

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



WINTER 2026



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

IT'S A BUSY TIME IN THE RACING INDUSTRY AND THE OWNERS' FEDERATION HAS BEEN WORKING HARD TO ENSURE THAT THE OWNERS' VOICE IS HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR.

SALLY BLYTH



The release of the long-awaited Project Stamina report has led to wide-ranging discussions throughout the industry. I was interviewed during the consultation phase and put forward concerns and feedback from the regions.

Now that the report has been made public, we have called for feedback from our members and thank those of you who have written in. We had a robust response to our request for feedback from the Central Districts, which indicates this region needs a strong focus in NZTROF's submission on the Stamina report. We share one member's comprehensive feedback on page 3.

A common theme has been what has been described by some of you as a "blow-out" in administration and compliance costs. For Owners, who have no guarantee of a return on their investment, these costs can be crippling and are causing some of our members to consider leaving the industry altogether. As Owners ourselves we understand and share these concerns completely. Our constant refrain to those governing and reporting on the industry is that "Without Owners there would be no industry." Now ain't that the truth!

TAB New Zealand Racing Advisory Committee released its own report in June. The release of these two significant reports so close together has caused some confusion and raised questions about the expense. The Federation put forward a submission supporting the recommendations to modernise tax and regulatory settings for breeding investment, move funding of the RIB to the Crown, and to modernise TAB NZ's legislative settings.

In terms of Unified Governance, we consider that it makes sense for back-office functions

to be combined and that these could be carried out under Racing New Zealand management. However, we do have some doubts about whether it will work beyond this, with implementation potentially being problematical.

We felt unable to comment on the Strategic Racing Property Vehicle until more detailed information is released. We suspect there may be some fishhooks in it.

We urged the Advisory Committee to consider the following:

"Owners provide the capital that underpins the industry. From our perspective, infrastructure and governance need to ultimately improve ownership participation, affordability, experience and confidence... we believe that returns to Owners and the enjoyment of participation must be a major foundation for the proposed reforms".

Back in July we sent a strongly worded response to NZTR following their announcement of the increase in riding and trials fees. While we acknowledge the hugely important role performed by jockeys within the racing industry, and recognise that periodic reviews of remuneration are appropriate, our main concern was that these increases had been approved without prior consultation with the Federation (which had been the case for the previous review two years ago). This was disappointing and we emphasised that:

"Owners fund the industry. They fund the purchase, training, transport, veterinary care, insurance and racing of thoroughbreds. Any increase in riding fees is therefore borne directly by owners and materially affects the cost of participation in the sport."

We were pleased to note that the rider engagement fee did not increase as planned.

We do acknowledge the anger out there amongst Owners; indeed, we feel it ourselves. We can't help thinking that if "grass roots" participants such as Owners had been regularly consulted and listened to over past decades, the industry may not be in this position. However, dwelling on the past will not solve the problems that exist. If we can all work together then there is a very good chance that we can make the industry that we love stronger and better.

I've been invited to meetings with NZTR where the CEO and Chair have shared confidential and enlightening information about what has transpired over the past few years. There has been misinformation shared on various platforms and a lot of confusion, but I would urge you to remain positive and refrain from believing all that you hear.

Meanwhile, we've sent out an email indicating there will be no subscription fee for this 2026/27 season in light of increased funding from NZTR. We will review this for next season, but we feel very happy that we can lighten the load of our members for this coming season. Whether you're a long-term member or a more recent one, we appreciate your support. Expect increased communication from us as the industry navigates its way into the future and we continue to advocate for you.

We urge you to contact the Federation or your local Committee if you have issues you would like to raise. Even better, why not join your Committee – all newcomers welcome!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**DEREK & JANET HILL,
HAWKES BAY**

We loved your article on Whistlejacket in the Autumn issue and have both been doing a bit of homework on him. We have actually taken shares in him. He had a slashing trial the other week, so we are quite excited about his prospects. He's back on the farm for 3-4 weeks. The other piece of news we have is the name of the Short Fuse filly – Volatile Miss. Watch this space for her. Our A team is boxing on towards winter with a couple of wins so far. The tracks are too good!

Kind regards, Derek.



OUR
COVER

Miss Anna Lee comes back to scale with the Clerk of the Course after winning at Te Rapa in the NZ Horse Ambulance colours with Masa Hashizume on board, 8th August.

PHOTO: KENTON WRIGHT, RACE IMAGES

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THE THEME FOR THIS ISSUE IS "PEOPLE". WE FOCUS ON SOME OF THE IMPORTANT, AND SOMETIMES INVISIBLE, PEOPLE WHO CONTRIBUTE TO OUR INDUSTRY. FROM UP-AND-COMING YOUNG JOCKEYS TO THOSE WHO GIVE THEIR TIME AND ENERGY IN SO MANY WAYS.

Reflecting on days gone by, Dennis Ryan takes us on his journalism journey and Ian "Banjo" Hackett shares his life as a farrier – and how he got that nickname! We share new initiatives and member feedback – and, as always, we celebrate success.

Thank you for the positive feedback we receive about the *Owners Bulletin* and the people, horses and updates featured. We hope you enjoy the news, stories and images in this Winter edition. Please, if you have a story to share, let us know! admin@racehorseowner.co.nz or sally@beyondlimits.co.nz

Thanks to all those who have contributed to this Winter 2026 edition. Thanks also to Executive Officer Denise Mayhew with editing assistance and to Allan Fenwick (Manawatu) for proofing. And thanks, as always, to Race Images – www.raceimages.co.nz – for great racing photos.

FEEDBACK ON PROJECT STAMINA

Abridged feedback from a member who prefers to remain anonymous.

THANKS FOR THE INVITATION TO PROVIDE COMMENT ON THE PROJECT STAMINA REPORT. I OWN SMALL SHARES IN SEVERAL HORSES SO THE ISSUES FACING THE RACING INDUSTRY ARE OF CONCERN.

I am aware of three reports which have been released in recent months: The Stamina report from RCP; the One Equine view from NZTR and HRNZ; and the TAB Advisory report. For the average person involved in racing, this multitude of reports is confusing. It's not clear what the status is of each of these reports, what authority each of sponsoring bodies have, and who, if anyone, will take action for making changes going forward.

Owners (and Punters) contribute the lion's share of funding to the racing industry, but their voice is hardly heard. Owners provide an annual input to the industry far above what they receive back as Owners from stake money, hence racehorse ownership cannot be considered an investment. It is, in fact, an expensive hobby providing expensive entertainment.

For breeders, trainers, jockeys and a host of other personnel involved in racing, racing is a business – it is their livelihood. But for Owners it is not. If it was, they would cut their losses and get out. The various reports seek to put racing on a sound business footing, and it must have this to continue successfully. However, this is far from the way that Owners view racing. None of the reports capture the emotional core of racing for Owners. Racing does need to be financially sustainable, but it doesn't need the costs of new greenfield sites or multimillion dollar races or bloated administration costs to provide owners with the entertainment value of racing and winning with a horse.

The future of racing must be more than just optimising racing for gambling. There are many options for people who just want the thrill of gambling and racing is one of the most expensive ways to generate a contest that people will want to gamble on. As the Stamina report focusses on horse racing just to generate greater gambling investment, this will be a failed approach in the long term, as horseracing will never be able to compete on a cost basis with all other contests where gambling is involved. It is essential, if racing is to survive, that the emotional connection to the horse, the trainer, the jockey and the venue is promoted.

The future of racing is about getting more members of the public involved. The thrill of watching racing for some can progress to horse share ownership. This is what needs to happen to ensure the future of racing. Without owners putting their funds into racing, then all of the other personnel that rely on racing for their livelihood are at risk.

The racing industry needs to understand more about the entertainment value or the emotional high that Owners get from racing, since Owners are the primary funders of the industry. Some questions occur:

- ▶ Do Owners get as much satisfaction winning a race with low stakes as one with high stakes? What is the tipping point? Why do Owners continue to race horses that clearly will not pay their way? What motivates the general public to attend race meetings? Weather, course facilities, picnic venues, tradition, quality horses.

[As a foot note, I am amazed at the crowds that attend the Castlepoint Beach Races and Kumara Nuggets race day. Why are these so successful?]

- ▶ In looking forward, the racing industry needs to set metrics not just around betting turnover, but also on course attendance and customer satisfaction around what racing provides. It also needs to build more emotional connections between the public at large and racing.

Racing does need to get its house in order to remain viable.

In the short to medium term the costs of running racing must be reduced:

- ▶ If racing cannot afford greenfield projects now, then these should be shelved in the short to medium term (Hawkes Bay and Waikato). These projects make no sense in the short term when there appears to be adequate existing alternatives (Te Rapa and Hastings – assuming the revamp of Hastings is successful).
- ▶ NZTR with HRNZ and RIB must get their costs in order. \$91 million for administration costs from a total of \$247 million distributed by the TAB is not sustainable. If reports are correct that \$25 million in costs could be reduced (based on Australian benchmarks) then this should be the first action point to achieve viability.
- ▶ The focus on land sales of assets that are surplus will be a very lengthy process and will not achieve the desired outcome. My view is that Racing Clubs that own significant land assets currently think that the managing bodies, especially NZTR, are wasteful. As already seen, Clubs will resist their assets being sold to prop up overspending by NZTR. The new Racing Act seems to say that sales of these assets will come down to the discretion of the Racing Minister but, politics being politics, the Minister may not endorse sales when there is local Club and community resistance. It will be far better to bring Clubs along willingly, and to do this NZTR must get its own house in order, before Clubs will be willing to see their assets sold.
- ▶ The notion that racing clubs will sell assets for the proceeds to be channelled directly into the current balance sheet is like "selling the farm". You only get to do it once. Funds resulting from future asset sales, if these occur, should be invested and only the proceeds from these investments should then be able to be used for future projects.

Is the Project Stamina model flawed? It appears that a significant number of models have been evaluated and the explanation of the approach taken is both impressive and unintelligible for your average racing enthusiast like me. What is not clear is what if the wrong objectives were set for the project? What if the data provided was faulty? What if the weighting of the variables used was incorrect? All of these could lead to a faulty set of recommendations. The consultants will bear no responsibility if the recommendations do not lead to a desired outcome for the racing industry. Examination of the detailed recommendations in the report raises many questions which no doubt individual Racing Clubs will be bringing forward for discussion. *[Abridged]*



AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Sally Blyth

ALONG WITH SEVERAL RACE MEETINGS AT ELLERSLIE, PUKEKOHE AND RUAKAKA, AVONDALE HAD ITS FINAL MEETING ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY.

The Club put on an impressive all-day lunch for members and the place was really buzzing, although a somewhat sombre mood hung in the air. There's a photo on the wall that showcases the course in its heyday and it felt a bit surreal to know that this meeting marked the end of 136 years of racing in West Auckland. There was some great racing under sunny skies and many memories shared of good times gone by at Avondale racecourse, including the night racing. The Club did itself proud on a poignant day.

Being school holidays, with fabulous weather, it was as busy as I've seen it for years, with families out in droves. Racing stalwarts and locals were there to make the most of Avondale's swansong and it really was a great vibe. While Avondale's facilities may be far from ideal, the set up for Owners to easily view their horses is excellent and the track superb.

The first horse I ever had an interest in won on a wet and miserable Wednesday at Avondale back in August 2008 with a young 16YO James McDonald on board! Horrie was running on this blue-sky Wednesday and had

a great support crew on course. A win would have been fantastic, but we were all very happy with his solid third placing.

Several Auckland Association members have had Group 3 and Listed winners during recent months:

- Emblem Ltd (the late Patricia Buckingham) and J C & Estate of the late Mrs M A Thompson with Churchillian
- Craig Leishman with Actionbelle
- Howard Perry and T W Archer Trust with She's No Saint

Carl & Amy Elliott, Gary Fitzpatrick, Allan Pate and H & N Powell had a nice win in a Maiden 2YO race with Dubawi Diva on 14th June at Matamata over 1050m. She set a strong pace and beat a handy field on the day. At her second start, this King of Comedy filly, trained by Shaune Ritchie & Colm Murray wasn't too comfortable in the Heavy 10 going in the Otaki 2YO Listed race over 1200m on 10th July, and was down the track. Hopefully the Spring tracks will see her back in winning action.

Bulgari, by Hello Youmzain, got his second win for Rosemary Carter, James Chapman, Brett Kendall and B W P Wright following a run of good form. A horse with ability, he had won on debut back in April 2025 and has been a consistent type all the way through.

Bella Luce won for Diane Rushworth and Shane Voice at Oamaru in July on a Heavy10

track. By Belardo, she set the pace and held on to win by a length. It was the eighth win by this versatile mare who has won on every type of going as well as the synthetic.

To all our Auckland members who have had recent winners – congratulations! If you're hopeful of a win in the near future as Spring arrives – good luck! And a fond farewell to racing at Avondale.

HAWKES BAY

OUR HAWKES BAY DELEGATE, BERNARD HICKEY, HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE SURGERY AND WE REGRET THAT WE ARE UNABLE TO INCLUDE A REPORT FROM HAWKES BAY THIS TIME. WE WISH BERNARD A SPEEDY RECOVERY.

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Jill Lunn

WINTER RACING HAS BEEN INTERESTING IN OUR REGION THIS SEASON. WE HAVE HAD 24 RACE MEETINGS OVER THE 3-MONTH PERIOD MAY TO JULY - 18 WERE ON GRASS AND SIX WERE ON THE CAMBRIDGE SYNTHETIC TRACK. IT HAS SEEMED LIKE A VERY DRY WINTER TO MOST OF US AND I WAS INTERESTED IN WHAT THE TRACK READING SAID OVER THE PERIOD.

We had one Good4 track, three Soft5 tracks, three Soft7 tracks, two Heavy8 tracks, two Heavy9 tracks and six Heavy10 tracks. Trainers should have been able to find a track that suited their horse. I am sure we have had more Heavy10 tracks during these three Winter months than in the past. I did hear from some that the tracks were too hard for their horses who prefer the mud. However, I think that most people who attended those meetings said it provided for good racing.

JUMPING

Jumps programmes continue to be run at Te Aroha and Te Rapa. We had one jumping meeting in May, two in June and two in July. There are two more Jumps days to come at Te Aroha for this season and, other than that, trainers have to take their horses to the Central Districts with jumping at Woodville. The jumping races have provided a great spectacle and the strong jumping fraternity turned out in great numbers to watch their horses.

WINNERS

Some of our members were lucky enough to score winners during this period and a big congratulations goes to all of them.

Heza Sharp One won three times for our member Joan Egan and the syndicate that races him. He won at Matamata on 13 May and then at Te Rapa on 30th May, and again on 8th August at Te Rapa. A 5YO gelding by Castelvechio out of the mare Eagle Magic,

Joan liked the look of him when she saw him in the tie-up stalls and her keen eye for a talented racehorse has stood her in good stead again. Joan also had a winner over 2100m with Sibella, a 6YO mare by Per Incanto out of Classic Legacy that she bred herself.

Overrated won over 1560m at Rotorua for Murray and Julie Garrett. He is a 7YO gelding by Wrote out of the mare Vision and he paid \$29.10 – a very good pay day for those supporters of Wrote.

Peter Lock, another of our members, had two winners. He is in the ownership of Pick Of The Litter, an 8YO mare by Vadamos out of Ebony And Ivory who won over 2200m. Peter also shares in the ownership of 6YO mare Miss Anna Lee (Belardo/Goldilicious) who won at Te Rapa on 8th August.

Sue Bourke has a share in Lerado, a 7YO by Belardo who won at Cambridge Synthetic over 1550m.

Our member Dale Opie had a winner with Gracetheace in a Pearl Series 1400m at Tauranga. A 5YO mare by Ace High out of Grace Invader, she's trained by Dale and Keith's son Gavin. Gavin also had a winner with Opaee Joe, an 8YO by Puccini who won his tenth race at Te Aroha on 21st June.

Fred and Lindsay Cornege had a winner with their horse Fat Albert, a 5YO gelding by Ribchester out of Cape Tycoon, over 970m on the Cambridge Synthetic.

Members Brent and Cherry Taylor also had two wins in our region during the winter, with Astoria Brooke who won the open 1600m Te Awamutu Cup at Te Rapa on 4th July and the 1600m open at Te Rapa on 8th August. They also had wins with Boss 'N' Highheels and Insatiable.

Miss Understood is another who won for our member Tony Coombe. She is a 5YO mare by Niagara out of the mare Miss Construe.

Our Committee members Lucinda Christopher and Phyllis Huitema had a win with Sexy and I Moet, who won at Tauranga over 1400m on 29th May. Our member Sheryn Hobbs also shares in the ownership of this horse.

Phyllis Huitema and Donna Logan both have a share in the ownership of Girlzgirlzgirlz. Donna trains this horse at Pukekohe – this 4YO mare won at Tauranga on 27th June over 1200m.

Members Bruce and Maureen Harvey had two winners during this winter period, both on the Cambridge Synthetic. Bannen, a 6YO by Swiss Ace, won over 1300m on 3rd June, and Rocmont, a 6YO gelding by El Roca, won twice on the Cambridge Synthetic on 9th and 22nd July.

We're pleased to report on these fabulous wins by our members' horses.

Best of luck to all members for the coming spring season.

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Bret Field

WELL, IT'S ALMOST LIKE WINTER BYPASSED THE WHANGANUI REGION THIS YEAR WITH DECENT WEATHER THROUGHOUT AND MINIMAL RAIN RECORDED COMPARED TO PREVIOUS YEARS. THERE ALSO SEEMED TO BE LESS WINTER SPECIALISTS AROUND WITH HORSE FIELDS UNUSUALLY DOWN AROUND THE COUNTRY.

This was highlighted when the Wanganui Jockey Club hosted the first meeting for the new season in the Central Districts on Sunday 2nd August with only six races and 53 horses, although this was a new fixture transferred in from the Awapuni Synthetic.

The jumpers started their campaign here at Wanganui on 10th May and again the locals were to the fore during the season especially in recent weeks at the Carnival in Riccarton. Wanganui trainers took out five of the 10 races on the first weekend then featured prominently on 8th of August when Kevin Myers took out the trifecta in the

Grand National Hurdles (4200m) with the least experienced jumper Little Thief getting home in front. It was another local trifecta in the Racecourse Hotel & Motor Lodge 151st Grand National Steeplechase (5600m) when favourite Lord Spencer, trained by JJ Rayner and sired by Zed from Grangewilliam Stud, nosed out the gallant pacemaker Brucie (Raymond Connors) and the Myers-trained Prince Turbo for a superb showing from the Whanganui region connections. Not bad for grass roots racing.

And speaking of grass roots racing, special mention goes to Russell Guckert who is married to ex-trainer Judy Meynell and has now racked up over 80 wins as an owner. He is on a roll with seven wins between December and April including Born to be Royal at Matamata, Cognoscenti and Perlino who have both had three wins each at Riccarton including the NZB Warstep Stakes for the latter and also a 3rd placing in the NZB Insurance Stakes.

Congratulations to all winning owners especially the G & A Hill Trust, Raewyn Richardson and Noel & Suzanne Stanley who all enjoyed two wins each with separate horses during the latest period.

There's plenty happening at the moment, and a lot of opinions out there, but securing a practical future for the industry is crucial for overall success through the different levels of operations. We hope this will not adversely impact on Owners, minimum stakes or at Club level and I'm sure we will all be watching developments with interest...

EDITOR'S NOTE: ON THE VARIED SPELLING OF WANGANUI/WHANGANUI:

The Club: Registered name is **Wanganui Jockey Club** (without the "h")

The Region: Officially **Manawatu-Whanganui** (with the "h")

The City: Can be written either with or without

MANAWATU/WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

WELLINGTON RACING CLUB TO LEAVE RACE

In early August RACE and the Wellington Racing Club (WRC) announced that WRC had decided to leave the RACE Consortium. Details to formalise this are still being worked through including a Special General Meeting of the WRC members.

In their communications with all members the Chairman of RACE, Richard Simpson, and the President of the WRC, Simon Barber, made it clear that this does not mean the end of a collaborative relationship between the Clubs. Both Clubs have stated that they will work closely together to strengthen racing across the Central Districts, with Trentham scheduled to host a number of the RACE meetings over the coming season.

"At the same time, it is important that the WRC now charts its own course, allowing us to focus clearly on securing our future. The recent release of Project Stamina has made that need even more pressing, with the future of Trentham now very much in the spotlight" reported Mr Barber.

RACING MATTERS

It took virtually the whole season for Benefactor to post her first win for the season when successful in an Open Handicap at Otaki at the end of July. The Contributor mare, however, had been placed on a number of occasions and is now the winner of six races and nearly \$180k. A number of members share in the ownership including Cam Arnott and Mark & Fay Fearon.

Once again Bradman had to settle for second placing in the CJC 129th Winter Cup after running third in both 2024 and 2025. After two wins in the lead up the Pins gelding had to bow to Quintabelle who was carrying 6kg less than the Roydon Bergerson-trained now 9YO. The Fearon's, Bob Wiltshire and the Estate of John Roache share in the ownership of Bradman who has now earned in excess of \$425k.

Kereti is another to benefit from racing on the Awapuni Synthetic having won three times and placed second in four starts since June. One of those wins was the Power Farming Manawatu Synthetic Final, a \$60k event, followed by a win in the \$75k Power Farming Manawatu Polytrack Championship. The Darci Brahma gelding has now won five races and \$175k for owner/breeder Willy Duncan and Awapuni trainer Mike Breslin.

Member Brian Hall shares in the ownership of the lightly raced Karryn, a winner at her third start. The Derryn mare is trained by Kevin & Stephen Gray.

It was welcome back Lisa Allpress when He's Lucid won at Hawera in June. It was the first day back riding after a very long injury layoff for Lisa so the win was very special for all concerned. He's Lucid is raced by Douglas Duncan and Kevin Myers and trained by Kevin.

Stella Success won the Woodville Pahiatua Cup in June for Joshua Lavell and Sacha Rennie. It was the third win from 12 starts for the Staphanos mare.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2025/2026 POINTS SERIES

Although Subtle Image was a clearcut leader over the last month of the Series, the second placing was not finalised until the very last week of the season. Tolstoy's win on 30th July resulted in a 3-way second-equal finish.

Subtle Image has been a model of consistency over the winter, with a particular liking for the synthetic tracks, with four wins and two placings from just seven starts on the synthetic surface.

Normally in the stable of Roger Allen, Subtle Image was transferred to the Peter & Trent Didham stable for the winter while Roger recovered from shoulder surgery.

Despite having won twice at Awapuni in July, the Nadeem gelding was neglected in the betting when he ventured to Cambridge for the \$75,000 TAB Polytrack Championship. Normally a good beginner Subtle Image was slow away and settled at the rear for stable apprentice Toni Davies. The widest runner on the turn, Subtle Image quickly made up ground and eventually won by a length.

Congratulations to the three Syndicates who race Subtle Image and, in particular, to enthusiastic member Roger Parkinson who nominated him in the Majestic Horse Floats 2025/2026 Points Series.

Tolstoy finally triumphed at Otaki after two runner-up performances in his current campaign. The Wrote gelding is raced by Neil & Erin Connors and other family members and is trained by Ilone Kelly.



Subtle Image held by Roger Parkinson with Syndicate Members Stacey Trask, Barry Ellmers, Steve Girvan and Sharon Girvan looking on, after winning the TAB Polytrack Championship at Cambridge, 7 August 2026

PHOTO: KENTON WRIGHT (RACE IMAGES)

Dubai's Potiki likewise finished the season with a win at New Plymouth capping off a consistent winter campaign of two wins and two seconds from four starts for owner breeders Judith & Tony Bambry and Robin Hapi. The Ocean Park gelding is trained by Chrissy Bambry.

Insatiable led the Points Series for a time in the Autumn but not having raced since winning twice in April/May meant his lead was whittled away and he ended up in second-equal place. He is raced by Douglas Duncan from the Walker/Bergerson Stable.

Another to lead the Series for a short time was Opawa Jack who had been a big mover in the Autumn coming from tenth-equal in February. However, he was eventually overhauled in the last couple of months ending up a creditable fifth and only two points behind the second placegetters.

The final results for the season are below. Congratulations to all placegetters and thank you to all those who entered. Also, many thanks to Majestic Horse Floats for their generous sponsorship.

Member Paul Ridley-Smith shares in the ownership of With Grace who followed up success at Ruakaka with a win at Te Rapa. The Ocean Park mare has now won three races. She is trained by Kylie Hoskin at Byerley Park.

Sotirio recorded her 6th win at Hawera in early August for trainer Matthew Eales. Members in the ownership group include Cam Arnott, John Druce, Mark & Faye Fearon, Graeme McInteer, Estate John Roache and Elaine Vine.

FINAL RESULTS FOR 2025/2026 SEASON

2025 / 2026 MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS POINTS SERIES LEADERS AS AT JULY 31ST 2026

POSITION	POINTS	HORSE	NOMINATOR
1st.....	43.....	SUBTLE IMAGE.....	Roger Parkinson
2nd =.....	33.....	DUBAI'S POTIKI.....	Tony Bambry
	33.....	INSATIABLE.....	Douglas Duncan
	33.....	TOLSTOY.....	Erin Connors
5th.....	31.....	OPAWA JACK.....	Chrissy Bambry
6th =.....	30.....	BILLY.....	Mike & Roz Southey
	30.....	FLEETING GLYMPSE.....	Dame Lowell Goddard
8th.....	29.....	IMA BRAZEN ONE.....	Angeline Porter / John Roache (Estate Of)
9th =.....	28.....	AFTERNOON SIESTA.....	Graham Stewart
	28.....	OCEAN MELODY.....	Noel Buckman
11th.....	26.....	SIR MIKKI.....	Noel Buckman / Steve Haylock
12th =.....	25.....	JUST CHARLIE.....	Mike & Roz Southey
	25.....	RIOMOSA.....	Elaine Vine
14th =.....	23.....	BUNDY.....	Susan & Allan Fenwick
	23.....	THE DIVINER.....	Libby Bleakley
16th =.....	22.....	FOURTY EIGHT.....	Susan & Allan Fenwick
	22.....	HARD ROCA.....	Tim Gillespie / Matt & Logan Fenwick
	22.....	MAROTIRI MOLLY.....	Beven & Christine Parlato
19th.....	21.....	CARIGNAN.....	Susan & Allan Fenwick
20th.....	20.....	BEDTIME STORY.....	Tim Gillespie

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2026/2027 POINTS SERIES

The Association is pleased to report that there will be another Points Series for the new season, again sponsored by Majestic Horse Floats. The competition is open to owners who are members of the Central Districts or Wellington Branches of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Association and/or the Manawatu Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Association. Entry is free.

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

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

HELLO FROM THE MAINLAND ...

Winter has seen the usual wet tracks but mainly holding in nature which suits some but not all. Grand National week has come and gone with some very good racing. Kevin Myers as usual has done very well, and good to see a South Island victory with Quintabelle winning the Winter Cup. Hard to do with scheduling down here not helping. Having only two grass track meetings in July is very frustrating for owners and trainers.

A maiden to break that grade at start 10 was Gadabout for Allayne and Patrick Kennedy. The 4YO Vadamos mare, trained by Steven Woodsford, had placed on three occasions previously, and got the deserved win on the Riccarton synthetic track over 1400m. Jumping from the outside gate, jockey Akshay Balloo had a look early and, as a few inside were going forward, he let Gadabout settle just beyond midfield. In a nice rhythm coming to the home turn, and once Akshay balanced her up and said 'go' they reeled the leaders in easily and scored nicely, going away at the line. She paid a handsome price of \$18 for Allayne and Patrick. I'm sure with that finish it won't be her last.

Fah Rong has been a bit of a slow burn, but got the job done at start 23 to clear maidens. Perseverance from owner Geoff Brown and trainer Pam Robson was rewarded at the Riccarton synthetic over a mile. The 4YO Rios gelding, with Tina Comignaghi steering, had to come from the widest gate of 13. He jumped well and gradually worked across to lead. Tina was able to steady Fah Rong to pinch a couple of easy sectionals and clicked it up again with 600m to go. There were only three chasing with a big gap back to the rest and they were only running for second prize as Fah Rong had too much left in the tank to enable an easy win. Hopefully the confidence is there now to carry on with it.

A gelding that had had 16 starts, firstly in the South, then some up North, Captain Roy finally landed at Lyn Prendergast's West Melton stable. A 4YO by Savabeel, Captain Roy has now found his feet on the synthetic for owners Chris and Justine Fogarty. His last four starts have gone third, first, third and first again. His first win was a Maiden 1200m. He was slow out in the field of seven, so rider Triston Moodley had to take his medicine and settle back on the rail and ride for luck as the other six fanned out coming into the home straight. Triston kept pushing up behind the leaders and when half a gap appeared they were going faster than the others so got through and were too tough in the drive to the finish.

The second win, a R65 1200m was with Jack Taplin aboard with a 2kg claim. They were slow out from gate 8, meaning they sat back. Approaching the turn, they were trying to get through wider out, but the leaders had drifted out too so cut back towards the rail where there was plenty of room. They made ground well to nab Ayumi, who had looked all over a winner, right on the line. I think we will see more starts on the poly for Captain Roy.

Finally, our points series is coming to a conclusion with Russian Blues for Christine Robinson and Way Out West for Stephanie Faulkner tied on 19 points. Both have been very consistent. There's a close battle for third between Ifyoustartmeup for Tony Penney and Elusive Impact for Lance Robinson on 12 points, with Mr Bully Tee for both Lance and Christine Robinson on 11 points. Good luck to all!

REFLECTIONS FROM DENNIS RYAN

AUCKLAND OWNERS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBER VIRGINIA HEALEY CAUGHT UP WITH NZ RACING JOURNALIST DENNIS RYAN. HE SHARES HOW HE GOT STARTED IN THE GAME HE LOVES.



DENNIS RYAN HAS LONG BEEN RECOGNISED AS ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S MOST ASTUTE AND BEST-INFORMED RACING JOURNALISTS. THE RESPECT HE HAS GARNERED REFLECTS HIS WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE RACING INDUSTRY, NOT JUST IN JOURNALISM BUT IN VARIOUS OTHER ENDEAVOURS INCLUDING TRAINER, BREEDER, OWNER, ADMINISTRATOR AND MENTOR TO OTHERS SEEKING A SIMILAR CAREER PATH TO HIS OWN.

His journalism experience dates back to the 1970s with daily newspaper employment and as editor of the monthly magazine New Zealand Bloodhorse. More recently he was editor of the weekly publication The Informant, and following its demise, he founded RaceForm in partnership with Don Hancock.

Dennis remains actively engaged in journalism as a contributor to various mastheads including RaceForm. He continues to participate at grassroots level, having clocked trackwork at his home base Matamata for the past 25 years and still regularly attending race meetings and associated events throughout New Zealand.

WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

A number of factors conspired to draw me to racing from a young age. For a start, growing up on a dairy farm just outside Matamata, a region that back in the 1960s had become well established in both racing and breeding.

My father and grandfather were regular racegoers and small-scale punters. However, their financial prudence meant that didn't extend to racehorse ownership – until my father bought a broodmare in 1970 and subsequently raced horses bred from her and her descendants.

Early memories were attending local race meetings, of which there were only three staged annually by the Matamata Racing Club. Various classmates from my earliest days at St Joseph's School through to Matamata College were also linked to racing.

Sweepstakes were common-place then. The first one I recall being involved in for a shilling as a 10-year-old was organised by a St Joseph's classmate on the 1964 Melbourne Cup. My hopes were boosted when I drew the previous year's winner Gatum Gatum but alas, he wasn't able to repeat.

My interest in racing continued to grow as I entered my mid-teens and I began to consider career options, but even by that stage I didn't see the sport of kings and commoners as one of them.

It might surprise people who have got to know me over the years to realise that back then I was very shy and lacking confidence. That's why I was finding it difficult to commit to any career path, going close to enrolling in an agricultural course at Lincoln College after gaining UE in 1971, but ultimately opting out.

That meant returning to college for my 7th Form year, but as the months went by, I knew the one thing I didn't want to commit to was university studies. I was basically over formal education to the point where I was bored out of my skull.

My academic ability centred on the arts – languages including my best subject, French, along with history, geography and so on – but a university degree held zero appeal. Something I had come to realise, thanks in particular to the encouragement of my history teacher Margaret Henderson, was that I had a way with words, which led me to thinking that I might be able to combine that with my deepening interest in racing.

The idea of becoming a racing journalist was only that – an idea – with no concept as to how I might pursue that seed of an ambition. Both my parents were aware that I was grappling with a career choice, and then along came my Eureka moment, even if not of my own doing.

On an early August day in 1971 when my mother was shopping in town, she bumped into an acquaintance, Frank Wilson, who had been a racing journalist for many years and was by then also operating a stud, Evergreen Lodge, north of Matamata.

"You're just the person I would like to talk to," Mum said to broach the subject with Frank. "My son Dennis is still at college not knowing what to do, but he has this rather unusual idea that he'd like to be a racing journalist."

"Send him to me, I'll see if he's got it in him," was Frank's ready response. "I'll put him on trial through the August holidays and then he can make up his own mind – stay with me or go back to school."

That was the end of my secondary education. My school holiday job opened a whole new world and switched on the light bulb that until then had been flickering away.

"If you want to be a racing journalist you first need to know what makes a horse tick, which end bites and which end kicks, and what happens in between," Frank said in his affirmative manner. "By the time I've finished with you, son, you won't be just another morepork sitting up in the grandstand."

At the end of those three weeks, after working from before dawn till after dusk on the stud, along with coaching from Frank on the rudiments of writing, my mind was made up and I was away.

As I reflect more than 50 years later on that spontaneous career start, I still find it hard to believe how the portal to such a wonderful world had been opened to me. I still give thanks to the mother who one day, in the main street of Matamata, asked such a life-changing question, and to the best mentor I could have wished for who made it a reality.



Dennis Ryan with his 2021 Waikato Guineas winner Tokorangi

Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

KEEPING NEW ZEALAND'S RACEHORSES ON THEIR FEET

NZTROF EXECUTIVE OFFICER **DENISE MAYHEW** TALKS TO IAN "BANJO" HACKETT ABOUT HIS LIFE AS A FARRIER.

FEW PEOPLE SPEND A LIFETIME AROUND RACEHORSES WITHOUT BECOMING PART OF THE FABRIC OF THE INDUSTRY ITSELF. FOR WHANGANUI FARRIER IAN "BANJO" HACKETT, HORSES HAVE NEVER SIMPLY BEEN A JOB – THEY'VE BEEN THE CONSTANT THREAD RUNNING THROUGH MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY OF RACING, BREEDING, OWNERSHIP AND SERVICE TO THE SPORT.

Banjo has been a constant presence in Central Districts racing during that time. Trainers have come and gone. Horses have been bred, raced and retired. Entire generations of horsemen have passed through the industry.

Born and raised in Whanganui, horses were never far away during his childhood. He grew up watching his father work as a farrier. By the time he was nine or ten, he was travelling from stable to stable alongside him. Such was his fascination with both the horses and the people that he went whenever he could.

When he wasn't helping his father, Banjo was volunteering in local stables simply because he loved being around horses. He wasn't getting paid. He just wanted to be there.

He tried his hand at race riding but it didn't take long to realise his future wasn't in the saddle.

"I had a couple of amateur rides at school," he laughs. "I finished last and second-to-last."

Instead, after leaving school at 16, he followed his father and older brother into the family trade. For years he and his father rented the farrier shop forge from the Whanganui Jockey Club for the princely sum of \$52 a year, before later purchasing it.

In the busiest years of his career, Banjo's workdays began before most people had finished breakfast. Starting around 7:15am, they would shoe up to 24 horses a day across five or six different properties. Mondays were spent replacing race plates after weekend meetings, while Fridays were dedicated to fitting horses with fresh plates ahead of race day. In those days horses walked to the track and their plates got worn out straight away, so they had to return on Mondays to put their shoes back on.

Between those busy racing days, the remainder of the week was filled with farm hacks, ponies and school horses. Back then it was common for children to ride horses to school in Brunswick, so he and his father would go to the school to shoe the horses. With every farm owning and breeding horses, there was no shortage of work.

These days, Banjo describes himself as semi-retired, at least in the quieter winter months. He still maintains close ties with the racing industry, shoeing horses for several long-established stables around Whanganui and Hunterville, working alongside fellow farrier Greg Maxted at larger operations. Some of those professional relationships stretch back more than 50 years.

The remainder of his client base are those using horses for mustering stock on steep hill country farms or playing polocrosse. In his younger years Banjo was an accomplished polocrosse player himself. These days he turns up at meetings to volunteer his services in case a horse loses its shoe.

Even in semi-retirement Banjo remains an essential part of race day. As the official on-course farrier at Whanganui and Waverley, he's ready whenever a horse loses a plate or requires emergency attention before heading to the barriers. While it's not a role that spectators often notice, trainers certainly do. When everything depends on making it to the start on time, they know exactly where to look.

Banjo's contribution extends well beyond shoeing horses. He has served as President of the Central Districts Farriers Association, representing practitioners from New Plymouth through to Gisborne and Nelson. He is also the NZTROF Delegate to the Board representing the Whanganui/Taranaki region.

Ask Banjo what has kept him in the trade for so long and he talks about the horses. It's the quiet, cooperative horses that make his day. "The worst horse you can shoe is a horse that hasn't been worked, because they'll jump, they'll snort, or something will frighten them. As they get fitter and fitter, they get more relaxed."

The other great reward has been the people. "I've met so many good people through horses."

Banjo views the overall decline in horse numbers, and the corresponding drop in the number of trainers, as the biggest challenge for the profession. In 2016 Whanganui Racecourse had 34 trainers; now the number sits at around 11.

Away from the anvil, Banjo is also a passionate owner and breeder. His greatest racing thrill came in 1995 when Addaprince – better known around the stable as Joey – won the Whanganui Cup. Addaprince won a total of 11 races.

Together with wife Rosie and son Bryce he currently races and breeds a small team of thoroughbreds, with Sea the Dream carrying the family's racing hopes.



One mare, Beyond the Waves, has become something of a family legend. Purchased in 2000, she lost an eye but went on to produce six foals – and, remarkably, every one of them won races. To date, her foals and grandchildren have won a total of 17 races. That success established a naming tradition that continues today. Descendants have all carried the "Sea" theme, producing names such as Sea Cruiser, Sea Star, Sea Princess, along with Sea the Dream.

Like many lifelong participants, Banjo worries about racing's future. He says that the fall in horse numbers is not because people don't love horses, but because, at costs of around \$3,000 per month, excluding vet bills and transport, fewer people can afford them. He believes that without fresh investment from younger generations, the industry risks relying too heavily on older owners whose participation inevitably comes to an end.

And as to why Banjo has answered to "Banjo" for more than 40 years... well, the nickname was earned around evening campfires at summer polocrosse events where he would recite the poems of Banjo Paterson. Friends quickly decided the nickname suited him, and it has followed him ever since. Trainers, stewards, integrity officials and fellow horsemen all know him simply as "Banjo".

It is a fitting nickname for someone who has built upon generations of knowledge to become one of the quiet custodians of New Zealand racing.



THE NEW ZEALAND EQUINE ACADEMY

POWERED BY ENTAIN

SOLVING THE STAFFING CRISIS

It is no secret that the thoroughbred industry struggles to attract and retain a reliable skilled workforce. The New Zealand Equine Academy is part of the solution.

Established in 2021 by Daniel Nakhle, the New Zealand Equine Academy (NZEa) operates out of Byerley Park and offers two programmes through Pacific Coast Technical Institute's education portfolio.

"Often young people want to get involved in the thoroughbred industry but don't know where to start," Programme Lead Amie Best said. "Trainers aren't keen to give inexperienced people a go as it becomes a safety issue – there is a cycle of employers wanting experienced staff but staff having nowhere to go to get experience.

"Our L2 programme fills that gap by giving people hands on learning in a safe and supportive environment."

The 13-week programme is NZQA accredited and includes 160 hours of work placement so students can apply their newfound skills and knowledge in a commercial environment. As well

as completing theory and practical assessments, students go on field trips and have guest speakers to introduce them to all aspects of the industry.

"Often people think working with horses is limited to mucking out or riding," Best explained. "We show our students the options out there, then help them get on the pathway to reach their goals. We're lucky to have support from stables and studs that provide work placements and the wider community who take the time to share their expertise.

"Parents usually have concerns about career progression so we talk through where the industry can take you if you work hard and take the opportunities given."

The NZEA's horses, all thoroughbreds, are used for practical and trackwork riding lessons. Some students have never touched a horse before, so building industry standard skills and good habits is a key part of the programme.

Best teaches the L2 programme with help from Group One winning jockey Sam Spratt and is supported by Elen Nicholas and Aleisha Legg at the

Cambridge campus where they offer a L3 programme.

"I think a lot of our success is down to the tutors," Best said. "How lucky are they to have Sam teaching them the finer points of trackwork."

"Elen and Aleisha are incredibly passionate about youth development and producing quality staff. We all have the drive to make sure our students are not just passing the course but going out there and really contributing to the industry."

Best said their proudest moments are when they see their graduates out in the workforce doing well and clearly loving what they do.

"Our students have gained roles as stud hands, stable hands, in marketing, as vet nurses and we even have several past students in the jockey ranks," Best said. "Hayley Hassman, Donovan Cooper and Sienna Brown have all come through the programme and there are several out there working towards an apprenticeship which is very exciting. It just goes to show how beneficial a solid early education is."



Students riding trackwork



Students visiting Cambridge Stud



Students at Pukekohe Races



**HAYLEY HASSMAN -
IN WINNING FORM!**

STUDENT PROFILE

Q&A WITH NZ EQUINE ACADEMY GRADUATE HAYLEY HASSMAN

Apprentice jockey Hayley Hassman won her first race day ride in 2023 – fast forward two years and she has gone from strength to strength, closing out the 2025/26 season in strong form. Hayley is flying the flag for graduates of the NZ Equine Academy's programme, having completed the Level Three course in 2022.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE JOINING THE NZ EQUINE ACADEMY?

I was working at Stephen Marsh's on the ground across the road from the Cambridge track. I could see the horses working in the morning and thought it would be pretty cool to ride around there. I saw the Equine Academy's course advertised on social media and moved up to Auckland to enrol in the programme.

HOW DID ENROLLING WITH THE NZ EQUINE ACADEMY INFLUENCE YOUR CAREER?

If it wasn't for the Equine Academy, I don't think I would have been riding trackwork as well as I did and I wouldn't have been able to get to where I am now. I did work placement for Kylie Hoskin and then my tutor Renee helped me get a job at Shaun Phelan's. Having the Academy there was huge as they taught me and gave me the time I needed, then put me in the right stable.



LA LITTLE AVONDALE
BIG ON WINNING

stud chat with Sam

Per Incanto reigns supreme

LA Stud's stallion stalwart Per Incanto has added to his impressive list of achievements. The star resident claimed both the Centaine Award, presented to the leading sire by worldwide progeny earnings, and the Dewar Award, recognising the leading sire by progeny earnings across New Zealand and Australia.

"It's been an amazing season for Per Incanto and fantastic for the Per Incanto syndicate and all those who have invested in him from the word go," Sam Williams said.

The result marks a changing of the guard in New Zealand breeding circles. For close to a decade, Hall of Fame stallion Savabeel had held a virtual stranglehold on these titles.

Another full book awaits this season for Per Incanto whose rise has been built on the strength of his progeny's performances on the track, headlined by Group 1 winners including Jimmysstar, Gringotts, Little Brose and Roch 'N' Horse

Outstanding first foal for Little Brose

The first foal of Per Incanto's son and associate stallion Little Brose has met all expectations, and then some. A filly out of Nadeem's daughter Tinkalicious is a cracking individual and has fuelled further excitement with her arrival.

"We couldn't be any happier, she's a ripper with a lot of muscle," Sam Williams said.

"She's very attractive, plenty of leg and good bone with a lot of strength. She just hasn't stopped in the paddock – she's constantly running and playing and is easily the mare's best foal."

Tinkalicious was a quality performer who won six races from Janelle Millar's stable and ended her career with victory in the G3 Cuddle Stakes.

Lightning strikes twice for LA

LA celebrated further Group 1 glory in the 2025/26 season when graduate Desert Lightning doubled his tally at the elite level with victory in the G1 Goodwood Handicap at Morphettville.

Previously successful in the G1 Captain Cook Stakes for Byerley Park trainers Peter and Dawn Williams, owners Barneswood Farm transferred the son of Pride Of Dubai on the couple's retirement to Victoria's Peter Moody and Katherine Coleman.

LA sold Desert Lightning on behalf of breeders the Mahoenui Partnership for \$150,000 at Karaka. The 6YO has now earned more than A\$2.2 million.

The Masterton farm also sold half-brother Oak Hill (Per Incanto) for \$180,000 and last season he claimed the G2 Rubiton Stakes while his brother Oak Lightning, who made \$200,000, was a debut second in the Listed Redoute's Choice Stakes.

Queen running for a regal cause

Catwalk Queen opened her career with a dashing win at Tauranga, and the daughter of Per Incanto returns this spring racing for a noble cause.

Nicky and Nick White of Kaha Nui Farm donated the filly to raise awareness and funds for the CatWalk Trust (www.catwalk.org.nz) – see next article. Nicky, a CatWalk trustee, is passionate about supporting CatWalk's focus – backing life-changing spinal cord injury research.

CatWalk partnered with Entain to form The CatWalk Collective syndicate – 25 members each holding a 1% share, with the remaining 75% of prizemoney donated straight to the Trust.

Catwalk Queen is trained by Lance O'Sullivan, a CatWalk Patron, and Andrew Scott, and was broken in free of charge by Kilgravin Lodge's Eion Kemp.

Sam

WINTER 2026

THE CATWALK SPINAL CORD INJURY TRUST

THE CATWALK SPINAL CORD INJURY TRUST (CATWALK TRUST) IS A NEW ZEALAND-REGISTERED CHARITY DEDICATED TO FINDING A CURE FOR SPINAL CORD INJURY AND ITS SYMPTOMS.

Founded in 2005, by Dame Catriona Williams MNZM, formerly one of New Zealand's leading international equestrian riders, CatWalk's vision is a world where spinal cord injury is no longer a life sentence, but a condition that can be treated and reversed.

Motivated by the profound personal and societal impact of spinal cord injury, Cat Williams founded CatWalk with the belief that, with the right focus and investment, a cure is not a matter of if, but when.

WHAT CATWALK DOES

CatWalk Trust funds and advances world-leading spinal cord injury research, with a clear, targeted strategy focused on restoring feeling, movement, and function for people living with paralysis. The Trust drives progress by investing in scientific research that has the greatest potential to translate into real-world treatments.

At the heart of CatWalk's work is The Cure Programme, a long-term research initiative designed to accelerate the development of regenerative treatments for spinal cord injury. The programme brings together leading researchers, clinicians, and international collaborators, with a strong emphasis on innovation, accountability, and measurable outcomes.

Over nearly two decades, CatWalk has built and strengthened research capacity in Aotearoa New Zealand through sustained investment in intellectual capital, leadership, and collaboration across neuroscience and regenerative medicine.

WHY IT MATTERS

Spinal cord injury can happen to anyone, anywhere, at any time, and New Zealand has one of the highest rates of spinal cord injury in the Western world. The personal, social, and economic costs are significant, with lifelong impacts for individuals, families, and communities.

CatWalk exists to change that future. By focusing resources on the strongest scientific leads and supporting researchers at the forefront of discovery, the Trust aims to transform lives and deliver lasting impact for people affected by spinal cord injury.

More information about CatWalk Trust, it's research programmes, and impact can be found at <https://www.catwalk.org.nz/>

Contact: Meg Speirs, Executive Director
E: meg@catwalk.org.nz
P: 64 21 670 390
W: CatWalk.org.nz

THE CATWALK STUD – A FUNDRAISING FIRST

THE CATWALK STUD IS A UNIQUE VIRTUAL STUD THAT BRINGS TOGETHER EVERY SECTOR OF THE HORSE BREEDING INDUSTRY TO HELP DRIVE SPINAL CORD INJURY RESEARCH.

Participating studs have pledged the value of stallion services to CatWalk Trust to fund research aimed at turning breakthroughs in spinal cord injury treatment into real-world outcomes. "From our very beginning, the Thoroughbred community has stood firmly behind CatWalk," says Executive Director, Meg Speirs. "Their support has helped us grow a world-leading team of researchers dedicated to healing spinal cord injury"

"CatWalk is now reaching across the wider equine breeding sector with this novel fundraiser. Donated funds will help drive research seeking to heal spinal cord injury. We know a cure is a case of when not if, and we're determined to keep driving the research forward. We're deeply grateful to this year's participants and look forward to growing CatWalk Stud in years to come."

HOW DOES CATWALK STUD WORK?

Participating studs nominate a stallion (or stallions) and commit the value of one service to CatWalk Trust. Studs and their nominated stallions can be viewed on the CatWalk Stud website (Catwalk Stud – The CatWalk Spinal Cord Injury Trust) and on stud webpages marked with the CatWalk Stud logo.

"Woodlands Stud jumped at the opportunity to support CatWalk because it is a cause that resonates deeply within the wider equine and racing community," says CatWalk Stud donor Stacey White.

"The incredible work CatWalk is doing to fund groundbreaking spinal cord injury research is both inspiring and incredibly important. The racing industry has always rallied behind causes that make a genuine difference, and CatWalk is one that unites people right across the equine world. We're honoured to play a small part in supporting such a worthwhile initiative."

The CatWalk Stud is a novel vehicle for the equine breeding industry to drive spinal cord injury research in a way that is both authentic and practical.



**Sweet Lou, Woodlands Stud
(Fee \$11,250)**

Contact: Chris Lovelady, Relationship Manager CatWalk Trust
E: chris@catwalk.org.nz
P: 027 242 3838
W: CatWalk.org.nz

NZ HORSE AMBULANCE SILKS SHINE AT TE RAPA



THE NZ HORSE AMBULANCE TRUST (NZHAT) ENJOYED A MEMORABLE CHARITY RACEDAY AT TE RAPA ON SATURDAY 8TH AUGUST, WITH STRONG PERFORMANCES ON THE TRACK AND \$7,500 RAISED TO SUPPORT EQUINE EMERGENCY CARE AND WELFARE ACROSS NEW ZEALAND.

It was a standout day for the NZ Horse Ambulance silks, with three runners first past the post and several others finishing in the placings:

HEZA SHARP ONE – 1st (G A Rogerson MNZM, Eagle Racing, M & M T Butterworth, Mrs J L Egan, Dr S Fuatai, D W Lake & Donal M Macky)

KAHULUI – 1st (Henry Field Bloodstock Pty Ltd & SF Bloodstock LLC Ltd)

MISS ANNA LEE – 1st (J G Poole, M J Brown, P W Lock & S M Poole)

LITTLE BIT OF LOVE – 3rd (One Second Syndicate (Mgr: K. Bax))

RIBKRAKA – 3rd (J S & Y Alexander, W Bevins, C Blaikie, S Borrell, M J Clapcott, Jackson Racing Ltd, C Kanjarbhat, E Lagto, P D Leighton, J R Magill, A B & J D Widdows)

Congratulations to the trainers, owners, breeders and connections of every horse that carried the NZHAT colours on the day. Some of the winners are owned by NZTROF members!

Thanks to TAB's generous \$50 bonus cash for each race, the success of the NZHAT silks added just shy of \$600 to the fundraising total.

In all, the day generated close to \$7,500 for New Zealand's dedicated horse ambulance service. These funds will help support emergency response work and promote high standards of equine welfare, while also highlighting the thoroughbred industry's commitment to caring for its horses.

NZHAT sincerely thanks Waikato Thoroughbred Racing and the six Waikato breeders who sponsored races for their generous support. Thank you to everyone who attended, supported and cheered on the NZ Horse Ambulance silks. Your contribution helps ensure horses receive timely care when it matters most.

LEARN MORE WWW.HORSEAMBULANCE.CO.NZ



FINALISTS NAMED FOR 2025-26 NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

NEW ZEALAND'S LEADING THOROUGHBREDS AND RACING PARTICIPANTS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT THE 2025-26 NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS, TO BE HELD AT THE NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE IN AUCKLAND ON SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER.

The finalists reflect an outstanding season of racing in New Zealand and abroad. Unbeaten juvenile Lara Antipova headlines the Champion Two-Year-Old category, while \$4 million NZB Kiwi winner Well Written is among the leading Champion Three-Year-Old contenders.

Waitak is the only horse shortlisted in two categories – Champion Sprinter-Miler and Champion Middle Distance Horse – following Group 1 victories in the Howden Insurance Mile and Livamol Classic. Other notable finalists include dual Group 1 winners First Five and Legarto, Australian-trained Group 1 winners Jigsaw and Kingswood, and leading stayers Ohope Wins, Road To Paris, Paradise Storm and Manzor Blue.

Thirteen finalists will contest the Owner of the Year title, representing operations ranging from teams of more than 100 horses to as few as three.

The regional winners for the 2025-26 New Zealand Stablehand of the Year – sponsored by Saddlery Warehouse Cambridge & Tauranga – are Pratap Singh of Wexford Stables (Northern), Casey Gilbert of Oulaghan Racing (Central) and Zac Harkess of Prendergast Racing (Southern). The national stablehand winner will be announced at the Awards.

The overall Horse of the Year title is determined by the official Awards' Voting Panel, with all horses selected as finalists across the eligible horses-in-training categories automatically considered for the title. The Horse of the Year is awarded to the horse that receives the highest number of votes from the Panel in the dedicated Horse of the Year vote.

2025-26 NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS FINALISTS & WINNERS:

New Zealand Jockeys' Premiership Winner: Craig Grylls

New Zealand Trainers' Premiership Winner: Mark Walker & Sam Bergerson

New Zealand Apprentice Jockeys' Premiership Winner: Amber Riddell

New Zealand Owners' Premiership Winner: Gerry Harvey

Newcomer to Training – sponsored by gavelhouse.com: Ebony Turner

Champion Two-Year-Old Finalists: Dream Roca (NZ) (El Roca), Lara Antipova (AUS) (Russian Revolution) and Seize The Day (AUS) (I Am Invincible)

Champion Three-Year-Old Finalists: Belle Cheval (NZ) (Savabeel), Ohope Wins (NZ) (Ocean Park), Road To Paris (NZ) (Circus Maximus) and Well Written (AUS) (Written Tycoon)

Champion Sprinter-Miler Finalists: First Five (NZ) (Almanzor), Jaarffi (NZ) (Iffraaj), Jigsaw (AUS) (Manhattan Rain), Provence (NZ) (Savabeel) and Waitak (NZ) (Proisir)

Champion Middle Distance Horse Finalists: Kingswood (GB) (Roaring Lion), Legarto (NZ) (Proisir), and Waitak (NZ) (Proisir)

Champion Stayer Finalists: Manzor Blue (NZ) (Almanzor), Ohope Wins (NZ) (Ocean Park), Paradise Storm (FR) (Masked Marvel) and Road To Paris (NZ) (Circus Maximus)

Champion Jumper Finalists: Captains Run (NZ) (Nom Du Jeu), Jesko (NZ) (Atlante), Leaderboard (USA) (Street Cry), Nedwin (NZ) (Niagara), Suliman (NZ) (Redwood) and Taika (NZ) (Mettre En Jeu)

Jockey of the Year Finalists: Opie Bosson, Craig Grylls and George Rooke

Jumps Jockey of the Year Finalists: Emily Farr, Will Featherstone, Mathew Gillies, Jay Kozaczek and Hamish McNeill

Trainer of the Year Finalists: Stephen Marsh and, Mark Walker & Sam Bergerson (Partnership)

Owner of the Year Finalists: Brian Anderton and the Estate of Lorraine Anderton, Archer Family, Cambridge Stud, Jill Devine, John Elstob and Denise Bassett, Gerry Harvey, JML Bloodstock, Jomara Bloodstock, The Oaks Stud, Pencarrow Thoroughbreds, Tony Rider, Kelvin and Vanessa Tyler and Yulong Investments.

ED'S NOTE:

Congratulations to our members who have horses that are finalists this year and also to those members who are finalists for the Owner of the Year category.

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED HORSE OF THE YEAR — AWARDS —

SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2026

**NEW ZEALAND INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION CENTRE,
AUCKLAND CBD**

For more information visit

NZTR.CO.NZ/AWARDS

**LOVE
RACING.NZ**



RUSTY RAMBLINGS

By Sally Blyth

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

**THE RUSTY CONTINUES TO HOST THE USUAL RACING
CREW AND PLENTY OF OTHERS POP IN AND JOIN IN THE FUN.
WHETHER FRIENDS, FAMILY, LOCALS OR COMPLETE STRANGERS,
EVERYONE WHO SHOWS THE SLIGHTEST INKLING OF RACING
PASSION OR CURIOSITY IS QUICKLY EMBRACED.**

In the LA Stud Chat article on page 11 mention is made of Nicky and Nick White of Kaha Nui Farm and their involvement with the CatWalk Trust. "Nick & Nick" call into the Rusty on occasions as they have a property in Matakana. Always good fun and full of racing tales and passion, they're a great addition to the crew when they're in town. We go on the alert for horses with Nick in their name and a bob or two goes on, with reasonable success and hilarity!

Nicky spent 30 years as a top-class rugby player, initially for Northland, then Super Rugby stints with the Blues, Crusaders and Highlanders. He became scrum coach for the Chiefs after hanging up his rugby boots. Nicky rode horses in her youth and has racing in her blood – her dad was a passionate racing man. Real estate is her profession.

They are both immersed in their boutique thoroughbred nursery Kaha Nui Farm in the Waikato. Their children are also keen horse people and it's a real family affair. Kaha Nui Farm was crowned "leading buyer" at the NZB National Weanling Sale in 2025.

I watched Catwalk Queen's debut win and it's heartwarming to learn that Nick & Nick donated her to such a great cause. I'll watch her next run with interest – and look forward to catching up again with Nick & Nick when they're next in town.



WHY THE WHITE LINE AT FLEMINGTON?

**THE WHITE LINE AT FLEMINGTON RACECOURSE IN
MELBOURNE IS A FAMOUS SYMBOL IN AUSTRALIAN
RACING HISTORY THAT ENFORCED STRICT GENDER
SEGREGATION WITHIN THE VICTORIA RACING CLUB.
INTRODUCED IN 1946 IN THE MEMBERS STAND,
THE PHYSICAL WHITE LINE WAS PAINTED ON
THE FLOOR TO RESTRICT WHERE WOMEN WERE
ALLOWED TO GO.**

Men's Area: Men were allowed full access to all exclusive betting rings, mounting yards, and premium viewing areas.

Women's Area: Women were required to remain on the "public" side of the White Line.

This restriction stood for decades until 1982 when women were granted full and equal membership rights – this resulted in the historic White Line being permanently removed.

THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES

NEW MEMBERS

15 MAY TO 23 AUGUST 2026

WAIKATO

JEFF ALLAN & S JAYNE BAKER CAMBRIDGE
GLENICE DANDO MATAMATA

AUCKLAND

ELAINE JOHNSON AUCKLAND
FIONA RITCHIE & NICK GIBB AUCKLAND



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 MAY TO 20 AUGUST 2026

Richard Algar KOSTA, IMA BRAZEN ONE
Roger & Ann Allen SUBTLE IMAGE, SUBTLE TIME
Brian Anderson GRANDE GALLO
Gordon Campbell (Cam) Arnott BENEFACOR, NO LOVE LOST, SOTIRIO
Judith Bambry CAME TRUE, DUBAI'S POTIKI, NO LOVE LOST
Bryan & Mrs Deirdre Black CAPITULATE, OVERHEATED
Phillip Blacktopp MR FORTRUS, PRIVATE TREATY
Claire & Warren Bolton ROC ALL NIGHT
Rayner & Lynn Bonnington MORETOTHINKABOUT
Sue Bourke ACTIONBELLE, LERADO
Derek Brook AVIVA, FULL CREAM, HEY NOW
Geoff Brown FAH RONG
Bruce & Brenda Browne LOCH KATRINE, SNEAKY CYCLONE
Noel Buckman OCEAN MELODY, SIR MIKKI
Jackie Burrows BEAVER FEVER, INTO THE WIND
Gordon Calder MISS UNDERSTOOD
Alan & Marion Campbell KOSTA, NO LOVE LOST
Colin Campbell WIND TALKER
Rosemary Carter BULGARI, CHAHOO, INSIDE OUT
James M Chapman BULGARI, HAKUSHU
Lucinda & Steven Christopher LEVELS UP, SEXY AND I MOET
Trevor Clarke TRISTAR
Mrs E M & N Connors TOLSTOY
Mike & Barbara Cooney AFORE YE GO
Fred and Lindsay Cornege CHATELLE ROSE, FAT ALBERT
Chris & Liz Cowell JETSTREAM
Peter & Sue Cowley PERFECT POUR
Sue Croft KOSTA, SIR MIKKI
Wayne Darling SHAMELIA KIRK
Robert De Courcy BACK OF THE BUS, STEADFAST
W B & Mrs L C de Lautour BENJAMIN, JUNGLELAND
Dave & Trish Dean GRANDE GALLO
Michael & Barbara Dowd PRIOVITA
Max & C Dravitzki KIT ZAKAT
John Druce SOTIRIO
Graham Duff MERCY
Douglas Duncan HE'S LUCID, INSATIABLE
Patrick Dyer CAPO DELL IMPERO, PURPLE PROSE
Joan Egan HEZA SHARP ONE, SIBELLE
Carl & Amy Elliott DUBAWI DIVA
Emblem Ltd CHURCHILLIAN
Pete & Steph Faulkner FAKEITTILLUMAKEIT, LEEDOX, WAY OUT WEST
Mark & Faye Fearon BENEFACOR, BRADMAN, DIMAGGIO, IMA BRAZEN ONE, KOSTA, OCEAN MELODY, PRINCE OF DIAMONDS, SIR MIKKI, SOTIRIO
William Fell GREAT ESCAPE
Allan Fenwick BUNDY, CARIGNAN, FOURTY EIGHT
Gary Fitzpatrick DUBAWI DIVA
Terence & Colleen Fleming FULLA GRACE
Chris & Justine Fogarty CAPTAIN ROY
Fleur & Dan Freeman GIRLZGIRLZGIRLZ
Steve Freeman GATE CRASHERS, GRANDE GALLO
Alan Galbraith KC DARE TO PROISIR, SHARAPOVA
Murray & Julie Garrett OVERRATED
Mike Gething INTEGRITY
Tim & Peter Gillespie KOSTA
Go Racing WITH GRACE

Dame Lowell Goddard FLEETING GLIMPSE
Alvin & Mrs Lyn Goodall MAGNASTAR
Chris & Mrs Jill Grace FLYHALF, MORETOTHINKABOUT, PERFECT POUR, WEOWNARANAWAY
C R Grace QSM NEVER LOOK BACK
Loraine Grant ELITE CHOICE
Christine Gray BRUTIFUL LASS, SIR MIKKI
Tony Gray SIR MIKKI
Sarah Green PRE NUP
Douglas Grieve INSATIABLE
Brian Hall KARRYN
John & Liz Hancock JERRICOOP
Robin M Hapi CNZM DUBAI'S POTIKI
Mark & Sharon Hardy CHART THE STARS, PUNISHER
Judy Harriman CONFECTIONIST
D C & Mrs R L Hartridge SQUIRE
Bruce & Maureen Harvey BANNEN, ROCMONT
Haunui Bloodstock Ltd CREMANT, OVERDRAWN, PAX MUNDI
Alan Hawken JERRICOOP
Stephen Hawkings COSMOPOLITAN
Steve Haylock KOSTA, NO LOVE LOST, SIR MIKKI
G & A Hill Trust ALIYANA BELLE, WHEELITIN
Sheryn Hobbs SEXY AND I MOET
Carey Hobbs CHESTER BOY
Murray Hollamby CANDLE, ROCA MILE
Mrs J H Holland IT'S AMELIA
Phyllis Huitema GIRLZGIRLZGIRLZ, SEXY AND I MOET
InToWin IMA BRAZEN ONE, KOSTA, NO LOVE LOST
Christel Jager INSATIABLE
Peter Jefferson ZAFAR
John Jenkins BAK DE ACE
Michael Johnston THE BLACK PRINCE
Chris Jones TRISTAR
Stan Jones (Estate of) TOMASINA
Alan & Paula Keall WITH GRACE
Brett Kendall BULGARI, CHAHOO, INSIDE OUT
Patrick J & Allayne Kennedy GADABOUT
Don Lake ESTILO, HEZA SHARP ONE, SKYMAX
Bryan Leach GUIPAGO
Craig Leishman ACTIONBELLE, ALEZANDO, BUCCINO, SKYMAX
Sir Brendan & Lady Jo Lindsay ECHANNAY
Little Avondale Stud YALDY TIME
Little Avondale Trust HAKUSHU
P W & P A Lock LUCY, MISS ANNA LEE, NO MORE PENNIES, PICK OF THE LITTER, VITTORIO VENETO
Donna Logan GIRLZGIRLZGIRLZ
John & Carole Lynskey BEAUESK
Shanon & Hamish MacDonald HEZA MONTY
Selwyn & Judy Maynard SEXY AND I MOET
Gregory McCarthy SIR STERLING
Graeme McInteer SOTIRIO
Mervyn Hall Breeding Partnership MR BULLY TEE
Dave Mitchell ACTIONBELLE
George & Fern Moore BENJAMIN
D C & Ms J E Morison LA TIENDA
Alan Mycroft WHATTHEMANS AW
Daniel Nakhle ARMAGH, ILLUSTRIOUS, SHALABIYA
John Naylor ZAFAR
Nearco Stud FINANCIER
P S & Mrs C Nelson BENJAMIN, KWANZA, MONROE, NEDWIN

Gavin Opie OPAEA JOE
Keith & Dale Opie GRACETHEACE
Michael Ormond BENJAMIN
Beven & Christine Parlato MAROTIRI MARSTA
Allan Pate DUBAWI DIVA
Lex & Katrina Paterson INTEGRITY
Howard Perry SHE'S NO SAINT
Annie Phillips LOCH KATRINE
Wayne & Marion Potter GUIPAGO
Gary John Pratt ELITE CHOICE
Rosy Pratt SEXY AND I MOET
Steve Prenter BRADMAN
Sheryl Rayner RIDGEVIEW VICKY
Sacha Rennie STELLA SUCCESS
Raewyn Richardson OCEAN MELODY, ON SHAW
Paul Ridley-Smith BRUTIFUL LASS, WITH GRACE
John Roache (Estate of) BRADMAN, IMA BRAZEN ONE, SOTIRIO
Christine & Lance Robinson MR BULLY TEE, RUSSIAN BLUES
Paul Robinson MERCY
Phillip & Jackie Rogers FREE BIRD
Diane Rushworth BELLA LUCE
Neil Rutherford ERIN GO BRAGH
Brent Schumacher ROC ALL NIGHT
Lucy Scoular BENJAMIN
G O & J D Sherratt ROSINA
Wayne Slee STONYBRECK
Mike Smith OVERDRAWN
Vicki Smith CAPO DELL IMPERO
Mike & Roz Southey BILLY
Noel & Suzanne Stanley MALACHY, TAVI ANN
Sharon Stevens COSMOPOLITAN
Paul Sullivan LOCH KATRINE, SNEAKY CYCLONE
T W Archer Trust SHE'S NO SAINT
Brent & Cherry Taylor ASTORIA BROOKE, BOSS 'N' HIGHHEELS, INSATIABLE
Te Akau Stud DARE TO PROSIR, KING'S ENGLISH, NAUGHTIE GRANNY, PAPER MOON. PURPLE PROSE, STONYBRECK, TROUBLE MAKER
Marilyn Te Paa BRUTIFUL LASS, SIR MIKKI
Gail Temperton NEVER LOOK BACK
Peter Thomas WEOWNARANAWAY
J C & Estate of M A Thompson ALBAROSSA, CHURCHILLIAN
Greg Tomlinson PERFECT POUR
Garry Trow STELLA SUCCESS
Elaine Vine SOTIRIO
Shane Voice BELLA LUCE
John G Walsh LEEDOX
Geoff Ward GRANDE GALLO, POUNCE
Leith Weitzel BEAVER FEVER
Philip Wells AFORE YE GO
Whakanui Stud OVERDRAWN
Nick & Nicky White PROUD CAPITALIST
Brian & Trish Williams JERRICOOP
R M & Mrs J M Williamson WEST COAST
Simon Wilson SUNNINGDALE
R J Wiltshire BRADMAN
Windsor Park Stud BEETLEGEUSE, GETAWAY, VANTAGE POINT
Pat Woollaston INTEGRITY
B W P Wright BULGARI

FEDERATION CONTACTS



Website: www.racehorseowner.co.nz

Telephone: 021 254 8683

Email: admin@racehorseowner.co.nz

President: Sally Blyth

Executive Officer: Denise Mayhew

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