

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



SUMMER 2026



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

SALLY BLYTH

I'M PLEASED TO WRITE MY FIRST *BULLETIN* UPDATE AS NZTROF PRESIDENT, HAVING TAKEN OVER THE HELM FROM BERNARD HICKEY WHO HAS DONE A STERLING JOB NAVIGATING THE FEDERATION THROUGH SOME BUMPY YEARS. HE REMAINS AS OUR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE MEMBERS COUNCIL - INDEED, HE HAS JUST BEEN APPOINTED DEPUTY CHAIR, WITH GEOFF VAZEY AS THE NEW CHAIR. THIS IS WONDERFUL NEWS AND BERNARD WILL CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE, ON OUR BEHALF, FOR OWNERSHIP ISSUES AND HIGH INDUSTRY STANDARDS THROUGH THAT BODY.

We have Bernard to thank for the Recognised Industry Organisations (RIOs) – being Owners, Trainers, Breeders & Jockeys – finally having voice, vote and more visibility within the industry, now that we are formally recognised as members of NZTR in their new Constitution which was adopted at their AGM.

Our Federation also adopted its revised Constitution at our AGM, and our Regional Committees have been busy reviewing and updating their own Constitutions. This has been no mean feat but needed to be done to align with the new Incorporated Societies Act which comes into effect on April 5th 2026. By that time, all associations need to have reregistered. Thanks to all our volunteers who put in time and energy to keep the hooves pounding around the country.

The new NZTR Leadership Team is being proactive in reaching out. Early in the year I had an introductory Zoom meeting with Mitch Lamb, new General Manager – Racing at NZTR. We talked through various matters, and I have every confidence that CEO Matt Ballesty, Mitch and the wider team are on the right track and will take ownership issues into account as they take the industry forward with more transparency and collaboration.

The four RIOs will be having regular meetings going forward to discuss matters of mutual concern and ensure a cohesive approach to any issues that need to be addressed. This is a great initiative and we had our first meeting mid-February.

In the past, things have been a bit piecemeal, but the new structure within NZTROF, along with a more transparent and invitational approach, bodes well for action and results rather than procrastination and uncertainty. We are intent on utilising our voice jointly, strongly, strategically and wisely. Unity within the industry is going to be the best way forward. There is now a more strategic approach towards getting relevant issues raised by the RIOs, with submissions being requested and put forward to the Members Council via our representatives. As mentioned, Bernard will drive this for us within that body.

We keep an eye on all aspects in regard to stakes and made a submission regarding the recent announcement about the additional \$500k stake for NZB Kiwi 2026 contenders when they race as 4YOs. It does limit the number of owners who can benefit and generates concern for Owners. At the same time, we're mindful it attracts wagering which is a vital element of keeping the game alive. We're monitoring things, and will continue to advocate for increased stakes, particularly at the lower end.

The Board also put forward submissions regarding the proposed amendments to the Rules of Racing in respect of the Electronic Device Rule, the Hate Speech Rule and the Judging Rule. Thanks to Waikato branch for raising and formulating these submissions.

We're organising a Federation Planning Workshop for our Board in early March – we'll be focussing on strategic issues, forward planning/funding and ownership matters of priority. We need to be mindful that we stick to our knitting and focus on priority matters of importance to Owners – ones that we can influence positively to enable Ownership growth and overall betterment for Owners.

NZTROF has a few projects on the go and in the pipeline. Project Stamina looks to consolidate a future-focused masterplan for New Zealand's equine racing infrastructure



and we'll be raising the importance of a great ownership experience on course as part of this. There's an Ownership Review in the planning, which is yet to get under way, but we'll be involved when it does. Other reviews include stakes and large syndicates. There's a busy agenda for NZTROF and all the sectors.

Finally, this is the "Year of the Horse" which symbolizes hard work, bravery, resilience, and points to a fast-paced, dynamic year ahead – just what the racing industry needs! This one is specifically tagged the "Fire Horse" year which brings opportunity, fast pivots, reignited passion, increased visibility, courage and direction. Yes please, this is just what Owners – and their horses – are wanting!

Hopefully the Fire Horse's attributes will shine and bring stability, meaningful action and progress to the industry that revolves around this very being. All the best for your racing as the first part of 2026 comes to an end.

NZTROF BOARD MEMBERS

- **Sally Blyth**
President & Auckland/Northland Delegate (Reserve: Lex Paterson)
- **Bernard Hickey**
Hawkes Bay/PB Delegate & Immediate Past President (Reserve: Lee Somervell)
- **Berri Schroder**
Waikato/BOP Delegate (Reserve: Lynne Forsman)
- **Mark Verran**
Manawatu/Wellington Delegate (Reserve: Allan Fenwick)
- **Ian Hackett**
Whanganui/Taranaki Delegate (Reserve: Brian O'Dea)
- **Pete Faulkner**
Central South Island (Reserve: Andrew Trustum)

Sally Blyth

ALONG WITH OUR USUAL CONTENT, THERE A FEW THEMES IN THIS EDITION. WITH A FOCUS ON HORSE WELLBEING, JO STARR SHARES WITH US THE BACKGROUND ABOUT THE HORSE AMBULANCE SERVICE - A GREAT ADDITION TO RACE DAY SAFETY AND WELFARE. LANA KORSTEN TELLS US ABOUT HER REHOMING, RETRAINING AND SCHOOLING OPERATION IN TOKOROA.

On the social side of things, Fionia Ritchie gives us the lowdown on her Raceday Ladies Event at Karaka Sales and you can see a selection of Fashions in the Field from Ellerslie.

Past Bulletin Editor Neil Miller gives us his take on buying and blogging about a racehorse.

Stud farms, stables and breeding feature with LA Stud Chat and the Karaka Sales.

The written word on racing is centre stage as we showcase some fabulous new books. Firstly, a comprehensive review of a new book called *The Horsemakers* by Brian de Lore. A tome worth procuring - with proceeds going to the CatWalk Trust.

Secondly, two limited edition books put out by NZB to mark the 100th National Yearling Sale in NZ, being Karaka 2026. If you spent time there this year, no doubt you had a great experience. If you made a purchase, let's hope there are winning times ahead. We distribute copies of our Owners Bulletin at the Sales and this helps to profile the Federation. Alongside that, our members who are on site always love meeting other owners and sharing stories - another way to spread the word between racehorse lovers.

I'd intended to write about La Crique in this issue - but given her recent retirement, we'll defer that to see where the next few months lead with her. Look out for a feature about her and her owners, the Cassins, in a future edition. How sorry they must be to lose La Crique as a racing proposition, but her career as a broodmare will surely flourish.

I'd like to give a shout out to Auckland Committee member Virginia Healey who has her finger on the pulse across so many parts of racing and breeding and puts me onto some great people with great stories, i.e. Fiona Ritchie. Likewise, thanks to Waikato member Di McGregor who does the same, i.e. Lana Korsten.

If you have a story to share or a lead to provide, please get in touch! Happy reading!

With thanks to Allan Fenwick (Manawatu) and Denise Mayhew (Executive Officer) for assistance with proofing.



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OUR COVER

CREAM TART (BY HELLO YOUHZAIN) WINS A 3YO 1400M RACE AT TRENTHAM ON 26 OCTOBER 2026

Trained by Tony Pike.

Owners: Neil and Jeanette Miller, N Greenhalgh, Magic Bloodstock Racing, Manono No.2 Trust, Norcross Bloodstock Ltd, Pike Racing Ltd, M Smith, K & M Stevens, M Weiner & Mrs E Wells.

Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz



THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES

NEW MEMBERS



1 NOVEMBER 2025 TO 31 JANUARY 2026

- AUCKLAND** JUDY HARRIMAN.....AUCKLAND
CAROLINE BEAUMONT.....KUMEU
- MANAWATU** PAUL RIDLEY-SMITH.....WELLINGTON

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AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Sally Blyth

AUCKLAND BRANCH HELD ITS AGM ON 30 NOVEMBER AT ELLERSLIE.

It was well-attended and business was straight-forward. We adopted our new Constitution and confirmed re-registration. The papers are on the Auckland Association page of the NZTROF website. The AGM was followed by fellowship over nibbles. There's never enough time to talk to everyone or share every racing tale, but we gave it a good crack and it was great to have Neil Miller back in our midst, he's doing well through the hard yards with great family support. Thanks to those Auckland Members who came along, we appreciate the support.

The big race days at Ellerslie saw big crowds and fantastic racing. See page 13 for a selection of photos from Fashions in the Field. Thanks to the team at ATR for supplying these. Karaka Millions night was another cracker.

Happily, plenty of Auckland members have had winners over the summer period. Too many to mention, but here's a selection.

- Rayner & Lynn Bonnington enjoyed Listed race success with Lassified.
- The Fletchers got a Group 1 victory with Romanoff.
- Brett Kendall and Rosemary Carter had Group 2 wins with Swiss Prince and Queen Zou. They also had success with Chahoo, Lady Impending, My Fair Lily, Red Pearl and Sneak Peek.
- James Chapman had a Group 3 win with Ammirati in the Wellington Stakes at Otaki, and then another win in the Listed Gingernuts Salver at Ellerslie, both with Matt Cartwright on board. Also wins with Altari, Another Floozie, Battle Tycoon, Kygo Star, Our Lurrina and Pepeha. A great haul!
- John & Kathryn Long enjoyed a Maiden win with Our Lurrina.
- John Clapham enjoyed two wins with Ploy.
- Carl & Amy Elliott won two races with Out Of The Blue.
- Carl Ferguson got a win with High Roller.
- Brian Wilson had wins with Atlanta Gold and Just A Karin.
- Past *Bulletin* Editor Neil Miller and wife Jeanette cheered home Cream Tart (see cover photo).
- David Paykel got two nice wins with Chilling Out.

Horrie's happy owners got the thrill of the win when he stepped out to get his Maiden - I'm in the ownership with members Bruce Amies & Lyn Salvidge, Richard & Karen Davey, Brenda Gerard, Mike Gething & Pat Woollaston, Virginia Healey, Janice & Heather Volz! There are a number of other owners and for some of them it's their first time in racehorse ownership. We're all having a lot of fun. (See more on page 9 under Rusty Ramblings).

Special mention to Auckland Committee Member Craig Leishman who, after a rather dry period, has had a long string of winners including Champagne Diblu, Get Me An Angel, Princess Elsa, Rebel Creek, The Negotiator, Timbuctoo and Sorghaghtani (two very nice wins at Ellerslie). The icing on the cake was Sharp 'N' Smart coming back to his shining form of old with a gutsy win in the Group 3 Skycity Hamilton Waikato Cup. It was a thrilling race to watch.

This period is an iconic time in New Zealand racing - congratulations to everyone with a winner, whether a prestigious race and/or a well-earned Maiden win. Or somewhere in between.

HAWKES BAY

Bernard Hickey

HASTINGS-TRAINED MAGILL NEARLY PULLED OFF A HUGE UPSET AS THE OUTSIDER IN THIS YEAR'S \$1 MILLION KARAKA MILLIONS 2YO (1200M). TRAINED BY GUY LOWRY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LEAH ZYDENBOS, THE 2YO SON OF FARNAN NEARLY STOLE THE SHOW AT ELLERSLIE BY LEADING NEARLY ALL THE WAY.

In the last 10m Aussie-trained Dream Roca reeled in the front-running Magill who was at odds of \$100-to-one. The horse was bred at Milan Park by Tony Rider, who remains in the ownership along with HB Ownership Assn members Mark and Paul Apatu. Magil has now been put out for a spell and will return to contest the 3YO riches on offer next season.

Sol De Otono, another Rider/Apatu part-owned 5YO mare by sire The Autumn Sun broke through maidens at Wanganui in January after eight previous placings. Again, trained by the Lowry-Zydenbos training partnership, Sol De Otono has followed up her win by finishing third on Waitangi Day. Her dam Savvy Dreams was a handy mare who won twice but was also placed numerous times in group and listed races, notably a third in the Group 1 NZ Oaks to Bonneval. I am sure there is a lot more in store for Sol De Otono in the months to come.

Long time prominent Hawke's Bay Breeders and Owners Graeme and Isobel Roddick, whose property was severely affected during Cyclone Gabrielle, look to have bred another exciting filly in Ultimate Habit, the 3YO daughter of Embellish out of Queens Habit. Trained by Robbie Patterson at New Plymouth, Ultimate Habit was just so dominant in in the 2100m Group 2 Lowland Stakes at Wellington and she now heads to Auckland to contest the New Zealand Oaks as one of the early favourites. Good luck team Roddick and your owners who include B McAree, S O'Leary, G Lennox, G Vanner, B Bradley, B Nonu, A Wilson, M Sorensen, G Nisbett, G Waterhouse, M Benton, J Rasmussen, S Walker, P Hardy & S Hardy.

Other Hawke's Bay Association members who are experiencing a golden run of wins lately are Derek Hill of Napier with wins by Sweet But Psycho, Steve Prenter with Lunaman, who holds a Derby nomination, and Christel Jager who holds a share in the promising 3YO gelding Panther, trained by Lance O'Sullivan and Andrew Scott at Matamata.

I am pleased to inform you that the Hawke's Bay racetrack recambering project has come along very nicely thanks to the pleasant weather conditions that Hastings has experienced. I hear that a decision will soon be announced regarding a proposed return to racing with a six-race meeting planned in late May as a build-up to next season's Spring racing. It is hard to believe that the corner exiting the home the home straight has been raised one metre which is evident in the photos.

Some of you have had success in the last three months and your names 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



WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Jill Lunn

AS I SIT TO WRITE THIS REVIEW I AM BUOYED BY THE FABULOUS RACING WE SAW AT ELLERSLIE ON KARAKA MILLIONS NIGHT ON 24TH JANUARY AND THE FOLLOWING VIBRANT DAYS OF THOROUGHBRED SALES AT KARAKA.

I looked through the winners our owners have had over the last couple of months and am thrilled to see two of our members have shares in Well Written. I think everyone was left amazed at how easily she powered away and won the Karaka Millions 3YO race. It was a privilege to be there and see her show her ability and we look forward to seeing her further progress. More interesting it must be for our member owners Sue Bourke and Stephen Hawkings who are part of the ownership syndicate. Well Written has an impressive resume with five starts for five wins. Trained by Stephen Marsh she won first at Ellerslie on 20 September over 1200m in a Maiden 3YO race. She returned to Ellerslie on 18 October for the Group 2 Windsor Park Soliloquy Stakes over 1400m and won that. Then on 8 November she travelled to Riccarton for the Group 2 1600m Barneswood Farms 1000 Guineas. She won that too. She came back to Ellerslie on 26 December for the 1400m Group 2 Jimmy Schick Shaw's Auckland Guineas and won that, before going on to win the 1600m Karaka Millions 3YO at Ellerslie on 24 January. She has been ridden each time by Matt Cartwright and has won a total of \$1, 415,625.00. We look forward to her racing in the NZB Kiwi.

Huge congratulations to Sue Bourke, Stephen Hawkings, Stephen Marsh and Matt Cartwright. I have heard her being compared to Sunline!

Other outstanding results have occurred for other members and congratulations must go to them all:

- Sue Bourke had another two horses win, Clear Conscience and Vendabelle.
- Stephen Hawkings also had another two horses win, Cosmopolitan and Renovations.
- Joan Egan, our Committee Member, has had five winners over this season, three of which she has bred herself. Her winners were Charlemagne, Heza Sharp One, Oberon, Sibella and To The Max.
- Lynne Forsman, our Chairperson, has had two winners, which her son Andrew trains. Her winners were Lassified and Belle Noire.
- Donald and Debra Fox had three winners – Britannia Gold, Fleeting Star and Sicilian.
- Steve Freeman, who is partner to our wonderful Committee member Phyllis Huitema, had two winners – Glamour Tycoon and Kiwi Skyhawk.


Another horse with many followers is El Vencedor who travelled to Hong Kong to race in April 2025. Since returning from Hong Kong he has had eight starts back in NZ that have included one First and two Seconds. Owner David Price, our member, is very proud of his remarkable horse. El Vencedor was a starter on Saturday 7 February in the \$700,000 Herbie Dyke Stakes at Te Rapa on Legends Day. Wiremu Pinn was engaged to ride him and it was great to see him challenge the Aussie horse Kingswood. Legarto won the race, with Opie Bosson riding – with a 2kg advantage. Legarto won in wonderful fashion, giving Opie his 100th Group 1 win. A remarkable feat by an awe-inspiring mare! Ken Kelso was understandably emotional after the

race as this was his 15th Group 1. EV was a very solid fourth.

David Price has another horse named Serendipitous who is by Darci Brahma out of his mare Run to the Bank which he bred and has syndicated. Serendipitous is trained by Stephanie Faulkner down south and won a Maiden 1200m race at Ashburton in October.

It is great to see these wonderful horses racing at this time of the year, and the stakes on offer ensure we get to see these quality horses. However, I am concerned – as are many other Owners – as to the way stakes are determined. I understand there are many considerations to be taken into account by NZTR as they work through this, including the requirements of the pattern committee. The Waikato Committee drafted a submission to NZTR on behalf of Owners and input from other regions was built into it. We have also written a submission about winter stakes to NZTR and were told it would be taken into consideration as they look at the stakes overall. The Waikato/BOP branch of NZTROF is very focussed on making things better for owners to try and encourage more owners into racing.

My family is only a very small breeding and racing business but I can say that with two of our current racehorses we have brought four previously non-racing people into the ownership and, with the latest lease, we have three new-to-racing ownership people in the syndicate. How many new people are you bringing into the sport? It is up to each of us to try and increase the people involved in this sport we love so much.

Congratulations and happy racing to each of you. 


WHANGANUI & TARANAKI

Bret Field

WELL, I'M NOT SURE IF WE COULD CALL IT SUMMER RACING, WITH MOST OF US WONDERING WHEN SUMMER WAS COMING OR IF IT HAD ALREADY BEEN AND GONE IN WHAT SEEMED LIKE AN ENDLESS SPRING WITH SO MUCH RAIN AND WIND AROUND THE COUNTRY. FORTUNATELY, THOUGH, WE'VE SEEN SOME GREAT RACING WITHOUT TOO MANY DISRUPTIONS DESPITE THE CHALLENGES FOR TRACK MANAGERS.

Prominent Whanganui owner Stephen Gudsell started the new year in great fashion with two winners on the same card at Tauherenikau, namely She's Wondering and Inchigeelagh Lass. Special congratulations to Letham Stud's Nigel & Adaire Auret with a string of winners in Leica Pearl, Leica Ripa, Not So Unusual and Unusual Invader over the last few months. Also enjoying such success with four winners were Sharon Stevens and Carrie Wallis which is a fantastic achievement. It was also great to see 4 other members from our Whanganui-Taranaki region celebrating with two winners over this period.

Claire & Warren Bolton must be the envy of us all with their involvement in the outstanding filly Well Written who has already forged an incredible record including two Group 2 wins & a Group 1 since October 2025. Most recently we must have all admired the chestnut filly's amazing victory in the listed TAB Karaka Millions 3YO which has already projected her to superstar status.

Let's hope the good weather finally kicks in and we all get to enjoy some more quality racing on good tracks in fine conditions over the next couple of months! 

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

RACING SUCCESS

Marotiri Molly has quickly regained her consistent form this season with an Open Handicap success at Tauherenikau and close seconds in the Group 2 Manawatu Challenge Stakes and Thorndon Mile. Beven & Christine Parlato's pride and joy has now earned just on \$400k.

A number of members, including Cam Arnott, Alan & Marion Campbell and Steve Haylock, share in the ownership of Call A Friend who recorded wins in November and December. Although unsuccessful in the Wellington Cup they were no doubt thrilled to have a runner in the event. She was syndicated by InToWin and is trained by Mike Breslin.

The Graces' Savabeel mare Hinekaha recorded 3 wins in succession in the October to December period including the Group 2 Cal Isuzu Stakes and then ran a gallant second in the Group 3 Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic on Karaka Millions Day. She has earned over \$400k from just 11 starts and is trained by Andrew Forsman.

Committee stalwart Elaine Vine would have been thrilled when Riomosa finally broke through maidens at Otaki recently. Although success had come at his 16th start, the home bred Alamosa gelding had finished in the first five on 8 occasions. He is trained by Geoff Haigh.

Douglas Duncan has a share in the Te Akau trained Insatiable who has been a model of consistency with a win and four minor placings from eight starts this season. The All Too Hard gelding has now won five races. Douglas also enjoyed success with Kawakawa at Tauherenikau.

Abbakiss recorded win number two at Waverley in November for Wayne Kitching and trainer Bryce Newman. The same combination also scored with Lets All Boogie at Woodville.

Since returning from Sydney, Anderson Bridge has quickly captured his form with two wins and an unlucky 5th, all at Trentham. The Savabeel gelding had previously earned over \$100k from the stable of Chris Waller. He is now in the Gray stable. Member Graeme McInteer shares in the ownership of Anderson Bridge.

Members Noel Buckman and Mark Fearon are in the ownership of the lightly tried Lisa Latta trained Pinafore, winner of the two-year-old event at Tauherenikau on Waitangi Day.

Debra Masters and Milton Passey enjoyed the win of Knickerless at Trentham. This was the fourth win for the mare, who is also trained by Lisa Latta.

Another winner on Waitangi Day was the Managh family's home bred Per Incanto gelding Gohugo who triumphed in the Life Members Jubilee Cup. He is in the stable of Guy Lowry and Leah Zydenbos.

ASSOCIATION AGM

The Association's AGM was held at Awapuni on 19 November.

Annual Report

In his Annual Report President Mark Verran commented on several matters and said it was a concern that two of the three premier venues in the Central Districts were out of action because of issues with their tracks. It was fortunate that the Woodville and Waipukurau courses had not been closed, as suggested by NZTR, as they were now providing racing and trial facilities.

The 2025 Jumping Season had gone off without a hitch, again supported in the CD by the Woodville track. This racing activity was another aspect of the industry that the committee was steadfastly supportive of.



Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

Owners, their families and the support crew with winner Hard Roca at Taupo

The Chairman thanked Foxton Racing Club for making their rooms available for Committee meetings and the Committee members for their attendance, input and support over the past season. He said he was proud of this group for the passion and commitment that they all show the industry.

Guest Speaker

The guest speaker was trainer Stephen Gray who spoke about his career as a trainer in Singapore where he finished with 920 winners. Mr Gray said he was very disappointed that racing had ceased in Singapore and felt there were issues for other racing jurisdictions to take note of.

Having returned to training near Palmerston North Mr Gray said the issues with the Awapuni course proper were a concern, especially the added costs for owners and the lack of racing for local racegoers. He also suggested that there should be more promotion around racedays on the Awapuni synthetic track, including some races having higher stakes.

Officers

The following were elected unopposed for 2025/2026 –

President – M Verran

Vice President – M Collinson

Committee – S Alexander, C Arnott, T Bambry, J M Creaven, M Fearon, C Kupa, T Latimer, D Madden, P & B Tennant, K Tod and E Vine

Hard Roca is leading this year's Points Series – which is generously sponsored by Majestic Horse Floats – at just over the halfway mark, but there is a strong chasing pack. With nearly six months to go there is still plenty of time for this to change.

2025 / 2026 MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS POINTS SERIES LEADERS AS AT FEBRUARY 8TH 2026

POSITION	POINTS	HORSE	NOMINATOR
1st.....	22	HARD ROCA.....	Tim Gillespie / Matt & Logan Fenwick
2nd =.....	20	BUNDY.....	Allan & Susan Fenwick
	20	THE DIVINER.....	Libby Bleakley
4th =.....	19	INSATIABLE.....	Douglas Duncan
	19	JUST CHARLIE.....	Mike & Roz Southey
	19	MAROTIRI MOLLY.....	Beven & Christine Parlato
	19	RIOMOSA.....	Elaine Vine
8th =.....	18	EL VENCEDOR.....	David Price
	18	TOLSTOY.....	Erin Connors
10th =.....	16	BOLD BELLE.....	Angeline Porter
	16	OPAWA JACK.....	Chrissy Bambry
	16	ROYAL FLOWER.....	Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander
13th =.....	14	KIDS GOT GEARS.....	Libby Bleakley
	14	SPOT ON TIME.....	Rosy Cooper
	14	YOLO.....	Philippa & Sam Trotter
16th =.....	13	COMPLEX.....	Alice Hood
	13	FLEETING GLYMPSE.....	Dame Lowell Goddard
18th =.....	12	PARTY ROCKING.....	Tim Gillespie
	12	PINAFORE.....	Noel Buckman

Reminder it is not too late to enter, but remember, points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. Entry is free.

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

HELLO FROM THE MAINLAND... I HOPE EVERYONE HAS GOT THROUGH THE BUSY CHRISTMAS PERIOD OF RACING WITH SOME SUCCESS. HERE WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR SUMMER, WITH A LOT OF THE RACING DONE OVER THIS PERIOD ON WETTER TRACKS THAN NORMAL.

Having a successful time at the moment is Aaron Tapper of Clearview Park Stud in Timaru with three horses winning with three different trainers. First it was Snow Brainer, a 4YO Jon Snow gelding, which Aaron stands at Clearview Park. It was at Wingatui where he cleared maidens at the sixth attempt for trainer Kelvin Tyler at Riverton. Racing over 1200m on a Heavy 9, Jockey Donovan Cooper settled him midfield but wide, and he just kept him in rhythm and was challenging into the straight. After working hard three-wide without cover, he was entitled to labour up the straight but found the line the best. It was a nervous wait as leader Dracarys was called in first but Snow Brainer had got there.

It was only two days later that another maiden stepped to the next grade when winning at Ashburton. Thunderfist, also by Jon Snow, is a 5YO gelding trained by Aaron's father Bruce at Phar Lap Raceway. Another 1200m affair, this time on a Good 3 and jumping from barrier 4 as well. Slow to begin, with Cory Campbell aboard, they bided their time at the back of the field before starting a run before the turn. They were spotting the leaders a good start and came home in 33.55 up the inside to nail Queen of Sheba on the line.

Last but not least, Miss Miranda won her fifth from only 18 starts at Ascot Park in December. She's a 6YO mare by Time Test and trained at Phar Lap as well by Len and Lacy Stewart. She won a trial there before lining up in the Open 1200m on a Soft 6 track. Gosen Jogoo set her alight from gate 5 and led at a good clip. They had them all chasing. Rounding the turn she kicked and was just able to hold off the fast finishing Henry Hubber at the line. Now with earnings of over \$100,000 I don't think the victories are finished yet. Keep up the good work with the racing and breeding Aaron.

A very good race mare who hails from down South is Tomasina, raced by Stan Jones in the well-known red and white quarters and blue-sleeved colours. She is a 5YO by Darci Brahma out of the good mare Miss Alice. Trained by Sabin Kirkland at Ascot Park, she lined up at Gore just before Christmas in the Tapanui Cup, an Open 1335m on a Soft 7 track. She landed midfield and wide with Terry Moseley aboard. A good tempo was set up in front as they advanced forward to sit outside the leaders on the point of the turn. Henry Hubber then put the pressure on out four wide and Tomasina went with it and still had plenty in the tank to score easily by 4 lengths. She has since run 3rd in the Listed Timaru Stakes at Riccarton. Tomasina has now won five races from 29 starts for earnings of \$116,000. I'm sure we'll see her in the Winner's Circle a few more times yet.

One start, one win is something not too many can claim, but 3YO Redwood gelding Staggs did just that. Bred and raced by Stuart and Marg Valentine, and trained by Terri Rae at Riccarton, Staggs had plenty of education with five trials. Onto Timaru. Start one over 1200m on a Good 4, he started favourite after winning the last two of his trials. Jumping from gate 7, Staggs knuckled on exiting the gates but was quickly into gear to lead comfortably. He stayed in front and it ended up being a two-horse war with Nunya to the line, with Staggs holding a head advantage at the business end.

Other owners to have considerable success in this period are Lance and Christine Robinson who have had wins with six separate horses. They include Avoriaz, Elusive Impact, Flipper, Miss Emerald, Red Label and Rollins.

Phil Blacktop has achieved the same result with six winners... Avoriaz, Champagne Diblu, Luna Capella, Schar, Goddess and Winexpress.

Great results all around.

We will be starting another Point Series with the winter Racing coming up so CSI members, do keep an eye out in your email for this.

Good luck to everyone Racing in the upcoming summer/autumn period. 🍷



'Racehorse Ladies' at the Sales

KARAKA SALES: RACEHORSE LADIES GO BEHIND THE SCENES

FIONA RITCHIE IS THE FOUNDER OF "I BOUGHT A RACEHORSE NZ" AND "RACEHORSE LADIES' DRINKS" EVENTS. SHE SHARES WITH US HER STORY OF A LADIES' DAY OUT AT THE KARAKA SALES.

Twenty-seven ladies braved the blustery conditions to attend the 3rd Racehorse Ladies' Drinks' event on our "Behind the Scenes at the Karaka Yearling sales tour"!

We gathered in the NZTR marquee, where we received our LOVERACING.NZ pack, and met our Tour Host, Catlyn Calder, NZTR's Head of Thoroughbred Welfare. Soon we walked past the Indoor Parade Ring, and slipped behind the fences separating the barns from the public sales areas, to reach Rich Hill Stud's barn.

Here we met Karl Mihaljevich, Rich Hill Stud's Communications Manager. Karl told us about the value of Stallion lineage and how it rises as a Stallion's progeny starts winning races. He explained it took over 2½ years between having your mare serviced by the Stallion and your yearling being ready for the sales. Hopefully, by this time, your Stallion's progeny has won some major Black Type races, increasing the value of your yearling. We were treated to a parade by a gorgeous yearling filly, Proisir x Tennessee Girl. Several ladies were in raptures about her. Karl explained that the filly had already been paraded several times that day, and was due in the Book 2 Sales ring the next day.

Walking down the wide lawns, past various Studs' hospitality tents, we arrived at Westbury Stud. Here we were highly privileged to be addressed by Westbury Stud General Manager, and NZTR Chairman Russell Warwick. Russell outlined the timeline and process for breeding, from foaling through to weaning and, ultimately, yearling preparation. He also outlined the costs along the way. Meanwhile,

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YOU BOUGHT INTO A YEARLING: GO ON – TAKE YOUR FRIENDS FOR A RIDE

By Neil Miller

RACING FIRST CAME FROM A BACKWARD PLACE WHERE THERE WAS NOT MUCH TO DO. FOLK MAYBE RODE THEIR HORSE TO THE VERY EARLY RACES, AND THE BRAVE ONES RACED THEM. PEOPLE JUST KNEW ABOUT THEIR MAIN FORM OF TRANSPORT – THE HORSE. THAT IS NOT SO NOW AS THERE IS SO MUCH TO DO AND CARS ALLOW US TO RANGE FAR AND WIDE.

I was brought up on a farm and we had a horse that lived in the bull paddock. He was a half draft, not a riding horse, and visitors all wanted to see him. We tried to steer them away as said horse would, when you got near, turn and express an ill wind loudly. Red faces and suppressed giggles from us kids.

I retired around '06 and wanted some "rainbows" to chase so I checked up on what the McKees had bought at the Karaka sales. There was a filly that I liked the breeding of, and she was available, so I bought "a leg."

Family and friends were interested in my strange behaviour – but I doubt they were surprised. I emailed them photos of the darling yearling and said if they were interested in the filly's happenings I could write a little blog.

I was asked to name the filly as I was the virgin owner in the group. I chose Boundless. Her stable name became Boundy so the little blog became *The Boundy Fan Club*.

Boundy went to the breakers a sweet thing and came back to the stable with a serious "push back" attitude. Our Manager, TJ, said, "good fillies are like good women, they have to be able to bloody push and shove."

I quickly found that stables are very busy places – they don't need you around and they certainly don't need your advice. At our first meeting the Trainer asked me what my trade was and when I said builder he said, 'Neil, I'm never going to tell you how to hang a door.'

I firmly believe that all Owners have a duty of care for their horse so I would see Boundy about every three weeks when in the stable. I found that Friday afternoon before the feed buckets went out worked best. Go and look – speak to the workers, pat the horse but don't hang around. Leave!

Then came trials. Boundy won in the fastest time of the day at Paeroa and her fan club – the BFC – was told she is surely a goer.

Off to the races. The filly knows not what she is doing but then, back at Paeroa, came the first win – along with enrichment to me and the clubbers that bet on her.

Now the Boundy Fan Club is expanding with more people joining and emails being forwarded by members.

There was an elderly in-law in a New Plymouth rest home and the BFC email went up on the notice board. We had the rest home on board on race days. The bets went over to the TAB straight after breakfast, so Boundy invariably opened up favourite on the tote.

My late sister Ruth was very well-connected with the Catholic hierarchy in Auckland, so the BFC emails went up on the boards at a rest home for the religious in Ponsonby. A lot of the old priests and brothers were Irish and they love racing. Now we had God's folk punting on the B – what could go wrong? OMG!!

The B won the NZ Oaks, just missed the Ossie Oaks win, and took us to both the Caulfield and Melbourne Cups, but God wasn't paying attention then – maybe he/she was on an ecclesiastical holiday.

Woven through the BFC emails were stories of a seriously hard-nosed mare and her attitudes to being saddled and handled, not to mention her racetrack behaviour. She could bloody push and shove in spades.

The Boundy Fan Club wrapped up when a second tendon injury brought about her retirement and sale in Sydney. Those who punted on her every start, win and place, would have more than doubled their money.

I like to write and think I order my thoughts better on paper than speaking.

I think it's easy if you go plain words, and short sentences, to avoid boring people.

You've got to remember it's mainly about the horse and racing, not you. So don't "toot your horn" too loud.

Nearly last thing – I would, from time to time in my blog, impress that if recipients wanted to "unsubscribe" that was totally ok with me.

So go on, start it off small with short reports and photos. If your horse is struggling to succeed, I have found it's not possible to sustain a blog and I let it go with the proviso that, if results improve, I'll be back.

Best of luck!



KARAKA SALES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

his Westbury Stud paraded a very exciting young colt, Ardrossan x Caramella. Next the rain came sheeting across. While our group kept dry under the verandah, the colt, being made to stand in the rain, naturally got a little restless. It's a testament to the colt's balanced temperament that his lady handler was able to keep him well in hand. I later heard this handsome colt had caught the eye of Queensland's KPW Bloodstock, who the next day won him with their \$320,000 bid.

Russell was joined by Bruce Sherwin, NZTR's Chief Handicapper and formerly one of New Zealand's top-rated Bloodstock Agents. Bruce outlined the desirable physical attributes to look for in a yearling, answering specific questions about confirmation. He also added his thoughts about the importance of temperament. Bruce said that if a horse was unmanageable at the sales, there was a risk of it being overexcited at the races and expending its energy before the starting gates even opened.

By this time, 45 minutes had flown by and we returned to the NZTR marquee for light refreshments. Many of us "compared notes" and

firmed up new friendships before going up to watch the sales, or stopping for a drink and chat in the Garden Bar.

Thank you to Sarah Howard, NZTR's Events Lead, who accommodated our tour group and made initial enquiries while on her annual leave. Thank you to Catlyn Calder (NZTR), Karl Mihaljevich (Rich Hill Stud), Russell Warwick (Westbury Stud & NZTR) and Bruce Sherwin (NZTR).

Racehorse Ladies' Drinks events are open to any lady interested in racing. To be advised of future events, become a friend on <https://www.facebook.com/iboughtaracehorsenz/> or phone Fiona on 0210 229 7102.

After purchasing syndicate shares in two fillies, Fiona started her I bought a Racehorse NZ Facebook page to make racing more social and to learn more by connecting with other owners, trainers and people in the racing industry. This led to her organising Racehorse Ladies' Drinks events and starting a Racehorse Ladies' Raceday Catchup chat group on Messenger.





Stud chat with Sam

The Sales season kicked off well with the NZB National Yearling Sale a huge success. It was a lot of fun for us all with our new building which we share with Milan Park. It enabled us to share plenty of champagne as our yearlings moved on to their next stage with new owners and excited trainers.

Our good friends Royston and Catriona Murphy offered three youngsters on our behalf through their Sledmere Stud draft at Inglis Classic and included Lot 550 a very good Ardrossan filly out of Urban Royal that sold for \$130k. She was a ripping sort and is a half-sister to Per Incanto's talented son Rue De Royale who is doing such a good job for Tony and Calvin McEvoy. Lot 122, a classy Profondo colt out of Lady Muskwa made \$170k. He is out of a Per Incanto mare who is a half-sister to stakes performer Miss Madison. Our third yearling sold at Inglis Classic was Lot 246 related to the family of the outstanding Group 1-winning sprinter I Wish I Win and sold for \$300k for owner Ben Kwok and purchased by the HKJC.

Under our own banner, we will be represented by three yearlings at the Australian Easter Yearling Sale on March

29 and 30. They include Lot 385 who is a son of Per Incanto and Lancashire Lass. The dam is a half-sister by Encosta De Lago to three-time Hong Kong Horse of the Year Golden Sixty, a 10-time Group 1 winner over there, so he's sure to attract plenty of attention.

Lot 354 is a Per Incanto filly out of Invincible Nature, an I Am Invincible half-sister to Group winners Addictive Nature and Savvy Nature with the G1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas winner Captured by Love also on her pedigree page.

Our Proisir filly will be first through the ring as Lot 32 and she's the first foal of the stakes winning Per Incanto mare Pure Incanto from our potent Sound Lover family.

On the racing front, we are excited by the prospects across the Tasman of LA homebred Sugar Schnapps who has just run a close second at her first start in Australia. The Per Incanto mare carried our colours here in two appearances from the Hastings stable of Guy Lowry and Leah Zydenbos and made quite an impression. She's with the Lindsay Park team and is a daughter of stud stalwart Per Incanto and the Pins mare Shandream, a talented performer who won on eight occasions including an edition of the Listed Counties Bowl and placed at Group 3 level in the Eagle Technology Stakes.

Another galloper we have black type hopes for is Luna Capella, a Tivaci filly owned by the farm and leased to clients of our friend and trainer Anna Furlong. Luna Capella made the perfect start to her career with a debut victory at Timaru and followed up with an age group success at Wingatui.

She is the first foal of the Shooting To Win mare Keke Star whose dam Kekova won twice at Listed level and is a half-sister to Towkay's stakes winning daughter and two-time Group 1 placegetter Rapid Kay.

Another half-sister, Geordie Girl, has achieved breeding fame by producing four-time top-flight winner Legarto, a champion filly and middle-distance performer.

Congratulations also to the team at Fairdale Stud who bred and sold emerging Hong Kong xgalloper Cool Boy through Hallmark Stud's draft at the 2024 New Zealand Bloodstock Yearling Sale for \$220,000. The son of Per Incanto has now collected a brace of wins and a placing in three appearances from expatriate Kiwi trainer Jamie Richards' stable. A half-brother to dual Group 2 winner Brando, he was secured by Richards and Andrew Williams Bloodstock at Karaka.

Sam

SUMMER 2026

RUSTY RAMBLINGS

By Sally Blyth



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

SATURDAYS ARE ALWAYS BUSY IN MATAKANA OVER SUMMER ALTHOUGH THE SHABBY WEATHER IN THE FIRST PART OF JANUARY MEANT HOLIDAY MONTH WAS PROBABLY A BIT LESS BUSY THAN USUAL. THE RUSTY IS ALWAYS A PLEASANT PLACE TO BE, REGARDLESS OF THE WEATHER - WATCHING RACING TOGETHER OVER A PINT WITH AN ETERNAL DOSE OF MERRIMENT IS ONE OF SUMMER'S PLEASURES. ESPECIALLY AFTER A MORNING SWIM!

In my last Rusty Ramblings column I ended with a note of hope that I could report some Rusty Crew horse success in this edition – and, yes I can!

Horrie – a horse I have a wee share in, along with a number of Auckland Members and newbie Owners – lined up in a Maiden race at Te Aroha on 3 January. By American Pharaoh out of the good mare Contessa

Vanessa, this was start number 13. Lucky for some we hoped! Conditions were about as wintery as you can get and the fields were decimated with scratchings. Horrie had decent lead-up form and can handle the wet so the camp had a measure of confidence. He jumped well from his handy barrier draw and went quickly to the lead. He gave it his all, there was enough juice in the tank and he won by 3L. Despite the atrocious weather, Horrie had a good support crew of enthusiastic owners on course to welcome him to the winner's stall and enjoy the celebrations. He ran again 31 January but was down the track. Our good boy is now enjoying a wee spell.

There's Rusty interest in a few Te Akau horses. Firstly, 6YO Te Akau grey mare Zantabulous who also ran at Te Aroha on 3 January. It was a field of only four, but she won by 4.5L. She stepped out again on 14 February, running second in a handy six-horse field. Alas, small fields in big races for high stakes are not uncommon

these days due to weather issues or lack of nominations. Yes, your horse has more of a winning show, but it's far from ideal. There's nothing like a win in a capacity field.

Also on 3 February, down at Trentham where conditions were better, La Dorada won the Group 2 Levin Classic and then ran third in the Karaka Millions 3YO on 24 January. She has been confirmed as "The People's Horse" for the NZB Kiwi 2026.

Other Te Akau winners with Rusty connections to win over recent months include To Bravery Born (13 December at Te Rapa), El Viento (19 December at Matamata & 31 December at New Plymouth), and Egyptian Queen (7 February at Te Rapa).

Meanwhile, the boys wait patiently for She Means Business to get to the track and do her business. So does Fiona Ritchie who wrote our story on page 7 – she also has a wee share. Maybe next time I can report on SMB's debut!

LK SPORTHORSES: THOROUGHBRED RETRAINING, REHOMING, SCHOOLING

By Sally Blyth

LANA KORSTEN GREW UP WITH HORSES AND PONY CLUB, RIDING A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT PONIES/HORSES INCLUDING THOROUGHBREDS AND STANDARDBREDS. SHE IS AN ACCREDITED NZTR ACKNOWLEDGED RETRAINER WHO OWNS AND RUNS LK SPORTHORSES, BASED IN TOKOROA, WHERE SHE RETRAINS AND REHOMES HORSES. SHE ALSO PROVIDES SCHOOLING FOR RACEHORSES, OFFERING FRESHEN-UP WORK DURING THEIR RACING PREPARATION, WITH A STRONG FOCUS ON FLATWORK AS WELL AS HACKING, HILL WORK AND JUMPING. SHE HAS TWO YOUNG HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS IN TO HELP HER FOR THREE DAYS AS PART OF THE LOCAL GATEWAY PROGRAMME.

In addition, Lana is a qualified “equine bodyworker”, addressing various niggles to support a horse’s rehabilitation back into work, with beneficial results.

Lana still does eventing herself up to 2* level, with a small team, producing thoroughbred eventers alongside her own team of horses.

REHOMING

When a horse has finished its racing career, Lana assists with the rehoming process. She has rehomed around 250 horses over the last six or so years; that’s an impressive 40 per year. Most horses go on to become all-rounders – hacking, jumping, shows etc. Some become paddock mates. Others go on to an eventing career for high-level riders who perhaps can’t afford the high-cost equestrian horses or who love a thoroughbred. Although not all thoroughbreds are suitable for eventing, with the right type of work, some go on to be excellent eventers.

“RESTART RETRAINING” PROGRAMME

In August 2025, a new programme called “Restart Retraining” was created. This enables a horse to spend a longer time in retraining, i.e. 8-10 weeks and thereby be better equipped to go off to its new home.

The programme starts with a wellness check and getting appropriate paperwork from the owners. Lana doesn’t necessarily need to know stats from the horse’s racing career but it’s important she is aware of its temperament, attitude, vices and any injuries/issues. “Honesty is always best!” she says, when it comes to sharing this information, as it gives the proper platform for her to scope their experience, make sure they are treated and managed in the correct way going forward in her care and therefore get the best outcome.

With a strong focus on quality over quantity, Lana has a max of six horses in her programme at any one time so she can be sure to give each horse the full attention it needs.

The first week or two is focussed on settling the horse into a new routine in its new environment. Being quite different to the more regimented and fast-paced nature of a racing stable, this settling in period can take time. Lana assesses each horse and decides on a plan of action and what it might be best suited to – forest work; beach work; arena schooling; shows etc. It is possible that a potential new owner may not be confident enough to take their newly retrained horse to a show first-off, so Lana will work on this so that the horse is comfortable and the new owner will be too.

Lana builds on the basics, establishing each horse’s quirks, strengths and weaknesses so she can establish what works best in all areas of the retraining/rehoming scenario. An example is deciding whether the horse would be better off in a paddock alone, or whether it would prefer a mate.

Each retrainer manages their own retraining and rehoming programme differently to suit their facilities and approach. Under Lana’s new programme, horses remain in her care for a longer period than other common practices, which naturally increases the associated costs. As a result, owners and syndicates are asked to contribute additional funding to cover this extended care. Lana is currently working with NZTR to explore how retraining and rehoming costs might be structured in the future. In the meantime, she has found that owners have been very supportive, largely due to the excellent outcomes her programme achieves.

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

When a horse finishes its racing career, its trainer or owner/person accountable will contact Lana and provide all the information of the horse.

The first stage focuses on settling the horse in and adjusting its nutrition. The emphasis is on a high-fibre diet, with horses turned out 24/7 wherever possible. However, when required, the LK Sporthorses facilities include a new stable complex to accommodate individual needs. Horses are fed small, frequent meals throughout the day, using Fiber Fresh Fiber Protect as a base



Photo: Donna Smith

Lana (on left) with rider Jessica Haskins. The horse is Wolf Rayet (NZ) from Wexford who came through retraining with Lana

feed. Lana is proud to be an ambassador for CopRice NZ (supplement feed) and Poseidon (gut supplement), both of which play an important role in the horses’ digestive health and conditioning.

Significant physical changes occur during the first three weeks, particularly in muscle tone and letting down. Lana’s equine bodywork plays an important role during this stage, using a holistic approach to ensure each horse remains relaxed, supple, and well-balanced throughout its transformation.

While feeding can be a challenge for new owners, by the time the horses leave Lana’s care — typically after 10-14 weeks (8-10 weeks of retraining plus additional time while being advertised for rehoming) — they have adjusted to their new diet and routines.

During this first stage, and continuing on, these horses will often start their retraining in the arena. As Lana gets to know them, they will venture outside the arena, going on farm hacks, forest riding, beach riding, continued schooling, training days, and often shows too. This way these horses can be properly assessed to find out what each horse enjoys most and this will be taken into account when the horse is ready for rehoming.

Prospective new owners can follow Lana’s horses through her Facebook page where each horse is listed with photos and video footage. The horse’s journey from racehorse to sporthorse is documented and an owner can get to know the horse before purchasing it.

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HERE FOR THE HORSE:

THE EVOLUTION OF NZ'S UNIQUE HORSE AMBULANCE SERVICE

by Jo Starr, Operations and Engagement Manager

NEW ZEALAND'S WORLD-CLASS HORSE AMBULANCE SERVICE IS IN ITS TENTH YEAR OF OPERATION AND PROVIDING AN INVALUABLE SERVICE TO THE THOROUGHBRED RACING INDUSTRY. THE KIWI-BUILT HORSE AMBULANCE IS FAST BECOMING AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FABRIC OF THE RACING AND EQUESTRIAN COMMUNITIES, ENSURING THE WELFARE AND WELLBEING OF OUR EQUINE ATHLETES.

The NZ Horse Ambulance Trust (NZHAT) was established in 2016 to protect and promote horse welfare by funding and operating a nationwide fleet of equine ambulances. It is a charitable trust funded through donations and sponsorship, with its direct operating costs financed by NZTR and HRNZ welfare initiatives.

Kiwi ingenuity lies behind the initiative, with two well-known equine veterinarians, Drs Peter Gillespie and Bill Bishop, chatting over a drink about how raceday vets and track staff could better respond to incidents. On many occasions, it was difficult to get an injured horse off the track and safely transferred to the local veterinary clinic. In the worst-case scenario, a tractor and a tray were often used to move a body off the track, and this was no longer acceptable to devastated connections or palatable to the public perception of horse racing.

The equine branch of the NZ Veterinary Association (NZEVA) supported their vision, and the hard work began on designing and building a prototype equine ambulance.

Transport engineer Barry Armour and Dr Peter Gillespie, designed a vehicle equipped with a unique hydraulic lowering system to load and gently transport injured horses to receive specialist care and potentially life-saving treatment. These advances not only improve outcomes for animals but also align with how we care for human athletes, with veterinary teams responding with the same urgency and empathy as medical teams at sporting events.

Now, with 10 ambulances in the fleet, a team of experienced operators attend over 700 race days, trials, and equestrian events nationwide, significantly improving horse welfare and incident response. It also assists equine hospitals and, occasionally, animal rescue groups in transferring horses that cannot travel in a traditional float or truck.

Our systems ensure we act responsibly and in the horse's best interests. We make every effort to reduce risk; there is always a dedicated veterinary specialist to administer the best care and outcome for all horses participating on race day, and we work closely with them.

Custom-built by TL Maclean Ltd in Mosgiel, the key features include:

- a hydraulic system to lower the ambulance to the ground so a horse can step onto the ambulance, minimising the risk of further injury
- a quick assembly crush to safely support horses in transit and a front exit so horses don't have to turn around
- a moulded rubber floor, lighting and ventilation

When a horse is injured, these features make the loading and transport as smooth as possible, giving them the best chance of a good recovery. The unique design has attracted overseas racing jurisdictions as a gold standard for emergency equine assistance vehicles, with four NZ-built ambulances in Australia and one in Canada.

While NZHAT is primarily funded through equine welfare levies generated by the racing codes, the equine welfare charity still needs to raise an additional \$200,000 each year through fundraising and sponsorship to cover the shortfall and build a reserve for the future.

Racehorse owners contribute to the horse ambulance service through a welfare levy on stakes. It is a small percentage that has a massive benefit for the horses, the beating heart of the sport. The NZTR Welfare Levy is a 1% contribution from prizemoney that plays a vital role in strengthening welfare outcomes for horses before, during, and after racing.



CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Interestingly, she has one mare come through the Restart Program end of 2025 that returned back to its racing connections with the intention to race again. Over the 8-week period the mare changed shape dramatically, increased muscle and has a happier mindset. As a result, the racing connections have decided to return her to the track, so that will be interesting to follow.

This is a new programme and one that Lana believes in and hopes is supported and therefore successful. We encourage trainers and owners to support her with this excellent initiative.

SCHOOLING RACEHORSES

Schooling of racehorses is a relatively new venture for Lana, alongside the retraining and rehoming work. She had been approached by a trainer, who has sent five horses for pretraining over the past few weeks, with some fantastic results. She says, “the horses like the change of scenery and enjoy the variety in their work”. She found it rewarding work, and successful too, so decided to pursue this as a side venture. She was schooling a couple of horses when we talked, taking

them into the bush and forest to give them strengthening work as well as flatwork to help them supple up.

As racehorse Owners, we're all too aware that our horse's racing days will come to a close at some point. It's nice to know that Lana is out there ready to ensure their next phase of their life is a happy one.

Contact Lana for more information.
<https://www.facebook.com/p/LK-Sporhorses-100063761765013/>

HERE FOR THE HORSE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Approximately 25% of the quarterly \$1 million budget is allocated for the provision of horse ambulance services at all Thoroughbred race meetings and trials across New Zealand.

In the 2024/25 season, this amounted to 672 racing fixtures (across both horse racing codes) and 83 deployments. While the horse ambulance is visible on track, there are other occasions where we are called upon to assist in getting a horse to the right place safely.

To date in the current season, an ambulance has been required 37 times to respond to an incident involving an injured or unwell horse.

The Trust makes every effort to market and promote its service to the broader racing and equine community and the public, as well as its importance in ensuring the highest quality of animal welfare at racing and equestrian sports events. This included being part of the inaugural National Thoroughbred Week, which brought together communities across the country to celebrate the versatile Thoroughbred and showcase the care and dedication that take place at studs, stables, veterinary clinics, and aftercare facilities.

Founding Trustee Dr Bill Bishop attributes the Trust's success to the strong sense of community within the racing industry. Through collective efforts and donations, they raised significant funds to establish and operate the service.

‘People just rallied around. We had individual vets, individuals, stallion owners, breeders, horse-related industries – everybody chipped in, and we basically raised over \$1.5 million

within a couple of years,’ said Bill.

The Trust is indebted to all our supporters for powering our mission. It illustrates the passion everyone involved in racing and wider equestrian sports has for equine welfare.

A PATIENT'S STORY

While most race meetings run without incident, there are occasions when a horse is injured or becomes unwell. Prompt access to specialist veterinary care and safe transport in a horse ambulance are lifesavers for these animals.

Four-year-old Thoroughbred gelding Groomsman sustained an injury detected in a post-race examination for poor performance. The raceday vet diagnosed a suspected stress fracture of the cannon bone, which was confirmed on an X-ray of the right forelimb. A decision was made to stabilise the horse's injury and safely transfer him in the horse ambulance to a suitable location for rehabilitation.

The horse was transported from Tauherenikau to a trainer's property – a 121km road trip over the Remutakas and through Transmission Gully to Levin. As the fracture was stable and non-displaced, a large bandage was applied to immobilise the limb and prevent further damage during the journey.

Groomsman's care was entrusted to an experienced operator, who monitored the animal's condition and behaviour via video.

A horse is often sedated to travel in the ambulance, as racehorses are used to travelling in a truck rather than alone in a float.

The ambulance has a hydraulic system that lowers it to the ground so an injured horse can enter at a level gradient, minimising further harm. The in-built adjustable crush is well-padded and designed to stabilise the animal and relieve pressure on the trachea of a sedated horse.

Groomsman's injury stabilised after three months of rehab, a plan that included box rest and walking once sound. Equine vet Dr Pip Hendron said that with this type of stress fracture, once rehab is followed, the horse may be able to race again or have a sports horse career.

QUOTE:

‘The horse ambulance is an amazing asset. It is an essential component of the race day and enables the highest standard of care for the horse.’ – Dr Pip Hendron BVetMed Cert (AVP), Equine Veterinarian.

Learn more about New Zealand's world-leading dedicated horse ambulance service at www.horseambulance.co.nz and help the NZ Horse Ambulance Trust continue to be “here for the horse”.

Donations to support the NZ Horse Ambulance Trust are eligible for a 33% tax credit, and donors will receive a donation receipt.

The 1% Welfare Levy

THE WELFARE TEAM AT NZTR HAS UNDERGONE A TRANSITION. SAM FURSDON WAS APPOINTED GENERAL MANAGER - WELFARE AND INDUSTRY CAPABILITY AND CATLYN CALDER HAS TAKEN THE ROLE OF HEAD OF THOROUGHBRED WELFARE. THE TEAM IS WORKING ON A REFRESHED WELFARE STRATEGY WHICH WILL BE UNVEILED IN DUE COURSE.

The team puts out a regular newsletter called “The 1%” to keep us informed about the Welfare Levy and how it is invested to support Thoroughbreds, both on and off the track. National Thoroughbred Week was a new initiative supported by the Levy. An opportunity “to celebrate the Thoroughbred and showcase the care and dedication that takes place across studs, stables, veterinary clinics and aftercare facilities”, it was a great success.

If you'd like more information, to go on the email list or provide feedback to the team as they continue to evolve welfare reporting and engagement with industry stakeholders, do get in touch with them. thoroughbredwelfare@nztr.co.nz



L-R / Claudia Campbell – Runner Up Womenswear Award / Alexander Jackson – Winner Menswear Award / Deborah Lambie – Winner Womenswear Award & Best Contemporary Look / Celeste Stark – Best Accessories / Anna Cabatay – Best Dressed Maiden

Fashions in the Field

Ellerslie Races, Boxing Day 2025 / Photos courtesy of Auckland Thoroughbred Racing



THE HORSEMAKERS

By Peter Phillips, Wanaka (edited and abridged)

PUBLISHED ON 2 FEBRUARY, *THE HORSEMAKERS* IS A NEW MAJOR WORK BY BRIAN DE LORE THAT SETS OUT TO TELL THE STORY BEHIND NEW ZEALAND'S INTERNATIONAL THOROUGHBRED REPUTATION—THROUGH THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WHO BUILT IT. IT'S ABOUT BREEDERS AND MAKERS RATHER THAN HEADLINE HORSES; ABOUT THOSE WHO BRED, REARED, SELECTED, GAMBLER, ORGANISED, PROMOTED, SOLD AND FOUGHT FOR AN INDUSTRY LONG BEFORE THE GLAMOUR OF RACE-DAY PHOTOGRAPHS AND TROPHY PRESENTATIONS.

The book profiles 25 individuals or families whose contributions helped shape the New Zealand thoroughbred into a globally respected product. It starts with the first Thomas Lowry arriving in 1846 and the founding of Okawa Stud in 1853, then traces the industry forward through successive waves of development to the modern era where international markets and bloodstock systems increasingly define success.

De Lore conducted 91 interviews over thousands of hours, travelling the country to meet people on their own ground. The book's strength is that it profiles who the people were, where they came from, what they believed, how they operated, and what they changed. It's a well-researched accessible account of the personalities whose decisions created champions.

Thoroughbred history in New Zealand is not short of stories, but it is short of people actively preserving them. As the older generation fades, an enormous amount of knowledge disappears with them. This book aims to capture not only what happened, but how it felt and how it worked at the time.

The Horsemakers doesn't just celebrate individuals, it shows how systems were built. The book's "makers" include not only the breeders with good eyes and better judgement, but also the organisers and advocates who created pathways for New Zealand horses to be understood, priced, marketed and exported at the top level.



Alister and Nancy Williams with trainer Eric Ropiha, and the 1960 Caulfield Cup winner Ilumquh with jockey Vern Coley

The book has been published through the CatWalk Trust to benefit spinal cord injury research. All proceeds from the book's sale are retained by the trust.

It comes as a black cloth hardcover in an oversized A4 coffee-table format, housed in a special box. It runs to around 235,000 words and includes 226 photographs. Michael Floyd, former Wrightson Bloodstock managing director and a Hall of Famer, wrote the foreword.

In short, the book is the quintessential coffee table book that you can pick up and flick from anecdote to anecdote, but at the same time, it is a serious, highly produced record of the people who made the New Zealand thoroughbred what it is. For breeders, owners, and anyone who cares about how our industry became internationally respected, it is the sort of book that will still be worth pulling off the shelf in twenty years.

For those wanting to own a copy, *The Horsemakers* can be purchased online for \$120 at: www.thehorsemakers.com

THE HORSEMAKERS

A biographical history of the people that shaped
the New Zealand thoroughbred



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KARAKA 2026 CLOSES STRONG AS NZB KIWI HYPE BUILDS

NEW ZEALAND BLOODSTOCK'S 100TH NATIONAL YEARLING SALES SERIES FINISHED ON A HIGH, WITH BUYERS BACKING QUALITY NEW ZEALAND YEARLINGS AND GIVING THE INDUSTRY PLENTY TO BE EXCITED ABOUT HEADING INTO AUTUMN. AFTER AN ACTION-PACKED REFRESHED FORMAT, RESULTS HAVE BEEN ACCUMULATED FROM THE BOOK 1, BOOK 2 AND INAUGURAL KARAKA SUMMER SALE SESSIONS, HELD FROM 25-29 JANUARY.

The new condensed sale format saw several records surpassed and increases across all key sale indicators. Turnover was up almost \$10 million on last year, with returns to consignors and breeders totalling more than \$96 million for 751 horses sold. Increases were also recorded across the combined average of \$127,774 (up 11%), the \$85,000 median (up 6%) and a clearance rate of 83%, showcasing strength across the entire sale and at all levels of the market.

The tone was set in Book 1, where the condensed two-day format delivered new benchmarks. Book 1 finished with an aggregate of \$79,022,500, a record average of \$187,257 and a record median of \$140,000, alongside a strong 81% clearance rate. The results underlined that when quality is presented well, the market responds.

It was also a session that showcased the global appeal of New Zealand's stock. The Book 1 top-priced yearling was Lot 513, a colt by Sword of State out of Las Brisas. Offered by Sir Brendan and Lady Jo Lindsay of Cambridge Stud, he was purchased for \$1.1 million by Mr Sanxiong Gao and Ciaron Maher Racing. That figure ultimately stood as the overall top price for Karaka 2026 across all sessions, providing a headline moment to match the week's broader strength.

Momentum continued into Book 2, which surpassed all previous records. A total of 188 yearlings sold for \$12,247,000, with the average rising to \$65,144 and the median lifting to \$60,000, while maintaining

a 76% clearance rate. NZB credited the new format and international inspections on the complex as key drivers. The lift was not confined to the top end, it was also evident through the middle market as buyers competed strongly at every price point.

The closing Karaka Summer Sale provided the perfect full stop. In its inaugural running, 112 yearlings sold for \$3,428,500 at an average of \$30,612 and an 81% clearance rate, with six lots selling for \$100,000 or more. NZB noted turnover was \$9.6 million higher than last year despite 79 fewer horses catalogued, returning almost \$96 million to breeders.

The yearlings purchased at Karaka 2026 are future contenders for the sport's biggest stages, including the \$4 million NZB Kiwi (1500m) on Champions Day at Ellerslie on 7 March. Every strong bid at Karaka is an investment in the sport: in ownership dreams, in stable confidence, and in the calibre of racing that can be presented to fans.

This year, that excitement is being extended beyond the traditional racing audience. NZTR's NZB Kiwi Golden Ticket campaign has united three massive sporting codes, with the One New Zealand Warriors, the Blues and Auckland FC as official partners behind "The People's Horse". Some lucky fans won a Golden Ticket that secures a VIP share in the horse contesting this year's NZB Kiwi under NZTR's slot - La Dorada. They will join their sporting heroes on course at Ellerslie to experience the thrill of ownership in the country's biggest race, and a chance to share in the prizepool for the Southern Hemisphere's richest 3YO race. The partnership launch aligns with "Footy, Fillies & Fans" - a supercharged Auckland sporting weekend from 6-8 March.

Karaka 2026 has set the standard and shown the industry is willing to invest in quality and opportunity. The focus now shifts from the sale ring to the racetrack. Champions Day is shaping up as a must-watch, and the NZB Kiwi is ready to deliver another defining moment for New Zealand sport.



NZ NATIONAL 1927 - 2026 YEARLING 100 YEARS SALES SERIES

Karaka 2026 marked the 100th National Yearling Sale in New Zealand, and it was one for the books. To acknowledge the historic milestone, two limited edition publications are available to purchase. The first book covers the history of the Sale, the people and horses behind its success. The second a leather bound catalogue featuring the top performed graduate from each year.

Available while stocks last at shop.nzb.co.nz.


NZB
Where Winning Begins

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 2025 TO 16 JANUARY 2026

Stan Alexander PROCUL BOY, ROYAL FLOWER

Richard Algar IMA BRAZEN ONE, KOSTA

Bruce Amies HORRIE

Brian Anderson PANTHER

Mark & Louise Apatu MAGILL

David Archer BELLE CHEVAL

G C Arnott CALL A FRIEND, OUR SNIPER

Nigel & Adaire Auret LEICA PEARL, LEICA RIPA, NOT SO UNUSUAL, UNUSUAL INVADER

Robert Begg ARTHUR

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Sue Bourke CLEAR CONSCIENCE, VENDABELLE, WELL WRITTEN

Derek Brook APPROACHING

Patricia Buckingham CHURCHILLIAN

Wendy Bunting VIRGO VIVA

Gordon Calder LA PRIMA DAMA

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Rosemary Carter CHAHOO, LADY IMPENDING, MY FAIR LILY, QUEEN ZOU, RED PEARL, SNEAK PEEK, SWISS PRINCE

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Mark & Olivia Duffy GHAZZAH, MR MARIGOLD

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