NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

# OWNERS' BULLETIN WINTER 2024

### **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE**

WINTER RACING IS ALL BUT BEHIND US AND WE COMMENCE A NEW SEASON WITH THE HAWKES BAY SPRING CARNIVAL TO KICK OFF THEIR THREE GROUP ONE RACES WITH THE RUNNING OF THE WFA TARZINO TROPHY FOR A STAKE OF \$400,000 ON 7 OCTOBER.

Though we all would love to have an entrant in the Tarzino Trophy we also have the \$120,000 HBPB Breeders Assn Gold Trail Stakes for 3YO fillies that no doubt will attract a good quality field wanting to put their hands up for the spoils ahead in the New Year.

There's only one aspect of today's racing that affects us all as owners and participants, that being climate change and not knowing what track condition is going to be presented on the day.

I have never seen so many races and meetings being abandoned due to track conditions being unsafe, to both horse and jockey, as in the last twelve months. I accept weather patterns around the world are amiss, but is it our tracks that are not up to standard? In my younger years on the farm we ploughed and harrowed our fields to stop compaction which mainly occurs through the use of too much synthetic fertiliser that in turn hampers drainage.

Race tracks are no different, but I'm no track manager, but we do need to get a handle on this important ingredient to ensure races are not affected through human failure. On raceday the Racing Integrity Unit is the lead and there's been too much blaming of late on whether the right and correct decisions are being made. Regardless of this, health and safety of horse and jockey is paramount.

On the Federation front your Executive has lobbied the NZTR Members Council for the Owners, Breeders, Trainers and Jockeys to have voting rights at the NZTR AGM. Secondly increasing their delegate's term on the Members Council for a period of 3 years (9 years in total) rather than the current 2 years term up to 6 years. This is a huge shift and shows that the recognised organisations have a voice in Thoroughbred Racing and not just the Clubs.

The second term of ENTAIN is about to commence and the impact of increased stakes across some quarters will kick in over the coming months which will allow the' Racing Codes to follow through with their Strategic Intent and Business Plans. I call this 'moving year' for the industry and it will be up to each code to ensure it meets its outputs or objectives to give some optimism back to the owners and supporting stakeholders of the industry.

The time for true and professional governance and leadership within the thoroughbred industry starts now and the Members' Council of which I am a member must ensure performance is measured appropriately and meaningfully.

On behalf of the Owners Federation, I welcome Russell Warrick to the Board of NZTR in the role of Chairperson and look forward to a meaningful relationship during his tenure.

Spring and Summer racing is ahead of us and I ask you to support your local Owners' Association and Racing Clubs and make the 2024-25 racing season one to remember.

Happy Racing. Bernard Hickey (President)

### **RIDING FEES TO BE INCREASED**

FROM 1 AUGUST, 2024

### RULE 331(1) STATES:

The riding fees payable to Riders shall be as from time to time determined and published by NZTR, unless there is a special arrangement providing for larger remuneration.

NZTR consults with the NZ Jockeys Association in the determination of Rider fees.

### **KEY CHANGES:**

- Increases in Flat and Jumps Riding fees supported by a subsidy from NZTR of \$15 for flat races & \$135 for jumping races.
- The aim of the NZTR subsidy is to support riders and assist in retaining them in New Zealand and for jumps jockeys, in particular, to try to increase the number of riders.
- Riding fee will now be paid for any scratchings post 7.30am on raceday.

#### THE TABLE BELOW OUTLINES THE CURRENT AND PENDING FEES (EX GST):

1 AUG 2022 – 31 JULY 2	024	1 AUGUST 2024 – 31 JULY 2026	
Flat Riding Fee	\$176.00	\$200.00	Owners pay \$185 & NZTR pay \$15
Rider Engagement Fee	\$88.00	\$88.00	
Trials Riding Fee	\$72.00	\$80.00	
Trials Riding Fee (Apprentice)	\$47.00	\$52.00	
Jumps Race Riding Fee	\$242.00	\$400.00	Owners pay \$265 & NZTR pay \$135
Jumps Rider Engagement Fee	\$121.00	\$121.00	
Jumps Trials Riding Fee	\$107.00	\$118.00	
Minimum Ride Allowance	\$66.00	\$66.00	<b>ب</b>



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### **EDITORIAL**

Neil Miller

### HAPPY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOROUGHBRED HORSES IN THIS LAND. WE HOPE YOU ARE LIVING YOUR BEST LIVES!

Now we enter a new season it is timely that I thank good people who make difference here. First that I thank all the regional scribes that faithfully send us their copy every issue. Then there are all the other contributors who pop up with good words.

Our friends at NZTR too who we give space to. They keep us in touch with the many governance matters that arise.

There is Race Images our long-time partner who give us "mates rates" on great photos. Thank you, Peter Rubery!

Little Avondale Stud our sponsor/advertisers who have been with me for nearly 70 issues. Thank you, Cat and Sam.

Also the New Zealand Bloodstock's Natalie Jamieson and Clodagh Coughlan who join us at the beginning of each year with the New Zealand Bloodstock Karaka Yearling Sales adverts and copy.

There are stories aplenty in this issues of people enjoying their racing. You know "winners are grinners,"

At the bottom of every Editorial is a "Contact me" email address. It's mine, or I should hastily say ours. I am always keen to get easy copy rather than seek it.

"Kiwi reserve" is a thing and you may not want to "blow your own trumpet" but stories should be shared and we have the scribes who can interview you in many ways. Phone, Email or Facetime or Whatsapp.

You will be sent the copy to check before it goes to print.

For your story – Contact me – neilandjeanette@yahoo.com 🗘

### **TONY LYNDON** (HAWKES BAY) - (JUST) RETIRED SCRIBE

Tony is standing down after many years of writing the Hawkes Bay Happenings for us. I value Tony as a friend as he has supported me for 14 years. More importantly he has been the "doyen" of Hawkes Bay Owners.

We won the Hawkes Bay Cup in 2010 and Tony was there in the hospitality area to present me with a nice trophy and say a few kind words.

Tony was invariably the first to send me his copy. It meant the next *Bulletin* was under way.

Thank you Mate! Enjoy your retirement!

### BRIAN O'DEA (WHANGANUI/WELLINGTON) -OUT TO PASTURE AS WELL

Brian is standing down after years of service writing the Whanganui / Taranaki Words of the Owners Bulletin. Brian sent nice tidy copy which I really appreciated.

O'Dea is a well-known name in the district as prominent Owners and people who "put back in" .

Thank you, Brian, and enjoy the well-earned fellowship of the bowling green.



### **OUR COVER**

BERRY THE CASH -WINNER OF HIS LAST 6 HURDLE RACES

Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

# THE SR24 - INSUFFICIENT DATA THAT LEADS NOWHERE GOOD - A SOLUTION?

IN THE PREVIOUS TWO ISSUES I HAVE WRITTEN FIRSTLY ABOUT TAKING ON THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BEING A MANAGER/ ACCOUNTABLE PERSON FOR A HORSE. SECONDLY, WHEN THE HORSE WAS INJURED, RETIRED AND SUCCESSFULLY RE-HOMED.

This led me to thoughts around the processes of the NZTR required SR24 document upon retirement of all thoroughbreds. It seemed obvious that here was a meaningful way to collect data that could improve the welfare of thoroughbred horses substantially.

NZTR have a duty of care with equine welfare and there is also the so-called"social licence" aspect. A downer is activism towards the racing code. This makes the whole issue sensitive.

I have a good relationship with NZTR and initially asked their welfare people to write about the data collection from the SR24.

It transpires that there is an ongoing struggle to get Manager/Accountable Persons to fill in the form and thus the resultant incomplete data gets you nowhere. This situation reflects badly on Managers most of whom are Owners – and is surely untenable.

What if complete data was attained ?- Injury accidents could provide a "red flag"

to lead to investigations and remedial measures be that Racetrack – Transportation – Training Facility – Paddock – Etc.

What if the cause of the loss of the horse was in the Breeding? – Oesophageal – Temperament – Fetlock – Ligament – Etc.

Let's not rely on the anecdotal – but use real data to breed the problem out.

My suggested solution – Owners become recognised in NZTR Rules and Manager/ Accountable Persons become Licensees.

There were 2864 horses registered last season thus there were the same number of Manager APs.

Compliance is vital so I propose a "Bond" be paid at registration. It would be the only cost Owners are sure to get back providing Managers comply at the termination of Ownership, with the completion of the SR24.

My thought – I would propose a meaningful sum of say \$600 per registration giving an Annual fund of around 1.7 million dollars. The interest on those monies to defray the cost of managing the SR24 situation properly and refund bonds where compliance occurs. As most horses are active more than one season the interest would accrue.

To keep on top of the management I think all Manager/Accountable Persons should answer a simple annual return as to the status of the horse they are accountable for. Even a text message. We all have cell phones now.

In conclusion NZTR have this tool of the SA24 and it does not work. Poor compliance by Manager/Accountable persons renders it so.

A bond situation could be viewed as a "nil cost" insurance not an expense as it is returnable.

Lets get meaningful data that will in time assist our horses welfare and perhaps save us the heartache of loss of an early retirement.

**NOTE** – The above copy is submitted as a personal opinion. I would be interested in yours. Neil M

### **REGIONAL ROUNDUP**

### AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND Sally Blyth

### THERE WERE NO MEETINGS AT ELLERSLIE DURING MAY, JUNE OR JULY, WITH THE PLANNED WINTER TRACK RENOVATION GETTING UNDERWAY EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED DUE TO THE PARTIAL ABANDONMENTS OF THE MEETINGS IN APRIL. THE RACE MEETING PLANNED FOR 25TH MAY WAS TRANSFERRED TO PUKEKOHE PARK WHERE THE HORSES RACED ON A HEAVY 10 TRACK.

Pukekohe also held meetings on 1st and 19th June as well as 21st July. The latter meeting had been deferred from 17th July due to an unforeseen issue with a fuel pressure valve on the truck that tows the starting gates. A statement was put out by Northern Raceday Services Society Ltd to clarify this unusual situation (available on LoveRacing website). NRS is essentially a voluntary organisation that provides barrier attendants and, where necessary, starting gates for northern race clubs. It seemed there was no Plan B in place when the mishap occurred, so abandonment was the only option. I understand backup plans are being developed so a similar situation won't recur.

Meanwhile, further north, horses ran at Ruakaka over four meetings – 1st May (Good 4), 8th and 29th June (Soft 5 & Good 4), and 13th July (Good 4). The Whangarei Racing Club has a long and interesting history. The Club was formed in 1820, with racing originally held at Kensington Park in Whangarei before being transferred to the current location at Ruakaka in 1976. It's an idyllic coastal spot and the sand-based track drains well, thus providing a strategic winter racing and training venue. When other courses in the upper North Island are too water-logged, Ruakaka is ready to welcome everyone.

The facilities are small and intimate with excellent viewing of the track and a friendly vibe on course. Owners with a runner on raceday are able to enjoy the Sunline Bar, the Parade Ring Bar deck or the Members' Lounge. Winning owners are invited to the Dean Logan Winners' Circle for a drink with the race sponsor and a chance to watch the replay of that thrilling win. Along with a number of Auckland Owners Assn members, I have a wee share in a syndicate and our horse will debut at Ruakaka on 3rd August. It's been a while since I was on track at Ruakaka and I'm looking forward to enjoying the club's hospitality and our syndicate gathering – and hopefully getting into the Dean Logan Winners' Circle! Whatever the result, I'll get to enjoy a wonderful day where the surf really does meet the turf and racing camaraderie will prevail.

### WINNING AUCKLAND MEMBERS

Here's a snapshot of Auckland members who had wins through the period, congratulations to all

- Rosemary Carter and Brett Kendall (Queen Zou); Joan Egan (C'est Moi); Susan Dower (Sumaje); Selwyn & Judy Maynard (Caravella); David Paykel (Russian Satire); Diane Rushworth (Bella Luce); Barry Wright (Pier); Joan & William McFlinn (Night Raider); Kieran & E Corby (Therapeutic); James Chapman (Devastate); Bryan & Deirdre Black (Duchess of War, Chattahoochee, Toblerone); Shaune Ritchie (Goldburg).
- Brenda & the late Barry Gerard\* celebrated wins with Fernandez and Imptee. Members Gary Pratt and Loraine Grant also have a share in Fernandez.
- Auckland members with shares in Te Akau syndicate horses that won include Auckland Committee member Allan Pate (French Rose, Baronet and Time is King), also Gary Fitzpatrick (Baronet, Time is King and Lightning Dream).
- NZTROF Patron Alan Galbraith had wins with Confiance, Service Break and Namibia Miss. Hugh Fletcher and Dame Sian Elias celebrated victory with Harlech. Go Racing celebrated wins with Cinnamon Girl, Freedom Reins and Margaret Jean (Bruce & Courtney Clarke involved in the latter). Haunui Bloodstock won with Pax Mundi.
- Those who enjoyed group or listed race success include Fleur & Dan Freeman with Discretion Rules (Te Akau syndicate) at Riccarton on 4th May. They also had a win with Star Shadow.
- Craig Leishman got a nice win with Domain Ace at Ellerslie on 20th April. His other winners were Sorghatani, So Graceful and Zoulander.
- Brendan and Jo Lindsay won a Grp 3 with Snazzytavi at Te Rapa on 27th April and a listed race at Rotorua with Bella Waters on 11th May. They also won with Thooza and I'm All In.

#### **RIP BARRY GERARD\***

It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of member Barr y Gerard. I've enjoyed attending race meetings at Pukekohe, Ellerslie and beyond with both Brenda and Barry. Whilst racing is Brenda's passion, even when Barry was unwell, he would be there to cheer on their horses and support Brenda's love of the sport. \*See p13 of the March 2020 Owners' Bulletin for an article about Brenda and Barry (who was a sergeant in the Mounties for a period of time).

### **MEMBERS' SURVEY**

The Auckland Committee developed and sent out a short survey to Auckland members to get a picture of the type of activities members would like us to organise. This also provided an opportunity for comments and suggestions. We had a good response, thank you. We value our members so it was particularly satisfying that no one indicated that they would not renew their membership. We'll be reviewing the survey responses at an upcoming meeting and making plans for future outings. But let's get winter out of the way first!

### LoveRacing website). NRS is<br/>ants and, where necessary,<br/>an B in place when thesome races won by horses who fit this<br/>criteria, and these meetings identified,<br/>show the depth of the breeder/ owner

WAIKATO/

WINTER EDITION 2024

group of enthusiasts who take their horses through to racing.

BAY OF PLENTY Jill Lunn

WAIKATO/ BAY OF PLENTY ROUNDUP

There has been interesting racing in our

region as the tracks become a bit more

difficult to predict. In the first part of

this round up I am focussing on those

winning owners who also bred the horse

themselves. Each race meeting, we have

#### WAIKATO THOROUGHBRED RACING AT TE RAPA 4 MAY 2024

The Rating 88, 1600 metres was won by C'est Moi a 5yo mare by Vadamos who was bred and is raced by Joan Egan. Joan was on hand to see her beautiful mare win. She is a stalwart of the "breeding to race" group.

The Rating 65, 1600 metres was won by Blue Sky at Night, a 6-year-old mare, bred and raced by A.J. and I.M. Barker. The Shamexpress mare is trained by Shelley Hale at Cambridge.

Blue Sky at Night also won again at Te Rapa on the 18 May. After winning the Rating 65 1600 metres at the beginning of the month she came out and won the Rating 75 2100

### **HAWKES BAY**

Bernard Hickey

ON SUNDAY 30 JUNE THE HAWKE'S BAY-POVERTY BAY THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION HELD A SUCCESSFUL ANNUAL WEANLING TOUR WHICH SAW OVER 80 BREEDERS AND OWNERS ATTEND.

The parade commenced at Willow Tree Farm owned by Butch and Lu Thomas who presented two extremely well-bred Sword of State weanlings followed by a visit to Guy and Bridget Lowry's property for a great array of 10 weanlings by Time Test, Belardo, Contributor and Ocean Park to name some.

The parade ended at the Lindon Estate winery, which back in February 2023 was devastated by Cyclone Gabrielle and was under water. At the winery Hasting local breeder and trainer Vicki Wilson and her amazing team presented 5 weanlings, a yearling and stallion Mongolian Falcon on the front lawn of Valley d' Vine restaurant. Chef Greg Miller, owner of the restaurant and Chairman of the HB-PB Breeders Assn served us a delicious meal kindly subsidised by Rich Hill Stud.

We were also lucky to have ex race commentator Tony Lee as the guest-speaker join us. He gave us a colorful insight into his career; do I need to say more!

It was good to see the likes of Sam Williams from Little Avondale Stud in attendance along with Nick Johnson from the NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Assn and others who enjoyed the

hoto: www.raceimages.co.nz

metres in her next start. A training feat by Shelley Hale she was ridden in both these starts by Tayla Mitchell.

MATAMATA RACING CLUB AT MATAMATA ON 8 MAY 2024

Race 1, a maiden 2000 metres, was won by Squire who is owned by Karen and Kevin Fursdon and was bred by them and trained by Karen at Matamata. Squire is a 3yo gelding by Saville Row out of their good mare Silk Chardonnay.

Race 3, a maiden 2-year-old race was won by Magice, a Savabeel colt, who was bred and is raced by Chittick Investments.

Race 4, a Rating 75 1200 metres, was won by Caledonie, a 4-year-old mare. Caledonie is by Ghibellines and was bred by P. Colomina and is raced by P. and M. Colomina and a large syndicate.

#### ROTORUA RACING CLUB AT ROTORUA ON 11 MAY

Race 2, a maiden 1215 metres, was won by Joshua Brown a 4yo gelding by Dalghar. Joshua Brown was bred by R.D. and Mrs T. M. Gussey and is owned by L.R. and Mrs T.M. Gussey with Lance Gussey being the trainer at Cambridge.

Race 5, the Listed, 2200 metres Rotorua Cup was won by Bella Waters, a 4yo Sacred Falls mare bred and owned by Brendan and Jo Lindsay.

Race 7 the Group 3 Rotorua ITM Stakes, a WFA fillies and mares race saw Karman Line the winner. Karman Line is owned by a large syndicate.

2nd was La Crique, a 5-year-old mare by Vadamos, who was bred by J. and M. Cassin Family Trust and is raced by J.K. and J.T. Cassin.

3rd was Imprevu , a 5-year-old mare by Wrote who was bred by D.P.H. Lunn and is owned and raced by David Lunn and family.

WAIKATO THOROUGHBRED RACING AT TE RAPA, 18 MAY 2024 Overrated , a Wrote Gelding won the maiden 1200 metres. He was bred by J.R. and M.B Garrett, who also race him and train him at Pukekohe Park.

Te Atatu Dream won the maiden 1600 metre. The Complacent mare was bred and is raced by Christine and John McCormack.

Congratulations to all these victors who experience the full range of emotions with their horses.  $\hfill \ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$ 



day and bid on the fantastic silent auction that was donated by some outstanding sponsors.

The Weanling Parade also signaled the last public attendance of the renowned Hawke's Bay thoroughbred owner-breeder Tom Lowry whom I spoke with briefly on the day and was in fine spirits but sadly passed away the next day aged 88.

Tom Lowry, an immensely influential figure in the New Zealand industry had many life -time achievements as an owner and breeder and was heavily involved in the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association, becoming a council member in 1976, serving as vice-president from 1983 to 1987 and subsequently being made a life member of the NZTBA. He also served on the Executive of the New Zealand Racing Conference from 1994 to 1996.

Tom was also a member of the local Hawke's Bay Owners Association and attended many owner luncheons, if it didn't coincide with another of his passions, Rugby.

He was best known for importing a European-bred stallion to stand at Okawa Stud by the name of 'Three Legs' which became one of the most successful sires of his time. He was crowned top NZ Stallion for three years and produced a steady stream of Group race winners including the champion mare Horlicks, winner of the 1989 running of the prestigious Japan Cup. Other winners include Jolly Jake (Derby), Random Chance (15 wins) and Eastern Joy (12 wins) to name some.

Tom will be fondly missed around the local thoroughbred racing scene by all. May he rest in peace!

Local racing has been quiet during the Autumn and Winter months of racing with the Hastings racecourse being closed for track renovation after a meeting was abandoned in April.

With spring just around the corner, I look forward to reporting on Hawke's Bay owner successes in the months ahead and await the Spring Carnival in anticipation of good racing.



### WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Bret Field

TRAINER AND PART-OWNER DAN O'LEARY REVELLED IN A RECENT TOP - FLIGHT WIN WITH TE KAHU AT THE END OF JUNE IN THE ANIMAL HEALTH DIRECT HAWKE'S BAY STEEPLECHASE OVER 4800M.

After a couple of frustrating years with injuries the 10yo chestnut gelding came to the fore for proud local owners Mrs J C Nugent-O'Leary & D M O'Leary in seeing off the classy West Coast (bred by Wanganui's Letham Stud) and Kenny Duncan's Izymydaad.

It was his first New Zealand steeplechase start in almost two years and Te Kahu showed some of the old form that took him to victory in the Great Northern Steeplechase (6200m) at Te Aroha in 2021.

Grangewilliam Stud keeps on winning with their bloodlines whether it's a Derryn, a Zed or the proven sire The Bold One, sire of this year's Gr.3 Wellington Cup (3200m) winner Mary Louise.

Stud Master Mark Corcoran said The Bold One, son of recently retired champion sire Fastnet Rock, will stand at an increased fee of \$6000 + GST this year and represented great value on the back of a very strong season by his progeny. He last year covered 48 mares.

Mark also sponsored a race at Wanganui on the 11th July this time promoting Hilal @ Grangewilliam Stud.

The upcoming 2024/25 racing season looks to be an exciting one for the Wanganui Jockey Club which has a new programme with a schedule that includes 2 Fridays, 6 Saturdays, 2 Sundays plus Wellington Anniversary Monday in 2025. Surprisingly there are no Thursday racedays scheduled for this season, but the new dates allow racing to be more accessible to the clubs supporters and the wider community with plenty of weekend racing. The club will also have back-to-back Christmas at the races meetings again at the end of November.

The Wanganui racing hub also looks forward to the first official race meeting on the new straight greyhound track in July. The grass track and infrastructure has been an ongoing development over the last couple of years in the middle of the thoroughbred racecourse and is the first of its kind in New Zealand. The 313m long Kokohuia track has been prepared for the official opening with trials and rehearsal racedays on the surface since late April. Feedback has been good from stakeholders and the addition of this new initiative to support the greyhound racing code and the oval at Hatrick Raceway is an exciting development for local racing.

Special mention goes to the Hackett's who have enjoyed recent success in the owners ranks with 2 thoroughbred wins and have notched up 60+ wins with the greyhounds including 5 Group 1 victories by He's All Good. Good onya Banjo and Rosie!

#### MANAWATU/WELLINGTON Allan Fenwick

### **BEE ENCHANTED HAS BEEN A MODEL OF CONSISTENCY THIS PAST SEASON** WITH 3 WINS AND 7 MINOR PLACINGS.

Interestingly, all his wins to date have been on the synthetic track at Awapuni. The Per Incanto gelding was bred by the O'Donnells and is raced by a Syndicate including Kevin O'Donnell and other Association members Elaine Vine and Debra Masters. He is in the stable of Lisa Latta

Bradman has continued to race consistently over the last few months with a second win at Trentham and 4 placings in his last 5 starts up to the end of the season. The Pins gelding is raced by a local syndicate which includes Bob Wiltshire, Mark & Faye Fearon and the Estates of the late Keith Towers and John Roache and is trained by Roydon Bergerson.

The Bambry family have not only had a good run with Opawa Jack but also Phats who was placed 2nd 3 times with 1 4th after clearing maidens at Waverley in April. Subsequently, he went to Australia and finished an

Connections of Bee Enchanted, including Elaine Vine & Debra Masters,

3rd & 2nd from right respectively, celebrate his 4th victory at Awapuni

encouraging 3rd first up at Flemington and followed that with a 3rd at Caulfield at the end of July.

It took Smokin Mo 14 starts to clear maidens, although there had been 5 or 6 minor placings leading up to the win. Since graduation from maidens, she has been 2nd in each of her subsequent 2 runs. Smokin Mo is raced by a syndicate which includes Bruce Dilks and the MacDonald Family, in whose colours he races. Ashley Meadows trains the Complacent mare.

Wrote gelding Sotirio, trained by Matthew Eales gained win number 2 at Hastings at the end of June. A number of Association Members share in the ownership of Sotirio including the Druce's, Fearon's and Elaine Vine.

Myles Oldershaw and partner B Prouting had a fruitful but frustrating Autumn with their mare Belle's Echo who had 3 2nds, 2 3rds but only 1 win from 6 starts from February to early June.

Meanwhile Richard Algar and Mike Breslin have had 2 wins and 2 placings with Sebastian Coe, all on the Awapuni synthetic since the beginning of May.

### **MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2023/2024 POINTS SERIES**

The final result of the Majestic Horse Floats 2023/2024 Points Series really did come down to the wire with Bee Enchanted, courtesy of a 3rd on 29 July, getting to the front right on the line. Congratulations to Kevin O'Donnell and Debra Masters for nominating Bee Enchanted for the Series.

The biggest mover in the last 6 weeks of the season was 2nd placegetter Opawa Jack, nominated by trainer and part owner Chrissy Bambry, who gained 17 points in that period, but more importantly his win on the last weekend of racing for the season took him to 2nd placing in the Points Series.

Sir Mikki's wins in June and July also meant a pay out to Noel Buckman, which didn't look likely a few weeks earlier.

Thank you to all those who nominated their horses for what was another good contest.

The Association acknowledges and appreciates the cash and the voucher sponsorship of Majestic Horse Floats. The top five points earners share the \$5,000 prize pool.

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Reminder a similar competition is being conducted for the 2024/2025 season so don't forget to put your entries in.

Remember, points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. Entry is free.

#### PASSING OF LIFE MEMBER DAVID COLLINS

The Association wishes to record the passing in June of our Life Member David Collins. Dave had a significant involvement with the Association's Committee over the years. In earlier times he was well known as Clerk of the Course at Awapuni. Condolences are extended to David's family.

### NZTR ROADSHOWS

NZTR CEO Bruce Sharrock and COO Darin Balcombe will be undertaking Roadshows in September to meet local stakeholders and provide a strategic update on NZTR activities. They will be at Awapuni on Thursday, 12 September from 4.30pm until 6.30pm.

All industry participants are welcome. Registrations to attend close on 31 August.

### 2023 / 2024 MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS **POINTS SERIES LEADERS** FINAL RESULTS AS AT JULY 31ST 2024

			-		
	POSITION.	POINTS	HORSE	NOMINATOR	
	1st	42	BEE ENCHANTED	Kevin O'Donnell / Debra Masters	
2nd39OPAWA JACK		OPAWA JACK	Chrissy Bambry		
3rd38BRADMAN		BRADMAN	Estate John Roache		
4th36SIR MIKKI		SIR MIKKI	Noel Buckman		
	5th34EL VENCEDOR		EL VENCEDOR	David Price	
	6th	33	TOWN CRYER	Kevin Day / Jill Dixon / Bob Wiltshire Estate John Roache	/
	7th	31	NEVER LOOK BACK	Stan Alexander & Gail Temperton	
	8th		BEDTIME STORY	Tim Gillespie	
	9th =	28	AMEND	Erin Connors	
		28	SMOKIN MO	Bruce Dilks & Hamish MacDonald	
	11th	27	CHANTILLY LACE	Chrissy Bambry	
	12th=	26	DEVASTATE	Alex Kelly	
		26	LA BELLA GRANDE	Mary Burgess	
		26	PHATS	Tony Bambry	
		26	WINNING FOR ALL	Matthew & Logan Fenwick	
	16th=	21	DEADLY PONY	Hamish MacDonald	
		21	NEST EGG	David Price	
	19th=	19	KINGFISHER LAD	Chrissy Bambry	
		19	ROYAL FLOWER	Stan Alexander & Gail Temperton	
		19	SUSIE JANE	.Jeff Berkett	G

### **CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND**

### Peter Faulkner

HELLO FROM THE MAINLAND, AS WE MOVE THROUGH THE WINTER, WE ARE ON THE DOORSTEP OF ONE OF THE TWO BIG WEEKS OF RACING IN THE SOUTH ISLAND. NATIONAL WEEK IS AN ICONIC THREE-DAY MEETING THAT MUST CONTINUE. ALL THE BEST TO OWNERS AND TRAINERS ALIKE AND THEIR CHARGES.

We have recently seen a progressive looking horse that strung together a couple of wins in a row. The well named 4yo War Decree gelding called War Court for owner/trainer Brian Court of Broadfields. The first win, after some promising runs was on the synthetic over 1200m with top North Island hoop Michael McNab aboard. From barrier 9, they worked over to sit one out one back till the turn, where they popped out and set out after the leader. Once they hit top gear, they reeled it in impressively.

His second win, at his next start was on the same course with Michael riding again. Over 1400m this time, they went forward to sit outside the leader. Rounding for home and right in the firing line, they hit the lead with 300m to go and powered away to win by 3 lengths. I'm sure there will be more to come.

Lacy Stewart of Timaru, granddaughter and stable forewoman for trainer Len Stewart, had two winners recently with one scoring twice. Koyama, a 3yo Almanzor gelding and Gavelhouse purchase, won his maiden second up for Lacy at Riverton.

A heavy 10 over 1600m, Koyama made his way over to sit parked till the turn. Under the urgings of Tina Comignaghi, they wore down the leader to eventually win by 2 lengths.

The second win came at start eleven, a R65 2200 at Oamaru on a heavy 10 again. Different tactics this time from jockey Leah Hemi, they sat out the back until the time came to improve as others tired. Fourth at the turn and heading wide, he ran down the front runners to hit the front with 50m to go and won well. Although a bit hit and miss, the talent is obviously there.

Game Duke, another Gavelhouse purchase, won his maiden at Wingatui over 1200m on a soft 7. The Burgundy gelding jumped well from out wide to sit 5th on the outer, pilot Gosen Jogoo steered him out in the straight and hit the front with 100m to go and was too strong to the line. The next grade hasn't held any fears and another win won't be too far away.

A horse to crack maidens after some consistent form, was Hey Now for owner Derek Brook. A 5yo gelding by Zacinto, won at start 14 on the Riccarton synthetic. Trained on the course by Sharon Robertson, and ridden by Terry Mosely, they got out well from gate 2, but drifted back to sixth on the rail. Approaching the turn and the field packing up, they were able to work off and come three wide to challenge and hit the front with 250m to go and was too good to score by 2 lengths.

Lastly, we will run a new Points competition, starting with the Timaru meeting on 15th of September. Finishing at the Xmas meeting in December at Timaru on the 28th. So get your entries in, you have to be in to win.

I hope everyone has a good late winter, and an even better spring.



### SANDOWN PARK RACES, UK sally Blyth

I RECENTLY ATTENDED LADIES DAY OF THE CORAL-ECLIPSE SUMMER FESTIVAL AT SANDOWN PARK IN ESHER, SURREY, ON FRIDAY 5TH JULY TOGETHER WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY.

One of 15 courses owned and operated by The Jockey Club, Sandown Park has a rich history. Opened in 1875 it was the first purpose-built racecourse with enclosures, designed to be a leisure destination with a sophisticated edge. It was the Queen Mother's favourite course and provided a suitably impressive backdrop to the feats of Arkle, Mill Reef and Desert Orchid. It is now one of the most modern and accessible racing venues in England. It's also versatile, with a go-karting track in the centre along with three 9-hole golf courses, a driving range, and horse-themed mini-golf.

Despite it being a chilly London day, with passing drizzle, the place was alive and kicking and ultra-colourful against the grey sky backdrop. We had tickets to the Premier Enclosure where the viewing was excellent and the Lounge vibe upbeat. Tables on the deck out on the back overlook the immaculate parade ring and, out front, the Premier seating area in the stand provides a birdseye view of the winning post. Actually, of both winning posts. There's a separate straight track which cuts through the main one for shorter races of 5f 10y (1,000m), with its own winning post.

Of the 7-race card, three were Listed races and two were run on the straight track (binoculars would have been handy for those two). The main race was the Coral Marathon Class 1 Listed race (aka Esher Stakes) for 4YO and upwards, run over 2m 50y (3200m). It's a very long way down that straight! All races, bar one, were won by the favourites so alas no juicy odds to be gained.

Along with Style Awards and prizes in various categories, there was a whole area of the pavilion dedicated to makeup, hair styling and beauty salons to elevate the look of those who thought they needed it. A shopping zone showcased luxury and local brands with a range of accessories, keepsakes, homewares and fashion. It was a case of "racetrack meets mall"!

It took a wee while to interpret the form layout and get used to the different betting system, stones/pounds and furlongs/yards, but it was a task pleasantly undertaken over a bottle of rose and good racing chat.

The course is fully digital, with no cash accepted except by the bookies. To bet, buy a racecard, eat, drink or get your makeup done, payment by card is the only option. There weren't many TV screens showing fields, dividends and results etc, meaning plenty of reliance on your device. The sound wasn't so clear, the saddlecloths and colours required binoculars or better eyesight than mine, and post-race there was a focus only on the winner, so I found myself taking a series of photos as the horses crossed the line to determine placings quickly by zooming in on those. Overall, it was a great day of summer racing action, despite inclement weather – with a new way of gleaning racing results and a moment of personal delight when I discovered that, yes, my photo confirmed I did get that trifecta!

### THE WAIKATO/ BAY OF PLENTY RACEHORSE OWNERS MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE

Jill Lunn

THE WAIKATO/ BAY OF PLENTY RACEHORSE OWNERS MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE WAS HELD IN FINE WEATHER AT TE RAPA RACECOURSE ON THE 15TH JUNE. IT WAS AN EXCITING RACE. SUPER SPIRIT AND SWEET TABOO FOUGHT OUT THE FINISH WITH SUPER SPIRIT PREVAILING, AFTER 17 JUMPS.

Super Spirit is part owned by Mr Ray Southey who also part owns the winner of the Waikato Hurdles, Berry The Cash, as well. Mr Southey was thrilled. "This is quite a remarkable day for us, two winners." Super Spirit is an 8yo gelding by Super Easy out of a Don Eduardo mare, Angel Mine.

He is owned by a group of friends Mrs M.D. Haydock and the Estate of the late L. G. Haydock, M. P. McMahon, M. Oulaghan, E. Oliver, D. Oliver and R. Southey.

Niall Quinn was also on hand to see the win as he pretrains and conditions the horses for the group.  $\hfill \ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$ 



## STEEPLECHASE RACING ANN BROWNE

A VERY LARGE CROWD TURNED OUT ON MONDAY 3 JUNE FOR THE REOPENING OF TE AROHA RACECOURSE. KNOWN FOR BEING A GREAT JUMPING COURSE THE COMMITTEE OPENED THE CARD WITH 3 HURDLE RACES, THAT WERE BRILLIANT SPECTACLES.

Race 5 was the Silver Fern Farms Steeplechase, run over live fences. True admirers of this sport look forward to these races.

This race was won by the aptly named Ima Wonder, an 8-year-old mare by Eighth Wonder out of Ima Heroine raced in the famous Browne colours for Mrs Ann Browne and the estate of her late husband and NZ jumping legend Ken Browne. She is trained by Peter and Jessica Brosnan and on the day was ridden by Portia Mathews.

Ima Wonder showed her skill over the fences and Portia positioned her well in the race and with a late burst of speed she pulled away from the 2nd horse Devoted.

Mrs Ann Browne is a long-serving committee member on the Waikato/ Bay of Plenty Racehorse Owners Association, and there were plenty of people on course to congratulate her after the win.

Ann tells us that when Ima Heroine finished racing she decided she wanted to breed from her as she could jump and stay the distance required for jumping.

However, Ima Heroine was a bit small so she wanted to breed one that was bigger. Eighth Wonder by Zabeel was 17 hands and so Ima Heroine was sent to him and the resulting foal was Ima Wonder. Ima Heroine only had one more foal and he never made it to the racetrack. Ima Heroine lived out her days on Browne's farm and only died recently at age 21.

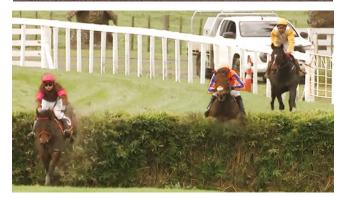
Horse racing and polo have been intertwined in the Browne family life, as has breeding the horses for these activities. Ann's late husband Ken was a polo player of merit as too their sons. Son Allan still plays polo. As well, Ann and Ken's granddaughters Missy and Estee and great grandson Zane are following the family tradition and are very competent polo players.

Ann was a showjumping rider in earlier days and demonstrated ability in this field. Hailing from Gisborne she is closely related to the Hansen brothers (Graham and Bruce), who represented New Zealand at the Olympics in Tokyo in 1964, in show jumping, and she has horse jumping blood running through her veins.

She is one of the true enthusiasts of the jumping fraternity in New Zealand.  $\hfill \ensuremath{\mathcal{C}}$ 



Pictured after Ima Wonder's win, Portia Matthews the jockey, Mrs Ann Browne the owner, and Jessica Brosnan the trainer. A very happy trio.





Stud chat with Sam

I hope everyone is wintering well and those of you with broodmares are gearing up for some early services.

**Per Incanto** is certainly looking forward to the season. I can see him from my office window careering around his paddock like Damian McKenzie after a couple of energy drinks!

Who will be **Per Incanto**'s next stakes winner? There is a lineup of contenders longer than a list of Donald Trump misdemeanours. From **Jimmysstar** with Ciaron Maher to **Photographics** with John Sargent, to Tony and Calvin McIvoy with **Rue Du Royale**, to **Evaporate** with the Hayes brothers, the spring in Australia looks very exciting. I've even heard that David Van Dyke has a real opinion of the \$450,000 **Per Incanto** – Sharvasti colt (named **Noble Decree**) that KPW Bloodstock bought from LA

### LITTLE AVONDALE BIG ON WINNING

at Karaka and then there's Elizabeth Martin's unbeaten **Twain** trained by John Bell to also keep an eye on.

Gringotts and last month's **Group 3** placed **Mrs Chrissie** will look to add to their black type records as well over the next few months.

With so many of his colts sold to Australia or Hong Kong, it's been a while since we saw as many of his male progeny racing domestically as we have over the last couple of months. Allan Sharrock rates Luigi Muolo's **Lazio** very highly. Then there is the gelding that is 100% owned by Anna and Ben Petro (but raced as a lease with Little Avondale and several others including some TAB trackside presenters) **Poukawa**, a winner of his only start, who is another with big aspirations. Then

is another with big aspirations. Then there's the unbeaten **Dan Vegas**, who we bred and raced in partnership with Dirk and Nicci Oberholster.

We've got seven 2YO's heading to the **NZB Ready to Run Sale** in November. There are four **Per Incanto** fillies going, including a gorgeous filly from **Miss Hoi Polloi**, a **Savabeel** gelding out of the **Per Incanto** mare **Imadreamer** and a really nice Strasbourg colt out of a young **Toronado** mare **Tereras**. **Strasbourg**, a young Victorian stallion we took a share in, had his first stakes winner the other day.

Before I go, on behalf of Catriona and myself we just want to extend a big thank you to the thoroughbred industry for once again supporting CatWalk's Luminary dinner and auction. Special thanks go to Rich Hill and Newgate for their generously donated services to Proisir and Capitalist which sold for \$115,000 and \$75,000, respectively. Sarah and Chris Green purchased the Proisir nomination and Jonathan Munz bought the Capitalist service. Long-time supporters Brendan and Jo Lindsay and Lady Henrietta Tavistock were also very supportive on the night.

Enjoy the Olympics and the rugby, and hopefully I'll see some of you in the Hawke's Bay.



### **WINTER 2024**

### ANOTHER WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY MAIDEN TROPHY RACE AT TAURANGA

Jill Lunn

### ON SATURDAY 22 JUNE 2024 THE TAURANGA RACING CLUB HAD THEIR WELL-REGARDED SEEKA KIWIFRUIT CUP DAY

Also, on the programme that day was the Waikato/Bay of Plenty Racehorse Owners Maiden, a race over 2100 metres. It was won by Impaired Vision, a gelding by Rock 'N Pop, a 5yo bred and raced by Murray and Julie Garrett who I mentioned earlier winning with Overrated. They have also had success recently with Chilli Con Khan.

Murray and Julie live out the back of Huntly and farm bulls. Julie rides work on the horses at home, but to get to the track they travel one hour each way to Pukekohe to train on the track. Murray said it is about the same distance to Te Rapa from their home but that there are more riders available for track work at Pukekohe. As their team has grown, they have had to get a bigger horse truck and now have 8 or 9 in training at once.

Sam Spratt who rode Impaired Vision for the 3rd of her 4 wins in total on the day also rides trackwork at Pukekohe for Murray and she clearly knew the horse well as he was ridden in behind and took on the leading horses in the straight to win comfortably.



Celebrating in the winners' circle after the race: Owner/trainer/winner Mr Murray Garrett, Waikato/ Bay of Plenty Owners Committee members Jenny Cowan, Jill Lunn and Stephen Lindsay with the trophy that recognises Impaired Visions first win









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### CHAMPION KIWI GALLOPER IMPERATRIZ HAS A FINAL ACCOLADE IN HER SIGHTS

.....

MATAMATA'S MARVELLOUS MARE BRINGS UNIQUE CREDENTIALS TO THIS YEAR'S NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS – SPONSORED BY SENZ.

Retired from racing following her autumn campaign, Imperatriz is amongst the standout contenders within the list of finalists for the 2023-24 Awards. After taking runner-up honours in 2023, the \$6.6 million mare is likely a key contender for the sprinter-miler category this year, with obvious prospects for the major award.

Campaigned by Te Akau Racing, the fiveyear-old mare is the first New Zealandtrained horse to win five Group I races in Australia in a single season since the introduction of the Australian group classification system, in the 1978-79 season.

Group 1 Trackside NZ Derby winner Orchestral is the only horse this year to find herself in two categories. After her Australian campaign in the Group 1 Vinery Stakes over 2400m, the outstanding daughter of Savabeel cemented herself as a contender in both the three-year-old and staying categories.

Trained by Roger James and Robert Wellwood, Orchestral had five wins and two seconds from her eight starts as a three-year-old and earned more than \$2 million in stakes.

Six horses, including four fillies, will contest the three-year-old section. Five were

Group I winners and are joined by Antrim Coast, the runner-up to Orchestral in the Trackside NZ Derby and a Group II winner in Melbourne at his next start.

The other male candidate is the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand 2000 Guineas winner Crocetti who was the standout domestic performer in the spring.

Crocetti and Orchestral never met in competition but between them they recorded 11 wins and three placings from 15 starts in the 2023-24 season and grossed close to \$3 million in stakes.

Their efforts also ensured that their owners – Daniel Nakhle (Crocetti) and Colin and Helen Litt (Orchestral) – are finalists for Owner of the Year.

Jockey of the Year will be contested between six contenders including premiership winner Warren Kennedy, Opie Bosson who won five Group I races in Australia to go with his three in NZ while Grylls, McNab, Spratt and Doyle all had big seasons as well.

The New Zealand Thoroughbred Horse of the Year results will be announced at the Awards dinner, at Mystery Creek Events Centre in Hamilton, on September 8.

### NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR FINALISTS:

**Champion Two-Year-Old:** Bellatrix Star, Captured By Love, Move To Strike, Velocious.

**Champion Three-Year-Old:** Antrim Coast, Crocetti, Molly Bloom, Orchestral, Pulchritudinous, Quintessa.

**Champion Sprinter-Miler** (Up to and including 1600m): Bonny Lass, Desert Lightning, Imperatriz, La Crique.

Champion Middle Distance Horse (1601m-2200m): Campionessa, El Vencedor, Ladies Man, Legarto.

Champion Stayer: (2201m & further): Asterix,

Mahrajaan, Mark Twain, Mary Louise, Orchestral. Champion Jumper: Berry The Cash, Nedwin, The

Cossack, West Coast. Trainer of the Year: Robbie Patterson, Mark Walker and Sam Bergerson Partnership.

Jockey of the Year: Opie Bosson, Joe Doyle, Craig Grylls, Warren Kennedy, Michael McNab, Sam Spratt.

**Jumps Jockey of the Year:** Shaun Fannin, Portia Matthews, Hamish McNeill.

Owner of the Year: Barneswood Farm, Denise Bassett and John Elstob, Eddie Bourke, Gerry Harvey, Ben Kwok, Brendan and Jo Lindsay Partnership, Colin and Helen Litt, Daniel Nakhle, The Oaks Stud, Kelvin and Vanessa Tyler, Waikato Stud.

# TWO WORKERS

### Pat Woollaston

#### HORSES ARE HERD ANIMALS: THERE IS SAFETY IN NUMBERS AND THERE IS SAFETY IN THE FAMILIAR, SO WHEN A FRETFUL YOUNG TB IS LOADED ON A TRUCK AND TAKEN TO A STRANGE PLACE THERE IS BOUND TO BE A BIT OF CALLING OUT TO MUM.

Admit it, there have been times in your life when you called out to Mum or when a familiar friendly face in a crowd returned your heart rate to normal.

The wise horse people know that horses suffer from these moments of insecurity too, and one way of overcoming the panic attacks is to have another sensible friendly horse to do a bit hand holding.

So those of you who have wondered what small ponies are doing at the races, or on horse transporters they are small support packages who travel as a familiar 'friend' to horses that don't like being separated from the herd. This separation can be just when travelling alone but it can also be when a horse is boxed [confined to a loose box or sometimes a yard] while it recovers from an injury or surgery.

Two ponies within the TB world are fairly typical of those found all over the country.

#### **RUBA**

Ruba is 18 years, very small, very black and absolutely unflappable. He is indispensable at Isola Racing Stables for his ability to be just "there' as a solid "she'll be right" horse that others want to have as their wingman.

Around the stables he just potters, tidies up the grass, pops into boxes to see if anyone "hasn't eaten up" and makes friends. He takes up very little space, is an absolutely charming small gentleman who can inhale a pottle of hot potato chips, give a meat pie his best shot, and drink Sprite straight from the can.

Raceday's for him are a little slice of Heaven

#### TYSON

Surely one of the most valuable horses at Club Med is everyone's friend Tyson who was foaled on 6th Oct 2006. There are always good, caring people in the horse world and Tyson is the offspring of an uplift of maltreated ponies. A very untrusting and aggressive pony mare "Black Pearl" was one of the rescues and was rehomed to Club Med Lodge because they were good horse people and could handle her. Nine months later Surprise! A black foal was born.

As a baby he punched Adam Pascoe in the chest and in the way of lads cemented a friendship and a name "Tyson." Having a foal settled down Black Pearl and she went on to have many more foals. Adam broke in Tyson and he is much loved.

Whether it's as a mate for patients in the Club Med Lodge Rehabilitation boxes, accompanying young horses on the truck to go to the breakers, sales, to vet's. or being a 'patient' when training Vet & Vet Nurse students horse handling skills.

One of his most interesting trips was accompanying an older dry mare (who was a notoriously bad traveller) to visit a very well-known stallion and stand in the foal area while she was being served. The stallion teased up, not to the mare , but to Tyson who was very quickly replaced by the mare. Adam had to council Tyson later that day.

These ponies are worth their weight in gold and a great asset to our TB friends.

Interestingly Jakkie Good has been instrumental in both of these ponies' rubbing shoulders with racehorses. Ruba [Coruba] has been her horse for the last ten years and she was instrumental in placing Black Pearl with the Pascoes at Club Med.



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# OUR ECHO -Heaven Sent

Sally Blyth chatted with Central South Island Owners Association member Trevor Sillick whose pride and joy is Our Echo (by Echoes of Heaven out of Sakura Cluden)

TREVOR SILLICK, WHO ORIGINALLY HAILS FROM DUNEDIN, WAS LOOKING FOR AN INTEREST OUTSIDE BUSINESS BACK IN THE LATE 1990S. HE THOUGHT THE RACING REALM WOULD DO NICELY AND INITIALLY SCOPED OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES IN OTAGO WITH BRIAN ANDERTON BUT THERE WAS NOTHING AVAILABLE.

In the end, he linked up with trainer Danny Frye whose stables are based in Balcairn in North Canterbury. Together they raced a mare called Behind Bars (Justice Prevails/Gay Sonnett) who had her first race in October 1998 and was retired in September 2003 after a racing career spanning 5 years. She had two wins from 47 starts, and lots of placings, giving Trevor enough thrill and desire to continue his racing quest.

Fast forward to 2017 when Trevor was involved with a mare by Rip Van Winkle out of Sakura Cluden called To Love You. She won three races from 31 starts between December 2017 and December 2019 when she was retired due to leg problems. Alas, a few weeks after birthing a foal by Mongolian Falcon in September 2021, she died.

Meanwhile, Our Echo (a half-brother to To Love You out of the same mare, Sakura Cluden) came into Trevor's world. He's by Echoes of Heaven, a somewhat underrated sire whose progeny isn't prolific but plenty of them show ability. Our Echo first trialled back in September 2019 and is now racing better than ever. With an ownership group that includes Trevor and Danny, as well as breeder P D Jeffreys, along with six stable workers, Our Echo has a solid team of loyal supporters. The farrier, vet and four stable hands were gifted a 1% share each and, after speaking with Trevor, there is no doubt that Our Echo gives them all a lot of joy.

Following a hat-trick of seconds and a nice trial win, Our Echo won his Maiden race at his fifth start. Ridden by Akshay Balloo at Kurow on 30th December 2020, he went straight to the lead and held on to win by a long neck. That was the first win of six in his 39-race career. He's also notched up plenty of placings with 11 seconds, four 3rds, three 4ths and three 5ths. His regular riders are Tina Comignaghi and Tegan Newman.

A memorable placing was when he ran second at Riccarton on 16th September 2023 in the Crawford Developments 1200m Open Hcp on a Good 3 track. Talented gelding Challa (winner of eight races) won that race by a neck in the national track record time of 1.06.72 and Our Echo's time of 1.06.77 was almost as astounding and impressive.

Trevor did a stint as a breeder at one point but "none of the horses were fast" he says. One particular horse – Sandy's Girl – showed doggedness though! Bred by Trevor and Danny, Sandy's Girl won her Maiden race at her 49th start (yes, you read that right!) at Omakau on 3rd March 2013. She raced three more times (poorly) and was retired in April that year. She had clocked up plenty of placings which led to Trevor and Danny's belief and perseverance which eventually paid off when that elusive but exciting win popped out of nowhere!

Trevor is now retired and has moved to Christchurch. He enjoys going to watch trackwork with Bruce Smith (a trainer at Amberley) aboard.

"He's got his own mind and is a bit of a one-pacer," Trevor says of Our Echo. It seems that Bruce has the strength yet soft hands that Our Echo needs to be kept in line in his training regime.

Our Echo races best up to the mile, even though his breeding suggests he could go further, with Group 1 3200m Wellington Cup winner Cluden Creek being a full sister to his dam Sakura Cluden (Yamanin Vital/Fort Girl). Our Echo's sole run at a longer distance (1800m at Riccarton on a Soft 7 track) resulted in a creditable third, but shorter distances seem to be his preference along with better tracks.

The horse had a wind tie-back operation when he was a 5YO and was out for quite a few months in 2021. A vet with a high success rate was brought over from Australia specifically and it seems to have done the trick because five of his wins are post-op.



Our Echo knows the southern racetracks well, especially Riccarton, and Trevor enjoys the South Island racing scene. But he also enjoys it when the horse is taken north and with two wins and a third at Trentham, the trips have proved worthwhile.

The first of those wins was the Lincoln Farms Premier 1400m R74 on 15th January 2022. He got up by a short neck with Tina on board. Then followed a string of placings and reasonable runs before the horse lined up at Wingatui on 2nd March 2024 where, again ridden by Tina, he got a beautiful confidence-boosting 2L win in a 1200m Open Hcp

He then went north to Trentham to line up in the 1200m Listed Lincoln Farms Lightning Handicap on 16th March 2024. Hopes were high, but the task was tricky. From a wide draw, jockey Tegan let him roll along under his own terms. They sat four-wide throughout the race and managed to keep all challengers at bay with a determined run to the line, winning by 1L. Although the soft track for the 2024 Thorndon Mile had tripped him up back in January, it didn't trouble him in the Lightning and his solid win that day allowed Our Echo to show his northern rivals a thing or two – and enable his ownership crew to experience racing heaven! Go online and watch the replay!

Whilst getting involved in racing was never a moneymaking venture for Trevor, Our Echo has earned nearly \$220k in stakes earnings. He slips below the radar at times, paying double figures despite consistent form. "It's so good to have a good horse," says Trevor with understated words and unmistakeable delight in his voice.

Our Echo is a lightly raced gelding who is rising eight this coming season. After a spell, he is now back in work and preparing for Cup Week. The team will likely take him north in the New Year, potentially with a view to heading further north to Auckland. Whilst Our Echo is an underrated, and at times luckless, horse, the feeling within the camp, as the new season gets under way, is that this may well be his best yet. We wish the team all the best with their beautiful chestnut gelding Our Echo. It's a name that rolls off the tongue, and one we hope to see in lights into the future.

### SUPPORTING THOROUGHBREDS IN THEIR TRANSITION FROM RACEHORSE TO SPORT HORSE - NZTR

### EVERY INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDER HAS A PART TO PLAY IN THE RESPONSIBLE REHOMING OF THOROUGHBREDS ON THE COMPLETION OF THEIR RACING CAREER.

Unless destined for the breeding barn, a thoroughbred will often retire from racing around age four or five, meaning they need to find another purposeful career for the next twenty or so years.

Well known for being an extremely versatile breed, the thoroughbred is suited to a variety of sport horse disciplines and how they transition to those is of the upmost of importance.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) have a network of Acknowledged Retrainers that owners or trainers can contact when a thoroughbred needs to embark on their second career.

These experienced horse people will do basic schooling and give horses exposure to a variety of situations to assess where they would be best placed to give them the best chance of success.

It is expected that horses arrive at an Acknowledged Retrainer with up-to-date farrier and dental work, in good condition and with full disclosure of medical and temperament history.

Matamata trainer Pam Gerard takes as much pride in seeing her horses thrive in their lives after racing as when they win on the track and makes every effort to ensure they get that opportunity.



"You take animals on for a lifetime, not a short time," she said. "It is a duty of care and your responsibility to make sure a horse has the best life it can. I think there are great opportunities out there for horses to have a really good life after racing."

Gerard said her owners share her sentiments and want to know what will happen to their horse when it retires from racing.

"I think that is just the type of owners we have," Gerard explained. "They really care about their horses, they come to the stable often and have a connection with their horse and want to see the best for them too."

NZTR's support for thoroughbreds in their second career doesn't stop once a horse has found its new rider, the 1% Fund, a levy on stakes, supports several initiatives including the popular training clinics that were held in July.

The clinics are tailored to build confidence and skill between horse and rider, developing partnerships with knowledge of how to move in a positive direction.

"We wanted to create a supportive environment for people with thoroughbreds in their first home post-racing or as they are coming out of the Acknowledged Retrainer network," NZTR Thoroughbred Welfare Coordinator Tracey Oakes said. "We got a great range of people at both the Taupo and South Island clinics and we really saw confidence and abilities develop over the sessions."

Oakes said NZTR have been focusing on building a positive relationship between the equestrian and thoroughbred communities and took the opportunity at Taupo clinic to include microchip scanning and pedigree education at the event.

"The riders really enjoyed learning about the breeding aspect," she said. "We were able to discuss their horse's pedigrees and different sires in depth which opened another area of knowledge in relation to their horses and hopefully continues to build that desire to have a thoroughbred as their sport horse of choice."

Amie Best, NZTR Welfare and Sustainability 🛭 Ϛ



# Traceability

Completing an SR24 is a requirement to ensure NZTR can complete and assist with traceability when horses exit the thoroughbred industry.

Each Horse's accountable person must submit an 'SR24 Notification of Death or Retirement of a Thoroughbred' to ensure we can maintain our record keeping and assist with traceability in their second careers.





### EL: VENCEDOR: THE CONQUEROR WHO KNOWS HOW TO WIN

#### By Sally Blyth

#### DAVID PRICE LIVES IN WELLINGTON AND IS A MEMBER OF THE WAIKATO BAY OF PLENTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, WHERE HIS HORSES ARE IN STEPHEN MARSH'S STABLES. SALLY BLYTH TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT HIS RACING ADVENTURES THROUGH THE YEARS, INCLUDING HIS RECENT WINNER AND TALENTED GELDING EL VENCEDOR.

David says he "fell into" racing ownership in the early to mid-1990s when his now longtime racing partner Mark Freeman looked at a horse that Paddy Busuttin was aware was for sale. They bought her. Called Take Silk, a mare by Star Way out of Red Chiffon, she had 13 starts for zero wins but she kickstarted their breeding and racing journey and a long association with trainer Stephen Marsh has resulted. (David is an Investment Advisor with Forsyth Barr and Mark is head of Special Projects at NZTR).

First, let's take a look at the very good gelding Chocante, which David and Mark bred and raced together. By Shocking out of Strictly Maternal, Chocante had five wins from 23 starts. He won his Maiden race at Rotorua on 1st April 2016 at his fifth start and went on to win the Counties Cup in November that year despite being three wide the whole way. It was a truly brave win and the video is well worth a watch – Chocante just wouldn't give up under the urgings of Craig Grylls.

During a short stint in Brisbane in 2017 he stepped up to race in the Brisbane Cup at Doomben. "There was great trepidation that day," says David, acknowledging the roller coaster ride that is racehorse ownership. Chocante won the Cup by almost 4L with a fine front-running ride by Jim Byrne. He ran a few races in Sydney later that year including two thirds, one being the Group 1 Metropolitan where he was favourite. The other was a superb third to Winx in the Chelmsford Cup and, while everyone was yelling Winx on, David was cheering loudly for his Chocante! He also enjoyed owners' drinks that day with the owners of Who Shot The Barman (who ran 7th in the race). A memorable and proud moment while in Sydney was when Chris Waller was able to reel off Chocante's pedigree, including his grand dam Red Chiffon, as Chris trained her with Paddy.

Let's look at that pedigree. Chocante and El Vencedor are full brothers by Shocking out of Strictly Maternal, an O'Reilly mare that Michael Guerin once called "one of the broodmares of the decade". Her dam was Take Silk, David's first foray into racing as referred to above. Strictly Maternal's start as a broodmare had humble beginnings, her foals being sired by those with a lower service fee. In 2012 she went up the ranks and was served by Shocking and Chocante was born. He was retired in early 2020 as a 6YO after a highly successful and rewarding four-year racing career.

Strictly Maternal gave birth to eight colts, seven of which went on to win – including Chocante and El Vencedor. Several were sold to Hong Kong, one of them being Sky Darci who won the Hong Kong Derby in 2021 ridden by Joao Moreira. It was a massive victory, beating Russian Emperor, a gelding that had been purchased for \$3m. The win is a source of pride for Sky Darci's breeders,



aka David and Mark, and it's another video worth a watch, with a great call by Mark McNamara!

Strictly Maternal was retired from breeding due to having cysts and went to Highden Park in Palmerston North. A vet who was on site one day asked how old she was, thinking perhaps around 12. Strictly Maternal was actually 21YO at that point and the vet commented about what a great looking animal she was. They did an unplanned scan and, lo and behold, found a follicle. David and Mark then made the decision to send her back to Shocking and, through a happy twist of fate and somewhat of a miracle, she was in foal again. Strictly Maternal was living up to her name – it seemed her breeding career wasn't yet over!

The resulting foal was a filly born November 2021 who went into work with Stephen Marsh but got sore and was retired before running a race, with her value as a broodmare recognised. She will go to the breeding paddock in the new season as a 3YO, having never been on a racetrack, just like her mum. That filly is aptly named Milagro – which means "miracle" in Spanish. Let's hope she can emulate both her name, and her mum. Sadly, Strictly Maternal was euthanised in February 2024 after a long and successful career as a broodmare.

You'll notice a Spanish flavour to the names – Chocante means "shocking" in Spanish and El Vencedor means "the conqueror". Hermanito (which means "little brother" in Spanish) was another full brother to them both who bolted in to win at his first start in 2017 but then didn't do too much in follow up runs. Sadly, he went amiss in a 2100m race at Te Rapa and had to be euthanised.

Why the Spanish connotation you may ask? David tells me it stems from a love of Spanish red wine which became the signature drink back in the days when he frequented a local winebar. It remains a firm favourite today and the Spanish racing names pay homage to that.

Now let's focus on El Vencedor... the conqueror...

He won his first trial as a 2YO in January 2021 and David and Mark subsequently received an offer of \$1m. However, El Vencedor failed the vet check, which ended up being a silver lining.

After two trial wins and a third placing, he went to the races. He ran a second placing and a sixth placing, then got his Maiden win at Taupo on 17th September 2021. Next was a disappointing 12th of 12 in the Hawkes Bay Guineas. However, apart from that run, plus a couple of down-track runs at Eagle Farm in May 2022 due to wet tracks

(even J Mac's magic couldn't do the trick) and a 13/14 in the 2023 Foxbridge Plate (the track was too much of a challenge), he's been ultra-consistent with seven wins, nine 2nds, four 3rds, four 4ths and a fifth placing from 31 starts. He is also probably the fastest Shocking in New Zealand, having broken 1:09.

El Vencedor went to Australia and won at Doomben in June 2022 and then returned to NZ to take out the Eagle Technology Stakes at Te Rapa on 2nd December 2023. He ran a very nice second to Puntura in the Thornden Mile on 20th January 2024 on a Soft 6 track. Then came his most exciting and notable win - the Bonecrusher NZ Stakes at Ellerslie on 9th March 2024. Ridden by Joe Doyle that day, he worked quickly to the lead in the familiar Price blue/pink colours. Out in front, he was never headed and kicked on for a gutsy win. Viewers looked on in astonishment as the hot favourite Legarto got beaten by a neck – she just couldn't pick up El Vencedor. It was an "against all odds" win and at \$20 the price was very nice indeed. What an utter thrill for David and Mark to get such a significant win – not to mention the winning stake of nearly \$260k. No doubt a few bottles of good Spanish red wine were purchased with the winnings! But first, David had the "pinch-me" glory of leading El Vencedor back to scale. The smile says it all!

After Chocante's success, David had thought nothing could beat the ownership joy that he provided – but El Vencedor has enabled him to continue to experience similar prestigious thrills. He also races Nest Egg (Reliable Man/Run to the Bank) who has won five out of 35 races, with a string of placings and some decent stake earnings to date. Stephen Marsh and the team are targeting the NZ Cup with him. David also has a share in Serendipitous (Darci Brahma/Run to the Bank), a half-sister to Nest Egg who has good trial form and had a run as a 2YO at Rotorua on 25th July 2024 coming a pleasing third. There's also a rising yearling full sister to Nest Egg so plenty of opportunities for more success.

So, what's next for El Vencedor? He's back in work and having a start-of-season jumpout. David reports "he looks amazing, a strong ball of muscle, bigger and better than ever." The team will see how things unfold as time progresses, with a view to potentially taking him to Australia.

With a lifelong exposure to and love of racing, David laughs at the irony of him being a financial advisor who has racehorses. As I said to him, "Everything to do with investing dollars is a risk – but horses are possibly the most pleasurable financial risk to take!" And sometimes a Chocante or an El Vencedor comes along to make it all worthwhile!

As a breeder and owner, David is a big supporter of PlusVital genetic testing. These pioneering blood tests provide valuable insights into various traits that influence a horse's performance, health, and overall potential. In essence, David believes that racing success comes down to both science and luck – and a nice drop of red wine! It's a good blend indeed.

The colours are also a good blend and come with their own story. "I was on a Melbourne Cup tour with George Simon and asked him what the easiest colours to see are," says David. "He told me royal blue and hot pink – and thus my colours were born!" It's a combo we anticipate seeing more of in the future.

Trainer Stephen Marsh once told David, "El Vencedor is the best horse you'll have in your life." It's hard to top the racing thrills that El Vencedor has provided to date – and long may that continue. David's is a joyful racing story, with more chapters to come.

The New Zealand Thoroughbred Horse of the Year Awards dinner will be held on 8th September and it's pleasing to see that El Vencedor has been nominated for the Champion Middle Distance Horse category (1601m-2200m) along with Campionessa, Ladies Man and Legarto. A great accolade indeed for a horse who is so deserving to be in contention for this award.

El Vencedor – the conqueror with the ability to generate more reasons to celebrate with friends, bubbles and a cheeky Spanish red!



### RACING THOROUGHBREDS AS A MEMBER OF A SYNDICATE Jill Lunn

SYNDICATION IS GROWING IN POPULARITY AS A WAY TO ENJOY BEING PART OF HORSERACING AS AN OWNER. THERE ARE MANY TYPES OF PARTNERSHIPS AND BEING A MEMBER OF AN AUTHORISED SYNDICATE IS A FUN AND COST-EFFECTIVE WAY TO PARTICIPATE AND EXPERIENCE THE THRILL THAT OWNING A HORSE BRINGS.

Phyllis Huitema, a Committee Member on the Waikato/ Bay of Plenty Racehorse Owners' Association, loves being part of a syndicate. She is a member of the well-known Heels and Hooves Syndicate that has many members and now enjoys the ownership of three horses trained by Stephen Marsh.

Heels and Hooves is an all-women syndicate that was set up by Stephen along with Bloodstock Agent, Dylan Johnson. As part of the syndicate, an official partnership with Breast Cancer Foundation New Zealand was established. As well as helping raise awareness of breast cancer, a percentage of all prize money won by each horse is donated to the Foundation. The horses owned by the syndicate race in "breast cancer" pink and white colours, designed like Stephen's stable silks with a large dot front and back.

The first horse the syndicate invested in is the 3yo filly called MOET DOWN, by champion sire Pierro out of the well-related mare Cancel. This talented filly is a race winner and was a very game second in this year's Group 3 Mufhasa Stakes at Ellerslie on 2nd March 2024. Her half-sister in Australia, Group 1 winner Madam Pommery (coincidentally also raced by an all-ladies syndicate), recently sold at the Magic Millions sale for a staggering \$2.7 million. MOET DOWN looks to be a very exciting prospect for her many syndicate owners and holds significant residual value as a broodmare.

The second horse purchased for the syndicate is a 2YO filly; she is also by Pierro out of the stakes winning mare Rockolicious. Named SEXY AND I MOET, she has had one start at Matamata in May where she finished fourth, having been an impressive trial winner. She looks well-placed to target the elite fillies' races as a 3yo

The group recently purchased another filly at this year's Sydney Easter yearling sales. This filly is by speed stallion Russian Revolution and boasts a precocious early running pedigree. She is currently being broken in by Sam Beatson at Riversley Park before joining Stephen's stable later in June.

Phyllis describes racing as a member in this syndicate: "When you belong to the syndicate you don't have to buy in every year to every horse, you make your choices about what you want to buy in. Some of the women own 2/5ths of 5/8ths of the horse and some women own a lot of the horse, but I can tell you on race day we all own the entire horse. It's great fun! We all try to wear pink on race day."

Being part of a syndicate is an inexpensive way to have fun and enjoy the sport of racing, and Phyllis and her friends certainly do that whilst being able to support the Breast Cancer Foundation in a unique way.

The Heels and Hooves syndicate is open to all ladies at all levels of ownership. The group meets once a year (outside of race day) for the highly anticipated Moet Champagne lunch. Often held at the spectacular Cambridge Stud, this provides an opportunity for the syndicate members to meet each other, make new friends and, of course, get up close and personal with their latest filly.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO FEDERATION MEMBERS ON THEIR RECENT WINS!

Ivan Grieve CATCH AND RELEASE

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

### **1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2024**

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IESKO

**President: Bernard Hickey Executive Officer: Denise Mayhew** Email: admin@racehorseowner.co.nz 382a Tuakau Road, RD 2, Pukekohe 2677

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