

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



NOVEMBER 2019





PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT, NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION, 2019

It's been a challenging year for all within the racing industry and to be honest I don't see any light at the end of the tunnel, for some months yet.

This statement may not be what you want to hear from your 'President' but I'm a realist. I don't expect to see any of the fruits promised to the industry as a result of any legislative changes or the recommendations outlined in the 'Messara Report' until the 2020-21 season if even then. This means we as "OWNERS" must hang tight in an industry we love. One that gives us joy and celebration when the formula is right and when owners can say they are getting a fair return for their investment.

RITA has taken the reins and our industry's future is vested in them to enforce changes that will benefit us all. There are also a lot of other stakeholders other than owners whose livelihoods are at stake. Leadership and communication is imperative from within our governance structures both at RITA and NZTR level where accountability and responsibility must be at the forefront of our industry. To be honest both topics should be discussed honestly and reported upon at each meeting. Too many bad decisions or financial blunders have been pushed under the carpet in the past without challenge. We are a unique industry where people should be held accountable for their actions and decisions and where integrity is not just a dirty word. Due diligence is also somewhat amiss in our industry and I don't think the right people are asked to peer review options before they progress further and are signed off. We need to know up front what the initiatives will deliver and to whose benefit in the long term.

Enough said on that subject: Your Federation tables an operating loss of \$5,170 for the year ending 31 July 2019 and though we still have ample equity we cannot continue to operate in this way going ahead. We must either look at other ways to generate income or request NZTR for more funding so that the Federation can advocate on behalf of our

members and not rely upon a chosen number who volunteer their time relentlessly in the passion of racing. We currently have 900 members but NZTR say that there are roughly 12,000 active owners on their books. This I find hard to believe but who am I to question this fact. Syndications would make up half, breeders and trainers another 35% and individual owners the balance. Not good when we wish to build our industry and encourage more participants. I have nothing against syndication as they encourage participation in a big way but like our financial result costs keep rising and our return on investment is more than minus 30%. This I know as I race a couple and record every cent of expense and no income. You may laugh but that's where our industry is at. The dynamics have changed significantly, participation in ownership is now largely through syndication as stated above. The cost structure of ownership dictates this to a large extent.

On the positive side your Federation continues to strive to be a voice in the industry. Your executive will be working very closely with NZTR to ensure the ownership experience both on and off field is something that you as an owner can promote to others. As we all know, people get involved and hooked on racing when they experience a day at the races with another owner.

The Executive is looking closely at our current objects as whether they need rewording to reflect what we want to achieve on behalf of owners. Our web site is under revamp to make it easier for owners and visitors to navigate through.

Likewise, when funding is freed up to benefit owners, I want to encourage NZTR to first look at removing nomination fees for all races with the exception of listed and group races. It's not just a case of extra stake money as we must endeavour to reduce owner's costs. One, if not the biggest indebtedness to NZTR are outstanding fees owed by owners and to remove this burden can only help the nomination and acceptance process more.

"The *Owners Bulletin*" which is produced by your Federation is welcomed by all, but this publication cannot survive without the hard work of Neil Miller and his team. They continue to provide issue after issue to a very high standard. There is a "but", as Neil is not getting younger and we need a plan B and C to ensure we don't fall in the same path as some other industry publications have of late.

I also take this opportunity to thank Jim and Barbara Keyte for the work that they continue to provide as Secretary in tandem and this is another area, we need a future succession plan in place.

Finally, but not least I want to thank Neil Oldfield for his long dedication as your Past President and Federation member on the Members Council. Neil has put in a lot of hours over the years for no reward apart from his passion to represent all owners across the thoroughbred racing code. You are congratulated for your tenacity and openness in the both roles held.

I am confident that the industry's future does hold an improving performance and a greater distribution to all codes including sports. We eagerly await the move to improve the stake monies available for owners. I know that good leadership, controlled fiscal spending with more funding can only benefit the industry as a whole.

I look forward to the next year, my and your Executive's biggest challenge is wider involvement we need from members, at both regional, and national level. I want all active owners to be a member of this Federation and will work toward achieving this with NZTR support. We need to continue to challenge the norm and ensure that our leaders are held accountable for their actions including Government.

It's a pleasure to offer this as my first annual report.

Signed,
Bernard Hickey (President)



SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

APPRAISAL OF NZRB TRANSITION TO RITA

Grant Thornton

STATUTORY OBJECTIVES & FUNCTIONS

- All business cases for strategic initiatives should contain a section on strategic alignment that clearly links the initiative to the statutory objectives and functions.
- Principal risks should be linked directly to the statutory objectives and functions. Policy Framework

We recommend the Policies which are overdue are reviewed and updated to reflect the current needs of RITA.

COST SAVING OPPORTUNITIES

- RITA should continue to pursue cost savings initiatives such as the Finance Function Transformation project, and RITA should consider utilising a similar approach to other core operational functions to improve efficiency, effectiveness and realise cost savings where possible. RITA should also complete Wave 2 of the Value Initiative and consider whether those suppliers excluded from Waves 1 and 2 could be included as Wave 3 of the Value Initiative.

- We note that RITA is currently in consultation with the Codes, to consider which racing functions should be devolved from RITA to the Codes and where opportunities exist for charging market rates for services and facilities provided. We note that while there is an estimated saving of approximately \$900k to RITA, however, there is no sector benefit as the costs of these services would have to be met by the Codes.

EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

There's a lot of political stuff in this issue. It's stuff you need to know but pardon us if you are 'au fait' with the of state or the direction of the game at present.

First your President Bernard Hickey is musing over the current situation and what lies ahead and below that the Summary of Recommendations from the Grant Thornton Review of the NZRB transition to RITA. It's a small snapshot of a comprehensive 82-page work that is not that easily searchable. If you can't find it email me and I will send you a file.

"Christmas At The Races" is a winner and proves that if the effort to promote is put in, people will come. Racing is a great spectacle, but it needs the atmosphere of numbers to provide a memorable experience. I do wish that our Racing clubs could put some effort in to creating 'theme days' and get people along. Especially the younger brigade. I'm not talking of just bouncy castles, just good honest promotion.

We're are just back from New Caledonia where a population of less than 300,000 can run a race meeting with atmosphere that would put most of ours to shame. The meetings are run by two paid staff and a lot of volunteers. The sole stipe' was our host for the night. His horse won the first race. And he had two in the last!

There's a big story and photos of our time up there written by the multi-talented Sally Blyth

Page 8 has RITA Report number 3 from Chairman Dean McKenzie. It was thought that that this should be emailed to you but was deferred to this issue so all members could see it. We think that is so important.

JLT have been a long-time supporter of the 'Bulletin and Lucinda Laxon and her crew have been a delight to work with. JLT have now merged with Marsh McLennan and Lucinda is to be involved in more general insurance (more about that later) and the bloodstock insurance is now lead by Georgia Lovelady.

I knew her by way of Georgia's mum Chris Lovelady who organizes events for Catwalk Trust. Also, we had Georgia mustering and driving our herd of "Loire Larkers" in France months back. There's a nice page to bring you up to date with the changes. Please give them a call to get a quote for your horse.

In summary its mostly about change. It is said change brings opportunities, but to be ready you need to have a firm grip on things and be holding on.

Don't you think in the current times the cartoon pic is apposite?

Contact me - neilandjeanette@yahoo.com



• We note that RITA will continue to work with the DIA and the Minister on the Racing Reform Bill No.2 to broaden the range of betting products and bet types that RITA can offer to their customers so they are internationally competitive and to establish a level playing field around their class four gaming operation. Outsourcing/JV opportunities

We note that RITA will continue to investigate all options in regard to possible outsourcing and JV opportunities as noted in the Messara report.

BETTING INFORMATION USE CHARGE

We understand the revenue from the Betting Information Use Change will start to flow during the FY20 racing season and the distribution of this new revenue stream will be subject to a future decision of the RITA Board. Consideration should be given to RITA retaining this revenue to support their financial performance, and Code distributions, during RITA's transition period.



Photo: www.racemages.co.nz

OUR COVER

RIODINI

Our Patron Alan Galbraith's horse wins two in a row!

EXECUTIVE & DELEGATES of NZTROF 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Federation was held at the Ellerslie Racecourse on Sunday 13 October 2019 at 1pm.

Unfortunately, neither the Chair of RITA, Dean McKenzie nor the CEO of NZTR Bernard Saundry were able to attend.

The subscriptions remained the same, but due to the Annual Accounts showing a deficit, it was decided to reduce the capitation fees paid to the Area Associations for the 2020/21 year.

Members of the Executive are:

President Bernard Hickey

Regional delegates

Auckland/Northland Sally Blyth (Website)

Waikato/Bay of Plenty Karen Remetis

Manawatu/Wellington Allan Fenwick

Wanganui Brian O'Dea

Central South Island Pete Faulkner

Co-opted Neil Miller (Bulletin Editor)

National Secretary Jim Keyte

Patron Mr A R Galbraith QC

LETTERS

I had an email from a member concerned about the clear wrap (plastic) film on their A4 posted bulletin. Our printers advised this is the only economic way we can post an A4 version.

We have discussed this at our Board/AGM meeting and concluded that members sharing similar concerns should contact nztrof@xtra.co.nz and advise us whether you would just like to receive the Media file electronically – or your Bulletin folded and posted in a DLE envelope.

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Mike Gething

The Auckland Association held its social racing day at Ellerslie on 28th September. There was an eight-race card and plenty of good racing. Our party in the Ellerslie Room on the 5th Floor contributed over three and a half thousand dollars to the TAB during the day and thus helped a little bit to lubricate the wheels of racing.

Forty-eight members and guests attended, and everyone had a thoroughly good time. Thanks to Ross Thompson the punter's club was a great success and almost made a lot of money!

Various draws were made during the day and with the support of the Federation and Fast Track good prizes were on offer. Mark Taylor won a membership to NZTROF as did Dawn Wilson courtesy of her good friend Heather Volz – we welcome them both. On top of that plenty of good food and drink was enjoyed by all.

Our AGM was held on 3rd November at Ellerslie. Fifteen members attended including Life Member Joan Palmer. My sincere thanks to all that turned out and contributed to the varied discussions. The existing officers and committee were re-elected, and Virginia Healey was also elected to the committee. For those prepared to contribute in this way I am sure all our members appreciate your efforts – thank you.

Subjects raised at the meeting and moved for further discussion in committee include – how best to support the national Federation's presence within the racing industry, considering financial support towards the NZTROF web-site, a possible race name sponsorship on our social race day in 2020 with possible bonuses to win/placed horses of the race, support for owners in dispute with trainers and how best to help members looking for other members to share in racehorse ownership.

If you, as an Auckland member have any thoughts on any of these matters please contact me or any member of your committee.

The need for continued presentation of the owners' perspective within our sport grows stronger.

Enjoy the summer racing – may your horses win. Until next time. 🔄



WAIKATO

Jenny Cowan

RUAKAKA – WHANGAREI RACING CLUB – SEPT 2019.

At the Whangarei Meeting on 14 September the Club honoured their Patron David Reid in Race 3. On hand to present the winners' trophy were life members, John Fairley, and Grant Adams. Our photo depicts the above mentioned making the presentation to Kylie Little, trainer of Lucyinrio for absent owner J.R. Griffith, who sadly passed away two weeks previously. His son, J Griffith is the lucky inheritor of Lucyinrio, who was this time ridden by Lynsey Satherley.

John, Grant and David shared the ownership of Upsetthym some years back. She gave them huge pleasure – won the Auckland Cup and raced in the Melbourne, Caulfield, Brisbane & Doomben Cups – one couldn't find much bigger racing to be part of.

They hope to repeat some of it with a 2yo by Foxwedge waiting to soon make an appearance with Karen Fursden.

Green Bravo was one of the early Foxwedge winners at Te Aroha for Cath Cameron on 30 October.

Watching the Cox Plate intently and Opie in particular, gave us a well-known view of why an outside draw is undesirable, let alone creates a losing run. And also what a clever ride Opie made of it. That's the advantage of having the best jockey on in big racing.

I've forgotten the name of the winner, but will remember Te Akau Shark and his amazing run for third, and the time for the last 600m.

Tauranga on Oct 25th produced a winner in Iron Eagle. Jockey, trainer and owner – all with one family name – McKay. Congratulations to Shaun, Peter and Kim.

Te Rapa had a "rain, hail and shine" meeting on 25 September. The testing, dire conditions horses hate and handlers struggle with, which becomes a gamble for owners. But there's always winners. Robyn and Russell Rogers had two of them! Tia Celeste with Russell's parents', and C & M Long and N Adamson; and Girl of Steel owned outright by Russell and Robyn. Both were ridden by Chelsea Burden, who also rode She's A Smash Hit for the Gerard Petersen team and Ms P Vulgar.

The barrier boys, George Simon (Commentator), Trish Dunell (Photographer) and Bart Cowan (Track Manager) suffered in the conditions mostly. Maybe some jockeys as well.

What are the chances of this: R3 Oceans Eight, No 8, drawn 8? Ran 4th for the Trelawney team and Maureen Davies. Out of their mare Ruud Van Slaats. Next up she ran 6th at New Plymouth.

A big win at Ellerslie for Shelley Hale on 26 October with Go Nicholas ridden by Taiki Yanagida. Then as expected, going for three in a row, Go Nicholas achieved this at Ellerslie in the \$40,000 open mile, on Melbourne Cup day. Looking good for rewards over the Xmas carnivals.

Her mother, Judy Hale has written a book of her



life story before and after she lost her sight. It is called Bright Sunlight: Dark Shadow. By Judy Hale. \$35 per copy. A wonderful read which has many moments we all relate to. All proceeds are being donated to Guide Dog Services, for the Foundation of the Blind.

Rotorua – 15 September, Look Out won, but was looking out – ears pricked, racing determinably, but rather recklessly for Aaron Kuru at his first start over hurdles. He is from the McDougal/Nelson stable.

I will be watching out for Trueman, formerly with the late Jack Tims, but now with the McDougal/Nelson team, when he runs in either flat or jump races for them.

Andrew Meikle had a good win that day with He's Dan in the Rotorua & Bay of Plenty Hunt Cup, with a lovely, balanced piece of riding by Elen Nicholas. He is owned by Andrew and his sister, Cate Meikle.

In the week of 17 October racing lost 3 involved participants – Sheryl McGlade, Campbell Moncur and Bob Morris. Each shared various associations with racing. Many people offered condolences, and I personally, especially with Bob. I remember him as a fat lamb/stock buyer, with my Dad in Matamata and with a large clientele in Cambridge and surrounding areas. Bob's connections with the Cambridge Jockey Club were long standing and maybe he was the longest member ever of the Club. He held positions as Committee Member and President and was the current Patron. Watching Lily D'Or race in the future for his Estate and Carol Marshall, will be poignant. She is with the Moroney/Gerard stable – just 4 starts for 2 wins so far.

At Bendigo on 30 October 30th, Dorothy of Oz won her maiden. By Redoubts Choice – Princess Coup, with Gai Waterhouse.

Birdsville – (Back of Beyond) – Australia

The Outback Mates Hcp – 800 m. Whew the dust ~ 2nd horse called "Blinkin' Dusty" – commentator missed the obvious and said "Oh, looks hot and dusty". Very blinkin dusty. And they must have had kickback there.

Every owner wishes Donovan Mansour a speedy recovery, after a fall at the barriers.

Melody Belle – you brought music to our ears! Opie at his patient best again. Amazing viewing and amazing result. Te Akau Team – you're the best. 🔄



Veuve Clicquot got the bubbles at Hastings

Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

HAWKES BAY

Tony Lyndon

Local owners/breeders Sharyn and Mike Craig kicked off the new season with Cutadeel winning the \$40,000 Reliable Man Trophy on the first day of the Hawkes Bay Spring carnival; In doing so he recorded his fifth win in 9 starts. Sharyn and Mike race him with 9 other family and friends. The Craig's were in the Syndicate that raced the champion Dundee who won 6 Group 1 races and now stands at Arrowfield Stud. They still own breeding rights for 2 mares each season.

Judith Buckeridge former President/Secretary of the now defunct Wairarapa Owners Assn. was thrilled to see De Koning win at Ruakaka on September 14th. It was his 1st win since January. Judith races De Koning with 6 other family and friends.

12-year-old Waipukurau jumper Kipkeino has been retired after a suspensory ligament injury. Part owner and trainer Lucy de Lautour bought him at the South Island mixed bloodstock sale for only \$5,500 dollars and he rewarded her by winning 10 races and more than \$225,000 in stake money.

Hawkes Bay and Manawatu Owners Assn. Presidents Tony Lyndon and Mike Collinson along with 8 other members and returned to the winners' circle when Carnaby having his first start for 12 months won at Rotorua. Carnaby won 2 of his first 5 starts for the syndicate but then started to switch off in his races. After a long spell he was given a lot of jumping through the winter which changed his attitude. He previously was inclined to fizz up and pull hard in his races, but now is a very relaxed horse.

Former Cambridge trainer Lee Somervell has settled into his Hastings stables and has a small team of horses starting to hit top gear. Following wins with Yossarian, One Prize One Goal and Veuve Clicquot he saddled up Stradivarius to win on the second day of the Hastings Spring Carnival. Bred and raced by John and Colleen Duncan he is a full brother to Railway Handicap winner Fleur de Lune.

Age has caught up with Hawkes Bay owned Authentic Paddy. After battling in his last couple of races it was decided to retire him. He was the winner of 11 races and over \$780,000 in stake money, which included wins in the Group 1 \$200,000 Zabeel Classic at Ellerslie and the Group 3 Canterbury Gold Cup. Authentic Paddy was raced later in his career by the three sisters, Christine Gray, Marilyn Tepaa and Janice Berry with their brothers Tony and Phillip Gray. The syndicate purchased him off the Estate of their late Uncle, Don Robinson who bred him.

The Kevin Wood Memorial Trophy for July/August has been won by former All Black Mick Duncan and his wife Barbara. The Duncan's bred and part own Alfie Dee who won this seasons \$75,000 Grand National Hurdles.

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Brian O'Dea

In mid-September the Wanganui Jockey Club held a very successful Awards Evening for the area covered by Waverley, Wanganui and the Rangitikei. The event was professionally compered by local Andrew Lacy. Recipients were :

- **2 YEAR OLD** –Trifolium for Fraser Auret with two wins from two starts.
- **3 YEAR OLD** – Beyond The Fort, for the late Ray Stevens and family, whose most notable run was for 2nd in the N.Z. Oaks.
- **SPRINTER-MILER** Herengawe for Isaac Lupton.
- **STAYER and HORSE OF THE YEAR** Glory Days for the Thurlow and McAree families.
- The most successful **BREEDER** was Glory Days Breeder, Gloria Kenny of Marton.
- **JUMPER OF THE YEAR** Shamal for Ken Duncan.
- **LEADING JUMPS JOCKEY** Isaac Lupton,
- **LEADING TRAINER AND JUMPS** Trainer Kevin Myers.
- **LEADING JOCKEY** Lisa Allpress.
- **SPECIAL AWARDS** went to locals Harvey and Linda Green, part owners of N.Z. Derby winner Crown Prosecutor.
- **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS** went to (nearly) retired Over the River (23 wins) and retired Scapolo with 20 wins.
- **LONG SERVICE AWARDS** went to retiring track manager Mark Buckley and retired John Craig with over 70 years loyal service between them.

Looking after the owners on the Big Day. Prior to the Livermol Classic Day, all owners of horses in the Livermol Classic were contacted by the sponsors and advised that their privileges included a special room with snacks and drinks for the day. This was very professional of Hawkes Bay Racing.

In contrast, you can have a horse running in the N.Z. Cup, arrive prior to the first race and find that in areas for owners, there are already no unoccupied tables or leaners available – and there won't be for the whole day. Owners do provide the product!

Some Clubs do a marvellous job promoting their meeting. A classic case is the Egmont Racing Club at Hawera. Egmont, along with Otaki, used to have very good community race days on Sundays until a few years ago when the racing industry decided "no thoroughbred racing on Sundays "and they lost these successful promotions.

Fortunately the Hawera district has re-established this event on the Taranaki Breeders Stakes day in October. The younger generation dress in their best and make a real occasion of it. A great initiative, but let down by their sound system which is so poor it's virtually impossible to hear the race commentary in the main grandstand

Successful South Taranaki breeders and owners Graeme and Annette Hill have had a very good spring, in particular with eight year old mare Miss Lizzie with five of her seven wins coming since June. Harry Harrison also picked up a win recently for them.

They call Trentham the Punters Graveyard. To attend Trentham on Labour weekend Saturday with a share in two horses and have them both win, Gorbachev as prep for the N.Z. Cup and Mauna Kea the main Group race, it was amazing. Involved in the Gorbachev ownership are NZTROF members Kevin O'Donnell, Joe Huwyler, Paul Bardell and myself. NZTROF members in Mauna Kea are Peter and Katrine Sewell, Paul Bardell, Judith Hewitt and myself.

How did Mauna Kea get his nickname Boris? He was due to be born on Katrine's birthday and if a filly would have taken her second Christian name Doris. He was born a colt, so was called Boris and in interviews can be referred to as "he's just Boris".

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

It was not only owner Ron Cunningham who was shaking his head in disbelief as Shadows Cast charged to the front to take out the Redcraze Bowl at Awapuni on 2nd November.

Many seasoned racegoers marvelled at the performance of the Per Incanto gelding carrying 63kgms and conceding 9kgms to the minor placegetters. He will now head to Riccarton for the Coupland's Bakeries Mile, a race of mixed fortunes for him in the past. In 2017 he dead-heated with Son of Maheer but last year suffered from cardiac arrhythmia in the event. He soon bounced back from that to go on and win at Awapuni last Christmas and then take out the Group 1 Harcourts Thorndon Mile at Trentham in January. Trainer Mark Oulaghan has done a marvellous job with the winner of 11 races and over \$470,000 in stakes.

Hartley won on the second day of the Hawkes Bay Carnival and then deadheaded on the final day. He has now won 5 races for Neil & Erin Connors. Earlier in the season Durham had won for them at Otaki. Neil trains both horses at Woodville.

Ian and Fay McSweeney share in the ownership of Guillada who commenced her current campaign with a win at Taupo and followed up with a hard fought second at Hawera. The Bryce Newman trained mare has now won 4 races.

The Managh family from Feilding bred and race Penny Royal a recent winner of 2 races. The Per Incanto mare from Mint is trained by Guy Lowry and Grant Cullen.

Kamada Park, generous sponsors of our Points Series for Owners were in the winners' circle at Awapuni in November with Queen Kamada. The lightly raced Rip Van Winkle filly is trained by Anne Herbert, who is now based at Awapuni.

The winner of this year's Rich Hill Taranaki Breeders Stakes, Group 3 was Secret Allure. The Zacinto mare had performed well last season in filly events, winning the Listed NZB Airfreight Stakes and the Williment Travel Group Desert Gold Stakes. Members Debra Masters and Milton Passey are part of the Syndicate which race Secret Allure from the Lisa Latta Stable.

KAMADA PARK 2019/2020 POINTS SERIES LEADER BOARD AS AT 31 OCTOBER, 2019

This year's Kamada Park Points series is off to a good start with a number of horses vying for top points. Currently Torre Del Greco holds the lead but there are only a couple of points between the chasing pack.

Leader.....	Torre Del Greco nominated by Allan Fenwick.....	17 points
Second.....	Bad Boy Brown nominated by Liz & John Hancock.....	15 points
Third.....	Hartley nominated by Erin Connors.....	14.5 points
Fourth.....	=..... Codecracker nominated by John Gilbert.....	13 points
	=..... Greystone nominated by Roger Allen.....	13 points
	=..... Kahu Rocks nominated by Roger Allen.....	13 points

REMINDER

Remember it is not too late to enter your horse in the 2019/2020 competition, although points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. If you have already nominated one or two runners, you may also make further entries up to a total of 3 horses. Entry is free.

The Association wishes to acknowledge the contribution made to racing by Campbell Moncur, who passed away very recently in Wellington. Campbell spent 44 of the last 46 years of his working life in racing, mostly at the TAB but also with the NZ Racing Board, NZTR and for a short time the TRAC Group. At the TAB Campbell held lead roles in the introduction of Jetbet and then Trackside. He battled cancer on and off for 15 years but was still a leading and knowledgeable administrator for the industry.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Manawatu Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association's AGM is set down for Tuesday, 3 December, 2019 at The Wines, 63 Rangiotu Road, Himatangi, commencing at 7.30pm.

As was done last year the Central Districts Breeders Association will also hold their AGM at the same venue that evening.

Special guest speaker for the evening will be Justine Sclater, CEO, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Association.

The Committee would welcome members' attendance.

CENTRAL REGIONAL RACING AWARDS

The 2019 NZ Bloodstock Central Regional Racing Awards were held at Awapuni on 19 September.

The Association acknowledges all nominees for an award and congratulates the winners. Thanks, are also extended to the category sponsors as well as to event sponsor NZ Bloodstock and RACE Group for co ordinating the evening.

The award for "Outstanding Contribution to Racing" went to leading Awapuni Trainer Lisa Latta who has trained over 950 winners and whose horses have now earned in excess of \$20 million in stakes. In the 2013/14 season, Lisa became the first women trainer, training on her own, in New Zealand history to claim the New Zealand Trainers Premiership. She was

also the first Central Districts trainer to win a premiership since 1977.

The **Outstanding Owner of the Year** was Ron Cunningham and his horse Shadows Cast was named the Region's Horse of the Year from a strong field of nominees – Sentimental Miss, Five to Midnight, Wyndspelle and Secret Allure.

Other winners in the voting section were –

Broodmare of the Year – Bilancia owned by Gloria Kenny & the late Jack Georgetti and dam of Glory Days, winner of the Group 1 Auckland Cup

Jumper of the Year – Shamal

Jockey of the Year – Rosie Myers

Trainer of the Year – Lisa Latta.

The Awards were split into two sections – the non-voting section recognised the most wins for the season in each category. Raymond Connors won the leading **Owner/Trainer Award**; Rosie Myers the **leading Jockey** and Lisa Latta the **leading Trainer**.

The Central Apprentice Academy also presented the following –

Leading Apprentice Jockey – Madan Singh

Head Pupil – Bridie Ansell

NZTR Excellence in Equine Training Award – Stephan Karnicnik.



Peter Corbett and Terrill Charles with horses L-R, Owen Patrick, King of the Dance and Dee and Gee

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND *Peter Faulkner*

Welcome from the mainland, where we are only days from yet another great week of racing at Riccarton. would be nice to have a horse running. bring on cup week, and its the New Zealand Cup i would like to write about in particular.

Locally, the Terrill Charles and Peter Corbett training partnership will most likely have three runners in the race. From a team of twelve horses, i think this is quite an achievement considering they work their horses along the roads, and on their property at Mayfield , mid Canterbury. they travel an hour to the iconic Phar Lap raceway to fast work when close to ready for racing.

Peter and Terrill have been in racing for a long time but only got serious about six years ago when they decided they needed some better bred horses, aiming for some nicer races like the New Zealand Cup. They acquired horses like Lakota and Eva Keeneva who won five and six races respectively, and won over \$100,000 in stakes each.

Also the mare She's Insatiable, who struggled over 1400m, but began to find her feet over more ground to where she run thirds in both the Wellington and New Zealand Cups. this spurred them on to find another cups horse.

First of the three in this years New Zealand Cup is Dee And Gee, a six year old mare who they have had for two seasons. She had four starts up north prior, blossomed for them winning first up and going on to score four more times so far, including a second in the Wellington Cup and a fourth in the Auckland Cup with stakes

of over \$200,000 to date. the distance will be no problem and she has scored at Riccarton on three occasions so is no stranger to the winners circle there.

Eighteen months ago they acquired an iffraaj mare called liffida, bred by none other than George and Maryanne Simon. It was through this connection they offered Peter and Terrill a well-bred Ocean Park gelding by the name of Owen Patrick. he had won three up north but looked like he needed a change of environment. George and Maryanne have retained a half share and he has gone on to win two more, and so far \$65,000 stakes in the south. Peter says he relaxes nicely and feels he will get the two miles and hopefully a kick at the finish.

Lastly but certainly not the least of their chances, a five year old Animal Kingdom gelding by the name of King Of The Dance. Earlier in the year Peter was up at Matamata, and always on the lookout for the next cup horse, he spotted King working for a few days and curiosity got the better of him, as he liked what he saw and inquired about him and so happens he was not setting the world on fire so was not going to be persevered with. Peter snapped him up for not a lot and he has improved quickly mentally and physically, but still thinking he would be a year away from being a cups contender. Now since April he has won three times and showing the further the distance, the better he gets, and he does possess a nice turn of foot at the business end.

Peter and Terrill are a hard working team that do a wonderful job with their horses, and as they do a vast majority themselves, that

dedication is paying off. They have a nice team around them that will win races and i think that a cup win is close at hand with the contenders they have.

All the very best guys for the upcoming week. 🍀

THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES

NEW MEMBERS

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to the new members who have joined the Owners' Federation from September to October 2019. We really appreciate your membership support and look forward to a long and enjoyable association with you.

AUCKLAND

Elliot Wilton..... Papakura
Maureen & Gary Donaldson Drury
Chris & Linley Talbot Howick
Craig & Sandra Grammer Remuera
Mark Taylor Karaka
Howard Perry..... Whangarei

HAWKES BAY

Mick & Barb Duncan..... Otane

MANAWATU

Judith Bambry..... Palmerston North

WAIKATO

Monique Brocx..... Matamata

The Board met recently in Auckland for its September meeting – its fourth formal meeting since being appointed to lead the Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA).

The regular Board agenda is split over two sessions to focus on TAB Performance and RITA's Change Management programme on the reform of racing. I wanted to provide you with a summary of what was discussed and encourage you to share it with your members or stakeholders.

PERFORMANCE

As has been previously signalled, the performance of the then New Zealand Racing Board for the 2018/19 financial year did not meet budget or forecast projections. There were a number of reasons for this: reduced turnover in the first half of the year with lower betting activity from Elite punters; lower margins in the second half, particularly in Sport; and customer disruption in January as we launched our new betting platform.

While the full year results for RITA will be outlined at the AGM in November (and featured in the pending Statement of Intent), the unaudited net profit for the 2018/19 financial year at \$137 million was significantly below last year's result of \$145.9 million and well below the budgeted \$173.5 million. In spite of this, distributions to the Codes for both the 2018/19 and 2019/20 season have been held at the current level of \$151.6 million.

Looking forward, the Board is optimistic the investments in the betting platform introduced last year and technology and broadcast enhancement will deliver significant benefits over time. RITA's budget for this year is geared around profitability this season lifting to \$165.8 million and is being based on projections on realistic and pragmatic revenue growth assumptions in combination with an ongoing diligent approach to the management of core costs.

It has been a reasonably positive start to the year with turnover and gross betting revenue both ahead of the same period last year. Our year to date net profit is in line with our budgeted forecast, so we remain cautiously optimistic of meeting our targets.

As you will know, promotional initiatives are in market to stimulate betting turnover for the Rugby World Cup campaign and it is tracking towards being a successful tournament. Turnover is above expectations, participation in the Try Time promotion is greater than originally expected and margin is up on expectations. While some of this is good fortune, there has been a considered effort to drive this through pricing, product promotion and market ordering decisions.

In the first week of the competition, 16,000 punters signed up for the TAB Tipping competition and there were more than 75,000 active customers – the most in a single week since Melbourne Cup week 2018.

RACING REFORM

The racing reform programme is entering an important period as Cabinet policy papers covering the various elements proposed for Bill 2 are finalised. Once Cabinet decisions on policy have been made, a Bill will be drafted and introduced to Parliament and then considered by a Select Committee.

Here's a brief summary of where we are at with the recommendations which were discussed by the Board:

- NZRB becomes TAB NZ, focusing on commercial activities. The Board considered the feedback from recent consultation with the Codes and noted, while there was broad support from the Codes in relation to many of the proposals outlined in the consultation document, discussion with the Codes over the coming weeks was required to further develop and then confirm the change management plan.
- Establish Racing NZ as a consultative forum for the three racing codes. The Board agreed to re-establish the old Combined Racing Industry Group (CRIG) forum with the first meeting planned for later this month. It will provide a pathway for the Racing NZ forum to be further developed as we work through the transition period.
- Request a performance and efficiency audit of the NZRB under Section 14. An audit of the previous NZRB has been completed by independent consultants Grant Thornton (GT) and we expect it will be made available by GT later this month.
- Amend the Section 16 distribution formula of the Racing Act. Each Code has had the opportunity to engage with GT (who are also doing work on this) through the preparation of their Section 16 Report and there are further meetings planned. This feedback process will assist the RITA Board to form its own position on the Report before sharing this with DIA Officials and the Minister for Racing for their consideration. There will be further consultation next year on the regulatory process, led by the DIA.
- Review the structure and efficacy of the racing integrity bodies and Establish traceability and re-homing as foundation of industry animal welfare. The Board considered feedback from the Codes on the final report from Malcolm Burgess and discussed the changes that may be required to give effect to the recommendations. Feedback on the Codes' submissions from subject matter expert, Paul Bittar was also considered. The exact pathway to implement the review's recommendations is subject to further discussions with Codes which are getting underway soon and importantly, feedback from Government, which we hope to receive in the next month.
- Investigate outsourcing NZRB commercial activities to an international betting operator and confirm the assignment of intellectual property (IP) by the clubs to the codes. Work remains underway with the DIA to ensure the Cabinet papers incorporate any legislative changes that may be required in the event we go down the outsourcing route. In relation to the assignment of IP, the matter is with the Minister to determine an approach.
- Seek approval for a suite of new betting products to increase funding for the industry. There is considerable work underway to not only achieve Cabinet approval for new products, but also to demonstrate the TAB as a sector leader in responsible gambling. The Board received an update on Initiatives from RITA's Harm Minimisation Strategy, Responsible Gambling Communications Plan and the RITA's draft Submission on the Online Gambling Review.
- Introduce Betting Information Use Charge and Point of Consumption tax legislation. The Board received an update on the development of Offshore Betting Charges Regulations. These regulations will be drafted by the Parliamentary Counsel Office. The DIA are leading this process but RITA has provided significant support. We expect DIA-led workshops to get underway with the Codes and betting operators later this month.
- Legislate to vest club assets to code regulatory bodies, Reduce the number of venues and Upgrade facilities and tracks of remaining venues with funds from closed venues. There has been an enormous amount of work done in the venue space in an attempt to give the industry the tools it needs to tackle the hard decisions and successfully resolve them. RITA has provided feedback to the DIA on the need to build on the existing work programme, and if any legislative changes are required, they are subject to a clear and transparent process between Codes and Clubs, but we await Government's direction on this matter. In the interim, RITA continues to work with the Codes on the Future Venue Plan with a meeting expected to be scheduled over the next few weeks.

Once the direction of the second Bill and relevant regulatory processes becomes clearer, our budget for 2019/20 is confirmed and our first quarter results are in, all prior to Christmas, the Board should be in a position to have a further look at the timing of distribution of some of the new revenue streams such as the betting levy which is presently being collected.

Balancing the requirements of the Minister's Letter of Expectation along with getting greater surety around revenue growth targets and the need to show tangible outcomes for the industry from the reform process as soon as possible (e.g. distribution of the betting levy) is something the Board is very conscious of. We just can't put the cart before the horse!

Sincerely,
Dean McKenzie, Chair.



STUD CHAT WITH SAM

NOVEMBER 2019

It's great to kick off with such a well-deserved win by Mauna Kea (**Per Incanto**) in the Trentham Group 3! Known as Boris by his great ownership group, they tell us he's quite a character, a lot like his dad (and his political namesake?!). That's individual stakes winner **no 14 for Per Incanto**.

Riversley Park and Kilgravin have done a fantastic job with our six horse RTR draft. Breeze-up times are one thing but you still need to gallop professionally and Sam and Eion have educated our boys brilliantly. They're headed by the likes of our **Per Incanto**-Princess Annaliese colt who breezed sensationally, as the second fastest time of 10.33.

Per Incanto already leads the Sire's Premiership by winners and with the tracks hopefully drying out, I can't wait to see the array of unraced talent set to be unleashed. Shadows Cast (Couplands Mile) and Hasstobegood (1000 Guineas) will be his flag bearers at Christchurch while in Oz, the Hawkes have a flying machine in the 3YO Peak.

The success of a couple of horses in Oz this spring has been exciting. Parsifal (Darci Brahma-Della Lobra), a yearling we

sold on behalf of John and Anne Gilbert, placed in a couple of stakes races and bolted away in the Valley the other night. Craftsmanship, a Savabeel colt we sold last year at Karaka for \$360k, has been set for the VRC Derby after racing like a true stayer when he won a listed race in Adelaide last month.

This spring's foals by **Time Test** (Dubawi-Passage of Time by Dansili) are simply stunning. Many mares potentially heading elsewhere have been served by him again on account of this year's foal.

Even by his incredibly high standards **Dubawi** had an unbelievable Tattersalls October Sale. He had four of the top 10 lots including the sale topper at \$6 million NZ, the highest priced yearling sold anywhere in the world in 2019. **His 23 yearlings sold averaged over \$1 million NZ.**

And I can't go without a plug for **Nadeem**. Tinkalicious and Mohaka are two lovely mares, who can convert stakes performances into deserved stakes wins this summer.

All the best with your summer racing and I look forward to catching up with you at the sales or races soon.

Sam

From L-R; ?, John, Daniel with Sheezallmine, Maree and Samantha Wynne



YOUNG DANIEL - THE MILLER, GOING PLACES

We have featured him in a past issue. A keen young guy that became a jumps jockey and then a foreman for Te Akau at the tender age of 20. It seems he has soaked a lot of knowledge in how to organise, how to prepare a horse, but also how to spot and buy a horse and extract its potential, from the very best.

But perhaps it's also possible to inherit knowledge. Daniel's grandfather Jack Miller had horses in Hawkes Bay. Probably the best of these was Dollar Charlie who won a couple of feature races at Taupo before Daniel was born.

Daniel's Dad John grew up around horses and married Maree also an equine enthusiast.

When Daniel grew away from race riding the family hatched a plan to get the young man into training. The Super Easy filly Sheezallmine was bought on Gavelhouse for \$1,000 and has repaid that with 4 wins from 7 starts.

Daniel is now looking for some black type for the now 4yo in the South Island with a few more of his 6-horse team. Notably another filly La Romaneewwww owned by John and Maree won a two-year-old 800m scamper on the current foray.



Christmas
at the Races

EVENTS NATIONWIDE
NOV & DEC

BOOK NOW

CHRISTMAS AT THE RACES CELEBRATES IT'S 13TH SEASON

In 2019, Christmas at the Races celebrates its 13th season – over one million people and counting have attended a Christmas at the Races event to date! New Plymouth Twilight Christmas at the Races on 1 November kicked off this season's festivities, celebrations continue until 22 December with a total of 36 events across both Thoroughbred and Harness Codes.

The Christmas at the Races nationwide series was created all those years ago, bringing many Clubs' race dates under the same brand that could then promote racing to a new audience – largely to businesses looking to celebrate their end of year function. The Races Limited Partnership (TRLP) manages this event series working in partnership with Clubs across the country to assist in promoting and developing their events. On average, more than 20% of guests at Christmas at the Races events each year experience their first time ever at a race meeting – this is a large audience who are new to racing and betting and provides a chance to engage those people in the thrill of the sport, and hopefully become racing fans in the future.

Many will be familiar with the iconic Santa Hat being worn by one jockey in each race at Christmas at the Races events. Through the 'Santa's Pick promotion', as it is called, the industry looks to engage with those new to racing and encourage on-course participation by encouraging them to not just join in the party, but also to interact with the horse racing action on-track. The Santa's Pick promotion gives people an 'easy pick' for their bet, and engages them with racing, ultimately resulting in more bets placed on-course.

When a customer places a bet of \$5 or more including a Santa's Pick runner, they are handed an entry card with their betslip. They simply fill in their details on the card and drop it into an entry box on-course. This year the grand prize is sponsored by Singapore Turf Club – the winner will receive a dream trip for two to Singapore including a VIP experience at the Kranji Mile 2020! Last year's promotion saw more than 18,000 entries with the Grand Prize winner going to the Melbourne Cup this year.

This season, alike to previous seasons, TRLP and Racing Clubs who make the Santa's Pick selections, are asking jockeys, trainers and owners to support the initiative for the Clubs and industry by wearing the red Santa cap – this ensures the attendees at the event can follow the 'Santa's Pick' in each race and engage with the action on-track.

We look forward to seeing you on-course at Christmas at the Races this season!



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IS SPONSORED BY SINGAPORE
TURF CLUB – THE WINNER
WILL RECEIVE A DREAM TRIP
FOR TWO TO SINGAPORE
INCLUDING A VIP EXPERIENCE
AT THE KRANJI MILE 2020!**

christmasattheraces.co.nz

MELBOURNE CUP DAY AT ELLERSLIE

A DAY OF FUN, SUN, RACING AND CONNECTION

Words By Sally Blyth

OMF Melbourne Cup Day 2019 at Ellerslie dawned beautifully, with the track rated a Good3. A big day lay in store; not only was it the day of the race that stops two nations, but my horse Sainly Way was in Race 4 here, and a number of friends and NZTROF members had horses running on the day.

TOTE ON ASCOT - A NEW FACILITY FOR OWNERS ON RACE DAY

After linking up with fellow owners (syndicate of ten) and guests and picking up our Owners' tickets, we headed to Tote on Ascot. The old tote building near the stables has been turned into a new facility for owners to use on race day and this was my first experience of it. It's very spacious and tastefully fitted out, with large screens, a carvery and full bar at special prices. With both a sophisticated and down-to-earth vibe, it's a real bonus for owners and trainers alike: a wonderful space and, if you have a horse racing at Ellerslie, be sure to go there. It's also available as a function centre for weddings and other events.

There's an outdoor servery offering coffee, snacks and pies, ideal for trainers and strappers to have a yarn and get sustenance while on the job. Owners congregate under the shady trees to discuss how their horse looks and what the inside word is. There's just a TAB machine, so you'll need to take a short walk across to the Ellerslie Stand for the nearest live tote operator, if machines aren't your thing.

Our group filled a table and excited racing talk began. Sainly Way had won his maiden strongly on 6th October at Te Teko and, when we visited him over at the stables block today, he looked a picture and seemed to know we were all there to cheer him on in his biggest test to date. Trainer Frank Ritchie was very happy with him and jockey Sam Weatherly had eagerly sought to ride him again. Our problem was the draw – #13 for a 1200m race at Ellerslie is always going to be tricky. There was a bit of form in the field too, so we knew we had our challenges. Nevertheless, we were ecstatic just to have a horse racing at Ellerslie on Melbourne Cup Day.

As a racing enthusiast, there isn't much that beats being at Ellerslie racecourse under sunny skies on a big race day like this. It was very hot and the flamboyant hats on show also served a purpose. OMF-branded hats were being handed around to those without one – what a great promotional idea! (NB: OMF is a full-service brokerage firm offering an array of financial products and were the major sponsors of the day).

RUNDOWN ON THE RACES

In Race 1, Auckland Association member and friend Richard Frechtling had Star Karen lined up. Having recently relocated to Blenheim, he was unable to attend but his fellow owners were there. Lining up as hot favourite, Star Karen settled at the tail of the field, Leith Innes made a bold mid-race move, and she looked the likely winner – but a real battle ensued, with Excalibur (trainer Shaune Ritchie,

jockey Sam Weatherly) giving her a run for her money and ultimately winning by a short head. It was Excalibur's first win since February 2018, and the connections were ecstatic. Commiserations to Star Karen's connections... next time!

A big field lined up in Race 2 which was won by Triomphe. Friends had Pearlescence in Race 3 (2400m) who was going for a hat trick. The worry was that the track may be a bit firm, but she ran a beauty, placing third behind Where Are You (trainer Shaune Ritchie, jockey Sam Weatherly).

Then it was time for Race 4, the big one for our Sainly Way (trainer Frank Ritchie, jockey Sam Weatherly). Do you notice the common Ritchie/Weatherly thread? Could a hat trick of sorts be possible despite that wide draw? At pre-race drinks by the birdcage, our boy looked great with his white socks and big white blaze, and we all knew he would be trying hard and doing his very best. Still, I was so nervous that my glass of bubbles was literally shaking in my hand! The race was run at a torrid pace and won by outsider Tuscan Whistler in a time of 1:10.77. A real blanket finish across the track, with Sainly Way widest of all. He was a close-up 8th, only a couple of lengths behind the leader. Given he got shuffled to the back, had to run wide on the turn and then got shunted out even wider on the run for home, covering more ground than any of them, it was a jolly good effort with lots of cheering. That draw really did play against us. Next time!

Race 5 was run in a smart time of 1:08.95 by Spring Heat, Race 6 won in style by Braavos and when Race 7, the OMF stakes, came around, all eyes were on Frank Ritchie's Fiscal Fantasy. She's a little horse, but she was all heart as she poked her way up the rail for a lovely win

Contessa Vanessa was in Race 8 for members Bruce Amies and Lyn Salvidge – she's shown ability in the past and, after getting away well, she sat handy all the way. I joined in the cheering as she stuck on for a determined third behind Go Nicholas who couldn't be caught on his way to a fantastic hat trick of wins. Lyn was emotional after witnessing such a gutsy effort by her horse and, following some in and out form since last winning back in March 2018, another victory for Contessa Vanessa may not be far away. Let's hope so for Bruce, Lyn and Team Rogerson!

The Maiden 3YO Race 9 was won by Tears of Jupiter – with three trial wins under her belt and some reasonable race day form, today was her day. Livvy Lass took out Race 10 at good odds, downing favourite Swords Drawn by a nose, meaning Shaune Ritchie missed out on a 3/3 hat trick by the merest of margins. However, the Ritchie camp would have been happy with three wins for the day between them.

All this made for a busy day and it was hard to keep an eye on Wingatui, Flemington and Randwick as well as all this local action.

THE MELBOURNE CUP 2019

As 5 o'clock loomed, there was only one thing on our minds – this year's Melbourne Cup. What a

race it turned out to be – a stunning win by Vow and Declare, an outstanding looking horse who kept up an equally magnificent gallop, and Craig Williams was a gracious and well-spoken winning jockey. The aftermath kept us all guessing as to what was going on as the bumping wasn't obvious from the side-on footage and, on course, it's hard to hear or determine anything. Once Master of Reality was relegated and Il Paradiso promoted to third, emotions were exchanged for some punters, and Richard had to hurriedly go and forage in a bin for tickets that he'd already thrown away before learning of the protest. Thankfully he found them! NB: If you do lose, damage or unwittingly discard your ticket, contact the TAB staff pronto and, as long as you can provide all the accurate information about the bet you placed (what, when, how much etc), it will be honoured.

There was further post-race drama with Michael Walker getting stung for \$10,000 for overuse of his whip in the last 100m on Prince of Arran. As reported by www.stuff.co.nz, he says in his defence, with his hands up, "It's a Melbourne Cup. I was just seeing if I could win the race... I thought I was going to get there. But at the end of the day I broke the rule." Apparently, Michael copped a lot of abuse on social media – not a huge surprise, given the vocal animal rights activists who were protesting on the day, but it's no less hurtful than they believe the whip is.

I'm not sure who would have had a more sleepless night, Michael for his fine and the abuse, or Frankie Dettori for his demoralising relegation. With shades of the fiasco of Country House's disqualification in the 2019 Kentucky Derby, this was the first change of placings in the Cup's history. Frankie's post-race statement said it all: "I want to cry".

Having read through all the jockeys' comments after the running of the race, it seems that the very slow tempo didn't suit most of them – but it certainly worked for Vow and Declare who headed to the front from a wide draw, got nicely tucked into the trail along the rail, raced handy all the way and kept his foot down to power over the line in front. The back-runners really didn't get a look-in.

CONNECTIONS, DANCING, SMILES

Later in the day a few of us from the New Caledonia trip (see Page ??) caught up with Vanessa, President of the Organising Committee, who had facilitated our wonderful race night over there. She was visiting Auckland with friends and family and they were all in bright spirits after enjoying their day in Silks, one of the hospitality options that comes with a buffet lunch and an individual tv on each table. Having picked a few winners, they were all smiles as they headed off to the city for some more entertainment.

Once the racing was over, we went to the Cuvée for more socialising and a bit of dancing. The CVE covers band performed old favourites and, far from being a place for young things, it was a coming together of mature party-goers keen to finish off a wonderful day by kicking up their heels. I bumped into a friend who had cleaned up on the Melbourne Cup – winner, trifacta, first 4... he couldn't wipe the grin off his face!

And, even though Sainly Way wasn't in the money today, I had a big smile too!

RACING in the SOUTH PACIFIC

Words by Sally Blyth



In 2018, *Bulletin* Editor Neil Miller and his wife Jeanette took a holiday in New Caledonia. Always on the lookout for copy for the 'Owners *Bulletin*', Neil had sought an introduction to the Director of Racing New Caledonia, from Sally Pepermans who leads NC Tourism in Auckland. Neil met Franck Guillemet and his assistant Mike Paofai who work from the Hippodrome Henry Milliard, one of four racecourses in the country. He wrote an enlightening article about racing in New Caledonia in the September 2018 *Bulletin* - here's the link: <http://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/News/default.aspx?p=18>

GETTING THINGS OFF THE GROUND

The bus transfer to Anse Vata took about 50 minutes and soon we were settling into our very spacious apartment suites in Tower C of the Hilton Noumea La Promenade Residences. All had views out across the lagoon, excellent amenities and generous balconies. This will do very nicely, thank you!

It's an extremely well-located hotel, with pool, restaurant, business centre, fitness/wellness centre and friendly staff. There is no specific bar area but there is a broad semi-circle of shops and restaurants immediately below, and a pharmacy and various food stores a short walk away.

Several words of caution at this point - triple check visa requirements, the clocks go back (even if your phone doesn't update!), the liquor shops have limited hours of operation (buy duty free upon arrival), many shops and attractions are closed on a Monday, room service finishes at 9pm, and the 1-bed apartments have a porthole-style window in the shower. It's at chest height and opens directly onto the corridor/stair well/lift area. Do not open this window while showering, especially if you're a female! We wondered how

many people have opened it mid-shower to see what lies behind, only to give an unsuspecting passing guest or cleaner an eyeful, and themselves an undignified fright! Several of us had a story to tell!

After an easy orientation stroll around the vicinity - fantastic boulangerie here, great café there, lingerie shop (without the bou!) here - we enjoyed Welcome Drinks in a warm tropical setting at the Ramada Hotel Sports Bar. This was an opportunity for people to get to know each other over the local Number One beer and some nice French wine. Conversation flowed easily as horses and racing tales were exchanged and a sense of anticipation escalated.

Afterwards, people headed off in groups to try out local dining options. The Thai meal was fresh and tasty but very slow in coming (we wondered if they'd gone diving for the prawns!), and pizza/pasta goers reported generous flavoursome food, but those who opted for the revolving restaurant at the top of the Ramada Hotel were disappointed; the views were fantastic, the food and service mediocre at best.

CULTURE AND SEA CREATURES

Saturday began with a drive up Ouen Toro Hill where we soaked up marvellous views in all directions. We continued on to the Tjibaou Cultural Center, a stunning building (designed by Renzo Piano who designed the Centre Pompidou in Paris) that blends seamlessly into its surrounding landscape. Constructed to celebrate the history and culture of the local Kanak people, being there is all about "feeling the spirit". Art, history, culture, diversity and natural beauty combine with the soul of the local Kanak people and it's a very peaceful, beautiful and special place to spend time.

Next stop was the Aquarium des Lagons with exotic sea creatures, colourful coral, captivating turtles, menacing stonefish, fluorescent anemones, iridescent fish and the inimitable Napoleon - a large Humphead Wrasse that

unabashedly showcased his plumped-up lips and an impressive coat in many tones of blue. With an exhibitionist swimming style, and an alarmingly watchful eye, this bloke knew he had us smitten!

A MEMORABLE NIGHT OF RACING

A leisurely wander back along the attractive beach promenade, followed by free time for lunch and a rest, and then it was time to get the glad rags on and come together again for race night. Neil, Mike Gething and I met with Franck and Mike during the afternoon to finalise arrangements for the evening - it was "all hands on deck" at the Hippodrome, with a large cast of volunteers setting everything up. Quite an operation, and one of the major jobs had been the hiring and placing of large individual lights and their generators around the track. Dunstan Feeds was the major sponsor for the night and the trophies were all lined up ready for presentation. It was all pretty impressive.

The Hippodrome is just a short walk from the Hilton and, in high spirits, we were welcomed at the gate and led up the red carpet. After formal photographs, we were escorted upstairs for the full VIP treatment: a free-flowing bar, oysters, foie gras and more. It was a balmy evening, with a warm breeze and, from our vantage point, we could easily watch the horses in the parade ring one way and then take a few steps in the other direction to find a seat in the grandstand and watch the action. There were approx. 1,000+ people on course, including many families. We chatted happily amongst ourselves and with other racegoers, including David Smith from Dunstan Feeds; the vibe was casual yet classy and behaviour was impeccable.

Philippe was a marvellous host, helping us with betting and giving us a few tips and inside info - he had several horses racing on the night, some successful, others not! He's usually the Stipe on course but tonight he was being a generous host for our group.

Several NZ horses ran, and the Government Cup was won by one of them - Lincoln Blue. Alyssa Schwerin and Nivesh Teeluck were riding, and I managed a quick chat with Alyssa who was loving the experience.



The commentary, in French of course, was noteworthy for its huge gaps – the caller would mention the horses, pause for a while as they galloped along in silence, and would then pick up his call again. It had an air of slo-mo about it, but when the horses came roaring down the home straight at full speed under the night lights there was plenty of cheering and enthusiasm and there was nothing slow about it. Race 3 was a trotting race which provided great entertainment, although there was no betting on this race.

For a bit of fun, I organised a sweepstake over two races: Elaine Vine (Wairoa) and Neil Miller were the lucky winners! In terms of betting success, Mike Gething cleaned up, backing four winners from the six-race card – well done Mike!

Putting a bet on was an interesting challenge, but many of the tote operators spoke reasonable English and showed great patience as they helped us work out what we were trying to do. We eventually got the hang of things and, by the end of the night, bets were being confidently placed in French. Alas, this did not necessarily equate to success!

After the final race and last drop of champagne, we trooped across the road to the Ramada Sports Bar to watch the All Blacks beat Ireland, which rounded off a hugely successful and enjoyable night of sport, camaraderie, learning, laughter and connection that we'll all remember forever.

TROPICAL PARADISE

Sunday brought more perfect weather and we set off aboard the Mary D for Amedee Island – a tropical island paradise with white sand, the most turquoise of waters, shady trees and an attractive lighthouse. During the day, we were treated to a hearty lunch and plenty of entertainment.

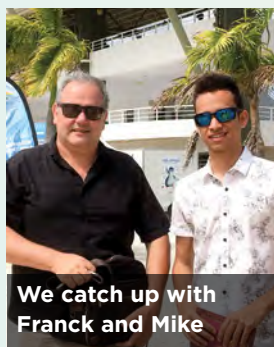
We'd been warned about the seasnakes that slither along the sand and in the water, popping out of nowhere; they can be deadly, but are not interested in humans, are harmless if left alone and their mouths are too small to bite us. Still, they're a snake and they provided a few frights throughout the day, especially the one that came to lunch!

Many of us went on the glass-bottom boat expedition – sometimes these can be disappointing but not at Amedee. We were treated to a wonderful display of underwater life and were all in hysterics at the persistent pilotfish (aka suckerfish) that attached itself to the glass and came happily along for the ride.

The spritely ones amongst us romped up the 247 steps to the top of the 56m high lighthouse for wonderful views. Those in docile mode chatted and dozed under palm trees. Some explored the island, others went snorkelling. A highlight for many was swimming with turtles who came in close to shore. All in all, this was a wonderful day that was both relaxing and exhilarating and ticked many boxes. The water was as incredibly clear and as spectacularly turquoise as I've ever seen on a tropical island.

FREE TIME AND FAREWELL

Monday was a free day – some went into Noumea CBD found it in stark contrast to chic Anse Vata where we were staying. Some went to nearby Escapade and Duck Islands to enjoy more beach and snorkelling, others lay by the pool and took



We catch up with Franck and Mike



advantage of R&R. A few others whiled away the afternoon back at the Hippodrome where the first day of Le Semaine Cheval was taking place – the Regional Horse Championships. Adults and youngsters were in action over the jumps and the charming scene kept those keen on another dose of horsey things amused for quite some time.

Neil, Jeanette and I took Franck and Mike out for lunch at Le Roof to thank them for putting on such a great time for us. This restaurant, with its many posts and traditional construction, juts out over the lagoon, and specialises in fresh seafood. Over delectable prawns and a Number One beer, amiable and hopefully enduring racing connections were enhanced. The vista of turquoise water and a rare sighting of a dugong frolicking below us added to the experience.

Our Farewell Dinner at the very fine et Marmite & Tire Bouchon restaurant, was full of good cheer, food and wine, as we reflected on this unique and truly wonderful sojourn in a stunning part of the world. We had an early departure next morning and, after another excellent Aircalin flight, we landed back in Auckland feeling weary but, at the same time, energised and enlightened.

Flying Aircalin was a real pleasure – the flight between Auckland and Noumea is less than three hours, the staff are chic and friendly in their gorgeous uniforms which feature teal and Hibiscus Red, the food is very good, the planes new and modern, and the service polished. Highly recommended.

IN SUMMARY

Who knew that a suggestion, a couple of coffees and conversations with the right people, and a lot of hard work would result in such a superb and unique tour! It was a big job to pull it all together, with help from various sources, but we got there in the end.

This was my first visit to New Caledonia and I was utterly taken with the turquoise waters, the easy holiday vibe, the locals enjoying beautiful beaches and our very special treat of a night at the races.

It was a real pleasure to lead this trip. What a truly wonderful group of diverse and lovely people; from all walks of life and hailing from throughout the North Island (where were you southerners!?), everyone got on so well. There's no doubt that a deep-seated love of racing creates an immediate, common and lasting bond that enables genuine and authentic connection. Throw in ideal weather and a dose of tropicana, and you can't go wrong!

Our trip was great value, although shopping and eating out in New Caledonia is not cheap – but

then again, it's not cheap in New Zealand either! New Caledonia is, for some reason, not on roaming and making a phone call is exorbitant; getting a local sim card is a good idea. The Hilton had a free internet quota included but it ran out quickly and was less than ideal (they're going to be addressing this). Because I needed to access email regularly, do some trouble-shooting, keep on top of logistics etc, I spent a chunk of time at the computer in the Business Centre and that worked well with reliable connection. Accessing the TAB website to keep up with NZ racing and results was intermittent, but it was more to do with the local internet than the TAB site.

Overall, this was a hugely successful, utterly unique and thoroughly enjoyable and special trip that has generated friendships and connections that would otherwise not exist and will hopefully last a lifetime.

Here's to our next racing trip... come join us, wherever we may go!

Thanks to the following people for their input into making this trip possible:

Neil Miller, for the idea, contacts and lots of insider knowledge;

Mike Gething and **Neil** for assisting with the financials and good advice;

Franck Guillermet (Director), **Mike Paofai** (Assistant) and **Philippe Arnould** (Stipendiary Steward and host extraordinaire) at Hippodrome Henry Milliard, for enabling a wonderful evening ;(Phillipe is the gent far left on the top photo)

Vanessa Salaun (President of the Organising Committee) and her team for offering an exceptional VIP experience;

Sally Pepermans (Director NZ at New Caledonia Tourism) for contacts, guidance and goody bags;

Jeremy Jezequel at New Caledonia Voyages, for immaculate assistance for all accommodation and land arrangements;

Vanessa Tjemplon and **Wendy** at Aircalin, for assisting with our group flight bookings;

Jordane Breyton, Manager at Marmite et Tire Bouchon restaurant, for a fabulous Farewell Dinner.

And, last vbut not least, thanks to all the wonderful people who came on this special trip – let's stay in touch and hope our horses run fast!



The Equine and Livestock team at Marsh, formally known as JLT Bloodstock, have experienced a number of exciting changes in the past 12 months. Earlier this year Marsh & McLennan Companies (MMC) and JLT Group became one company, bringing together two high-performing teams. This has seen the adoption of the Marsh name and logo for the team as well as the divisional name change from *Bloodstock* to *Equine and Livestock*.



The Marsh Equine and Livestock Team from left to right:
Charlie, Rhiannon, Georgia, Jane, Michelle.

There has also been a change of leadership for the Equine and Livestock team. Long standing manager Lucinda Laxon has taken an exciting opportunity within the Marsh company which has seen her move away from the Equine division. Georgia Lovelady has taken Lucinda's place as divisional manager and to help you understand her background better we thought we would do a quick Q&A.

Name: Georgia Lovelady.

Qualifications: Bachelor of AgriScience (Equine Major), Diploma of Farm Management, Diploma of Agriculture.

Background: I grew up in Canterbury and have been riding horses for as long as I can remember. I have been lucky enough to ride in Europe and groom for some top New Zealand riders as well as compete myself in primarily show jumping and dressage. My fiancé and I have recently purchased a lifestyle block on the outskirts of Cambridge and I am very grateful to have the opportunity to come on board as manager of the Equine and Livestock team for Marsh.

Interests: I have returned to riding after a four year break due to my university commitments. I hope to be competing in the next couple of years on my two young showjumpers that I have bred. I enjoy getting outdoors and also dabble in adventure racing. I've just signed up for GODZone 2020 which will be my biggest challenge yet.

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We can provide a number of other policies to meet your needs such as transit insurance, prospective foal insurance, foal insurance, stallion infertility insurance and congenital infertility. Talk to one of the members of the team today to request a quote on **0800 383 071** or alternatively visit our website at www.horseinsurance.co.nz



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.

Ms J R Alexander	Katikati	COSSACK WARRIOR	W G Kingsford	Matamata	BACK IN A FLASH
T W Archer Trust	Whangarei	TOP BRASS	B J Leach	Te Puke	SUPREME HEIGHTS
G C Arnott	Palmerston North	CARNABY	B J & Mrs J E A Lindsay	Karaka	MANCHU
Judith Bamby	Palmerston North	NICOSHINE	P W Lock	Te Aroha	IMAKEEPA
Dowager Duchess of Bedford	Matamata	JOE'S LEGACY	A A Lyndon	Hastings	CARNABY
Dr H M Bishop	Prebbleton	MATARO	D H MacNab	Whanganui	HANDSOME BLUE
Dr W J Bishop	Prebbleton	MATARO	C R MacRury	Tauranga	TRAVELLING LIGHT
Mrs J D Buckeridge	Havelock North	DE KONING	R N Managh	Feilding	PENNY ROYAL
Calder Bloodstock	Cambridge	SHERWOOD FOREST	Miss C A Marshall	Cambridge	LILY D'OR
Terrill T Charles	Ashburton	IFFIDA, KING OF THE DANCE	Ms D A Masters	Palmerston North	SECRET ALLURE
Mrs R J Chin	Cambridge	THE POORMANZABEEL	G J McCarthy	Cambridge	ARETHA
Ms Steph Clark	Timaru	VICE MARSHALL	N D R McKerchar	Katikati	COSSACK WARRIOR
M C Cole	Matamata	MAGIC CANNON	I W & Mrs F L McSweeney	Palmerston North	GUILLADA
M A Collinson	Feilding	CARNABY	D C & Ms J E Morison	Havelock North	PACORUS
Mrs E M Connors	Dannevirke	DURHAM, HARTLEY	Mrs E E & W L Mountfort	Takanini	LAKE SUPERIOR
Peter R Corbett	Ashburton	IFFIDA, KING OF THE DANCE	D E Nakhle	Takanini	ONE KOTUKUSTREET, DESTINATION
Courtco Racing	Christchurch	UPPERHAND	M Nelson	Napier	LOOK OUT
M J & Mrs S S Craig	Havelock North	CUTADEEL	P A Nelson	Hastings	LOOK OUT
G J & Mrs M Donaldson	Drury	SPIN DOCTOR	P S & Mrs C Nelson	Hastings	REVOLUTION, PESO
Mrs S Dower	Howick	GARNET	K J O'Brien	Hamilton	KAIPAKI ROAD
J C & Mrs C G Duncan	Hastings	STRADIVARIUS	B K O'Dea	Wanganui	MAUNA KEA
Ken Duncan	Hunterville	EION	Katrina D & Alexander Paterson	Auckland	GARNET
Mick & Mrs Barb Duncan	Otane	ALFIE DEE, FORT KNOX	H W Perry	Whangarei	TOP BRASS
Pete Faulkner	Timaru	VICE MARSHALL	A J Porter	Foxton	DEUCE COUPE
A R & Mrs S J Fenwick	Marton	CARNABY	Mrs T L Riddell	Cambridge	SAINT CROIX
D Fox	New Plymouth	QUATTRO KATIE	G A Rogerson MNZM	Hamilton	SABER
M W Gething	Howick	GARNET	T J Russell	Whanganui	HURRY CANE
A M Goodwin	Herne Bay	RED DYNAMO	B I & G A Shand	Huntly	SHANPARK
C J Grace	Taupo	IT'S DOABLE	Miss L M E Stewart	Timaru	SPIDER LILY
J A Graham	Invercargill	NOMEN LUDI	C J & Mrs L A Talbot	Howick	BLACKMAGICWOMAN
Mrs S E Grammer	Remuera	MASSACHUSETTS,	Te Akau Syndicate	Ngaruawahia	AL HARAM, BURGUNDY ROSE, VINO BELLA, LUMINOUS, GOLDEN AGE
B J Guerin	Hastings	LOOK OUT	P D Telfer	Otorohanga	ISLAND BAY
J E & Mrs E A Hancock	Martinborough	BAD BOY BROWN	The Franz Josef Trust	Lower Hutt	MAUNA KEA
Miss J J Harkness	Manukau	IMAKEEPA	J C & Mrs M A Thompson	Howick	TIPICAL
Mrs J C Hewitt	Wanganui	MAUNA KEA	Sir Peter Vela	Hamilton	THE WHITE QUEEN, TONADILLAS, BADEA, LILIKOI
K J Hickman ONZM	Christchurch	GLENHOPE, WOODCOTE LASS, KARALINO, TANTALISING, RED CHOIS	P J Walker	Clevedon	FINALE
G & A Hill Trust	Hawera	MISS LIZZIE, HARRY HARRISON	Windsor Park Stud	Cambridge	KYLIE BAX, MANINTHESKY
F J Hilliar	Matamata	PYTHAGORAS	Mrs P E M Woollaston	Howick	GARNET
D M & Mrs K Horo	New Plymouth	TINKALICIOUS	B A Yanko	Havelock North	CARNABY
G E Horton	Hastings	CARNABY			
P W Johnstone	Pakowhai	CARNABY			
Mrs S L Kay	Levin	MATARO, RELDA			



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