

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

# OWNERS' BULLETIN



SEPTEMBER 2020



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**COVID-19, COVID-20, COVID-21 is not what Racing wants to continue if our industry is to bounce out of the doom and gloom we have experienced in the last 12 months.**

Another Level 4 lockdown would effectively cripple TAB NZ and the Racing Codes. But let's put all this behind us and follow the health directives and wipe out this virus once and for all. If it means closing our borders for some months then let it be.

The passing of the 'Racing Industry Act 2020' which will come into force on 1 August to coincide with the new racing season gives NZTR the opportunity to review its business model and determine how best it will deliver the intent of the Act and industry of the future. A question around its Board structure and that of the Members Council requires some thought and debate over the coming months!

**Key provisions of the Act are:**

- ▶ **New governance powers and obligations for NZ Thoroughbred Racing;**
- ▶ **New provisions relating to racing club property;**
- ▶ **The establishment of Racing NZ as a vehicle for cross-code collaboration;**
- ▶ **The establishment of TAB NZ with a board to be appointed after the election by the Minister of Racing following nominations from the Codes; and**
- ▶ **The appointment of an establishment board to manage the creation of the Racing Integrity Board.**

During the next three months leading up to Industry group conferences and annual general meetings we have the opportunity to review and overhaul current structures if warranted, to set the scene and pathway forward.

As I have previously stated publicly, the only overbearing shadow of doubt I personally have is that we must rely upon Boards and senior administrators to get it right in governance and leadership matters and ensure due diligence is followed in every decision made.

I have faith that we as an industry stakeholder will ensure we get the right people nominated in these roles as we have been burnt too many times in the past by failed appointments.

Your Federation has had to move with the digital age to minimise our cost and deliver a better product to you. Soon we will release a better look to our web site and information communicated to you. You would have now received your subscription notice by email. This is the first step to reduce some admin costs, so please don't delete and check you spam folder. The Owners Federation is indebted to support.

Racing; hopefully, 'touch wood', is back on track!

Though Level 2 may have some restrictions around attendance your Owners Federation are hopeful that registered owners will be afforded the right to attend so long as clubs can manage groups appropriately on race day.

There's no one fix here and we need to be patient in this time of uncertainty and work with Health and Government restrictions for the betterment of our country and that of our racing industry.

Once again spring racing is almost upon us and I wish all, 'Happy Racing' over the coming months.

**Bernard Hickey**  
**President**

## CHRIS LUONI - a great contributor to the Racing Industry

*Words by AF*

**A lifetime interest in racing, fueled in his younger days by the success of his father's top racehorse Happy Union resulted in Chris Luoni, who passed away in early June after a battle with cancer, having an involvement in many facets of the Racing Industry.**

Chris qualified as a Chartered Accountant and for many years was a Partner in the Hamilton Office of Price Waterhouse Coopers. During this time, he developed specialist knowledge of income tax and GST implications for the racing and breeding industry. He was a GST consultant to the Australian racing industry when GST was being introduced in that country and was a strong advocate for changes to the way in which GST was applied to racing in this country. Eventually changes to the way in which stakes are split between owners, trainers and jockeys did occur in NZ which benefitted owners.

Contributions were also made as a member of the NZTBA Council and a Committee Member of the Waikato Racing Club. But it will be his involvement with the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame that Chris will be best remembered for in racing.

One of a small group that saw the need for a NZ Racing Hall of Fame to recognise and honour those whose achievements have enriched the New Zealand thoroughbred industry, it was Chris, with his enthusiasm that ensured it got off the ground. Over the years he continued to push for recognition and exposure of the inductees, including developing kiosks and displays. Without Chris it is doubtful the NZ Racing Hall of Fame would be the organisation it is today.

Chris experienced success as a breeder and owner with several horses including Oliverdance and Ma Danseuse. He was also immensely proud of having NZ Derby winner and international competitor, The Phantom Chance living out his retirement on his property Woodbine Farm.

## DAVID ELLIS CNZM

**THE NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED OWNERS FEDERATION CONGRATULATE MEMBER DAVID ELLIS ON HIS RICHLY DESERVED AWARD OF COMPANION OF THE NEW ZEALAND ORDER OF MERIT.**

The honour now provides some balance to that of wife Karyn Fenton Ellis' 2014 award of MNZM. Both personify excellence in their endeavours.

David's award was "for services to the racing industry." It follows a family tradition with past royal honours to his late father and grandfather for services to business and community.

David says the award is not all about him. It is a reflection on all those who have worked for him and other associates for their longstanding support and assistance. **PNM**

# EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

**We all got put in the spelling paddock for a good while. Thank goodness they eventually opened the gate, but will it blow shut?**

We went to the first day back race meeting at my club and enjoyed the vibrant crowd and the sense of some kind of normality.

There were huge fields due to trainers desperately getting horses back to train and maintain some cashflow. The powers that be misread the situation and scrambled well to correct it. Let's hope trainers spell those that are unsuitable for deep winter footing.

The 'Owners Bulletin is funded by subs and a Sector Group grant from NZTR and the functions of our Federation are impacted by the costs of mailouts of the Bulletin and Member communications.

A new website has been built and our co-ordinator NZTROF vice President Sally Blyth has a big announcement for you. Your executive has decided to change the Bulletin to quarterly issue in order to fund the new "active" website management.

Bernard Hickey NZTROF President made a huge effort in the new Racing Bill input and oversight of the hearings process. See reports on both of the above on page 8.

Member David Ellis got a "Royal Award" for service to the Racing Industry. The Te Akau "train" rolls on and seeing it is 6 years since our last visit a return to the farm and a write up was due.

We got a call from members Sir Patrick and Lady Justine Hogan for some promotion of Monarch Farm and were very happy to oblige. I strongly believe that great "spelling" can be the making of a thoroughbred horse. I once asked Brent Taylor of Trelawney Stud (who learned the business working for Sir Patrick) how much value in the making of a racehorse would he ascribe to its nurture. He said maybe 30%.

There is ever more emphasis of horse welfare and the Waikato Owners Association are discussing that. Committeeman Chris Wilson puts their thoughts forward.

The inimitable Sally Blyth, a great scribe, writes about Andre Neill's RACING THIS TIME. Don't you love people that have a go – and put back in.

The Winning Owners goes on the back page as Marsh McClennan reorganize their marketing. I hope to be on that list come the December issue.

Federation Secretary Jim Keyte says that 'subs' are coming in well from our first notice of MailChimp. Thank you those "on the ball" members. If you haven't received yours for whatever reason please contact Jim. (see federation contact back page) Oh, and make sure your name/s and Association you belong to are on the bank reference details.

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



## OUR COVER

**Essential work at the Pascoe's, Club Med Lodge, North Waikato**



## TAB TRACKSIDE RADIO

rova

Sally Blyth

**Covid-19 has impacted many aspects of racing and one that has really compromised enjoyment of the game we all love is the suspension of Trackside Radio which happened in April. Not being able to tune in and listen to races in your car has been a real problem for many, and it's certainly no way to encourage betting or keep people in the game.**

This has been addressed to some extent with the setting up of TAB Trackside Radio via the ROVA app which brings breakfast sports shows followed by a live racing simulcast of Trackside TV from 11am Mon-Sun.

Download the ROVA app onto your device and you can listen in. You can also connect via Bluetooth in your car.

Find information and instructions on the TAB app and at [www.rova.nz](http://www.rova.nz)

However, this doesn't help those who don't have devices or Bluetooth capability in their cars, nor those who struggle with or shun new technology.

Be assured that the Owners Federation has voiced serious concerns about the situation. There are many racing enthusiasts who spend a lot of time on the roads and we're advocating strongly to have a traditional Trackside Radio frequency reinstated.

# REGIONAL ROUNDUP

## AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Mike Gething & Sally Blyth

**With all the ups and downs that the Covid-19 rollercoaster has brought us we have to celebrate the good news. The new Racing Act has arrived and, with it, the prospect of a better future for all of us. Hooray!!! We now hope that the talent needed to manage our industry is wisely chosen and it is for us, then, to fully support them.**

I'm sure all owners will join me in complimenting our trainers, jockeys, stewards and all other members of the racing fraternity who have shown such professionalism in managing to race our horses under these recent trying circumstances.

As I write this, the first Group 1 race in Australia has just been won by a New Zealand bred mare – in fact, it was a New Zealand bred quinella – congratulations to all the connections. Our horses are a force to be reckoned with!

Our plan to hold our social event and AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at Counties will depend on the Covid-19 level decision of the government. A provisional arrangement has been made for 31<sup>st</sup> October at Counties. We will advise by email when we know for sure.

**Best wishes. Mike.**

**Although not able to be on course at Matamata on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, several Auckland members had great thrills with their horses winning on the day.**

She's Apples (El Roca) won Race 5 (Comag 1400m Maiden). After racing handy on the rails, this 4YO mare cruised up to challenge and took over, winning by 3/4L. A great ride by Sam Weatherley and cheers all round for the Go Racing Indie Rock Syndicate – to which Auckland Assn members Barry & Brenda Gerard belong. She's Apples had trialed well at Auckland on 14<sup>th</sup> July (2<sup>nd</sup> by a nose) and then ran a rather ordinary race on 2<sup>nd</sup> August at Te Aroha. This win at Matamata was anything but ordinary, beating a field of 14, at decent odds. More to come we think!

Lining up in Race 6 (Wrightway Builders 1400m Maiden) was Timberlake, owned by members of the Webb family (Virginia Healey, Geoff & Gwynyth Webb and Richard Webb). He tailed the field and was 2 lengths last turning for home. However, Jockey Ashvin Goindasamy snuck him through near the rails, while most of the field went wide. The shortcut tactics were spot-on and, in a few strides, Timberlake hit the front and ran away from them, winning by 4 lengths!

This 4YO Redwood gelding had won a trial at Te Aroha on 9<sup>th</sup> July and followed that up with a really nice third there on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, so this win was convincing proof of the early promise he'd shown. There was added poignance to this win, as Geoff Webb sadly passed away on 26<sup>th</sup> July. Virginia is on our Auckland Assn Committee; our condolences to the Webb family.

We also send best wishes to our fellow Auckland Committee member Michael Dowd as he recovers from surgery complications. Get well quickly, and we hope to see you back on deck soon.

**Sally Blyth.**

### She's Apples with Sam



### Timberlake



*Photos courtesy of Race Images www.raceimages.co.nz*

## WAIKATO

Jenny Cowan

**Many, if not most of us can see behind the scenes, so we are thankful that disaster hasn't stopped our wheels turning completely.**

Counties provided a big meeting at the first after lock down on June 20<sup>th</sup>. The Three Sisters' Judith, Pat, and Dale – nee Johnston of Matamata, a unique trio with racing in their blood, won with Team Titan. Many years of trying and success here inherited from their Dad Earl and brothers Norman and Jack Johnston. Farming and Veterinary (Takanini) respectively.

Back in March, Steven and David Cole won an R72 of 30k at Trentham with Creative Genius. A deserved win and he now has 6 wins and 10 seconds from 36 starts. But you could think a few hard luck stories there. Favourite Star Tsar ran second in only 4<sup>th</sup> start now has two wins and a second for the Paykels.

The jumping scene has had an amazing line-up of clever consistent performers – most will get into the winners circle in due course.

Te Rapa and their large, live fences make for great jumping and are worth going to watch. I am sure the horses like these fences and measure them carefully. The especially outstanding close finish provided by It's a Wonder for Harvey Wilson and Delacroix for the Parsons should have been a dead heat! Prestige jumping, prestige title and prestige riding.



Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

## HAWKES BAY

Tony Lyndon

**With the move of Butch Castles to the Waikato Racing Club the Hawkes Bay Racing Club were fortunate to secure the services of Darin Balcombe as their CEO.**

Darin started his new position on 14 April and brought a wealth of experience with him. He was a former stipendiary steward but started his racing career working on the track at Awapuni. He then took up a role in the Manawatu Racing Club in May 2005.

Soon after he was appointed Accountant for the racing group RACE which is made up of the Manawatu Racing Club, Otaki Racing Club, and Wellington Racing Club. After 3 years in this position he was made General Manager of the Trentham and Otaki race courses.

The terminally ill love nothing more than to see an animal in the last few weeks of their life. That is usually a dog.

However Hastings, Cranford Hospice residents and staff (which cares for 150 patients) were overwhelmed with joy when local trainer Lee Somerville arrived with Shirin Wood and son Calvin's "One Prize One Goal." He is an extremely quiet horse and his hooves were taped so he wouldn't slip on concrete.

The patients that were able were brought out to the lawns to pat him and some had photos taken with him. Lee had lost his wife and Shirin her husband Kevin to cancer in 2016.

Henry Taylor is probably our oldest member turned 99 years old last month.

Secretary to Bill Stevens for 20 years and

secretary to myself for 23 years Henry was a Second World War man.

Henry joined the 4th Reserve Motor Transport Carriers which landed in Toronto, Italy in 1944.

On to their first battle which was at Sangro and then onto Monte Casino, they then went back to Frenza on the Adriatic coast. In the Spring they crossed the river Po bridge which was built by N.Z. Engineers then raced to Rome only to find the Americans had beaten them. They then moved onto Trieste on the Yugoslave border.

Henry returned home in 1946 and joined the Traffic department where he stayed for 38 years until his retirement.

Compared with the Awapuni Hurdles, say, where over much smaller fences, horses provide a scramble rather than a spectacle. I wish they could raise our national, mobile hurdles which travel to all meetings. Any 14.2 pony could fly these present jumps and would love it.

The Manawatu Steeplechase on 22 August saw a game win for Game Percy for Mrs D and Dr. J Bowbies. They are long time Owners and participants in planning. They also had a win with Macushla at Matamata – very promising with 4 starts and 3 wins. She is by Dalghar and with N Tiley.

Recognition for Jo-Anne Rathbone – it's hard to win your maiden, but not many trainers quinnella this. Wotablast won for the said Bowbye's and Captain Twinkletoes ran second and got his win two weeks later for S Harrison, D McNab and Jo-anne. Very classy!

However, for one sole owner to have two contenders in the Awapuni Hurdle is an achievement, let alone to win this race with

Aigne – congrats to Neil O'Dowd. Taking your place in the 4600m Jericho Cup at Warnambool last years must have been a great story

But then also of note sole owner Simon Rees had his two well performed jumpers in the one race and both fell. Commiserations to you Simon. Jumping people are ready for anything.

Kevin Hickman seems to have a horse in every race, and kudos to him for that. But the win by Locharburn in a maiden hurdle had all the credentials. Leading owner K Hickman. Leading trainer K. Myers. Leading jockey S Fannin.

Daniel Miller and his no-name owners, the Fingers X syndicate, won the first race at Matamata on 22 August with usual "connection" Tegan Newman riding React. Maybe our editor, Uncle Neil, is one of the no-namers? (*Ed Note - Daniel is my cousin John's son. So I am his 1st cousin once removed I think. And No!*)

Well done to Little Avondale Stud – we often hear your advert on Newstalk ZB. The name Per

Incanto pops up with all the relevant details. Not a lot of other radio vibes to listen to, we hope it works for you.

Stephen Marsh had 4 out of 14 runners in at Te Rapa. Even after a strong TV build-up, none could get closer than 6<sup>th</sup>. Our commentators could include a lot of unknowns who are contributing to racing, as well as the high-flyers. We need everyone to be mentioned!

Congrats to Stephen Ralph and family, Melanie, Pam and Peter Sutton on a big win with New York Jazz, who beat a very good field at Matamata, with Tegan Newman riding. Monaco won during the same week for Stuart and Cherie Hope.

Loved the name of yet another successful offspring of Ocean Park – "High Emocean." An Australian burst of clever.

Long ago one of our best and wasted names was for horse we bought by The Expatriate – called him McCarten. They can't all be good!

## WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Brian O'Dea

**The Wanganui Racehorse Owners Association lost a life member in Mark (Buckles) Buckles after a long battle with cancer at the end of June.**

His life was celebrated by hundreds of people in the Eulogy Lounge at the Wanganui Racecourse, which was fitting as he had worked for the Jockey Club for over forty years.

Mark got married to Gay there as a 50 year old and had his retirement party there as a 70 year old and now the Island Bar is going to be renamed Buckleys.

Buckles loved singing, dancing and playing squash and as Track Manager was proud of his tracks and gardens.

Buckles was an amateur rider, won a few, and rode a lot of track work, particularly for Clive Lewis, Andy Mora, Wayne Marshment, Rita Jackson and Ken Cropp.

At the funeral there were lots of laughs as well as emotional moments. It had been the intention of the Association to make Mark our Patron at the next A.G.M., having lost our previous Patron Charles Simpson earlier in the year.

After the reception, Buckles made one last lap of the track as he had requested and his wish for his ashes to be spread on the racecourse has been granted.

Mary Burgess representing NZTR attended the Wanganui mid-July race meeting and presented his wife Gay with a National Service Award for his contribution to racing.

This presentation was made after his memorial race, fittingly won by local trainer Kevin Rohloff for owner Wayne Keenan.

Showing what racing is all about, the big syndicate sharing in the late Ray Stevens bred "Raced Evens" yelled the stand down as she won her maiden.

Some of the group have been waiting 17 years for their first winner – well done Mark Lithgow.

The Wanganui-Taranaki Racehorse Owners AGM will be held at Wanganui on Tuesday 29th September.



Raced Evens excited owners at Wanganui



Raced Evens raced them home

## MANAWATU/ WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

### VALE KEVIN PRATT

**Kamada Park principal Kevin Pratt passed away early in August after a short illness.**

Wellington born Kevin Pratt's early interest in racing was put on hold as he established his career and business interests. Working on the site when the Freezing Works at Takapau were being built Kevin then commenced employment in that industry and gained knowledge and expertise on the processing of animal by-products. Shifting to Australia in 1986 he established his own business processing waste products. That business was subsequently sold for a substantial sum which enabled Kevin and his wife Margaret to become involved as owners and investors in the thoroughbred industry.

For family reasons the Pratt's based their racing interests in Palmerston North with Lisa Latta their first trainer and King Kamada amongst the first to carry their colours. Although the winner of only 4 races, King Kamada recorded 26 minor placings of which 11 were black type placings. These included seconds in the Auckland Cup, Avondale Cup twice and the Manawatu Cup. More recently Windsor, the winner of 6 races including this year's Timaru Stakes and Five to Midnight have been to the fore. The latter recorded 9 wins and 16 minor placings in New Zealand. Beaten just a nose by Ladies First in the Auckland Cup he returned a year later to again run second, this time to Glory Days in 2019. After that he was transferred to Australia. Racing as Home by Midnight he won the recent Launceston Cup and as we go to publication, he won his first hurdle race at Ballarat.

As the racing team grew a very well-appointed 70 acre agistment property on the outskirts of Palmerston North was purchased from John Street. Now known as Kamada Park the property has expanded significantly and offers owners agistment for racehorses and mares and foals as well as pre training. Kamada Park also owns significant property adjacent to Awapuni racecourse.

Sponsorship in racing includes Kamada Park Manawatu Challenge Stakes run at Awapuni, the Central Owners & Breeders Kamada Park Points Series and the Kamada Park starting gates, which are used on most of the racecourses in the Central Region.

Although Kevin Pratt's involvement in local racing really commenced less than 10 years ago his involvement and influence has been significant. Thankyou Kevin. The Association extends its sympathy to wife Margaret and the family.

## MANAWATU MATTERS

Chrissy Bambry had her team ready to fire when racing started with 2 wins and 2 minor placings from her 4 runners on the first day in the Central Region after lockdown and then a further 2 wins at the next local meeting. Speed Call raced by her Mother Judith Bambry scored an early double. His win at Wanganui by over 12 lengths was impressive. Not to be outdone the family owned Deerfield is now 3 from 3 this campaign and 7 in total.

Sylvia Kay was also quickly out of the blocks when racing resumed with Dolcetto winning at his second start this campaign at Hawera. That chalked up win number 10 for the Per Incanto gelding who is raced by his breeders' Dr's Bill and Helen Bishop of Christchurch and Sylvia and the late Paddy Kay.

Bad Boy Brown has been a model of consistency with 4 minor placings this term for owner/breeders John & Liz Hancock. Trainer and part owner Harvey Wilson will be aiming for a repeat win in the Great Northern Hurdles.

Awapuni apprentice Maria Sanson kicked her riding career off in the best fashion when she won on her first day of race riding when successful on first upper Super Flash, for her boss Mark Oulaghan at Awapuni in July. Owners of Super Flash include Len and Mrs Haydock and Wanganui's Dawn & Eddie Symes all of whom race the promising jumper Des De Jeu runner up in his first 2 jumping races this campaign.

Another to win first up after a spell was Fattore Otto at Awapuni in July. William Fell (Goodwood Stud) shares in the ownership of the Gary Vile trained Fattore Otto.

Rock Island Line has been consistent this current campaign with 4 minor placings. Cam Arnott and Garry and Janet Harris are part of the Go Racing Syndicate which races him.

## KAMADA PARK POINTS COMPETITION

### Reminder - have you submitted your entries?

**Remember it is not too late to enter your horse in the 2020/2021 Kamada Park Points 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. The competition is for members of the Central Districts Thoroughbred Breeders Association and/or the Manawatu Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association. Entry is free.

If you wish to become a member of the Manawatu Association register via the website [www.racehorseowner.co.nz](http://www.racehorseowner.co.nz) or by calling 021 555 954.

## KAMADA PARK 2019/2020 \$5,000 POINTS SERIES

The Kamada Park Points Series is a season long contest for horses owned by members of either the CD Breeders' or the Manawatu Owners' Associations. The top five points earners receive prize money.

**Congratulations to Allan and Susan Fenwick are in order for winning the series just completed. Their nominee Torre Del Greco got out to a commanding lead which the chasing pack could not reel in. Well done also, to the other four prize winners - John Macmillan (Wekaforce), Judith Bambry (Speed Call), Erin Connors (Hartley) and Ian McSweeney (Guillada).**

Horses receive points as follows ... 7 for finishing 1st; 4 for 2nd; 3 for 3rd; 2 for 4th; 1 for 5th Entry is free.

## KAMADA PARK 2019/2020

### FINAL POINTS TABLE TO JULY 31, 2020

PLACING	POINTS	HORSE	NOMINATED BY
1st.....	37	Torre Del Greco.....	Allan & Susan Fenwick
2nd.....	32	Wekaforce.....	John Macmillan
3rd.....	27	Speed Call.....	Judith Bambry
4th.....	26.5	Hartley.....	Erin Connors
5th.....	25	Guillada.....	Ian McSweeney
6th =.....	24	Lord Bouzeron.....	Chrissy Bambry
	24	Lady Lira.....	Matt & Logan Fenwick
8th.....	22	Rock Island Line.....	Cam Arnott
9th =.....	19	Trifolium.....	Mark & Faye Fearon
	19	Bad Boy Brown.....	Liz & John Hancock
11th.....	18	Fiano.....	Sylvia Kay
12th =.....	17	Codecracker.....	John Gilbert
	17	Kahu Rock.....	Roger Allen
14th.....	6	Greystone.....	Roger Allen
15th.....	15.5	Rox.....	Stu Shirriffs
16th =.....	15	Edwardian.....	Lady Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander
	15	Equinox.....	Robert Stewart
	15	Princess Ani.....	William Duncan

Both Associations are indebted to Kamada Park for their sponsorship of this Series

Mike Collinson President  
Manawatu Thoroughbred Racing  
Owners Association

William Fell, President  
Central Districts Thoroughbred Breeders Association  
Thoroughbred Breeders Association

## CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

### Greetings from the Mainland, what a strange old time we live in.

Racing is carrying on precariously for the most part due to the unwanted global pandemic. It was hard to know if there would be many horses ready to rumble post lockdown, but plenty turned out and extra meetings were added to the calendar.

It was very empty at the ghost meeting at Riccarton on Saturday, tough on owners when they can't see their pride and joy run for glory.

One horse to stand out since racing resumed is the 7yo Nom de Jeu gelding Nomen Ludi. Bred by and owned by Mr J A Graham and R G Alcock, Solomon as he is known in the Ellis Winslow barn, placed second at Riccarton before saluting the judge at Ashburton over his pet distance of a mile.

With regular pilot Terry Moseley sitting him nicely fourth on the outer, he made his challenge at the top of the straight and fought best to the line to hold from the promising Tobilicious.

He subsequently finished a close and unlucky third in the group 3, 123rd Winter Cup at Riccarton. He holds a nomination for the Livamol Classic at Hastings, and even with a rating of 93 is only 43rd in order. All the best to connections to secure another victory before then to get a place in the field.

A popular local victory after lockdown was Jiminy Cricket for patient breeders/owners Pam and Gary Trustum and son Andrew. They got a huge thrill when their 6yo Jimmy Choux out of their consistent mare Satisfaction. He had been good in parts of previous races but put it all together this time and charged home to win the first at Timaru for trainer Stephanie Clark.

Sadly a couple of days ago saw the passing of a popular gentleman, and horseman, Tony Prendergast. He trained winners for over 55 years and he was a great mentor to many young people in racing. He will be missed by the whole racing community and we pass on our condolences to the family.



# WELL DONE PRESIDENT BERNARD – BUT KEEP GOING!

Brian O’Dea and Allan Fenwick

**In what has been an unusual year by any standards the Federation has been very well served by President Bernard Hickey. His efforts are very much appreciated by those who have worked with him on the Executive of the NZ Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Federation.**

A little over 12 months ago Bernard was making submissions on the NZTR Venue Plan, pointing out the need to have a policy around what requirements a Racing Venue should have in place to conduct a race meeting, the need for financial analysis and the impact that race meetings and racecourses have on the Community. He had already expressed concern about the lack of justification and financial analysis in the NZTR consultation document and NZTR convened meeting he attended.

Attention then turned to the Ministerial Advisory Committee (MAC) appointed by the Racing Minister to prioritise the recommendations from the Messara Report. Unfortunately, MAC did not engage with the racing industry to the extent expected. MAC became the Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA) with the passing of the Racing Reform Bill mid 2019 and was charged with making the “urgent changes required to drive the racing industry toward a financially sustainable future.”

In his 2019 President’s Annual Report Bernard commented that “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 but people should be held accountable for their actions and decisions. Integrity is not just a dirty word.”

In November the President requested NZTR to 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.”

There was dismay across the industry when the second Racing Bill was released late in 2019, which appeared hell bent on derailing the intent of the Messara Report. Bernard led the questions at an open meeting convened by RITA in January pointing out that the Bill did not

support the intention of the Messara Report or the expectations the Minister had of RITA. Strong submissions to the Select Committee were needed and all were urged to make known their disgust with the content of the Racing Bill.

In April the Federation took the step to seek information under the Official Information Act 2012 due to concerns around the lack of clarity and factual information being released by the Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA) especially around its viability to fund the Racing Industry and Racing Codes, that RITA’s financial position and ability to trade prior to the advent of COVID-19 was in a serious position that lead to the change of Bankers and RITA not disclosing its true Financial Position, to the extent it has failed to fund the codes.

In addition NZTROF wished to refer to the Minister for Racing’s Letter of Expectations of RITA, which NZTROF believed RITA had breached in part or full as part of its duty of care to the NZ Racing Industry and its Stakeholders, which is resulting in a number of ‘Owners’ considering their options to the peril of the industry.

Bernard has participated fully in monthly teleconferences with NZTR and the other Sector groups, has attended the AGM’s of NZTR and RITA and as a current member of the Members Council has ensured that they undertake their responsibilities under the NZTR Constitution.

Now that the Racing Bill, suitably amended by the Select Committee has passed into law the pressure is on to ensure that NZTR is appropriately structured to undertake its new responsibilities. Serious questions are being asked about future accountability to the industry, especially Clubs and Sector Groups and the changes needed to the NZTR Constitution, including possible regional representation.

The Federation is fortunate in having Bernard at the helm. His tertiary qualifications, his work experience in Justice, Health and Defence and his skin in the game as an Owner and administrator through the Hawkes Bay Association and the Federation ensure he has the necessary background and skills for the job.

## A NEW ONLINE PRESENCE

The Federation’s new website has been a while in the making but it’s almost ready to jump and run – we’re preparing to go “live” in mid-September 2020.

Sally Blyth has been working in collaboration with Julia Orlova of Web Elements to set up a new-look site that is fresh and modern in appearance, and also much more user-friendly than the old one. The new platform adapts easily to use on phones and devices and will also be more straightforward to maintain and update behind the scenes, so we can deliver relevant information for members.

The new format has a more streamlined look and makes navigating the pages swift and easy. You’ll be able to find out more about the organisation, its history, the people involved (past and present) and the latest updates. The Winners Gallery page will showcase winning horses owned by members and the Racing Tales page will feature stories about horses and owners. Also, the Owners’ *Bulletin* will be available on the site as a “flick-book”.

Meanwhile, in tandem with this, we’re now able to share news more easily and immediately via email for those members with an email address. You’ll have seen President Bernard’s July Newsletter, and this year our Invoices were sent via email which reduces postage costs considerably.

This project has enabled us to communicate with members in a cohesive way, giving a taste of the new look, and also to fine-tune our membership database. If you don’t currently have an email, but acquire one in the future, please do let us know so we can keep you in the online loop. Getting a “gmail” email is swift, simple and valuable!

We’re excited to share our new look website with you soon and, once it is “live”, we’ll be sending out a communication to let you know, so you can take a look around.

Thanks to Julia at Web Elements for all the assistance to get these new communication platforms up and running.

## FOR SALE

4 year old brown gelding

By Dalghar

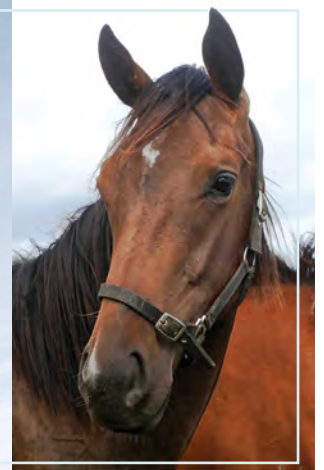
Ex Honorjeu (Montjeu/ Honor Bound [Grp 1])

- Four to the races
- Four winners

ENQUIRIES TO VICKI PASCOE • CLUB MED LODGE • 021 682 436

This gelding has been carefully raised, educated and is ready to begin a racing career. He has had one trial for a close second [Te Teko 11th Feb Heat 11] and then turned out to grow but is now back in work.

All the time-consuming work has been done, this is an opportunity to sit back and race a sound, promising horse from a winning family.







# STUD CHAT WITH SAM

## SEPTEMBER 2020

It's great to have Time Test (Dubawi-Passage of Time by Dansili) back in NZ. Just as well he's arrived looking like an All Black outside back, with his book now full he's going to be busier than a one armed monkey with two bananas, which is a real testimony to the quality of his weanlings or yearlings as they are now.

Having Dubawi as your dad also helps. Dubawi sired his 43<sup>rd</sup> Group 1 winner last month and his son Ghaiyyath was rated the best horse in the world on the Longines rankings. For good measure his young sire son Night of Thunder continues to set all sorts of records in the UK.

Per Incanto has had a big couple of months in Australia. Saracino won again at black-type level, along with a number of other consistent winners including the John O'Shea trained and Lib Petagna owned Lost and Running... word on the street from the Winx jockey Hugh Bowman is that he is a serious black-type horse!

Nice to see Sylvia Kay's dual stakes winner Dolcetto post his 10<sup>th</sup> career success. Sylvia and her late husband Paddy were

great supporters of Per Incanto from the start. Coincidentally Sylvia is just as enthusiastic about Time Test.

Hong Kong's another market getting on the Per Incanto bandwagon. He had a colt realise HK\$6 million at their prestigious sale in April, the third top price.

Nadeem sired his 18<sup>th</sup> stakes winner in June in Oz. I know I've said it before but if your goal is to breed a black-type winner on a budget, you can't go past him. I challenge you to find a stallion anywhere near his \$4k service fee with his stats.

Thanks for all the support around our 80-year celebrations. We've had loads of fun to date and our latest event 'A Date With a Stud' over multiple days in October is a celebration of everything we love about the horse and horse racing. Check out [www.lastud.co.nz](http://www.lastud.co.nz) for details.

Finally, the resilience of our industry never fails to surprise me. There's a lot of positive talk about the changes RITA have begun to make and the stallion bookings for the three boys are on track to exceed last year, roll on 20/21.

## COVETED STALLION SERVICE ON OFFER TO SUPPORT SPINAL CORD RESEARCH

**A service to one of Australia's most sought-after stallions was offered in the 2020 edition of the New Zealand Bloodstock Weanling Sale which has been held online this year on the PlusGavelHouse.com site due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June.**

Thanks to the ongoing generosity of Darley Australia, the auction included a service to Darley stallion Microphone to be sold on behalf of the CatWalk Trust.

A son of Exceed and Excel, Microphone was Champion two-year-old of his year and delivered an exceptional performance to win the Gr.1 Sires' Produce Stakes.

Standing at Kelvinside, Darley's New South Wales property, Microphone will make his debut season at stud this year at a fee of \$38,500 and is already fully booked.

The service was the only remaining chance for breeders to secure a spot this season to the exciting young sire.

"Sheikh Mohammed and Darley are delighted to offer the last nomination in Microphone which will be sold on behalf of the CatWalk foundation as part of the NZB

weanling sale," Darley head of sales Alastair Pulford said.

"CatWalk raises funds that go directly to spinal research and this has to be a cause close to the heart of anyone that works with these magnificent animals."

"They are big picture people who work for big picture results. It's not just about one person, it's about thousands of people. People you and I know. They want to get them out of their wheelchairs and back on their feet."

The auction of the service has been a collaboration between several groups and we are appreciative of the time everyone has committed to the effort.

As well as Darley, contributors include New Zealand Bloodstock, [gavelhouse.com](http://gavelhouse.com) and popular group Boys Get Paid who assisted with the creation of one of the promotional videos.



"Darley's recognition and support of the importance of research into spinal cord injury is something we are very appreciative of and excited about," CatWalk founder Catriona Williams said.

"We are so close to finding a cure and whoever secures the service to Microphone is not just making a donation, they are making a difference to the lives of the many people affected by spinal cord injury."

After a vigorous bidding session on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, the Microphone service was knocked down to an Australian based bidder for the wonderful amount of \$40,000. A sincere thanks to all those who took part in the auction and to the winning bidder – thank you for supporting spinal cord injury research.

Our sincere thanks for the ongoing and generous support from Darley and all involved in this generous donation.

# HORSE HEAVEN - TE AKAU STUD

By Neil Miller

**I PICKED UP AUCKLAND OWNERS PRESIDENT MIKE GETHING OUT WHITFORD WAY. GOOGLE MAPS SAID ONE HOUR FIFTY MINUTES TO GET THERE. WE HAD TO STOP AND "UNLOST" OURSELVES ONCE AND WERE A LITTLE LATE ARRIVING.**

A smiling Karyn Fenton Ellis came out of the office building above the big old farmhouse and David Ellis was strolling down from the gym up the hill where he and "his" jockeys work out. We were warmly welcomed.

David said, "Jump in the wagon and we will do a tour". I doubt the 4wd Territory spends that much time off farm. We went uphill over farm tracks and across huge paddocks to high vantage points where we could appreciate the scale of the holding. Out west you can see the Pacific Ocean and again to the south a glimpse off Raglan. Turning around slowly there's a vista east of grandeur looking across the largely Ellis owned Waimai Valley.

Folded hills with huge limestone monoliths peering out of grassy bluffs, a clear stony bottom stream wending through the valley floor. It is a picture of attention to detail, a magnificent property! Here is 4000 acres (1000 fenced for horses) of lushness that came from a modest start.

The young David Ellis grew up on Pakuranga Hill, went to pony club at Bell Rd over by where the Howick Historical Village is now. From Kings Collage Otahuhu then on to Massey to study agricultural science. He found he had a gift of stock appraisal, so then came a desire to own a farm.

Back in Auckland he worked three jobs to get a deposit for his farm. Early start at the freezing works, knock off at 4pm to work painting house interiors till 9pm. Sunday he pumped petrol at a service station. Later came a decent stint of farm work.

Then with \$40,000 saved a Rural Bank loan facility was assured, but in 1979 the farm ceiling price for approval was \$240,000k. A search at prospective farms from Kaitaia to Manawatu ended at Te Akau where a rundown 570 acres was bought for \$215,000 with the aid of a second mortgage. The purchase had a good start when the wool price boomed to \$6.50 per kilo, but hard times were to come.

The UK joined the Common Market and cut New Zealand agricultural exports and prices collapsed. "Rogernomics saw the end of farm subsidies and farmers looked for new ways to get income. Deer, goats, anything!"

David went with his passion, horses, and he built the land up so they could thrive.

He'd seen the lives of trainers and thought they were overloaded with all the tasks of general management of the training business, He decided there could be a better way, a more successful model and he set about proving that concept. It wasn't long before his instinct was proved correct.

His view was that if a trainer could just concentrate on the horses and not the day to day clerical administration, the horses would benefit from that focus. The records of Te Akau trainers such as Mark Walker and Jamie Richards, who have won ten Trainers' Premierships between them in two countries, have shown this model works well.

We drove on, David said, "See that paddock there, its 30 acres, I just had some steers on it to take the top off. There's ten mares coming this afternoon to go in".

The colts' paddocks are 2 acres and have one colt per paddock. The paddocks where the fillies and geldings spell are 20-acre paddocks and have four or five horses in them.

We go by another couple of horses. David points out, "That's Scrutinise and the chestnut is Gingernuts and he is ridden every day as a lead horse for the 'breakers'. He likes his job!" They are both retired Te Akau racehorses.

This home is heaven for a Te Akau horse. They come here from the sale ring, are broken in and come back for their spelling. When their race career ends all are re-homed. David and Karyn both have a very strong commitment to life after racing for their horses.

The scale of the place is stunning. There are ten staff houses located on the property and water is reticulated from six bores to big header tanks on the high hills. Way over on the southern side, a new fence snakes three miles across the landscape. As far as the eye can see, there is a sea of grass as well as some fields of plantain for sheep fodder.

To have the farm looking this good and productive means that annual topdressing is a must – there are 2200 acres done by truck and 1800 acres done by plane. The farm has 375kg of superphosphate to the hectare. Plus, an annual dressing of 500 tonne of lime. There are 2500 beef cattle, 2800 breeding ewes and 800 ewe hoggets spread across the farm

Further on Mike wanted to continue talking horses, and asked David which racehorse he thought was the best.



After a long silence, David replied. "That is a very hard question, Avantage is right up there. She has Group wins in both Australia and New Zealand, Group One wins at 1200m, 1400m, 1600m and 2000m and a race record there as well. She won her first start in October as a 2YO, won the Karaka 2YO Million, was Champion 2YO of her year, and hasn't stopped winning since."

David explained that Avantage was only beaten once as a 2YO – when she drew the outside gate in the Group 1 Sistema Stakes. However, she resumed her winning streak and went on to win the Group 1 Manawatu Sires' Produce.

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## ...HIS VIEW WAS THAT IF A TRAINER COULD JUST CONCENTRATE ON THE HORSES AND NOT THE DAY TO DAY CLERICAL ADMINISTRATION, THE HORSES WOULD BENEFIT FROM THAT FOCUS...

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"To win the Telegraph and the Bonecrusher in the same campaign is hard to achieve, but she did it in style in the 2019/2020 season. It is pretty difficult to purchase horses that can achieve these results and I have got a big thrill out of seeing just how well Jamie Richards has trained this mare."

Jamie Richards is a shining light in the New Zealand Trainers' ranks. He has already won a Trainers' Premiership, won "New Comer to Training" as well as Champion Trainer awards, and is set to claim the honours again for last season after a record breaking 2019/20. With 104 wins to his credit – 20 group/Listed races (11 at group 1 level, three of those in Australia) and over \$7 million in stakes, Te Akau's tangerine was a dominant force on both sides of the Tasman.

"Jamie took three horses from New Zealand to campaign in Sydney and Melbourne, Melody Belle, Te Akau Shark and Avantage. They all won at Group 1 level and had other Group placings, that's quite an achievement"

Later David said he had a soft spot for Distinctly Secret that he owned with Karyn and friends. He had bred the horse from the Lord Ballina mare Te Akau Secret that won a race but didn't look like a good racing proposition. The horse was left to Te Akau Stud. David had promised to send a mare to Distinctly North but that mare became unavailable, so he sent Te Akau Secret.

Distinctly Secret showed real promise as a 3yo winning the Grand Prix stakes and the Rough Habit stakes in Brisbane. As a 4yo, he won the \$750,000 Group 1 Kelt Capital Stakes (now known as the Livamol Classic) at Hastings in 2003 before running a good third in the Caulfield Cup. All up, he ran in four Kelt Capital Stakes, three Caulfield Cups and two Melbourne Cups and was hardly ever out of the money.

Trainer Mark Walker was in Brisbane and was riding Distinctly Secret every morning leading into the Grand Prix Stakes, He called David and said, 'This is the first racecourse certainty I'm ever going to saddle up. This horse is unbeatable.'

David, who said he doesn't bet much, took the advice and unusually put \$3,000 on each way. Distinctly Secret came home by 3.5 lengths at 33 to 1 – that was a windfall, especially when farming was tough!

Offers soon came from Australia to buy the horse for \$1.4m.

As the horse was in Australia David stated that the money should be in Australian dollars. The exchange rate at the time was NZ .77 cents. It was accepted and David brought the horse home to spell. He was then vet checked and unfortunately failed the vet inspection. To this day, that still amazes David.

Distinctly Secret trained on and retired sound as a 7YO with 63 races, 10 wins and stakes of \$1.85 million in total.

It's a game of snakes and ladders isn't it?

We talked to David about his team and David explained how it was so important to treat people as you would wish to be treated yourself.

Just before the Covid-19 lockdown was put in place, the team were flat out clearing horses from the 120 box stable in Matamata back to Te Akau Stud.

This followed team discussions, where David told his employees 'You have put your heart

and soul into Te Akau every single day, and Karyn and I will do that for you during these uncharted times. Even if we cannot find you work during lockdown, you will all remain on full pay.'

There are over 70 staff members on the Te Akau payroll in New Zealand alone. If you consider the hugely successful Te Akau Singapore operation, that brings staff numbers close to 100.

David tells us how proud he is also of Mark Walker – "since we decided to establish our Singapore stable in 2010, Mark has won the Trainers' Premiership three times, he a simply gifted horseman, his ability to get into a horse's head is uncanny". After almost 30 years of working together, he and his partner have "never had a blue", only coming close once when Mark took the tractor on the farm to an area he was told not to, due to the risk of getting it stuck. Of course, it got stuck!

Back at the house we had a coffee in the lounge and discussed the expected outcome of the new Racing Legislation. David said he was hugely optimistic for the future of Racing, but a lot would depend on the quality, wagering knowledge and industry experience of the people that steered the new vehicle.

It is obvious those qualities were not up to par in the past and that has led to the need for a Government bailout. Overall, the new Racing Act and the stripping out of \$20 million of annual costs by RITA would assist in the industry's viability being restored, he reckoned.

One thing that David says remains important is the wellbeing and welfare of the thoroughbred needs to be a top priority. All parties must work together in this area, for the sake of the industry's future respect and credibility.

I asked David about succession of his role at Te Akau Stud to which he could only reply that he intended to keep going, leading from the front for a very long time. Having just been the leading buyer at the Karaka Yearling Sale for the 15th consecutive year, his contribution to this industry is not only enormous, but also crucial. He modestly waves the thought of being "King of Karaka" away – "it's not about numbers, it's about wanting the quality of bloodstock in our stable to train".

Then he added that he is quite lucky to be here.

"I got viral pneumonia in Queensland a few years ago. I was in an induced coma for eight days before I responded to medication. They told Karyn later it was a 50/50 situation. I can honestly say I now make the most of every single day."

We went up to the office as David said he wanted to give us something. It was a beautiful book of iconic Waikato businesses in which of course Te Akau Stud was featured.

We said goodbye to Karyn and left.

Heading back towards Rangiriri and things more mundane Mike and I discussed our experience of the visit. I said to Mike, "You know the Racing industry should take out a very big insurance policy on that bloke!"



# MONARCH FARM – ROYAL CARE!

## AGISTMENT FOR YOUR HORSE

Here are 200 of Waikato's finest acres just northwest of Cambridge township. The property is assigned to the P and J Hogan Partnership. It fronts Peake Road and runs south to the Hautapu Road intersection. Turning right there it goes a fair distance back west to opposite the old Hautapu School.

This is warm flat land that was formerly the "dry mare unit" of Cambridge Stud that lies over to the west. It was laid out by the "master" Sir Patrick Hogan many years ago. Rectangular paddocks many hedged by tall topped Poplars, black post and railed fences that are hot wired. The buildings are likewise black.

The property is managed by Mark Vince who has worked it for 38 years. He is ably assisted by Sam Roberts. They are kept busy by ongoing farm tasks and twice daily horse feeds. They get to know and monitor the horses health by constant supervision.

The Hogans' mares live here with the "in foal" mares leaving to "foal down" at Cambridge Stud and then return to be processed and

served. The foals then are weaned and raised on farm until they are sent to the Yearling Sale consignors.

The Hogans' racing stock have their "spells" on this property. Grown colts are not kept here.

It was mid-winter when we called, the trees were bare but the land looked great with good pasture growth and horses grazing, just being contented horses.

The office is off Peake Road, up the main drive to the right. Here we met with Margaret Fife who has served the Principals for 35 years. She is great to talk to and we immediately felt at home.

Margaret is the person who liaises with Owners on all matters and is on hand the hours of the working week.

Visitation of your horse is by appointment and can be worked in between the farm duties of stock and land management.

Sir Patrick takes a strong overview of his and Lady Justine's farm, of management, the work is done properly – in ways that the long serving staff know are best for the stock and the land they care for.

Margaret says the rates they charge for agistment are very competitive. Give her a call and she will send you a schedule.

It is obvious that Thoroughbred stock have value added by the excellence of nurture as well as brand association to Monarch Farm.

Would I send my horse here for a "Royal" stay?

That is a resounding Yes! *(Words by NM)*

# MONARCH FARM

OWNERS: Patrick & Justine Hogan Partnership

## Race Horse spelling and agistment available

Quality 5 - 10 acre paddocks are ready now for small groups of spelling racehorses. (Not suitable for colts)

We welcome your enquiries and visit for inspection by Contacting Margaret Fife: 0274 518 812 or email [marg@monarchfarm.co.nz](mailto:marg@monarchfarm.co.nz)

• We offer Breeders / Owners Competitive Agistment Rates for:

**RACEHORSES**

**BROODMARES**

**YEARLINGS**

**WEANLINGS**

- Able to process mares during breeding season and arrange walk-outs to studs. (No foaling undertaken)
- Monarch Farm comprises 200 acres of fully fenced top class pastures, plus a stable complex.
  - Highly experienced staff.
  - Location 377 Peake Road, Hautapu, Cambridge.



# NEW ONE FIT HURDLES NOW BEING TESTED IN AUSTRALIA

Newton Abbot was the first racecourse to trial the 'one fit' padded hurdles, with the trial commencing in March 2013.

The hurdle design was researched and developed by Richard Linley with British Horseracing Authority support and consists of a modified hurdle frame with a custom fitted close cell foam pad instead of the traditional birch. The hurdle was developed principally to reduce the risk of horse injuries and since the start of the trial refinements have been made to the shape of the pad and the hurdle frame itself, prior to Taunton being the second racecourse to participate in the trial from October 2014.

When the Racecourse Committee met in September 2015, they reviewed the up to date results of the 'one fit' padded hurdle trial and agreed they were extremely positive and that the trial should be extended to gather additional data. Since then Bangor has become the latest racecourse to adopt the 'one fit' padded hurdles, this summer they replaced all of their traditional birch hurdles with the new design with the meeting on the 29th July seeing them in use for the first time.

Watt Fences has provided all of Bangor's replacement hurdles and found very little change to the construction of the frame from the traditional hurdle but there are added component parts, i.e., hurdle caps, vinyl sleeve



on top rail and rubber matting over the bottom board.

Results from the trial have so far suggested a positive improvement in overall horse injuries, especially those superficial injuries which potentially keep horse off the course for a period of time, and there has also been a reduction in hurdle damage with fewer rail and leg breakages.

"It has taken quite some time to get where we are now, and I am very appreciative of the efforts of the team at Newton Abbot in

particular for being so bold in kicking the whole project off. The results so far have been very, very encouraging, not only in less superficial injuries but also less fallers compared to the national average, and it has also been very positive from the Ground staff's point of view due to reduced time for repairing damaged hurdles. Let us hope that results continue to demonstrate the value of adopting the new design, and thanks also to Watt Fences for making the necessary changes the traditional hurdle design." Richard Linley, BHA Senior Inspector of Courses.



## NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2020  
CLAUDELANDS, HAMILTON

FOR MORE INFORMATION &  
TO PURCHASE TICKETS VISIT  
[LOVERACING.NZ/AWARDS](https://loveracing.nz/awards)

NEW ZEALAND  
THOROUGHBRED  
RACING  
PUREI HOIHO NATI O AOTEAROA

LOVE  
RACING.NZ

# ENSURING THE LIFE-LONG WELFARE OF THE THOROUGHBRED

by Chris Wilson, Waikato branch committee member

**The ABC documentary of October last year that shocked many with its recording of the unkind slaughter of racehorses in a Queensland abattoir, including a New Zealand-bred horse, posed a question for Kiwi viewers - what happens to racehorses in New Zealand after their racing career is over?**

I knew that wild horses had been sent to abattoirs but I could not find any easily-accessible figures on the numbers of all horses killed at abattoirs. I contacted Karen Remetis, chair of my NZTROF branch, Waikato, and she also had concerns about racehorse welfare. She regards that as one of the branch's two priorities this year, along with increasing stakes to owners.

With Karen's encouragement, I drafted a discussion paper on racehorse welfare based on informal consultations with a Waikato equine rehabilitation and conditioning centre and a large riding school that retrains and rehomes retired racehorses. The paper was circulated to Waikato members for feedback and then presented to the national NZTROF meeting on 29 March, held by videoconference due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

The lockdown itself brought racehorse welfare centre-stage as the government decided it was to ensure that racehorses were looked after during the lockdown that some activities could continue.

NZTROF President Bernard Hickey acknowledged this at the meeting and said that NZTR had been planning further work on racehorse welfare since revising its welfare guidelines and rules in 2019. NZTR was also considering two initiatives that the discussion paper highlighted:

- ▶ a re-weighting of prize money thereby making racing more sustainable for more owners
- ▶ the consideration of some form of whipless racing.

I suggest a series be established for owners who want this option for their horses. This could be promoted to a potential corporate sponsor, and the wider public, to counter negative perceptions about the use of the whip.

The Waikato equine rehabilitation centre said that injured racehorses and those that cannot be retrained present the most challenges for new owners and are difficult to rehome. It proposed a compulsory warrant of fitness (WOF) being filled out by trainers before horses are sold at the end of their racing career. This would detail all known characteristics of the horse, including injuries, to aid retraining and care. This WOF was also suggested by the large riding school and I notice Beyond the Barriers NZ suggesting something similar in a video on NZTR's website in March.

A WOF would ensure after-racing decisions

made by new owners are made in the best light. These more-informed decisions would assist horse welfare, as the on-selling of horses who don't meet expectations tends to lead to horses receiving less appropriate care.

Covid-19's impact on the economy will create added strain on owners already struggling with a racing operating model that is not sustainable for many owners financially. It is inevitable that some owners will no longer be able to afford to race their horses and I wonder what will become of these beautiful creatures.

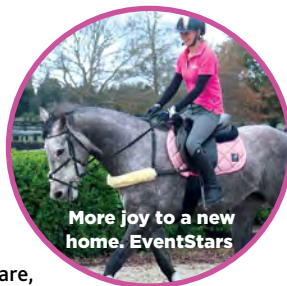
Bart Cummings wrote in his autobiography, *Bart My Life 2009*, p352: "Thoroughbreds are not machines and they don't exist for the purpose of making money out of racing for their owners."

Many people, such as EventStars, are already doing great work retraining and rehoming racehorses and promoting the horses for other equestrian activities. Now particularly, with increasing negative perception about horse racing in the wider population, these efforts need to be further supported and the welfare of the thoroughbred through its whole life kept in the forefront.

On behalf of the Waikato branch, I lodged an OIA with the Minister of Agriculture in April requesting the number of horses killed at abattoirs over the last three years and the proportion of them that are thoroughbreds. MPI responded as follows; "Horses are not slaughtered for human consumption in New Zealand. There are registered pet-food slaughter premises that do process horses. However, there is no requirement for these companies to record and report any animal slaughter numbers to MPI."

I referred this information to Bernard Hickey who will table it at NZTR's next racehorse welfare forum. From a horse welfare point of view, I think there should be a requirement for companies to make these numbers public. Only with numbers we will know if there is an issue, and the extent of that. I am hoping that the numbers are not going to increase due to the expected economic downturn caused by Covid-19.

If we could encourage more people to try riding a horse for recreation rather than a bicycle we would increase demand for retired thoroughbreds! I think more articles on heart-warming stories of horse welfare and life after racing would help too. The story of the New Zealand warhorse Bess retold this Anzac Day by NZTR was a touching reminder of the loving bond that can exist between a thoroughbred horse and her owner through the toughest of ordeals.



## WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

Neil Miller

*Thanks for taking me to the Races Grandad said Peter.*

*Well that's alright I'm glad you found it interesting, I said.*

*But you know as we were driving in, there was those people shouting and waving things and they looked grumpy. What was that about?*

*Well they are called activists lad, they were protesting, they think horses are badly treated being made to race.*

*But Grandad all the ones we saw looked pretty interested and some were excited and jumping around. They didn't look at all unhappy.*

*Well lad they are bred to race and that has been going on for hundreds of years. They wouldn't have been born if no one wanted them to be racehorses.*

*How did people think of racing horses then?*

*I will tell you Pete. Way back in the dark ages humans moved out of the caves and started growing things. They also hunted animals and the animals hid in the forests. Horses lived in the wild too and lions and other carnivores like tigers and crocodiles preyed on horses. The horses drifted closer to the humans to be safer. And a sort of partnership happened when humans looked after horses and the horses repaid humans with work or play. Racing was play.*

*The horses seem to get scared easy Grandad why is that?*

*I said, well that is a result of breeding. All the ones that were careless got killed by predators. The really careful ones survived to breed.*

*But do they really want to race Grandad?*

*I said, well the ones that really don't want to race are soon given away and people don't really breed from them because they don't have much value as a racehorse.*

*Grandad, all the ones I saw looked so shiny and healthy? Are all horses like that?*

*Well not really Pete, but racehorses are special. They are fed and exercised and kept warm with rugs. A dentist looks after their teeth and there are horse doctors and shoe people and back people and the stable staff love them and look after them so well. Really these are the best looked after animals in the world.*

*Grandad horses seem to poo a lot but it doesn't smell that bad. Why is that?*

*Well lad, it's because of all the great food they get like oats and barley sweetened with molasses, carrots and fresh greens, some hay to warm their tummies too. Other stuff too like vitamins. Racehorses eat more healthy stuff than a lot of people.*

*So Grandad do racehorses live longer than wild horses?*

*Well lad, horses that have been looked after live about twice as long as horses in the wild do.*

*Gee Grandad, then I don't understand why those people out by the entrance were protesting. Do you?*

*I said, I'm sorry Peter I don't either!*

# RACING THIS TIME - A NEW ERA OF RACE DAY BROADCASTING



Sally Blyth spoke to Andre Neill about Racing This Time – his new service bringing raceday coverage to racing enthusiasts via Facebook.

**Getting out and about around the country to various race meetings is a passion for keen racing man and longtime broadcaster Andre Neill. On the day we speak, he is off to the Whanganui races from his home base in Wellington to cover each race on the card for his new racing venture.**

First, let's step back to the early 1990s...

When Action TV (now Trackside) was set up in November 1992, Andre was head of production, working with the late Philip Leishman. Before Action TV got the go-ahead, Andre spent a year commuting to Christchurch for a trial at Canterbury TV to see if a racing channel would be a goer. All pointers were positive, the numbers were strong, the new format took off and punters loved it.

As well as being involved in production, Andre did some presenting on Trackside, with a focus on Central Districts. And, in 2008, when The Races Ltd was started – an amalgamation of the three codes which worked with racing clubs to get people on course for a great race day experience – Andre joined that team. This brand helped to profile racing and has now been absorbed into Loveracing.

Both horseracing and broadcasting are in Andre's DNA and, with all the recent changes going on at Trackside, and within the industry as a whole, he started thinking about how he could add value in challenging times. The cessation of racing due to Covid-19 forced Trackside TV to be pared right back from April 2020 which meant the scope of information, interviews and commentary was severely diluted. Aware how much punters and racing enthusiasts still wanted to keep abreast of pre- and post-race information, as well as celebrations by winning owners, elated trainers and satisfied jockeys, he had the idea to start his own live-streaming channel on Facebook "to promote and drive New Zealand racing". And, from this, Racing This Time (RTT) was born.

The clever name was dreamt up by the team who wanted to reflect racing history and all that the late racecaller Peter Kelly meant to the industry, both in the CD and also nationally. It also aptly alludes to a new era of racing, post-lockdown.

[Peter Kelly called his first race meeting as an 18yo and, after taking over as the Trentham racecaller in 1955, he spent 28 years in that role. He was also chief auctioneer and a director of Wrightson Bloodstock. Peter died in December 1997. Those who listened to Peter's racecalls back in the day will be familiar with how he started each race with "This time ...". The name is a fitting tribute and Peter's widow and brother are on board.]

Technological capacity meant setting RTT up using Facebook as a platform was feasible, although it required some testing to be sure

there was sufficient interest to go ahead. Once they had the name sussed and an idea of what Andre would provide live, he did a trial at the Lower Hutt TAB, streaming RTT on the TV for instore customers. It got the thumbs up and Andre was under way with his new venture.

After three weeks and six meetings, they'd gone from zero followers to 1,700 – testament that there is indeed an interested audience out there. The venture is still in its start-up phase and running on the smell of an oily rag. Andre travels around the country, capturing the on-course action on his mobile phone, doing interviews etc, while his offside Stephen Berryman does the graphics and statistics at home base, assisted by Nicholas Bradley (son of jockey Darryl). Pre- and post-race footage, interviews, observations and even the dividends get directly uploaded to the Racing This Time Facebook page, either live or immediately after the race.

Deciding on which race meetings they'll cover comes down to budget and logistics; with a small team and tight funding, there are limitations. Andre says that, in addition to throwing in personal funds to get the project up and running, RTT receives financial support from Car Finance ([www.carfinance.co.nz](http://www.carfinance.co.nz)) and friends in the industry, which helps make it sustainable at this stage. Andre hopes to grow this support in time so that RTT becomes a valuable source of informal in-the-moment information and racing news delivered to punters, owners and everyone who loves the industry. With more support and resources, in time he hopes to be able to get more personnel on board and be on course to cover every race meeting around the country.

The beauty of RTT is that there are no time constraints. Without the need to switch to the next race call, Andre can stay with the action and capture the euphoria of the win. This behind-the-scenes footage is gold. He also goes

into the stables before each race and talks to trainers and handlers, getting the inside word and a good look at the horses. He films the horses in the birdcage and, after each race, he has a word with winning owners and trainers, and then goes into the jockey's room to get the lowdown from them. Viewers get a sense of the moment and the personalities, along with visual and verbal information. Once the clips are posted on the Facebook page, they can be accessed from anywhere at any time.

Andre agrees that being "on the spot" like this suits his personality, and his wide experience as a broadcaster means he is comfortable with mic in hand – although he often lets the action do the talking.

Andre likens the RTT service to the Telethons of the 70s; the more people engage with it, the more it will flourish and the more sustainable it will become. Currently in an interim stage of development, Andre is keeping an eye on the service to fully understand the landscape. He sees his service as complementing what Trackside offers, although he's looking into the possibility of filming the actual races live from "punter level", which would give a different perspective to the official footage.

Although the future terrain is a little unclear, Andre assures me he'll be working hard in the coming months, combining his passions, to fill this gap in the market. Racing is all about people and horses, and the RTT team is delivering plenty of great coverage of both aspects. We reckon they're onto a winner and we hope owners support it.

As a racehorse owner, one of the most valuable benefits of Racing This Time is that if you are unable to be on course to watch your horse run, you can go straight to RTT and get a slice of all the action. That's got to be good for racehorse ownership!

[www.facebook.com/racingthistimeNZ](https://www.facebook.com/racingthistimeNZ)



Andre Neill on course at Te Aroha with trainer David Greene, 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020

Photo: [www.raceimages.co.nz](http://www.raceimages.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.

## PRE LOCKDOWN FEBRUARY 16 - MARCH 23

D W Lake	OTTAVIO
G R & Mrs G N Webb	VIADANA, SO FAR SOKOOL
J T Cassin	KING'S CAPITAL
Calder Bloodstock	SHERWOOD FOREST
Mrs J A Hale	GO NICHOLAS
B J & Mrs M A Harvey	HE KIN FLY
Miss S L Hobbs	BELLE FASCINO
R A & Mrs J D Coupland	TEE CEE COUP
D M Crozier	STRIKE FORCE
Miss R L Deegan	STRIKE FORCE
K J Hickman ONZM	LOVE STRUCK, COMMUNIQUE
Mrs J K Brown	ATAAHUADREAMSRFREE
Mrs J K Brown	ATAAHUADREAMSRFREE
P J Blacktopp	DEVIOUS
G M Cullen	VROOM, SWISH AZ
Ms N M Lourie	VROOM, SWISH AZ
E J Long	ALL RAZZLE DAZZLE
Mrs K H Long	DARCI DENIRO
D McK Duncan	HÄUNTER VILLAIN
A J Porter	SWEEPSTAKE
G A Rogerson MNZM	CAPELLANI, MORE WONDER, OTTAVIO
Sir Peter Vela	SUPERA, PALM SPRINGS, COUTURIERE
C P Russell	MARIA DIOR
M M & Mrs J P Andersen	DAM RELIABLE
M J & Mrs S S Craig	DAM RELIABLE
C R Grace QSM	SWEEPSTAKE
Brian & Mrs L J Green	FINKICAN
J S Mee	OUR ROSETTE
T D & Mrs V L Parrott	DANCING CHOUX
B J & Mrs J E A Lindsay	VERNAZZA, PAZIENZA, SHERRIF, GET HITCHED
P G Allan	ROGER THAT
R L & Mrs L M Bonnington	CAN I GET AN AMEN
M J & Mrs S Hardy	WALKIN' BY
M Vlasich	SYMBIO
Miss J J Harkness	JAMES BARRIE
J A Roache	SATIN BELT
Dowager Duchess of Bedford	JOE'S LEGACY
P H & Mrs C J Brown	LEVANTE
Sandringham Investments	LEVANTE, CANDID CAMERA
P J & Mrs C J Lynskey	BEAUDZ WELL
D M & Mrs K Horo	TINKALICIOUS
J R & Mrs S C Rainford	SIDEBAR
E & Kieran J Corby	HE KIN FLY
Te Akau Syndicate	ENDURING LOVE, NEED I SAY MORE, AVANTAGE, EXALTATION, STAR OF BOMBAY, COOL AZA BEEL, MARKUS AURELIUS, LUMINOUS, SHEZATHINKA, AROMATIC
Don & Dame Wendy Pye	JINGO
A E Denham	SCANDALOUS, HEE'S OUR SECRET

M Fearon	SATIN BELT, LA SOEUR
Mrs F L Fearon	LA SOEUR
Judith Bamby	ALCALDESA
P J Tennant	CARLINGFORD BAY
R M Robertson	IMELDA MARY
T O Harrison	DANCING CHOUX
G S & Mrs S A Fausett	BIG MIKE 2
D E Nakhle	DESTINATION, NEESON
Mr or Ms E E & W L Mountfort	SPEECHMAKER
D Paykel	STAR TSAR
J B & Mrs D G Struthers	FLOMILINE
C J Grace	KING'S CAPITAL
P G Gillespie	SWEEPSTAKE, DEDOJE
Gartshore Bloodstock	SAVY YONG BLONK
G F Wade	MR TOOGOOD, LADY GRANGELEA
Mrs C L Wade	OUR BEESKEES
H & Mrs L M Morrison	SPEECHMAKER,
Miss A P Currey	SULU SEA
W J Kerr	SULU SEA
Mrs F S McCarthy	DANCING CHOUX
M P Daly	MANHATTAN FLAME
R & Mrs D M Goodeve	SECRETARIA
C J & Mrs J I Oakes	I AM A CRAFTSMAN
Porotene Thoroughbreds	POSH POROTENE
P Bardell	GORBACHEV
B K O'Dea	GORBACHEV
F J P Huwylar	GORBACHEV
R Trigg	SHOCK PROSPECT
PJS & Mrs J R Bell	EVA JAMES

## POST LOCKDOWN JUNE 20 - JULY 31

Des & Mrs B F Appleton	TAHUROA HEIGHT
Ascot Bloodstock	GRINNER
Judith & Tony Bamby	ARAGON, OTIS
Mrs Judith Bamby	SPEED CALL, DEERFIELD, DUBAI'S MOKO
PJS & Mrs J R Bell	EVA JAMES
Drs H M & W J Bishop	DOLCETTO
P J Blacktopp	EXPRESSIVE
W L & Mrs C Bolton	JAZAMOUR
Mrs J K Brown	ATAAHUADREAMSRFREE
Calder Bloodstock	OVERTHETOP
Mrs R J Chin	THE POORMANZABEEL
W A Coxon	TAMMIE WYNETTE
D F Cunningham	WHOLETTHEFOXOUT
Ken Duncan	WHOLETTHEFOXOUT
Gartshore Bloodstock	SAVY YONG BLONK
Go Racing	MAKE TIME
J A Graham	NOMEN LUDI
Brian & Mrs L J Green	FINKICAN
P H Grieve	THE COSSACK
P M & Mrs M I Guise	ELLE D'BERRY
Mrs P B E Hargreaves	TEEN TITAN
L G & Mrs M D Haydock	SUPER FLASH
K J Hickman ONZM	PROSPEROUS
G & A Hill Trust	TAVIS COURT, WINE N' DINE
Mrs S L Kay	DOLCETTO

D H MacNab	TALLYHO TWINKLETOE
R B McLaren Ltd	GORGEOUS GEISHA
Lady Verna Meads	MAKABAR
H & Mrs L M Morrison	SPEECHMAKER,
Mr or Ms E E & W L Mountfort	LAKE SUPERIOR
P S Nelson	THE COSSACK
P S & Mrs C Nelson	REVOLUTION
B G & Mrs D G Neville-White	ALI BABA
K J O'Brien	OUR FINE WINE
G R O'Dea	MATCHBREAKER, NOT SANTA
W K Pomare	CALL ME EVIE
D G Price	MANDALORIAN
Don & Dame Wendy Pye	JUSTASTATE
J R & Mrs S C Rainford	SIDEBAR
G A Rogerson MNZM	DE LA TERRE, SABER, MAKABAR
G A Shand	DOUGH BOY
E B Smyth	MIZZENA
Mrs M D E Swap	TEEN TITAN
E H & Mrs D J Symes	SUPER FLASH
Te Akau Syndicate	BAK DA MASTER, AL HARAM
B C Thomas CNZM	SHOW BAZZ
G C & Mrs P M Trusttun	JIMINY CRICKET
Sir Peter Vela	MEGEVE, RED BEACH
K M & Mrs B J Voyce	OUR GIRL GILLY
P D Wells	WINE N' DINE
J R Wheeler MNZM	WINE N' DINE
Mrs S L Wood	ONE PRIZE ONE GOAL

## THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

March to July 2020.

### AUCKLAND

E John & Kathryn Long	Auckland
Richard & Glenda Webb	Newmarket
Ryan Trigg	Whangarei
Gwynyth & Philip Webb	Epsom
Mate Vlasic	Auckland
Peter & Janice Bell	Ruakaka
Jenny & Wayne Collins	Herne Bay
Benjamin Jeffcoat	Pukekohe

### BAY OF PLENTY

Howard & Laureen Morrison	Tauranga
William (Bill) Gartshore	Tauranga

### WAIKATO

Louise & Drew Wilson	Hamilton
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### MANAWATU

Tony Bamby	Palmerston North
Allan & Heather Wallbank	Levin

### WANGANUI/TARANAKI

Colin & Mrs Joyce Oakes	Waitara
Des & Kaye Benson	Wanganui
Brian & Linda Green	Wanganui

### CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Brian & Joanne de Lore	Southbridge
Jeanette K Brown	Christchurch



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