

OWNERS' BULLETIN



SUMMER 2025



LOT 24
PER INCANTO-ISSTOORA COLT



LOT 616
PER INCANTO-FLEUR DE LUNE FILLY



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

SEASONS GREETINGS MEMBERS AS WE WELCOME IN 2025

THOROUGHBRED RACING HAS HAD ITS SHARE OF DIFFICULTIES DURING 2024 BUT IN THE MAIN, OWNERS HAVE BEEN THE WINNERS! TRACK MAINTENANCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONTINUES TO BE A BONE OF CONTENTION, AND WE MUST REMEMBER THAT THE SAFETY OF OUR PEOPLE AND THOROUGHBRED STOCK IS PARAMOUNT IN AN INDUSTRY THAT IS ALWAYS UNDER SCRUTINY, NOT JUST FROM LOBBY GROUPS AGAINST GAMBLING AND ANIMAL WELFARE (WHICH I REMIND YOU ALL THAT NZ RACING IS GOOD AT) BUT ALSO OUR LAW MAKERS AND POLITICIANS WHO DO NOT LISTEN TO THOSE OF US IN THE INDUSTRY. SOME WOULD SAY THAT RACING IS GOING TO THE DOGS, AND I ASK THE QUESTION, HOW MUCH INFLUENCE WAS PUT ON THE MINISTER OF RACING TO BAN GREYHOUND RACING IN FAVOUR OF HALTING OFFSHORE BETTING?

Regardless of these questions, the thoroughbred racing industry is trending upwards with good prize money on offer and we have a leadership working together across all facets of racing, singing from the same hymn sheet. Yes, we will have our moments with abandonments continuing to take centre stage and jumps racing being asked the question, over the next two to three years, but we the participants in racing are a hardy group of followers who want the best to ensure our industry's longevity.

TAB New Zealand Chief Executive, Nick Roberts, welcomed the Government decision to introduce a "legislative net" granting TAB NZ the exclusive rights for online racing and sports betting in New Zealand. "This is a positive outcome which will have national impact," he said. "The TAB estimates that \$180 million is lost annually to offshore racing and sporting operators. Retaining this money in

New Zealand will not only maximise funding to our communities, instead of providing profits to foreign companies, but also ensure Kiwis can bet in a safe and regulated environment."

I seriously hope that this move will generate the added revenue needed in our industry which will go a long way towards upgrading our failing building infrastructure across all codes and thus make the race day experience a joy for all.

Looking ahead, NZ Thoroughbred Racing must review our racing calendar with all stakeholders to ensure our pattern races are sustained internationally and that we have the right mix of meetings that will ensure nominations and acceptances of no less than 10 to 12. Further, it must support the recognised industry organisations (ROIs), of which this Owners' Federation is one, in terms of each strategic direction which can only make our industry stronger.

To all owners I congratulate you for staying on board and weathering the storm that is now behind us and wish you an encouraging racing year ahead. Breeding is on the way up (but will never achieve the heights of yesteryear) and sales are achieving good aggregates which proves you do not have to spend the world in looking to find your next star.

Finally, it is good to see racing identities recognised: Noel Harris and Terry Campbell, who have both received prestigious New Year 2025 Honours for their contributions to Thoroughbred racing and governance. And we also acknowledge James McDonald on being announced as a finalist for the Halberg Sportsman of the Year Award.

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

Bernard Hickey (President)

8 DECEMBER 2024

RACING ACT CHANGES TO BOOST RACING INDUSTRY SUSTAINABILITY

RACING MINISTER WINSTON PETERS HAS ANNOUNCED THE INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE RACING INDUSTRY ACT 2020 WHICH WILL EXTEND TAB NZ'S CURRENT LAND-BASED MONOPOLY FOR SPORTS AND RACING BETTING TO ONLINE.

The Racing Industry Act established TAB NZ for the purposes of funding the racing industry. It provides 90 percent of the racing industry's revenue, which generates billions of dollars for the New Zealand economy and employs over 13,500 people.

"This legislation will enhance the long-term sustainability of New Zealand's racing industry by making TAB NZ New Zealand's sole provider for sports and race betting both on land and online.

"Growing competition from offshore online betting operators poses a significant threat to the TAB NZ model.

"This change brings the model up-to-date with the current sports betting climate and will ensure the financial sustainability of the racing industry, as established in the Coalition Government's Q4 Action Plan for New Zealand," Mr Peters says.

The Bill makes a number of other changes to support the success of TAB NZ, including new oversight powers for the Minister to seek information from TAB NZ, and regulatory oversight of the prohibition on other operators. "These oversight tools will ensure that TAB NZ can continue to deliver value for consumers and the racing industry, and ensure the ongoing viability of the industry," Mr Peters says.

Other changes to the legislation include regulation-making powers for harm prevention and minimisation, and consumer protection, and removing the Point of Consumption Charge.

The Bill will be referred to the Governance and Administration Committee for a select committee process.

RT HON WINSTON PETERS



EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS. LET'S HOPE IT IS AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE LAST ONE FOR THE COUNTRY AND ALL THOSE THAT LIVE HERE.

Happy New Year to those from another country perhaps visiting for the iconic NZB Karaka Yearling Sales. Every year preceding the Sales we take down to the Sales Centre heaps of our Bulletins. They disappear like hot cakes. I like to think they are taken back to the hotels and read. For sure, the front-page pics will be studied, LA Sam's and Cat's yearling sales entrants will be supported with good bids and then "good Karma" comes into play.

We want to thank New Zealand Bloodstock for their support in this issue. It is a pleasure dealing with Natalie and Clodagh.

Thanks also go to our friends at ATR and CEO Paul Wilcox, he of good humour who leads the crew at HQ. Then there is Olivia K the obliging marketing boss who sends us the photo files of Fashions in the Field. There is some good "form" in those.

But it's not all about ATR. All over the country are Racing Clubs whose committees, like us at NZTROF, work voluntarily to keep the entire industry afloat. Lastly it comes back to the Owners', the ultimate bill payers. Our persistence in the game keeps Racing alive. It is said that there are 15,700 direct employees in the industry in New Zealand. Without owners that block would go away!

There are also our Regional Owners' Associations to thank who meet and discuss pressing issues. They put forward the Delegates who form the Board of NZTROF. Most of those are the scribes who write the Regional Notes for this organ. I know you are busy people and sometimes I have to chase you for copy and I moan occasionally – but we are all mice running up the same wheel of life.

Happy New Year to the ENTAIN crew. Coming on board this erstwhile leaky ship has made a huge difference. At last we can ease up on the bailing and pick up the paddles.

Lastly, happy New Year to NZTR, the new Board looks promising and after the final transition to Cambridge let's hope that cohesion is reached. The shift cannot have been easy. Cheers to Leanne Rutherford, my close contact I so rely on. Let's hope for a closer affiliation between the sectors of Owners, Trainers, Breeders and Jockeys organisation this year. That would make sense!

Finally there is a good assortment of stories in this issue.

There is a story about a bloke that has done very well out of being in syndicates. As a top trainer (aka Sticks) said to me years ago, "there's no shortage of races for a good horse." And, by extension, that can take you far away. A life changing experience happened for him. Me too, but a different horse!

Then great friend Lucinda Laxon who used to advertise Equine Insurance with us bursts into print – and deservedly so. Not many people can say that their Mum trained the winner of two Melbourne Cups.

Enjoy!

For your story contact me - neilandjeanette@yahoo.com

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TERRY CAMPBELL KING'S SERVICE MEDAL FOR SERVICES TO HORSE RACING & GOVERNANCE

Terry Campbell of Taupō has been awarded a King's Service Medal (KSM) in recognition of his outstanding contributions to horse racing and governance. His decade-long dedication to the Taupō Racing Club and the wider racing industry has transformed the Club into a thriving and sustainable organisation.

Terry has been Club President since 2013 and under his leadership, the Club has achieved significant milestones, including financial stability through effective fundraising initiatives, sponsorships and other sources of income such as a joint venture with the NZ Motor Caravan Association.

Like many smaller Racing Clubs Taupo does rely on a huge volunteer effort. Working bees to clean up after raceday and to put the track back are renowned and apparently there were 37 at the course after the 30 December race meeting to help. Their reward – a real good morning tea!!

During the 1980's Terry was also a Committeeman of the Manawatu Racing Club and during that time he worked very hard in generating sponsorship for the Club. He was also heavily involved in securing the Ford sponsorship for 2-year-old racing in New Zealand at that time.

Well done, Terry, on having your contribution to racing being recognised with this reward.

– Allan Fenwick

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NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION
OWNERS' BULLETIN
SUMMER 2025

OUR COVER

Lot 24
Per Incanto-
Isstoora colt

Lot 616
Per Incanto-
Fleur de Lune filly

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND *Sally Blyth*

THE AUCKLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION HELD ITS AGM ON SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER AT 2:30PM IN THE LADY FISHER ROOM AT ELLERSLIE. AUCKLAND THOROUGHBRED RACING CEO PAUL WILCOX ADDRESSED US AND PROVIDED A FULL UPDATE ON ALL THINGS IN RELATION TO THE NEW ELLERSLIE TRACK AND THE CHALLENGES THE CLUB HAS FACED IN RECTIFYING THE SITUATION. IT WAS HONEST, ENLIGHTENING AND HEARTENING; THANK YOU PAUL. THANK YOU ALSO TO KIM STEVEN-RILEY, PAUL'S EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, WHO IS ALWAYS A FRIENDLY FACE ON RACE DAYS AND A RELIABLE AND HELPFUL CONTACT BEHIND THE SCENES.

We had a good turnout at our AGM and it was nice to be together in person at Ellerslie. After business was concluded we had time for socialising and took a look at Taiki's rose, which we planted in memory of the late Taiki Yanagida (jockey). It continues to bloom in its beautiful shades of pink, highly visible by the front parade ring. Our valued Secretary Raewyn McKenzie was rushed to hospital not long after our AGM – Raewyn, I'd like to acknowledge all the work you do for our Association and wish you a full and comfortable recovery.

We missed it when Ellerslie was out of action but there have been lots of opportunities to experience our premier racing venue over summer including the twilight meeting on 12th December and, of course, the big Boxing Day and New Year's Day events which are always well patronised and a chance to dress up and be seen. There's a Sunday meeting on 12th January 2025 with the Gingernuts Salver the main race of the day and the big Karaka Millions day on 25th January is always a showstopper.

Quite a number of Auckland members had winners over the period including a few group wins. Brendan & Jo Lindsay enjoyed winning moments with Dazzled, First Dance, Frostfair, Jaarffi, Sexy And I Moet and Tycoon Prince, plus group winners Luberon (Grp 3), Bella Waters (Grp 2) and Snazzytavi (Grp 1). The latter goes from strength to strength and is truly flying, having won the Livamol Classic on 12th October, the Grp 2 Cal Isuzu Stakes on 14th December and topping off a hat trick with a close win in the Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic on Boxing Day – it was an exciting head-bobber to the wire, with the black/gold checks getting up by a nose to La Crique with a nice third placing to El Vencedor, after leading the field for most of the way, for Member David Price.

La Crique won the Group 2 Dunstan Horsefeeds Auckland Thoroughbred Breeders Stakes at Pukekohe on 23rd November for Auckland member John Cassin. It was an incredible performance from the mare who was well back in the field, and wide around the home bend. She got going late in the piece after doing a wee skip and charged home to get up by a head, another exciting finish. One win and three seconds for the season so far. John also had a win with Si Exquis.

Several winners for Go Racing including Crystal Falls, Freedom Reins, El Arish (Bruce & Courtney Clarke), Fun Never Sets (Virginia Healey and Brenda Gerard) and Imperial Empress (Warwick & Rosemary Russell).

Also, a number of winners for the Te Akau "tangerine" crew with wins for several Auckland members who are part of various syndicates: Ashley Goodwin (Bello Mio); Sivaswamy & Jayanthi Mohanakrishnan (What You Wish For, Bello Mio, Celestial Wonder); Selwyn & Judy Maynard (Puzzle Master). Selwyn & Judy are also owners of Sexy And I Moet with the Lindsay's, part of the Heels & Hooves Syndicate #2.

Haunui Bloodstock had wins with Transaction, Bellarista, Overdrawn and Cannon Hill, with member Mike Smith being involved in the latter two horses. Confidence and Say Satono (Rich Hill Thoroughbreds) provided wins for NZTROF Patron Alan Galbraith.

Permissive gave Wayne Slee a nice Maiden win at Te Aroha and Bryan Black got two on the trot with Hankee Alpha (Maiden and second up). Brett Kendall and Rosemary Carter had wins with Miss Rockette and She's Untouchable, the latter being a first up Maiden win. Shaune Ritchie had two wins on the trot with Costae.

Some family thrills too with David Archer's familiar colours continuing to get past the post first. This time it was the royally named Arundel Castle and Windsor Castle generating smiles for the family. The Fletchers had a win with Romanoff. Craig Leishman had a third win in the south with Kikimora, a thrill for his daughters who have a slice. Immersive family involvement in horseracing makes the wins even better, especially if you can all get on course

Congratulations to all those members who have enjoyed success with their horses over recent months – may there be more winners in store over coming ones! 🍀

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Jill Lunn

IT HAS BEEN A BUSY OLD TIME HERE IN THE WAIKATO OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF MONTHS WITH RACE MEETINGS, MONTHLY MEETING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS.

The Waikato / Bay of Plenty region has seen 10 meetings held during November and December at the time of writing this. There have been –

- 3 meetings at Te Rapa, 2 on a soft 5 surface and 1 on a good 4
- 3 meetings at Tauranga, 2 on a heavy 8 surface and 1 on a soft 5
- 2 meetings at Te Aroha, 1 on a good 4 and 1 on a soft 5
- 2 meetings at Rotorua, both held on a good 4

So, the tracks in our region have provided very good racing, and great days out for the participants.

During this time Charlbury, a 5yo mare by Churchill out of Astrid, owned by Janet Alexander and David McKerchar won twice at Tauranga. First, a rating 65 over 2100 metres on 2 November and then a rating 75 over 2100 metres on 14 December. The heavy 8 surface provided the type of going this horse prefers.

It is interesting watching the 2 and 3yo's prepare for the big races at Ellerslie on Karaka Million night. Te Akau Racing has several preparing for this and we saw a good performance by Damask Rose, a 3yo filly by Savabeel at Te Rapa on 14 December. She has also been nominated to be the slot holder for Te Akau in the NZ Kiwi race. Te Akau Racing has a 2yo that gave a good performance at Te Rapa on 9 November, La Dorada, a filly by Super Seth who showed good speed to win the 1100 metres in a time of 1.05.61.

The sprinters are showing their form in the Listed and Group races that have begun to be run over the summer period. It will be interesting to see how these good horses work up towards the Group 1 races of the Telegraph, the BCD Sprint and the Railway

The Listed Legacy Lodge Sprint over 1200 metres at Te Rapa on 9 November was won by Babylon Berlin, a 7yo mare by All Too Hard in a time of 1.09.55 on a soft 5 track. She is raced by B Foote, K Rogers and L Williams.

The second horse was Imprevu a 6yo mare by Wrote raced by the Lunn family and third was Geriatrix, a 4yo horse by Almanzor raced by Brown Thoroughbreds, Hawridge Developments Ltd, JML Bloodstock, P. ORourke, D. and B. Kelt and A. and L. Scott

The Group 2 Cal Isuzu Stakes for fillies and mares over 1600 metres at Te Rapa on 14 December on a good 4 track saw Snazzytavi owned by Brendon and Jo Lindsay of Cambridge Stud win from Campionessa raced by a Te Akau Syndicate and Hi Yo Sass Bomb raced by Josephine, Graham and Kim Reid in a time of 1.35.98. Snazzytavi also won the Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic over 2000 metres at Ellerslie on Boxing Day.

The Group 3 J Swap Sprint over 1400 metres at Te Rapa on 14 December was won by Kelly Coe, a 7yo mare by Proisir raced by F. and H. O'Leary in a time of 1.21.90. Second was Mercurial a 6yo gelding by Burgundy raced by M. Darvill, A. Flexman, C. Jones, T. Myers, T. Phillips, and R. Wyeth, with third place taken out by Witz End, a 4yo gelding by Savabeel raced by N Alati, C Chen, M Digby, S Doull, B Dravitski, N Greenhalgh, L Innes, Kinsale Bloodstock, R Mulcaster, Pike Racing and M Swift.

Ellerslie on Boxing Day had a good turnout of horses from the Waikato to contest the prestigious races of

CONTINUED >>

HAWKES BAY *Bernard Hickey*

THE HAWKES BAY / POVERTY BAY THOROUGHBRED RACING AWARDS FOR THE LAST RACING SEASON WERE HELD IN DECEMBER.

Hawkes Bay Federation Owners were blessed with several horses meeting the criteria and being considered. To qualify for one of the racing and breeding awards the recipients must be a member of the HB/PB Owners Association and own a 5% share in a horse concerned or be a member of the HB/PB Thoroughbred Breeders Association. Most of the awards were decided on a points system.

Class race mare Atishu, who is part owned by Dean Shuker, dominated the awards by taking out the Sprinter-Miler Award from Mazu, part-owned by Mrs V B Mossman and Karman Line, part-owned by Noel Lister of Napier, all members of the Owners Assn. Atishu also took out the Stayer of the Year Award ahead of Asterix with Zambezi Khan third, co-owned by Mark Evans and Lynette Hammington.

Dean Shuker then took out Owner of the Year Award while Atishu capped off a huge night by being crowned Horse of the Year. She was a clear winner of the title ahead of second place The Cossack, with Nedwin filling third place.

Atishu had an amazing race record during the 2023-2024 racing season, taking out the Group 1 McKinnon Stakes (2000m) and Group 2 Blamey Stakes (1600m) and recorded second placings in the Group 1 Empire Rose Stakes (1600m), Group 1 Queen of The Turf Stakes (1600m) and Group 2 Golden Pendant (1400m) as well as adding a third in the Group 1 Australian Cup (2000m)

Other award winners on the night were Zambezi Kan taking out The Chouxmani Investments Three-year-old of the year award from Geriatrix and Tokyo Tycoon. Zambezi Khan recorded two wins and second place in the Group 3 South Australian Classic.

Jumper of the year went to The Cossack from stable mate Nedwin, part-owned by Paul Nelson and Peter Grieve, again members of the local Owners Assn. Ivan Grieve took out both Breeding Awards awarded on the night with John Bary picking up Trainer of the year from his archrival Guy Lowry.

The Hawke's Bay Racing Club held its Annual General meeting also in mid-December and was well-attended by its members and other racing participants who were demanding answers and decisions around the economic future of Hawke's Bay racing. Newly elected President Richard Riddell assured all present that New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing acknowledged that Hawke's Bay is still a strategic racing venue going forward but it needed to lift its game in regards the track and facilities it maintains. In this respect HB Racing is working closely with NZTR in getting an agreement around its track reconstruction and development of a comprehensive plan which aligns with NZTR's vision for the industry.

The Board was hopeful that a formal plan and way forward would be better known in the New Year, which would be shared with all members by either a newsletter or a special meeting outlining timelines and expectations of the Board. The decision to go greenfield is no longer an option and redevelopment of the current site is the preferred option.

Happy racing Hawke's Bay Owners over the festive and summer period and do tell me of your winning stories! 🍀

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY CONTINUED

the Shaw's Wire Ropes Auckland Guineas, the Hallmark Stud Eight Carat Classic, the Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic, the Stella Artois Championship final, the Dunstan Horsefeeds Championship final and the Westbury Stud Royal Descent Stakes. Andrew Foresman, Stephen Marsh, Roger James and Robert Wellwood and Graham Richardson and Rogan Norvall, all trainers from the Waikato, secured wins in all these races.

In an earlier Bulletin I wrote about the wonderful owner's experience at Ellerslie after it reopened. The scorecard from me at that time was "Excellent." Unfortunately, the owners' experience has certainly diminished since that time and the scorecard now would say "Could do better!" Demonstrating that owners are valued is something all racing clubs need to work on. The value to owners was negligible on Boxing Day. Ellerslie, you can do better! 🍀

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Bret Field and Brian O'Dea

IT WAS GREAT TO SEE A NUMBER OF OUR MEMBERS AROUND BOTH THE WANGANUI-TARANAKI REGIONS HAVE WINNERS IN THIS EARLY SUMMER PERIOD.

Wanganui owners enjoyed wins from Abbakiss, Unusually Petite, Sea The Dream and Shezahappyone while Taranaki members had Our Allie Be, Bello Mio, Herbert, Risque Ruler, Grit, Confiance, Komocean and Annia Aurelia all first past the post!

Humphrey and Fiona O'Leary excelled when they won back-to-back Wanganui Cups with Whangaehu doing what Kelly Coe had done for them the year before.

Humphrey was always confident that Whangaehu could do it, despite the fact that he might have been a run short.

They then cheered on Ladies Man to win the Gr.1 Mufhasa Classic at Trentham a week later to add to his Gr.1 Livamol Classic. This also continued the strong results for Grangewilliam Stud on and off the track with sires Derryn and Hilal enjoying a solid Ready to Run Sale at Karaka.

Then to top it off Kelly Coe continued the golden run for her connections with a \$28 upset victory in the Gr.3 J Swap Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa.

Local breeder and owner Wayne Keenan also had success with a fine fresh-up victory for Conor O'Ceirin in the open Totara Lodge Handicap at Trentham

Fraser and Erin Auret continued the breeding success for the Auret family under Grandmoral Lodge Racing with Ka Ying Rising winning the Group 1 Longines Hong Kong Sprint and becoming arguably the best sprinter in the world. The 4yo bay gelding has now collected an impressive \$5.9M in stakes winnings. Fraser said the Gr.1 win as a breeder gave him the same rush as a Gr.1 victory as a trainer.

Not only did Wanganui lose one of its senior riders but a top guy that everyone loved when Johnathan Parkes passed away in October. It was great to see the wider industry rally together when Bruce Sharrock postponed New Plymouth races so that the funeral services could be hosted at the Wanganui racecourse on 24 October. It was a good turnout for Parkesy to do one final lap of the track and touching that some of the CD clubs acknowledged Johnathan's contribution to racing and this region with tribute races in the weeks around that time.

The Wanganui Jockey Club is looking to place a customised seat at the racecourse as a memorial to him like the image below. If you would like to contribute towards this then please email info@wjc.co.nz.

Parkesy AKA JP AKA Skins 1988-2024. RIP mate. 🍀



MANAWATU/ WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

MAROTIRI MOLLY CONTINUES TO IMPRESS WITH HER TWO LATEST EFFORTS EARNING VALUABLE BLACK TYPE. AFTER A HATTRICK OF WINS IN OCTOBER AND EARLY NOVEMBER SHE STEPPED UP TO GROUP 2 COMPANY RUNNING A VERY CLOSE THIRD TO THE OUTSTANDING LA CRIQUE IN THE AUCKLAND THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS STAKES. THEN FOLLOWED A MOST CONVINCING WIN IN THE TIME-HONOURED MANAWATU CHALLENGE STAKES, RUN THIS YEAR AT TRENTHAM.

The now 6-year-old mare was apparently “very challenging” in her early days and has been given plenty of time by her Foxton connections, owner-breeders Beven and Christine Parlato and trainer Matt Dixon, to develop but with six wins and three placings from only 12 starts the patience is paying off. Credit also to rider Kate Hercock for the part she has played in the development of this Per Incanto mare.

Two-year-old Intention shot to prominence with an upset victory in the Group 2 Wakefield Challenge Stakes at Trentham and in doing so guaranteed herself a start in the 2025 TAB Karaka Millions 2YO. Starting as the outsider in a five-horse field she scored an outstanding win in the hands of Tina Cominaghi. Intention is trained by Mike Breslin at Awapuni and is raced by former Palmerston North businessman Roy Potter and the In To Win Camping Out Syndicate managed by Tineke Balcombe. Association members Richard and Kathleen Algar and Mark and Fay Fearon are members of the In To Win Camping Out Syndicate. The filly is by Godolphin stallion Bivouac whose oldest progeny are 2-year-olds.

Another recent winner for In To Win Syndications is Call A Friend whose ownership group include Cam Arnott, Alan and Marion Campbell and Angeline and Colin Porter.

Group One winner Smokin’ Romans (NZ) (Ghibellines) broke a two-year win drought in style with a black-type success in the A\$300,000 Gr.3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes (2600m) at Flemington recently. Smokin’ Romans is trained by Ciaron Maher and has now had 40 starts for 10 wins, nine placings and A\$1.96 million in stakes. He was a previous winner of the Group 1 Turnbull Stakes. Smokin’ Romans sports the colours of member Don Frampton, who has raced Group One winners in New Zealand such as Booming and Trounced.

Hastings-trained Party Rocking completed back-to-back wins with another dominant front-running performance in a \$40,000 race at Trentham in mid-December. The Belardo 4-year-old is prepared by John Bary and has



Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

OWNERS & BREEDERS OF MAROTIRI MOLLY, BEVEN & CHRISTINE PARLATO WITH TRAINER MATT DIXON & JOCKEY KATE HERCOCK AFTER WINNING THE 2024 MANAWATU CHALLENGE STAKES

now won three races. Member Tim Gillespie shares in the ownership of Party Rocking as well as Bedtime Story, trained by Guy Lowry and Leah Zydenbos, who won her fourth race when successful on Boxing Day at Otaki. Tim is a Director of TAB NZ.

Benefactor (NZ) (Contributer) bounced back into the winner’s circle at Woodville in November with a strong victory in the Valley D’Vine Restaurant Waipukurau Cup (1600m). The daughter of Contributer is trained at Awapuni by Lisa Latta and was ridden to victory by Lily Sutherland. Committee members Cam Arnott and Mark Fearon are in the ownership of Benefactor.

The Bill Thurlow trained Battle Secret has had four wins this season including the Steelformers Waverley Cup. Jon and Juanita Brausch share in the ownership of the Battle Paint gelding.

Downtrou, trained and part owned by Josh Lavelle and Sacha Rennie of Foxton broke through maidens at just his fifth start when winning at Wanganui. He is by Sacred Falls.

John Naylor, a partner in the Fortuna Vivacious Syndicate had success with Vivacious, when the Dundeel mare won her second race, this time at Ashburton in October.

Wayne Kitching has been in the winners’ circle a couple of times lately. Two-year-old Microphone filly Abbakiss won at her second start at Tauherenikau in November after running third at Otaki on her debut. At Wanganui at the end of December Altezza broke maidens, after several placings. Both horses are trained by Bryce Newman.

The last two months of the calendar year have been notable for Christopher Grace QSM and wife Susana. Their I Am Invincible – Shillelagh colt set new records at the Ready to Run Sales when he was knocked down to David Ellis for \$1,650,000. The racing team has been in fine form as well. Loch In Ora trained by Allan Sharrock has been a dual winner, whilst the Andrew Forsman trained filly Hinekaha was a winner on debut. In addition, the lightly raced Reputation from Pam Gerard’s stable made it three wins when successful at Te Rapa.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2024/2025 POINTS SERIES

Congratulations to the owners of Marotiri Molly who has now opened up an 8-point lead over Just Charlie as at 31 December, 2024 in this year’s Majestic Horse Floats Points Competition.

However, there is still 7 months to go so there is plenty of time for the leaders to be overtaken.

The Association acknowledges and appreciates the cash and the voucher sponsorship of Majestic Horse Floats.

Reminder you can still nominate your horse or horses up to a maximum of three entries, but points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry.

Entry is free.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2024/2025 POINTS SERIES LEADERBOARD AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2024

1st	..... 35	MAROTIRI MOLLY	..... Christine & Beven Palato
2nd	.....27	JUST CHARLIE	..... Roz & Mike Southey
3rd	.....25	CARIGNAN	..... Susan & Allan Fenwick
4th	.....19	HE’S LUCID	..... Douglas Duncan
5th	.....18	SHOWBASTIAN COE	..... Richard Algar
6th =	.....17	DEADLY PONY	..... Hamish & Shanon MacDonald
	.....17	SPOT ON TIME	..... Rosy Cooper
8th	.....16	INSATIABLE	..... Douglas Duncan
9th =	.....15	BEDTIME STORY	..... Tim Gillespie
	.....15	MOET DOWN	..... Rosy Cooper
11th =	.....14	ALTEZZA	..... Wayne Kitching
	.....14	ARANUI LASS	..... William Fell
	.....14	MOHI PLACE	..... Libby Bleakley
	.....14	YOLO	..... Philippa & Sam Trotter

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

HELLO FROM THE MAINLAND. IT'S SUMMERTIME NOW AFTER ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CUP WEEK. THE LOCALS HAD PLENTY TO CHEER ABOUT AND JOHNNY WALSH WILL BE ENJOYING THE WIN WITH MYSTIC PARK IN THE LINDAUER STEWARDS OPEN SPRINT. HE STILL PREVAILED AFTER A CHEQUERED RUN. A VERY GOOD HORSE WITH BIG PLANS BUT SOUNDS LIKE A BRIEF SPELL ON THE SIDELINE'S DUE TO INJURY WILL PUT A DAMPENER ON PROCEEDINGS.

Another horse with a very good record for owners Pat Dyer and Vicki Smith, is Capo del Impero. The 7yo gelding by Ghibellines won his second Cromwell Cup in a row earlier this month. It was his second run of his current preparation, a great training effort by the Anderton's of Wingatui. Jockey Ruvanesh Muniandy, with a 3kg claim down to 57kg, settled him ninth on the rails over the 2030m trip on a good track. As the field started making their moves before the turn, Ruvanesh was patient and travelling, looking wider, but runs up the middle of the track appeared and they were making good ground on the rest. He was able to burst clear at the 50m mark to score by three quarters of a length. It was win 8 of his 33 start career, and takes him to a high of 96 rating points. His lifetime earnings are now \$235k and I'm sure there is more in store.

A maidener to open his win account was a 4yo Echoes of Heaven gelding, by the name of Saviour. Owned by Noel Anderson and Linda English, and trained by Cyril Leveque of Otautau, it was start seven when he saluted at Ascot Park. On a heavy 10 track over 1400m with Daniel Bothamley aboard, they worked from gate 5 to sit outside the leader. Turning for home they hit the front, but others were coming. They were briefly headed with 150m to go but, hard up against the rail, they found extra and were too tough and won by three quarters of a length. Sent for a spell afterwards, I guess he will be back for another winter campaign.

Smooth Operator is a gelding on the rise, and yours truly is very lucky to have a share in him. The big, powerful, 5yo son of Turn Me Loose, is trained by my wife Stephanie. He has just completed three wins on the trot, culminating in the Open 2200m Southland Crystal's. The last three sees him unbeaten at 2200m, and takes him to six wins from 27 starts, with \$128k earnings and it's exciting to not know where the ceiling for him is. A look at the Kumara Gold Nuggets and then the Southern Cup Series are his immediate plans for now.

Now an update for our summer points series see's Declare on top with 14 points so far for trainer Lionel Dobbs and Janine Young. Second is Complicate on 13 points for trainer Brett Inglis. Third is Smooth Operator on 12 for myself and Steph. Fourth is Dioressence on 8 for trainer Matt Smith, (this will be hotly contested with wife and fellow trainer Sarah). Fifth is Grasshopper on 7 for trainer Lance Robinson and sixth is Elusive Impact on 6 points from one win at the only start so far in series for Lance and Christine Robinson and Ricky and Anna Rhodes.

All the best going forward and see you next time. 🍀

RUSTY RAMBLINGS



FOCUS ON THE LOCAL SPORTS BAR IN MATAKANA, THE RUSTY PELICAN

By Sally Blyth

SUMMER IS BUSY IN THE MATAKANA AREA. LOTS OF PEOPLE WANT TO COME AND EXPLORE THIS LOVELY PART OF RODNEY, AND WE KNOW WHY, BUT THE RELENTLESS TRAFFIC TAILBACKS FROM THE ROUNDABOUT ARE LEGENDARY FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS. THANKFULLY THE CREW WHO GATHER AT THE RUSTY FOR A RACING FIX CAN AVOID THE MAYHEM AS MOST LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE OR A SHORT LOCAL DRIVE SO DON'T HAVE TO BATTLE IT.

As we study form and share coulda-woulda-shoulda stories, we watch the traffic snake its way slowly through town. Sometimes there's a near miss. More often than we would like an ambulance and/or fire truck rushes by to help someone in strife. Large groups of bikies are a regular sight, sometimes calling into the Rusty for a pint. Occasionally a stream of classic cars threads its way along the streets attracting oohs and aahs. Police are everywhere at any time; they've really stepped things up a notch with patrols and checkpoints in the area. Those of us driving keep the drinking minimal; those within walking distance can spend a bit more at the bar. The old-style quart bottles of DB Draught are a staple for some of the crew, others prefer a low-carb beer or a rosé. The hot chips provide sustenance, always cooked to perfection.

The Rusty hosts stag dos and hen's dos, family gatherings, group catch-ups and friends hanging out together playing pool or watching a sports game. Huge plates of scrumptious food glide by on their way to tables inside and out and there's a steady stream of people at the bar ordering their favourite tippie.

Meanwhile we, the racing bunch, try hard to back a winner or two, bemused by the comings and goings, but never distracted. Well, sometimes – if only I'd been concentrating better on the task at hand, I would have backed that winner! We share hot tips and hunches that are often stone-cold no-good. We mention people we know who own a bit of that horse or a piece of another and shrug our shoulders when they run down track or beam happily if they come in.

We check the Will Pays when someone has two legs of a treble or three of a quaddie. We're all right there with whoever the lucky bugger is, willing their final leg to come in. Nine times out of ten it turns out to be a dud and we groan noisily and get on with our business. Next race...

Boxing Day and New Year's Day afternoons at the Rusty were mellow – the general public had been in en masse but mostly gone by 2:30 so we could settle in and get fully involved. This includes turning the Trackside TV sound up – until the masses are gone, we watch races to an '80s soundtrack. It makes for good banter around the table ... "Is that no. 3 or 13 out in front?" "Do you think no. 7 got the bob?" "OMG that was no. 13 and I wasn't on it!" "Who's that coming down the outside, it's going to get up!" "I think my horse just came last". "Look at that thing on the inside, it's going to poke through and win!" "Go 9, go 9, go 9... aaargh it got nailed!" "Go on, get up, put your foot down, come on, come on... yessss!" Knowing the silk colours of one's horse becomes very important as those saddle cloths can be hard to read amidst silent commentary.

My time spent in the Rusty is hugely enjoyable – not only as a means of getting my racing fix in a social setting but it's also a chance to connect with other locals and catch up on news of what everyone has been up to. It's a mini soap opera right there on the roundabout. There are tales of grandchildren, fishing expeditions, golfing rivalries, pleasant swims, family updates, neighbourhood news, incidents and dramas – and always a funny story or three.

I'm a tour leader and away a lot. Whilst I love being in a far-flung place with lovely clients, I miss the Rusty and always look forward to stepping through the door upon my return – with a few tales to tell. 🍀



KARAKA 2025: THE RACE TO THE SALE BEGINS



NZB®

Where Winning Begins

HOT ON THE HEELS OF A RECORD-BREAKING READY TO RUN SALE, THE CREAM OF NEW ZEALAND'S YEARLING CROP WAS REVEALED FOR KARAKA 2025.

The world-renowned week of selling in late January is the shop window for the thoroughbred talent that New Zealand produces, and that trend is set to continue with world-class catalogues unveiled.

The 99th National Yearling Sales Series will take place at Karaka from Sunday 26 January to Thursday 30 January. The catalogues, which are now available to view online, contain an outstanding selection of 661 yearlings in Book 1 and another 427 in Book 2.

"Of all the sales in Australasia this year, Karaka saw the biggest increase in average, turnover and median. That was really encouraging," commented NZB's Managing Director Andrew Seabrook

The 2024 sale had 758 yearlings sell for an aggregate of NZ\$92,322,500, an increase of over 12 per cent on 2023. The combined average rose from NZ\$110,424 in 2023 to NZ\$121,797 in 2024 and the median increased from NZ\$80,000 to NZ\$87,500.

"We're also incredibly proud of the New Zealand-bred and Karaka graduate results over the last twelve months."

Headlined by last season's Champion 2YO in New Zealand Velocious (Written Tycoon) and this season's G1 NZ 2000 Guineas winner Savaglee (NZ) (Savabeel), the current crop of three-year-old graduates of the NZB National Yearling Sale include impressive Group winners Bellatrix Star (Star Witness), Aeliana (NZ) (Castelvecchio), He's Lucid (NZ) (Contributer), Linebacker (NZ) (Super Seth), and So Naïve (NZ) (U S Navy Flag).

The Sale has also already produced Listed winners Archaic Smile (Saxon Warrior), Beau Dazzler (NZ) (Ardrossan), Discretion Rules (Alabama Express), Imperialist (Churchill), Keeneland (NZ) (Almanzor), Lilac (Justify), Opening Address (NZ) (So You Think), Poetic Champion (NZ) (Super Seth), and Super Photon (NZ) (Super Seth).

Linebacker's co-trainer John O'Shea purchased him with Suman Hedge Bloodstock in 2023 for NZ\$160,000 from Haunui Farm, and Linebacker won at two on debut, then won the Group Three TL Baillieu Handicap. at his second start before finishing his juvenile season with a second to Champion two-year-

old Broadsiding in the G1 Champagne Stakes. This season at three, he's run fourth in the Group Two Run To The Rose and sixth in the Group One Golden Rose.

"It's a great value sale, and New Zealand horses have a fantastic record winning major races here despite not having big numbers. We really enjoy the Sale and have had good results at a reasonable value," said O'Shea.

"Linebacker was the year of the floods. We try to buy 10-15 a year there, and he was a standout of his year. If you end up with a Group One quality horse like Linebacker, then it's been a good trip. We haven't run a lot of the three-year-olds (we bought) yet. There's a nice Pierro still to come and a couple of Ocean Parks.

"We try to buy those horses that train on at five and six with 30 or more starts. I go there to buy sound reliable horses that will train on. If they can get to open company, they'll earn \$500-800 thousand which is great."

The pedigrees contained in the catalogues for Karaka 2025 have all the right credentials for many more names to be added to that list. There are siblings to superstars such as Lucky Sweeney, Orchestral, Prowess, Velocious, Pasadena Girl (NZ) (Savabeel), Icebath (NZ) (Sacred Falls) and Ruthless Dame (NZ) (Tavistock), along with Australian up-and-comers Gringotts (NZ) (Per Incanto), Globe (NZ) (Charm Spirit), Aeliana (NZ) (Castelvecchio) and Powers Of Opal (NZ) (Ocean Park).

There are also first foals from the likes of star racemares Two Illicit (NZ) (Jimmy Choux), Zayydani (NZ) (Savabeel) and House Of Cartier (Alamosa), plus progeny of other Group One winners such as Bonneval (NZ) (Makfi), Jennifer Eccles (Rip Van Winkle) and more.

Over 100 sires are represented in the catalogues, from big names like Savabeel, Proisir, I Am Invincible, Frankel, Almanzor, Per Incanto, Satono Aladdin and Snitzel to a big line up of first-season stallions with New Zealand-based Sword Of State, Noverre (NZ), Armory and The Chosen One (NZ) to debut.

The week of Karaka 2025 is set to kick off in style at Ellerslie Racecourse on Saturday 25 January with the famous TAB Karaka Millions raceday, now worth more than \$5 million in

prizemoney and headlined by the \$1m TAB Karaka Millions 2YO (1200m) and \$1.5m TAB Karaka Millions 3YO (1600m) for graduates.

That will be followed by Book 1, which runs from Sunday 26 January to Tuesday 28 January with selling starting at 10am each day. The first day of Book 2 will start at 12pm on Wednesday 29 January and continues at 10am the following day on Thursday 30 January.

For the first time ever NZB has combined both Book 1 and Book 2 into one physical catalogue.

"Although they still remain separate Sales, it was a request made at a post sales vendor meeting earlier this year, so we thought it was worth doing and advantageous from a marketing perspective to have just one catalogue," added Seabrook. "After the record-breaking Ready to Run Sale, we are looking forward to seeing that momentum roll into Karaka 2025. Our team will be busy establishing the best buying bench possible from all markets."

All yearlings purchased at Karaka 2025 are eligible for the Karaka Millions Series including the new NZB Mega Maiden Series which sees horses racing for an additional \$1m in bonuses across 40 maiden races each season in New Zealand.

The catalogues for Karaka 2025 can be viewed online at www.nzb.co.nz, or downloaded on the EquineLine app for tablets or Thoroughworks app for mobile.

For general sale information, contact info@nzb.co.nz or call +64 9 298 0055.

SALE SCHEDULE TAB KARAKA MILLIONS RACEDAY

Saturday 25 January 2025 at Ellerslie Racecourse

Book 1: Lot 1 – 661

Day One: Sunday 26 January Lot 1 – 250 from 10am (NZT)

Day Two: Monday 27 January Lot 251 – 480 from 10am (NZT)

Day Three: Tuesday 28 January Lot 481 – 661 from 10am (NZT)

Book 2: Lot 661 – 1088

Day One: Wednesday 29 January Lot 662 – 860 from 12pm (NZT)

Day Two: Thursday 30 January Lot 861 – 1088 from 10am (NZT)





stud chat with Sam

Happy New Year everyone. We are incredibly excited to have secured Gr.1 Blue Diamond stakeswinner, Little Brose, to stand at LA this year and the icing on the cake is he is a son of Per Incanto.

The new Australasian racing season has shown us a formidable breeding trend in the power of the Street Cry bloodline. His son Pride of Dubai currently heads the Australian premierships and Per Incanto (8TH) and Street Boss are inside the top 20.

Time and again we are reminded of the strength of the domestic stallion that has raced so well in the best of company in Australasian conditions. Previous winners of the Blue Diamond Stakes who forged outstanding stallion careers include Redoute's Choice, Bel Esprit, Rancher, Zeditave, Pride of Dubai, Star Witness and Extreme Choice. The reality is that a race like the Blue Diamond is incredibly hard to win, and Little Brose competed at the highest-level right across his 2-year-old career and into the spring of his 3-year-old season.

I clearly remember what a wonderful type he was when he was sold at Magic Millions. When I saw him before Christmas I was reminded of that fact and especially how well he walks.

For a variety of reasons, we were thrilled for the owners and breeders of Per Incanto's latest two stakes winners; both are from the CD and their patience has been well and truly rewarded. David and Deb Woodhouse's mighty mare Belclare just keeps getting better. Marotiri Molly's journey has been well documented, and the plan set in place by the Parlato's and trainer Matt Dixon has been executed perfectly. The icing on the cake was Kate Hercock getting her home in the Gr.2 Manawatu Stakes at Trentham.

The recent stakes performances from Marble Arch and Mrs Chrissie in Melbourne point to them getting well-deserved black type shortly and adding to Per Incanto's 32 individual stakes winners.



**LOT 505
SAVABEEL X CAMILLINO COLT**



**LOT 459
RUSSIAN REVOLUTION X ASSERTIVE
NATURE FILLY**

Recently the National Stud in England announced the sale of Time Test to Turkey. This brings an end to Time Test shuttling to LA. Ironically the stallion is having his best domestic season by some way, which should translate into returns for those breeders that have supported him over the last couple of seasons.

By the time you read this column, we will be one yearling sale completed with all systems go towards Karaka. We look forward to catching up with you in Auckland and sharing with you some good Wairarapa hospitality.

LA's draft for Karaka this year, which gets underway on 26 January, are fitting for the farms 85th anniversary.

The 19 Book 1 yearlings feature 10 lots by Per Incanto along with yearlings by Savabeel, Bivouac, Ardrossan, Pinatubo, Hello Youmzain, Almanzor and Russian Revolution.

Lot 24, the Per Incanto three-quarter brother to Gr.1 winner Desert Lightning, is a standout. Offered on account of his breeder Wes Van De Scheer, he's got a

magnificent hindquarter and overall, he is a touch more physical than his older brother.

Our last Book 1 lot at lot 616 is worth waiting for. The Per Incanto filly is from Gr.1 winner Fleur de Lune, who won the Gr.1 Railway Stakes. This makes her a full sister to the promising galloper Twain. She's a bit of a beast of a filly, but feminine to go with it, definitely check her out.

Other Book 1 standouts are Lot 459, the Russian Revolution filly from the Per Incanto mare Assertive Nature. Mum had a lot of ability, but we had to retire her after just three starts, one of which she won and she ran 2nd in another. This is the outstanding Australasian family of Savvy Nature, Addictive Nature and last season's multiple group winning New Zealand 2-year-old Captured By Love. This filly may walk like a catwalk model but she's got the backside of an AFL tight end, and Per Incanto's record as a young broodmare sire is through the roof.

Another standout lot from a young Per Incanto mare is Lot 505, the Savabeel colt from Camillino, a full sister to Gr.1 winner Dal Cielo. This is the family of Alamosa and Lights of Heaven. Per Incanto mares are tending to pass on their fabulous walks and this colt is no exception. He's also got the most magnificent temperament and I expect him to continue to improve throughout the sale preparation.

We're thrilled with the five yearlings by Bivouac, Ardrossan and Hello Youmzain. Predicting what stallions are going to be popular two years ahead of time is always the challenge, but, I think we've done pretty well. From our 2023 Book 1 draft we sold the Gr.2 winning Ardrossan gelding Yaldi.

Our Book 2 draft is a little smaller this year however once again there is a good cross-section of stallions that are performing well, such as Time Test, Ardrossan, Tarzino, Turn Me Loose and Ocean Park complemented nicely by yearlings from the new stallions Sword of State and Noverre.

See you at Karaka to kick off 2025 with some unforgettable fun!

Sam

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YOUR CHANCE TO WIN
THE ULTIMATE
CHAMPIONS DAY
PRIZE PACK

LOVE RACING.
OWN RACING.

OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE TOURS

26 & 27 January 2025
NZB's Karaka Sales Centre

Immerse yourself in the world of thoroughbred horse sales and kickstart your journey to the winner's circle. Hear from leading syndicators, stud masters and bloodstock agents who will be sharing all their secrets to success.

Tour groups will be limited, so book now to secure your spot!

REGISTER NOW AT
[EVENTS.LOVERRACING.NZ/TOURS](https://events.loveracing.nz/tours)



JOIN THE LOVE RACING. OWN RACING. OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE TOURS

The NZB Karaka Yearling Sales are the perfect way to kick off 2025. This iconic event brings together buyers, sellers, and racing enthusiasts from around the world to take part in the early stages of the racehorse ownership journey. Every January racing industry professionals flock to Karaka with one shared goal: to find the next champion at a bargain price. It's the place where legends are made, and your chance to be part of that excitement starts right here.

As part of the excitement, the LOVE RACING. OWN RACING. Ownership Experience Tours will once again be available to prospective and existing owners at the NZB Karaka Yearling Sales. Run over two days, these exclusive Tours offer a behind-the-scenes look at the sales process, giving you a closer view of how the auction works and what it takes to be part of the world of racehorse ownership. Whether you're looking to make your first purchase, or expand your current racing stable, these Tours are a must for anyone wanting to dive deeper into the thoroughbred industry.

The Tours are designed to provide you with all the information you need to get involved in racing, including insights from leading NZTR Authorised Syndicators who can share their first-hand experiences. As an owner, you'll enjoy a level of excitement, camaraderie, and exhilaration that you can't find anywhere else. And the best part? You don't need to be a seasoned professional to get involved.

What will be included in the Tours?

- Visit with and hear from leading stud masters who will answer questions about what it takes to get a yearling to the Karaka Sales. They may even detail who they see as their standout lots, so you can follow their favourites through the ring.
- Learn tips and tricks from some of the top bloodstock agents who will be spilling their secrets on what qualities they look for when purchasing young, unproven stock.
- Speak to NZTR Authorised Syndicators about their offerings and how you may be able to get involved in ownership at any level.
- Finally, we will chat to a veterinarian about the vetting process at the Sales and what the process looks like for the buyer vs seller.

Whether you're a casual observer or someone with a serious interest in owning a horse, these Tours will provide invaluable insight into the world of thoroughbred ownership.

The NZB Karaka Sales have built a reputation as one of the most important thoroughbred auctions in the Southern Hemisphere. Held annually, the event attracts buyers from all over the world, making it a true melting pot of international racing talent. The horses you'll find at the Karaka Sales have the

potential to go on to achieve greatness.

Some recent successes include Beauty Generation, Mr Brightside, Atishu, Sharp 'N' Smart and Melody Belle. The pedigree and quality of horses at Karaka make it one of the most exciting places to be in January.

Not only do the Karaka Sales offer the chance to find your next champion, but it's also an experience like no other. Whether you're attending the auction or simply soaking in the atmosphere, you'll feel like part of the global racing community, and it's impossible not to get swept up in the excitement of the bidding.

Owning a racehorse is one of the most thrilling experiences you can have. There's nothing quite like the feeling of watching your horse prepare each day for the race, strut their stuff in the mounting yard and spring from the gates. Win or lose, the thrill of being involved brings unparalleled joy and excitement. With the LOVE RACING. OWN RACING. Tours, you'll have the chance to learn how to get started on this exhilarating journey. So, grab a friend who may be interested and don't miss your chance to be part of the next big thing in racing.

MORE INFORMATION, INCLUDING REGISTRATIONS AND TOUR TIMES CAN BE FOUND AT [EVENTS.LOVERRACING.NZ/TOURS](https://events.loveracing.nz/tours). TOURS WILL BE RUN ON SUNDAY 26 JANUARY AND MONDAY 27 JANUARY, WITH TWO SESSIONS RUNNING EACH DAY. WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THERE!

NOEL GRAHAM HARRIS (MOUNT MAUNGANUI): MEMBER OF THE NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT FOR SERVICES TO THE THOROUGHBRED RACING INDUSTRY

NOEL HARRIS (TE ĀTIAWA) WAS A FORMIDABLE FORCE DURING HIS 45 YEARS AS A RACING JOCKEY.

His career bolted from its 1970 start as he went on to claim 2,167 national victories, the New Zealand Jockey Premiership in 1972-1973, and the coveted title of New Zealand Champion Apprentice Jockey in 1971-1972.

Harris shares the New Zealand record for most wins at 3200m – boasting four New Zealand cups, three Wellington cups, and three Auckland cups.

At 55, Harris made a name for himself as the oldest jockey to ride in the Melbourne Cup.

In 2018 Harris was inducted into the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame

Prior to retiring as a jockey Noel Harris presented a proposal to the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Board outlining the advantages of having an Apprentice Mentor role to work alongside New Zealand apprentices to improve not only their riding skills on the track but also their personal life skills off the track. The proposal was taken up by the NZTR Board and on the Monday



following his final ride as a jockey on Saturday 4 April 2015 Noel started his new role which he is currently still fulfilling.

There is an apprentice school once a fortnight for the apprentices to attend to review their race day rides, provide riding tuition and a host of speakers providing comment and advice over a wide ranging spectrum. Noel attends race trials and race meetings advising and mentoring all the apprentices and being involved in any judicial proceedings with them. ↻

They are tough.
They are brave.
And they get results.

Kiwi thoroughbreds have an innate depth of quality to them – drawn from the land, from the people and from the bloodlines unique to New Zealand. They're just built differently.

Tap into the well of Kiwi talent at Karaka 2025.



ORCHESTRAL
PROWESS
LEGARTO / SO YOU THINK
ATISHU
KOVALICA / SAVAGLEE
MO UNGA / VELOCIOUS
PROBABELL

KARAKA 2025

99th National Yearling
Sales Series

26 – 30 January


NZB
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SYNDICATION & A STORY OF SUCCESS

Jill Lunn

KEVIN O'BRIEN IS A MEMBER OF THE WAIKATO/ BAY OF PLENTY BRANCH OF THE NZ THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION. HE SHARED HIS LONG AND EXCITING JOURNEY IN RACEHORSE OWNERSHIP AS PART OF A SYNDICATE.

Kevin tells the story, "The first horse I had shares in was called Jebel Ali, an Icelandic filly that started eight times for no placings let alone a win. Not an auspicious start to racing and there were a few other poor performers prior!

Then two good mates David Kneebone and Martin Bradley were introduced to Trent Busuttin who had recently arrived back in NZ and was looking to get into training horses. With this group we had a little bit of a slow start to our relationship but after a few slow horses the three of us took 10% each in a horse that we called Sangster. Tommy Hepinstall had taken 50% of the horse and as so he picked the name for the Syndicate. Of course, Sangster went on to become a very good horse.

Sangster won the Auckland Cup at what I believe is the shortest priced favourite ever to win it and before that won the Australian VRC Derby winning just over \$1m NZD in doing so. The experience of standing on the dais at Flemington a couple of days before the Melbourne Cup was an amazing experience. There were over 100,000 people on course that day and it felt like they were all watching the ceremony.

Of course we celebrated, it was champagne on the day and a huge night with our friends at a local bar when we got back. Dave was quoted in the press as saying, "I normally drink Waikato but today I am drinking champagne."

Sangster won over \$2m as a racehorse and most of that was in Australia where Trent Busuttin moved to and now operates.

Our group also owned El Roca as a racehorse and retained shares in him as a stallion at stud at Westbury. Racing El Roca trained by Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young was a lot of fun. At one point we were flying to Melbourne every second weekend to watch him race and I recall the Australian National Anthem being played before many of his races. What a thrill that brought the three of us.

Another horse we raced recently was Clever Ruds. Clever Ruds is a filly named after our good friend Ken Rutherford and one that we bred from El Roca. She was trained out of Te Awamutu by Debbie Sweeney. She raced 30 times for six wins and six places. After having raced El Roca, we kept two breeding shares in the stallion and it was a huge thrill to see 'Ruds' win six times.

Recently we raced My Chablis with Stephen Marsh, and she won twice on the synthetic at Cambridge. We had high hopes for this horse, but she was badly injured during a



SANGSTER, RETIRED AND LIVING THE GOOD LIFE

thunder and lightning storm this year and had to be retired. That is the downside of racing that you just have to accept, along with the good times.

Over the years I have been in racing syndicates that have raced 41 horses. Currently we have three horses in Australia and 4 in New Zealand.

Syndicate racing allows you to spread the risk and the costs and is a fun way to get involved in racing."

The writer asked Kevin about the costs, particularly the monthly outlay as part of a syndicate. Of course, it does differ from trainer to trainer and at what stage the horse is at but in approximate figures here is what Kevin experiences currently:

- 30% of a horse in training in Australia is \$1036 (Aus Dollars) per month.
- 10% of a horse in New Zealand in pretraining is \$246 per month.
- 10% of a horse in New Zealand in full training is \$400 per month.
- 5% of a horse in New Zealand in full training is \$300 per month.
- 2.5% of a horse in New Zealand in early training is \$140 per month.

Please note that these are the figures from a range of trainers.

If you are thinking that this sounds like something you would be interested in

there are several ways you can become part of a syndicate.

1. You can join a syndicate through buying into an advertised horse by one of the well-known registered syndicators you can find on the Love Racing site.
2. You can get a group of friends together and approach a well reputed trainer, or bloodstock agent expressing your interest as a group and the trainer can look out for a horse for you.
3. You as an individual can approach a well reputed trainer, or bloodstock agent expressing your interest and they very often have a group of people they can put you in a group to seek out a horse.
4. You may know people who have bred a horse and seek to get a group together to race it.
5. The National Yearling Sales at Karaka which are on at the end of January are a perfect place for you to introduce yourself to some of the vendors of the young horses and express your interest in horse ownership as part of a syndicate.

The Waikato/ Bay of Plenty Thoroughbred Owners' Assn often have a table at Te Rapa where you can talk to people involved in the industry and find out the information you are seeking re owning a racehorse.

I thank Kevin so much for his willingness to share his story. 🐾



FASHIONS IN THE FIELD

PHOTOS: AUCKLAND THOROUGHBRED RACING



MELBOURNE CUP 2024

Lucinda Laxon

BEING THE DAUGHTER OF TWO LEGENDARY TRAINERS, SHEILA LAXON AND THE LATE LAURIE LAXON, MEANS HORSE RACING IS IN MY BLOOD. ONE REGRET HAUNTED ME FOR OVER TWO DECADES, MISSING MUM'S HISTORIC 2001 MELBOURNE CUP WIN WITH ETHEREAL. I WAS A REBELLIOUS TEENAGER THEN, RUNNING AWAY FROM BOARDING SCHOOL TO ATTEND A PARTY, ONLY TO BE GROUNDED AND MISS HER GREATEST TRIUMPH. THAT REGRET STAYED WITH ME - UNTIL NOW.

In 2024, when Knight's Choice made the field for the Melbourne Cup, I didn't hesitate. I booked my flights immediately. Knight's Choice was an underrated outsider. His owner had turned down \$2.3 million for him, Mum and John believed in him, and that was enough for me. This time, I wouldn't miss it. My husband, our daughter and son flew over and my brother and nephews joined us from Singapore. It wasn't just a race, it was a reunion and a second chance.

The days leading up to the Cup were filled with excitement. The children were captivated by the horses, eagerly feeding them carrots and helping put on their covers. Watching their joy reminded me of my own childhood, growing up around the stables, where every small task felt special.

One of the more personal and unexpectedly challenging highlights was shopping for Mum's race-day outfit. Mum isn't one to fuss over fashion, but I insisted. We spent a day

at Chadstone in Melbourne, hunting for the perfect ensemble. It wasn't easy, everything seemed too flashy or not quite right. We tried store after store, and I could tell Mum was ready to give up.

Finally, we found it, the perfect outfit which was understated and sophisticated. Seeing Mum in it, ready for the big day, made all the effort worthwhile. She looked every bit the champion she is, graceful, confident, and strong.

Race day at Flemington was electric. Knight's Choice was overlooked by many, but Mum's quiet confidence and knowing Robbie Dolan would give him an exceptional ride gave us hope. As the gates opened, the crowd's roar was deafening and I could feel my heart beating out of my chest.

Knight's Choice wasn't leading as they entered the final stretch, but Robbie Dolan's ride was masterful. In those last, heart-

stopping moments, Knight's Choice surged forward, inching ahead in a breathtaking dash to the finish line. He won, just on the line, in a thrilling photo-finish.

It was surreal. Knight's Choice, the outsider, had defied the odds. Tears filled my eyes as I realised Mum and John had done it. Robbie Dolan's ride was extraordinary, perfectly timed, delivering a victory that felt almost impossible moments before.

The celebration was euphoric, but what I'll cherish most are the quieter moments the pride on Mum's face, the joy of sharing this with my family, and the sense of redemption. For Mum, it was another milestone in her storied career. For me, it was the chance to be there, to finally share in the moment I missed in 2001. This time, I was there. This time, it was perfect. 🐾



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JUMPS RACING IN NEW ZEALAND - A sport definitely worth preserving

Jess Brosnan

AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE EQUESTRIAN WORLD MY WHOLE LIFE AND GROWING UP IN HAWKES BAY WITH THE LIKES OF JOHNNY FRIZZELL & SUE HARTY (THE COSSACK & SEA KING FAME) JUST MINUTES DOWN THE ROAD, LEAVING SCHOOL AND HEADING TO AIRHILL TO WORK FOR PAUL AND CAROL NELSON, JUMPS RACING WAS OBVIOUSLY GOING TO BE MY CHOICE OF SPORT TO BE DOING.

So it brings me immense joy to see the continuation of Jumps racing in New Zealand. This sport, steeped in history and tradition holds a special place in the hearts of many, including my own.

Jumps racing is far more than just a spectacle, it's a testament to the courage, athleticism and partnership between horse and jockey. Watching these magnificent thoroughbreds take on the challenge of hurdles and fences is nothing short of inspiring. Each race shows the story of dedication – from the breeders and trainers who develop the horse to the jockeys who guide them and of course their owners who have believed in them. New Zealand has long been a proud home of jumps racing. So many great horses and riders have started off here and have created a brilliant show across the Tasman. Brett Scott, Aaron Kuru, Will Gordon & Michael Mitchell (USA) to name a few, have all experienced the thrill of jumps racing in New Zealand and tasted plenty of success in other countries. Horses such as St. Steven and in recent times Sea King, Tallyho Twinkletoe and The Cossack have certainly made New Zealand proud. It is a sport that showcases the versatility and stamina of our thoroughbreds, many of whom transition from a successful career on the flat to find new glory in jumping. Most of the horses who end up jumping are snaffled up straight from the racetrack, thus helping the job of the re-homers who already have a hard job of finding homes for an ever-changing equestrian scene.

Personally I'm proud to be a part of a community that works tirelessly to preserve and promote this wonderful discipline. Jumps racing has provided countless unforgettable moments – not only for those directly involved but for those fans who watch live or watch from afar. It's a sport that unites us through a shared respect and excitement for these incredible animals who give it their all. Because without the horse we wouldn't be here.

In this ever-evolving world we live in, especially in the racing industry, it's encouraging to see the commitment NZTR have made to the future of Jumps racing in New Zealand. Initiatives to enhance safety, attract new participants, rider education and celebrating its unique appeal are crucial to ensuring that this tradition thrives for generations to come. To me, jumps racing represents the best of our sport: bravery, teamwork and most of all heart. Whether you're a seasoned enthusiast or a newcomer, I encourage you to experience the thrill of raceday. It's a reminder of why we love this sport – and why we must continue to support it.

Here's to the future of jumps racing in New Zealand. Long may it thrive. 🍷

NZTR BOARD SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF JUMPS RACING

THE NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING (NZTR) BOARD HAS CONFIRMED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE CONTINUATION OF JUMPS RACING AS PART OF THE RACING PROGRAMME. THIS DECISION FOLLOWS A PROCESS ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER THAT INCLUDED THE APPOINTMENT OF A JUMPS RACING REVIEW PANEL.

The panel resolved to recommend that Jumps racing in New Zealand should continue, but that continuation will need to be supported by several initiatives to ensure the success of the industry, both in the short and long term.

“The panel have taken a comprehensive review of Jumps racing in NZ and whilst the recommendation is for the continuation it is not for jumps racing to continue in its current state, changes do need to be made to give it the best chance to thrive,” said Darin Balcombe, NZTR COO and Jumps Racing Review Panel Chair.

The panel provided 19 individual recommendations with priorities that include:

- Supporting, mentoring and attracting Jumps jockeys
- Reviewing and optimising the Jumps racing calendar
- Enhancing race programming for consistency and competition
- Ensuring fit-for-purpose infrastructure and rules

The panel has also recommended NZTR develop key performance indicators to evaluate Jumps racing's performance annually and a comprehensive strategic review every three years to ensure objectives and performance are aligned.

NZTR Chairman Russell Warwick applauded the panel for their hard work and collaboration throughout the review process.

“I would like to thank the panel and Alan Galbraith KC for their support throughout this process. Many factors were taken into consideration, and we believe implementing the panel's recommendations will give Jumps racing the best opportunity to perform at a high-level long term,” he said

“This decision gives the industry the opportunity to reenergize Jumps racing and will make winter racing an exciting prospect into the future.”

NZTR's implementation process will include creating a framework and outlining KPIs to measure Jumps racing's performance annually, to be delivered prior to 31 March 2025.

NZ JUMPING RESPOND

TO ALL TRAINERS, OWNERS AND BREEDERS INVOLVED IN THE RACING SCENE IN NEW ZEALAND,

A team of jumping enthusiasts have set up a website to support Jumps Racing in NZ. On it there is a chance to buy and sell potential jumpers.

The idea is that flat trainers and owners can advertise their horse which may have come to the end of their flat career and could make a jumping horse or just needs to go jumping for a change. This should be a help to the rehomers in that there's a fraction less horses clogging up the rehoming process that may still have a chance of becoming a jumper or at least adding that skill to their resume therefore making them easier to rehome.

We have trainers and owners looking for horses to race over jumps but we need the horses to do so. Check out the Wanted ads to see if you have something that may suit.

It will be run as a simple classifieds advert. There will be no charge to advertise your horse at this stage. Just please provide a photo, brief details including name/breeding and a contact name/number/email address and add a price. We are hopeful that if said horse wins a JUMPING race, \$1000 will be paid to previous trainer as a bonus. Please send an email with horse details to nzjumpsracing@gmail.com

The team behind this is simply doing it to help our jumping industry and to try and get more people and horses involved in a sport which we all care so much about. 🍷



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 4 DECEMBER 2024

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Richard Algar SHOWBASTIAN COE
Peter & Christine Algje JOEJOECCINI
Noell & Linda Anderson SAVIOUR
David Archer WINDSOR CASTLE, ARUNDEL CASTLE
Gordon (Cam) Arnott BENEFACTOR, CALL A FRIEND
Nigel & Adaire Auret UNUSUALLY PETITE
Judith Bambry CHANTILLY LACE
Bryan & Mrs Deirdre Black HANKEE ALPHA
Phillip Blacktopp KIKIMORA, SCHEDAR
Claire & Warren Bolton OUR ALLIE BE
Sue Bourke MYAKKABELLE, DIVINE ESSENCE
Warren M Brausch BATTLE SECRET
Jon & Juanita Brausch BATTLE SECRET
Geoff Brown HITABELL
Philip & Catherine Brown LEVAKIA
Jackie Burrows BEAVER FEVER, THE ARCHITECT
Gordon Calder INSPIRED BY ART
Alan & Marion Campbell CALL A FRIEND
Rosemary Carter MISS ROCKETTE, SHE'S UNTOUCHABLE
Tim & Mrs Margaret Carter PUKANA
Jan Carver SHEZAHAPPYONE, MI BELLA
John Cassin LA CRIQUE, SI EXQUIS
Lucinda & Steven Christopher SEXY AND I MOET
Bruce & Courtney Clarke ELARISH
Wayne Coxon ARJAY'S FLIGHT
Robert de Courcy WITZ END
Brian de Lore PUZZLE MASTER
Jill Dixon TOWN CRYER
John Donovan ALMAKEITGOOD
Douglas Duncan HE'S LUCID
Pat Dyer CAPO DELL IMPERO
Pete & Steph Faulkner SMOOTH OPERATOR
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Frank Hilliar BLUE MOON
Sheryn Hobbs SEXY AND I MOET, SHEZAHAPPYONE
Carey Hobbs HERBERT
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