

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

# OWNERS' BULLETIN



WINTER 2025



*Centaine Award 2025  
Winner  
Per Incanto*

## PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



### THE END OF ONE SEASON AND THE START OF ANOTHER IS WHERE WE ARE AT NOW.

ENTAIN has been with us for two years now with only changes at the top of their leadership and continue to provide the stakes they promised. When one looks at trading figures over the same period, it has been a roller coaster ride for them, but they are sticking in there at a time when pockets are tight for most. On-course betting is up and down and this is mainly associated with more staying home in the comfort of a warm fire and being able to see more on TV. I know I have not travelled that much this year but then again, that may be an age thing.

So, what are my hi-lights for the year just gone in regards thoroughbred racing? We are seeing a change in the training ranks with several young up and comers and couples succeeding and taking it to the big boys.

It is good to see new blood entering the training ranks and seeing fresh faces on our screen succeeding at the top. If it were not for likes of Lisa Latta, Anna Furlong, Pam Gerrad and Stephanie Faulkner to name some, banter around the stalls would be chap talk only. Thanks that we have stable staff who do most of the work to keep them in line.

Moving on, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) have confirmed their Statement of Intent (SOI) for the 2025-2028 season ahead which can be found on their website at Publications – NZTR. The document purports what are the main strategies and plans milestones that our industry needs to achieve to become a viable force and encourage participation. Though most may say, so what, the SOI spells out performance targets and other measures by which NZTR's performance may be judged in relation to its activities. This aspect is especially important in ensuring we have the right people governing our industry. On behalf of all owners, I take responsibility for constantly reviewing the standards and targets outlined in this document. And I will raise any concerns or queries on your behalf, if warranted, if what has been promised is not being achieved or met.

The detail around how the milestones in the SOI will be achieved and measured forms part of the SOI and I invite you to have a read at your leisure and communicate with me any matter or issues that you believe needs to be raised as this document purports what the industry will look like in the future and its betterment.

Over the next three months, your Regional Owner Associations will be conducting their Annual General meetings, and I encourage you to attend and make yourself known and if you can be available, become part of a team that plans local regional activities that may be arranged from time to time.

The National Federation will also be holding its annual meeting in October or November and again members are encouraged to attend in person or via digital means which will be advertised in the coming weeks.

'Happy Racing'.

**Bernard Hickey (President)**

## SIR BRENDAN LINDSAY NZOM

**BRENDAN LINDSAY GREW UP IN PUKERUA BAY NEAR WELLINGTON. IN 1982 HE ESTABLISHED THE NEW ZEALAND MANUFACTURING COMPANY SISTEMA PLASTICS. THE COMPANY WAS BORN FROM A GARAGE IN CAMBRIDGE WHERE BRENDAN WAS MAKING PLASTIC COAT HANGERS. IT GREW TO A MASSIVE FACILITY OUT PAST AUCKLAND AIRPORT MAKING STORAGE ITEMS WITH TOP CLASS DESIGN AND MATERIAL AND BECAME A LEADER ON INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.**

Following its sale in 2016, Brendan and wife Jo purchased the iconic Cambridge Horse Stud. That came from their joint passion for the Thoroughbred Racing Industry and ensured that Cambridge Stud remained in New Zealand hands.

Brendan had heard of Sir Patrick Hogan's failing health and talk about the imminent sale of the stud and he phoned Sir Patrick and told him that it was sold – at whatever price.

In 2019, the couple launched the Lindsay Foundation to provide support toward community initiatives, funding the likes of Starship Hospital, Assistant Dogs NZ Trust and Autism and Anxiety NZ. Brendan and Jo are major donors to CatWalk Trust

"We wanted to try and make a difference to somebody's life," he said. "You're never going to meet or even hear about these people sometimes, but if we can make a difference to one person's life, it has a flow-on effect."

Brendan says he got into philanthropy to give back to the local community.

The foundation supported Auckland University of Technology (AUT) and Starship's Gait Clinic Analysis Lab last year, now named the Lindsay Foundation Gait Lab. The charity helps assess the 100 children per year who come to the children's hospital with movement disorders.

"They're trying to assess the injuries these kiddies have had, so they can actually put adequate care in place and change the way they live their lives," Brendan said. "We're lucky to be involved with something like that because you are going to make a difference somewhere. We see it as a really good opportunity to put something back into helping New Zealand where a lot of people haven't got the ability to help themselves," Brendan said.

A donation you could call an outlier was one million dollars to help set up a museum at Le Quesnoy in northern France which in November 2018 was liberated from German troops by The New Zealand Division. An assault with artillery was not employed and grateful townspeople revere brave Kiwis to this day.

The town is an old walled "Bastide" and a single ladder was used to scale the wall. There were 500 casualties to the Kiwi soldiers but all the inhabitants were spared.

Many people now make a pilgrimage to this place.



IT'S BEEN A LONG, WET WINTER AND THE TRACKS ARE UNDER STRESS EVIDENCED BY HORSES DIVING FOR AN OUTSIDE RUN DOWN THE HOME STRAIGHT. BUT SPRING IS NOT FAR AWAY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A BIG DAY AT ELLERSLIE ON 6 SEPTEMBER WHERE BLACK TYPE RACING KICKS OFF AGAIN.

Around the farms foals are appearing and that new life reminds us life is a cycle – to be lived.

Our front cover is a “first” we have not had a stallion on it before. Per Incanto won the Centaine Award by a margin of over 2 million in stakes eclipsing the great horse Savabeel.

Then there are the King's Birthday Honour's to Catriona Williams, our staunch Sponsor, and the very worthy Brendan and Jo Lindsay.

I have not met Sir Brendan but upon his acquisition of Cambridge Stud I contacted him with the hope of doing an interview. He suggested I get in touch in six months' time when they were settled in the new business. There then was the sad loss of a new stallion around that time so I didn't want to be round them.

Dame Cat – well we have worked together on this *Bulletin* for more than a dozen years. I have ridden bikes around the Loire Valley in France with others while Cat wheeled it. We watched in awe as they threw a “wheelie” guy off the Kawarau bungy bridge at a CatWalk fundraising Auction extravaganza. He later said, “Nothing to it. I had my bad luck ages ago.” The spirit of these “wheelies” can keep things in proportion for you!

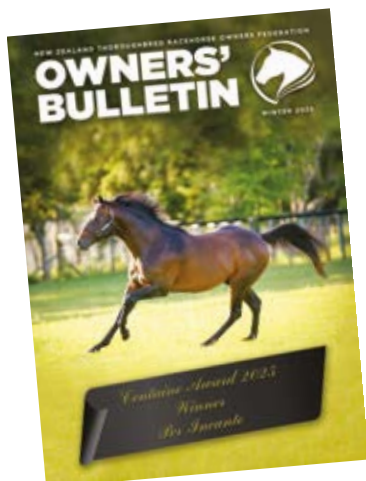
Sally Blyth is a gypsy – with a purpose. If they still stamped passports hers would be over-stamped on all the back pages. There's also the fact that she loves race-meetings and the more pomp and pageantry the better. Armed with a press pass, that I endorsed with alacrity, she spent two glorious days at Ascot. She will take you along for the ride.

These is another story of Ascot from mid last century, the Ascot Stand at dear old Ellerslie where I was sent in disgrace as a lad to work. I have since then had a deep affection for the place.

It's where we will be dressed in our “fines” come 6 September to see our filly run in the Gold Trail stakes. Chasing rainbows again, there's a pot of gold for us at the end we hope!

See you there?

Contact me – [neilandjeanette@yahoo.com](mailto:neilandjeanette@yahoo.com)



### OUR COVER

CENTAINA AWARD 2025  
WINNER  
PER INCANTO



NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED  
**RACEHORSE OWNERS**  
FEDERATION

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# REGIONAL ROUNDUP

## AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Sally Blyth. Auckland Owners Association President

**THE AUCKLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE HAD A SUCCESSFUL OUTING TO CAMBRIDGE STUD HERITAGE CENTRE IN JULY. THANK YOU TO COMMITTEE MEMBER VIRGINIA HEALEY FOR ORGANISING THIS - READ HER OVERVIEW OF OUR TRIP SEPARATELY.**

The outing was organised to coincide with a raceday on the Cambridge Synthetic and those of us who headed there afterwards had a great afternoon of racing. The weather wasn't great and, whilst rain threatened, it held off until the bitter end so we could enjoy our time there without getting drowned or miserable. The latter is somewhat subject to punting success I guess – for some it was financially rewarding, others not so much! Either way it was a heap of fun to round off a happy day.

The Waikato Association were sponsoring a race on the day and we met up with President Jill Lunn and some other Waikato members for a chat. It was great to be able to get up so close to the horses on course, especially those winning and weighing in post-race who were right there in front of us. We could absorb the euphoria of owners, trainers and jockeys in the moment. Midweek synthetic or Saturday big-time, a win is a win and joy is joyful!

Well done to all our members who had a win during the period. Congratulations to Rosemary Carter and Brett Kendall for a fabulous quaddie of wins with Bulgari, Queen Zou, Sneak Peek and Rockin Rosie. Barry Wright and James Chapman are also involved with Bulgari and James also had wins with Clew Bay, Hakushu and Listening – that's another quaddie of wins, good stuff!

Congratulations to Diane Rushworth and Shane Voice with Bella Luce (a horse I've been following, doing good now gone south!).

And hearty congratulations to *Bulletin* Editor Neil Miller and wife Jeanette with a superb Maiden win at Te Aroha on 2 June with Cream Tart. This Hello Youmzain filly, trained by Tony Pike, is going places quickly.

To conclude – I wish all our members well with their horses as the new season gets into stride. And I would encourage you to get along to the Cambridge Stud Heritage Centre if you can, it is truly outstanding. A beautifully curated trip through racing nostalgia, with old footage and items that will get your brain cells ticking, make you chuckle, take your breath away and have you questioning the lapse of time! It's by appointment so get in touch with Jason to organise a visit. 🐾



Cream Tart flies home at Te Aroha on Dally Day

## WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY Jill Lunn

### ROTORUA RACING CLUB

The Rotorua Racing Club put on a splendid day of racing on May 10. The Campbell Infrastructure Rotorua Cup Day, was a brilliant sunny day after the torrential rain on Friday. The night before the race day the Rotorua Racing Club had an evening event that owners were invited to, called Prelude to the Cup. At this event they welcomed Matt Ballesty, NZTR CEO and Jackie Robinson, a cancer patient, with a formal powhiri to welcome them to the whenua. Rotorua Racing Club made a donation to Jackie who is receiving unfunded medication for her cancer treatment.

The Rotorua Racing Club pulled out "all stops" to make this race day highly successful with club volunteers working tirelessly to make things happen on time. They had:

- A punters club with \$10.00 tickets who doubled their money
- A losing ticket draw
- Spot prizes given out through the day
- Best turned-out horse in each race prize.
- A replica small cup for the winner of each race to signify the race was won on Rotorua Cup Day
- Owners, Trainers and Jockeys received a trophy, a horse cover and a bag of goodies in each of the big races.
- 2 hours musical event after the last race.

The Waikato/ BOP Thoroughbred Owners Assn sponsored an engraved trophy of the first race, a maiden race over 1215 metres. The race was won by a 4yo mare Ridgeview Vicky who is part owned by Sheryl Rayner. She is by What's the Story out of Laugh and like many good mares she can be difficult and requires careful handling. Sheryl said, "She's a real tart!." Ridgeview Vicky was bred by Sheryl's dad Ross Nickel and is named after the name of Ross's property 'Ridgeview'. She is trained at Te Aroha by Gavin Opie, the son of our committee member Dale Opie and husband Keith who also shares in the racing ownership. Dale was on hand to see her win and help with the presentation.

The Group Three Rotorua ITM Stakes for fillies and mares over 1400 metres was run on a very heavy track and was won by Sir Peter Vela's Tomodachi. Tomodachi is a 4yo by Tarzino out of the High Chaparral mare Quintessentially. By Race 8 the track was quite churned up and the time of 1:30.46 demonstrated this.

Thoughts: I know we can't do anything about the weather and what happens to the track as a result but I would think this important race with well proven horses in them could be programmed earlier in the day, perhaps Race 1 and 2 for the Cup and the Group 3 Race.

### WAIKATO THOROUGHBRED RACING

Te Rapa racecourse hosted the Signature Homes Jumps Day on Saturday 14 June for Waikato Thoroughbred Racing.

The first race on the card was the Waikato/ BOP Owners Association Hurdle, a maiden jumps race that was sponsored with a trophy by the Owners Assn. The winner was a 4yo gelding called Squire, by Savile Row out of Silk Chardonnay. Squire was bred by Karen and Kevin Fursdon who raced Silk Chardonnay.

In the ownership are Peter and Jessica Brosnan who train him now, and a very enthusiastic group of Matamata folk who were thrilled by this winner over the jumps, C Hooten, M and R King, S and J Owen, D Jones, D Hartridge and J Crabb. Karen and Kevin were not present but the rest of the ownership group were on course and were thrilled to be presented with a mohair rug by Ann Browne on behalf of the Waikato/ BOP Racehorse Owners Assn. Pictured is the happy group with Ann Browne after the presentation.



Squire showed his great hurdling skills again at Te Rapa on 5 July. He was an easy winner of the OTL Group Ltd Hurdle over 2800 metres ridden by Ellie Callwood an apprentice rider from the United Kingdom. Peter and Jessica Brosnan supported Ellie in getting her to NZ to ride with appropriate documentation etc. The group of owners were again thrilled with the win and would like to follow their special horse to Riccarton for the National meeting.

>> CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



## HAWKES BAY Bernard Hickey

**HAWKE'S BAY/POVERTY BAY OWNERS ARE NO BETTER OFF AWAITING NEWS AROUND THE FUTURE OF THE HASTINGS RACETRACK BUT CAN SAY THAT THE REMEDIAL RE-LAYING OF THE TURF ASSOCIATED WITH THE UPCOMING RE-CAMBERING PROJECT IS PLANNED TO COMMENCE LATE AUGUST, EARLY SEPTEMBER. THIS WORK IS IMPERATIVE AND A KEY ASPECT OF GETTING BACK ON TRACK IN MID-2026 IN TIME FOR NEXT YEAR'S HAWKE'S BAY SPRING CARNIVAL.**

The Hawke's Bay/Poverty Bay Breeder's Association held its annual weanling and yearling tour on Sunday 27 July and this event was well attended by local owners who made up 80% of attendees. The event highlighted some twenty-six weanlings. More than seventy people attended the tour which took in four properties being Game Lodge Racing, Wainui Stud (owned by Richard McKenzie), Kelton Stud (various owner/breeders), and Kiwikawa owned by Bridget and Guy Lowry.

To me the standout was an Armory filly bred by local trainer Patrick Campbell. When asked what the future intention was for the filly he was quick to answer, "not for sale!" This striking strongly built filly is out of a four-race winner in Maria Dior. I will be watching with confidence in the next year or so, how this beautiful filly progresses. Other weanlings by Sweynese, Super Easy, Embellish, Profondo, King of Comedy, Ribchester, Dundee, Vanbrugh, Ardrossan, Time Test, Derryn, Santono Aladdin and O'Reilly's Choice were also presented.

The event concluded at Valley d'Vine restaurant at Linden Estate winery, Eskdale with a fine lunch by New Zealand's Choice Awards #1 Wedding venue. Fantastic job done by Greg Miller, Chef, Breeder and Owner.

One owner who accepted my challenge to contact me if they had success in the winner's circle was Garry Trow who shares in the ownership of Stella Success with other family members and trainer Joshua Levelle and Sacha Rennie at Foxton.

Winning at odds of twenty-eight to one over 2200m brought joy to all. The 4-year-old Staphanos mare was having only her fourth start and is bred to stay, with Zabeel blood in her pedigree. Trow's previous success as an owner has been with the Te Akau Racing stables in Matamata.

Other Hawke's Bay owners who have had success in the last three months are included in the back of this Bulletin. If I have missed someone, please do not hesitate to contact me direct via [hickeyb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hickeyb@xtra.co.nz) 📧



**Armory  
Weanling**

## WANGANUI & TARANAKI Bret Field and Brian O'Dea

**Ian Boyland**

**IN JULY WE HAD THE PASSING OF MR RACING, THE ICONIC IAN BOYLAND WHO WAS SECRETARY OF THE WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB FROM 1971 TO 1998. AT THE TIME OF HIS APPOINTMENT, HE WAS THE YOUNGEST SECRETARY IN THE COUNTRY. 'BOYLEY' WAS A WELL-RESPECTED AMBASSADOR AND SERVANT OF THE CLUB WITH 27 YEARS' SERVICE WHO HAD ALSO REPRESENTED THE INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA, ASIA AND AMERICA. HE WAS A PEOPLE PERSON AND HAD MANY STORIES OF THE OLD DAYS AND THE MANY CHARACTERS IN THE GAME.**

He also shared in the ownership of a number of horses, including Young Pirate with great friends, the late Dave MacNab and George Bristol who were both past Wanganui Jockey Club Presidents. Trained by MacNab, he won the 1993 edition of the Listed Duke Of Norfolk Stakes at Flemington in the hands of 10-time Group One-winning jockey, former Sky Racing Channel presenter and now Racing Victoria apprentice jockey coach Alf Matthews.

Young Pirate also placed at Group Three level in the Manawatu Cup and Waikato Guineas, finished fourth in the Listed Geelong Cup and was subsequently unplaced behind Vintage Crop in the Gr.1 Melbourne Cup. R.I.P Mr Racing.

The Wanganui Jockey Club will dedicate a tribute race to Ian at their Guineas meeting on 30 August and officially open "The Ian Boyland Birdcage." There will also be a gathering to scatter his ashes on the track after the last race.

Last quarter there were good wins for our local owners including the 2 winners each for the Lynskey's as well as Carrie Wallis, Linda Green and Sharon Stevens. A couple enjoyed wins with Jerricoop and Silver Salute while the Hackett's had success with Sea the Dream.

Let's look forward to getting out of the mud and back into Spring racing! 📧

## MANAWATU/WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOODVILLE - PAHIATUA RACING CLUB

What a wonderful raceday it was at Woodville in mid-July. There were 3 hurdle races, 2 steeplechase events, 3 highweights' and an Amateur race, all with good numbers of starters, and the track was presented in great order especially given 97.5mm of rain over the previous 7 days.

The course and grandstand were full to overflowing with people. The stars did align. Was it the warm, sunny afternoon, the lack of recent racing on the East Coast, the easy access from Palmerston North over the new fast 2 lane highway, the number of jumping races, the presence of 5 Jumping Legends or the fields containing 2 of our best jumpers that attracted the crowds to the course? Whatever, it was just so good to be part of a full and happy on course crowd.

And the races themselves were stirring contests. The feature hurdle event was the Te Whangai Romneys Hawkes Bay Hurdles taken out by the Gail Temperton part owned and trained Never Look Back from Grand National Hurdle Winners' Happy Star (2022) and Berry The Cash (2023 & 2024)

The Glenanthy Simmentals Stud Hawkes Bay Steeples went to the wire with Smug having just his 2nd run in a steeplechase getting the better of triple Grand National Steeples Winner West Coast who was giving the former 7 kgs. To see the 2 horses and two of our best jumping riders Mathew Gillies and Shaun Fannin going head-to-head in the straight brought a genuine roar from those on course. Smug had been disqualified in sensational circumstances at his previous start when he took the wrong access to the course proper when leaving the Figure 8 track at Trentham so his win was well received. West Coast lost no admirers with his game run and showed that he was on track for another tilt at the Grand National Steeplechase.

The 5 Jumping Legends on display were Chocolate Fish, Kick Back, Kip Keino, Zed Em and Volkswagen. They are all clearly enjoying their careers away from racing.

Thank you to all concerned including the Racing Club, NZTR and the stalwarts promoting Jumps Racing, the licence holders and the horses.

### RACING SUCCESS

Jack Morrison renewed his love affair with the Awapuni polytrack this winter with a hat-trick of wins in late May/June having previously won 3 races in succession during the 2024 winter. The Darci Brahma gelding is raced by his breeder Graeme Martin and is trained at Awapuni by Mark Oulaghan.

Leading Australian trainer Ciaran Maher has won Caulfield Cups, a Cox Plate and a Melbourne Cup, and now has won his first hometown Cup thanks to Don Frampton's Smokin' Romans who triumphed in the 2025 \$300,000 Warrnambool Cup. A rising nine-year-old, Smokin' Romans has now won 11 races and earned more than \$2.3 million in prizemoney, a magnificent return on the \$52,000 purchase at Karaka Book 1 Sales in 2018.

Kosta broke through maidens at his third start, much to the delight of the In To Win High Decree Syndicate managed by Tineke Balcombe. Association members Richard Algar, Alan & Marion Campbell, Sue Croft, Mark & Faye Fearon, Peter Gillespie and Steve Haylock share in the ownership. He is trained by Mike Breslin.

Sinbin won a R75 event at New Plymouth in May and followed that with victory in the North Island Challenge Stakes at Trentham. The Derryn mare is raced by Member Angeline Porter and is trained by Robbie Patterson.

Trained by Matthew Eales Sotirio had 2 wins in succession at Trentham in May/June and has now recorded 5 wins. By Wrote, his owners include Cam Arnott, John Druce, the Fearon's, Graeme McInteer, Estate (late) John Roache and Elaine Vine.

Andy & Carol Fisher's On Alert cleared maidens in June and has been placed again on the Awapuni Synthetic. She is trained by Ilone Kelly.

It should be no surprise that Jerricoop would perform well when he began hurdling as he is in the stable of Harvey Wilson and his jumpers are always well schooled. John and Liz Hancock share in the ownership of the Zed gelding who had a win and 2 seconds in his first 3 jumping assignments.

Benefactor recorded his 5th win in May for Committee members Cam Arnott and Faye & Mark Fearon. Lisa Latta trains him.

Joshua Lavelle and Sacha Rennie train Humza Bey a first up winner at Hawera in the hands of Amber Riddell. The same trainer and rider combination had enjoyed success a few days earlier when Stella Success scored at Waverley.

The Roydon Bergerson trained Bradman has continued to race consistently over winter with 4 minor placings alongside his one win in the Whyte Handicap at Trentham. He certainly does not make it easy for himself with his front running style. He was well clear in the latest running of the "Winter Cup" at Riccarton before running out badly, ending up 3rd, the same position he filled in the 2024 running of this event.

He has now won in excess of \$350k for a local syndicate which includes Bob Wiltshire, Mark & Faye Fearon and the Estate (late) John Roache.

### MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2024/2025 POINTS SERIES

Although the 2 early leaders, Marotiri Molly and Just Charlie, in the 2024/2025 Majestic Horse Floats Points Series, were still in the top 3 at season's end, El Vencedor's surge through February and the beginning of March with 4 wins in succession, including 3 at Group 1 level, had him in front for the last few months. Congratulations to owner/breeder David Price on winning this year's contest.

Majestic Horse Floats are the generous sponsors of this competition for Owners who are members of the Central Districts or Wellington Branches of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association and/or the Manawatu Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association, who are most appreciative of their support.

### MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2024-2025 POINTS SERIES FINAL RESULTS AS AT 31 JULY, 2025

1st .....	40 .....	EL VENCEDOR.....	David Price
2nd.....	39 .....	JUST CHARLIE .....	Roz & Mike Southey
3rd ...	37.5 ...	MAROTIRI MOLLY .....	Christine & Beven Parlato
4th.....	33 .....	MOHI PLACE .....	Libby Bleakley
5th.....	32 .....	CARIGNAN .....	Susan & Allan Fenwick
6th =...	29 .....	IMA BRAZEN ONE .....	Angeline Porter
	29 .....	NEVER LOOK BACK .....	Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander
8th.....	28 .....	SPOT ON TIME .....	Rosy Cooper
9th = ..	27 .....	BEDTIME STORY .....	Tim Gillespie
	27 .....	DUBAI'S POTIKI .....	Tony Bambry




### WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY << CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Cambridge racetrack hosted the Waikato Thoroughbred Racing polytrack racing on Thursday 10 July. While the weather was cold and a bit changeable there was a good turnout of owners to watch their horses perform.

The Waikato/ BOP Thoroughbred Owners Assn sponsored a trophy on a 2000 metre race which was won by La Querida, a 7yo El Hermano mare raced by Juleen and Neil Guilford and trained at Cambridge by Margaret Falconer. She was ridden by the in-

form apprentice Hayley Hassman. Juleen tells the story that she was originally trained by Kevin Gray and personal circumstances intervened so she was put into the paddock for 2 years. "We were going to forget about racing her and one day I said put her back into racing because she's galloping around the paddock. We always thought she was a good horse, her full sister won in Australia a few years back." The rest is history.

A fantastic win for Juleen and Neil. 



## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

HELLO FROM THE MAINLAND.

**AS WE ARE MOVING THROUGH WINTER AND ANOTHER RACING SEASON IS OVER, NATIONAL WEEK IS UPON US, I HOPE EVERYONE HAS HAD A GOOD WEEK.**

A horse with a great change of fortunes as a 7yo is He's Tunza Grunt. After winning only one from twenty-seven (that as a 4yo) one could be forgiven for saying that's enough, but not Diana Goodeve of Waimate. She persevered and with trainer Stephanie Faulkner from the Phar Lap, they reaped four wins for the season. Mostly in the wet, but even on a G4 at Invercargill carrying 60kg, a good effort as he is only a light framed horse normally weighing at 425kg.

His last win for the season was very fitting as it was the Waimate Cup, he had a spell and came back with a bit more weight and was stronger. His fresh up run over 1200m was encouraging, so they thought why not have a go at the Cup since she was a local owner.

He's Tunza Grunt was also bred in Waimate, being a gelding by Pure Champion from Mike and Jimmy Cooney's Willow Glen stud.

The race itself was second up over a mile on a H10 track at Phar Lap raceway. He flopped out of the gates under jockey Brandon May, they stayed there in a good tempo race and were traveling behind them entering the straight. They hooked out with 300m to go and powered down centre track, and even though the favourite veered out under pressure and almost took them out, they got round to win going away. It was a great result for the locals, especially as Diana and her late husband Bob have given so much to the club and racing. (Bob would have been kicking him home). Diana deserves every success and is eagerly awaiting a foal by Ancient Spirit out of her good racemare Papagena.

Another old warhorse flying of late is the now 8yo Zoulander. A stunning looking gelding by Zoustar, he has scored back-to-back on the Poly at Riccarton for Terry and Izzy Proctor. Trained by the Pitman's at Riccarton, he has now won ten times for over \$200k in stakes. His last two were R75 1400m races, and at odds I might add. He was ridden by apprentice Floor Moerman on each occasion and she seemed to get on well with him. Both times sitting in the trail, although the last one they were tardy but booted up to trail. They were briefly held up into the straight, but were able to find a gap three off, and once they hit top gear, found the line in the nick of time to win.

Miss Brittany in recent months has been in a rich vein of form, winning four out of her last five. Raced by Stan Jones and trained at Balcairn by the Parsons, the Sacred Falls mare won a R65, then two R75 and then an Open on the synthetic. She can win on any sort of going, and all her seven career wins have been at 1200m. Her last the Open win, she speared out from a middle gate with Tina Cominaghi aboard. They got to the front but settled in the trail after Spartan came round to lead. Turning for home, there wasn't much room to squeeze through one off. There were four across the track, but she was very brave to poke through and prevail by a head.

Owners and trainers Brian and Lesley Court have had a couple of winners, with War Court winning his third race from twenty one starts at Ashburton. The 5yo War Decree gelding was ridden by Terry Moseley and settled midfield before sweeping up at the turn to hit the front with 200m to go. They had too much in the tank and held all at bay by a length.

Buoyant, that they have an ownership in won on the Poly in an Open 1200m for his eighth career victory. The Dalghar gelding trained by Sabin Kirkland at Ascot Park settled on pace with Nichola Yuen on top. Rolling for home they easily hit the front and won by a comfortable two lengths.

I hope everyone has a great spring and start to the new season. 🍀



## AUCKLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION - VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE STUD HERITAGE CENTRE

*By Virginia Healey, Auckland Association Committee Member*

**AFTER TWO EMAILS INVITING OUR AUCKLAND MEMBERS TO COME ALONG FOR A VISIT TO CAMBRIDGE STUD HERITAGE CENTRE, THERE WAS ONLY MINIMAL INTEREST WHICH WAS DISAPPOINTING. NEVERTHELESS, A GROUP OF THIRTEEN OF US SIGNED UP TO MEET AT THE STUD AT 10am ON THURSDAY 10th JULY. THIS WAS TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE CAMBRIDGE RACES.**

We were warmly welcomed by Cambridge Stud Racing Manager, Jason Smith. Jason initially worked at the Stud between 2007 and 2011, when he was awarded the Irish National Stud Scholarship, sponsored by Trelawney Stud. He worked there for six months, before returning to Cambridge Stud.

He then spent a year at Bradbury Stud in Matamata, followed by a move to Juddmonte Stud in Ireland. Frankel stands at Banstead Manor Stud, part of the Juddmonte Stud operation situated near Newmarket in the UK, and not too far from Cambridge, UK. He stands for a 2025 service fee of £350,000 – not a small figure!

On returning to New Zealand, Jason worked at Te Akau Stud, then spent two years as stable foreman for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman. In 2019, he returned to Cambridge Stud again in his current role as Racing Manager. Lance Noble is the Stud's private trainer, based in Karaka.

A highlight during our visit was seeing one of Sir Tristram's horseshoes, gifted to Jason for his 21st birthday. It's on loan and proudly displayed in one of the cabinets at the Heritage Centre – clearly something very special to him.

We all enjoyed hearing the story of Sir Patrick Hogan and how he developed Cambridge Stud. The Lindsay's have since developed the Heritage Centre into a world-class attraction – a must-see for anyone interested in the racing and breeding industry.

Our group spent around 1.5 hours there and we were completely enthralled. Before we left, many of us visited the merchandise shop, where Jason was kept busy helping us choose from plenty of goodies.

After the tour, we went our separate ways – some heading straight to the races, others off into town or to nearby studs or catching up with friends. Raewyn, our secretary, shared news of our visit with a few local retailers, who were pleasantly surprised to hear about the Heritage Centre. They weren't aware of it and said they would definitely make a point of visiting.

**You can find out more online: Cambridge Stud – History, an enduring legacy and an inspiring vision.**

**<https://www.cambridgestud.co.nz/heritage-center>**

# DAME CATRIONA WILLIAMS DNZM

*Editors Note – Cat and I had a long chat and I said to her just tell me your thoughts on the honour. Here they are!*

## I AM SO HONOURED TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD ESPECIALLY IN THE SAME YEAR AS BRENDAN AND JO LINDSAY WHO WE ADMIRE ENORMOUSLY.

It came out of the blue and I truly feel like the luckiest girl in the world. Even more as Sam and I are surrounded by wonderful family and friends and there's still plenty of goals to seek. The big one: I want to dance with Sam on my own two feet!

If the Damehood can speed up the pathway to a cure for all of us what a great assist.

I'd like to say a special thank you to the person that nominated me and the seconder who agreed that was a good idea.

We found out three weeks before Kings Birthday and I didn't tell anyone not even Sam (they said not to) so it was a fun surprise for him too.

There is nothing easy about a wheelchair and as we mature it gets harder not easier. CatWalk's focus hasn't wavered, we are committed to supporting the very best world-class cutting-edge research that will positively impact the lives of wheelies.

I'm incredibly proud of the CatWalk team. That's the office team, the Board, the Patrons, the Ambassadors, The Volunteers and all the Donors. It's the most incredible group and feels like a family, just their passion and belief in our goal is unwavering.

Like racehorse owners we dream big. We know "its possible," nothing comes from doing nothing!

We celebrated 20 years this year and we know there will be a cure thanks to the ongoing advancements in technology and worldwide research collaboration.

Already there are many people improving after their injury. Some already walking and riding. Look at Maija Vance back riding and running a training yard.

And me 16 years after the accident my brain, and a lot of hard work, has my legs moving. I can walk 150m with a "pacer and saddle" between my legs!

There's determination by all to get those neuro pathways working and experts are coming at that from all angles to find solutions. We know there isn't an easy fix But we all are not deterred!

Lastly can I say that I and CatWalk are incredibly grateful to the Thoroughbred Industry. They are the backbone of our fundraising! We love you for backing us!

*Words by Neil M*



*CatWalk is very excited about what is going on HERE in NZ and globally. The research is happening and happening fast..*

*CatWalk's focus is on becoming a research arm rather than a fundraising group, by the commitment of regular donation – no matter the size we really want your help. We are 18 months into a 5 year fundraising drive for \$10.5 million and we are at just under \$8.5 million. This will mean we can totally concentrate on the research.*

*If you want to have an impact on the world and be a part of making a real impact on people's lives now and every SCI in the future*

*You can back us in a number of ways–*

- *Leave a legacy in your will*
- *Annual "tax rebate" donation*
- *Order copies of the incredible Brian de Lore Book The Horsemakers celebrating the people who have bred the NZ thoroughbred from the very beginning and their delightful stories.*

*Go to [www.Catwalk.org.nz](http://www.Catwalk.org.nz) to order or Contact [Chris@catwalk.org.nz](mailto:Chris@catwalk.org.nz) to pre-order your copy/copies \$120 each/.*

*More than anything we would like to share WHY right now we are so excited so this is a personal invitation from Dame Cat to contact [chris@catwalk.org.nz](mailto:chris@catwalk.org.nz) if you'd like to visit the research centre in Auckland and meet the scientists, hear/see the research*

*We really mean this. You'll be as proud a Kiwi as I am!*

**Catriona Williams DNZM**





## stud chat with Sam

Time and again I'm reminded by how racing can shine light into the darkest moments. The whole team at LA were devastated by the news of Michael Wallace's passing, and while it will only be small solace to parents Jim and Mary and the family, how fitting was it for War Machine to win the Stradbroke.

Thank you to the many who made the time to come to the LA Open Day and see Per Incanto and the new boy, Little Brose. The Wairarapa turned on one of its typical clear, warm autumn days, and we were all entertained and informed by Steve Davis, Cameron Roger and Bevan Sweeney.

When Little Brose arrived at LA

I had to keep reminding myself that he was only a 4-year-old! He had come out of a hard training regime including six months in Hong Kong. The restorative and growth powers of Wairarapa pasture are not to be underestimated. As those of you who came to the open day will have seen, Little Brose has morphed from a teenager, and a very quick one at that, to a man, literally in a couple of months.

Bookings have been strong for both stallions. I understand that six broodmares purchased at the Inglis Chairmans Sale and the Magic Millions Broodmare Sale are bound for the courts of either Per Incanto or Little Brose. Talking of the Magic Millions Sale, I was very happy for local breeder Dave Woodhouse, and the sale of his Group 1 star Belclare for A\$700,000.

Little Brose's female pedigree received a big boost with the outstanding stakes win of Mathaga in Adelaide. You don't expect a Tivaci colt from a Reliable Man mare to be winning stakes races as a 2-year-old, but it goes to show the precocity and speed of Little Brose's female family. Putting those speedy American female lines over the colonial bred stallions have been used so successfully by the big farms in the Hunter Valley and I have every confidence that the superior race performances of these horses translates into their success as stallions.

What a privilege for Per Incanto to win the Centaine award. Savabeel had a mortgage on the award and before him O'Reilly likewise. Here's hoping he can do it again in 25/26! All the reports I'm getting about the preparations of the likes of Jimmysstar, Gringotts and Evaporate are pretty exciting so we think he's in for another big season.

We were delighted with the news that Tabcorp have selected Jimmysstar for the \$20 million Group 1 The Everest. I've felt for some time that his pattern of racing suits the race. It will take a monumental effort to topple the likes of Ka Ying Rising, who of course is out of a Per Incanto mare.

We have booked our tickets to go and as they say, you have to be in to win Seaton Park's Per Incanto colt from the stakes winning mare London Express topped the NZB National Weanling Sale, selling to Newgate Farm in NSW for \$190,000. LA offered the only other Per Incanto in the sale, a filly foal share, and she sold for \$65,000.

Finally, I couldn't go without giving another plug to the Wairarapa. It's a very small catchment breeding wise, but War Machine's Group 1 win was the 6th Group 1 victory in Australia by a Wairarapa bred since February 2022.



**Stu and Rosie McLeod with  
Cat and Sam**

## RIP

We say farewell one of our most loyal owners in Stuart McLeod. Catriona and her sister Kirsty's Dad passed away after contracting bacterial meningitis in Budapest, Hungary.

Husband to the late Maureen McLeod and recently Rosie McLeod. He enjoyed the sport horse world enormously commenting regularly at all the major events including the HOY show. He also bred and raced a number of good racehorses including Group 1 winner Roch 'N' Horse.

First and foremost a farmer but always interested in people and the success of others.

We will miss you Stu.

*Sam*



Horses pass the winning post, from the infield



The racing paparazzi at work



Royal Carriage



Frankel Statue

# ROYAL ASCOT 2025: A DREAM COME TRUE

By Sally Blyth

**EARLY IN THE YEAR, WHEN MY SONS SAID THEY'D SCORED TICKETS TO GLASTONBURY IN JUNE (NOTORIOUSLY DIFFICULT!) I SAID RIGHT, I'LL PLAN TO BE IN THE UK SAME TIME SO WE CAN ALL BE TOGETHER IN LONDON FOR ONCE (ONE SON LIVES THERE). NO MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR ME BUT, HAVING DREAMT OF ATTENDING ROYAL ASCOT FOREVER, THE TIMING WAS RIGHT FOR ME TO TURN DREAM INTO REALITY.**

Firstly, I contacted racing journo Michael Guerin – as a regular attendee over many years I was sure he would have good intel. He did. With a view to writing this article, I applied for a media pass. Not the simplest process, but the Royal Ascot media office staff were helpful and I was duly granted my pass. Pinch me!

Tuesday 17th June, day one of Royal Ascot, is set to be a scorcher. I take the train from Waterloo Station to Ascot (about 50 minutes). I am fortunate to get a seat easily enough before the train fills up. It's standing room only as we head west, a sea of hats compromising space somewhat! So nice to see people all dressed up and raceday ready on a train, especially the men in their three-piece morning suits and top hats. I am positively roasting in a light summer dress and open shoes and have no idea how they are coping in that garb, but they look sharp and they know it. I think it's a case of mind over matter!

It is very hot on arrival at Ascot station and ice-creams are being handed out. Water on sale. Fans in use. Hats have the benefit of being sunshades as well as decorative items.

I have instructions to collect my media pass from a specific gate. I ask a warden for directions and am pointed that way. About half an hour later I realise I've been led on a not-so-merry goose chase and a very long way around to where I need to be. Hot and exhausted I finally find the media tent, which is next to the area where Trainers, Owners and Jockeys check in. I glance into the Trainers' tent; there's a buzz in the air, each hoping for good things. The dapper vibe and high hopes in the Owners' tent are next level; I envy them a tad. I head towards the Jockeys' tent to peer in and see if I can spot James McDonald who is riding here today. Our top jock himself walks out right then, gear in hand, and we almost collide. I say hi and wish him luck. He smiles and I sense a little nervousness. He's a world-class jockey who has ridden here before, indeed won here before, but all the same, it's a big gig and the competition will be fierce for all.

Despite being miffed about being misled up the wrong garden path to get to the media tent, if I hadn't done all that extra walking then I wouldn't have come face-to-face with JMac – the timing was inadvertently perfect!

With my bright pink lanyard safely around my neck I head for my media station. There are a number of media venues around the course and accredited journalists, broadcasters and photographers are allocated a specific base for the duration. I'm assigned the Media Marquee in the infield. Another long walk ensues to get there – down to the main gates, through the tunnel beneath the track (showcasing a wonderful "horsey" art exhibition by local schoolkids), along and around and up past picnic areas. Finally, I am there. The marquee is full of people on laptops and headphones and

earpieces and cords galore. Others have cameras and lenses that are bigger than me. I have no laptop. No big lens. Just me, my notebook, my phone and my enthusiasm! No matter, I know my simple tools will do the trick.

There is one spare spot that I can spy and, once checked in, I sit down, settle in. The marquee is abuzz with a mild dose of fluster and a wild sense of anticipation, everyone in full flight prepping and planning content, doing live feeds and whatnot. They take not one iota of notice of me.

All that walking has made me hungry. There is a cabinet with plenty of food, water and soft drink to help yourself too. No hard stuff though, we're working! The mobile aircon is doing a moderate job in this heat and the door people admit only those with the prized lanyard! It's a privilege to be behind-the-scenes like this.

Shortly, the Royal Procession will get under way. I check where I'm allowed to go with my pink lanyard and venture out to a set of bleachers sited just before the winning post, infield, where photographers with aforesaid big lenses are gathered. It's prime viewing. Everyone is eagerly awaiting King Charles III and, right on time at 2pm, along comes the royal carriage with His Highness and Queen Camilla leading the parade down the centre of the track. There is fanfare and applause, waving and top hat doffing. I'm about as close to the action as you can get!

The horses for the first race make their way to the starting gates and the racing action begins. My vantage point affords me tip-top views of everything. The grandstand is an architectural spectacle, the course itself a triangle shape, and the various enclosures





**The King and Queen arrive**



**Field of Gold wins the St James's Palace Stakes**

packed with excited happy people. There is plenty of good racing in store and the bookies are at the ready.

Today, the Group 2 Coventry Stakes sees the 2YO horses in action. There are three Group 1 races including the Queen Anne Stakes and the King Charles III stakes. The feature race is the St James's Palace Stakes, a Grp1 mile race for 3YO colts. The best milers from Europe compete, with Frankel being a previous winner. Hot favourite Field of Gold, a great-looking grey by Kingman out of Princess De Lune (IRE), wins the race impressively.

Naturally I follow JMac closely on the day. Alas he doesn't ride a winner but has a nice third. Two races have full fields of 20 horses – what a sight to behold from those bleachers as they come romping towards you. The thundering hooves on hallowed turf is music and the horses flying past me at arm's length is visual bliss, even if a bit of a blur. It's not easy to determine who is first past the post as I'm so close, but what a place to be for a racing fan!

The horses trot back to base, the winning horse and jockey remaining proudly on the track for their moment of glory. That moment is captured in pictures by the racing paparazzi with their massive lenses and in words by British broadcaster Rishi Persad. It's all very special to be amongst. I later learn that some of those lenses weigh around 10kg and some photographers are carrying several of them!

I roam between the marquee and the bleachers and venture across the track to get a sense of things grandstand side. Everyone is having a fine time, despite the heat. There's a wonderful sense of occasion and so many fabulous outfits. I discover that the noise a top hat makes when it falls off the head of an overly jovial young man, and lands plop in front of you, is astoundingly loud! A top hat is a robust thing.

After the last race, the grandstand empties quickly and the journalists in the marquee shut up shop until tomorrow. I linger; I want

to absorb my special day to the bitter end. I have a 5-day media pass but I'm not sure I'll make it back as my schedule is pretty tight. I walk across the track alone. The turf is green lusciousness that I can't describe even after it's been pummelled by all those hooves. A tractor is coming down the track towards me to keep it pristine.

I pop into the grandstand, almost deserted by now. I spot the Owners' viewing area and go there. Two staff members tell me it's time to leave the course. This I know, but when I explain that I'm an owner from NZ and I just want to see where owners watch their horses, they smile and nod and allow me to stay a moment. Oh, to be one of those owners!!!!

I walk past the Parade Ring, stop and lean on the rail – it's a beautiful sight even without horses. I am shooed out, virtually the last to leave the course, and walk to the train station – the short way this time! There are girls who have removed their high heels or are holding broken shoes – the myriad of flipflop (jandal) sellers along the way are making a fortune!

Thanks to my lingering, most people are on a train by now that's already far from Ascot so my journey back to Waterloo is reasonably sedate. I spot quite a few girls in flipflops! What a day!

Happily, I do manage to get back to Ascot on the Friday. The vibe is more relaxed and the racing is equally great. There are two Group 1 races, the Commonwealth Cup and the Coronation Stakes for 3YO fillies, today's feature race. Run over a mile, it was first run in 1840 to commemorate the Coronation of Queen Victoria two years previously. It attracts top fillies from Europe as well as America, was promoted to Group 1 level in 1988 and is won this year by roughie Cercene [Australia (GB) – Tschierschen (IRE)]. She gets to the front, is headed, but rallies strongly to win stylishly by ½L.

I spend time near the Parade Ring today and chat to some charming owners. With a winner on day 2 and having enjoyed a nice

and seemingly unexpected second in R2 today at good odds, the euphoria is evident. They've had winners here before but, as we know, the thrill never fades; it just gets better!

After the last race, I am swept along with the throngs heading back to the station; no lingering today. The train ride home is a somewhat unwelcome ordeal. Squished in like sardines, trapped within a swathe of sweaty bodies (plenty with a few too many bevvies on board), it's a case of grin and bear it as one tries to avoid awkward collisions of body parts! Not the ideal way to end such a fantastic day, but we all turn it into a bit of fun. The train ride is over soon enough, but the fabulous memories will remain forever.

It's hard to put the Royal Ascot experience into words – especially the unique behind-the-scenes one like I had – but I hope you get a sense of what it's like to be there. If you ever get the opportunity to go, then just go!

**Ascot Racecourse was founded by Queen Anne in 1711. There has always been a strong bond between monarchs and horse racing and Royal Ascot 2025 marked the 200th anniversary of the First Royal Procession at Ascot Racecourse.**

**Overall, Ryan Moore was the leading jockey at Ascot this year with seven wins. "Retraining of Racehorses" is Britain's official charity for the welfare of horses who have retired from racing. As part of Ascot's commitment to supporting the charity, they pledged to donate £5,000 for every winner that Ryan rode. The charity was therefore the recipient of £35,000.**

**In addition to his third on day 1, JMac had a nice win on day 2 with Crimson Advocate (gutted to miss that) and a third on day 3. Shows why he's world-class!**

**Celebrity trophy presenters over the five days included Anthony Horowitz, Brian O'Driscoll, Nigel Havers, Jerry Hall and Brian Lara.**

# FINALISTS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2024-25 NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

The finalists for the 2024-25 New Zealand Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards – sponsored by Sport Nation, have produced some fascinating matchups, with voters facing the challenge of comparing standout performers across a variety of form lines, particularly in the two-year-old, three-year-old and sprinter-miler categories.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is proud to unveil this year's finalists, including a lineup that reflects the depth, quality and diversity of talent across the industry.

NZTR Chief Executive Officer Matt Ballesty commented on the exciting lineup of finalists.

"This year's finalists represent the very best of New Zealand racing, not only in terms of performance, but also in the professionalism and passion that drive our sport," he said.

"It's been a significant season for New Zealand racing. We delivered our first edition of summer calendar enhancements and progressed several strategic priorities that put racing alongside other major national sporting events in terms of profile and public engagement.

"These Awards give us the chance to recognise the standout performances that have defined the season and acknowledge the people and horses who continue to lift the standard of our sport," Ballesty said.

## 2024-25 WINNERS AND FINALISTS

**Jockeys' Premiership – sponsored by OnTrack**  
Craig Grylls

**Trainers' Premiership – sponsored by Stable Books**  
Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson

**Apprentice Jockeys' Premiership – sponsored by Iron Horse**  
Lily Sutherland

**Owners' Premiership – sponsored by Bello Vida**  
Cambridge Stud

**Newcomer to Training – sponsored by gavelhouse.com**  
Barbara Kennedy

**NZB Filly of the Year** Leica Lucy

**LOVERACING.NZ Award for Contribution to Media, Digital & Content** Aidan Rodley, Andre Neill, Entain Media Branded Video Content Team, Joshua Smith, The Guerin Report, Ziba Creative

**Champion Two-Year-Old – sponsored by Entain Australia & New Zealand** La Dorada, Return To Conquer

**Champion Three-Year-Old – sponsored by TAB New Zealand** Alabama Lass, Captured By Love, Damask Rose, Leica Lucy, Savaglee, Willydoit

**Champion Sprinter-Miler (up to 1600m) – sponsored by Taylor Perry Insurance Consultants** Alabama Lass, Crocetti, El Vencedor, Grail Seeker, Here To Shock, Provence

**Champion Middle-Distance Horse (1601-2200m) – sponsored by Happy Hire** El Vencedor, La Crique, Snazzytavi

**Champion Stayer (2201m and further) – sponsored by Sandfield** Blue Sky At Night, Mehzebeen, Trav, Willydoit, Wolfgang

**Champion Jumper – sponsored by New Zealand Jumps Racing** Berry The Cash, Billy Boy, Jesko, West Coast

**New Zealand Stablehand of the Year – sponsored by Saddlery Warehouse Cambridge & Tauranga**  
**Northern Region:** Stephanie Hyde-Richards (Auridge Racing) **Central Region:** Lucinda Aitken (Sharrock Racing) **Southern Region:** Gee Saejorhor (Champagne Racing Stables)

**Jockey of the Year – sponsored by BcgCrave**  
Craig Grylls, Sam Spratt

**Jumps Jockey of the Year – sponsored by Rothley Recruitment** Shaun Fannin, Portia Matthews, Joshua Parker, Kylan Wiles

**Trainer of the Year – sponsored by Dunstan Horsefeeds** Stephen Marsh, Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott, Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson

**Owner of the Year – sponsored by TAB Racing Club** Denise Bassett and John Elstob, Cambridge Stud, Gerry Harvey, JML Bloodstock, Kim and Peter McKay, The Oaks Stud, Pencarrow Thoroughbreds, Tony Rider, Kelvin and Vanessa Tyler, Waikato Stud

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

A panel of 60 independent voters, with Deloitte overseeing the process, will determine the winners. The Awards ceremony – a black-tie gala – will take place on Sunday 7 September at the GLOBOX Arena, Claudelands Event Centre in Hamilton. Equine category winners will also be considered for the ultimate title the 2024-25 Sport Nation Horse of the Year. Learn more at [nztr.co.nz/awards](https://nztr.co.nz/awards)



NEW ZEALAND  
THOROUGHBRED  
**HORSE  
OF THE YEAR**  
AWARDS 2024-25

**SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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# WAIKATO/ BOP TROPHY RACE WINNERS

The Waikato/ BOP Thoroughbred Owners Assn have been sponsoring maiden races at our tracks with a memento trophy for over 18 months now and have built up quite a little club of those horses that have won this race. We follow these horses and here is a little round up of our winners and what they have done since:

**Mineshaft** – 23 December 2023 at Waikato Thoroughbred Racing, Te Rapa. Mineshaft is trained by Pam Gerard and owned by Ballymore Racing and C.H. McKay. He won the Maiden 1600 and has won two more races since, with 2 seconds, 4 thirds and 1 fourth as well for a total prizemoney of \$74,235. He is by Merchant Navy out of Ruby Queen and was bred by Mrs H and W Bax.

**Black Opium** – 16 March 2024 at Tauranga Racing. Black Opium was bred and owned by our member Margaret Cartwright. She is by Embellish out of Jonquil. She was trained by Lance OSullivan and Andrew Scott at Matamata and was sold to Australia following this win. Margaret has a full sister to Black Opium and we look forward to her starting.

**Queen Zou** – 4 May 2024 at Waikato Thoroughbred Racing, Te Rapa. Queen Zou won the 1400 Maiden and is trained at Cambridge by Stephen Marsh for a syndicate including the Bourbon Lane Partnership, R. Carter, B. Kendall, P. Mitchell and A. Saker. She has had 4 starts since for 2 wins and 1 second winning a total of \$88,170 in prizemoney.

**Super Spirit** – 15 June 2024 at Waikato Thoroughbred Racing, Te Rapa. Super Spirit won the Maiden Steeplechase over 3900 metres, and he is owned by NZTROF member Ray Southey and others. He is trained by Mark Oulaghan at Awapuni and was bred by M.K and P Oulaghan. He is by Super Easy out of Angel Mine and has won a total of \$83,337 in prizemoney in racing on the flat and over the jumps. Since winning this race he has won over a Steeplechase course at Egmont, third at Te Aroha and fourth at Waverley. He was 3rd in the Waikato Hunt Cup again at Te Rapa on 5 July 2025

**Impaired Vision** – 22 June 2024 at Tauranga Racing. Impaired Vision was bred and is owned by our members Julie and Murray Garrett who also train him. He won the Maiden 2100 metres. He has won another race since on a heavy 10 track at Rotorua and a third on a Good 4 track. He is by Rock 'n' Pop out of Vision.

**Gold Currency** – 22 January 2025 at Matamata Racing. Gold Currency won the Maiden 2000 metres for Sandy Schlaepfer and her sister J.A Young. Sandy and her sister bred the Tarzino gelding after buying his mother in foal through Gavelhouse. He is by Tarzino out of Sixpence and won his next start in March this year. He is trained at Cambridge by Shaun Phelan and has won \$56,200 in prizemoney through 2 wins, 2 seconds, 1 third, 1 fourth and 1 fifth.

**Larius Lacus** – 30 March 2025 at Tauranga Racing. Larius Lacus, trained by Donna Logan at Byerley Park, won the Maiden 1400 for C.W. Kwok who bred her as well. She is by Turn Me Loose out of Lamington Vegas.

**Ridgeview Vicky** – 10 May 2025 at Rotorua Racing. Ridgeview Vicky won the Waikato/ BOP Racehorse Owners Maiden 1215 on a heavy 10 track. She is by What's the Story out of Laugh and is owned by Sheryl Rayner and was bred by her late father Ross Nickel. There is also a group of owners involved in her ownership with one being Keith Opie, a well-known racing participant. She is trained by Gavin Opie at Te Aroha.

**Squire** – 14 June 2025 at Te Rapa. The Waikato/BOP Owners Assn Maiden hurdle race was won by Squire, bred by Karen and Kevin Fursdon who still retain a share in him with Jess and Peter Brosnan and a wonderful group of Matamata friends C Hooten, M & R King, S & J Owen, D Jones, and D Hartridge, who were keen to be involved in a jumper. Karen and Kevin were not present on the day as they were overseas, but the rest of the group were celebrating. Squire has since gone on to win his next jumping start, the OTL Group Ltd Hurdle over 2800 metres at Te Rapa on 5 July. The Savile Row gelding is out of good racemare Silk Chardonnay.

**La Querida** – 10 July, Cambridge. The Waikato/BOP Thoroughbred Owners Assn 2000 metres race was won by La Querida, a mare by El Hermano out of Delectica. La Querida is owned by Juleen and Neil Guilford and it was great to present them with the trophy in the winner's circle after the race. It seems La Querida likes racing on the polytrack and Hayley Hassman gave her a great run to come from the back to win easily. 🐾

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# THE ASCOT STAND - BACK IN THE LATE FIFTIES

Neil Miller

**THE AUCKLAND OWNERS WERE ADDRESSED BY PAUL WILCOX THE ATR CEO AND HE TALKED ABOUT THE TRACK AND WHERE ELLERSLIE WOULD GO IN THE FUTURE. HE MENTIONED DEMOLISHING THE STANDS AND I SAID, "THERE'S REAL DEMO' VALUE IN THIS ONE, I HELPED BUILD IT". HE LOOKED RATHER QUIZZICAL AND I THOUGHT I SHOULD EXPLAIN - FOR SAY POSTERITIES SAKE.**

I served a Building Apprenticeship with Fletchers, leaving the farm in '56. I worked on state houses out West Tamaki Rd then onto schools, Kelston Boys, School for the Deaf and Lynfield College. Then I got sent to a job in Grafton, a lunch room at a concrete plant. There was just the foreman and me and he was strange, what is termed bi-polar these days.

We got on well until I pulled a muscle in my shoulder trying to shift a steel beam. I went to an old doctor nearby on Khyber Pass and he gave me two weeks off on compo.

I didn't know the old doctor was the "Compo King" the wharfies went to and "pulled a rort".

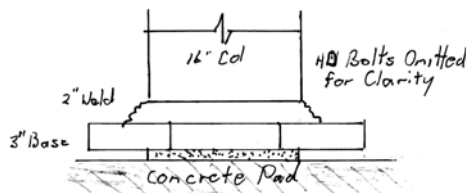
Back on the job the foreman got nasty and called me a "seagull." On a bad day I had had enough and reverted to "Rangiriri survival action". I put him up against the wall and told him, "I would bloody thump him if he didn't get off my back".

I was sent to Ellerslie Racecourse where the steelwork for the Ascot Stand was being erected. The foreman was "Cooky" who had just come out of jail for receiving stolen goods. There was a big team of Boilermakers, Welders and Riggers on site. Scousers, Tyne-siders and Belfast-men and they were rough! Cooky reckoned we got sent there as we were "hard men" that could handle ourselves. I wouldn't have taken any one of them on!

We had one smoko with the "Chooms" and it was worse than Coro' St. Cooky got me some weatherboards, a door and a window and I closed in a lean - to behind the brick (now) office building - that used to be a very tonky tearooms.

But what I was there for was a low-down job. There were the 16 inch columns on 3in thick steel bases set on a mortar bed and concrete pads. The welders had to weld 2in up and 2in out to connect. That created so much heat it stretched the 1 inch holding down bolts and curled the steel bases. My job was to chip out the mortar, so no crack was to be seen with a mirror. There were about 60 columns and when I had cleared a few Sam the Clerk of Works inspected them. I then mixed sand and cement 3:1 and

aluminium powder pretty dry and pounded that in. The powder creates a chemical reaction, heat and expansion.



Cooky did nothing, but he talked to Trainers and Jockeys and the Handicapper Peter Mc' Manemin. We got really good oil from him and my 10 bob each way on tips brought welcome reward. I asked the kindly gent one day how he knew a good bet. He said, you've never heard the expression, "putting their weights up". But there was a twinkle in his eye and I'm sure nothing corrupt was going on.

We watched trackwork in the morning until Sam the Clerk of Works arrived. Yahabebee the crack sprinter was a favourite of mine and I climbed the steel to watch her. One morning in a low fog she came off the 600, you could just see the top of the mare and Grenville Hughes crouched low. A smooth level mass, tail streaming, flying around the rail, what a sight!

Back at work I was below steelworkers who dropped things. One a Scouse named Alec was missing 2 fingers on a hand and one day when I was wheeling a barrow of mortar I heard him yell, "Oonder Beloww" and a steel podger landed between me and the barrow I was pushing. Alec nearly got the Clerk of Works another day and became Tea boy, Pies and Bets at the Ellerslie TAB.

The pads all done Cooky and I were told to set up profiles for the lift shafts. Cooky was scared of heights so I went up on the 5in wide girders and got a bit of height money. We used a big plumb bob on piano wire that hung into a bucket of water.

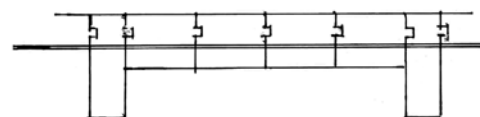
Just before we left to go to another job I went to jump on my bike to ride back to my board at Sandringham, it wasn't there!. I heard the bell tinkle and there was a rigger riding it along a single line of planks on the roof overhang south side the stand, bumping over the laps on the planks. He left my bike up there and I had to climb up and lower it down on a rope.

The Manager was Vic Hill and when I was alerted to a carpenters shed being pulled down I went and had a look. There was a carpenter's bench with a 3 inch thick top all Kauri. It had a wood vice and drawers on one end and on the other a rack for chisels. It sat out in the rain for a week and I asked

Mr Hill if I could have it. He said he would ask his superiors. But when it was taken away and burned, I asked him why. He said it was ARC's policy to "give nothing to anybody"!

Some while later I'm back with a full team and we started the flooring. It was Heart Rimu post tensioned with cables set at 27in centres 5 /4x3 and a 6x3 on edge repeated across. We threaded the rods through the predrilled holes and when we got to the other side the cables were jacked to 10,000lb.

There were flooring ends to be cut off by the apprentices. I did one end (50 feet) with a very sharp handsaw. The old chippies brought a sugar bag to work and took the offcuts home for firewood.



Once we got "closed in" there was boxing up the lift shafts, framing and lining.

I think the 4th floor was offices lined with Mahogany as were the French polished doors. I scored a big room that was to have Rimu panelling and I rated myself after doing a lot of that in schools. I stood all the sheets up and spent an hour or so matching grains before I started. It was lovely when finished! I then panelled the mahogany boardroom - a stripy thing I didn't rate!

The engineers wanted to check the tension on the floor cables and started on the end away from where I was working. They found the timber had shrunk so jacked the cables back up to spec. Bit of a "cock up" because we liked to work behind closed doors and walls that ran transverse got squeezed and jammed the shut doors. Men shouting and banging on doors. They had to pull the hinge pins out and hammer the doors out of the jambs. The doors had to go back to be re-polished then be re-hung.

Whilst I was at Ellerslie an old Grandstand was demolished by Vuksich and Borich. To get the amenities area on the first floor cleared they laid a steel beam at one end and shackled a wire rope to it. An old Dalmation guy supervised us and got us to smash holes in the upstairs exterior wall. We zigzagged across and back smashing holes and dragging the wire rope and then threading it until we busted out at the far end. It got hooked up to a crawler crane and that chugged away, the steel beam rose and the wire rope straightened breaking one stud connection at a time. Eventually the whole first story collapsed and was swept off the floor.

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# RUSTY RAMBLINGS

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

By Sally Blyth



**THE RUSTY MADE ITS WAY THROUGH AUTUMN AND INTO WINTER SMOOTHLY ENOUGH, HOSTING THE REGULAR RACING CREW AND VARIOUS SPORTING CROWDS FOR RUGBY AND LEAGUE AND THE LIKE. THE NEWLY INSTALLED TAB MACHINE HAS BEEN A BIT OF A GAME-CHANGER, MILES BETTER THAN THE OLD CODGER IT REPLACED. HAVING SAID THAT, IT DID KICK UP A FEW EARLY TANTRUMS THAT REQUIRED TAMING.**

Locals gravitate to the Rusty after work for a gratifying pint or two with a side of camaraderie. Happy Hour here is definitely well-named, and takeaways are often the go-to for an easy yummy dinner after a couple of happy hours around the table. Why not, when top notch fish and chips are right there for the taking at the Rusty!?

I'm normally a Saturday afternoon patron but have been a more frequent evening visitor over recent times, such is its appeal. And Missy's arm-twisting! Whenever I'm driving past the Rusty on my way through, I'll make an effort to pop in for a mini dose of racing and a maxi dose of chitchat. It would be rude not to! The boys always ensure there is a barstool at the ready for me.

I'll never forget the night I called in en route for a quick drink and ended up staying longer than intended thanks to good banter and no hard-call for me to be anywhere else. Gradually people left and I was about to head out the door (with the aforesaid best snapper and chips!) when suddenly Carl erupted into a merry dance, arms fist-pumping and waving a ticket around. "I've got the First 4, I've got the First 4," he chanted, eyes wild with excitement. With his white wiry beard, gleeful jig and excited squeals, it was more than a tad Rumpelstiltsken-esque and it alluded to a decent win.

We double checked the race result (somewhere in Australia!), triple checked his ticket (the numbers stacked up) and confirmed that, yes, he had indeed won a chunk of a big First 4! Go Carl. Celebration drinks were deferred until the following evening so the win could be toasted properly by all. A great excuse to return to the Rusty!

Not too long after Carl's big win, it was me doing a similar Rumpelstiltsken dance, leaping about with glee after I got a piece of a worthy First 4. It meant I could head off on a well-earned break to Europe with some \$\$\$ I wasn't banking on. I'm often away travelling as a tour leader or travel companion, taking care of people, but my June/July trip was holiday, to spend precious time with my sons in London (one lives there) and Europe. They took care of me, bliss! Glastonbury music festival was on their schedule; attending Royal Ascot was on mine. We loved our respective events which had been on our radars for some time, but neither are simple to attend from NZ. It's great when dreams do come true! (See pages 10 and 11 for my Royal Ascot write-up).

Horse tales run rife at the Rusty of course and we keep abreast of horses anyone has an interest in. Horrie, 4YO American Pharaoh gelding I have a wee share in (along with a number of other Auckland Association members), ran the day I was leaving for the UK – talk about extra tension! A good third meant I could take to the skies with a smile. He ran again on 6th July at Tauranga, while I was flying home from the northern hemisphere's heatwave. I couldn't watch the race live but, thanks to Emirates wifi, I was able to watch the replay shortly afterwards. He was rolling along easily in front and, having chosen not to check the result first, I was silently cheering him on for a win from my seat in the sky. Then it all went horribly wrong. Horrie hit the running rail and I couldn't believe my eyes. As he lost his momentum the other horses cruised past him. Hard to win with a rail-bang like that and it's a confronting thing to see happen to any horse, especially yours. However, he picked himself up off the deck and finished on with guts. Horse had a bruised stifle; jockey got a holiday – but definitely not of the ilk I'd just enjoyed!

Back at the Rusty, we dissected Horrie's horror run and I was eager to listen to all the local goings-on during my absence. Near or far, there's never a dull moment in what we're all up to, and we're always armed with, and receptive to, a tale or ten – I love coming home to hear and share them!

I'm away in Wales as I write this column (having enjoyed an evening at Chepstow races) and can't be on course for Horrie's next run at Ruakaka – but the plan is to run at Ellerslie on 6th September and I'm looking forward to being there to support our boy who tries so hard!

Meanwhile, Stretch has high hopes for Damask Rose, now with Te Akau Racing's Australian base at Cranbourne in preparation for contesting the \$10m Golden Eagle at Rosehill on 1st November. I gather the flights are already booked in anticipation. Meanwhile, She Means Business (the boys' Circus Maximus filly) waits in the wings. Patience guys, patience! Mine is getting a good workout with our Eminent mare as she matures in preparation for racing

I hope that the next Rusty instalment contains good tales to share as Spring and Summer arrive!

## THE ASCOT STAND - BACK IN THE LATE FIFTIES CONTINUED

Under that was stout 18in x 3in floor joists and the primary beams 26 x 4 massively 26 ft long all heart Kauri. Kauri was in short supply even back then and the good timber could have had the top couple of inches sawn off leaving nail free barks to mill.

It was taken down to the eastern carpark and burned.

Getting back to the present now, the Ascot Stand has value. Much of the steelwork was a bolted kitset but the real value is in the heart rimu flooring. I reckon there was about 85,000 lineal metres in the 4 floors mostly nail free. A million dollars' worth maybe?

So when the time comes to pull the old thing down and whoever the Board is at the time respect this resource or perhaps you will offend the "forest gods" and bad karma may beset you!

**NOTE** – I have stayed mainly in old imperial measurements as that is how I remember them. But an ex 4 x 3 is now an ex 100 x 75mm.



## THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

29 APRIL TO 31 JULY 2025

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MIKE P SHARPE ..... PUKEKOHE  
MATE VLASIC & ROSALEE FITISEMANU ... AUCKLAND

### CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

STUART & MARG VALENTINE ..... AUSTRALIA

### WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

SHERYL RAYNER ..... TE AROHA

# 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 APRIL 2025 TO 31 JUNE 2025

**Stan Alexander** NEVER LOOK BACK, PROCUL BOY, ROYAL FLOWER

**Richard Algar** IMA BRAZEN ONE, KOSTA

**Graeme Allison** MARKET A

**David Archer** CORPS D'ELITE

**Archer Equine** KIRRAWEE

**G C Arnott** BENEFACITOR, SOTIRIO

**Dr's Bill & Helen Bishop** LITTLE BLACK DRESS

**Bryan & Mrs Deirdre Black** CHLOBON

**Phillip Blacktopp** AVORIAZ, EARS BACK, MALFY ROSA, REVERBERATIONS. UGO

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**Sue Bourke** LERADO, STAR BALLOT

**Derek Brook** PRINCESS TERESA

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**Philip & Catherine Brown** LEVAKIA

**Patricia Buckingham** ACAPELAGO

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**W B & Mrs L C de Lautour** DICTATION

**Gavin & Rachael de Ridder** HE'S ALL FABULOUS

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**Tony & Denise Dravitzki** PIPER'S SON

**Max & C Dravitzki** CHARM ZAFARM

**Mr & Mrs J D Druce** SOTIRIO

**Douglas Duncan** JESKO, WAL

**Roland & Phillipa Ellis** LADY GEORGIANA

**Peter & Steph Faulkner** RAGHALLAIGH

**Mark & Faye Fearon** BENEFACITOR, BRADMAN. GET FUNKY, IMA BRAZEN ONE, KOSTA, LEMAITRE, SILVER SALUTE, SOTIRIO, VEE VEE

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