NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



SUMMER 2024





PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

SEASONS GREETINGS MEMBERS AS WE WELCOME IN 2024.

Last year I said that each year brings its own challenges to thoroughbred racing, and I can see twenty- twenty four as no different.

Yes, we are blessed with additional funding over the next five years through the ENTAIN agreement which means that our racing strategy and leadership over this period needs to deliver in every aspect. With ENTAIN's global share price dropping I cannot guess whether such will influence its operation down under and only time will tell.

Regardless of this, the funding that now sits with NZ Racing must be wisely managed and spent to increase profitability and enhance our industry. Finally, it must benefit 'Owners' as without owners our beloved industry will languish as it did before.

2023 is now behind us in all what it fired at us with climate change and operational blunders but let us be positive this year. We as owners need to embrace our industry and get out and support both on track and off.

Karaka 2024 will be the starting point and going off the results of the Ready to Run sale held in November I can see this year's sale being just as big for the thoroughbred industry. It is a strong catalogue and something there for everyone's budget though the best of the crop will disappear overseas.

If sale results are strong then we are in good stead and our foal crop can only increase.

The next positive outcome on my mind, to be achieved, is Racing Infrastructure! We need to improve our tracks and building compliance and make race day an experience for all to enjoy.

Yes, it may mean closing some operations for a brief period but let us use Auckland Racing as our benchmark for the future. Avondale racing must go and the sooner the better to benefit us all!

Again, over the Christmas period and to date we have been blessed with great racing performances and the long-awaited Karaka meeting back on home location will be a great meeting to kick start the year ahead. The cream of our thoroughbreds always appears to rise to the top this time of year which is a welcome lead into the Karaka Sales.

The Owners Federation Executive continues to look at avenues to increase participation and protect your interest by having a voice representing you all. We may not win every battle, but we are heard. If we have strong representation from the Recognised Industry Participants and work closely together, thoroughbred racing can only benefit.

We must continue to work forward and not look back.

To all owners I congratulate you for staying on board during turbulent times and to all who have had winners since the start of the season, congratulations and may the winners keep coming in 2024.

Kia haumaru, ā, ko ngā mea tino pai katoa

"Keep safe and all the best."

Bernard Hickey (President)





Here we go again, into a fresh New Year that seems flush with possibilities.

It's a better start from the last one, where we came home from the Sally Blyth led trip to the Chatham Islands. I battled with a sore throat to get the Summer issue away and went to a hospital hyperbaric room, sick as a parrot with viral pneumonia. I'm a pretty good "doer" but the hospital fare is "ain't to die for".

Six days later I walked, quite svelte, down 5kg. So here's a tip – just eat fruit and drink tea to lose that flab.

In March our good horse, who had won three, blotted his copybook when favourite at a premier meeting, got tired in a hot mile and did not weigh in

A decision was made to send him south that I was dead against as we want a horse to literally follow.

Then the horse had a strike rate of just over 3 and the trainer just under 8 so it seemed a singularly unintelligent decision. But in fairness, the trainers ear was gotten into.

Majestic moved him south and hello it's holiday time. A swim every morning and a paddock every day. He won first up down there. The What's App videos were weekly and they were of a very happy horse.

I became the Manager / Accountable person (see *Spring 2023* issue) and next up the good horse won a provincial cup race – and sustained a leg injury.

Thence to re-hab, retired and now re-homed I will write the sequel to "Manager /Accountable Person – For Dummies" in the next issue.

So we are horse-less now but I have put feelers out and the above blurb may be seen that way too. What we are seeking is a dry tracker, a Saturday horse and most of all an Ellerslie one. A Pukekohe, Saturday one would nearly do as we have history there

But it's never all about us, is it? The upcoming New Zealand Bloodstock Karaka Yearling Sales will again have "hopes and dreams" of people who buy into a yearling. Some peoples lives will be changed for ever from the gamble of Ownership. There is a saying, "everyone is lucky once in their lives" I hope it is more than once!

Once again we are supported by New Zealand Bloodstock. It is a pleasure to deal with Natalie and Co. It seems superfluous to wish NZB a great sale, That's odds on so let's just say – great weather!

Also a special thank you to our Sponsors Cat and Sam Williams who have been with us all these years. They have a big draft at Karaka where their stock are ever more widely sought. The Per Incanto yearlings are keenly bid up by Northern buyers as they perform so well in Hong Kong. And now the Australians have latched on as Per Incanto's offspring win Group races on those shores.

Wordsmith Sally Blyth writes up a storm about an Owner, probably the "winningest" one we actually know. Craig Leishman is an Auckland Owners committeeman, and an astute businessman with an uncanny knack of buying into a good horse. Could it be who you know Craig?

Marketing maestro of ATR Laura Madden is such an asset to us and once again has sent us the pics of Boxing days "Fashion in the Field." For our female readers. Blokes too are students of 'form.'

We lifted an article about the review of ENTAINS performance since the takeover of the TAB in July last year from Raceform. Thank you for the assist Dennis Ryan. To say ENTAIN have made a difference would be the understatement of the year gone!

All roads lead to Ellerslie 14 January. And I can't wait. I think a new track record will be set. And maybe it's time to enshrine the old ones and start afresh.

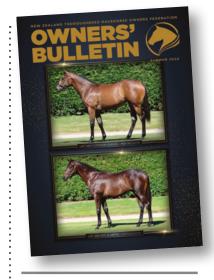
Finally, Well done, Counties Racing for holding the fort while Ellerslie was shut down for two years. The track played brilliantly and although the amenities were stretched they also performed well.

As a long time (Honorary) member I am proud of my club!

Contact me -

neilandjeanette@yahoo.com 🦨





OUR COVER:

TOP: **LOT 457** SUPERIOR CHOICE - PER INCANTO

BOTTOM: **LOT 265** NOT A JAFFA
- PER INCANTO







REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Sally Blyth

We're on the verge of being able to get back on track at Ellerslie but meanwhile Pukekohe has been doing a great job of hosting racegoers in the Auckland area.

Go Racing had nice wins with Diss is Dramatic, Gee Cee, Velocious and Seven Eleven (members Bruce & Courtney Clarke and Virginia Healey). Haunui Bloodstock won with Overdrawn, Cannon Hill (also member Mike Smith for those two) as well as Sudbina and Rudyard. Francee won on Boxing Day. Member and trainer Shaune Ritchie had nice wins with Roc Dancer, Maharajan and Gwen's Daughter. Let's hope Shaune has further success into 2024 - he's training my new Eminent filly - watch this space!

Grande Gallo won for member Geoff Ward. Corista won for members Loraine Grant and Gary Pratt. Carl Ferguson had a win with Saltnesse. Grail Seeker won nicely for members Trevor Clarke and Chris Jones. Chattahoochee got up to win for Bryan and Deirdre Black. Good Oil was past the post first for Craig & Sandra Grammer, along with Taliska (Te Akau). Imprevu got up on Boxing Day for Jill Lunn (Waikato Delegate) and fellow owners. NZTROF Patron Alan Galbraith enjoyed success with Takeshi and Say Satono.

Auckland Owners' Committee members Frances Crimmins, Raewyn McKenzie and Elliot Wilton had well deserved success with This Little Light. Committee members Mike Gething, Pat Woolaston, Lex & Katrina Paterson, Elliot Wilton along with Derek and Judith Stubbs, had a lovely win with Night Night Dora. Brendan & Jo Lindsay had a plethora of winners including a boomer of a day on 7th November at Pukekohe (Melbourne Cup Day) when About Time, Flamebird, Habana and Aquacade all won. Dazzled added to the tally with a nice win on 25th November. At the meeting on 9th December, they added two more wins when Flamebird got up again as well as Terra Mitica. On Boxing Day, Snazzytavi won the Stella Artois Championship Final. They're on fire – along with regular jockey and Prince of Pukekohe, Warren Kennedy!

There were two meetings at Ruakaka, one on 5th January and one on 14th November where Bella Waters won for the Lindsays and First Five won for Gerald Shand.

On New Year's Day at Pukekohe, Warren Kennedy had a blinder, powering home seven winners. Word has it that a punter had a \$7 "All Up" on WK, leaving the TAB with a liability of well over a million if his ride Ominous in the last got up. There was a collective groan from the stand when the horse beat a retreat in the straight and finished last. What if... but it was not to be. Nevertheless, the Lindsays had another great day with About Time and Habana both winning [again] and Pour the Wine won nicely for Daniel Nakhle (all with WK on board). Daniel also won with Volare on 25th November.

I hope you were able to get along to see your horse perform over recent months. Congratulations to all winning owners, and commiseration to those whose horses didn't do the deed. There is a new year ahead, a new track in store, bigger prize money on offer - and plenty more chances to hope and try for that win!

Come Sunday 14th January, Ellerslie will be back in business to welcome in a new era of Auckland racing. Followed hotly by Karaka Millions Day on 27th January which is boding to be a huge one. Well done to Paul Wilcox and the team for bringing such a massive project to completion – I, for one, am excited to get back on track, to my "second home."

I'm also looking forward to working with my fellow Committee members to generate ongoing connection and confidence into the future in this industry we all love so much. Hang in there... even though we've had a lot of rain and gloomy weather in and around the Auckland region, 2024 looks bright on the racing horizon in all respects! Sally Blyth, President 🕝

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY Jill Lunn

The summer racing began extra well for Fred and Lindsay Cornege from Cambridge with 2 wins from 2 starters at Pukekohe on 7 November 2023. Kenobi won the "Up the Wahs 1600". He settled well back and came with a scintillating burst to get up in the shadows of the post. He was ridden by Matthew Cameron.

Highly Vindicated drew wide in the Auckland Thoroughbred Racing 1600, settled back and flew home to win narrowly. He was ridden by Joe Doyle. A great effort.

Again, Joe Doyle rode Billy Bunter for Fred and Lindsay Cornege on New Year's Day 2024 at Pukekohe in the 1600m R65 and won in a tight finish. An exciting time for Fred and Lindsay.

Cambridge Stud had a day to remember with Habana, Flamebird, Aquacade and About Time all winning on the 7th November and repeated it on New Year's Day 2024 at Pukekohe with Habana and About Time winning again.

Our committee man, Berri Schroder also had success at Pukekohe on November 7. He is an owner in Screaming Eagle which won the Barfoot and Thompson 1100.

Fred and Lindsay hard at work at Cambridge

Waikato Cup Day was a hugely successful day at Te Rapa with record crowds. It was a day of 2s. Joe Doyle rode 2 winners, Warren Kennedy rode 2 winners and Te Akau Racing won 2 races. Te Akau's 2yo Move to Strike was impressive. Watch out for him in the future.

Imprevu won the R75, 1200 for David and Jill Lunn and family. She was impressive winning after the jockey lost the reins 150 out from the post.

The Group 3 J Swap Sprint was won by Zecora, trained in Cambridge by owners Robyn and Russell Rogers.

The Group 2 CAL Isuzu stakes was won by Campionessa, one of the syndicated horses trained by Te Akau Racing. She went on to win the Group 1 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic at Pukekohe on Boxing Day as well.

The Group 3 Waikato Cup was won by Dionysus a horse bred by Sir Patrick and Lady Hogan and owned by Fran and Ron Dixon.

Congratulations to all the winners on this illustrious day.

Boxing Day races at Pukekohe was eventful for the Matamata stables with eight out of ten races being won by them. Of the other 2 races one winner was trained at Byerly Park and one from Cambridge.

HAWKES BAY Tony Lyndon

The Guy Lowry trained Bed Time Story followed a second placing when winning at Hastings on the 19 November. Raced by her breeder The Duchess of Bedford, with Hawkes Bay couple David and Jen Henderson and Hawkes Bay Jockey Club Committee member Tim Gillespie and the estate of former Waipukurau **Jockey Club President Colin Bremer.**

Bed Time Story is a granddaughter of Snap who won 11 races including 4 Group 1 races, the Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes, NZ 1000 Guineas, NZ Oaks and Waikato Draught Sprint.

The Hawkes Bay – Poverty Bay Awards for 2021/22 was dominated by the Paul Nelson/Corrina McDougal partnership again, and they were again to the fore this season just completed. Paul Nelson won the Owner of the Year on a points system, while he and Corrina took out the Trainers of the Year award for the winning strike rate. The Cossack was crowned Hawkes Bay - Poverty Bay trained horse of the year.

The Breeder of the Year on overall wins was won by Murray and Jo Andersen.

The breeders of the most black type winners were Mike and Sharon Craig (Charm Deel) - Tom Lowry (Nedwin) - Paul and Carol Nelson (No Tip) and Ivan Grieve (The Cossack).

Imprevu won again at Pukekohe on Boxing Day. The ATR Newmarket Handicap over 1200 ridden again by Joe Doyle. This was a momentous win for the team behind her, David Lunn who bred Imprevu and Janenne Dalley who trains the Lunn horses. (See the story of Devon Oaks on the NZTROF website). Imprevu came from well back to finish in under 34 seconds for the last 600. A great effort on a soft 6.



Racing at Te Rapa on 23rd December saw the running of the inaugural Waikato Bay of Plenty Racehorse Owners Association Maiden trophy race. The lucky winners were Ballymore Stables and C McKay, with their horse Mineshaft. Pam Gerard received the trophy on behalf of the owners, an engraved Polish crystal pitcher as identified in the advertisement in the race book.

Members of the Waikato Bay of Plenty Racehorse Owners Committee were on hand to cheer on the runners and

present the trophy. There are plans to sponsor further maiden races with a trophy, to enable owners to have a special memento to remember their horses first win. A special thanks must go to Andrew Castles CEO of Waikato Thoroughbred Racing, and Bruce Harvey, President of Waikato Thoroughbred Racing, who facilitated our ability to do this.

Rotorua Racing on 28 December saw Denise Venn win two races. Denise is an owner- trainer based in Cambridge, who has 4 horses in training at present. Both winners, Lord Jimmy (sired by Jimmy Choux) and What's The One Code (sired by What's The Story) are owned by Denise and Bernard and trained by Denise. Congratulations, a tremendous result!

New Year's Day Racing at Pukekohe was exciting. The stable of Lance O Sullivan and Andrew Scott at Matamata had a momentous day winning three races. One race was the Group 1 Sistema Railway they won with Waitak, a 4yo Proisir gelding. This race over 1200 metres required Waitak to show his ability in sprinting after, in 2023, taking part in the longer Derby races. A marvellous training effort.

Big crowds turned out at Te Aroha for the traditional Thames Jockey Club meeting and the running of the Thames Cup, with Adam I Am winning. Adam I Am is a very promising 4yo Almanzor gelding trained by Glenn Old at Matamata and raced by a syndicate.

We look forward to more exciting summer racing over the next two months in the Waikato/Bay of Plenty and prepare for the yearling sales at the end of January at Karaka. •



Guy Lowry has a new training partner with Leah Zydenbos and they were off to a flying start when Candle won at the Hastings twilight meeting. Guy has been training for 27 years and has prepared more than 300 winners, 15 at Group or Listed level.

WANGANUI & TARANAKI Brian O'Dea

Breeding race horses and organizing the owners.

It's close to quarter of a century since I got involved in racing horses. There has been a lot of pleasure and a few hiccups.

My first involvement was with Mike and Barbara Austin, having a small racing share in their mare Miss Akebono. She only won two but had a number of places-mostly 3rds.

I learnt a valuable lesson the day she had her first win. That day, a minor midweek race meeting at Otaki, the Austins' were kept occupied at the swab box and I had to celebrate alone in the owners room – not a lot of fun – being the only part of a group of Owners.

Organizing groups of people to race horses can be funparticularly when they are friends but it can get untidy when they suddenly pull out and their ownership shares fall back on me. I have bred 8, three were very satisfying, two were failures, a couple are OK and there is still the 2 year old to dream about

My good luck started when the Austins' lent me Miss Akebono to breed from. The stallion I had her booked to, who had one crop on the ground – and none of them won more than one race, dropped dead so Grangewilliam Stud gave me a service to their good stallion Al Akbar, the progeny being Roanah, winner of 7 races.

Her next foal by Danelove was Beau Dane, winner of 9 races including the Interprovincial and the Wanganui Hospice Cup twice. These races were spread over five years so gave a lot of satisfaction to us owners.

I then borrowed a mare off Neil Oldfield – Falaise – and put her to Skagen to produce Beau Agen, trained by good friend Christine Eagle.

Skagen's owners' included Bruce and Annette Keighley, Peter Ford, Janice Webster, Paul Bardell, my wife Isobel and me. His 6th win and final race was the Woodville-Pahiatua Cup. His health deteriorated on retirement and while we were sorting this out three of us from that syndicate were given the opportunity to take shares in a difficult gelding who became Gorbachev.

A few weeks later we met Breeder – Owner Kevin O`Donnell and a very professional trainer Bryce Newman. Gorbachev's wins included the Wellington Cup.

Through having horses trained by Paul Moseley at Hawera I ended up with shares in Mauna Kea, also a winner of the "Interprovincial."

I have been lucky enough to have shares in horses that have won at every venue now operating in the southern half of the North Island. Having only 2 wins from homebreds in the last 6 years I am probably out of that business but still have that broken in two year old to dream about.

I spent a few years on the committee of the Taranaki-Wanganui branch of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association and for some time have been on the committee of the Wanganui-Taranaki Racehorse Owners and in recent years been the President.

Racing has been good to me and it is nice to be able to give something back.

Included in recent local winning owners were the Stanley Brothers and Fiona and Humphrey O`Leary winning the Livamol Classic with Ladies Man – a class horse. Russell Guckert has won a 2yo old race with Maracatu and another with Proserve and Brian and Trish Williams won with Iva Mission

Our syndicate which includes members Peter Sewell, Walter Lennox and me finally had a first win with Izzie's Beau and there may be more.

Brian Anderson has also had a good patch with 3 winners, The Weapon, Grande Gallo and Molly Bloom.

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON Allan Fenwick

Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander and Christopher Grace bred and race Never Look Back who has followed up 2 Rating 75 wins with 3rd placings in the Group 3 Manawatu Cup and the Listed Marton Cup. With 3 wins and 4 placings from only 10 starts the Shocking gelding looks a stayer in the making. He is trained by Gail at Foxton and holds nominations for the Wellington and Auckland Cups.

Contributor mare Benefactor has been very consistent this time in with wins at Wanganui and Hawkes Bay and a career total of 3 wins and 7 placings from 15 starts. Committee members Cam Arnott and Mark Fearon are in the Partnership which race Benefactor from the stable of Lisa Latta.

Feilding members Douglas Duncan and Neil Managh are part of the Te Akau 2022 Fillies Breeding Syndicate which enjoyed recent success with Rue de Rivoli, when it won first up for this season at Rotorua.

Marotiri Molly has been a dual winner following a first up second for breeders Beven and Christine Parlato. Matt Dixon at Foxton trains her. They also had a win back in the spring with her full brother Marotiri Marsta from the stable of Buddy Lammas. Both horses are by Per Incanto from Marotiri Miss, which they bred and raced for 5 wins.

Manifique was a dual winner for Peter Gillespie prior to Christmas and the Savabeel mare is now the winner of 5 races. Peter also shares in the ownership of Kana, a 6-length winner at Trentham in October followed by another impressive win at the Canterbury Cup Carnival. Both are in the Awapuni stable of Peter Didham.

Son Tim Gillespie has also enjoyed success with the lightly raced Bedtime Story who followed a first up second at Woodville with wins at Hawkes Bay and Trentham. She is by Per Incanto and is trained by Guy Lowry and Leah Zydenbos.

Palmerston North enthusiast John Naylor has a share in the Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson trained Vivacious, a recent winner at Te Aroha. John has been the treasurer and a Committeeman of the Manawatu Racing Club for many years.

Congratulations to Fay McSweeney on Sugah Sweet's first up win for the season at Otaki. This was the Zacinto mare's 4th win. She is trained by son in law Bryce Newman

CENTRAL DISTRICTS RACING AWARDS FOR 2022/2023 SEASON

After a couple of deferrals due to the transfer of race meetings from Awapuni, the NZ Bloodstock Central Districts Racing Awards were staged at RACE Awapuni on 30 November, 2023 with a deserving list of winners receiving their silverware in front of a good crowd of attendees. Mr Jim Bruford from NZ Bloodstock was the guest of honour, and he spoke with pride about both the recent successes of local horses and

the positivity emanating from the industry because of the Entain arrangements.

Horse of the year was the Lisa Latta trained, He's A Doozy winner of the WRC Thompson Handicap, Group 3, CJC Coupland's Bakeries Mile, Group 3 and WRC Thorndon Mile, Group 1. The owners of He's A Doozy, including Debra Masters, a member of the Association, were named Owners of the Year

Association member Graeme Martin received the Outstanding Contribution to Racing Award. Graeme has been a stalwart of racing for a long time not only as a significant owner but also as a Committeeman and Past President of the Manawatu Racing Club and Chairman of RACE. Well done, Graeme, richly deserved.

The Association was pleased to be able to sponsor one of the Apprentice Prizes.

A full list of winners is as follows -

LEADING APPRENTICE 2022/2023 SEASON Lily Sutherland

HEAD PUPIL APPRENTICE SCHOOL 2022/2023 SEASON

Temyia Taiaroa

MOST IMPROVED APPRENTICE 2022/2023 SEASON

Ciel Butler

JOCKEY OF THE YEAR Shaun Fannin

TRAINER OF THE YEAR Lisa Latta

OWNER OF THE YEAR

Owners of He's A Doozey - M Schirnack, N & A Thompson, S Platt, J & S Dunnett, M McNeill, S Dais, P Shearer, L Purvis, K McHugh, D Masters, S Edgerton, E Tomlins & W Dixon

2 & 3 YEAR OLD

Pignan

JUMPER OF THE YEAR

West Coast

BROODMARE OF THE YEAR

Saoirse, dam of Brando

HORSE OF THE YEAR

He's A Doozy

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO RACING

Graeme Martin.

ASSOCIATION AGM

The Association's AGM was held at Awapuni on 14 December, 2023.

Annual Report – in his Annual Report President Mark Verran commented on several matters including the regular and well attended Committee meetings, which continued to scrutinise and analyse the activities of those who manage various industry activities to ensure that they are doing so for the betterment of the industry. In this vein MTROA has supported the Members Council as they seek feedback from industry sectors before engaging directly with NZTR to raise and work towards

rectifying issues. This process may not be working 100% successfully yet so it behoves us to ensure that we support this Council to engage powerfully with industry bodies to assert their position within the industry. He also thanked the Foxton Racing Club for allowing the Committee to use their facilities for Committee meetings.

Similarly, he said that it is important for the Association to support NZTROF President Bernard Hickey and the national body in their overview of NZTR and the TAB.

The well supported Points Series in association with CD and now Wellington Breeders, sponsored by Majestic Horse Floats, has again been very successful and he thanked Mike Collinson and Allan Fenwick for the sterling work they do to keep abreast of the competition's ebbs and flows. In the end it was the late John Roache's Bradman who prevailed with Deerfield 2nd and Royal Flower 3rd. Final points were very close, and he congratulated all place getters on their success.

The Chairman thanked Committee members for their attendance, and enthusiasm. He said that he had always been proud of the group as one which shows great support for the industry despite the serious issues it continues to face. However, the Association had never been shy, to question any matters which are seen as being inaccurate, faulty or even downright wrong, and long may this attitude remain.

AGM Guest speaker, Mr Peter Rubery, Race Images

Mr Rubery, a regular fixture at virtually all Central Region race days gave a most informative address and covered several matters of interest including the following

- his over 50 years of very enjoyable race day involvement, initially as a tote runner but for the last 40 years or so as a photographer
- how in the early days they relied on the newspapers for the results and filed the photo negatives, the results and the official race book together. When there was a request for say a winning photo, it was a matter of going back and finding the race book with the negatives and the results
- nowadays it was easier to access much of the information from the computer records
- he was passionate about having as many of the photos from the past as possible archived and had purchased other photographers sets of photos when they became available
- how much of a thrill he got in being able to find photos from the past when he had a request from younger family members wanting to obtain details about their ancestors horses

Those present were very pleased to know that someone was doing a great job ensuring that so many photos were being archived.



MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2022/2023 POINTS SERIES LEADER BOARD AS AT 6 JANUARY 2024

The lightly raced Never Look Back, currently holds a onepoint lead from El Vencedor and Nest Egg after the first 5 months of the season

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

REMINDER Remember it is not too late to enter your horse in the 2023/2024 competition, although points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. If you have already nominated one or two runners, you may also make further entries up to a total of 3 horses.

PLACE.....POINTS NAME OF HORSE - NOMINATED BY

LeaderNever Look Back - Stan Alexander & Gail Temperton	22
Second=El Vencedor and Nest Egg - David Price	21
Fourth= Chantilly Lace and Kingfisher Lad - Chrissy Bambry	19
SixthBee Enchanted - Kevin O'Donnell/ Debra Masters	18
Seventh Barzetti – Estate of John Roache	16
Eighth=Sweet Jineen - William Duncan, and Town Cryer - Kevin Day/ Jill Dixon/ Bob Wiltshire/ Estate of John Roache	15
TenthDevastate - Alex Kelly	14

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND Peter Faulkner

Hi and compliments of the season from the mainland, I hope that Santa fitted down the chimney and brought something a little bit nice for all our members, and maybe a win or two in the last couple of months.

Tim & Helen Parish got a great Christmas present on Boxing Day when Noble Knight, affectionately known as Gilbert, won the Rating 86 handicap over 2200m at Wingatui. He proved his versatility, as that was on a heavy 10. His previous start was on Cup Day in November, when he won on a good 4 track in a rating 82 2600. He was slow away under Sam Weatherly at Riccarton but settled 9th on the outer. They waited until the corner before making their move, cruised up and put them to bed to score by two lengths. Trained at Prebbleton by Sandy Cunningham, it was a good effort at Wingatui, as it was 38 days later on the heavy track.

Ridden by the South Island's favourite Irish jockey Sam Wynne, they sat back in the 7 horse field, then improved to 4th at the 400. They came down centre track and even though she lost her whip inside the last 100m she was able to ride hands and heels too strongly in a punishing finish to prevail by half a length. Those two wins increased his stakes by \$65k to a total of \$173k.He now has 6 wins from 33 starts.

The next assignment is the Wellington Cup with a lead up race on the first day of the carnival. So, all the best to the connections on their trip North.

It is always good to see the new crop of babies come through, and the new sires that are producing these winners. Super Seth had an early win on the board when Diablo Blanco saluted at Riccarton for owners Murray Hollamby and Rayner and Lyn Bonnington. Trained at Riccarton by Richard Didham, the 2yo filly won in a slick

45.5 seconds over 800m on a good 3. Ridden by tina.com, (Tina Comignaghi) they were crowded at the start in a seven horse field but found her feet to loom at the 200m and score by just over a length. I'm sure there'll be more wins to come.

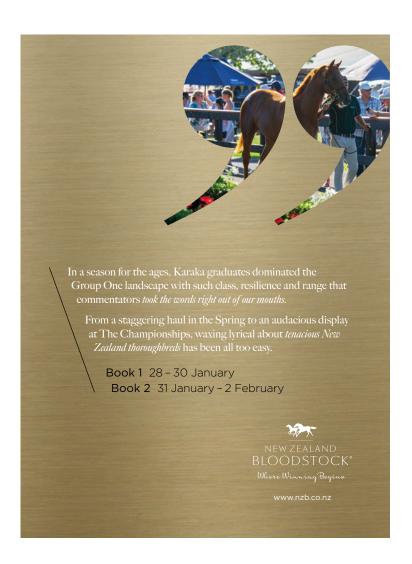
An interesting winner was a jumper winning a flat race over 2400m at Te Rapa on a good 3. Mr Fahrenheit, by Zed, is part owned by Eric and Donna O'Hara of Timaru, and started the staying race at \$72 if you please!

Jockey Jessica Allen had the 9yo gelding four back on the rail and by the turn the gaps opened up to be able to improve to third into the straight. He was into the open and the lead by the 150m mark and won going away by three lengths.

There has been some fabulous racing in the South over the Christmas/New Year circuit and we are looking forward to some more over the late Summer and early Autumn.

KARAKA A golden year for Karaka graduates...





COOLMORE AUSTRALIA'S TOM MAGNIER CONFIRMS THE STATUS OF THE SALE AS A MUST-ATTEND EVENT

"You have to take this Sale seriously every year because there is always a champion that comes out."

"There's nowhere in the world that looks after you like New Zealand, the hospitality is fantastic from every farm."

"Without a doubt, it is the best week on the sales calendar anywhere in the world," stated Magnier.

NZB's Managing Director Andrew Seabrook is looking forward to the annual yearling harvest.

"After the record-breaking Sale last week, we are looking forward to seeing that momentum roll into Karaka 2024."

"The catalogues are the biggest numbers we've had in years and the quality of the pedigrees and types on offer easily matches it.

"We are buoyed by the demand for our Kiwi horses and our team will be busy in the coming months promoting the Sale and getting the best possible buying bench established."

The stage is set for a week-long thoroughbred extravaganza in Auckland, starting with an extraordinary TAB Karaka Millions race day at the new and improved Ellerslie Racecourse on Saturday 27 January. The six-race card now carries total stakes of \$4.45m, headed by the \$1m TAB Karaka Millions 2YO (1200m), the \$1.5m TAB Karaka Millions 3YO (1600m) and the all-new open \$1m Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic (1600m) for four-year-olds.

The catalogues for Karaka 2024 can be viewed online at www.nzb.co.nz, with online bidding available for all prospective purchasers via

bidonline.nzb.co.nz

IMPORTANT DATES

2024 KARAKA MILLIONS RACE DAY SATURDAY 27 JANUARY AT ELLERSLIE

BOOK 1: LOT 1 - 682

Day One: Sunday 28 January

Day Two: Monday 29 January Lot 241 - 480 from 10am (NZT)

Day Three: Tuesday 30 January

BOOK 2: LOT 683 - 1125

Day One: Wednesday 31 January

Day Two: Thursday 1 February

Day Three: Friday 2 February

The catalogues for Karaka 2024 can be viewed at www.nzb.co.nz

LITTLE AVONDALE BIG ON WINNING



Happy holidays everyone! We're over on the Gold Coast putting the finishing touches on our two yearlings, which are headlined by an outstanding **Per Incanto** full brother to Gr.1 winner Bonham.

Bonham was an outstanding filly for Gary Harding and it's a family being mated up; Bonham has just had her first foal, an I Am Invincible colt

Per Incanto certainly enjoyed getting back to work, he obviously didn't like the idea of **Time Test** getting personal with some of his mares with the delayed start to **PI**'s season.

Congratulations to Peter and Dawn Williams securing the Gr.1 with **Desert Lightning** and to the 4YO's ownership group of Barneswood Farm, Sarah Green and Ger Beemsterboer, who put have put a lot into the industry. **Desert Lightning** is the 4th Gr.1 winner we've taken to Karaka since 2018, add in 2000 Guineas runner-up **Bourbonaire** and it's a record the farm is very proud of.

Wes Van Der Scheer, **Desert Lightning**'s German based Kiwi breeder has a very valuable broodmare in Isstoora. Her foal after **Desert Lightning** is the promising **Per Incanto** 3YO **Oak Hill**, and there are plenty more **PI** progeny to follow.

Roch 'N' Horse and Lost And Running are now retired and last years Gr1 Blue Diamond winner Little Brose has gone to Hong Kong but Per Incanto has quickly shown he can unearth a number of potential new stakes horses. Jockey Chad Scofield jumped off Rue Du Royale after he rattled home to run second in the \$1 million Golden Gift behind the ruling Golden Slipper favourite and rapped the Tony and Calvin McEvoy 2YO, declaring him "Raw, but very classy. His target is the Blue Diamond.

Jimmysstar is unbeaten in his last four starts, including his last two in Australia, the Beaufort Downs bred **Precious Charm** won at Flemington on Cup Day and Mrs Chrissie resumed with a spectacular win at Caulfield. Other recent Australian Metropolitan winners by **Per Incanto** are the Max Brown, JML and Jim Barlow bred debut juvenile winner **Photographics** and the (ex Edwina) bred **Philipsburg**.

Certainly, the firming of our domestic tracks has seen **Per Incanto** produce winners at a rate of knots. However one looking for a bit of moisture is Mark Oulaghan's rejuvenated **Semper Magico** who has been nominated for the Auckland Cup.

Time Test continues to sire plenty of winners, especially once they get out to 1600m. Over Xmas he had seven winners in eight days highlighted by the dead heat win of Jon Ol Rocco in the Timaru Cup. The Jamieson Park bred 4YO is extremely progressive, with four wins in ten starts, and he next heads north to tackle the Remutaka Classic. We're taking a close relation by Time Test to the Inglis Classic Sale.

Noel Nicholson went close to grabbing a Classic with **Charms Star** and hopefully he can go one better with his exciting staying prospect **Snellen**(x **Perfect Vision**) who showcased his NZ Derby credentials with an authoritative performance at Otaki. Another **Time Test** Derby prospect is the Guy Lowry and Leah Zydenbos trained **Testwin** (x **Edwina**) who scored impressively on debut.

Interest from Australia in Karaka this year appears to be strong, which after the results of NZ breds over the last 12 months shouldn't be a surprise. A huge part of the success of the RTR Sale was the buyers bench NZB managed to put together and I'm told Karaka in late January should resemble Bondi Beach on a summer's day! But leave the boardshorts at home please guys.

After Karaka, we take select drafts to Inglis Classic and Sydney Easter. **Per Incanto** is well represented at both sales, and he also has two fillies and a colt at Melbourne Premier.

Per Incanto has a record 51 yearlings catalogued for Karaka. They include progeny of a Group 1 winning Redoute's Choice mare, a half to this seasons dual Melbourne stakeswinner Coeur Volante, a half to the free going stayer Sagunto, a half to multiple stakeswinner Brando and the first foal of the good racemare Monrecour.

LA's Book 1 draft has yearlings by **Per Incanto** (12), **Savabeel** (3), **Bivouac**, **Farnan**, **The Autumn Sun**, **Almanzor**, **Hello Youmzain** and **Written By**.

I'm loathe to pinpoint individuals but **LOT 265**, a **Per Incanto** colt from the Iffraaj mare

Not A Jaffa is a physical standout. From the fantastic family of Werther, Toffee Tongue and Gobstopper, the well grown, 3YO type is offered on behalf of John and Elizabeth Anderson.

Standing out amongst the **Per Incanto** fillies is **LOT 457**. From a young **Redoute's Choice** mare, it's the family of Vedodara, Shastri and Sharvasti. She's an earlier **PI** type that in hindsight could have sold well at the Gold Coast. On behalf of Ben Kwok, the farm is delighted to offer two very well grown fillies - **LOT 573**, the first foal of a Written Tycoon mare Amal Rose, she's got a great hindquarter and superb temperament, and **LOT 398**, from an unraced **Savabeel** mare, is very physical and extremely powerful, especially through the hindquarters.

LA's had a lot of success with **Savabeel** progeny at Karaka and this year the farm has a couple of quality **Savabeel** colts. **LOT 562**, a colt from the High Chaparral mare Alam Mo Na, is a ripping colt. From the family of Northern Meteor, Smart Missile and last seasons Gr.1 winner Palaisapan, the mares first foal, a colt by Too Darn Hot, was a \$200k purchase from Sydney Easter last year by Jamie Richards and Andy Williams. **LOT 256**, offered on behalf of Jim Barlow, is the fourth foal of the mare and comfortably the best type she's left.

Two fillies by Australian stallions, could surprise buyers with their forwardness. The Autumn Sun's have been taking a little longer to hit their straps than some but **LOT 249**, the first foal of a speedy **O'Reilly** mare LA raced in Australia, is a mature well-balanced filly. **LOT 373**, a **Bivouac** filly, is a lovely topped filly who looks like she will run early.

Time Test has 24 yearlings in Book 2. Both LA's colts are exceptional types. **LOT 744**, which we pinhooked for the staff from the weanling sale, has a grouse temperament, and although he's got a gorgeous staying pedigree, he could well get up early. **LOT 820** is the first foal of a **Per Incanto** sister to Group 3 winner **Faithful Feat**. He's an excellent first foal, mature and physical.

Our only Book 2 **Per Incanto** could quite easily have been in Book 1. Her full sister **Photographics** won on debut in Sydney as the catalogue was being finalised. This year's version is a better type too.



FROM IMAGINARY BEGINNINGS TO TRUE RACING SUCCESS

Craig Leishman is a long-time racehorse owner and a valued member of the Auckland Owners Association Committee

Over the years he's been involved in racing, Craig has experienced his fair share of the ups and downs. However, he's one of the fortunate ones where the ups outweigh the downs and that, as we know, is not so straightforward in this industry.

Craig's love of racing evolved during his childhood in his hometown of Dunedin. His family wasn't into racing although his uncle, Ginger Woodhouse, trained trotters (and some pacers). Ginger retired at the end of the 2021-22 season after more than 60 years of involvement in breeding and racing horses. So, there is a racing gene there!

Craig and his best friend Tom would get together to play chess every Saturday and they ended up devising a betting competition between themselves - on horses, not their chess games. They would each have an imaginary \$100 to "bet" on real horses they selected and whoever came away with the biggest pretend haul on raceday was deemed the winner. Between the ages of 9 to 15, this was not only fun, but it enabled Craig to embed a sound knowledge of the racing game within himself without compromising his pocket [money]! His first actual bet was \$1 to win on a horse called Princess Mellay, another southern product who went on to win the NZ Cup in 1970 and 1971. The bet won, paying about a 10% dividend, and the sensation of the thrill of a winning punt became a real one, which possibly boosted Craig's curiosity in racing to the next level.

During his time at Otago University, Craig's interest in racing expanded even more. He would go to Wingatui and Cup Week in Christchurch, stressing equally over the date of the last exam, and its impact on a trip north, as much as the exam itself! He would also drive around Central Otago, following both codes at that time.

His first big racing trip, funded by stringing tennis rackets whilst at university, was to Sydney with a friend and his father to cheer on Battle Heights in the Sydney Cup. Four years later, a Sydney Easter Carnival excursion, co-ordinated by Alan & Linda Jones, followed when Good Lord (in Australia named My Good Man) was to win the 1978 Sydney Cup. This thrill was the undoubted catalyst as to why, at age 25, ownership entered his mind, when flicking through The Sunday Times, he spotted an advertisement placed by trainer Graeme Rogerson (Rogie) for shares in a horse by Zamazaan, sire of Good Lord. Craig took the plunge, sharing ownership in a horse called Lord Zirito with three others.

What a grand start to the fickle world of ownership it turned out to be ... Lord Zirito's racing career, whilst less than stellar at the start (two 9ths, a 6th and a duck egg, before a wise decision to geld him), saw him go on to win 21 races from 113 career starts. A versatile horse, especially excelling on Heavy going, he won on the flat, hurdles and steeplechase, even racing at the Melbourne Cup carnival in 1991.

Craig took a share in the talented horse Just A Dancer (by Star Way) who won as a 2YO in 1989. After 20 starts in NZ, including a third to Castletown in the 1989 Derby at Ellerslie, he did a stint in Australia with the Melbourne Cup in mind. He won his first two starts at Caulfield and ran 12th in the Melbourne Cup in 1990 (Jimmy Cassidy) which was won by Kingston Rule (USA).

Following three average runs back in NZ, he returned to Australia in early 1991 with eyes on the Sydney and Brisbane Cups. Due to a poor performance in the Chairman's Cup at Randwick the week prior (9-15), Craig opted to stay at home rather than head over for the Sydney Cup. Highlighting the bitter sweetness of an owner's lot, Just A Dancer (Grant Cooksley) won easily by 4L, beating Castletown. He followed up that impressive win with a good second to Castletown (short head) in the St Leger.

Moving north to Queensland, Just A Dancer won the Brisbane Cup (Jimmy Cassidy) in June 1991 by 2L. He had some good placings back in NSW before heading back to Flemington for another tilt at the 1991 Melbourne Cup where, ridden once again by Jimmy Cassidy, he ran a very creditable 8th behind Let's Elope. He got too far back and couldn't match the powerful surge of Jimmy's ride on Kiwi back in 1983. A good fourth in the Queen Elizabeth rounded out the carnival. In 1991 Craig also had Lord Zirito in the Melbourne Cup Hurdle, Race 1 of the day, adding another layer of pleasure. (Story in a later edition)

Craig says attending Melbourne Cup Day twice as an owner with a horse in the big race remains one of his most memorable and exhilarating racing thrills. Standing in the birdcage before the Cup with Bart Cummings on one side and Tommy Smith on the other was a moment Craig will never forget. Few owners will get to experience such a magical day with not one but two horses to cheer to the post on the first Tuesday in November at Flemington, along with many memorable "pinch-me" moments

Having moved to Western Australia for a couple of years, Craig returned to NZ in 1999, resuming his association with Rogie. Following his return from Australia, he managed a stud farm for a short time. This was a bit of a dream come true but,

whilst he enjoyed the work, the business model proved unsuccessful.

The relationship between trainer and owner is an important piece of the racing equation. Rogie and Craig go back a long way and have



Craig Talking to Rogie at the "Horse Of The Year" awards night

enjoyed plenty of success together. Craig has also had a positive partnership with Graeme Richardson through the years and, more recently, his training partner Rogan Norvall. Being a South Island man and impressed by the good strike rate of trainers Shane Kennedy and Anna Furlong, Craig took on some horses in the south and has enjoyed a successful relationship with them as well.

Craig has a share of In Her Presence (Churchill, IRE) which is also part-owned by Toni Croon who lives in the Chatham Islands and hosted our Owners "Racing In the Chathams" group tour in January 2023 (featured in Summer 2023 Owners Bulletin). In Her Presence won her maiden, second up at Matamata at huge odds in March 2023, and followed that up with a stylish win at Avondale in April. A fifth on Boxing Day 2023 saw her out in the lead turning for home and only fading near the post. We'll be keeping an eye on this 4YO mare with fingers crossed for good things.

Other horses Craig has had a share of include the talented multiple Gr1 winner Tiptronic and 4YO gelding Channel Surfer (both trained by Richardson/Norvall). Tiptronic, now a retired 10YO, won eight races from 52 starts and earned \$800k in stakes money. A versatile sort, he was best on Good going and over the mile. He won the Herbie Dyke Stakes stylishly in February 2020 just before lockdowns began. After a short but unsuccessful campaign in Queensland in May 2021 he returned to NZ and won the Group 1 Zabeel Classic on Boxing Day 2021. Tiptronic certainly gave his group of owners many thrilling moments as he liked to lead and his run in the Zabeel Classic was indeed the best a classy front-running win can be. Channel Surfer – whose racing style is to power home late – has won three races from 15 starts, with \$160k in stakes, and is nominated for Karaka Millions Day

Good mare Carolina Reaper won four races from 14 starts including the Manco Easter Handicap in April 2022. She amassed \$160k in stakes during her career here and was sold to Dubai for \$600k. Craig had a filly called Narration who won two races as

a 2YO, plus the Haunui Farm Stakes listed race as a 3YO. She won these three races from 24 starts before being retired to stud. There are other victorious horses as well as some less successful horses along the way – but the element of fun and surprise was always present even if the wins weren't.

Back in 2016, when Craig was going through the sales catalogue, he marked out a few horses he liked. One particular horse caught his attention – a filly by Power out of Capital Diamond – and this was his top selection. Although he was unable to attend the sales in person that year as he was at home sick, he watched the sales online. Craig spotted Rogie as Lot 214 came into the Premium Yearling sales ring. Rogie bought the filly and Craig rang him immediately and purchased a quarter share in her, paying the most he'd paid to date to gain ownership in a horse. That horse was Gift of Power who went on to win 11 races from 24 starts, earning \$315k in stakes money along the way. She won her first three races as a 2YO (2016) and won another three on the trot in Dec 2017/Jan 2018. An exceptional sprinter, she was later sold as a broodmare for \$800k, with a yearling targeted in the current Magic Million sale.

Craig's most successful horse so far is Sharp 'N' Smart, and he feels incredibly lucky to have a slice of this now 4YO gelding by Redwood out of Queen Margaret. Rogie had intimated to Craig he was a good horse and worth investing in, assuring him he would win his first race as a 2YO. He ended up running a good but "disappointing" second on debut at Ruakaka in April 2022, but rectified things by winning next up at Counties. Craig signed up and the horse has, as we all know, gone from strength to strength both here in NZ and across the Tasman.

There was a successful stint in Australia in October 2022 with wins at Warwick Farm and Randwick, then a second at Flemington in the Victoria Derby. Jockey James McDonald had to force his way through to make the front and it looked like he had it in the bag until Manzoice arrived late on the scene and nabbed first place.

Back in NZ, Sharp 'N' Smart ran a nice second in the Thorndon Mile (January 2023) and he was sent out favourite for the Group 1 WFA Herbie Dyke Stakes in February 2023. A 3YO at that point, he had to overcome not only a seriously strong field but also a torrid run. Forced to race wide without cover for most of the way, there were a few anxious moments for connections and punters – and no doubt for regular jockey Ryan Elliott - but, despite being bumped at the 400m mark, he surged to the front and got the prize. It was an impressive ¾L win – his fifth win from ten starts at that point in time. He followed it up with another fine win in the ATR NZ Derby at Te Rapa on 4th March 2023 adding a tidy sum to his earnings.

Just As Sharp leads out Sharp and Smart at **Ellersie Trial**

Plans for a Cox/ Melbourne Cup campaign in 2023 were dashed after running a disappointing last in the Grp 1 Arrowfield Stud Plate in

September 2023 at Hastings. Blood tests showed a viral blood disorder. One of the "downs" of racing, right there. However, there are hopes of having another crack in Victoria in 2024, to try to add the more than \$3m stakes money the horse has already put in the bank. Meanwhile, he is nominated for the Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic on KM Day, the Herbie Dyke Stakes, and the Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup. A potential stint in Hong Kong isn't off the cards either.

Just as Sharp (Swiss Ace/Readyor) is another horse in Craig's catalogue with huge ability. Trained by Rogie, this 3YO gelding has three wins from five starts to date. He won on debut as a 2YO with Bailey Rogerson on board (July 2023) and put together two nice wins at Rotorua and Te Rapa in Nov/Dec 2023 respectively, kicking the new season off to a great start. With \$88k already earned in stakes, Just as Sharp appears to be exactly as his name implies. He is nominated for the Herbie Dyke Stakes, the Cambridge Stud Levin Classic and the Trackside NZ Derby.

On 20th December Rogie brought both Sharp 'N' Smart and Just as Sharp to Ellerslie to have a gallop on the new surface. Craig was ecstatic to be there to watch them heading down the new straight in tandem. We're sure both these horses have a great season ahead, and beyond, and will be following them with great interest!

Not too many owners get to experience the joy of owning a piece of a Horse of the Year but Craig has. He and his partner attended the Horse of the Year Awards event in 2023 and were thrilled when Sharp 'N' Smart won Champion 3YO. The smiles broadened when Sharp 'N' Smart took out top honours as SENZ Horse of the Year, being the first male galloper to earn this accolade since 2016. With several other serious contenders in the mix, this was such an achievement and so very well deserved. Interestingly, Lord Zirito won Champion Jumper at the Horse of the Year awards back in 1995 so Craig has experienced such owner-elation twice!

As a keen traveller Craig and his partner attend race meetings wherever they are in the world. A highlight was attending race meetings in Tokyo and the most exotic venues were in South America -Peru, Buenos Aries and Rio (alert, BA is

alcohol-free!) on courses developed in the grandeur of the 1930s, once hosting the rich and elite. Today, although rather tired, all provide a raceday experience with character and atmosphere. Hong Kong is a favourite race venue for Craig and he has attended race meetings there every year for more than ten years. He loves the Sydney carnival although was thwarted by several wet years in a row. Royal Ascot was another high point in his global racing calendar, having attended with his daughter some 10 years ago. And, of course, he's had an insider's experience of the Melbourne Cup carnival.

Despite his success as an owner, and the impressive strike rate, Craig is realistic in approaching racing ownership as a hobby rather than a for-profit

> exercise. He's not much of a punter, although he can't resist a modest bet on his own horses. Overall, he just loves the spectacle of watching

His elderly parents live in Dunedin and Craig has gifted them shares in various horse's winnings so

horseracing.

they can also get a taste of the thrill. He gifted shares in a horse to his daughters as a Christmas present during lockdown when shopping and traditional gift-giving wasn't so simple. Craig figured this might ingrain the racing gene within the family and thereby continue the tradition he has created. Kikimora (trained by Kennedy/ Furlong at Riccarton) has won two from 20 to date, with plenty of placings, and Craig says his daughters have had a lot of enjoyment from being involved - a promising sign towards keeping the racing bug alive and well in the family!

Craig and his chess-playing imaginarybetting childhood friend Tom lost track of each other for many years but managed to catch up about four years ago, through Bridge rather than Chess. Craig encouraged his friend to take a share in Drum Major with him and, with four wins from 27 starts, the love of the pretend racing game they shared so many years earlier was rejuvenated as the real deal.

It seems Craig has a knack at acquiring shares in really decent horses, with a number of them enjoying speeding to the lead – and often staying there! It also seems they sometimes do better when Craig is not on course! He's a man with humility and evident acumen who is keen to share his love of racing with those around him.

Congratulations on your triumphs as an owner, Craig. Best of luck for a winning 2024 (first success being State of Fear at Tauranga on 2nd Jan) – and may the successful racing gene you have planted within your family flourish beautifully into the future!





TAKE THE REINS IN 2024

The New Zealand racing industry has recently undergone a significant transformation, focusing on enhancing confidence in racing, breeding, ownership and most importantly – the thrill of racing.

This transformation will be felt intensely over the next month by both New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) and the industry, with several exciting events kicking off in the first month of 2024.

TAB KARAKA MILLIONS

The TAB Karaka Millions requires little introduction, with it being New Zealand's richest (and most glamorous) event on the sporting calendar.

Run at Ellerslie on Saturday 27 January, the blockbuster twilight programme will feature the \$1m TAB Karaka Millions 2YO (1200m), \$1.5m TAB Karaka Millions 3YO (1600m) and the inaugural running of the \$1m Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic 4YO (1600m).

The 2024 meeting signifies Ellerslie's return to the spotlight, offering unparalleled prizemoney and opportunities for Owners like never before.

Additionally, The Grand Tour Racing Festival is set to make its inaugural appearance at Ellerslie for the TAB Karaka Millions meeting. Celebrating and unifying New Zealand's top 20 racedays, The Grand Tour aims to grow awareness, interest and participation in our sport, while engaging with the next generation of racing fans.

Hospitality options are sold out, however, a General Admission tickets are still available. To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit aucklandracing.co.nz/karakamillions.

KARAKA 2024

The countdown has kicked off for New Zealand Bloodstock's (NZB) 98th National Yearling Sales Series, featuring an outstanding selection of New Zealand's finest yearlings set to go through the sale ring during the industry's biggest week of the year.

Annually, the Karaka Sales Centre facilitates the sale of over 1000 elite yearlings, highlighting the nation's emerging talent. Book 1 is scheduled from 28 to 30 January, followed seamlessly by Book 2 from 31 January to 2 February.

NZTR will be present for the duration of the Sale at Karaka and will have a marquee set up by the rose gardens adjacent to the indoor parade ring. Whether you require information about Authorised Syndication, ownership opportunities and initiatives, race programming innovation, equine welfare, or careers and education opportunities in the Thoroughbred industry – our friendly team will be available to help.

Join NZTR at Karaka 2024 to experience an atmosphere like no other. No tickets are required, with free entry and the opportunity to secure the future superstars of New Zealand's racetracks. Visit nzb.co.nz for more information about Karaka 2024.

ADDITIONAL BONUSES

Adding to the further initiatives released during the 2023/2024 racing season, the iconic TAB Karaka Millions raceday has acquired an additional \$400,000 in available bonuses for horses offered at Karaka 2024.

NEW OWNERS' BONUS

The \$200,000 New Owners Bonus will be won by the first horse across the finish line in the 2025 \$1m TAB Karaka Millions 2YO that has 50% or more of the ownership being held by first-time owners. This is the perfect opportunity for existing owners to introduce their friends and family to our sport.

Aimed to introduce and encourage newcomers to the thrill of racehorse ownership, new Owners can purchase shares in a yearling at Karaka in January and be racing for \$1.2 million only 12 months later.

BOOK 2 BONUS

The \$200,000 Book 2 Bonus will be won by the first horse across the finish line in the \$1.5m TAB Karaka Millions 3YO that was offered in NZB's Book 2 Sale in January 2024.

Book 2 has been a happy hunting ground for Karaka Millions contenders over the years and this bonus will highlight the quality that comes out of the Book 2 Sale. This bonus will start with the 2026 edition of the TAB Karaka Millions 3YO when the 2024 yearlings are three-year-olds.

Unable to make it to Karaka 2024? Keep an eye on the ownership opportunities page at **loveracing.nz/ownership** to get involved.

ELLERSLIE UPDATE

Ellerslie Racecourse, New Zealand's premier racetrack, has been closed for a track upgrade for the better part of two years with Auckland's racing taking place at Pukekohe Park – a track that has acquitted itself tremendously, hosting its first-ever Group 1 race in December 2022 and, when all is said and done, will have seen six races at the elite level take place before handing the reins back to Ellerslie.

All that is set to change in 2024 with Auckland Thoroughbred Racing (ATR) announcing in December 2023 that the new StrathAyr track is primed and ready for its raceday debut.

The road to seeing Ellerslie back in the spotlight has been tumultuous with the Auckland region experiencing some of the worst weather on record in early 2023. In fact, Auckland Anniversary Weekend in January, historically one of the driest months of the calendar saw some of the largest amounts of rainfall ever experienced in Auckland. Some stats you might be interested in:

- From 1 October to 31 December last year, Ellerslie had 500mms of rain which is 86mms more than the next wettest year (1995) for that same period.
- From 1995 to 2022 inclusive at Ellerslie, the average rainfall for the period between 1 January and 30 May was 456mms. In 2023 for that same period, Ellerslie had received 1,045mms.
- From 1995 to 2022 inclusive at Ellerslie, the average annual rainfall is 1,262mms. As referred to above, in 2023 Ellerslie had already received 1,045mms which includes historically the two driest months of the year January and February.
- In June we had 142mms and July 165 mms of rain.

The silver lining of that (large!) cloud is that the track has more than proven it can handle large amounts of rain, a key reason for the Club deciding to install this particular track system.

A rigorous testing process took place in the later part of 2023, with gallops, jump-outs and trials all held before the 'big tick' was given to the track. Comments from all stakeholders were favourable with senior jockeys impressed with the surface.

"It felt amazing, you could race on it tomorrow," said Warren Kennedy at the jump-outs which took place after 43mms of rain. "You wouldn't know we've had any rain, it's drained exceptionally well. When you walk on the track it feels firm underfoot but has a really good spring when the horses are on it."

Vinny Colgan was also in attendance at the jump-outs commenting, "I'm just really impressed with the turf, after 43mms of rain. And it feels so safe. Perfect."

Monday, 11 December saw trials take place at Ellerslie with 60 horses galloping on the surface across 12 heats. Senior jockeys, Opie Bosson, Craig Grylls and Joe Doyle were on course for the first time since the development.

"It's a really quality track that was so needed here," commented Joe Doyle. "It rides brilliantly, and the horses stay so balanced. It's really good, I like it."

Opie Bosson also had very favourable things to say about the track commenting, "It feels beautiful. Nice and smooth and it's a privilege to ride on it. There's not one fault in the track at all and I'm looking forward to getting back here in January."

NZTR's Head of Licensing and Stakeholder Engagement, Matthew Williamson, was also oncourse at the trials, gathering feedback from a range of stakeholders.

"It's an incredible, incredible surface. I can't speak highly enough of it. It's been long awaited here in New Zealand and that \$50 million that's been put into it has been well spent for the industry."

Comments from top jockey Michael McNab were extremely favourable and comments from the RIB stewards were that it's a consistent and brilliant surface. "Given our tracks around the country can, from time to time, be challenging, the comment was that stakeholders will know exactly what they are riding on at Ellerslie.

ATR Chief Executive Officer, Paul Wilcox said, "To say we are delighted is an understatement. This moment [final approval of the track] has been much anticipated by not only us here at ATR, but by the entire industry and I'm thrilled at the feedback we've received".

All roads now lead to Ellerslie's first raceday back on Sunday 14 January, ahead of the popular TAB Karaka Millions meeting on Saturday, 27 January which now boasts stakes of nearly \$4.5million.

New Zealand's richest sporting event, the TAB Karaka Millions, attracts not only the who's who of Australasian racing but also Auckland's social set to Ellerslie for the most glamourous and exciting raceday on the calendar.

With 2024's event acting as Ellerslie's 'official' return to the racing scene, ATR is expecting a huge crowd trackside for the first time in almost four years after pandemic restrictions and renovation disruptions.

The ATR team can't wait to welcome racegoers back on course to experience the best racing and hospitality Ellerslie has to offer.

BOXING DAY AT PUKEKOHE FASHION IN THE FIELD



Harries Boutique Local Lady Celeste Stark

Dark Hampton Classic Womenswear Nicola May



■
Bracu Estate
Contemporary
Womenswear
Sasha Boyens



L-R: Carena West, Sasha Boyens, Celeste Stark, Nicola May, Ryan Teece, Sarah Fahy



BRIEFEST OF PAUSES TO REFLECT ON A LANDMARK YEAR FOR NEW ZEALAND RACING

CAMERON RODGER (MANAGING DIRECTOR) - ENTAIN, AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND

The end of every year is a chance to reflect, but to look back on 2023 in the world of TAB and Entain New Zealand is an opportunity that requires more than a few deep breaths.

As the Managing Director – New Zealand for Entain, I can say this year has been truly one to remember and one to savour.

Since we took over the operation of the TAB on June 1, it's been full steam ahead as we've worked with the racing industry to rejuvenate, invigorate and enhance the experience of every owner, trainer, jockey, driver, punter and breeder in New Zealand.

The first priority was to support considerable stakes increases across all three codes, and within two months of the strategic partnership getting underway, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR), Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) and Greyhound Racing New Zealand (GRNZ) had all announced plans outlining their stakes increases for the 2023-24 season.

A vital boost to stakes was important, but equally so was the enhancements to breeding, key races, and ownership to name a few.

That's why we have invested in initiatives like the Pearl Series, doubling the bonuses on offer, and likewise in harness racing, with breeding credits available for fillies and mares.

Feature races are the shop window for the New Zealand racing industry, and it's important that they become a drawcard to the connections of New Zealand and Australian horses.

New Zealand already has an outstanding reputation in the breeding world, and our horses continue to perform at the elite level in Australia, so the more of these stars we can have lining up at Ellerslie, Te Rapa or Trentham, the better it is for our ability to shine a light on these feature races.

The New Zealand Summer Series Bonus recognises that, setting up a genuine middle-distance championship for New Zealand, kicking off at Trentham and Ellerslie in January.

The 2024 TAB Karaka Millions night on January 27 is already looking massive, with the two-year-old and three-year-old classics now joined by the \$1m Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic, which is open to all four-year-olds.

We've also set up a travel scheme to entice Australian-based horses, which is a scheme we're sure will prove attractive to those connections across the Tasman. We're confident that TAB Karaka Millions night will set the scene for a cracking thoroughbred yearling sales week.

Entain has thrived on innovation in recent years, so when the opportunity to take a slot in The Everest came up earlier this year we jumped at the chance. While our Kiwi-bred star I Wish I Win was unlucky in the \$20m sprint, only getting out late to run second, the results from the race were undepiable

Turnover on the race (\$1.8m) was double last year and in the days leading up to the world's richest race on turf, it was impossible to miss that the Waikato Stud gelding was lining up for Trackside Media in The Everest.

The \$10m Everest Mega Millions promotion looked tricky on paper, having to pick all 12 runners in the correct order, but it wasn't too tricky for one of the TAB's Auckland customers, who walked away with the total prize pool. I was genuinely thrilled that someone had won the competition, simply because it showed it was possible to win, and the media interest this competition garnered was priceless.

The Trackside Media brand will be seen at Perth in April too, after we secured a three-year slot in The Quokka, Western Australia's slot race. Closer to home, we're stoked that Queen Elida will be our representative at Cambridge for the TAB Trot on the same weekend as The Quokka.

These initiatives are very important for the industry, but it's just as important that we take care of our customers and attract new ones at the same time.

The year ahead will be transformational for TAB, with the TAB brand being relaunched as well as a brand-new app and betting platform. The new platform means we will no longer need to rely on third-party providers for some of the mechanics behind the site, and we're sure customers will appreciate the more intuitive betting experience this new technology will provide.

The particular nature of the racing industry requires that while the holiday season is in full swing for many Kiwis, racing carries on, providing entertainment for those holidaymakers. Whether you're one of the holidaymakers or a participant in the racing industry, I wish you an enjoyable and profitable Christmas racing period, and we'll be back in 2024 to continue the hard work we've put in over the past seven months.

TAB RACING CLUB A NEW PLAYER IN RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP

The first steps towards an exciting new racehorse ownership model have been unveiled, with expressions of interest now open for trainers to prepare horses for the TAB Racing Club.



Pic courtesy Raceform Magazine

The Club, modelled on a similar initiative established in Australia earlier this year by Entain, will offer a tailored loyalty and rewards programme and an enhanced wagering experience to TAB customers who opt in to the Club.

Once the TAB Racing Club trainers are confirmed, Entain has committed to spending up to \$1.5 million at next year's thoroughbred and standardbred yearling sales to not only support the breeding industry but to also give club members the opportunity to watch their well-bred yearlings work their way towards a career as a racehorse.

Cameron Rodger, Managing Director – New Zealand of Entain Australia and New Zealand, said trainers will be chosen on their ability to deliver a world-class ownership experience, as well as their success as a trainer.

"A key to the TAB Racing Club's success will be partnering with the right trainers, jockeys and drivers to make sure the experience that owners receive is truly memorable," Cameron Rodger said

Benefits for TAB Racing Club members include owner experiences to attend the races, birdcage viewing and on-course hospitality; regular communications from the trainers, behind the scenes access to the trainers and other key members of the team, and special betting offers to encourage club members to back their horses at the races.

"For trainers, the TAB Racing Club creates a great way for them to attract and acquire new owners. It also provides a logical pathway for prospective owners to get involved and ultimately become registered owners in their own right," Cameron Rodger

More information about joining the TAB Racing Club will be shared in the coming months.



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THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2023 -4 JANUARY 2024

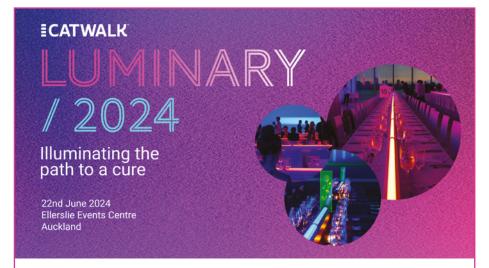
AUCKLAND

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Leith WeitzelChatham Islands

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Daniel & Veronica Lunn.....Auckland



We are delighted to extend an invitation for **Luminary 2024**, a CatWalk gala event. Please join us as we focus the spotlight on spinal cord injury research and illuminate the path towards a cure.

Luminary 2024 promises to be an extraordinary evening filled with brilliance and optimism, featuring a delightful menu, exquisite beverages, and a remarkable selection of auction items.

All proceeds from this event will be dedicated to cutting-edge, world-class research aimed at finding a cure for spinal cord injuries.

www.catwalk.org.nz/events/luminary2024/

We sincerely appreciate your support and look forward to welcoming you at Ellerslie Events Centre on June 22, 2024.

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.

1 OCTOBER TO 10 DECEMBER 2023

Stan Alexander NEVER LOOK BACK
Brian Anderson THE WEAPON, GRANDE GALLO,
MOLLY BLOOM

David Archer SINHAMAN G C Arnott BENEFACTOR

Duchess of Bedford BEDTIME STORY
Bryan & Mrs Deirdre Black CHATTAHOOCHEE
Phillip Blacktopp KIKIMORA, MAYBE I'M DREAMING
Rayner & Lynn Bonnington DIABLO BLANCO

Sue Bourke IMPENDABELLE, KEY LARGO, MISS NICO BELLE

Geoff Brown POW TONG

Les & Cilla Brown BRIAN LAMONT

Philip & Catherine Brown LEGARTO, ADAM I AM

Simon & Kay Brown ALEXANDRA QUICK Patricia Buckingham CHURCHILLIAN

Jackie Burrows IDEAL DREAMS

Tim & Mrs Margaret Carter JOHNY JOHNY

Jan Carver ADAM I AM Barbara Caryl GEE STRING John Clapham IFFSHECAN

Bruce & Courtney Clarke SEVEN ELEVEN

Trevor Clarke GRAIL SEEKER
Murray Cole LEICALOT

Tony Coombe ABOVE THE CLOUDS, KHAFRE

Fred and Lindsay Cornege BILLY BUNTER

Chris & Liz Cowell MY WORLD

Frances Crimmins THIS LITTLE LIGHT, NIGHT NIGHT DORA

NIGHT DOKA

Kevin & Jan Day TOWN CRYER

Brian & Joanne de Lore DA OPTIMIST

Dave & Trish Dean GRANDE GALLO

Murray Deans IVA MISSION

Jillian Dixon TOWN CRYER

Susan Dower NIGHT NIGHT DORA

Mr & Mrs J D Druce BARZETTI

Douglas Duncan RUE DE RIVOLI, INSATIABLE

Ken Duncan IZYMYDAAD

Pat Dyer CAPO DELL IMPERO

Mrs J L Egan JIVETALKIN, VILLON

Mark & Faye Fearon BARZETTI, BUENOS DIAS,

TIVACI PRINCESS, BENEFACTOR, TOWN CRYER

William Fell GREAT ESCAPE

Matthew & Logan Fenwick TAKESHI

Carl Ferguson SALTNESSE

HA & Mrs S Fletcher PERICLES, PENDRAGON Peter Sewell Franz Josef Trust IZZIE'S BEAU

Steve Freeman ROC DANCER, GRANDE GALLO,

GLAMOUR TYCOON

A R Galbraith, KC TAKESHI, SAY SATONO

Mike Gething NIGHT NIGHT DORA

Peter Gillespie MANIFIQUE, KANA Tim Gillespie WATERGATE, BEDTIME STORY

Go Racing DISS IS DRAMATIC, GEE CEE,

VELOCIOUS, SEVEN ELEVEN

Dame Lowell Goddard LA MEZQUITA

Gary Goodwin MAGGIESCLAN

Chris & Mrs Jill Grace SUPER DAISY, PULCHRITUDINOUS

Post: TRA

Christopher R Grace KANUKA, REPUTATION, NEVER LOOK BACK, LOCH IN ORA

Craig & Sandra Grammer TALISKER, GOOD OIL

Loraine Grant CORISTA

Douglas P W Grieve INSATIABLE

Ivan Grieve GALILEO INVADER

Russell Guckert MARACATU, PROSERVE

Paul & Maureen Guise STILL BANGON

Gerald Haddon TIVACI PRINCESS

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Mrs Patricia Hargreaves THUNDER

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Mrs M D Haydock EXPRESS YOURSELF

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Virginia Healey SEVEN ELEVEN

G & A Hill Trust HARRY HARRISON

Murray Hollamby DIABLO BLANCO

Craig & T A Hunter GENERATION JOY

Dave & Mrs Nicky Hurst FASHION SHOOT

InToWin.co.nz QUEEN OF SPADES

Chris Jones GRAIL SEEKER

Peter & Mrs Lee Karton KARTON

Patrick J & Allayne Kennedy BOW HILL

Tom King SUMI

Bryan Leach QUARTZ QUEEN

Craig Leishman VILLON, JUST AS SHARP, JIVETALKIN, DRUM MAJOR, KIKIMORA

Walter Lennox 1771F'S BEAU

B J (MNZM) & Mrs J E A Lindsay DAZZLED, LUBERON, IFFIN DOUBT DANCE, ABOUT TIME,

AQUACADE, FLAMEBIRD, HABANA

BALANCE OF POWER, BELLA WATERS, DAZZLED, OMINOUS, SNAZZYTAVI, TERRA MITICA

Little Avondale Stud ALEXANDRA QUICK
John & Carole Lynskey PUNTURA,

MARGHERITA VELOCE

R N (Neil) Managh RUE DE RIVOLI

Scott Massey ROC DANCER, MAHRAJAAN

Paul & Pauline McBreen SIR ALBERT

Gregory McCarthy MCLAREN, SIR STERLING

Joan & William McFlinn MALFURION

Graeme McInteer BARZETTI

Raewyn McKenzie THIS LITTLE LIGHT

R B McLaren Ltd CANDYFLIP

Mrs F L McSweeney SUGAH SWEET

Ms Moya McTamney ALEXANDRA QUICK Brigette Meehan IFFSHECAN

P N & J A Miller DOUBLE O' SEVEN

Paddy Murphy GEE STRING

Daniel Nakhle CROCETTI, VOLARE

John Naylor VIVACIOUS
Nearco Stud Ltd DAJIEDA

Ian Nichol TRADER

Brian O'Dea IZZIE'S BEAU

Gavin O'Dea STIPULATOR, FAMILY AFFAIR

Eric & Donna O'Hara MR FAHRENHEIT

Kevin O'Brien SUPER DAISY
Helen & Tim Parish NOBLE KNIGHT

Beven & Christine Parlato MAROTIRI MOLLY
Alexander & Katrina Paterson NIGHT NIGHT

Graeme Petersen ADAM I AM

Allan & Annette Pickering ALEXANDRA QUICK Angeline & Colin Porter QUEEN OF SPADES,

SINBIN, NUN SO BAD, BOLD BELLE

Wayne & Marion Potter QUARTZ QUEEN

Gary Pratt CORISTA, BERBIZIER

Rosy Pratt SERGIO

David Price EL VENCEDOR, NEST EGG

Terry & Izzy Proctor ALEXANDRA QUICK,

QUEEN OF SPADES

Ricky & Anna Rhodes ADANNAYA

Judith Ridley-Smith THUNDER

Shaune Ritchie ROC DANCER, MAHRAJAAN

John Roache (deceased) BARZETTI, TOWN CRYER
Philip & Jackie Rogers FIRST FIVE, MARY SHAN

Philip & Jackie Rogers FIRST FIVE, MARY

Mike Sanders SWAZI

Gavin Saunders TIZ LOUIE

Berri Schroder SCREAMIN EAGLE

Mike Smith CANNON HILL, OVERDRAWN

Vicki Smith CAPO DELL IMPERO

Noel & Suzanne Stanley LADIES MAN

Lacy Stewart VAGUE, SYMPATHIQUE, MISS

MIRANDA, ZADANE

John Struthers ZABMANZOR, PIZZAZZ

Derek & Judith Stubbs NIGHT NIGHT DORA

Mrs Dale Swap THUNDER

Chris & Linley Talbot MAHRAJAAN

Aaron Tapper MISS MIRANDA

Brent & Cherry Taylor TOSSUFORIT,

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Te Akau Stud STELLA SPLENDIDA, RUE DE RIVOLI, RULE OF LAW, WAR OF SUCCESSION CAPTURED BY LOVE, INSATIABLE, MARACATU, VALORIOUS, CAMPIONESSA, ELEGANY LADY TALISKER, STAR OF JUSTICE, FREEZE FRAME, MAZZUCATO, FASHION SHOOT, COGNITO DREAM OF THE MOON, CARAVELLA, PERFECT

SCENARIO, EGYPTIAN QUEEN, ON THE BUBBLES,

OUR MILLY BEE

Gail Temperton NEVER LOOK BACK

John & Margaret Thompson CHURCHILLIAN
Gary & Pamela Trusttum MATTRIC

Frank & Christine Wade VELOCIOUS

Michael Wallace SHEAF, LOCHWINNOCH

Geoff Ward GRANDE GALLO

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DORA

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