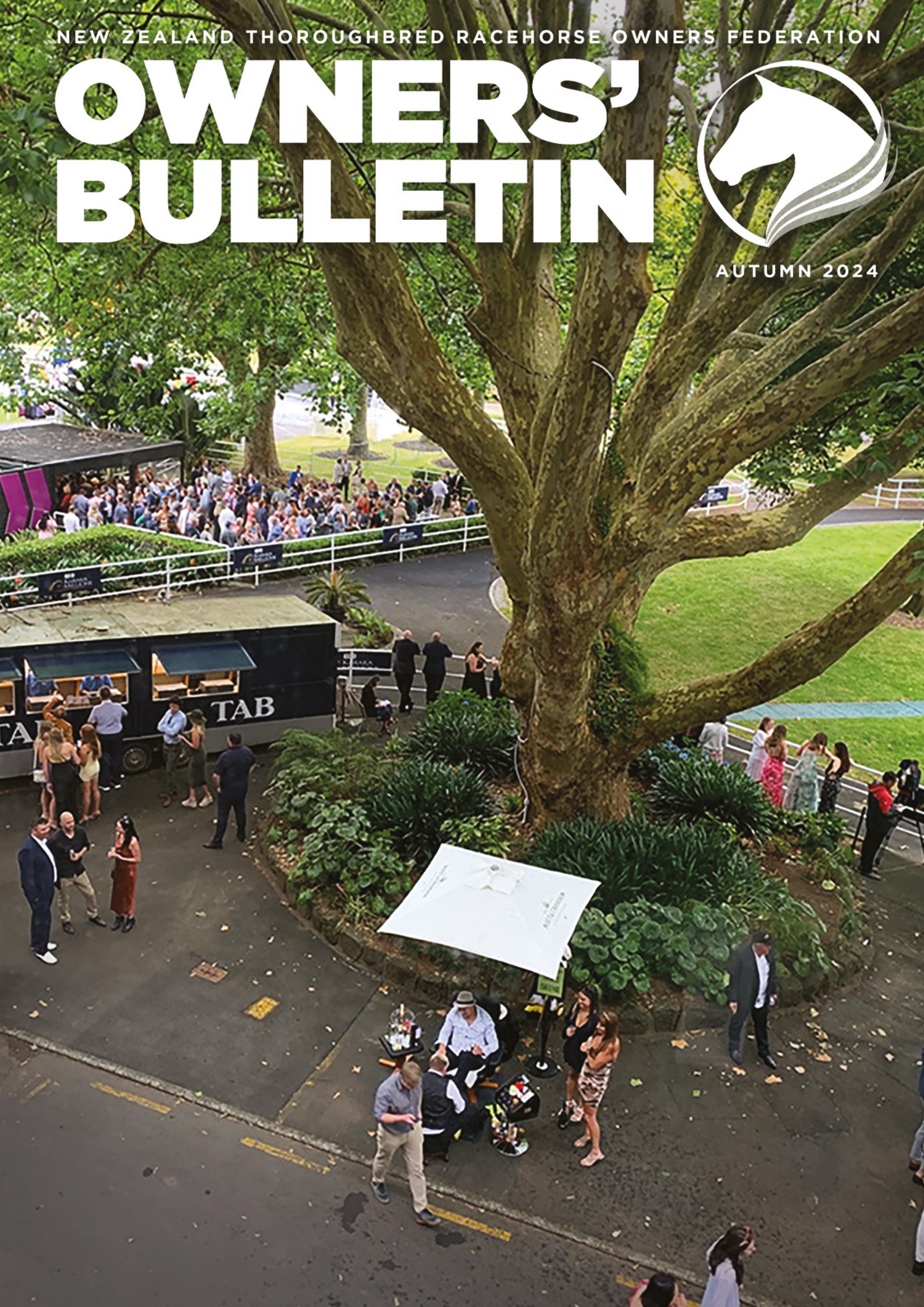


NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



AUTUMN 2024



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

IT'S AUTUMN AND A CHANGE OF SEASONS.

That also is about to bring a changing of the guard at NZTR, with Cameron George signifying that he intends to step down as Chairperson and from the Board in July.



Whether we love or loathe him the role of chairperson can be an arduous position on any Board, and I must say that Cameron has handled himself well whilst in the role. He has worked through some difficult times to get us where we are today. That has harnessed the new partnership and relationship with ENTAIN which we trust will develop further over the next 4 years.

Cameron the Owners Federation thanks you for your time and effort while in the Chair and we wish you the best in your future endeavours; "Go the Wahs!"

The Members Council of NZTR are now entrusted in finding a person to replace Cameron on the Board. This process can prove difficult to ensure you get the person with the experience needed to compliment the mix of skills currently around the table.

Applications have been sought and a new Board member will be named during May. The Chair of the Board is a matter for the current Board to determine which will again be considered after the next AGM in November is per the constitution.

No doubt an acting Chair will be considered and if so I would personally support the likes of Bruce Sherwin in this role due to his wealth of knowledge and regard held by all within the racing community.

In March, your Executive proposed to the Members Council and NZTR by written submission that the recognised industry organisations, as prescribed by Section 5 of the Racing Industry Act 2020, become full members of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated.

And secondly that the term of appointment of members of the Members Council should be three years.

The Racing Act 2020 defines the recognised industry organisations in relation to galloping races as follows -

- I. New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated; and
- II. New Zealand Racehorse Owners' Federation Incorporated; and
- III. New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association Incorporated; and
- IV. New Zealand Trainers Association; and
- V. New Zealand Jockeys' Association; and
- VI. every racing club registered with New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated.

However, the Constitution of Thoroughbred Racing makes no provision for the four "Sector Organisations" to be members of Thoroughbred Racing although they are represented on the Members Council.

Should this proposal be considered it would form part of any constitutional changes that may be considered at the next AGM. This along with other amendments that will be required to meet the provision of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

The change would mean that the "sector organisations" such as ours, as of right would be able to attend, speak and vote at a General Meeting of Thoroughbred Racing. Let us hope that natural justice prevails!

From a racing perspective, abandonments of meetings or part meeting is becoming the norm of late. This when we are in an era of constant knowledge or know how that such should not be occurring as often has it has.

Has Health and Safety and Welfare taken priority in every decision we make or has our Integrity Unit taken the term «so far as is reasonably practicable» to the extreme?

I am the last person who wants safety of jockeys and welfare of our thoroughbreds compromised in any way. But surely, we have all the mechanism at hand and risk controls in place to minimise future abandonments. Let's hope so!

On that passing note, Happy and Safe racing to you all.

Bernard Hickey (President)

ENTAIN TEAM PROFILE

NAME: Lachlan Fitt

ROLE: Deputy CEO & Chief Financial Officer

TIME WITH ENTAIN: 5.5 years.

RACING INTERESTS:

I fell in love with thoroughbreds as a youngster when watching Sunline, particularly winning the Cox Plate by seven lengths, and then the recently-passed Lonhro, who defied all odds to win the 2004 Australian Cup. That interest in racing continued to me owning my first (very small) share in a racehorse when I was 21.

I now have shares in six thoroughbreds, spread across Australia and New Zealand. Coming from the starting point of a racing fan, I'm incredibly lucky to have a job that allows me to mix the passion for the industry with my professional skills.

WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT THE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP:

The racing and breeding industry in New Zealand has an incredible platform to seize the opportunity presented through Entain's investment and the certainty of funding provided over the first five years. To capitalise on that opportunity, however, it will require some risks to be taken early on in the partnership and it is some of those big ideas that excite me the most. We've already seen the impact a modest increase in the promotion of the industry can have, and with the right momentum now behind the industry there are endless opportunities that can be pursued across all facets of the ecosystem - racing, breeding, yearling sales, the media coverage of racing, and most importantly the racing product itself.

WHAT RACE, EVENT OR OPPORTUNITY ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO IN NZ RACING IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS?

There is lots to look forward to in the next racing season! We have a new format racing calendar that will start the journey of using the calendar to maximise wagering revenue. More weekend racing, more racing at our best venues and an improved summer carnival are all things that I look forward to seeing play out over the next year. Culminating

of course in the first running of The NZB Kiwi on 8

March last year. The opportunity for New Zealand racing to be the focus of Australasia has never been stronger than what we will see next summer.



EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

Well, that's the Summer of 2024 gone and a memorable one it was. We saw some great performances from our horses, Jockeys and Trainers and also the Breeders produced magnificent stock at the NZB Karaka 2024 Yearling Sales. We bought into one, who was expensive, in the hope of it being an "Ellerslie" horse.

The re-built Ellerslie track had an up and down comeback. I think CEO Paul Wilcox has got more grey hairs. But us folk who come or came from the country can reassure the "townies" the problems were caused by new grass. Some age and usage will sort that out as well as the track management staffs learnings.

ENTAIN has come out with a Newsletter. It will occur monthly. We have put two segments from this, one under the Presidents Message and the other on the side of this page.

ENTAIN is where the "Trickle Down" starts and how they are going is of vital importance to Owners. We strongly recommend you jump on to that. Here's what they say - *"If you know of other people who would appreciate receiving Entain Edition, please forward this on to them, and they can be added to the mailing list by emailing communications@entaingroup.co.nz"*

The figures in the BY THE NUMBERS table are interesting. Thoroughbred Racing turnover up 12.3% although Boys Get Paid will have given that a push. But to balance that we are in a recession which reflects on the discretionary spending.

The Regional Associations have been active with reports on their area doings.

There is a fulsome report on the NZTR Industry Development Day held at Ellerslie where the "secrets to success" were shared. The prime theme was excellence which should be what all industry people and especially Racing Executives aspire to.

Toward the back of the issue is a great horse story authored by Sally Blyth of a life changing experience for a young man.

Further on a welfare story where owners did the right things for a retiring horse and it all turned out well.

For your story - Contact me - neilandjeanette@yahoo.com



OUR COVER

TAKEN FROM THE TOP OF THE ASCOT STAND AT ELLERSLIE. AT TOP ARE OWNERS HAVING THEIR PRE-RACE STIFFENER.



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RACEHORSE OWNERS
FEDERATION

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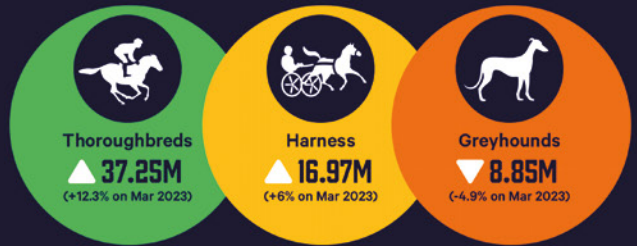
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BY THE NUMBERS

MARCH 2024

RACING TURNOVER



ACTIVE CUSTOMERS - RACING

MAR 2024: 90,400
(+14.1% on March 2023)



AVERAGE FIELD SIZE



TOP 5 RACING EVENTS BY TURNOVER FOR MARCH:

1 BARFOOT & THOMPSON AUCKLAND CUP (G2)	Ellerslie	\$1.02m
2 TRACKSIDE NZ DERBY (G1)	Ellerslie	\$864K
3 MAINSTREAM PLUMBING MUFHASA STAKES (G3)	Ellerslie	\$642K
4 BONECRUSHER NEW ZEALAND STAKES (G1)	Ellerslie	\$622K
5 SKYCITY HORIZON	Ellerslie	\$527K

SPORT TURNOVER



SPLIT OF ALL ACTIVE CUSTOMERS BY RACING ONLY, MIXED AND SPORT ONLY BETTING:

	Mar 2024	Mar 2023
RACING ONLY	36.0%	36.3%
MIXED	26.4%	26.2%
SPORT ONLY	37.7%	37.5%



Entain

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND *Sally Blyth*

Since the Summer 2024 Bulletin I've attended raceday at Ellerslie several times.

As we all know, there have been a few teething issues, which is unfortunate, but these are being ironed out. I'm sure that, despite the hiccups, the new era of racing at Ellerslie will come into its own and we'll look back with gratitude that all this effort has been put in at this time to create an enduring venue for racing of excellence into the future. No doubt a few sleepless nights for Paul Wilcox and his team. We send you our support as the track issues are rectified for the long term.

There were plenty of winners for Auckland Association members over the period 11 December 2023 to 31 March 2024. Several of these winning horses have owners from other regions, but let's focus on the Aucklanders amongst them.

- Grail Seeker for Trevor Clarke and Chris Jones
- Dubai Diva and Rockin Rosie for Rosemary Carter and Brett Kendall
- Xrated for Paul & Jo Wilcox. Paul (Ellerslie CEO) will be pleased to have got this mare's Maiden win ticked off at New Plymouth on 22 March.
- Corista for Loraine Grant and Gary Pratt (fourth win, now racing in the South Island).
- Grey Haze for the McFlinns (second win was at Ellerslie).
- Sacred Dream for the large team of owners including John Newman.
- Diss Is Dramatic, Velocious and Imperial Empress for Go Racing (Auckland members Warwick & Rosemary Russell have shares in the latter).
- Channel Surfer, Hanalei Star, Infer, State of Fear and Zoulander for Craig Leishman.
- Alexandra Quick for many owners including the Stride Racing Club Syndicate (to which Auckland members Brenda & Barry Gerard belong).
- Lohnagan for the Silver Lining Syndicate (including Auckland members Brenda & Barry Gerard).
- Maria Farina - back in winning form for Barry Wright.

A special shoutout to trainer and Auckland Member Shaune Ritchie who had wins with Rocket Lad (fourth win on 13 December at Hastings), Nephetei (third win on 30 March at Ellerslie) and Rumeur (Maiden win at good odds at Tauranga on 16 March).

Shaune also experienced the glory of training and being in the ownership of the Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup 2024 winner Mahrajaan on 9 March at Ellerslie. It was a convincing win and showed that this boy loves the long-distance races, having earlier won the Martin Collins 160th NZ Cup on 18 November 2023 at Riccarton. Both Cup wins were at 3200m and had Sam Weatherley aboard. Mahrajaan's group of owners, which includes Auckland members Chris & Linley Talbot, are no doubt a very happy bunch indeed. (Owners: G I Barnett, G W Bates, R Cooper, P J Cranitch, G M Jennings, G G Peterson, S F Ritchie, C J Talbot, E J Wood & Est Late S F Massey).

The jubilation experienced when our horse wins can also be tempered with the frustrations of injury and setbacks, which most owners endure at some point or other in their racing journey. Let's hope the latter are minimal and not too serious and that the former awaits us in the upcoming months. A win is always anticipated; patience and resources are always required.

Meanwhile, members of the Auckland Association Committee are starting to plan for an outing for our Auckland members later in the year. We are looking to organise a visit to some training stables in the region - this will be a good opportunity to see how different trainers approach things, and for us racing enthusiasts to have a good chinwag about the game we love. Member events certainly generate camaraderie and lasting friendships.

Wishing everyone success and racing fun as winter descends upon us.

Sally Blyth, President 🍷

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY *Jill Lunn*

MATAMATA RACING CLUB January saw Matamata Racing Club very busy with 3 meetings on Wednesdays all a fortnight apart. The first meeting at Matamata on the 10 January saw Tony Pike win 3 races. Centenario a 3yo gelding by Contributor won the Maiden 2000 metre race, Awatere a 3 year old gelding by Per Incanto won the Maiden 3yo 1600, and Pax Mundi won the 1600 Pearl Maiden race. Pax Mundi is an interesting filly being by a USA sire in Mendelsson. It was a huge thrill for the many owners.

'Team' Tony Pike's skill continued to show at the Ellerslie meeting on the 14th January, which was the opening day on the new Strath Ayr track. A 4yo gelding by Charm Spirit, Rudyard, won the 1500 metre Benchmark 75 race. Rudyard is owned by a large syndicate of well-known studs and racing people.

Lance O Sullivan and Andrew Scott also trained a winner at Matamata. Foxglove a 3yo Savabeel filly bred and raced by Dame Sian Elias and Hugh Fletcher won the Maiden 3yo race over 1200 metres. It showed she is a filly to be followed. Further to this win Foxglove raced in the Group 3 Mufhasa Stakes on Trackside NZ Derby Day at Ellerslie and came with a withering run to finish 4th

RACING TAURANGA had a great day for racing on Friday 12 January with many owners celebrating their horse's athletic ability. The Maiden 1200m was won by Little Bit of Love, raced by a syndicate managed by Kylie Bax and trained by Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott at Matamata. Sir Peter Vela had another home-bred winner, with Aequus a 4yo Iffraaj mare winning the R65 1200m race.

Chad Ormsby won the R75 1200m with a 6yo gelding Master Fay, that his farm owns and trains, and this set the horse up to win the Group 3 Concorde at Ellerslie on 27 January.

Inca Belle a horse raced by a Fortuna Syndicate won the R 65 1400m and had the fastest sectional times from the 800 metres on a Good 4 track.

LEGENDS DAY AT TE RAPA was a fantastic event for racegoers, and it was great to see the legends parade before each race. The emphasis put on the "Horse" as the main event of a race day was wonderful to see. Those paraded were Ping Hai Star, Werther, Sacred Star, Gingernuts, Seachange, Sir Slick, Xcellent, Mufhasa, and Bostonian. Xcellent and Sir Slick were the granddaddies of the event, both being 22 years of age. All the horses looked in great order and many showed they were keen to be at the races.



Mahrajaan winning Auckland Cup

There was great racing with 2 Group one races, The Herbie Dyke Stakes over 2000m, taken out by Legarto. (a Proisir mare) and the BCD Group Sprint over 1400m won by Bonny Lass (a Super Easy mare). Legarto has proved to be a special mare for Ken and Bev Kelso, and at only 4 years of age we look forward to seeing her future triumphs. Bonny Lass showed her ability for her team of "Social Racing Starting Gates Syndicate" owners' by leading all the way and winning comfortably.

Also on this day was the Group 2 David and Karyn Ellis Fillies Classic that was taken out in superior style by Molly Bloom, a mare by Ace High, ridden by Joe Doyle. As well there was the running of the inaugural Sir Patrick Hogan Karapiro Classic of \$350,000. It was won in superb style by Wallen, a Tarzino gelding, trained by Shane Crawford at Cambridge for Gerry Harvey and ridden by Ryan Elliot.

A BIG story from the Waikato over this summer/autumn has to be the story of Pulchritudinous, a filly by the good sire WROTE who was trained by horseman Chad Ormsby at Cambridge. After problems getting the Lowland Stakes run due to track issues the event was staged at Taupo less than two weeks before the NZ Oaks at Wellington. Pulchritudinous won the Lowland Stakes and then went on to win the NZ Oaks in the hands of Warren Kennedy. In getting to Trentham for the Oaks the Ormsby family put the pony float on behind their vehicle with the two little girls ponies onboard, drove to Raetihi where on the Saturday morning the girls rode their ponies in barrel races at the rodeo at Raetihi, Chad rode in the bull riding event, then they went on to Trentham to saddle up Pulchritudinous who won the NZ Oaks in fine style. They returned to Raetihi for the second day of the rodeo on Sunday. Since then, Pulchritudinous has been sold to the Sydney stable of Gay Waterhouse and Adrian Bott.

Chad has continued to have success with Outovstock, a Tavistock 3yo, winning the Group 3 Manawatu Classic at Trentham on 6 April over 2100 metres.

The Roger James and Robert Wellwood trained Orchestral, owned by C and H Litt from the Waikato, has had a stellar season. She started off on 1 Jan winning the Barfoot and Thompson 1600 at Pukekohe. She went on to win the Karaka Millions 3yo race over 1600m on 27 January, then the Avondale Guineas on 21 February over 2100m, then the NZ Derby on 24 March over 2400m. This 3yo filly by Savabeel out of an O'Reilly mare then stepped out on Australian turf in the Group 1 Vinery Stakes at Rosehill and won in impressive fashion.

Antrim Coast, trained in NZ by Stephen Marsh also showed his ability on Australian turf. Antrim Coast is a 3year old gelding by Roc de Cambes and is raced by D Karreman the owner of the Oaks Stud. He was 2nd to Orchestral in the NZ Derby and then stepped out at Moonee Valley on 23 March over 2040 metres, in a Group 2 race, to win. Then he started on 6 April at Caulfield in a 3yo race and ran second to another Kiwi bred Gold Wolf. Gold Wolf is a 3yo by Tivaci

These three horses along with I Wish I Win, Mr Brightside, Imperatriz, Captain Envious, Here to Shock, and the exciting 2 year old by Super Seth, Feroce, have given the New Zealand racing enthusiasts a lot to be following. 🐾

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Brian O'Dea

Bernie Gudsell a long-term member of the Wanganui Racing Industry passed away recently. He had been in good health until a few days before he passed away in February aged 92 eating and living well until the end.

Bernie and family were heavily involved in racing. In the early 1970's Bernie was lent a mare Angelanella by his Uncle, Keith Gudsell. She was successful and went on to produce P rovinella and Up Trumps. Incidentally, Uncle Keith was an All Black as well as a Veterinary Surgeon.

The bloodlines of Angelanella have carried on for six successful generations and its present star is Bold Mac who is racing in Australia from the stable of Chris Waller with over \$67,000 in the Bank. In the early days of Bold Mac's training John Lichwark assisted and another who gave valuable help was Waverley Track Manager Colin Cromarty, a very good stockman.

Dandy Andy, an Australian Cup winner is another of the breed with Group 1 success.

Due to Bernie's long association with the Wanganui Jockey Club, he was made an honorary member.

Bernie was recognised as a great stockman with dairy cows and this helped him in his understanding of thoroughbreds.

The family milked cows for generations and over a few years during that period Bernie and his son Paul would break-in up to 33 ponies for kids during the summer as an income boost.

Son Stephen for a period trained for his father and a daughter Sheila is married to Wanganui Jockey Club President Stu Watts.

Son Paul described his father as a good farmer and stockman and a hard case. Proof of his stockmanship was when he fed the horses in the evening, he never left the stable until they had all completed their meals.

Good horses coming through the system are Numba and Bonnie Ezra along with present star Bold Mac. 🐾

HAWKES BAY *Tony Lyndon*

Racing commentator Tony Lee retired after 40 years. Tony has commented at Hastings for 30 years and rates Hastings as one of the best tracks to call from, with the commentator's box positioned high up and back from the track.

Australian owned Starcraft he considers as being one of the best horses he has seen alongside Xcellent and Princess Coup. Princess Coup recorded back-to-back wins in the Kelt Capital Stakes in 2007 and 2008.

But then later Melody Belle became the first horse to win the Hawkes Bay Triple Crown in 2019.

Hastings based trainer John Bary had a treble of winners over the Christmas New Year period. The three wins gave him a career total of 271 winners.

Lohnagan raced by the Silver Lining Syndicate managed by Mike Sanders won at Hastings returning some of his purchase price of \$65,000 dollars at the Ready to Run Sales.

Hawkes Bay businessman Peter Grieve, part owner of champion steeplechaser, The Cossack has another rising star in Chapintee who has won three of her seven starts, she is out of the High Chaparral mare Chapinta.

Former South Island trainer Danny Champion has got away to a good start since moving to Hastings when saddling up two winners in four days. 52-year-old Danny who has been training for 20 years has won 136 races is the partner of Katie Hercock, who is his raceday rider. 🐾



Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON *Allan Fenwick*

Town Cryer completed a wonderful season with gallant seconds in the \$350k Rangitoto Classic and the Group 1 NZEA New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes. Her 9 starts this season have netted 2 wins, 4 seconds, 1 third and over \$275k in stakes. The 6-year-old Tavistock mare is trained by Roydon Bergerson and is raced by a Syndicate including Association members Kevin Day, Jill Dixon, Mark Fearon, Bob Wiltshire and the late John Roache.

The small stable of Gail Temperton has enjoyed many thrills over the recent months with Never Look Back winning 2 events and having 2 black type places and Royal Flower placed in the Group 3 Manawatu Breeders Stakes. Add to that Harry Harrison winning the first hurdle race for 2024 and now having won his last 4 starts, all over hurdles.

But it is a couple of horses that Gail and partner Stan Alexander have bred that could hold centre stage later this year. Mark Twain, trained by Roger James & Robert Wellwood and raced by OTI Management followed up his consistent NZ form including a third placing in the Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup with a spectacular win at Flemington which guarantees the Shocking gelding a start in the next Melbourne Cup. They also bred from Nosecondprize, a half sister to Mark Twain, the promising young Australian stayer Samuel Langhorne. It could be a big racing finish to 2024 for Gail & Stan.

He's A Doozy was back in winning form at his favourite track, Trentham, in March. Six of his 9 wins have been on the "champagne turf" Member Debra Masters shares in the ownership of the Lisa Latta trained gelding.

Call A Friend trained by Mike Breslin and raced by the In To Win Cleverly Syndicate and In To Win RACE Members Syndicate cleared maidens at Tauherenikau in March.

Association members Cam Arnott and Alan & Marion Campbell are part of the ownership group.

Alexandra Quick, part owned by Simon & Kay Brown won her first two starts but after failing in her fourth start trainer Alan Sharrock has indicated she will be retired. Her win at Trentham was a huge effort. After being slow away and settling last she flew home to win by a 1/2 length.

Bedtime Story raced in partnership by Tim Gillespie made it 3 wins from only 5 starts when successful at Otaki. Guy Lowry and Leah Zydenbos train the Per Incanto filly.

Members Wayne Kitching, Faye McSweeney and Andrew Stewart share in the ownership of Vavoom, a recent winner at Tauherenikau. The Vadamos filly, trained by Bryce Newman had shown promise prior to Christmas and after a short break resumed with a hard-fought victory, at just her 6th start.

Sir Mikki cleared maidens at Wanganui in January and has continued to race consistently with numerous placings since. Members Noel Buckman and Faye & Mark Fearon share in the ownership of the Lisa Latta trained 4-year-old.

Douglas Duncan and Neil Managh are part of the Te Akau 2022 Fillies Breeding Syndicate which enjoyed recent success, this time with the Savabeel filly Lady of Court at Riccarton.

Sylvia Kay shares in the ownership of Enrico a winner of 2 races recently. The El Roca gelding is trained by Ilone Kelly.

Bradman has been a model of consistency this campaign with wins at Wanganui and Trentham along with 4 minor placings. He is in the Roydon Bergerson stable and is raced by a local syndicate which includes Bob Wiltshire, Mark & Faye Fearon and the Estates of the late Keith Towers and John Roache.

Mike Fitzgerald shares in the ownership of the John Bary trained Lohnagan a winner at Hastings and Rosy Pratt is part of the Heels & Hooves Syndicate which races Moet Down who was a winner at Waikato in January. She subsequently ran a very gallant 2nd in the Group 3 Mufhasa Stakes.

The Kevin Myers trained Just Charlie was a winner at his third start for owner/breeders Mike & Roz Southey.

Sinbin has now won 2 races from a handful of starts for Sandie Cookson & Angeline Porter. Robbie Patterson trains her.

Racing on the synthetic track at Awapuni for 2024 started on 5th May with Shaun Fannin and Hazel Schofer taking the honours with 2 winners. Forty Eight made it 3 wins from 3 starts on the synthetic and Bubbajock quit maidens. The latter is raced by Greytown members Christine & Peter Algie.

The Committee of the Association was pleased to note that after a review of the Venue Plan NZTR has decided to race and trial at the Woodville Racecourse at least until the next review in 2029. The Woodville track has been used for a number of meetings, including jump meetings over the last few seasons and it would be folly to cease racing there while so many of the other tracks in the Region need resting so that critical maintenance can be undertaken.

Also interesting to note that over the last 12 months there have been 13 trial meetings at Foxton and 13 sets of Jumpouts at Levin. Both facilities provide much needed options for trainers wanting to trial their horses on grass tracks. Even Waikato based trainers have seen fit to float horses to Foxton to trial.

El Vencedor currently holds a one point advantage over Town Cryer in the Majestic Horse Floats Points Series but with both horses unlikely to race again this season the chasers do have a chance to dispute the final result.



Lohnagan wins the Three Wise Birds Maiden at Hastings

LUMINARY / 2024

Illuminating the path to a cure

The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Research Trust take pleasure in inviting you to an illuminating event.

Dinner & Auction
Saturday 22nd June 2024 at 6.30pm
Newmarket Room
Ellerslie Event Centre
Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

Tickets: \$325.00pp

Dress code: Glow up, be your best self

Tickets available at catwalk.org.nz/luminary2024

CATWALK
Funding research to cure spinal cord injury

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2023 / 2024 MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS POINTS SERIES LEADERS

AS OF 30 APRIL 2024

POSITION	POINTS	HORSE	NOMINATOR
1st	34	EL VENCEDOR	David Price
2nd	33	TOWN CRYER	Kevin Day / Jill Dixon / Bob Wiltshire / Estate John Roache
3rd	30	BEDTIME STORY	Tim Gillespie
4th	28	BEE ENCHANTED	Kevin O'Donnell / Debra Masters
5th	25	BRADMAN	Estate John Roache
6th	23	CHANTILLY LACE	Chrissy Bambry
7th	22	NEVER LOOK BACK	Stan Alexander & Gail Temperton
8th	21	NEST EGG	David Price
9th =	19	DEVASTATE	Alex Kelly
		KINGFISHER LAD	Chrissy Bambry
		SIR MIKKI	Noel Buckman
12th	17	VESMART	Carol Fisher
13th =	16	BARZETTI	Estate John Roache
		LA BELLA GRANDE	Mary Burgess
		MOET DOWN	Rosy Cooper
		PHATS	Tony Bambry
17th =	15	ALEXANDRA QUICK	Mary Burgess
		IMA BRAZEN ONE	Mark & Faye Fearon
		SWEET JINEEN	William Duncan
20th	14	HE'S A DOOZY	Debra Masters

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

Hello from the Mainland. As Autumn is kicking in the tracks are still hard and fast as a rule and don't look like softening here anytime soon. Winter gallopers will have to head south to find some moisture. Still there has been some great summer racing, and one very progressive horse has been to the fore in recent months.

That horse is Mystic Park, part owned by Johnny Walsh of Timaru and trained by father and son combination Michael and Matt Pitman at Riccarton. The 4yo gelding by Ocean Park has now won 5 from 10 starts and amassed \$127k in stakes already.

He won as we went to print last time at Timaru in the aptly named Walsh Family Reunion sprint, a R75 1200m on a soft 7. Next it was at Riccarton, after a false start and going 900m down the chute before being able to be pulled up, was only a nose from running down the winner in 1.07.22.

Riccarton again, another R75 but stepping up to 1400 this time. Didn't matter, bolted in by 4 lengths carrying 60kgs. His last win, also at Riccarton, was too good again in the fast time of 1.21.69, all in the hands of one of our top jockey's down here, Tina Comignaghi.

Out for a spell now and I believe the plans are for a tilt at one or two of the triple crown races in September, I'm sure he will fly the South Island flag well.

Johnny has had a long-time interest in thoroughbreds. Brother Sandy was a jumps jockey, winning both the Grand National and Great Northern in the same year. He has had horses with Melville and Warwick Coles and the late Peter South and also Thelma Foley.

The best horse early on was The Flying Frenchmen who won 5 including a Hokitika Cup and then Bridget Town won 6 with 15 seconds.

With the Pitman's, Showgem had 1 win from 1 start, and Lovebug won twice but Mystic Park has been the best.

A grand old campaigner in the deep south is Riviera Rock for part owner's Linda and Noel Anderson. A 9yo gelding by Road to Rock, he has won 7 for stakes of \$250k. His last win was in Invercargill in December where trainer Graeme Eade told me he would go close in the Southland Crystals, having won it the year before. Taking up the customary role in front under Brandon May, they led to the 400m where being challenged, they found more and stalled them all off to score over 2200m.

Another not quite in the grand old campaigner category yet is Capo Dell Impero, part owned by Pat Dyer and Vicki Smith. Trained at Wingatui by another father/son combo, Brian and Shane Anderton, the 6yo gelding by Ghibellines has won 7 for stakes of over \$200k from only 30 starts. His last win was on his home track, the Waikouaiti Cup over 2200m. Patiently handled by hoop Corey Campbell, sitting three back on the rail, it got a bit tight on the turn as everyone was mounting their challenge. Luckily the gap came and they careered away to score by 3 lengths. He earlier won the Cromwell Cup before Christmas. I'm sure there is still plenty in store.

It was a sad day for Lionel Dobbs and Janine Young of Orari, as their beloved Emanon had her last race down here on April 20. A 5yo mare by Burgundy, she is heading north to stud, reportedly to go to Proisir. She is a very tough horse to get past and won on 11 occasions with stakes of \$323k. We will await her progeny with interest.

Good luck for the winter racing to everyone involved.

NZTR 2024 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT DAY By Denise Mayhew and Sally Blyth

People from all Thoroughbred racing industry sectors came together at Ellerslie on 26th March 2024 to hear inspirational speakers and an update on the future of racing.

MC George Simon introduced Jason Paris, CEO of One NZ, who emphasised the importance of listening to and focussing on the customer, striving to mitigate problems and provide a seamless service. Huge investment has been made in One NZ's networks in pursuit of pleasing the customer and enhancing services. Jason acknowledged AI and talked of a new collaboration with SpaceX providing mobile services via Starlink to increase coverage even in remote areas.

Hamish Pinkham, co-founder/director of Rhythm and Vines (an event he dreamt up with mates as a way to have a final fling at the end of their University of Otago days) stressed the importance of listening to the customer and moving with the times to remain relevant and appealing. New initiatives have been introduced through the years including ways to increase sustainability, enhance safety and reduce waste. The first R&V was in Gisborne in 2003 and it is now a well-established music festival, with 25,000 patrons attending in 2023. The appeal of the format endures and the organisation is not afraid to invest as necessary to remain current and reputable.

Hamish and his team have also been working closely with NZTR on The Grand Tour Racing Festival, bringing music and a young vibe to racecourses across the country in an effort to get people involved in racing earlier rather than later.

Attendees enjoyed a tasty lunch and the opportunity to mix and mingle before the afternoon session began. Dean Shannon, CEO, Entain Australia & NZ, spoke about Wagering Growth and "The Little Things Matter". He highlighted the recurring theme about the need to understand your customer, noting Entain has increased retention rates and profitability by listening to customers and employing a "surprise and delight" philosophy.

The New Zealand betting market has grown to an estimated \$550m per annum, with \$180m going to offshore betting operators. The trend of New Zealanders increasing their spend with overseas operators, primarily Australian, is particularly strong amongst new customers and a largely younger demographic. The industry makes 50% more from a bet on New Zealand product versus international, highlighting the need to maximise domestic wagering. Research shows that Australians spend on average 2.5 times as much as New Zealanders. Despite this, an increase in marketing spend has seen new customer growth of 20% year-on-year which demonstrates that informing people about racing brings positive results. Entain is keen to showcase and promote a quality Thoroughbred racing product that appeals both domestically & internationally.

Saturdays should be used to maximise turnover, which means using Metro/Tier 2 tracks. Sunday is a big raceday in Australia and Dean believes it's an untapped opportunity in NZ, along with public holidays. Optimising the racing calendar is important with premier assets maximised during the summer and 12-horse fields being the optimum size.

Presenting the industry in a professional manner, delivering quality and consistency to the customers and ensuring track presentation, safety and suitability are key. Clubs were urged to consider those areas that are captured in broadcast shots, enhancing them with cosmetic touches such as painting and weeding, along with being flexible in terms of the race schedule. Having horses into the mounting yard in a timely manner is imperative as there is impact on broadcasting and financial cost when races run late.

Aware that customers want to hear from industry participants such as jockeys, trainers and stable reps, Entain is working with NZTR on media training for those who do not feel comfortable in front of a camera. The new initiatives ahead aim to bring more transparency and innovation to the industry, particularly in terms of broadcasting and Dean stressed that every participant in the industry needs to work together to optimise racing and drive wagering growth.

Georgia Mahaffie, Head of Brand & Marketing at One NZ, focused on sponsorship and building strong partnerships. Georgia emphasised the importance of welcoming feedback as well as defining objectives, creating trust and measuring and tracking success.

Ian Benet, GM of Eleven PR, defined PR as "storytelling". Research shows that 26% of people surveyed are positive about the racing industry, with 38% being ambivalent. Those with negative views tend to be swayed by lobby groups, influencers, and so on. Ian highlighted the example of Taylor Swift pulling out of performing at the Melbourne Cup a few years ago, following a campaign by activists.

Ian encouraged attendees to think about what they are trying to get across to their audience, and what is likely to be of interest to them. There is a perception that racing is a sunset industry made up of older people, has animal welfare issues, and is a gambling product. He cited the Kick Up initiative, with its facts and statistics, as being a useful tool to counter negativity about the industry. There is an opportunity to bring these people inside with good storytelling.

Ian's view is that the NZ Thoroughbred racing industry punches above its weight on the international stage. However, we need to reframe how we talk about jockeys, equine welfare, investment decisions, programmes and opportunities. For instance, our jockeys are incredible athletes, as are our horses, and they receive best in class care.



Ian urged the industry to speak to the broader news media more, beyond racing and sports, noting this had worked well with Auckland Thoroughbred Racing. A clip from Seven Sharp about George Simon's work as a commentator was shown. In summing up, Ian repeated his message that we should not let other people set the narrative.

Next up, representatives from Entain spoke about the rebranding of Trackside 1 and 2 and the TAB, with a video compilation of Trackside through the years shown. The new branding was showcased and it is anticipated that the refreshed imagery and offering will have many benefits. Trackside moves to Freeview in April and, later in the year, trackside.co.nz will be launched. Entain is also bringing broadcast back to radio via the SENZ frequencies which it has purchased.

The new TAB brand, with a new logo and colours, was presented. Retail outlets will be revamped in an effort to make the TAB more modern and inviting.

A Panel Discussion followed, with Paul Wilcox (Auckland Thoroughbred Racing) sharing some of the new initiatives that ATR has introduced including vouchers for Grooms, saddlecloth trackers and, for Group 1 winners, a video of all key moments. The other panellists – Andrew "Butch" Castles (Waikato Thoroughbred Racing) and Tim Mills (Canterbury Jockey Club) – spoke about issues facing the industry in their local environments and in a wider sense. The view that there is too much bureaucracy in the industry was expressed and suggestions for racing programming were put forward. NZTR were urged not to lose sight of the fact that the deep south is suffering and there is a need for racing in every province. These points were acknowledged and noted.

The day finished with a presentation of the 2023 NZTR Club Awards, sponsored by Entain to the value of \$25,000.

- Metropolitan – Auckland Thoroughbred Racing
- Provincial – Whangarei Racing Club
- Country – Kumara Racing Club
- Overall Winner – Auckland Thoroughbred Racing and Whangarei Racing Club (joint winners)
- Club Leadership Award – Waikato Thoroughbred Racing Club
- Club Appreciation Award – Racing Taupo

This enjoyable and enlightening day wrapped up with drinks, socialising and reflection about the relevant and important messages relayed.

See full unabridged article on www.raceowner.co.nz



Stud chat with Sam

I have been going to the yearling sales since I was 13 and the theatre of the Winx filly sale at Sydney Easter was spectacular. A timely reminder of impact horses have on us.

Per Incanto was the leading New Zealand sire at the sale averaging AUS \$310,000. His top price of \$650,000 went to Elsdon Park's brother of **Lost and Running**, making him the highest priced **Per Incanto** yearling sold at public auction. Elsdon Park's Lib Petagna has always been a strong supporter of **Per Incanto** so a fitting result.

Auckland turned on the weather at NZB's Karaka this year and with all the positive news around Entain and prize money there was an active domestic buying bench again which was exciting. Leading up to the sale I thought the **Savabeel** – Alam Mo Na colt was at least the equal of **Addictive Nature** and **Savvy**

Nature, two stakes winning **Savabeel** colts that we'd sold for good money at Karaka as yearlings. Pleased the buyers share the same sentiment and he sold for \$525,000 to Bjorn Baker/Clarke Bloodstock, with Yulong the underbidder. Catriona and I would like to thank our team for their dedication and hard work across the yearling sales, which started well before Christmas.

Shame about the weather bomb but we thoroughly enjoyed our NEW upgraded experience for racegoers at Hastings for the LA Lowland Stakes meeting. Thanks to the Taupo Racing Club for putting on the showpiece race which again unearthed the winner of the New Zealand Oaks! Next year the race is scheduled to be run on a Friday so plan for it because we will be doing that!

Wonderful achievement by David and Deb Woodhouse's **Belclare** to win consecutive **Group 1** NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes. Together with trainer Lisa Latta, they've managed her career superbly, using that beautiful paddock of lush Wairarapa grass at their farm to

freshen her up between runs. The **Per Incanto** mare promises to be one of the highlight lots at the Gold Coast Magic Millions Mares sale at end of May.

Per Incanto will remain at a service fee of \$50,000 plus GST for 2024. **Belclare** has been his Group 1 star this season while in Australia the likes of **Jimmystar**, **Gringott's** and **Rue De Royale** make for an exciting next 12 months. As leading New Zealand sire at Sydney Easter and his 29 Karaka book 1 yearlings this year averaging \$170,000, he is the gift that keeps giving.

We've decided to give **Time Test** a year off this year and he won't shuttle to LA. Our intention is to bring him back in 2025. **Panic**, bred by JML Bloodstock, became **Time Test's** seventh individual Group winner when he won the Listed South Pacific Classic at Randwick during the Championships last month.

We wish all breeders well this season. The industry hasn't looked this strong in quite some time and it's a great opportunity to get involved.

Sam

AUTUMN 2024

AUCKLAND CUP DAY AT ELLERSLIE - AN OWNER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Jill Lunn, President Waikato/BOP Association

The reopening of Ellerslie Racecourse has been heralded with much fanfare and it was with interest I attended the Auckland Cup Day as an owner to see how the experience worked out.

It was fantastic. The owners' facilities were exceptional.

The recently refurbished Winning Post Lounge was open and available for owners. It is situated next to the alley where the horses and jockeys ride into the birdcage before the race. This area, which used to be rather dark, was light and airy and all along the side of the alley big glass windows have been installed so people in the room get an excellent view of the horses going by.

In the middle of this area is a huge television screen that was showing five different views of the race, or other sports. I spoke with one of the team from Entain who installed the technology. There were other TVs around the room showing the Sky sports feed, but

the big screen could be manipulated by a technician using an iPad to show close ups from some of the other cameras on course. There was a large team from Entain present to test out the technology to ensure it worked on the day.

The front of the Winning Post Lounge opens up to an outdoor area with tables and chairs. This area was fenced off from the birdcage and racehorse owners could lean over the fence to see their horses in the birdcage.

The parade ring and owners' enclosure where the horses are previewed is the same as it was before. It's a pleasant, relaxing area under the trees where the jockeys mount their horse.

The stalls and area for horses had been upgraded previously and this is an up-to-date facility for trainers, strappers and horses. There are even small pull-down seats for the strappers attached to each stall. Attention to detail has been a mark of the upgrade.

The old tote building has been turned into a light, airy, open, relaxing space for owners. Called Tote on Ascot, this large area is furnished with circular tables and chairs and there is a bar in the corner for refreshments. The end of the old tote nearest the horse stalls has been revamped with glass windows across the whole wall so, again, you can see the horses as they walk past back to their stalls. There are huge television screens that you can view the racing action on if you wish to stay and relax in this area.

Auckland Thoroughbred Racing also give owners tickets that enable them to get into the Ascot Stand if they wish to view the race from higher up. I only went up the stairs for our specific race, as the vibe on the ground was fantastic and there was so much to see and so many places to be.

All in all, the various offerings for owners on raceday at Ellerslie ensure an extra level of buzz and excitement. 🐾

ENZO TAKES TOP HONOURS IN TIES JUMPING SERIES

THE THOROUGHBREDS IN EQUESTRIAN SPORTS (TIES) SERIES WAS ESTABLISHED TO INCENTIVISE THOROUGHBRED OWNERSHIP IN THE COMPETITIVE EQUINE COMMUNITY AND THIS SEASON'S TIES SHOWJUMPING ACCUMULATOR WINNER LUCE WILLIAMS THINKS IT IS NAILING THE BRIEF.

There was over \$76,000 from the 1% fund on offer to eligible competitors across five disciplines this season with Williams saying the sponsorship is raising the profile of thoroughbreds as sport horses.

"It is awesome how New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) and Equestrian Sports New Zealand (ESNZ) are working together to promote thoroughbreds," Williams said. "It's great for the thoroughbred industry and the people that give these horses another home. They all need that opportunity and thoroughbreds do give people a lot of fun."

Williams, who lives on Grassendale, a 1,250 hectare farm on the east coast of the Wairarapa, and her eight-year-old Reliable Man gelding Grassendale Enzo claimed the 2023/24 TiES Jumping Accumulator title.

She purchased the striking grey, who was unplaced in two starts, as a three-year-old after he caught her eye when scrolling through Facebook.

"I've always got thoroughbreds off the track," Williams explained. "I saw a photo of Enzo on Facebook where someone had got him off the track way up north. He was jumping a log and was about five logs higher than he needed to be. I thought he looked amazing."

Williams' initial impression was spot on and despite unknowingly purchasing a horse with a wind issue, they have gone on to considerable success including the award of Top Performed Thoroughbred at this year's Land Rover Horse of the Year.

"From the first ride at home I noticed he had a wind issue," Williams said. "I was really gutted at the time but to be honest it hasn't affected him in the show jumping world and not many people have noticed."

Williams is no stranger to educating off the track thoroughbreds and has always employed a strengths-based model, working a horse towards what it shows natural ability for and finding a home that matches accordingly.

"I've had a lot of thoroughbreds and over the years I have trained them towards what they have been good at," Williams said. "I've done dressage, eventing, hunting and I even sold one as a family horse as he was so quiet that all the kids could ride him and he became a pet."



Minister for Racing, Rt Hon Winston Peters, NZTR Justine Sclater and Darin Balcombe

Photo credit: Kampic Photography

"It is awesome how New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) and Equestrian Sports New Zealand (ESNZ) are working together to promote thoroughbreds," Williams said. "It's great for the thoroughbred industry and the people that give these horses another home. They all need that opportunity and thoroughbreds do give people a lot of fun."

Williams is a big fan of thoroughbreds and has a simple criteria when selecting one.

"I like a natural cadence," she said. "I like them to be able to move and if they have that natural movement from the start, they tend to have that elasticity and athleticism."

"I absolutely love a thoroughbred's trainability. They are the kind of horse that never says no, you generally only have to ask them once or twice."

"They just pick things up so quickly, they are so forgiving and also giving. They all have different natures and I love their energy."

"We don't have an arena, so I do all my schooling and lateral work as I'm riding them on the farm. Particularly for thoroughbreds, depending how old they are, I will turn them out for six months and then do just farm riding for a year."

"It is good for their strength. They are all turned out in the winter without rugs or shoes on really steep hills. I think it keeps them fit and is so good for their natural balance and core strength."

When it comes to Enzo, Williams said it is his reactive nature that allows him to shine in the show jumping ring.

"He is a real drama queen, so I think that sensitivity is what makes him so good over show jumps," she said. "He doesn't want to touch the jumps and he doesn't want to get told off. At home he is dead quiet but as soon as you get to a show, he loves his job."

"His character is so loveable and he's always making us laugh. I don't think people realise the great personalities thoroughbreds can have. They love people and just want to be around them."

Williams has been sharing the ride with her 14-year-old daughter Sofia who will aim at the young rider classes on Enzo next season.

"I am really proud that my daughter has stepped up to ride him and he has been awesome for her too," Williams said. "We'll aim to give Sofia some experience at the young rider height next season and for me to consolidate the 1.35-1.40m heights with the possibility of competing in the Lady Rider class at Horse of the Year."

Williams said the second career sponsorship, such as the TiES series, plays a major role in promoting the versatility of the breed.

Their success in the equestrian community is even crossing over to breeding programmes with people realising that thoroughbreds carry many of the ideal traits they are looking for.

"I think that what NZTR are doing is making a difference because you are promoting thoroughbreds in every discipline and that is making people really think about thoroughbreds a bit more," she said.

"You would not believe how many people are using thoroughbred mares to cross with Warmblood stallions because the mix is so good." 🐾



◀ **Black Opium and jockey Billy Jacobson pressing on to win**

▼ **Celebration time! Jill Lunn presenting the happy owner**



By Jill Lunn (Waikato/BOP President)

A DAY OUT AT TAURANGA RACES

A group of committee persons from the Waikato/Bay of Plenty had a fabulous day out at Tauranga Races on 16th March 2024. It was a beautiful day and everything at the venue was sparkling and colourful.

As it was the day before Saint Patrick's Day, this was the theme and many people were sporting the green tones of Ireland. There were gazebos and tables out in the sunshine and the inside lounges were full of people there to have a good time.

As I viewed this wonderful sight, I asked myself, what is it that makes this such a popular outing for families and people of all ages? There were many children having fun with lots of space to run and play and many were eating. The many food outlets came into focus, and people had also brought picnics along. There was an ice-cream truck and a coffee bus. The cafeterias were full with many goodies to purchase and the ladies behind the counter were doing a sterling job refilling the food cabinets. There was a band that played Irish music; it wasn't placed near the horses but rather down the course, a bit further past the gazebos, where those who were keen for a sing-along could go and join in. While the music drifted down to where the business of horse racing was happening, it was pleasant and not so loud that it along with the race announcer etc, caused sensory overload.

Those involved in the Racing Tauranga Committee all knew their jobs and took them on with a professionalism that made the day tick along nicely. The racing public felt welcome and the hospitality was of a high standard. The Tauranga Racing Club is one of the finalists for the Provincial Club of the Year award, a competition run by NZTR, and it is no wonder this Club is one of the finalists.

The Waikato/Bay of Plenty branch of NZTROF sponsored Race 1 a Maiden race over 1200 metres. The winner was Black Opium who was on debut. She is a 3yo filly by Embellish out of Jonquil. Jonquil is a granddaughter of the valuable mare Spring who is the mother of Daffodil, that won over one million dollars. Jonquil was put up for sale on Gavelhouse and Margaret Cartwright and her husband Chris, farmers from Rangitikei, bought her in foal to Embellish for \$800. Margaret was on hand to foal

Black Opium when she was born. They sent her to Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott at Matamata to be trained.

Following three trials she stormed home to win at her first race day race. Margaret was again on hand to see this momentous occasion. She got up at 4.00am and drove from Rangitikei to Tauranga to be there for the first race.

We were thrilled to be able to present Margaret with the Trophy so she can always remember Black Opium's first win. I am sure there will be many more wins to come.

ALEXANDRA RACING CLUB - PIRONGIA CUP

Jenny Cowan

The Alexandra/ Pirongia raceday is remembered and recognized as once being one of the iconic picnic meetings that was run every Boxing Day in the Waikato area. For Owners it provided a day in the sun to meet and greet one another, and to test the horse's ability, with an Equalisator the only way to bet. Many of our best horses had a race there in years gone by, but no more as time has moved on.

On 17th January 2024 the Cup was run for the 124th time, but now at Te Rapa, and the \$25,000 race was won by Our Turn owned by M.Darvill, A.Flexman, C.Jones, T.Myers, T.Philips and R.Wyeth.

To coincide with their raceday Alan Hall has written a book about the people and horses, dating back to the 1890's, called "A Salute to History." This is an excellent record and a good read about how and when this club started. It is full of colour photos and is priced @ \$35.00.

The Alexandra Club Worthies



LORD ZIRITO

By Sally Blyth

Versatility & Endurance

By Zamazaan out of Gnapal, Lord Zirito (Lordie) has a few claims to fame. As a racehorse, he's about as versatile as they come and he's also had plenty of great jockeys ride him through the years. He certainly gave his owners many thrills during his racing career.

Lord Zirito came into Craig Leishman's life, along with trainer Graeme Rogerson, via an ad in The Sunday Times and thus began an enduring and successful partnership. This was the first horse Craig took an ownership share of – and, with the glory experienced through Lord Zirito, there could be no looking back. (See article p10, Summer 2024 Owners Bulletin).

Lord Zirito won 21 races from 113 career starts and proved almost unbeatable on the heaviest of tracks.

His first race was in May 1985 at Counties as a 2YO – he came 9th. After his potential future as a stallion was terminated, he went on to win his Maiden race at Ellerslie on 25th June 1986 on heavy going at his fifth start, ridden by Gary Grylls. He followed that up with another nice win, also at Ellerslie, on 8th July – this time ridden by Tony Allan. A hat trick ensued with a 2L win at Counties on 2nd August 1986 ridden by Gary Stewart.

Oh, but wait, there's more – he made it four-in-a-row with a win at Te Rapa on 16th August, again ridden by Gary Stewart. He bounced around for a while with some placings interspersed with some also-rans, before winning again on 6th June 1987 at Ellerslie, ridden by Lance O'Sullivan. And then another win next up at Ellerslie on 24th June, again ridden by Lance. That's six wins from 19 starts already!

Two more back-to-back wins came in August 1987, ridden by Warwick Robinson, again on heavy going. Then, following a spell through injury, and a hiatus of wins, his next victory came at Ellerslie on 18th July 1989 over the hurdles, ridden by Toby Autridge. This turned out to be the first of another hat trick of wins! Next up was a win on the flat at Counties on 5th August (Darrel Lang) followed by another win over the hurdles at Ellerslie, with Toby back on board.

But wait, he then turned that hat trick into another four-wins-in-a-row streak with a win on the flat (2100m) at Te Rapa, again ridden by Darrel Lang. Then a ½ length second at Counties before yet another win at Te Rapa on 16th September (Darrel again). This boy obviously loved being a racehorse!

A run in The Metropolitan at Randwick in October produced a 12/20 result, with Darrel going over for the ride. The good track may not have been in his favour as Lordie had shown his best to date in heavier ground. Back in NZ, another win first up at Te Rapa (Gary Stewart). He didn't do any good in the Rotorua Cup or the NZ Cup that year but won a listed race at Counties in May in soft going with Peter Tims in the saddle.

In June 1991 he went to Australia, firstly to Queensland then NSW but he didn't do much as it stopped raining wherever he ventured. Then to Victoria where he had a couple of placings over the hurdles in preparation for his Flemington debut on Melbourne Cup Day – again, a firm track.

• In 1991 Craig was on course to watch Just A Dancer run

in his second Melbourne Cup. Lord Zirito ran in Race 1 of the day, the Melbourne Cup Hurdle, adding another layer of pleasure to an iconic day for any owner. Ridden by Brett McDonald (James' dad) and paying \$18, Lord Zirito gave a great sight, running second most of the way, leading into the final few jumps, and ending up a close-up fifth. 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. Pure magic!

Back on NZ soil, Lordie's next win came on 30th May 1992 at Ellerslie when, ridden by Peter Tims, he won the Great Northern Hurdles by a mere nose. He then won the Eric Riddiford Steeplechase at Trentham on 10th July, 1993, ridden by Rick Cassidy.

Alas, he had no wins in 1994, with his next win being in May 1995 over the hurdles at Te Rapa, again with Peter Tims riding. He lost Peter at his next outing when attempting to win the Waikato Hurdles – the reliable word is that Tims jumped off when LZ clipped the second-to-last hurdle and, if he hadn't, that trophy might have also been in the bag. However, redemption prevailed, and LZ won the Great Northern Hurdles again at Ellerslie, romping away to a 6.5L win, with Peter [still] on board. All on LZ's preferred heavy going.

Lordie won both the Western Park Steeplechase and the Wellington Steeplechase at Trentham with Brett Scott riding, again on a heavy track. The latter, 15th July 1995, was to be his last winning race before retirement. He won it by miles (the records show 15 lengths) and was simply far too good for his opponents, with Brett peering back through his legs. Brett

Jumping in the Wellington Steeplechase 1995



was a champion jumps jockey who went over to Australia where he rode successfully and is now a trainer.

Lord Zirito ran five more races, his last one being on 18th May 1996 – a hurdles race at Te Rapa with Peter Tims up for the final time. He ran a battling fifth and then he raced no more.

Lord Zirito amassed an impressive collection of statistics and interesting facts during his racing career. Grey Way tops the stats with 50 wins in his career (Craig watched several as a young man), but Lord Zirito's claim to 21 wins puts him up there in the top echelon of winning NZ racehorses.

- ▶ 113 starts for 21 wins, 14 seconds, 10 thirds, 10 fourths, 8 fifths and 50 unplaced.
- ▶ 13 wins on the flat (79 starts), 3 over the steeplechases (10 starts) and 5 over hurdles (24 starts).
- ▶ 20 wins in Heavy going, one on Soft and zero on Firm (using the old categories).
- ▶ \$329,224 in prize money.
- ▶ Racing until 14, he was equal oldest to win the Wellington Steeplechase, aged 12, in 1995. (The others were Orient in 1890, Haydn in 1907, Teak in 1971 and Amanood Lad in 2017).
- ▶ Won two Great Northern Hurdles.
- ▶ Won 7 races between 1800-2100m (28 starts) and 7 races between 2500-7000m (34 starts).
- ▶ 1995 Champion Jumper, Horse of the Year awards.
- ▶ Oldest horse racing in NZ at one stage.

After some ups and downs, a fall or two (including a heart-in-the-mouth somersault at Ellerslie), and even a few last placings, Lord Zirito clocked up pleasing and consistent results over his long career. Aged 14 when he retired, he lived to be 27 years old. It's fair to say that he was an enduring and endearing, albeit small (less than 15 hands), racehorse who clearly loved his job. How good to have a horse like this as your first foray into racehorse ownership!?! If only we could all pick 'em like that!

Lord Zirito provided his ownership crew with many joyful times between his first race in May 1985 to his final hurrah in May 1996 – that's 11 years of fun. A standout moment for owner Craig was being able to be there in person to watch him run around Flemington on Melbourne Cup Day in 1991. Watch the video of that race here.



Group after Wellington Steeplechase win 1995. L-R Brett Scott (jockey), Lyn Hawtin, Craig Leishman, Helen Foster, Keith Hawtin (trainer, in partnership with Graeme Rogerson at the time), Brendon Hawtin (who did the work with Lordie).

Winning the Wellington Steeplechase 1995



This story is on www.racehorseowner.co.nz with the links to videos of Lord Zirito and Rough Habit races.

FOOTNOTE from Craig about how "Lordie" kept a Champion in NZ: As a youngish lawyer in the Hutt Valley, I was approached by a lovely young couple who had heard I owned a share in Lordie. They had taken a small % share, along with some friends, in a horse leased from the breeder – they had chosen well as their first horse won a couple straight off, but the breeder now wanted to sell. When an offer came knocking, the couple were distraught that their fun might end. After reviewing the lease, I was able to reassure them they couldn't be forced to give up the horse. The end result was that the majority of the lessees bought out the owner, and the horse continued to race. That horse was none other than the awesome Rough Habit who won no less than 11 Group 1s and dominated the Brisbane winter carnivals for several years. For those of us old enough, who can forget Roughie's incredible weaving win in the 1992 Stradbroke Handicap (if you haven't seen it, seek it out on YouTube and prepare to be astounded!) It is nice to think Lordie had a small part in keeping that Champion in NZ hands whilst giving a lovely young couple memories they will never forget, as they tripped back and forth across the ditch collecting silverware. 🍷

Trophy

MANAGER/ACCOUNTABLE PERSON (M/AP) OF A HORSE PART 2

Neil Miller

The horse we called James is no longer ours. He suffered a leg injury winning a provincial cup. So, we've been through the whole range of emotions of joy and loss.

But the horse, due to his lovely nature, is happy as can be with how it has all turned out.

Let's go back to before the start of his race career. There is a point in doing that.

James had a fine upbringing. His mother could be scary and she did not brook with being messed around with so he learnt compliance and manners.

He developed into a handsome bay and after arriving at a South Auckland stable eventually became very popular.

Sam Spratt loved him and didn't want anyone else to ride him. Even on Saturday mornings she would turn up early to ride the boy before whatever race meeting she was riding at.

She would want to dismount and give James a big 'facial' hug and exclaim, "Oh he's such a cool dude!" James would lean in and close his eyes and look kinda soppy.

The trainer retired and James went to Cambridge where he won a trial and even though he did things wrong he won three races.

But he didn't like pressure and he bombed a couple of races, so it was decided to send him way south to a top stable. The stakes are the same down there – but if you're an enthusiastic owner to go and see your horse race, it is a downer.

Now James is in a smaller stable and he loves that. The track is just there outside and he goes out in a paddock in the middle of the day between feeds. After breakfast he would grump letting handlers know he wanted to be out on the grass.

Just down the road is a pool, so he had a swim every day. The trainer said, "He swims like a little fish. He loves it."

His groom/trackwork rider said, "I never wanted to have favourite horses so as not to get attached to them. But James got me!" Nobody else got to ride him in work.

First up down there he showed them South Island ponies with an easy win. But then came the cup win and the fateful morning after. Swelling and some heat in a foreleg. There followed the vet scan and James is in lockdown. The vets report came in to say to end his racing career and a program of rehab ordered. There followed a discussion of where to next for him.

We learned of a cool lady, Lisa Wilson of Pin Oaks Park, she is an NZTR accredited re-homing expert from Swannanoa, east of Rangiora and yes, she could take our boy. Her Facebook page looked great with horses learning new things to prepare them for a new and interesting life. Google Pin Oaks Park, Swannanoa where warm fuzzies await.

The swelling went down and James with a good rug and in fine 5yo health was floated north to Swannanoa. We ordered another scan that had the same advice as the previous one, so Lisa started looking for the right home for James.

There is some irony. James had been set for a 250k "target" race and we had been told to come down by the trainer. Heck yes, we are coming for that! We had bought flights prior to the injury but Air NZ don't give refunds for thwarted racehorse owners.

So, we went down and went to the race meeting which was kind of sad and we did not stay long.

But we wanted to see our horse who had won five races by now and say goodbye.

So next morning we sped up the Motorway hooked a left and found Lisa's place at Swannanoa just 40 minutes from Christchurch.

It's down a long drive, 30 flat and quiet acres. There are odd low jumping obstacles in the front home paddock and Lisa met us at the gate.

Over in a sheltered corner was James rehab area fenced off with tape and standards. He strolled over to meet us and receive pats. I asked Lisa if the tape was electrified just as James tested it out with his nose hairs. Nope! Then the horse stepped back, laid himself down and had a roll and then rejoined us while we chatted.

Lisa is Scottish but you wouldn't pick it. She came here 13 years ago. She said people couldn't understand what she was saying so she learned Kiwi real fast.

The business of rehoming is now full on and she employs staff. The horses she cares for are evaluated as to their nature and abilities. They are ridden and tried through various different sport horse disciplines.

Generally, horses are ridden at home for the first couple of rides to have a 'test drive.' Once going well under saddle in sporthorse life Lisa takes them on outings to local pony clubs where they do some cross-country fences, other outings to show jump arenas, and a lovely hack around a local river/forest track. That way she can match up a horse with an owner's experience and their aims for the animal.

She has three children and that is an important experience for horses off the track as thoroughbreds rarely mix with children in previous racing and stable environments.

You can see all this above on the Facebook posts. It's the main marketing tool and is very active.

Re-hab done as the vet prescribed, Lisa found a great home for the horse and he was loaded onto a float unshod but with his good cover on and some feed. He was off to Deborah's riding school at Timaru.



Then Lisa messaged to me:

Just to let you know James departed at 6:30am this morning down to Deborah's in Timaru. She's very excited to meet him.

I'll miss his face that's for sure, he's a really neat horse but Deborah will keep me well updated as she does with the other one, she's had through me.

Thank you very much for trusting me in rehoming him and finding him another home after racing. I appreciate it.

Then I jumped on to the NZTR site went to FORMS and downloaded a SR24 form and filled that in, but not having Deborah's details contacted Lisa. I found out that Lisa completes SR24 forms on every horse leaving her.

Also, I asked if there were any more expenses. There were none, so I paid out the partners then us and the 001 account now has a balance of \$0.00.

Then I advised them of "job done" and offered a screen shot of the account statement.

I offered Deborah a chance to tell us about her business but haven't heard back. But I will leave that be as caring for horses is a big job that eats time.

I thought James would make a great show horse as he is a handsome upstanding bay but maybe that will come later as he is doing other things.

James, Deborah told me is amazing. She is visited by children and one group that is "neurally divergent" come to learn how to be around animals and even scary big horses. She said James is their best pet and they climb all over him and even slide down his legs. He just soaks up the pats and the love from the kids. "Most unusual for a thoroughbred" she said.

We are very happy knowing James is having an interesting life in the big outdoors that he loves. And what he does with the children is a very worthwhile thing!

There's even perhaps a lesson for us – that if you are a really pleasant individual, you can be loved by all ages – and across species. 🐾

ENTAIN PARTNERS WITH NEW ZEALAND EQUINE ACADEMY - LOVE RACING

ENTAIN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, OPERATOR OF THE TAB, HAVE EXTENDED THEIR INVESTMENT IN NEW ZEALAND INTO EDUCATION, ANNOUNCING THAT THEY HAVE BECOME A MAJOR PARTNER OF THE NEW ZEALAND EQUINE ACADEMY (NZEА).

The NZEA, a collaboration between education provider Skills New Zealand and Byerley Park Limited, was founded to create pathways into the equine sector for young people.

Its founder, prominent racing figure Daniel Nakhle, recognised that a programme that provides professional immersive practical experience, in combination with classroom-based education, was critical to New Zealand racing's future sustainability.

With support from New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing, the NZEA is in full swing and providing young Kiwis with the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence needed to pursue a career across the many varied roles that exist across the equine sector.

"The NZEA is a fees-free, live-in programme where students work towards their Level 2 & 3 Certificate in Equine Skills and are taught skills and gain the knowledge to forge a career in the equine sector," Nakhle said.

"The sustainability of our industry is dependent on ensuring that we give clear pathways and strong support to the young men and women who will one day work in it. They are our future stable hands, jockeys, trainers, stud masters, and track managers."

As part of the partnership, Entain will provide upfront financial support that will allow the NZEA to further develop and expand its programme. Additionally, the on-site stables where students gain practical

experience caring for, training, and racing thoroughbreds will be known as the "Entain Student Stables".

"THE NZEA IS A FEES-FREE, LIVE-IN PROGRAMME WHERE STUDENTS WORK TOWARDS THEIR LEVEL 2 & 3 CERTIFICATE IN EQUINE SKILLS AND ARE TAUGHT SKILLS AND GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE TO FORGE A CAREER IN THE EQUINE SECTOR..."

To signify the launch of the partnership, the Gr.1 NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes at Ellerslie on March 30 was this year known as the NZEA New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes.

"From day one, we have admired what Daniel has built in the NZEA operation" Entain Managing Director - New Zealand, Cameron Rodger said.

"We identified early on in our involvement in the New Zealand market that improving the standard of our riding ranks was critically important. NZEA's efforts in this space are extensive and their focus on providing pathways into all corners of the industry line up perfectly with our growth ambition for the sector here in New Zealand".

Students of the NZEA are under the tutelage of expat South African and retired Champion jockey Donovan Mansour, who works

tirelessly to ensure every student is given all the tools they need to succeed.

"A significant part of our programme is making sure that our students gain not only technical skills, but the life skills needed to navigate what is often a high-pressure industry" Mansour said.

"Providing a safe, stable, supportive environment is crucial. Our programme aims to teach students not just equine excellence, but how to manage things like relationships, finances, mental health, nutrition - and the importance of a support network that you can learn from and lean on when needed."

The NZEA will be powered by Entain through until 2027.

More information on NZEA can be found at nzea.ac.nz.

EDITOR'S NOTE - I sent Daniel Nakhle an email as I was sure he would be delighted to have ENTAIN take some load off him. Below the reply.

I was truly humbled by the support that the Entain team has provided the NZ Equine Academy - Powered by Entain and the Entain Student Stable.

Until now, it has been a labour of love to highlight and provide pathways into the racing and breeding industries and Entain's support, energy and confidence allows us to provide further investment into the next generations of riders, trainers, grooms, track managers and more. 🐾



THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

5 JANUARY TO 26 APRIL 2024

AUCKLAND

David and Judi Lovelace Auckland

MANAWATU

Alan and Marion Campbell Manawatu

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Margaret and Chris Cartwright Marton

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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.

11 DECEMBER 2023 - 31 MARCH 2024

Frederick J Ahomiro HANAKIN
Janet Alexander CHARLBURY
Noell & Linda Anderson RIVIERA ROCK
Brian Anderson GRANDE GALLO, MOLLY BLOOM
Mark & Louise Apatu ARMINO
Gordon Campbell (Cam) Arnott BENEFACTOR, CALL A FRIEND
Duchess of Bedford BEDTIME STORY
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Claire & Warren Bolton ACADEMY AWARD, IT'S DORIS, MERCHANT QUEEN, NOM DE PLUME
Rayner & Lynn Bonnington MOET DOWN
Sue Bourke INVESTIGATE, STAR BALLOT
Philip & Catherine Brown ADAM I AM, LEGATO
Simon & Kay Brown ALEXANDRA QUICK
Patricia & Clyde Buckingham CHURCHILLIAN
Noel Buckman SIR MIKKI
Gordon Calder INSPIRED BY ART
Alan & Marion Campbell CALL A FRIEND, DARCI'S ANGEL
Rosemary Carter DUBAI DIVA, ROCKIN ROSIE
Tim & Mrs Margaret Carter PUKANA, WILLIAM MUNNY
Margaret & Chris Cartwright BLACK OPIUM
Jan Carver ADAM I AM
John Cassin LA CRIQUE
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Robert De Courcy PROMISED LAND, WITZ END
Dave & Trish Dean GRANDE GALLO
Jill Dixon TOWN CRYER
Lionel Dobbs EMANON
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Douglas Duncan BLANCHE, CELTIC ECHO, LADY OF COURT
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Stephen Hawkings ADAM I AM, BONNIE LASS
Mrs Marion Haydock EXPRESS YOURSELF, NOBELLEM
Steve & Mrs R A Herbert KIWI MAN
Derek B Hill LITTLE BIT OF LOVE
Sheryn Hobbs MOET DOWN
Carey C Hobbs BLACK BETTY, HERBERT, TRANZED
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David Price CHAKANA, EL VENCEDOR
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