

OWNERS' BULLETIN



SUMMER 2023



Time Test - Luscious Legs
Lot 319

LA



Per Incanto - Sharvaṣṭi
Lot 505



KARAKA 2023
We're Back!

Book 1 29 - 31 January
Book 2 1 - 3 February


NEW ZEALAND
BLOODSTOCK®
Where Winning Begins



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

SEASONS GREETINGS MEMBERS AS WE WELCOME IN 2023

Each year brings its own challenges to thoroughbred racing, and in particular track infrastructure is at the top of the list. The number of race meetings abandoned of late is not good for the industry, TAB, and owners. While some may say it is the unusual weather patterns we are experiencing with unprecedented torrential rain, the truth of the matter is that Clubs are failing to maintain their tracks to a required level of acceptance. Not all are to blame but some Clubs do better than others, but funding would appear to be the root of the cause for most clubs. Not all tracks are the same when it comes to turf and grass elements and then we have inadequate irrigation and drainage systems, that compounds matters further. To ensure our tracks and clubs are compliant, it may be a case for NZTR to close one track each year so that a full maintenance program or reconditioning can be achieved. It is just a thought!!

Over the Christmas period and to date we have been blessed with great racing performances and the awaited clash between 'Legarto and Wild Night,' going into the Karaka 3YO Classic, is shaping up as a tremendous race and one not to miss. The cream of our thoroughbreds always appears to rise to the top this time of year which is a welcome lead into the Karaka Sales. This year's crop of yearlings presented for sale by type and pedigree look exceptional to me but then again, I am no bloodstock expert and very much rely on looks!

On 20 December last, I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of thoroughbred industry leaders to meet with TAB NZ CEO Mike Tod and his management team to discuss the TAB reasoning for withdrawing fifteen million of planned funding to the three Racing Codes based upon falling performance it anticipates during 2023. The meeting was well attended and though no added information was tabled apart from speculated figures and graphs of no substance, I came away no better informed.

I enquired where is the Annual Report for 2022 to be told, it's with the Minister of Racing for signing. Mr Tod did inform us that the TAB was working towards identifying a potential betting partner by March 2023 and pursuing changes to the Gaming Act that would stop betting revenue (Geo Blocking) leaving NZ.

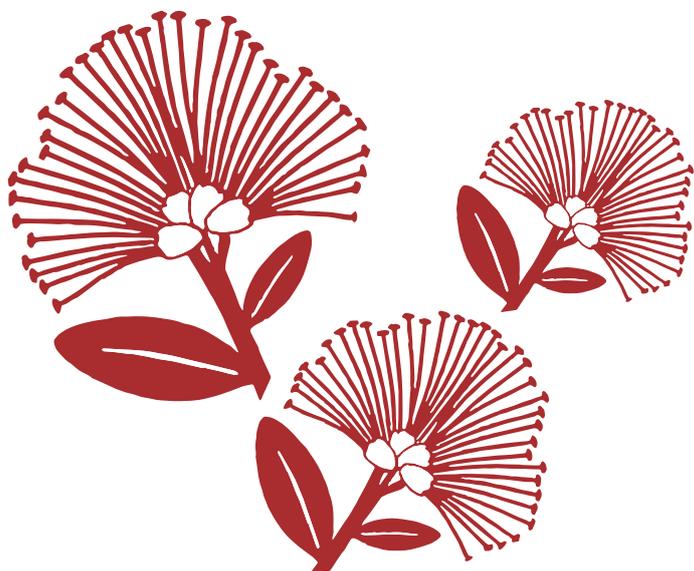
On a positive note, Mr Tod and his team did say they have racing at their heart and are working towards ensuring the objects of Racing Industry Act are being achieved to facilitate and promote betting and its profits for the long-term benefit of NZ racing.

Whether I am more confident in the TAB than I was for the last four years is debatable and I await their Annual Report. My one bug bear was that not one TAB Board member or Chair attended the meeting and on behalf of the Owners' Federation I vented my displeasure of this nonattendance.

To all winning owners and I, since last bulletin, congratulation and may the winners keep coming in "Keep safe and all the best"

Kia haumarū, ā, ko ngā mea tino pai katoa

Bernard Hickey (President) 



EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

Here we go, another New Year commences. They say it will be a bit rugged but let's roll through that and 2024 will see an improvement.

We went away to the Chatham Islands and had a better week weather wise than you had here.

I was out on Pitt Island when my phone rang. It was Sam Williams of Little Avondale Stud. He said, "I can't photograph the yearlings for your front page. The weather here has been just terrible." But Sam got it done and they look great.

I need to thank the team of scribes who write copy for each issue. It is a difficult time of the year with Yuletide festivities and family friends and racing vie-ing for attention. I feel a bit bad about that, but needs must.

We welcome NZTR COO Darin Balcombe aboard to maybe more fully explain changes in rules of administration. You see these come out online, but I think it is far easier to be onboard if you read a hard copy – in your favourite chair.

There's a real feelgood story of horses sent here to retire from Hong Kong. Thank you Cathie Perrott. For your fine words and care of the Honkies. I'm sure a copy of this bulletin will find a way to the owners in Hong Kong. So let me say, "Guys we applaud your fine intentions."

At the backend there is a rollicking story of our adventures in the Chatham Islands. And I do a short story on the life of the sparkling Toni Croon. It was wonderful to get alongside this remarkable woman and I am so pleased to call her a friend.

Contact me - neilandjeanette@yahoo.com 

THE NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED OWNERS FEDERATION WISH TO RECORD THEIR SADNESS AT THE PASSING OF MEMBER SIR PATRICK HOGAN

We extend our sympathy to Lady Justine and the extended Hogan family. Also to the friends and long serving loyal workers of Cambridge Stud and Monarch Farm.



OUR COVER:
TOP: LOT 319 TIME TEST - LUSCIOUS LEGS FILLY BOOK 1
BOTTOM: LOT 505 PER INCANTO - SHARVASTI COLT BOOK 1

CAN YOU HAVE A LOOK?

IT WAS A MESSED UP OLD YEAR WHERE THINGS GOT STRESSED - AND MISSED. OUR UNPAID SUBS REFLECT THAT.

We don't want to lose you, so could you please check that you are current and have your Members Card.

If you wish to resign please inform us as, we will not be posting further *Bulletins* to unpaid members.

Denise, our able Admin, will send each Regional Association contact data of unpaid members for them to action.

WINNERS GALLERY

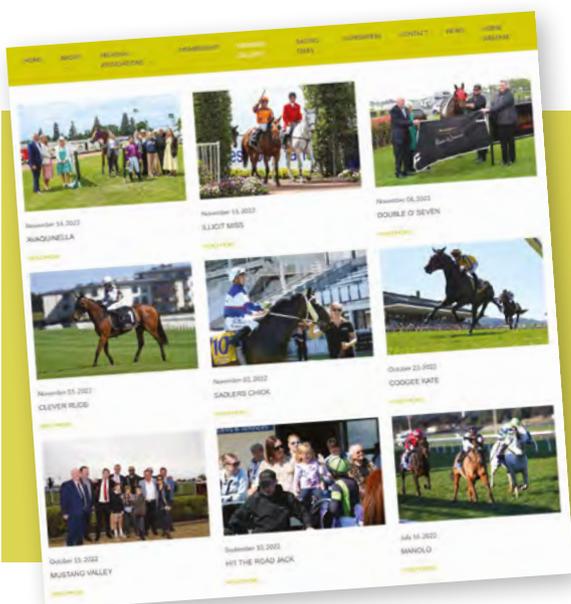
Do check the **Winners Gallery** page of the NZTROF website to see if you can find you and/or your winning horse(s).

The page gets updated regularly in cycle with each new edition of the *Owners Bulletin* – all horses featured are owned by NZTROF members and listed by the date of their win. We try to showcase photos of smiling owners as well as victorious horses!

All images courtesy of Race Images:

<https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/winners-gallery/> and

<https://raceimages.co.nz/> 



REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Mike Gething & Sally Blyth

A very happy New Year to everyone. May 2023 be special one for you and your horses.

The Owners Social on February 18th 2023 at Pukekohe Park is a sell-out. I have a waiting list if closer to the date some members find they cannot come. So if you have an interest and want to be on the waiting list please let me know.

Your committee this year has two new members in Craig Leishman and Allan Pate. I thank them both for making the commitment to be actively involved in the Auckland Owner's scene.

Patience is essential for owners in our sport and it is still sorely tested. Even now, nearly five years later, some of the important recommendations of the Messara Report have yet to be implemented. Reorganisation of racing clubs, maximising the commercial role of the TAB, improving the quality of track management, increasing stakes to improve the viability of racing for owners and keep good horses in New Zealand, changing the rules so important stake holder – owners, trainers & jockeys play a more important role and adding equine expertise to the RIU are just a few areas still in need of attention.

Our very committed national president, Bernard Hickey, together with his committee, are working hard in all these areas but it is still a huge struggle. It is hard to understand why it should be so!!

I wish everyone well for the New Year.

BOXING DAY @ PUKEKOHE

By Sally Blyth

Much as I would love to have attended Boxing Day Races at Pukekohe, I decided to stay put at the beach north of Auckland, balancing family time in the morning with racing time in the afternoon. I spent a few happy hours in the Rusty Tui Sports Bar/TAB in Matakana. I often call in on a Saturday afternoon and have befriended a fabulous crew of keen racing people there. It's a helluva lot of fun and Boxing Day was no exception.

Auckland Association Committee member Virginia Healey was keen to see the horses on course, so she headed along to Pukekohe with a group of racing friends, including some more recent owners. She shared with me her overview of the day.

After arriving around 11:30am and finding a good table in the Members' area, they settled in to watch Race 1 get under way. Under blue skies, and with a perfect Good4 track, the place was humming pleasantly. There was a bouncy castle for the kids and ATR Marketing Manager Laura Madden was out and about offering Kapiti ice-cream to patrons, among other duties.

With a strong focus on the horses, Virginia didn't get time to engage with the Fashion in the Fields, but she did get to witness a hirsute man in an ill-fitting tank top who obliviously blocked their view. No prizes for his sloppy ensemble or inconsiderate behaviour!

The racing action kept everyone captivated. Te Akau Racing had the thrill of three wins on the day – Tokyo Tycoon (R2, jockey Opie Bosson); Synchronize (R5, jockey Craig Zackey) and Wild Night (R6, jockey Opie Bosson).

There were some other nice wins for NZTROF members including:

Thunder, Race 3: Part-owned by Waikato Member Judith Ridley-Smith. A fantastic, albeit narrow, win – and an ominous bet for some as stormy weather approached the Auckland area prior to the race.

Habana, Race 8: A strong 2L win for Brendan and Jo Lindsay.

The real highlight of the day was the phenomenal run by hot favourite Legarto in R6, the ATR Eight Carat Classic 3YO SW 1600m race. Virginia shared with me her immense thrill at being there in person to watch Legarto win the race. He had plenty of ground to make up after Wessex got away from the field but, with fast final sectionals from the 800m, this unbeaten and hugely talented 3YO filly by Proisir bounded to the front and ran away to win by 1¼ L. That makes five wins in a row. Jockey Ryan Elliott must have been wondering if there would be enough time and space to get to the front so there's no wonder he had a grin of relief on his face when they passed the winning post first.

Virginia couldn't stop yelling and cheering as a very special racing moment unfolded. I, on the other hand, watched the Trackside footage in the TAB utterly spellbound. None of us said a word, we just looked at the screen in a kind of awed and catatonic silence – followed by admiration and some intense analysis!

Congratulations to Waikato members Philip and Catherine Brown of Ancroft Stud who are in the ownership group for this exciting filly out of Geordie Girl. Congratulations also to trainer Ken Kelso and his team. It looks like NZ might have its next significant racehorse champ.

By 4:30pm dark clouds had arrived and the course emptied out a little after Wild Night's impressive win. Race 9 was run under a black and foreboding sky but that was no deterrent to capable and in-form jockey Warren Kennedy who guided Defibrillate home to win the Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic, his first Group 1 win here after relocating from his native South Africa. Warren notched up three wins on the day so would have gone home a happy man.

Just prior to the final race of the day, huge raindrops began to fall. Owners out viewing their horses got wet and had to take shelter but no deluge eventuated and the track remained in great order all day long.

John Thompson and the team at Rich Hill Stud will be on "Cloud 9" after a superb day – they stand Shocking (Defibrillate), Proisir (Legarto) and Vadamos (Uderzo – R10).

With both Legarto and Wild Night clocking up five wins in a row, Virginia assured me it was well worth the effort to be there in person. It was indeed a day to remember and a great way to wrap up the final Premier race meeting of 2022. 🐾



L-R: Helen Boyle, Anne Fulton, Claire Fergusson*, Jan Hawkins and Virginia Healey* with Tina Troughton* standing behind with binoculars. (*denotes Auckland Association members)

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

New Year's day brought great racing to Te Rapa.

Bart Cowan and his good team produced a super track. It was a good 4 at the start of the day and just got faster.

Waikato Owners and trainers got the lions share of the stakes. The Chris Wood trained Funtonic kicked off the day at 16/1 and the day was bookended by the Michael Rogers Trigon Lad at 28/1.

But the outsider of the day was Bea A Roca at 60/1. This horse is owned by GI and KI Box and Trained by Darryn and Briar Weatherley.

The outlier was Lance Noble who trains for Auckland Owners Brendan and Jo Lindsay. The chestnut 3yo filly came from behind at an astonishing rate and won by nearly three lengths.

Dionysus showed how tough he is winning The Windsor Park Queen Elizabeth Cup. Winner of 5 out of 19 races and 257k in stakes he looks like much more is ahead.

It was strange to see the Railway run the left handed way at Te Rapa. But it was the star turn of the day. The Mark Walker trained Imperatriz was tried late spring but didn't show a lot of interest. A better run at Matamata on 23 December at Matamata trials. when she ran a good second confirmed she was on the way back.

The race was very genuine when Babylon Berlin got a nice break in the straight. But Imperatriz flew by to claim the win. The time for the 1200m was 1.08. 9.

It was a remarkable triumph for the Te Akau racing team and Mark Walkers problem solving abilities. 🐾

HAWKES BAY

Tony Lyndon

The New Zealand Derby in March is on the agenda for the John Bary trained Rockburn. He will probably run at Hastings on New Year's Day and then the Waikato Guineas in February as a lead up to the Derby.

Local Owner-Breeder Mick Ormond was thrilled to win the Australian \$288,000 Jericho Cup at Warrnambool with Bastida that was run over 4652 metres. The race is named after the Australian Light Horse Brigade after they had fought in Turkey in the First World War. Mick Ormond's grandfather fought in this battle.

Lilly Laguna surprised her owner breeders A G, G J & W L Chittick & P J Evans and trainer John Bary when winning the Waipukurau Cup at odds of 40 to one. The winner of only 3 races she had not raced for two months after suffering a stone bruise.

Waipukurau trainer Kirsty Lawrence, who only prepares a small team of horses, is enjoying her best season ever. Having won 5 races and \$104,000 in stakes.

Pep Torque won the \$65,000 Feilding Cup and Real Slim Tradie won a \$60,000 rating 75 at the Hastings Spring Carnival. Purchased from the Gavel House Auction for only \$2600 Pep Torque has now won 9 races and just under \$250,000 dollars. 🐾

WANGANUI & TARANAKI *Brian O'Dea*

A few kilometres South of Whanganui on SH3 is Letham Thoroughbreds which could possibly be best described as a Breeding and Training Horse Farm. The owners of the 80 hectare farm are Nigel and Adaire Auret.

Nigel was born in Kenya but when as a young child his father walked off the farm for safety reasons the family moved to Whanganui.

Adaïre grew up on her father Fraser Rowes small dairy farm at nearby Upokognaro where after meeting Nigel she taught him how to milk cows.

Nigel had the good fortune at the latter part of his schooling – and just afterwards – to work on a horse stud at Kimbolton for Jack Buchanan, assisting with everything from foaling mares to mating them. He felt privileged to be learning from Jack, who gained his experience at the Koatanui Stud at Brunswick, Whanganui one of the foremost Studs in New Zealand then.

During the 50's and 60's Nigel returned to Whanganui as a late teenager, became involved with Adaire and during their engagement bought their first broodmare, "Tricky Spi." After marriage they dairy farmed in the Stratford-Eltham area for a number of years, then moved back to Whanganui some 32 years ago and purchased Letham Farm.

What would be described as their foundation mare would be "Pearl Harbour" whose bloodlines still continue on in the Stud. She was only a two win racehorse but

she certainly performed as a broodmare with thirteen named foals. First born was Pompeii Pearl who won five from five as a two year old, including the Sires Produce Stakes at Awapuni – Group One- and the Wakefield Challenge Stakes at Trentham. She was Adaire's favourite horse as Adaire fully worked and trained her. Early on around the farm she seemed bumble footed, but on the racetrack a total professional.

Saint Cecile gave Nigel his biggest thrill as a racehorse among her eight wins were the NZ Bloodstock Breeders Stakes, initially a Group Two. Then for the second win in it a Group One. Also won was the Listed Kelt Stakes and the Interprovincial at New Plymouth over 1600 metres in what is still a track record time of 1.33.22.

Sires to stand at Letham Thoroughbreds have been Mettre En Jeu and Unusual Suspect. Included in the ownership of Mettre En Jeu was Adaire and Nigel's daughter Melanie. Among successes of note for Mettre En Jeu were "Overtheriver" with 23 wins for the late Whanganui identity Dan O'Leary and his full sister La Fille En Jeu whose 9 wins included two Stakes Races.

Present Stallion, Unusual Suspect is performing very pleasingly with over 50% winners to starters and the progeny have won over \$1 million in stakes. The bloodlines are very good as his Grand Sire "Unusual Heat" has just entered the U.S. Hall of Fame.

Over the years there has been flexibility between son Hamish and Nigel with training and Stud duties. As Adaire and Nigel have

moved towards semi-retirement, Hamish, who is no great fan of racing horses, has become a trader who does all of his own breaking, education and selling of horses. As an 18 year old Hamish was just a few days away from representing NZ in the Equestrian Arena in Australia when his horse had leg problems and couldn't travel.

His daughter Amber is riding in the same skilled way as Hamish did so there is potential for the name to appear in the next generations headlines.

Nigel trained 92 winners including two Group wins. His off-farm efforts in the Industry included 10 years on the Wanganui Jockey Club Committee.

Fraser Auret, their son, trains on his own account on the family owned Marton Racecourse having 50 plus horses in work and in excess of 327 winners. Fraser and wife Erin have a nine year old son, Milton, who has full knowledge of every horse (50 plus) in the stable, their behaviour, temperament, progress etc and can do a pretty good race commentary as well.

Obviously with the cousins Milton and Amber, and Melanie's daughter Abbie also showing very good Equestrian skills the family will be appearing in the horse world for years to come.

A lot of women go to the races, look posh, really enjoy their day but have little input into running the event. Not Adaire at the

Continued over page >>

WANGANUI & TARANAKI *continued*

Wanganui meetings. She spends most of the day in the Owners Room looking after the social needs of the Owners of the previously raced horses. In addition to serving drinks she cleans and tidies the room for the next group, right through the day. She could also win "A Fashion in the Field Event" most racedays.

What's happening in the Equine World for them in the near future? Adaire had got somewhat concerned that all their eggs were in the "Unusual Suspect" basket so they put some mares to Per Incanto. They are selling two of these yearlings at Karaka this January.

WINNING OWNERS

Winning owners in recent months have included Alan Hawken of Waverley with Another Bella. Alan has gone through a rough patch health wise, losing both legs.. He is a very positive person and is on our Wanganui-Taranaki Committee.

The G.A. Hill Trust picked up three wins, Tavis Court, Wheelitin and Stolen Spirit. Other multiple winners have been Mrs C. Bolton of New Plymouth with Coogee Kate and Im Ronaldo and also Gavin O'Dea with Soldier Boy and Shes Super.

Mauna Loa has given members Peter Sewell and Paul Bardell a Trentham win and a quality third in the New Zealand Cup.

A winner of real quality for the Stanley Brothers has been Darcy La Bella, winner of her last four – three with Black Type.

Nigel and Adaire Auret won with Unusual Countess at Woodville, Pat Keegan's home trained Madam Zara won at Hawera, Sea The Dream won at Waverley for Rosie, Bryce and Ian Hackett, C. Dravitzki won with Za Spirit and Manolo was a winner for S. McDonnell

John Wheeler's Oso Savy was a dual winner at Riccarton at NZ Cup time and John and Carole Lynskey have had Maolla Miss and Margherita Veloce leave maiden ranks in recent weeks with Puntura back in form. 🐾

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON *Allan Fenwick*

Puketiro was an impressive 3 length debut winner at Taupo for breeder Christopher Grace, who races the filly with a number of friends & associates. She is out of the lightly raced Matakana, a winner and 4th placed in the NZ 1000 Guineas and descends from a family which has produced many winners for Mr Grace. The Savabeel filly is in the Mark Walker stable.

Codigo's game win on debut at Matamata was a thrill for a number of people connected with the horse. Firstly, for breeder Dame Lowell Goddard, who races the two year old with Waikato Stud, Codigo is the first foal of her winning mare Sophia Magic. Codigo was also the first runner and therefore first winner from the first crop, for the Redoubt's Choice sire Ardrossan, himself a winner of 4 races from just 9 starts who stands at Waikato Stud. Stephen Marsh trains Codigo and also trained his sire Ardrossan.

Promising gelding Pepeha was a decisive winner at Tauherenikau after being placed 2nd at his 2 previous starts in good company. The Darci Brahma three year old is trained by Mike Breslin for the In To Win Darci Syndicate, which involves a number of Association Members.

In To Win Syndications is organised and run by Tineke Balcombe, a long time racing enthusiast. Tineke enjoyed success as a rider, worked for many years in the office at Awapuni and has raced a number of successful horses. Tineke has a huge passion for the racing industry.

"I really want to see the NZ Racing industry thrive, so I love being a promoter. I have a passion for innovation, I love coming up with new ways to make it affordable or just easier for more people to be involved. The old saying "You Can't Beat That Winning Feeling" really rings true, whether you have a 1% or a 50% share the thrill of cheering your horse home is truly unbeatable. My job at InToWin.co.nz is to help with the

selection process, administer, entertain and manage all this so syndicate members can sit back and enjoy the ride!"

Other recent winners and horses to keep an eye on for In To Win Syndication Ltd include Queen Of Spades who racked up three wins over the last 12 months for the InToWin RACE Members Syndicate, Parisian Poppy is knocking on the door waiting to record her third win, Charlotte's Way is looking like she will be in the winner's circle very soon. InToWin also has some very nice 2 year olds coming up this year.

Tineke also runs the InToWin RACE Members Syndicate which is open to any member of a RACE Club – Wellington RC, Manawatu RC, Marton JC, Feilding JC, Rangitikei RC or Ashhurst Pohangina RC. For just \$40 per month a shareholder can race multiple horses. Syndicate horses include Queen Of Spades, a winner of 3 races, Miss Belle, Crossfire and a Savbeel x Together 2 yr gelding recently acquired

To keep up to date with everything happening at InToWin.co.nz follow the Facebook page In To Win Syndications Ltd

Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander have a promising type in their homebred Royal Flower, who has recorded wins at Waverley & Trentham and also been placed twice in just 4 starts this campaign. Gail trains the Proisir mare.

Subtle Point has been a model of consistency without having all the luck for trainer Roger Allen. Four starts in November & December produced 4 seconds including a gallant 2nd to Sagunto in the Manawatu Cup. Subtle Point holds a Wellington Cup nomination.

After a couple of recent placings Knickerless finally cleared maidens at Tauherenikau for Debra Masters & Milton Passey. The Charm Spirit filly is trained by Lisa Latta.

Debra also has a share in the Lisa Latta trained He's A Doozy winner of the Group 3 Thompson Handicap at Trentham & the Group 3 Coupland's Bakeries Mile at Riccarton. He's A Doozy is nominated for the

Thorndon Mile & the Herbie Dyke Stakes.

The Porters from Foxton have had success recently with Bold Belle (2 wins & 2 placings) and Nun So Bad (1 win & 3 placings). Bold Belle is trained by Bryce Newman whilst Nun So Bad is in the stable of Mike Breslin.

ASSOCIATION AGM

The Association's AGM was held at Awapuni on 30 November, 2022.

Annual Report – In his Annual Report President Mark Verran commented on several matters including the need to support the Members Council and the Federation, the close association with the C D Branch of the NZTBA and the Members Points Series. He thanked the Committee for their attendance and input at Committee meetings and said he had always been proud of the Association which shows great support for our industry despite the serious issues it continues to face. However, the Committee has never been shy to question any matters which are seen as being inaccurate, faulty or even downright wrong, and long may this attitude remain.

In conclusion the Chairman said that he believed it is imperative that those associated with our great industry have a duty of care of the industry and therefore a responsibility to ensure that those who are paid to manage it do so in an accurate, future focussed and responsible manner.

Mark Verran was unanimously re-elected President and Kevin Tod was similarly re-elected Vice President. The following were elected to the Committee - Stan Alexander, Cam Arnott, Tony Bambry, Michael Collinson, John Creaven, Mark Fearon, Trevor Latimer, Danny Madden, Charlie Rose, Barbara & Peter Tennant and Elaine Vine.

Secretary elected Life Member – Allan Fenwick was elected a life member of the Association, in recognition of the contribution he had made to the Association over a long period. Allan first joined the Association when he was appointed Secretary effective from 1 August, 1974, a

position he held until August, 1985. He re-joined the Committee in 2006 and was appointed Secretary in 2009. Since 2006 he had been the Association's delegate on the Federation Executive.

Guest speaker, Mr Darin Balcombe, NZTR Chief Operating Officer

Mr Balcombe addressed several matters of interest to Owners including the following:

- recent abandonments of race days had been a real concern especially when they had arisen because of alleged mismanagement at Club level.
- meetings of Regional Track Managers were taking place
- an app has been developed to collate post raceday comments from jockeys on the state of the track they had just ridden on
- owners were now receiving email advice when a race day was abandoned
- there was no deliberate intention to move, especially black type races, to the north when a raceday was abandoned in the Central Region. The location of all horses likely to race in the replacement race as well as the impact on other races were considered
- the reason for continuing the payment to 10th place
- the current Jockey training/ Apprentice School may not be fit for purpose in the future, so alternatives were being considered
- work was being done to encourage overseas riders to relocate to NZ
- the SENS computer system being adapted by NZTR was expected to be up and running by October, 2023
- naming of horses before trialling would assist in tracing horses
- it was not practical to shift an abandoned grass track meeting to a synthetic track on the same day.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2022/2023 POINTS SERIES LEADER BOARD AS AT 2 JANUARY, 2023

The evergreen Deerfield, who has already had 14 starts this season, currently holds the lead but there is a chasing pack in pursuit. Yolo was turned out after winning at Riccarton but is about to return to the stable, whilst Royal Flower & Subtle Point have been pretty consistent in recent races.

Leader.....	Deerfield nominated by Judith Bambry	31 points
Second	Yolo nominated by Sam & Philippa Trotter	25 points
Third	Royal Flower nominated by Gail Temperton & Stan Alexander	20 points
Fourth.....	Subtle Point nominated by Roger Parkinson	17 points
Fifth	Pepeha nominated by William Fell	15 points
Sixth.....	Princess Bidy nominated by Chrissy Bambry	14 points
Seventh ...	Bradman nominated by John Roach.....	13 points
Eighth =...	Dancarina nominated by Rosie Pratt & Kamada Racing	12 points
.....	Mochatini nominated by Mark & Faye Fearon.....	12 points
.....	Pennyweka nominated by John Macmillan and by Les & Janine Wallace	12 points

The Leader Board will be updated on the Federation website from time to time. This can be found on the Manawatu page on the drop-down box under the "Regional Associations" heading.

REMINDER

Remember it is not too late to enter your horse in the 2022/2023 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.

NEW ZEALAND RACING HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE DINNER

The next Inductee Dinner is scheduled to be held on Sunday, 7 May, 2023 at Sky City, Hamilton, commencing at 5.00pm. There will be 10 Inductees. Paul O'Sullivan & Opie Bosson have already been announced as Inductees and other names will be released prior to the event.

Tickets are available from www.nzracinghalloffame.co.nz



CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

Hello from the Mainland.

Yesterday was Christmas Day and we hope everyone had a great day with family and friends.

It is a busy schedule at this time where most horses should get a chance for glory.

Cup week came and went, a little disappointing about the last days abandonment, but all and all some great racing with wins being spread amongst bigger and smaller trainers.

On to some winners, – it was the 15th October at Ashburton where Noble Knight scored the second win of his career. The 5yo gelding by Ghibellines, owned partly by Tim and Helen Parish of Christchurch, was contesting a rating 65 2200m on a good 4 track. Trained by Sandy Cunningham from Prebbleton and ridden by Kozzi Asano he had to overcome an awkward barrier draw and ended up travelling three wide towards the back of the field. He improved even wider from the 600 and ground to the lead with 100m to go and scored nicely going away. A big horse, as some of the Ghibellines can be, they can take some time to hit their straps, and he is doing that now. He also just missed at Wingatui today. I'm sure more wins are in store.

On the 22nd of October at Riccarton, Astrakhan also secured her second win of her short career to date. A 4yo mare by Sweynesse, she is part owned by Pauline McBreen of Alexandra and Richard Marlow of Renwick. The race, a rating 65 1600m on a good 3, she also had to come from the widest gate. But with Lisa Allpress on board, it helps negate some of that negative. Travelling four wide down the back straight, she pulled the trigger and sent her forward to hit the lead with 900m to run. She kicked on the corner to be out by four lengths and comfortably held on to win by two lengths. She has earned 44k in seven starts this time in for trainer Terri Rae at Riccarton.

Incidentally Astrakhan is right in the fight for our point series which is due to finish in the next couple of days.

On the 30th of October at Ashburton, a 4yo mare by the name of Aerial Blue continued the pattern of picking up her second win. By Air force Blue and owned by K and L Spence, it was a rating 65 1400m on a soft 5 track.

Trained by Lance Robinson at Riccarton, she came out of barrier 7 to be perfectly poised up one out and one back by Tina Comignaghi. Coming into the home straight, she angled out three wide and drove hard and won like a favorite should by just over a length.

As I mentioned above our points series finishes at Timaru on 28th December. So look out for results of that in the coming week.

Lastly I hope everyone has a Happy and safe New Year, and a great summers racing.

KARAKA 2023

We're Back!



Karaka is back. Back to our traditional date and back to serving up an unforgettable Karaka experience.

The welcome will be warm, the drinks will be cold and the thoroughbreds will be exquisite.

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Book 1 29 – 31 January
Book 2 1 – 3 February

KARAKA 2023 IS BACK

THE COUNTDOWN HAS KICKED OFF FOR NEW ZEALAND BLOODSTOCK'S 97TH NATIONAL YEARLING SALES SERIES, FEATURING AN OUTSTANDING SELECTION OF NEW ZEALAND'S FINEST YEARLINGS SET TO GO THROUGH THE SALE RING DURING THE NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY'S BIGGEST WEEK OF THE YEAR.

With a series of spring racetrack successes followed by a blockbuster Ready to Run Sale, the New Zealand industry has been on a high in recent months, and now NZB is keen to keep that momentum rolling right through to its main event – Karaka 2023.

A star-studded catalogue has been unveiled for Karaka 2023, which this year returns to its traditional timeslot in late January. The stage is set for a six-day selling extravaganza, with Book 1 running from 29 to 31 January and Book 2 following right in its footsteps from 1 to 3 February.

The quality of the New Zealand thoroughbred has been clear for all to see on the big stage in Australia this spring, and Book 1 of Karaka 2023 will shine a spotlight on yearling siblings to the likes of A\$10m Golden Eagle (1500m) hero **I Wish I Win** (NZ) (Savabeel), Makybe Diva Stakes (1600m) winner and Cox Plate (2040m) runner-up **I'm Thunderstruck** (NZ) (Shocking), plus big-race performers **Mo'unga** (NZ) (Savabeel) and **Mr Brightside** (NZ) (Bullbars).

An enormously successful Ready to Run Sale clearly showed what a difference that foreign flavour makes at the Karaka sales complex, and NZB is looking forward to welcoming a full complement of overseas buyers back in January 2023.

The Ready to Run Sale was wildly successful, particularly the absolutely incredible second day, and it's given us some real momentum as we build into our yearling sale in January," NZB Bloodstock Executive Kane Jones said.

"And you combine that with a spring for the history books for kiwi-breds and Karaka graduates in Australia. They've won at Group One level over a sprint distance with **Roch 'N' Horse** (NZ) (Per Incanto), over a staying trip with **No Compromise** (NZ) (Pins) and scored many other major victories in between.

"It's been an outstanding few months that have really showcased the types of horses that we produce in this country, and now we're really looking forward to offering another top-quality selection of yearlings at Karaka 2023.

"I've completed on-farm inspections of almost all of the yearlings already and have been very excited by what I've seen.

"The standard is very high across the board. We can't wait to showcase these horses in front of an international audience, which we'll have back on site for a yearling sale for the first time in three years.

"It's going to be fantastic, and we're really looking forward to welcoming back some familiar faces and welcoming new ones as well," he said.

The Karaka 2023 catalogues have strength in both numbers and quality, with an elite selection of 644 yearlings to go under the hammer in Book 1, followed by another 435 in a quality Book 2 offering.

There are over 100 siblings to stakes winners in Book 1, with the spring carnival stars highlighted above backed up by the likes of **Noverre** (NZ)

(Savabeel), **Melody Belle** (NZ) (Commands), **Cool Aza Beel** (NZ) (Savabeel), **Mustang Valley** (NZ) (Vanbrugh), **Explosive Jack** (NZ) (Jakkalberry), **Kermadec** (NZ) (Teofilo), **Lim's Kosciuszko** (Kermadec), **Excelida** (Exceed And Excel), **Dynastic** (NZ) (Almanzor), **Vespa** (Elusive City), **Subpoenaed** (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle), **Jennifer Eccles** (NZ) (Rip Van Winkle), **Aloisia** (NZ) (Azamour), **Madison County** (NZ) (Pins), **Lizzie L'Amour** (NZ) (Zabeel), **Hezashocka** (NZ) (Shocking) and **Tiptronic** (NZ) (O'Reilly).

Book 1 also features sons and daughters of 89 stakes-winning mares, and it will showcase the progeny of a high-flying group of kiwi sires who have starred on both sides of the Tasman this spring, such as **Savabeel**, **Almanzor**, **Per Incanto**, **Proisir**, **Vadamos**, **Vanbrugh** and **Ocean Park** (NZ).

Buyers will also get an early glimpse of the next generation, with yearlings by first-crop stallions **Super Seth**, **Ten Sovereigns**, **Ferrando** (NZ), **Sneaking To Win** and **Wyndspelle** (NZ).

NZB invites you to join them at Karaka 2023 to experience an atmosphere like no other. The welcome will be warm, the drinks will be cold and the thoroughbreds will be exquisite. Experience NZB for the perfect blend of horses, people and place, while securing yourself the next generation of kiwi talent at Karaka 2023.

The catalogues for Karaka 2023 can be viewed at nzb.co.nz



Stud chat with Sam

2022 has had its share of challenges but I'm not sure I want to take it back anytime soon. **Roch 'N' Horse** literally took us to our Everest when she won the Gr.1 Newmarket, then to repeat against an even stronger field in the Gr.1 Darley Champions Sprint; as her breeder and part owner it just doesn't get any better. To be on course was something we shall never forget.

In its 82 years in the industry the family has enjoyed success in many of Australasia's greatest races. Sitting down with Buzz after getting home from Melbourne, and dad recounting the stories of Straight Draw's win in the 1957 Melbourne Cup, I could only then start to appreciate how significant these achievements are.

For Per Incanto to have two of the best sprinters in Australia and arguably the world in **Roch 'N' Horse** and Lost And Running, sometimes it feels a bit surreal. I can't recall the last New Zealand stallion to achieve anything like it.

In the space of a month Per Incanto had three new stakes winners in the form of the Australian 2YO Little Brose, bred by the Wairarapa's David Wallace, Belclare also bred in the Wairarapa by David and Deb Woodhouse, and Faithful Feat, bred by Peter Hart and Ian MacDonald.

Time Test's 3YO's are starting to make their mark and we're thrilled to see three of his biggest supporters and shareholders, Kevin Hickman, Jim Barlow and John O'Brien sharing that success. 1st and 2nd at his only two starts, Jim has Derby aspirations for Mister Roshan. Like most of his sire's progeny, Time's Up just needs a good track to reproduce the form he showed when winning so stylishly on debut for John.

With **132** mares foaled and preparing 50 yearlings for sale this summer, I would like to say a huge thanks to our team for going above and beyond in 2022.

There was time for a few prezzies, some fresh paua and crayfish on Christmas Day but it was all hands-on deck from Boxing Day on as we put the finishing touches to the 45 Karaka bound yearlings and get set to welcome our overseas friends back to the NZB Karaka Yearling Sales from 29 January.

This year the LA drafts include yearlings by Per Incanto, Savabeel, Almanzor, Ocean Park, Russian Revolution, Time Test, Belardo, Shalaa and Ardrossan. In addition there are yearlings by 1st season sires Too Darn Hot, Microphone, Exceedance, Strasbourg and Ten Sovereigns.

Lot 19 is a great way to start our sale. He's the 1st foal of a winning High Chaparral mare from the family of Northern Meteor and Smart Missile by Too Darn Hot. A good sized colt with a lot of quality and going by the interest in him at our on-farm inspections, he's going to be well sought after at Karaka.

We have five Per Incanto colts going to Karaka, here's a little on three of them. Lot 329, 494 and 505. The dam of 329 is a stakes winning Falkirk mare and the colt, exhibits some of the physical Storm Cat attributes. Lot 494 is a neat, well-made colt in a slightly different style to the leggier brother that the HKJC bought last year. Lot 505 is a good example of the higher quality of mare that Per Incanto has served in recent seasons. Mum, Sharvasti, was a Gr.1 winner and Gr.1 placed. On type he's got some similarities to dual stakes winner Magnum who was Per Incanto's 1st ever book 1 yearling at Karaka.

Of the seven Time Test yearlings in our book 1 draft, Lot 522, the colt from the Galileo mere Slrani and lot 319, the filly from the Pins mare Luscious Legs, are standouts. The Galileo cross with Time Test in the northern hemisphere has produced excellent results headlined by the Gr.2 winner Crypto Force, while the filly is a full sister to the unbeaten Ciaran Maher and David Eustace trained Running On Time.

The racetrack performances of Per Incanto's fairer sex have really heightened interest in his fillies at the sales. And going by his early results as a broodmare sire its little wonder that the likes of Cambridge Stud have been snapping up his fillies. Lot 314 and 571 have the looks to match their pedigrees. Lot 571 is bred on the highly productive cross over an O'Reilly mare and the full sister to the dual Australian stakes winner Lanciato is made in the mould of a classic 3YO type.

There are a couple of real look at me types in our 17 strong Book 2 draft. Lot 767 is the first foal of a young Lonrho mare from the family of High Chaparral by El Roca. Given the quality of her first foal, a filly, it's exciting that the mare is in foal to Per Incanto.

If there is one consistent in the drafts of yearlings the farm has presented recently it's the re-occurring quality of the progeny of Per Incanto mares. The stallion has certainly been able to impart his quality through his daughters and lot 1064 is another terrific example. He's a colt by Australian 1st season sire Strasbourg and mum was a winner at 1200m in Australia. He's over 500kgs already but is incredibly athletic.

LA extends a warm welcome to anyone coming out to the sales to pay us a visit in our usual spot next to Barn D. It feels like an eternity since we had a real Karaka and this one promises to be a cracker!



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REPORT FROM NZTR COO DARIN BALCOME

As you would have seen in the past month the TAB NZ have announced a reduction in distributions to Racing NZ of \$15m for the remainder of the 2022/23 season.

What this means for NZTR is a reduction of \$8.5m in distributions. The TAB have encountered some headwinds of late with the economy heading towards recession and overseas bookmakers aggressively targeting our elite punters.

The NZTR Board guaranteed funding levels by utilizing the Sustainable Reserves Fund to underwrite stakes levels and club funding payments in the current season. The Board of NZTR were adamant that owners & participants needed surety through these testing times and that prudent management through covid had put NZTR in a position to be able to stabilize the current position.

One of the key components of NZTR's five year plan has been the Infrastructure Fund and this reduction in distributions will not result in any reductions to the Infrastructure Fund which will continue to be used to fund vital infrastructure improvements for the industry.

Tracks especially have taken on a significant focus, during the recent abandonments, a couple of constant factors became evident, aggressive renovations and irrigation systems were essential to guarantee consistent safe racing surfaces. Earlier this season NZTR put in place Regional Track Advisors who actively work with Clubs to ensure these renovations are being undertaken. Part of this scheme is to increase the knowledge and skill levels of the track managers around the country with regards utilization of Verti-drains and the like to reduce the amount of irrigation that is required in preparing a surface.

This is where the Infrastructure Fund will become invaluable as we look to upgrade our struggling Irrigation Systems, which are essential to alleviating hardness as an essential part of horse welfare. Whilst this will not happen overnight we will see the benefits in seasons to come, as we progress these systems NZTR and the Regional Advisors will proactively work with Clubs to ensure our Tracks are prepared in the best manor possible.

One of the learnings from these abandonments was the importance of early communication to reduce the

impact on connections, one area that was identified after the Hastings abandonment was that NZTR did not directly communicate with owners. This has now been rectified and owners receive an email notification of any abandonment. Although we hope this protocol will not have to be utilized often, with the extreme weather patterns that are becoming more prevalent it is inevitable.

At the commencement of the 2021/2022 season, NZTR integrated a stake policy of paying back to 10th. NZTR's policy is consistent with the approach taken by the major racing jurisdictions in Australia. Apart from rare exceptions (eg the Karaka Millions races), NZTR continues to enforce a consistent policy, which provides clarity for all stakeholders in the industry.

In the 2021/2022 season, the payment of prize money back to 10th continues to incentivise horses to start. The policy goes much further than that though. For a progressive one- or two-win horse that is considering its next options on where to start, NZTR's policy encourages them towards taking on the higher stake and better quality races, without fear that the decision will leave them out of pocket should they not finish in the first three or four.



SKYCITY AUCKLAND STYLE STAKES

CATEGORIES & WINNERS:

**Chaos & Harmony
Contemporary Womenswear
Soraya Gurney**

**FMK Pukekohe Classic Womenswear
Gabrielle Cashmore**

**LOVERACING.NZ Best Millinery
Sasha Boyens**

It wouldn't be the Boxing Day Races without the best of New Zealand racewear on show and the day saw women compete for prizes valued in the thousands in the SkyCity Auckland Style Stakes.

With three titles up for grabs, the competition was fierce and the judges; Carena West, Lorraine Cookson and Julia Rose Hayes, had their work cut out for them. The Chaos & Harmony Contemporary Womenswear category was won by Soraya Gurney, the FMK Pukekohe Classic Womenswear category was won by Gabrielle Cashmore and the LOVERACING.NZ Millinery category was taken out by Sasha Boyens.

Soraya Gurney is no stranger to a sash on Boxing Day with the Auckland having previously won the event in 2018 and 2020 as well as nabbing the runner up spot in 2019.

L-R: Sasha Boyens - Best Millinery, Gabrielle Cashmore - Classic Lady, Soraya Gurney - Contemporary Womenswear

From NZTR's perspective, there are considerable returns for every good quality horse that makes the decision to run at a Feature, Premier or Iconic meeting in preference to an Industry meeting. Average turnover per starter on Industry day meetings is \$11,118. The average turnover per starter on Feature, Premier and Iconic days is \$19,566.

For every horse over 10 starters in a race on an Industry Day, turnover increases by an average of \$4,133. At 9.4% domestic funding return on turnover (as is the effect of the current Code Funding Agreement), this is an increase in funding to NZTR and the industry of \$389. For every horse less than 10 that doesn't run on a Feature or better day, turnover declines by an average of \$21,994, or \$2,068 in commission.

The net effect of the owners of a horse at a Feature meeting opting instead to race at an Industry meeting would be a net loss of funding to NZTR of \$1,679. If just 5% (approx. 1,250) of our starters over the season opted to run in a midweek raceday in preference to on a Saturday or Public Holiday, NZTR's funding could decline by up to \$2 million. Our view remains that paying back to 10th is the most effective mechanism in encouraging horses to race in higher quality races.



THE HONKIES

Cathie Perrott

In October 1969, we purchased a lovely 20 acre block of land in Karaka and my intention was to buy weaner cattle and grow them and send them off when they had reached the ideal weight and condition. However, in January 2000, a friend whom I grew up with, went to Pony Club with and remained good friends ever since, contacted me and asked if I would be interested in taking a retired Hong Kong racehorse and caring for it for the remainder of its life. The owner would pay for its keep. I didn't have any horses at that time and after some thought, decided I would. My friend had raced horses in Hong Kong and had kept in touch with the Trainer and he had asked her if she knew anyone who would take on this responsibility and my name came up.

Coco was born in Argentina and purchased as a yearling and was sent to the trainer in Hong Kong. At the same time, another yearling was purchased that was born in the USA and he was placed in the box next to Coco. Eventually they were given names. Coco was called Galico and the other was called Luck'n'Fortune aka Baby.

The Hong Kong owners of Coco are Fred and Rebecca. Coco showed a lot talent as a 2YO and they believed they had a Derby prospect. Unfortunately, he bowed a tendon and had to be put aside until the leg healed which it did and there was sufficient time to resume his training and set him for the Derby. Unfortunately, he then bowed the other tendon and sadly they decided to retire him.

There is no spare land in Hong Kong to keep horses when they have finished racing so there are two options. They either become meat for the lions or they have to leave Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Jockey Club will assist with transporting them either to Australia or New Zealand and the Trainer, knowing my friend well, asked her if she knew anyone who would take Coco, she phoned me and the rest is history.

Coco arrived at our property early one morning in January 2000. At first we had to confine him to a small area then gradually increase the area until he felt secure in a larger paddock. He quickly adapted and was quite used to being pampered by his Hong Kong owners who visited him at the stables every Sunday and fed him carrots so we continued that practice and he soon settled well in his new environment. He has the most delightful temperament and loves being pampered.

Only a month or two later I had an email from Fred asking if I would be interested in taking on a second horse. Although he



owned Coco outright, he had a share in a syndicate in the horse he was hoping I would take on. The remainder of the syndicate, once Baby ceased to bring in the winnings, lost interest and walked away from him but that was not the case with Fred and Rebecca. These two horses were part of their family and were boxed next to each other. Naturally I agreed when I heard about the bond that these two horses had and so in a relatively short space of time, Baby arrived and he and Coco were reunited. The above all took place in the year 2000 so these two boys have been mates since they were yearlings – something quite rare but very special.

Both horses have/had lovely natures due, I am sure, to their doting owners, Fred and Rebecca. They did twice, make a special trip to New Zealand to visit their boys but always welcomed regular photos. In January and August every year, I would receive a request from Rebecca to buy a bag of carrots for the boys – In January because they were both born in Northern Hemisphere time and again in August because they were now “Kiwis” in the Southern Hemisphere. There were no complaints from the boys.

Both horses were blessed with healthy lives and only once did I require the services of a Veterinarian for Baby for a minor cut to his leg. They were/are on a strict drenching regime, 6 weekly Farrier visit, and yearly visit by my Horse Dentist who checked their teeth and when necessary, did what needed to be done.

They were/are fed a good sized feed (they are both 16.1/16.2hh) every day which consisted of Oaten Chaff, Fiskens Broodmare Mix, (and as they got older) Old Horse pellets and Dunstan Betabeet Flakes that were

soaked in water. They were at their gate as soon as they heard the Gator start up in the morning. Of course, over the winter months they had as much hay as they wanted as well.

So over the past 22 years, they have been blessed with good health and on Tuesday 20th December, Baby passed away aged 28 years. Coco was with him and the ground around him was unmarked so we assume he passed peacefully. We led Coco to the other side of the property after several hours and put him next to my mare and her 5 week old colt who showed immense interest in the big chestnut horse over the fence. The interest was reciprocated so Coco was informed that when Oscar was weaned, he would be given the task of teaching this young colt good manners. Yesterday 20th December, 2022, Baby was buried in a lovely sheltered part of the paddock. RIP Baby.

Anyone who is interested in taking on, what could be a very long association with a retired Hong Kong racehorse, can get information through New Zealand Racing who have developed a scheme for rehoming such horses. I was fortunate that I had direct contact with the original owners which also forged a wonderful friendship.

THOROUGHBRED INDUSTRY MOURNS LOSS OF SIR PATRICK HOGAN

With the passing of Sir Patrick Hogan, the New Zealand thoroughbred industry has lost a legendary studmaster, breeder, racehorse owner and king of the Karaka sale ring.

An inductee into both the New Zealand and Australian Racing Hall of Fame, Sir Patrick Hogan established the world-famous Cambridge Stud in the 1970s and went on to wield an influence over the Australasian breeding and racing landscape that few others have matched.

“In my lifetime there has been no greater influence in the New Zealand breeding industry than Sir Patrick Hogan,” commented Sir Peter Vela, principal of New Zealand Bloodstock.

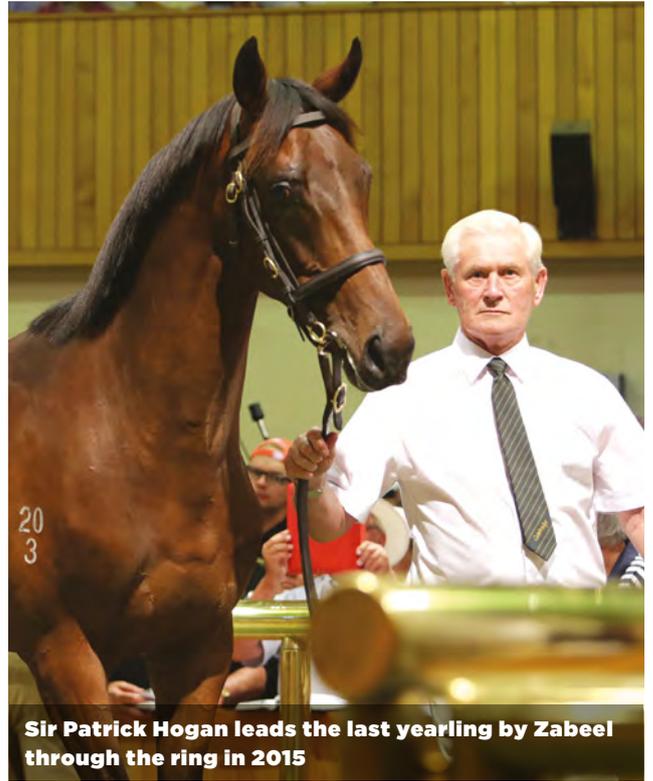
“Sir Patrick was instrumental in coming to Philip and I to take the responsibility for the sales company back in 1996. He was inspirational with his guidance in the subsequent years to ensure that the industry was developed in the way that was most beneficial for New Zealand.

“This country was so fortunate to have someone like him; he was a great horseman, his knowledge, what stallions to develop and how to grow the industry, so from every point of view his passing is just so sad.

“He was a hugely significant man for the things we can see and also for his generosity which was perhaps less well known, whether it was someone in need or the many people he shared his knowledge with.

“His name and persona was, and always will be, synonymous with the New Zealand thoroughbred breeding industry and his massive contribution to putting this country on the world stage.”

“He will be sorely missed but never forgotten and his legacy will last forever.”



Sir Patrick Hogan leads the last yearling by Zabeel through the ring in 2015

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RACING & PACING, WINNING & PLACING - & A LOT OF FUN!

By Sally Blyth

As reported in the Autumn 2022 Owners' Bulletin, the Chatham Islands Jockey Club is the second oldest in the country, being registered in 1873 (Wanganui JC in 1848; Auckland RC and Waverley RC in 1874). The Club holds a threeday meeting every year over the New Year period and I led a small group tour (x12) to go and experience racing "Chatham's style".

We flew out on 29th January 2022 – a beautiful sunny day – and were welcomed upon arrival by Toni Croon, owner of Hotel Chatham, where we stayed for the week. Situated on Waitangi Beach, our comfortable rooms looked out across the wharf and expansive bay. A convivial drink in the bar was followed by the first of many delicious seafood dinners. The local Breezy Brew, with a hint of honey, is a winner and it goes without saying that the blue cod melts in your mouth, whichever way it is cooked.

Our first day on the island took us up the "Sunshine Coast" to the far north-eastern corner. The weather was ideal and, along with beaches, wetlands, harbours and bushland, we also saw a thriving seal colony, ancient tree carvings and the remains of a Sunderland flying boat which had struck a rock and crashed in the Te Whanga lagoon in 1959. Abandoned for some years it was eventually salvaged and relocated to a large shed at Point Munning where it now delights visitors with its size and story. It is quite a sight to behold and we enjoyed a picnic lunch with a difference.

New Year's Eve morning was spent exploring the "CBD" and then we headed to Norman Kirk Reserve, where the racecourse is situated. The weather played its part although the breeze was a little cool. The vans and trucks provided a welcome shelter belt once barbecue, chairs, food, wine, beer and people were duly set up in the midfield area. It was just like the old days of summer picnic race days and a fun afternoon lay ahead in this remote part of the world.

There are a number of simple rules to be observed for the meeting and the minimum weight for a jockey for all races is 65kg. The jockeys are mostly local riders, although some riders come over especially for the carnival. The Nomination fee is \$5.00 per horse per race. No refunds. Local ladies run a book and betting is on the nose only, minimum stake \$2. Cash only.

One lap of the course is 1,400m. Races vary between 1,000m and 3,200m and alternate between galloping and pacing. There are various categories of races: for horses born on Chatham Island; for horses who have never raced; for those who have never won; for those who have won in New Zealand; for NZ Maiden horses; and for island-bred horses. Some races are open to all horses except imported geldings. On Family-day

there are also Cowboy challenges and hack races and family fun activities.

Most horses race more than once a day and many race on all days of the carnival. There are two Clerks of the course – one goes round on horseback and the other zips along behind the field on his quad bike. There is an ambulance on standby. There are no starting gates. The judges wear white coats and race info and results are displayed manually on a board.

A number of ex-NZ racehorses went around a few times. Polar Secret, a 10yo mare by Bachelor Duke, last raced in New Zealand at Ellerslie on New Year's Day in 2017, coming fifth that day. Having won just once from her 10 starts in NZ, on New Year's Eve 2022 in the Chathams, she won twice in one day! Bred and owned by The Oaks Stud in her NZ racing days, Polar Secret is now owned and trained by local Robin Seymour, who is also the Chief Steward!

Other horses who have raced in NZ and went around at this carnival (several times!) include Rosie Glow (7YO Shocking mare), Lily Jean (9YO Nom du Jeu mare) and Skaaboom (8YO Iffraaj mare)

In Race 4, a 2,400m pacing race, there were just four horses and, when both second and third placegetters galloped across the finish line, an enquiry ensued and both were relegated.

The Gallops Cup is only open to island-born horses and there were just four horses in it. All the races were eventful and fun to watch and commentator, local man Floyd Prenderville, did a great job keeping us up with the play.

As we watched horses racing and pacing around the exceptionally good track (NZ racing clubs would be very envious!) we ate and drank and mingled with locals. Neil and I chatted with Chatham's Mayor Monique Croon in the stables area. She trains and drives her family's horses. We also met Peter Fraser, President of the Club, although he was a hard man to catch as he was busy overseeing many facets of the day as well as saddling up his own horses.

The locals partied on following race day while we opted for a quiet New Year's Eve. Some of us rose briefly in the early hours as 2023 dawned – with the Chatham's being 45 minutes ahead of NZ time, we were keen to be amongst the first in the world to see the light of the new year.

In between race days, we explored the island, went fishing, enjoyed R&R and indulged in a lot of racing talk. Some of the group went on a day trip to Pitt Island which offers another amazing experience.

On 3rd January we were back on track on for the final day of the carnival. MP Paul Eagle was in attendance – the Chatham Islands fall



Neil Miller talks with Monique Croon



The Judges Box

under his Rongotai electorate. Families were out in force and the Cowboy race, which had the biggest field of all, was a torrid affair. One horse dumped its rider at the start and another ran amok after the finish line, dislodging its rider.

The Pacing Cup, the final race of the carnival, was won by Mayor Monique Croon, who drove her horse American Alice to a narrow and exciting win. The judges took some time deliberating the winner of the three-way photo finish – although there is no camera on the line! They ran a Calcutta on this race and the whole community got behind it.

Despite plenty of weather woes leading up to the carnival, the track was in perfect order and the weather behaved very kindly throughout our week on the island. It's such a unique place and we had many "only in the Chatham's" moments during our special trip. Those are other stories...

Owner Toni, a huge racing enthusiast and a one-time trainer, made us feel so welcome. She and Manager Trudy and the team looked after us brilliantly throughout. Chefs Wayne and Binny did an outstanding job providing us with great kai – full breakfasts, picnic lunches and fine three-course dining including crayfish.

Our wonderful local guide Marcel, an 8th generation Chatham Islander, took us out and about all over the island, sharing with us its many treasures. His humour, knowledge, helpfulness and gentle manner were appreciated by all.

We were told the turnout for this race meeting was the best for quite some years which is heartening. The Club will be celebrating 150 years over New Year 2024/25 – no doubt there will be an even bigger crowd and, perhaps, another Racing in the Chatham's trip will be on the cards! 🍀

TONI CROON of CHATHAM ISLANDS

A FORCE OF NATURE

There may not be anyone more passionate about the Chatham Islands than Toni. (We know there are others, but you know what we mean). A former horse trainer, Toni is goal driven and afraid of nothing. She lives with passion every day figuring out how the next one can be even better. (From Hotel Chathams website)

From the first time I saw a horse at a very young age I wanted one and I was definitely going to ride it. But we lived in Auckland and you couldn't care for a horse there.

My Mum Lois had ancestral land at Chathams and wanted to re-join the community. But it was Pitt Island an outlier of the Main Island that we went to when I was 6 years old, our family of Mum and Dad and 4 children. Then we all had horses. We lived at Flowerpot Bay and Dad fished for crays and free-dived for Paua (Abalone). He still dives for paua but not me. I can get it with gumboots on.

By age 9 I was pretty wild and not doing well at the Te One school on the main island. My parents sent me to Auckland and I was so lucky to stay with Peter and Shirley Mitchell and their daughter Sharleen, who was 2 weeks younger than me. Of course these people were to find fame with the great Bonecrusher. I was now immersed in a racing family. Much later I was to go to Mooney Valley and was very proud to parade the great horse.

There is no secondary schooling in the Chathams so I stayed on with the Mitchells and went to Epsom Girls Grammar.

Back to the Island at 16 I needed money to buy horses to train and race them. Diving for Paua was the solution. The Chathams has a LARGE shark problem and I count myself lucky I only ever saw one. My brother Valentine was grabbed by one and shaken like a rag doll The are divers here that have awful injuries. My nephew reckons he has seen 17 while diving for paua.

But I dunno!

From the diving I branched out in buying and selling Paua Quota and that seemed safer.

Now I've got some horses to race. I did ok and in the Bi Centennial Year I won the Chathams Cup and Prime Minister Helen Clark presented me with the trophy.

Mum and Dad and I bought the Waitangi hotel and that kept us busy. But I was restless and wanted to go to New Zealand and train horses.

At 32 I headed off with Rocky a good horse and Chatham Cup winner . I fronted up to big John McKenzie the Chief Stipe at Ellerslie and said, "I'm Toni Croon and I've trained 4 Chatham Cup Winners, I rode 2 of those and I want a licence to train in New Zealand. Mr McKenzie said, "No and you can't race your horse either. It's unregistered."

I went down to Takanini and did pretraining for Adrian Burns and then did 6 years pre-training for Trevor McKee. Later I went to Mooney Valley to support Sunline in her Cox Plate wins.

Heading off to Cambridge where I bought a 25 acre property on Peake Rd near the track. I educated horses to race and bought and sold some. It looked like I would be there for a while. But Land Transport NZ took my land for the Cambridge by-pass. I had the full ownership of Hotel Waitangi for a long time and brother Val was managing it. I came home.

The Cambridge by-pass paid for a second story of the hotel about \$1.7 million. I drove the tour buses for a while. And with improving flights to Chathams set out to increase the accommodation units number with new builds of motels and houses. There are 55 of those now!

Then with other infrastructure the bus fleet numbers three. There's four people-movers for small groups and a bunch of utes.

Out in the bay is a sturdy 13 metre fishing vessel powered by a grunty Scania diesel.

Then came an interest in bees and I love the little critters. We are one of 2 countries in the world free of the nasty varroa mite parasite. And I am cooperating with The University of Victoria to send the Queens for research..

I've got 100 hives now and we sell honey in the hotel. Sister Simone has the Breezy Brewery that makes "Local Lager" and there is an infusion of honey in every brew.

It is by far and away the favourite beer handed over the bar. 



Toni and new bestie Ruby

CONGRATULATIONS TO FEDERATION MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT WINS!

We continue to track winning horses owned by Owner's Federation members. As we only have visibility of owner's named in the race book, we know we will have missed members involved in winning syndicates and may have inadvertently missed others. We apologise to any member we have missed and extend our congratulations to all members who have recently experienced the thrill of winning.

1 OCTOBER 2022 - 14 DECEMBER 2022

D E Nakhle COLLATERAL DAMAGE,
CONTEMPLATION

J T Cassin LA CRIQUE

J B Struthers EVEN CHANCE

Go Racing Syndicate MARGARET JEAN,
ABANDON, SEDAKA, DISS IS DRAMATIC
QUICK PREVIEW, SADLER'S CHICK, RAPOSA
RAPIDA (AUS)

G A Shand JUST DANCE, FINEST WINE

Dr B M & J P Meehan-Clapham IFFSHECAN

B Kendall LA BELLA BEALS

Mrs R A Carter LA BELLA BEALS

Don & Dame Wendy Pye KASHICK

C T Grammer SASSYNESS

Mrs N M Leicester LA FLORA BELLE, DIVICI
BELLE

B W P Wright PIER

C J Talbot SHE'S OUTRAGEOUS

Brendan MNZM & Mrs J E Lindsay
FLAMEBIRD, SNAZZY TABI, IFFIN DOUBT
DANCE

Miss A P Currey ELLENAWROE

T P Ms H Parish NOBLE KNIGHT

C J & L M Robinson LIVE DRAMA

I J Nichol EXCHANGE

R M Marlow ASTRAKHAN

Mrs P M P D McBreen ASTRAKHAN

A B Tapper OUR CLARRY

Miss L M E Stewart OUR CLARRY

Mrs S P Faulkner OUR CLARRY

Mrs E E Gollan ZA'FARAN

Little Avondale Trust TIME FLIES

D Duncan INTERLLECTUS

R M Hapi DUBAI'S MOKO

Tony & Judith Bambray DUBAI'S MOKO,
OPAWA JACK

J A Roache BRADMAN

R J Wiltshire BRADMAN, TOWN CRYER

M & F L Fearon BRADMAN, TOWN CRYER,
MOCHATINI (AUS)

K G Towers BRADMAN

A & C P Porter BOLD BELLE, NUN SO BAD,
BOLD BELLE

J A Roache TOWN CRYER

J D Dixon TOWN CRYER

K S Day TOWN CRYER

Ms D A Masters HE'S A DOOZY

D R Frampton PARADING

Ms S E Bourke NICO BELLE, IMPENDABELLE

Dave Mitchell NICO BELLE

W Storm NICO BELLE

P H & Mrs C J Brown LEGARTO

A B Coombe LA DOLCE VITA

Mrs J M & D P H Lunn IMPREU

Te Akau Stud ROMANCING THE MOON,
WILD NIGHT, CHALLA, FIERCE FLIGHT,
RHETORICAL PERFECT SCENARIO,
CARAVELLA, SOPHISTICARDO, TROBRIAND,
HERO WORSHIP BELIEVE IN MAGIC,
CAMPIONESSA, VIVA VIENNA, SKY ON FIRE
(AUS), SUPREME KHAN

G M Miles PENNSYLVANIA

F J Hilliar PENNSYLVANIA

D J C Trubshoe PAISLEY PARK

P G Allan ROGER THAT

M C Cole LEICALOT

Windsor Park Stud MUSTANG VALLEY

Mrs K A & N J Auret UNUSUAL COUNTESS

N H Stanley DARCY LA BELLA

R T Stanley DARCY LA BELLA

A J Hawken ANOTHER BELLA

G & A Hill Trust WHEELITIN, STOLEN SPIRIT

Mrs C & N W Bolton COOGEE KATE

P Bardell MAUNA LOA

The Franz Josef Trust MAUNA LOA

Mrs C & W L Bolton I'M RONALDO

Mrs C A & M K Dravitzki ZE SPIRIT

Mrs K & L Spence AERIAL BLUE (AUS)

Lunn Racing Syndicate IMPRESA

C K Hunter PICKENS

I J Nichol Claire Fergusson EXCHANGE
SADLER'S CHICK

Mrs J L Egan C'EST MOI

K J O'Brien CLEVER RUDS

G O'Dea SHEZ SUPER

Mrs C N Taylor DOUBLE O' SEVEN

P N & J A Miller DOUBLE O' SEVEN

B A Schroder SCREAMIN EAGLE

J R Wheeler (MNZM) OSO SAVVY

P J Blacktopp UGO, DRAKE BAY

D S Shuker ASTRON

B A Hoy MOCHATINI (AUS)

K T Bentley MOCHATINI

R J Pratt SERGIO

T J & Mrs M Carter BUCCHERI

Mrs Diana Goodeve PAPAGENA

S J Freeman-Huitema SHIVOO

H W & Mrs K S Perry BOSCH

L G & J C Dobbs-Young YOUNEVERKNOW

A R Hayward STYLISH OFFICER

Don & Dame Wendy Pye KASHICK

C T Grammer SASSYNESS

Mrs J O Burrows VEE TWELVE

THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

NOVEMBER 2022 - JANUARY 2022

MANAWATU

InToWin.co.nz..... Palmerston North

AUCKLAND

Kelly McAllister & Rochelle Pattinson..... Kumeu

Carl & Amy Elliott..... Orewa

Simon & Neville O'Connor..... Auckland

Stella & Mark Usherwood..... Turangi

Nick Kearney & Courtney Manning..... Auckland

Alison Munce & Patrick Timmins..... Auckland

NOTE NEW CONTACT DETAILS



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Executive Officer: Denise Mayhew

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