry turns up at 4pm on the dot. You can set your clock by Terry. And, at some point amongst all this coming and going, Red breezes in. The vibe is already light and happy, even if our picks aren't winning but, the moment Red arrives, it's lifted to the next level. Red could generate laughter and lift the spirits just by being there in the room.

This was the case on Saturday 22nd July 2023. Red arrived later than usual and the banter began. He'd had a big night and told me he'd needed a snooze on the couch before heading to the Rusty for his dose of racing. At least he'd remembered his teeth this time. I'll never forget the day he turned up, late, dishevelled and toothless. And with a host of tales to tell. Red always had tales to tell. There were plenty of tales told about Red too, and the photos to prove them! Funny stories and Red were a quinella.

Throughout the afternoon's racing, we'd keep our eyes open for horses with Red in their name and Red would be duly alerted. Red Something in R4 at Toowoomba at \$3, Red Something Else in R6 at Dubbo at \$50, Red Whatever in R7 at Murray Bridge at \$12... many of us would put a cheeky bet on too.

It's amazing how successful horses with Red in their name are, even those at big odds, and it's a betting technique that had become synonymous with Red. Alongside this, the crew look out for Moon horses for me, "Z" horses for Wiri, Jimmy horses for Jimmi... you get the picture. Loads of fun, and sometimes lucrative!

And then, on Monday 24th July I got a text from Missy to let me know the bad news – Red was dead. I was in a state of shock. Small in stature but huge in character, Red was a stalwart in the local community. In addition to his love of racing, he was a keen golfer and fisherman. He worked hard and lived large. And now he was gone, aged 73. How could this be?

As news of his death spread, so did the sense of disbelief. We all gathered at the Rusty on Friday 28th August to honour Red. The place was packed. He had friends far and wide, in addition to the racing/Rusty crew, and they were all there embracing the opportunity to remember Red. I discovered his real name was Paul Murphy. He'd just always been Red – so named on account of his red hair, although I'd only known him with white hair and a cap on top. I learnt that the guys had had a few drinks in the Rusty on the Sunday night, and Red had been there, in his usual fine form. The next morning, his heart let him down and he was gone.

Speeches were made and tears were shed. And, at the exact moment we all toasted Red, guess what... a horse named Red Hawke won at Echuca and the place erupted! The timing couldn't have been better.

As one of four adopted children, Red grew up on the North Shore. He lived and worked in Australia for a number of years and, more recently, had made the Matakana area his home. We were all richer for him making that move.

Red's many friends were clearly touched by his passing; the emotion in the room was palpable. His death has had a profound effect on his racing buddies and Saturday racing afternoon won't be quite the same without Red around the table.

Horsing is a game of roller coasters, highs and lows, euphoria and despair, and those who love it are, by default, highly emotional beings even if they resist it or don't realise it. The friendships and camaraderie the sport generates is random, magical and legendary and I love being a part of the Rusty crew.

RIP Red, I was so pleased to have known you, even if only for a few years. You were a really good bugga who touched many lives and made them brighter with your cheeky banter, self-deprecating humour and unpretentious approach to life. Your Rusty crew will miss you greatly – and we'll be sure to keep backing the Red horses! 🍀

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Let's make it happen!

NZTROF Vice President Sally Blyth, with her travel leader hat on, is planning to organise and lead a special racing tour to Royal Ascot in June 2024. A trip with a difference, it will incorporate a number of exclusive elements – and more than just racing. Contact Sally to express your interest and find out more.

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.

APRIL, MAY & JUNE 2023

C A & P M Algie JIMMYSSTAR
R G Allen KAHU ROCK
J R Allison KID ROC
M N Apatu ARMINO, WEWILLROCK, CLASSICO
G C Arnott BENEFACTOR
N J & K A Auret SOMETHING UNUSUAL
J & T Bambry CHANTILLY LACE
J G G Bary SEFTON
B G Black CHATTAHOOCHEE
R L Bonnington POPTHEBUBBLES
S E Bourke STAR BALLOT, MISS NICO BELLE
D J Brook POWERFUL MOSS
K S Brown KHUTULUN KHAN
B T Browne LOCH KATRINE
J O Burrows THE BIG BOSS, WATTABREEZE
T J & M Carter JOHNY JOHNY
E M & N Connors SCRIPT, AMEND
P J & S J Cowley NIGHT RAIDER
W P Darling WINKLE BAY
K S Day TOWN CRYER
J D Dixon TOWN CRYER
L G Dobbs EMANON
A J Dravitzki TOBIAS
F T & F I Drummond COUNTRY BUMPKIN
D M Duncan INTERLECTUS
J L Egan AVALENE, C'EST MOI
Elias Fletcher Partnership.KINGFISHER
Ellesmere Thoroughbreds Ltd. WORDSWORTH
P A Faulkner SMOOTH OPERATOR
M & F L Fearon GET FUNKY, BRADMAN, TOWN CRYER, JUS WING IT, FOREVER BABE, PRIORESS, BENEFACTOR
J A Fenwick PACHECO
A R Fenwick WINNING FOR ALL, WHITE NOISE
L A C Fenwick WINNING FOR ALL, WHITE NOISE
M C Fenwick WINNING FOR ALL, WHITE NOISE
C R Ferguson CHARRED
S R Fisher JETHRO
S J Freeman THE RACKETEER, ROC DANCER
G & A Hill Trust.WHEELITIN
T P Gillespie WHITE NOISE
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A M Grafas INTREPID GIRL

L J Green THIRD DECREE
D P W Grieve THE COSSACK
P H Grieve THE COSSACK
R G Guckert PROSERVE
J E & E A Hancock SISTER JANE
B J & M A Harvey ROCASTANO
Haunui Bloodstock Ltd.FRANCEE, BUSH MILLS BILLY, IT'S BELSANTO, RUDYARD
A J Hawken COUNTRY BUMPKIN
M D Haydock EXPRESS YOURSELF
L G Haydock DES DE JEU
V G Healey GELDOLF
C C Hobbs OSO SAVVY
K A Hoskin CHASE 'N' GOLD, SILK 'N' DALE
In To Win Any Way Syndicate.CHARLOTTE'S WAY
G J J Preston ROYCE ROCA
R L Johnstone ARCHERFIELD
S L Kay ENRICO
T R King SUMI
D W Lake IN HER PRESENCE, SOLIDIFY
C A Leishman IN HER PRESENCE, ZOULANDER
B J (MNZM) & J E A Lindsay JAARFFI, HABANA
Little Avondale Trust.JIMMYSSTAR
P W Lock DEBIT
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R N Managh GOHUGO
R M Marlow BELLADONNA LILY
C A Marner JUS WING IT
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P D & P M McBreen SIR ALBERT
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B N Thomas GET FUNKY
K J Tod GET FUNKY
K G Towers BRADMAN
R J Trigg PEUT RESPIRER
A S Trotter TAKE THAT
D J C Trubshoe PAISLEY PARK
R M Tunnicliffe LEX'S ONE
E P & M K Twomey HIT THE ROAD JACK
M D N Wallace LOCHWINNOCH, WITH YOU
J G Walsh MYSTIC PARK
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R J Wiltshire TOWN CRYER, BRADMAN, TOWN CRYER
NULL Windsor Park Stud Ltd DREAM MACHINE, IMWONDERFULTONIGHT, SWINDLE, TIMING
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