NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN

SPRING 2026



PHOTO: KENTON WRIGHT. RACE IMAGES

OUR GOAL TO IMPROVE THE ECONOMICS, INTEGRITY AND PLEASURE OF THE SPORT OF THOROUGHBRED RACING ON BEHALF OF ALL OWNERS.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

SALLY BLYTH



ANOTHER THREE MONTHS HAS PASSED BY. WE'VE FAREWELLED WINTER RACING AND ITS ASSOCIATED JUMPS PROGRAMMES. EVEN THOUGH THE WEATHER HASN'T EXACTLY BEEN SPRING-LIKE, WE'VE WELCOMED IN THE NEW SEASON WITH SOME WONDERFUL RACES UP AND DOWN THE COUNTRY.

There are plenty of stars about, that's for sure – and some blackbookers in the making. Do make use of the Blackbook facility on the TAB app to alert you when the ones you want to keep an eye on are set to run. Nothing worse than missing that win you knew was coming!

With a view to increasing our membership all registered Owners were sent an email via NZTR, on our behalf, inviting them to join us. This resulted in new members from around the regions. A warm welcome to you all!

Growing our numbers provides diversity and connections and it helps strengthen our voice in the industry. I encourage you to invite friends and family to join us – now that we are offering free membership, it's a great opportunity to bring new members on board. They don't have to be a current registered Owner; they just need a passion for racing – and perhaps an eye on a future champion. They might just find themselves as part of a fun and rewarding syndicate – potentially with you!

The ability to now offer free membership is due to an increased funding grant from NZTR which we applied for earlier this year, with growth in mind. We thank NZTR for agreeing to this request. Barring any unforeseen circumstances, we plan to offer free membership every year. Your local Regional Associations will continue to receive capitation fees from the national Federation and will operate as usual. We're keen to introduce new Owner-related activities in the future, including Owner Race Days with a national focus, and we're scoping some exciting ideas.

Our AGM is coming up on Monday 7th December at 4:30pm via Zoom. We hope you'll join us online from the comfort of your home or office. See the notice below for more information.

NZTR will be holding its AGM on 25th November in Wellington. There will be a series of presentations during the morning, with the AGM business in the afternoon. As we are now a member of NZTR, we can attend this event and have a voice. I will be away but NZTROF will be represented by Mark Verran (Manawatu Delegate).

The New Zealand Racing Industry Reform Programme Establishment Board ran a series of Roadshows around the country in November. The Establishment Board's role is to assess and determine future governance and operating structures for the industry and an update on this new entity's work and recommendations was presented at these Roadshows.

Meanwhile, I've participated in various online meetings with NZTR personnel and representatives from other Registered Industry Organisations – trainers, jockeys, breeders – where we are kept informed on progress on a range of matters including Project Stamina.

Also, Matt Ballesty (CEO) and Mitch Lamb (General Manager – Racing) accepted the Auckland Owners' Association's invitation to attend the recent Members' event at Ellerslie on Melbourne Cup Day. I had both my presidential hats on and it was great to have them along on the day. (See page 17).

NZTR is sending out regular updates and comms to keep stakeholders informed and always has space in our Owners Bulletin to share information with Owners. We're pleased to note that there has recently been more attention on Owners and Ownership as an integral part of racing. This can only be a good thing and I remain confident that the industry is moving forward in a positive way. There's plenty to be ironed out but I do believe we are heading in the right direction.

A long-term pragmatic approach is being taken towards racing's future, and this is important. Too often a short-term "I want it now" mentality invades major projects and initiatives in NZ. Nothing done in haste is ever optimum and I'm pleased that a strategic, big-picture, long-range outlook is being worked through for this industry that so many people have such passion for. It's worth $968m and employs 25,000 people (9,400 FTE). It has a long and solid history and I trust that it will have a sustained and robust future. It may take some time to reach its peak – but, as those of us who have been in this racing game a while know, patience, perseverance and passion are key elements to success!

The Federation has been proudly representing Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners since 1937. Being a member is an avenue for you to have a voice, stay connected, meet like-minded people, celebrate ownership and help shape racing's future. Owners are at the heart of racing and we need to keep that heart beating strong and long.

Because Ownership is better together!

NOTICE

NZTROF AGM 2026

- **To be held via ZOOM on Monday 7th December 2026 at 4:30pm.**
- **Registration will close at 5:00pm on Thursday 3rd December.** A Zoom link will be sent to those wishing to attend.
- **Please RSVP your attendance or apology to our Executive Officer admin@racehorseowner.co.nz**
- **All papers will be available to view on our website closer to the time.**
- **If you have any matters or questions you would like to raise at our AGM, please email to admin@racehorseowner.co.nz at least a week in advance.**



EDITORIAL

ANOTHER EDITION GOES TO PRINT. FIRSTLY, THANK YOU TO EXECUTIVE OFFICER DENISE MAYHEW WHO IS ABLY ASSISTING ME, NOT ONLY IN MY ROLE AS PRESIDENT, BUT ALSO WITH WRITING AND EDITING TASKS FOR THIS *BULLETIN*. HER OVERVIEW OF SUE BOURKE'S MAGICAL JOURNEY WITH WELL WRITTEN GENERATES EMOTION ALONG WITH A FEW CHUCKLES.

Fiona Ritchie's overview of getting up close and personal at the trials will hopefully whet your whistle to get along to watch your own horse trial if you haven't already done so.

We continue to focus on welfare – of both horses and people. Ensuring the wellbeing of all is vital in this industry that relies first and foremost on people and animals rather than machinery and widgets. And when injuries are tended to and recovery is complete, people and horses can get back to the track and keep on doing what they love – like jockey Sam Spratt.

We feature the talented jumper Taika on our cover. His breeder Karen Remetis (Waikato President at the time) and I would chat about racing during lockdowns. In February 2021 she sent me info about a then-unraced 4YO by Mettre en Jeu out of her mare Isabella Soraya. Would I like a share? I was tempted but the timing wasn't right for me to be taking on a new horse. That horse was Taika – who won his Maiden race in June 2021. While I regretted not getting involved at that early stage, I still love to watch the big horse in red as he cruises over the jumps. Sadly, Karen died in April 2023 but it's great to see Taika still loving his work and in winning form – our cover photo says it all.

A number of winning horses with Go Racing and Te Akau Syndicates are owned by our members as mentioned throughout this edition. Belonging to syndicates like these engenders camaraderie and racing fun – with a few welcome wins and celebrations along the way!

Congratulations to member David Price on El Vencedor (aka the big EV) winning the Group 3 Elsdon Park Balmerino Stakes over 2000m at Ellerslie on 3rd November. The whole of Ellerslie was cheering him on!

There's a nice story from Waikato member Phyllis Huitema about the Japan and NZ Trophy races and a visit to Japan. It's a nation that loves its racing, that's for sure. I've had a few people mention to me they'd be keen to go on a racing trip to Japan so, with my Tour Leader hat on, I will look at putting something together. If you're interested, send me an email sally@beyondlimits.co.nz

The Regional Roundups are full of winning tales and interesting snippets. We bring back Pat's Racing Quiz to hone our knowledge and Sam's LA Stud Chat is always enlightening. And we reflect on a great horse, Honey Belle, and a great horsewoman, Margaret Fife.

Enjoy this edition! And please, if you have a story or idea to share, let us know – sally@beyondlimits.co.nz or admin@racehorseowner.co.nz

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



TAIKA WINS THE DUNSTAN MAIDEN STEEPLECHASE ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT TE AROHA

PHOTO: KENTON WRIGHT RACE IMAGES

SALLY BLYTH EDITOR sally@beyondlimits.co.nz

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S UPDATE

DENISE MAYHEW

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBERS WHO HAVE JOINED DURING OUR RECENT RECRUITMENT DRIVE. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONTACT EITHER YOUR LOCAL REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OR THE NATIONAL FEDERATION DIRECT (ADMIN@RACEHORSEOWNER.CO.NZ) IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ISSUES YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE.

We always welcome content for our quarterly *Owners Bulletin*, so if you have a story you would like to share about your Ownership journey, we would love to hear about it!

Since our last *Bulletin*, we have formally submitted our members' feedback on the Project Stamina Report to NZTR. We thank all those members who wrote in.

In September, NZTR published its final 2027-29 Statement of Intent and Business Plan, available here on their website: NZTR_Statement_Of_Intent_2027_29.pdf

NZTROF made submissions on the earlier Draft SOI, recommending an Owner Strategy that focused on Owner acquisition, Owner retention, Owner recognition and race day experience, as well as Owner representation. We stressed that Owners are substantial private capital providers to the racing industry, and that much of the economic risk of producing the racing product is carried by Owners.

We were pleased to see in the Final SOI a somewhat strengthened Key Priority focused on Ownership, stated as "Increased focus on growing and retaining ownership through clearer entry pathways, syndication and fractional ownership, improved digital services, a more consistent owner experience, and recognition of owners as customers and significant private contributors to racing."

Also, at our urging, the Number of Registered Horse Owners 2026/27 Target was increased from 15,000 in the Draft, to 16,200 in the Final SOI.

While we appreciated the more ambitious target, we have advised NZTR that we would still like to see an identifiable acquisition strategy, assumptions, initiatives, conversion rates, and budgets sitting behind that number.

For some time NZTROF has also been active in petitioning NZTR to remove GST from the welfare levies charged to owners, trainers, and jockeys. We therefore welcomed a binding ruling from Inland Revenue that GST should no longer be applied, effective from 1 August 2026.

We have recently continued our advocacy on the issue of the 1% Welfare Levy deduction, and have recommended to NZTR that they adopt the procedure used by Racing New South Wales, where the deduction is made from the gross stakes for the race, with the balance then being allocated to Owner, trainer and jockey. Recipients still receive the same money, but the advantage is less administration because the deductions for the Welfare Fund Levy do not need to be processed. On an 8-race programme with 10 or more starters in all races and stakes paid to 10th place, there are 240 transactions to process. If the NSW procedure was used instead, there would be 8 transactions – one transfer per race x 8 races.

An additional advantage is that in the programming booklet the allocation of stake money can clearly show the public the portion of stake money being allocated to Equine Welfare.

Our AGM has been set for Monday 7th December via Zoom and we look forward to seeing those of you who can make it. More details are available elsewhere in this Bulletin.

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!

admin@racehorseowner.co.nz

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

AUCKLAND OWNERS RACE DAY

The main focus for the Committee was organising a very successful Melbourne Cup Raceday event for 50 members, guests and friends held in a private room at Ellerslie with a delicious and plentiful Carvery Buffet lunch, which was delicious and plentiful. NZTR CEO Matt Ballesty and General Manager Racing Mitch Lamb joined us for the occasion.

We ran a Punters Club on the Ellerslie card, along with Sweepstakes on the Melbourne Cup and spot prizes throughout the day. Thank you NZTR for the merchandise supplied.

We also awarded Best Dressed Strapper prizes on Races 4 and 5. Sponsored by two of our Committee members and judged by Pat Woollaston and member Susan Dower, the happy winners were Shaun McKay (Faultless) and Michaela Sobieska (Spellbound).

We acknowledged two people who have given so much to our Auckland Association – Neil Miller and Frances Crimmins. It was great to be able to thank them for their commitment over so many years in the ideal setting, with family members present.

A highlight was spending time in the commentary box with George Simon who generously welcomed in small groups for five of the races. For many, it was their first time behind the scenes like this and everyone was in awe of how he memorises and recalls all those names and colours to "paint the picture" of each race. Thanks George, a memorable experience for all!



Emily Wilton (Frances Crimmins' daughter) with George Simon

Even though winners were hard to find, there was great racing on the day at both Ellerslie and Flemington and everyone had a wonderful time. The impressive win by EV (El Vencedor) was an exciting moment, called beautifully by George.

CONGRATULATIONS

There have been a number of wins for members, including two new members, Steve Donovan and Brian Haycock. Steve had wins with Escape Room and Hawea, who won the Group 3 Gold Trail Stakes at Hastings.

Several Go Racing and Te Akau syndicates had winners.

GO RACING:

Confectionist: Go Racing Broadbeach Syndicate (Judy Harriman, Brian Haycock)

Rose Aye Reign: Go Racing Blushing Beauty Syndicate (Brenda Gerard)

So Fear: Go Racing Cosecha Syndicate (Judy Harriman)

El Arish: Go Racing Singleton Syndicate

With Grace: Go Racing Double Parked Syndicate

TE AKAU:

Hakkinen: Te Akau Flying Finn Racing Partnership (JL Kirby)

Passion 'N' Pride: Te Akau Huntress Racing Partnership (Fiona Ritchie)

Altari: Te Akau Bohemian Beauty Racing Partnership (James Chapman)

Queen of Naples: Te Akau Timely Racing Partnership (Wayne Slee, Allan Pate)

Towering Vision: Te Akau Look Smart Racing Partnership (Paul Martin)

Vintage Rose: Te Akau Imperial Rose Racing Partnership (WL & EE Mountfort)

Zanardi: Te Akau Titleholder Racing Partnership (Daniel Nakhle)

Overheated got his second win for Bryan & Deirdre Black, Ploy his third for John Clapham, Rock on Ozzy won his Maiden for Kylie Grass, Pounce got his second win for Geoff Ward, Lark a Maiden win for HA & S Fletcher, Sharapova a third win for Alan Galbraith KC and Alezando, Citala and Play all won for Craig Leishman.

Judy Harriman is part of the Go Racing Amalfi Syndicate that races Manzor Blue who won the Wellington Cup in January 2026 (ridden by Kate Hercock – see page 12). Over in Australia she ran a magnificent second in the Group 3 Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Flemington on 7th November behind the hotpot Pinhole, paying a handsome $10 for the place.

A number of members race Horrie – Lyn Salvidge, Bruce Amies, Alwyn Bloodstock and Nessy's Boy Syndicate (which includes Richard Davey, Jean Brown, Brenda Gerard, Mike Gething, Virginia Healey, Elaine Johnson, Heather & Jan Volz, and myself). Lyn and Bruce, who bred Horrie, were featured in the *Autumn 2026 Owners' Bulletin* https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/news/nztrof-owners-bulletin-autumn-2026/



Passion 'N' Pride wins at Tauranga on 14th October 2026



Horrie wins his third race at Tauranga on 31st October

PHOTOS: KENTON WRIGHT, RACE IMAGES

Their good mare Contessa Vanessa is Horrie's dam. Horrie won two in a row on 14th and 31st October at Tauranga. While we've all trekked to the track to watch nearly all his runs (22 to date), for one reason or other, only a few could get there on 14th Oct. Lyn had major surgery that morning so the win was the ideal post-op recovery tonic. She was still in hospital for his follow-up win, an exciting and impressive one, with an excellent ride from Ace Lawson-Carroll. Sadly, no one else could be there to give Horrie a congratulatory pat. That's just how it goes. (See page 19).

Trainers Moira and Kieran Murdoch have done a fabulous job with our boy. Moira says, "he's finally worked out what he's supposed to be doing". Horrie loves training on the beach and, when it comes to grass, he seems to have an affinity for Tauranga (despite a collision with the running rail in earlier days) and likes having Ace on top – a partnership that can keep up their winning ways, we hope!

Lyn – we wish you all the best in your recovery and hope to see you on the racecourse as soon as possible. Let's hope we can all be there for his next win!

AGM 2026

We'll be holding our AGM on Sunday 29th November at Ellerslie at 2pm – a chance to get together, with social time over refreshments after business is done. We hope to see you there!

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Jill Lunn

JUMPS RACING

We have had some great jumping race days in the Waikato at our two jumping courses, Te Rapa and Te Aroha. The final jumps carnival was held at Te Aroha on Friday 18th and Sunday 20th September. The racing was excellent with a great turn out of people to view the spectacle. The Te Aroha Racing Club Committee did a fantastic job, with the course in great order and all amenities pristine and inviting.

The first race on Friday was the Dunstan Maiden Steeplechase and the Waikato/BOP Thoroughbred Owners presented a trophy (rug) to the winner – the wonderful horse Taika. By Mettre en Jeu out of Isabella Soraya, Taika is now a 10YO gelding so he only has a couple more years left before he is not allowed to race any more. The rug was presented by Mrs Ann Browne to the lucky owner Ken Garnett.

Taika has a story that is of interest because he was bred by the late Ms Karen Remetis who was a past President of Waikato/BOP Thoroughbred Owners Association. Karen bred Taika and absolutely loved him but, when she was diagnosed with a terminal illness, she sold him to Ken Garnett who was a partner with Karen in other horses. Gavin Opie originally trained Taika for Karen and he won a flat race at Matamata over 2000m on his third start in 2021. He won again on the flat for Gavin at Matamata over 2000m in 2022. Gavin then trained him over the hurdles but unfortunately, in his debut hurdle race at Rotorua in 2022, he fell at the first fence. It was an inauspicious beginning to his jumping career, but things only got better from there.

Taika changed stables over the summer of 2022/23 to be trained by Paul Nelson and Corrina McDougal. Paul and his brother Mark took a share in the ownership. In 2023, on 1st July 2023 he won a Maiden hurdle race at Hastings and followed that up with a win at Te Rapa in the 3200m Stewart Browne Memorial Hurdle on 29th July. After many placings in hurdle races, he won again at Te Rapa on 24th August 2024 in the CLC Pakuranga Hunt Open Hurdle over 3200m. His next win was on 24th May 2025 when he won the Jones Trucking Hurdle at Te Rapa over 2800m and then he won the big one... the J Swap Great NZ Hurdles at Te Aroha on 19th September 2025.

Taika then changed from hurdles to steeplechase racing, taking part in a 3600m Maiden Steeplechase at Te Aroha on 3rd September 2026 where he ran second. He followed that up with a decisive win in the 3200m Dunstan Maiden Steeplechase at Te Aroha. And he came out again on Sunday 20th September 2026 and won the 3600m AJRA 0-1 Win Steeplechase. He has now won $313,414.00. Karen would be so proud!

The 2026 J Swap Great NZ Hurdles on the Friday was run and won by the Michael Wallace owned horse Quid. It was a real Waikato/BOP membership celebration as Dale Swap, our member, presented the trophy on behalf of J Swap. Congratulations Michael!

The Great New Zealand Steeplechase over 6200m was a spectacle on the Sunday, being won by an Australian horse, Christmas, whose Australian rider Darryl Horner Jnr and trainer Paul Preusker specifically came to NZ to target this race.

Earlier, on 3rd September at Te Aroha, our members DC and RL Hartridge had a winner when Squire won the Pakuranga Hunt Open Hurdle. Those in the syndicate ownership of this horse are having a great run with him. Congratulations to them, and may their wins continue.

On the same day our members Kevin and Denise Hughes had a winner with their horse Heza Warrior who won the Dean Wiles Maiden Hurdle over 3100m ridden by Bella Oliver. Dean Wiles (Denise & Kevin's son) trains this horse and his two sons are jockeys Corey and Kylan. A real family affair!

Good jumping races on a course as perfect as Te Aroha with purses that reflect the time and effort put into these horses sees a great turnout of participants and a great sense of community. Well done, Te Aroha Racing Club!

FLAT RACING

Other racing of interest to the writer, is that of Larius Lacus, a 5YO mare by Turn Me Loose who is owned by our members Donna Logan and Peter Woods. She won the Waikato/BOP Racehorse Owners Maiden 1400m in March 2025 at Tauranga when trained in the north by Donna. In December 2025 she raced at Te Aroha and won again over 1300m. She had five more starts in the north where she was "thereabouts" before changing to the stables of Krystal Williams down south and coming out and winning her first start at Timaru over 1200m. Sometimes a change of environment makes a huge difference to a horse. Congratulations to Donna and Peter who realised that a change might have been just what this mare needed – they were proved right.



Ann Browne presenting the rug to Ken Garnett

Our Committee member Berri Schroder, and Henrietta, The Duchess of Bedford, had a winner with their horse Breadwinner, a 5YO mare by Reliable Man who is trained by Allan Sharrock. She won a R65 race at Egmont over 2100m on a Heavy8 track. Congratulations on this win. Another member, Brent Tupaea, had two wins with his horse Spellbound, a 3YO gelding by Per Incanto, trained by Roger James and Robert Wellwood. He has a very good record thus far over seven starts with two wins, one at Ellerslie on a Soft5 in a Maiden 3YO race and the other at Rotorua on a Soft7 in a race for 3YOs over 1215m. He's also recorded a 2nd, a 3rd, a 4th and a 5th – and on top of that has won all three of his trials. Congratulations Brent, Spellbound is a horse to be followed, and we will watch him with interest.

Congratulations to all our winners on the back page – it is great to see some of the horses I have previously written about continuing to win for our members.

HAWKES BAY/POVERTY BAY

Bernard Hickey

IF PEOPLE THINK THAT RACING IS DEAD AND BURIED OUTSIDE THE FOUR MAIN VENUES THEY ARE DREAMING, AS WAS EVIDENCED WHEN THE HAWKE'S BAY SPRING CARNIVAL CONCLUDED ON 10TH OCTOBER WITH THE RUNNING OF THE GROUP 1 LIVAMOL CLASSIC WON BY THE IMPRESSIVE WAITAK.

Figures obtained from Entain (TAB) report that turnover for the three meetings exceeded $8.94 million, with each of the three main races – the Hawke's Bay Guineas, the Howden Insurance Classic and the Livamol Classic – exceeding all expectations. Let's bring back the Proisir Plate to where it belongs – "in the Hawke's Bay".

The crowds for all three meetings were great and the local community got involved by using the hospitality that was provided on course. Most importantly, the renovated racing surface provided what was expected – an unbiased surface to race upon. Congratulations to Hawke's Bay Racing Club and the team that made all days a real success. Let's hope that New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing supports this carnival in the future.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

HAWKES BAY/POVERTY BAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



On the second day of the carnival, the Hawke's Bay Owners Assn and Hawke's Bay Breeders successfully held a membership luncheon in conjunction with the Breeders Gold Trail Stakes. This was won by HAWEA who is part-owned by England Cricket coach and past Black Cap Brendan Mcullum ONZM. The membership function was well attended and enjoyed by all – and host Steve Davis had one of his better punting days!

From a Hawke's Bay Owners Assn perspective, several local Owners have had success in the last three months. Of note is POETIC JUSTICE, an Almanzor gelding trained by Paul Nelson and Corrina McDougal, who won impressively on the first day of the Spring Carnival. Owned and raced by the "I See Red Syndicate" – which includes well-known locals Mr & Mrs de Lautour, George and Fern Moore, Lucy Scoular, Michael Ormond and the Nelson's – this gelding looks to improve with age.

Another is BRUTIFUL LASS, a 4YO mare who won her second race at Hawke's Bay on 22nd August over 1200m. Trained by Lisa Latta at Awapuni, the Brutal mare is part-owned by Marilyn Te Paa and Christine Gray. After 17 starts, she is ticking the boxes, having been in the money 11 times in her short career.

MERCY is another 4YO mare who is putting everything together in her short career to date – she won her second race at Hawke's Bay on 10th October. By Darci Brahma out of Oneforthedditch and trained by Kevin Myers at Wanganui, she will now head to Riccarton for the NZ Cup meeting in November. MERCY is part-owned by Paul Robinson and has now raced 10 times for two wins and three placings. She has earned $68,630 to date.

Dean Shuker from Hawke's Bay has an interest in the promising ROSE AYE REIGN (I Am Invincible), a 3YO Go Racing Syndicate filly trained by Stephen Marsh at Cambridge. She has put together one win and three placings from six starts and also looks to have a promising career. She followed up her good win at Te Rapa on 25th September with a solid third at Tauranga on 31st October.

Another Go Racing Syndicate thoroughbred, trained by Kylie Hoskin at Byerley Park, is 6YO mare WITH GRACE (Ocean Park), who has put together four straight wins, the last being on 26th October at Te Rapa. WITH GRACE has raced 21 times for five career wins and eight placings, amassing $126,745 in prize money to date. Both Alan and Paula Keall hold a share in this mare who will also head south to Riccarton and contest the 163rd running of the New Zealand Cup. Good luck team.

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Bret Field

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS AND IT'S GOOD TO SEE NZTR COMING ONBOARD TO SUPPORT THE OWNERS FEDERATION WITH SOME EXTRA FUNDING.

Great to see a surge in horse numbers and the return of Spring bringing the warmer weather too!

It was good to see a few of our regional members sharing the wins around this last quarter! The two outstanding achievers, with a hattrick of wins each, were Claire Bolton and Gavin O'Dea. Claire's wins were with Roc All Night, Saja and a Group 1 victory for Well Written, while Gavin enjoyed successes for Flagship, Diplomatic and Major Houlihan.

Whanganui is gearing up for a huge November with "Christmas at the Races" meetings on 21st and 28th November (Cup day). All hospitality packages sold out for both events some time ago. A reminder that, while there are no walk ups to these events, all Owners can still attend if they have a horse racing at either event – just present your Owners letter from NZTR at the main gate.

Our Committee would like to all wish our ex-President Brian O'Dea all the best at this time as he transitions into another stage of his life. He is likely to leave us on the committee at Christmas. We thank him for his many years of service dedicated to our Association and wish him and his family well in the next stages.

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

GROUP 1 GLORY FOR ANGELS HALO

Although Angels Halo was not one of the favourites for the Group 1 Barneswood Farm New Zealand 1000 Guineas run at Riccarton on 7th November, there was quiet confidence in the Hollie Elliott stable that the Proisir filly could bounce back from an eighth placing in the James & Annie Sarten Memorial at Te Rapa at her previous start.

Gear changes in the form of the addition of blinkers and a nasal strip replacing a tongue tie, along with a favourable barrier draw, were seen as positives leading into raceday.

After that it was over to regular rider Masa Hashizume who made the most of a rails run to hold out the fast-finishing Dashing Dixie and hot favourite Asturia.

Her win was a Group 1 first for Masa and for Hollie, now training on her own account.

Angels Halo ran third at her only start as a 2YO. Starting her second season career with a Maiden victory at Ruakaka, she then ran a close-up 4th in the Hawkes Bay Guineas before finishing eighth at her next start at Te Rapa.

Lower Hutt based Mark & Sharon Hardy bred Angel s Halo and race her with other family members. She is out of the lightly raced I Am Invincible mare Mongolian Angel.

After four races in the NZB 11 race "Filly of the Year" Series, Angels Halo holds a narrow 0.5-point lead over Asturia.

Just Charlie made it back-to-back wins in the Metropolitan Trophy on the first day of the New Zealand Cup carnival, the traditional lead up to the New Zealand Cup. Once again, the Zed gelding went to the front and dictated terms throughout the 2500m journey in the hands of rider Lily Sutherland.

The Kevin Myers trained galloper had indicated he would be on song for Riccarton with a second placing at Ellerslie at his previous start. Masterton's Mike and Roz Southey race Just Charlie.

The Stephen Marsh trained So Fear notched up win number three at Hastings in October. A dual 2YO winner, the Ardrossan filly has now earned over $100k in stakes for the Go Racing Syndicate and breeder Dame Lowell Goddard.

Member Paul Ridley-Smith shares in the ownership of the Go Racing Syndicated With Grace who followed up success at Ruakaka with three consecutive wins at Te Rapa. The Ocean Park mare is trained by Kylie Hoskin at Byerley Park.

Blondmoon finally broke maidens at Woodville after six minor placings. She is by Hello Youmzain from Blondlign and is raced by breeders Colin Mowbray & Tony Bambry from the Chrissy Bambry stable.



Connections of Angels Halo enjoying success in the Barneswood Farm 54th New Zealand 1000 Guineas

Alice Hood's homebred Star Donna has been a model of consistency with three second placings recently, including a runner-up performance in the $100k East Coast Challenge Final at Hawkes Bay. The Derryn filly is trained by Buddy Lammas at Otaki.

Satomi capped off a string of minor placings, including three consecutive seconds when breaking maidens at Woodville in October. Pete & Christine Algie share in the ownership of the lightly raced 6YO Satono Aladdin gelding who is trained by Paul Nelson & Corrina McDougal.

CENTRAL REGIONAL RACING AWARDS RECOGNITION

Kevin Gray was a very worthy recipient of the Humphries Construction "Contribution to Racing" Award at the Central Regional Racing Awards function held at Awapuni on 3rd September 2026. Kevin has done it all in racing over a long-celebrated career – amateur jockey, owner, trainer and breeder to Group 1 level and has also contributed as President of the Waverley Racing Club.

But, more importantly, it is the steady stream of successful apprentices that Kevin and wife Kathleen have mentored over the years. During a time when apprentices lived in, it was common to have up to 20 young people lining up for breakfast in the Gray home. Successful graduates from the Gray stable include Eddie Lamb, Damon Smith, Bruce Herd, Hayden Tinsley, Kim Clapperton and Lisa Allpress.

With son Stephen having returned to New Zealand after a successful training career in Singapore, Kevin is now able to take a supporting role in the father and son training partnership.

Congratulations Kevin on a well-deserved recognition.

CENTRAL DISTRICTS APPRENTICE AWARD WINNERS

- Leading Apprentice 2025/2026 season – Amber Riddell
- Head Pupil Apprentice School 2025/2026 – Crystal Lindsay
- Most Improved Apprentice 2025/2026 season – Toni Davies

The Manawatu Owners' Association was pleased to be a joint sponsor of the Leading Apprentice Award.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2026/2027 POINTS SERIES

Blondmoon has a one-point lead from a close-up chasing pack after the first three months of the current Points Series. However, there is still plenty of time for this to change and a newcomer only needs to have a couple of wins and a few minor placings to take the lead.

Results to 8th November 2026 are as follows:

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

Entry is free.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS LP

2026 / 2027 MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS POINTS SERIES LEADERS AS AT NOVEMBER 8TH 2026

POSITION	POINTS	HORSE	NOMINATOR
1st	18	BLONDMOON	Colin Mowbray
2nd	17	BUNDY	Allan & Susan Fenwick
3rd	16	CARIGNAN	Allan & Susan Fenwick
4th =	15	RUSSIAN PRIME	Libby Bleakley
	15	STARTLES	Tony Bambry
6th =	12	DUBAI'S POTIKI	Robin Hapi
	12	KICK ON	Philippa & Sam Trotter
	12	STAR DONNA	Alice Hood
	12	TOLSTOY	Erin Connors
10th =	11	INTENTION	Steve Haylock
	11	JUST CHARLIE	Roz & Mike Southey
	11	SUBTLE IMAGE	Roger Parkinson
13th =	10	OCEAN MELODY	Noel Buckman
	10	PARTY ROCKING	Tim Gillespie
15th =	9	BILLY	Roz & Mike Southey
	9	HE'S LUCID	Douglas Duncan
17th =	8	EL VENCEDOR	David Price
	8	JAMAICA FAREWELL	Estate of Charlie Rose

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Peter Faulkner

HELLO AND WELCOME FROM THE MAINLAND!

A new season has begun and it is always intriguing watching a new crop of 2YOs step out and, even more so, the 3YOs looking for Guineas glory at Cup Week at Riccarton which, at the time of writing, is about to happen.

One filly that is looking for that glory at Cup Week in the 1000 Guineas is On Piste. Bred and owned by Paul Cunneen and trained by daughter Meg, the 3YO filly by Ace High was too good on debut at Timaru over 1200m for 3YOs. Jockey Terry Moseley pushed forward from gate 7 to slot into the trail, as the two leaders stretched the field out. At the top of the straight there was room to edge three-out and they easily put paid to the rest, with more in the tank. She then went a really credible third in the Barneswood Farm Stakes 1400m for 3YOs at Ashburton. Being by Ace High, a mile for the Guineas should not be a problem. All the best Paul as you've put a lot into the industry with breeding and ownership. (Ed's note: On Piste finished tenth).

A 5YO War Decree gelding called Call To Arms got his Maiden victory at start seven. Owned and bred by Andy Denham and trained at Riccarton by Andrew Carston, he had consistent form and was a $1.35 favourite when stepping out in a Maiden 1400m on the Riccarton Synthetic. After jumping away awkwardly from the outside gate, he got back with his head in the air. Apprentice Sima Mxothwa got him back down and progressed to run up behind the others on the rail. Into the straight, and with a hell of a lot of luck required, it got worse when they were checked with 300m to go. Sima nearly ended up over the running rail but they managed to balance up. Half a gap appeared and they were able to drive through strongly to win like the price he was paying. He is still very green but obviously the talent is there.

Another from the Andrew Carston barn for owner Debbie Condon is Tulsa Turnaround, a 4YO mare by Circus Maximus. She also had reasonable form and wasn't paying much, and victory came at start nine at Timaru in a Maiden 1600m. Starting from gate five, rider Matt Cameron only had eyes for the front. They got a soft lead and set a leisurely tempo so that, by the 700m mark, they could up the ante which made it very hard for the back runners. Hitting the straight, they had pinched a couple of lengths and, under the urgings of Matt, Tulsa Turnaround was too strong to the line. The first three home were all up front and no one could make ground from the back. Hopefully this will give her some confidence to go on with it.

Lastly, the results of our Points Competition over winter. It was a close-run thing. So close, in fact, that it was a tie at the top. So, it's congratulations to Christine Robinson with her mare Russian Blues, and to Stephanie Faulkner and her mare Way Out West – both on 19 points at the pointy end. Only one point back in third place was Leith Weitzel's Beaver Fever, who came with a withering late run to nearly steal the lot. Well done to everyone – and we will do another sometime soon.

I wish everyone well for Cup week and the summer ahead.

PLANNING TODAY FOR YOUR THOROUGHBRED'S TOMORROW

RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP DOESN'T END AT THE FINISH LINE. THROUGH BEYOND THE TRACK, NZTR IS HELPING OWNERS TO PLAN FOR LIFE AFTER RACING, ACCESS PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND STAY CONNECTED TO THEIR THOROUGHBREDS.

The excitement of Thoroughbred ownership creates connections that can last well beyond a horse's racing career. While much of the focus is on success at the track, planning for what comes next is an equally important part of responsible ownership.

Every Thoroughbred will eventually retire from racing. Planning ahead helps ensure decisions are made in the horse's best interests, without unnecessary financial or time pressure.

NZTR's Beyond the Track brings together practical resources, Acknowledged Providers, welfare programmes and opportunities to stay connected with Thoroughbreds throughout their lives after racing.

START THE CONVERSATION EARLY

Discussing retirement with your trainer, racing manager and fellow Owners before it becomes necessary can help ensure a smoother transition.

Some horses will move easily into a new career, while others may need spelling, rehabilitation or specialist retraining. Agreeing early on suitable pathways, responsibilities and financial contributions is particularly important for syndicates and shared ownership arrangements.

A successful transition means finding the right outcome for each horse. While many Thoroughbreds enjoy second careers in equestrian disciplines, others may be better suited to companion or retirement homes. For horses with significant health or welfare concerns, a carefully considered end-of-life decision may be the most compassionate option.

MAKE FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR LIFE AFTER RACING

Just as Owners budget for training fees, veterinary expenses and racing costs, planning for retirement should be part of the overall cost of Thoroughbred ownership.

NZTR encourages Owners to consider setting aside an aftercare contingency of $3,000–$5,000 per horse. This is a suggested planning allowance rather than a fixed fee, with costs varying depending on the horse's needs, including spelling, rehabilitation, retraining or rehoming. For syndicates, incorporating a small ongoing contribution into ownership costs can make this more manageable and ensure funds are available when needed.

While NZTR supports welfare and aftercare initiatives through the industry's 1% Welfare Levy, these programmes provide targeted assistance and do not replace an Owner's responsibility to plan for their horse's future.

ACCESS PRACTICAL RESOURCES THROUGH BEYOND THE TRACK

Beyond the Track provides practical resources to help Owners make informed decisions and support their horse's transition from racing, including:

- NZTR Thoroughbred Transition Assessment: Helps identify a horse's suitability for future activities and any rehabilitation or retraining needs.
- Horse Gifting, Disclosure and Transfer Agreement: Documents ownership transfers and important health, history and management information.
- v End of Life Guide for Thoroughbreds: Supports informed, compassionate decisions when rehoming or ongoing care is no longer appropriate.

FIND SUPPORT THROUGH AN ACKNOWLEDGED PROVIDER

Beyond the Track also connects Owners with NZTR's network of Acknowledged Providers, including experienced individuals and organisations offering Thoroughbred rehoming and retraining services. These providers play an important role in helping horses transition from racing into suitable new homes.

Depending on their services, providers may assess a horse's suitability for different disciplines, undertake retraining, or assist with identifying an appropriate new owner.

Owners and trainers are encouraged to make contact early, discuss the horse's history and needs, and understand any preparation or financial contribution required before arranging its arrival. Presenting horses in good condition, with up-to-date farrier, dental and routine health care, can help reduce unnecessary costs and give them a positive start to their next chapter.

The Beyond the Track website includes an Acknowledged Provider directory to help owners identify suitable services throughout New Zealand.

STAY CONNECTED TO YOUR THOROUGHBRED'S STORY

Retirement from racing doesn't have to mean the end of your connection with a horse. One of the key features of Beyond the Track is the opportunity to maintain connections between Thoroughbreds and the people who have played a part in their lives.

OWN A RETIRED THOROUGHBRED? CLAIM YOUR HORSE

Current Owners of retired Thoroughbreds can create an account on Beyond the Track, search for their horse and complete the claim process to link themselves to its profile. Once connected, Owners can access relevant resources, discover events and explore opportunities to participate in the wider Thoroughbred community.

PREVIOUSLY OWNED OR CARED FOR A THOROUGHBRED? JOIN FULL CIRCLE.

NZTR's Full Circle initiative allows former Owners, trainers, breeders and others connected to a horse to register as a contact should that horse require assistance in the future.

Being a Full Circle contact does not automatically create a financial obligation or require someone to take a horse back into their care. Instead, it provides an additional connection that may prove invaluable if a horse's circumstances change. Maintaining these connections strengthens the industry's ability to support Thoroughbreds throughout their lives.

KEEP YOUR HORSE'S RECORDS UP TO DATE

Accurate records are essential to understanding where Thoroughbreds go after racing and supporting their ongoing welfare. Owners and trainers should ensure NZTR is notified when a horse retires from racing, changes ownership or dies. This includes completing the appropriate SR24 notification for retirement or death, along with the relevant ownership-transfer documentation when a horse moves into a new home.

Encouraging the new Owner to claim their horse through Beyond the Track, and registering yourself as a Full Circle contact, are simple additional steps that help maintain traceability and connections. The more complete our records are, the better equipped the industry is to understand outcomes, identify horses that may need support and continue improving aftercare.

A SHARED COMMITMENT TO EVERY THOROUGHBRED

Thoroughbreds give Owners extraordinary experiences, whether they become racetrack stars or simply provide the enjoyment of being involved in racing. Providing for their future is an important way of recognising that contribution.

By planning early, making financial provision, choosing appropriate pathways and staying connected, Owners can play a meaningful role in ensuring Thoroughbreds are supported beyond their racing careers.

For questions or guidance, contact info@beyondthetrack.co.nz

BEYOND THE TRACK

Discover the new home of Thoroughbred aftercare in New Zealand

Life after racing starts here **beyondthetrack.co.nz**

LEARN MORE



NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING

PUREI HŌIHO NĀTI O AOTEAROA

A LIFETIME COMMITMENT TO THOROUGHBREDS

LOOKING AFTER THE PEOPLE BEHIND RACING

ASK ANYONE IN RACING HOW THEY'RE GOING AND YOU'LL USUALLY GET THE SAME ANSWER: "I'M ALRIGHT, MATE." RACING PEOPLE ARE GOOD AT GETTING ON WITH IT. BUT SOMETIMES THAT'S NOT THE WHOLE STORY.

As an Owner, you'll know there's a lot more to a racehorse than race day. Behind every horse is a team of trainers, stable staff, track riders, breeders, transporters, vets and farriers, and their families. It's a great industry to be part of, but it can be hard going. The hours are long, the money is often tight, injuries happen, and many people are worried about where the industry is heading. On top of that, everyone has a life outside racing.

OnTrack is an independent charity offering free, confidential wellbeing support across New Zealand racing. That includes Owners and their families.

Over the past three years we've built strong relationships right across racing. We don't wait for people to come to us. Our team works racing hours and turns up where racing people are: stables, studs, tracks, sales and race meetings, early mornings and weekends included. We're racing people looking after racing people, and that's why they talk to us.

Some come to us for themselves. Others are worried about a mate and don't know what to say. We help with family, money, work and personal problems, connect people with specialist services, and stay alongside them through the tougher stretches. Often, it starts with a cuppa at the stables and goes from there.

"VERY TOUGH SUBJECT TO TALK ABOUT, BUT SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE TALKED ABOUT MORE." *ONTRACK CHAMPION*

We also share practical skills to help people recognise when something isn't right, in themselves or in someone else, and know what to do about it. That might be a 10-minute session in the stables, an hour with the whole team, a workshop with apprentices, or a full day for those who want to learn more. It covers everything from everyday awareness through to supporting someone in more complex distress. When young apprentices told us they wanted help dealing with bullying, sexual harassment and difficult conversations, we built workshops around exactly that.

We see the lightbulb moments, when something suddenly makes sense. Just as often, someone realises there are people out there who genuinely care about them.

Some go further and become OnTrack Champions. These are racing people who have spent more time with us and built a deeper understanding, which they take back into their own workplaces and communities.

Owners are part of that network too. You often know your trainers and stable teams well, and you may be among the first to notice when something's not right. You don't need the answers. If you're not sure what to say, give us a call.



The OnTrack team at Trelawny Stud

"I'VE SAT THROUGH ENOUGH WORKPLACE TRAININGS TO KNOW MOST OF THEM ARE JUST GLORIFIED COFFEE BREAKS. YOURS, HOWEVER, HAD THE AUDACITY TO BE USEFUL, AND WORSE, I'VE NOW USED IT IN REAL LIFE. TWICE. MORE PEOPLE SHOULD DO THIS." *ONTRACK CHAMPION*

YOUR VOICE IS MISSING

Our industry Wellbeing Survey is running now, and this time we especially want to hear from Owners.

Last time, many Owners didn't take part because they thought it was only for people working in racing every day. It isn't. Whether you own a small share or a whole stable of horses, you're part of this industry, and how you're going matters too. Without Owners, we don't get the full picture.

What people told us last time shaped how we work, what we offer and where we show up. This latest Survey will do the same. We genuinely don't know what it will tell us at this point in time, and that's exactly why we need as many voices as possible. The results will guide what OnTrack does next and help the whole industry understand what its people need.

It will take you 5-minutes, it's anonymous, and it's available in English, te reo Māori, Hindi and Chinese. Griffith University analyses the results independently, and only combined findings are ever shared.

Racing has always been about its people as much as its horses. Please take a few minutes and have your say, and if you are in a syndicate or know others in racing, please share this with them too.

OnTrack – here for you and your family 24/7 confidential helpline: 0800 667 224

TAKE THE WELLBEING SURVEY

Scan this code with your phone camera or you can go to our website www.ontrack.org.nz and click Take the wellbeing survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/68ZXQQH

A LOOK BACK IN TIME – **REMEMBERING HONEY BELLE**

By Jill Lunn

JILL HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SHARING A TABLE AT THE RACES RECENTLY WITH MARIE LEICESTER, HER DAUGHTER DIANA AND SON-IN-LAW MIKE CREED. THEY REMINISCED ABOUT HONEY BELLE, WHO IS ONE OF THE FAMOUS "BELLE" FAMILY DAUGHTERS. MARIE IS THE DAUGHTER OF JAMES AND ANNIE SARTEN WHO ORIGINALLY BRED THE BELLE FAMILY.

There is something quite special about people who are relational with animals. Marie is one of those people.

Honey Belle was born in 1965 and I was a teenager at the time. She was a horse who had a tremendous career and I remember her racing with great affection.

Marie told me Honey Belle lived until she was 32, and that she was a very dominant mare. She had strong characteristics, one of them being that she wouldn't allow dogs into her paddock. If one of the dogs dared to do so, she would chase them out immediately.

When Honey Belle was near death, she wanted Marie to stay with her. She didn't want Marie to touch her but, in her way, she let Marie know she needed to stay with her – she would whinny out if Marie went away. So, Marie stayed with her. When she passed Marie and her husband Nelson prepared her for burial so she could be sitting up in the grave. Their son, Robert, came from another farm with a digger to dig the hole and brought with him his farm dogs. Nelson also had farm dogs and Marie had her pet household dog.

Marie recalled that once the hole was dug, five farm dogs and two pet dogs sat in a semicircle on the side of the grave while Honey Belle was buried, showing respect to the much-loved horse that wouldn't let them into her paddock. They planted a magnolia tree on Honey Belle's grave.

Honey Belle's descendants still give us a thrill today. Meleka Belle, Melody Belle's mother, is a direct descendant of Honey Belle and Honey Belle's mother Belle Time is the great, great, great grandmother of the amazing Anamoe, retired nine-time Group 1 winning Australian racehorse. Cellarmaster, another recent winner in Australia, is also a direct descendant of Honey Belle. A 4YO gelding he is out of Moet Belle, the daughter of Meleka Belle.

Marie was recently interviewed on the "Bred To Win" racing show with Caroline Searcy and she talked about breeding horses to enable the special features of a previous horse coming through. In that interview she refers to Anamoe looking just like Honey Belle, all those generations later – wide forehead, shortish head, deep shoulder and powerful hindquarters. Marie also makes the point that, while horses today are x-rayed to check out their bones, she believes the most important features are the heart and lungs.

Marie's father James Sarten continues to play a very big part in her horse life as she often contemplates "what would Dad do or say?" His best horse was Star Belle who won 18 races and Marie's best horse so far is Melody Belle who won 19 races.

Honey Belle's race record shows she had nine wins, including three as a 2YO. Seven would be considered as Group races today. Her race wins also included the WRC George Adams Handicap (Group 1), the Wellington Guineas (Group 2), the ARC Great Northern Foal Stakes (Group 3), the Welcome Stakes (Listed), the Islington Handicap (Listed), the Ladies Mile (Listed) and the WRC Metropolitan Handicap (Listed). She was also placed in several black type races.

Honey Belle was the mother of 11 foals with the nine who raced all being winners. Her name lives on through her progeny who continue to shine on the racetrack. Marie has seven mares to foal this year and they will, no doubt, continue to showcase the name of this great family.

Honey Belle – a winner on the track, a winner as a mother and a winner as the cornerstone of a breeding empire. Thanks Honey Belle!



At the presentation – 2nd from left is Marie's mother Annie Sarten, her father James Sarten, trainer Georgie Cameron, jockey David Peake (the gentleman on the left is not known)



Honey Belle winning the WRC George Adams (Tattersalls) Mile at Trentham on 24th January 1970 – this is now known as the Thorndon Mile

With special thanks to Peter Rubery at Race Images for locating these wonderful photos from the Race Images Collection.



Marie (right) and daughter Maryanne with Meleka Bell

SAM SPRATT – BACK IN THE SADDLE

SALLY BLYTH CHATTED WITH JOCKEY SAM SPRATT IN EARLY OCTOBER ABOUT HER ROLE AT THE EQUINE ACADEMY AND GETTING BACK INTO THE JOCKEY RANKS.

Everyone in the racing world knows Sam! She's been called fearless and tough. There's no doubt she's tenacious and exuberant, with perseverance galore. On top of that, she exudes energy, enthusiasm and immense riding talent. As an Owner, she's one jockey you'd always welcome to be in the saddle on your horse.

But last year, having completed the best season of her career, after giving birth to daughter Riley and with more than 11,000 NZ raceday rides under her belt, things came crashing down. On 4th October 2025, she had a horrific accident during a trackwork session, breaking her pelvis and hip in nine places when the horse rolled backwards and landed on her.

Sam's recovery period gave her precious time with Riley, taking on motherhood duties from her wheelchair. A year on from the accident, her innate passion for riding has kicked back in (not that it ever left her!) and she's been back trackwork riding, turning up every day since mid-September. She rides for Conor and Sarah Fahy, Michael Rogers and Nigel Tiley. Stepping things up a notch, she got back into riding at the trials too with a few rides at Avondale at the end of October.

In preparation, Sam's been doing gym work at home as well at as the Equine Academy facilities where she helps out teaching Level 2 beginner students the basics of how to ride. Many of them have never ridden before so they are in great hands with Sam showing them the ropes. Her partner and parents help out looking after Riley, who is now one. Sam also has a 21YO son, Cody.

Sam puts in a few hours four days a week at the Academy and, along with her trackwork riding, has been getting her fill of the horse world and enjoying imparting her knowledge.

Most students at the Academy are in their late teens which is ideal. Sam believes that starting to ride as a jockey at age 15/16 is just a bit too young as more mental and physical maturity is needed. Some young jockeys grow too big too quickly and have to give it away, which can be devastating.

Not all of the Academy students are cut out to be jockeys, they're too big already, but the capable and keen riders amongst them would be able to ride trackwork. There's a 14YO jumper they ride and a number of ex-racehorses. The students have to be able to handle these types of horses, as well as spending time doing lessons in class.

Watching the progress made by the students is satisfying and rewarding for Sam. Two apprentice jockeys who she has her eyes on as ones to watch are Tom Wigram and Academy Graduate Hayley Hassman (featured in our *Winter 2026 Owners' Bulletin*).

And, in true "never say die" spirit, when I spoke with Sam she had her eyes on a return to raceday riding herself. She did so at Te Rapa on Saturday 7th November with three rides for a fourth and a super win on Super Fly in the last race.

Great also to see Central Districts jockey Kate Hercock back in action after being out for six months after a race fall at Woodville in April. She had ridden at Otaki the previous week and then had four rides at Te Rapa alongside Sam. Kate had a third and a gritty win on Paddy The Farmer in the 7th race.

These two resilient female jockeys are an inspiration, showcasing their passion and skill on what was a rather miserable and stormy – and, for them, highly successful – day. Congratulations to both!



Top: Sam wins on Super Fly



Below: Kate wins on Paddy The Farmer

PHOTOS: KENTON WRIGHT, RACE IMAGES



APPRENTICE SIENNA BROWN
PHOTO RACE IMAGES

STUDENT PROFILE

Q&A WITH NZ EQUINE ACADEMY GRADUATE: SIENNA BROWN

Apprentice Sienna Brown came from a strong equestrian background with a passion for show jumping and dressage before enrolling with the NZ Equine Academy and graduating from their L2 programme in 2023. She joined the jockey ranks at the end of the 2023/24 season. Her first win was aboard the Hanna Orting-trained Hadid and Sienna is now indentured to Cambridge trainer Chris Wood.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING BEFORE JOINING THE NZ EQUINE ACADEMY?

I was riding track work for Andrew Forsman and applied for the L2 programme in 2023 as I saw Donovan Mansour was running the course and I thought I would be able to learn a lot from him.

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

I was able to ride for a lot of different trainers and learn off each one. I developed a great network of people which has helped get me to where I am today. I also learned that if you work hard enough, you can make things happen.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE ENROL WITH THE NZ EQUINE ACADEMY?

You get to build a great network which is invaluable for building a career in the thoroughbred industry. You also get great support from the tutors to help you reach you goals.

WELL WRITTEN – WHEN MAGIC HAPPENS

SEVERAL OF OUR MEMBERS ARE IN THE OWNERSHIP GROUP OF WELL WRITTEN – THE HORSE CROWNED 2025-26 HORSE OF THE YEAR AND CHAMPION 3YO. WHAT A MEMORABLE RIDE THEY'VE BEEN ON! MEMBER SUE BOURKE TALKS WITH DENISE MAYHEW.

Sue Bourke is an old hand when it comes to owning shares in thoroughbreds, but none has ever quite reached the pinnacle that Well Written has climbed.

Sue was working on the farm when she received a call from trainer Stephen Marsh offering her a small shareholding in Well Written. Sue had experienced success with Miss Tycoon Rose (by Written Tycoon) who won four races and came second in the NZ 1000 Guineas in November 2020. So, when she heard that this filly's sire was also Written Tycoon, a stallion whom she had much admired, it took her all of two seconds to decide that she was in!

The very first time she watched Well Written race, Sue was home on her own watching on TV. Normally fairly quiet in her demeanour, she was screaming her lungs out by the time Well Written won by several lengths. It just so happened that at that moment a couple of delivery men arrived. So alarmed were they by her screams that they rushed in to ask whether everything was alright. This level of raucousness was so out of character for Sue!

The first time she saw her horse in the flesh was at Ellerslie, where Well Written won easily. Sue remembers being surprised by how small she was but says her very next thought was how nicely put together she was – happily admitting to feeling a little pang of envy.

After that win, Sue made sure to be at every race – the NZ 1000 Guineas, the Auckland Guineas and the Karaka Millions 3YO. Next up was the NZB Kiwi. In the run-up to the big race, she recalls thinking "surely she can't do this as well?" She was therefore staggered when Well Written did win and recognised, at that moment, that she truly had an "unreal" horse.

When asked about the highlight of her journey with Well Written, Sue replies that it's not about the money or the glory. It's about a fellow Owner frail with cancer, whose oncologist forbid her from attending the Kiwi. She defied him anyway, with her husband bringing her along in a wheelchair. Seeing her with the winner's ribbon wrapped around her – someone truly enjoying racing – has been Sue's most special moment. Sadly, the lady did not live long after that, which has made the memory of that day even more poignant.

Serendipity struck at the Guineas when Sue and a friend went to find themselves somewhere to sit outside. With seating being tight, they asked if they could share with two other ladies. They were asked whether they had an interest in a particular horse and, when Well Written was mentioned, were bowled over to learn that they were sitting next to jockey Matt Cartwright's girlfriend and his mother.

Unlike her fellow Owners, Sue experiences no nerves before a race. A self-described "old girl", she's had so many horses that it just doesn't get to her anymore. She waits until the race is over before getting too excited.

Despite her own calmness, Sue enjoys seeing the excitement of the other shareholders before a race, citing part Owners the "8 Mates Syndicate" getting themselves all spruced up in new gear for the Sydney race, topping their outfits off with their Well Written hats. They had a fabulous day even though they didn't get the win they had hoped for.

For Sue, Well Written failing to win in Australia was not the disappointment you might expect. She was more concerned about whether the horse was alright.

More disappointing was when she went to watch Well Written trialling before a Group 1 race. She had been having some trouble with her eyes after recent surgery but was delighted to be able to go and pat her horse before the trial – only to be informed that she was patting the wrong horse! She's been told that she is never going to be allowed to live that one down.

Readers might be surprised to hear that, despite Well Written's success, Sue doesn't bet on her horse. "I'm not a betting person," she says.

Sue feels proud that, as one of the original Owners, she was there from the very beginning. She says they have been "very lucky and very privileged", and credits Stephen Marsh, Ash Tomkinson, Ava Plimmer and the rest of the team as being the people who made it all happen with the horse.

She is also grateful to Gordon Cunningham and his team at Curraghmore. She is tickled pink that Well Written gets the front paddock there – one of the privileges of being a horse at the top of its game.



Well Written's happy Owners – Sue is in the front row with black dress, cream jacket and black/cream hat

PHOTO: RACE IMAGES

A RACING FRIENDSHIP ACROSS THE PACIFIC

By Phyllis Huitema, Waikato member

EACH MARCH, RACING TAURANGA HOSTS THE BAYLEYS INTERNATIONAL RACEDAY, FEATURING THE GROUP 2 ULTIMATE MAZDA JAPAN TROPHY. FOR THE WINNING TRAINER, THE OCCASION BRINGS AN OPPORTUNITY BEYOND THE RACE ITSELF: AN INVITATION TO JOIN RACING TAURANGA REPRESENTATIVES AT THE RECIPROCAL NEW ZEALAND TROPHY MEETING IN JAPAN THE FOLLOWING APRIL.

First run at Tauranga in 1971, the Japan Trophy has grown into an enduring friendship between Racing Tauranga and the Japan Racing Association (JRA). It has also brought together owners, trainers and jockeys from both countries.

This year's Japan Trophy was won by Omega Boy, ridden by apprentice jockey Sam McNab and trained by Peter and Trent Didham. In April my partner, Racing Tauranga director Steve Freeman, and I were privileged to travel to Japan with chairman Michael Bayly and his partner Rosalie Blockley, alongside Peter Didham and his wife Trisha.

The JRA hosted us generously throughout our stay. A highlight was our visit to the Miho Training Center, where the scale and care involved in Japanese racing were remarkable. We saw a range of training tracks and an equine hospital equipped with a standing MRI machine, operating theatres and facilities for horses' fitness and recovery. We also learned that jockeys riding at Japanese meetings stay on site the night before racing and hand in their mobile phones.

On race day at Nakayama Racecourse, more than 30,000 people were in attendance. After a formal welcome and presentation, we were invited onto the balcony as the New Zealand and Japanese national anthems were played. It was a proud moment for everyone in our group.

Reservation won the New Zealand Trophy, ridden by Yusuke Hara. It was also a pleasure to meet New Zealand jockey Michael Dee and his partner Sophie King. Michael had ten rides with a win on the programme. Seeing a New Zealander competing in Japan added another special dimension to the day.

What stayed with me most was the enthusiasm of the crowd and their knowledge of New Zealand's thoroughbred breeding industry. The regard they showed for our horses and racing people was unmistakable.

The Japan Trophy and New Zealand Trophy are more than two races on opposite sides of the Pacific. They give our racing communities a chance to share knowledge, welcome one another and build friendships that last. I hope we continue to support this exchange so future generations of Owners, trainers, jockeys and breeders can enjoy the same opportunities.

I encourage everyone to get behind Racing Tauranga and help keep the Ultimate Mazda Japan Trophy, and this valued friendship, thriving for years to come.



Presentation of the 2026 Japan Trophy which was won by Omega Boy (ridden by Sam McNab) at Tauranga on 14th March 2026.

PHOTO: KENTON WRIGHT, RACE IMAGES

UP CLOSE AT THE TRIALS

By Fiona Ritchie, Auckland Member

WE ALL LOVE THE EXCITEMENT LEADING UP TO RACEDAY: THE WEEKLY TROT-UP VIDEOS; THE NOMINATIONS; THE ACCEPTANCES; THE BARRIER DRAWS; THE JOCKEYS; THE SCRATCHINGS. FOR OWNERS LIKE ME, WHO WANT TO GET A LITTLE CLOSER TO THEIR HORSES, THERE'S ANOTHER EXPERIENCE THAT'S WELL WORTH DISCOVERING: THE TRIALS.

A half-day at the trials offers something quite different from raceday. For me, it's an opportunity to spend time with my horse, feel more involved in her preparation and better understand her trainer's decisions.

The highlight is visiting the tie-ups. It's something Owners can't do on raceday. I can get up close to my horse, say hello to the strapper and, if I'm lucky, catch up with her trackwork rider. They know my horse's habits, quirks and daily routine. A casual chat can reveal a lot.

Around a year ago, at the Pukekohe trials, a tie-ups visit with my then 3YO sprinter revealed she was hesitant to stretch out in her gallops. Piecing this together with earlier comments about her choppy gait, treatment for her knees, lengthy spells, track preferences and water-treadmill preconditioning, things began to fall into place. I could better appreciate the reasoning behind her training programme. Thankfully, now four years old, she appears confident stretching out in her gallops.

Being able to visit and pat my horses at the tie-ups also gives me a chance to closely observe their pre-trial temperament. My two mares couldn't be more different.

At Matamata, my sprinter was hyper-alert, almost trembling with anticipation. I patted her and talked to her, but she was distracted. She wasn't sweating or pawing the ground, so didn't appear to be expending too much nervous energy. Her strapper explained that she was probably confused by the change in her home track routine. Instead of her usual early morning trackwork, she'd been walked over to the tie-ups in the afternoon.

In contrast, at Waipa, my miler was relaxed when I approached. She moved closer, lowering her head and nuzzling me for a pat. Yet I knew that, as she approached the starting gates, her demeanour would change completely. She'd get her "game face" on, focus on the job ahead and relish a close, head-to-head contest.

From the tie-ups, I walk back to the mounting area, and there is plenty to see. Hanging over the fence at the mounting area is where you first catch up with your trainer and/or racing manager. Here you can have a deeper chat about your horse's progress to date and likely future plans. There's also the chance to chat with Owners or strappers of other stable's horses. We swap stories about our horses, up-and-comers and track stars we're following, as well as the horses currently parading.

I also enjoy watching how different trainers operate. They get out and about briefing their jockeys, helping their strappers, talking with their Owners and, in some cases, filming these discussions for other Owners. Then there are the Bloodstock Agents, busily writing notes and talking on the phone, briefing their high-profile clients on future champions that might be for trade.

The sheet number of horses trialling means a wider variety of runners, at varying ages and stages of their racing careers. Some horses are having their very first trial for education and to qualify for a barrier certificate. Others are seasoned racehorses returning from a spell, building fitness or having a "blow out". A few may be trialling under stewards' orders to demonstrate improved barrier manners.

Unlike the highly curated raceday Birdcage, where horses are paraded in order around a set path, the trial mounting area is generally an open, grassed space. Horses arrive haphazardly as their trials are called. Strappers can walk their charges any way they like.

I'm always particularly fascinated by horses that suddenly stop in their tracks, staring fixedly at something in the distance. Their strapper might coax them to walk in a small circle. By temporarily taking the object out of the horse's sight, the horse can swing around quickly, determined to keep whatever has caught its attention firmly in view. Other horses couldn't be more relaxed, walking quietly or gently jogging alongside their handlers, mouths softly foaming at the bit.

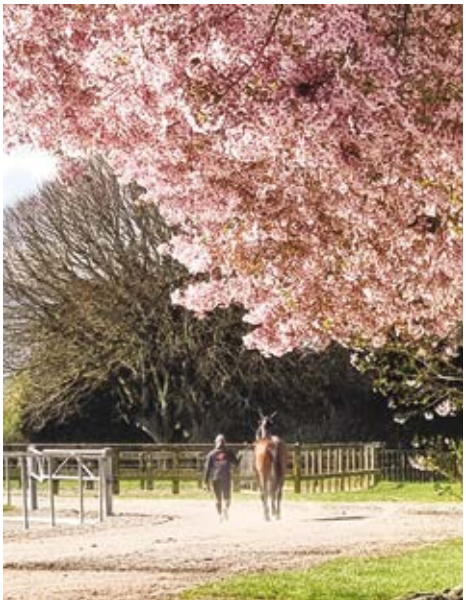
Last time at Matamata, a trialling horse was adamant that it wasn't going to participate. Repeatedly pulling back and rearing, it forced its jockey to dismount for safety. The trainer came out to assist, trying to encourage it to settle. Nothing worked, and the trial start ended up being delayed. Eventually the horse got its way. Once allowed to turn back towards the tie-ups, it relaxed immediately, happy to be led away.

Finally, it's time to watch my horse, and I see her canter towards the start. Heading up to the grandstand, I remember one downside to watching the trial in person. There's no Trackside broadcast to watch the action that is out of view. Binoculars can help. But you are still close to the winning post to see your horse gallop home.

The Owners watching a trial are just as keen as on Raceday. There are subdued cheers and congratulations if their horse wins. With no post-race tie-ups for winners and early placings, all horses are unsaddled and led off immediately. Back at the mounting area, you and your fellow syndicate Owners meet up with your trainer and jockey. With



Fiona and apprentice Cooper Stumbles with She Means Business



no need to weigh in, your jockey has a little more time to chat. Beyond race positioning, Owners can ask about their horse's physical performance, and preferred distance and track conditions.

Then my day at the trials is over, and its back to my car for the drive home. By the time I arrive, her trial video will be uploaded and, possibly, the trainer's short verbal summary. I can watch the trial again in more detail, this time with a better understanding of what I've seen and learned.

And if my horse had won that trial? I open a mini bottle of Mumm, write the trial date and detail on the cork, and save it. The full bottle is reserved for a raceday win.

LITTLE AVONDALE
BIG ON WINNING



Stud chat with Sam

2026 HAS BEEN A SPRING TO REMEMBER FOR PER INCANTO AND HIS PROGENY.

Jimmy back to his Gr.1 winning ways

Our outstanding rocket in Jimmysstar (NZ) (Per Incanto {USA}), co-owned by LA and Pete and Christine Algie, added a fourth Gr.1 sprint to his record when he won the Gr.1 Manikato Stakes at Caulfield in late September. That joins his previous victories in the Gr.1 All Aged Stakes, Gr.1 CF Orr Stakes and Gr.1 Oakleigh Plate.

Settled near the rear, he produced his customary flying late finish to score by just under a length in the hands of Ethan Brown. It was a thrill to watch. Jimmy then ran a gallant sixth in the $20 million Gr.1 The Everest, again finishing strongly after getting back in his ground in a race dominated by runners who settled handy. I wouldn't be at all surprised to see him add to his record before the spring is out.

In'kantosstar – smart like his brother

The progressive In'kantosstar (NZ) (Per Incanto {USA}) has always carried big expectations as a younger full brother to Jimmysstar. Adding to the pressure, he's also trained by Ciaron Maher and races in the same colours, so the comparisons were always going to come.

Since late winter and into early spring, he has well and truly lived up to his pedigree, winning four of his five starts. All four wins have come in succession this preparation, after he placed on debut at Moe last December.

He has won over distances from 1200m to 1700m on the Ballarat Synthetic, at Geelong and on the Caulfield Heath, before capping off his unbeaten preparation with an impressive win at Caulfield in mid-October.

In'kantosstar was the last foal out of Anniestar (NZ) (Zed {NZ}), a smart mare in her own right who won five times, including the Listed Feilding Gold Cup. She also left the Gr.3 winning and dual Gr.1 placed mare Charms Star (NZ) (Per Incanto {USA}). She's been a wonderful producer for us.

A Guineas contender emerges

Per Incanto (USA) has accomplished a great deal in his stud career, and we're very proud of him. Among his 39 stakes winners are Gr.1 winning sprinters in New Zealand and Australia, 2YO Gr.1 winners on both sides of the Tasman, and elite-level winners over a mile, at weight-for-age and among the 3YO's.

Judging by the maiden performance of Thunder In Motion (NZ), he could become the first to give Per Incanto a Gr.1 Guineas winner at Riccarton in a few weeks' time.

The $700,000 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready to Run Sale graduate showed an abundance of class, charging home from last in a small field at Trentham to score for trainer Mark Forbes and jockey Joe Doyle.

Thunder In Motion is out of the winning Rock 'n' Pop mare Joan's A Jett (NZ), who is very well bred. She is a half-sister to the Gr.1 winning mare Allez Wonder (Redoute's Choice) and a three-quarter-sister to the dam of Tivaci.

Group glory for Per Incanto in Hong Kong

The John Size-trained Raging Blizzard (NZ) (Per Incanto {USA}) had long deserved a taste of stakes success. He had finished in the top four at Group level eight times before, including three times at Gr.1 level. He finally got his day in the sun with a brilliant win in the Gr.2 Premier Bowl at Sha Tin on October 25, thanks to a cool and composed ride from Benton Avdulla. It was a result that gave everyone at Little Avondale a lot of pleasure.

Per Incanto has enjoyed great success in Hong Kong, with 53 winners from just 79 runners. That's an outstanding winners-to-runners rate of 67%.

Raging Blizzard is one of four winners out of the placed Magnus mare Perfect Beat. She is very well related, being a sibling to four individual stakes performers, including the Gr.2 winners Upbeat (Strategic) and Bella Martini (Stratum).

Thanks for reading, and good luck to all your horses this spring.

Sam

SPRING 2026

PAT'S RACING QUIZ

COMPILED BY PAT WOOLLASTON, AUCKLAND MEMBER

1. **What is a barrier trial?**
2. **Which NZ Racecourse is furthest west?**
3. **What equine disease caused disruption in the Waikato and Taranaki?**
4. **Who was leading jockey for 2025/26?**
5. **How are horses handicapped in a race?**
6. **What is the youngest age that a horse can compete in a flat race in NZ?**
7. **Horses have "wolf" teeth – True / False?**
8. **What is special about the first Tuesday in November?**
9. **What percentage of a horse's race winnings goes to TB Welfare?**
10. **Who is the only woman to train two Melbourne Cup winners?**

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. *A barrier trial is an official, non-competitive practice race used to train and test thoroughbred horses. Horses jump from the starting gates (barriers) and gallop over a short distance, but jockeys do not ride for maximum prize-winning effort. They help build fitness, teach race manners, and qualify young horses for official racing on raceday.* *(See page 15 – trials article)*
2. *Riverton*
3. *Commonly called "strangles" [Streptococcus equi.]*
4. *Craig Grylls*
5. *By the amount of weight that they have to carry*
6. *Two years*
7. *True [Wolf teeth in horses are small, vestigial first premolar teeth that sit just in front of the larger cheek teeth. About 70% of horses develop them, and they have no function in chewing].*
8. *The Melbourne Cup is held*
9. *1% [part of this 1% is providing those wonderful Horse Ambulances at race meetings].*
10. *Sheila Laxon – with Ethereal 2001 and Knight's Choice 2024*

MELBOURNE CUP WINNERS

THE 2026 MELBOURNE CUP WAS THE 166TH RUNNING OF THIS ICONIC RACE, WON BY POINT OF LAW. BY FRANKEL, AND TRAINED BY CIARON MAHER, HE WAS FAVOURITE FOR THE BIG RACE AND RAN AWAY FROM THE FIELD WITH ETHAN BROWN ON BOARD.

SINCE 1861, WHEN ARCHER WON THE FIRST TWO CUPS, THERE HAVE BEEN 44 WINS BY NZ BRED HORSES. OF THOSE, 43 HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN NZ, THE MOST RECENT BEING VERRY ELLEEGANT IN 2021, RIDDEN BY JAMES MCDONALD.

WE THOUGHT WE'D SHARE SOME PHOTOS OF PAINTINGS OF SIGNIFICANT WINNERS THROUGH THE YEARS DONE BY JANET THOMAS. THESE ARE FROM A 2000 COMMEMORATIVE CALENDAR.



1890 – Carbine



1916 – Sasanof



1930 – Phar Lap



1954 – Rising Fast



1966 – Galilee



1983 – Kiwi



1988 – Empire Rose



1991 – Let's Elope



1997 – Might & Power

OBITUARY

REMEMBERING MARGARET FIFE

WAIKATO MEMBER DI MCGREGOR REFLECTS ON THE LIFE OF HER GOOD FRIEND, THE LATE MARGARET FIFE.

Recently the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeding and Racing Industry lost a well-known and valued member with the sad passing of Margaret Fife on 2nd October 2026. She had worked in the industry most of her life. A familiar sight at the Karaka Sales and on a racetrack, everyone knew Marg.

Marg started out at Hyperion Bloodstock with Doug McKenzie. She then moved on to Rodmor, Highview and the Glen Oaks Studs before going to Cambridge Stud where she worked alongside Sir Patrick Hogan and the staff for 35 years, before moving on with Sir Patrick to Monarch Farm.

Marg was very proficient in the office and many other studs relied on her to set up their breeding systems. She was the Secretary for the Hunterville Trust which was set up to support injured jockeys and was also Secretary for the Waikato Hunt for 39 years. If you wanted a job done properly you asked Margaret Fife.

This is well-known and documented in recent tributes following her death, but there was so much more to Margaret.

How many small NZ racehorse breeders get to enjoy their horses winning in four countries in one month? Margaret Fife and Don Edwards did back in June 2016!

- Da Qian Shi Jie, ridden by NZ Jockey Alysha Collett, won the inaugural Group 1 New Zealand Bloodstock Cup at Korchin in Inner Mongolia.
- Queenofthepalace won in the USA and went on to have had multiple wins and placings there.
- Stock Up, trained by Scott Singleton, won in Australia.
- Rubee, trained by Catherine Cameron, won at Avondale in New Zealand.

All that certainly deserved a huge celebration.

Marg and Don had a shared passion for breeding and racing and bred many successful horses together. Pearla (NZ) by Blues Traveller (IRL) out of Aster Blue (NZ), bred by the late Bob Morris, and Memphis Minnie (NZ) by Blues Traveller (IRL) out of Jubilee (NZ), bred by Ray Knight, were their foundation mares. Over the years these mares and their offspring were bred to Keeper (AUS), Tavistock (NZ) and Power (GB), who all stood at Cambridge Stud. And, more recently, also to Sweynesse (AUS), Staphanos (JAP), King of Comedy (IRE) and The Foxes (IRE) who stand at Novara Park Stud where Don is responsible for the stallion bookings.

Marg and Don enjoyed racing their horses in syndicates made up of hunting friends and like-minded people. They would drive all over the country to watch their horses who were trained by Linda Laing and Catherine Cameron. Such fun days, and always a party.

Margaret grew up in a hard-working farming family at Litchfield in the South Waikato. Horses were a huge part of their lives. Days were spent with her three sisters, Vinette, Nicoli and Lynley and brother Brent on the farm riding, hunting, at pony club and competing. She was a very accomplished horsewoman and enjoyed her hunting and Ladies Polo.

Their parents, Charlie and Beth Fife, were founding members of the Timberlands Pony Club and Timberlands North Island Pony Club event, which is still run to this day.

Marg loved to travel, especially if horses were involved. Trips to Ireland for hunting, England and Australia for racing, especially the Jumping Carnival at Warrnambool which is a must for anyone who loves good jumps racing and a week of enjoying themselves.

Marg joined my husband and I on our adventure to Canada for the Calgary Stampede, show jumping at Spruce Meadow then on to Lexington, Kentucky, which is a horse breeding heaven. Through her contacts we had private tours of the incredible studs, Taylor Made, Lanes End, Calumet and Godolphin's Jonabell Farm, the home of the Darley Stallions. One can only dream of studs like this and trophy cabinets full of sparkling silver wear.

Churchill Downs, the home of the Kentucky Derby, didn't disappoint. We visited the track training stable where Queenofthepalace was trained and the Horseracing Museum where you can even buy a Royal Ascot-worthy hat or a copper mug to drink your famous Mint Julep out of. Over 125,000 mint juleps are served across the two-days of racing: Kentucky Oaks and Derby Day. That's 10,000 bottles of Woodford Reserve Bourbon!

In 2023 we joined a group of racing enthusiasts for a trip to the Chatham Islands. Most people have no idea that the Islanders are so passionate about racing their horses (their racecourse was founded in 1874). The locals enjoy life and not many people can say they ticked the Chatham Islands Racecourse off their list. Marg, Don and I did!



"MARG AND DON ENJOYED RACING THEIR HORSES IN SYNDICATES MADE UP OF HUNTING FRIENDS AND LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE... SUCH FUN DAYS, AND ALWAYS A PARTY"

Horses and racing have a wonderful way of bringing people together – we form lifelong friendships enjoying days spent doing what we love. Marg will be greatly missed and her knowledge is lost but those of us still here will honour her memory as we continue to go to the races and watch the next generation of horses run.

As I sit in my office writing this about my wonderful friend, I'm watching the mares Tegan and Thatcher – who she bred and raced – quietly graze. We have the pleasure of them living with us now and breeding the next generation. Marg you are a great act to follow, I hope we can do you proud.

ED'S NOTE: To read more about the trip and racing in the Chathams, see the Summer 2023 edition of the *Owners Bulletin*. So many fond memories and friendships made.

https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/news/nztrof-bulletin-summer-2023/

RUSTY RAMBLINGS

By Sally Blyth

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

The Rusty goes a bit quiet over Winter and early Spring, although it was packed out for Melbourne Cup Day. I was at Ellerslie that day but, by all accounts, a lot of fun was had at the local sports bar on the first Tuesday of November.

The boys went to Pukekohe with great anticipation to watch She Means Business. Auckland Committee member Fiona Ritchie, who also has a share, was there too. Ridden by Michael McNab she got well back and was still back in the field of 11 as they turned for home. She was forced rather wide and it wasn't looking too hopeful. Then she got going, revving herself up and romping down the big, long Pukekohe straight to finish a very decent fourth. That's four fourths in a row now. Fourth is good, and definitely better than fifth or last, but it's not the win or top three placing the boys are longing for. Next time!

I was at the Rusty when Horrie ran on 31st October. He'd won his last start and I really had no idea what he might do next up but I was ever hopeful. Having put it all together I had faith that he'd learnt from his past mistakes but, at the same time, this was a step up in grade, possibly too short and maybe too firm underfoot. On the positive side, barrier 5 was ideal, it was a smaller field of seven and his mate Ace Lawson-Carroll was on top.

The Rusty crew and I eagerly awaited the jump. He found his place midfield, with the favourite biding its time at the back. Heading for home, he seemed to be battling a bit and I thought it was all over. But then he put his head down and got into his business with a really strong "outta my way" surge. There was yelling and cheering so loud that some of the guys had to cover their ears. It was a very close finish but I was sure Horrie had done it, just. And yes, he did, winning by a short ½ head. You couldn't wipe the smile off my face and the Rusty was a happy place to be all afternoon.

No pressure Horrie – but you're sitting on a hat-trick!

Isola Racing Stables at Waiuku, where Horrie trains, has a tradition of dressing their horses up each Halloween. This year's theme was "On Safari" with the horses getting painted up as safari animals. There was a Cheetah, a Tiger, a Giraffe – and Horrie became a Zebra. What fun!

DO I OR DON'T I?

By Sally Blyth

DO I GO TO WATCH MY HORSE RUN? THAT IS INDEED THE ALL-IMPORTANT BUT SOMETIMES OH-SO-TRICKY QUESTION!

It's the age-old Owner's dilemma, with Murphy's Law attached – if you don't make the effort, it'll win; if you compromise your entire life to get there, it'll run a dud.

Whilst Owners will always travel to see their horses in the flesh if they can, travelling far afield needs serious consideration.

An Owner has to take into account potential traffic chaos, flight cancellations or other transport woes that may crop up. There's that awful possibility of your horse being scratched or the meeting being abandoned while you're on your way or, even worse, after you arrive. Weather predictions, track conditions, personal time/capacity and logistics, work/family commitments, your own energy and health are other things we need to be mindful of as we decide whether to get on track or not. Does the horse really have a show? Hmm, that barrier draw is a concern. Is the weight going to be too much? So many things to think about that create doubt and uncertainty about investing time and money in following your horse all over the place.

Not to mention the expense and organisation involved. Are you overnighting? Sharing the ride and petrol costs? Taking a day's leave? Setting a betting budget? Needing to reschedule original plans for that day?

I travel a lot so sometimes I don't need to sift through all these aspects as I'm going to be away and the decision is made for me. It's a double-edged sword though – I'll be in a beautiful place, but I can't be there to watch my horse run in person When overseas, I can't even watch the race on the TAB app as it's blocked, which is always frustrating. Doubly frustrating when I can't even place a bet on my own horse. And what's the bet it wins, just because I can't be there and can't back it!?

Emmy Award won in January. I was away. Horrie won in January. I couldn't get on course. And then Horrie wins two in a row this past month and I'm not on course for those either. But at least I was in NZ so could watch them.

Horrie had won his Maiden back in January which was cause for great jubilation. Then, much to everyone's consternation, he seemed to be intent on doing everything wrong. The Steward's report card for Horrie since his first start in August 2024 reads a bit like a horror show – comments about over-racing, laying in, laying out, racing keenly, racing greenly, being held up, losing a plate, getting his head up, beginning awkwardly, improving onto heels, wide without cover, shifting inwards, losing momentum, slow to begin, racing in restricted room, etc. We know – we were there to watch him as he made a bit of a mess of things, one time crashing into the running rail while out in front, utterly ruining his chances just when we thought we had that race won and done! We've covered our eyes, made audible groans and displayed despair that is positively palpable – but we continued to love our dear Horrie anyway and always went away agreeing "next time!"

Happily, Horrie made "next time" eventually come true and doubled up with back-to-back wins on 14th and 31st October, both at Tauranga with Ace Lawson-Carroll on board. To quote George Simon on his call on the latter "Horrie goes bang bang!" He sure did!

The thing is, all the horses I've had a share in, over the past 20 years or so, have won ONCE and then decided they didn't want to be a racehorse. My long-held wish has been to have a horse that wins more than once – and now Horrie, bless him, has won three times and made my dream come true!

The experience of being on course with a runner and an ownership crew is a heap of fun if you can get there – but it's so much better if there's a winner's circle celebration to go with it!

Then there's the "Do I or Don't I?" quandry when it comes to telling friends and family that your horse is running. Of course, if you do, the horse lets you down and you feel guilty that your friends lost money. And if you don't, they win with ease and you have to explain yourself! That's twice as tricky when they come in at big odds.

Then there's the friend's remorse when you confidently tell them it's going to win ("get on," you say, with conviction) and they completely forget to back it. Or the friend's chagrin at their own decision not to back it as they don't have quite the faith you do – and it goes and jolly well wins!

Living north of Auckland, I've always gone to Ellerslie, Avondale or Pukekohe if I'm around. I've been further afield too – but I definitely make a considered decision around doing so. I'll always make the trek up to Ruakaka to watch if I can. It's a course where surf meets turf and the vibe is casual, up-close and oh-so-friendly.

If you do have a horse running at Ruakaka, aim to make a weekend of things and visit some of the gorgeous beach spots along the way. Langs Beach on Bream Bay is a coastal gem and stunning Waipu Cove was voted NZ Herald "Best Overall Beach" in NZ for both 2025 and 2026.

The Milky Way Glowworm Cave at Waipu Caves Farm Park is a best-kept secret – like stepping back in time, the cave is a natural treasure that opened to the public in 2023. Privately managed and family run, it's a wilderness experience with Jurassic walks and climbs and incredible Glowworm Caves. They hold magical music concerts and weddings in the caves. Take one of the informative guided tours through these caves and, when you reach the magnificent Starburst Cathedral, wish upon a glowworm star up high that your horse will win – more than once!

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.

21 AUGUST TO 15 OCTOBER 2026

Peter & Christine Algie SATOMI

Bruce Amies HORRIE

Duchess of Bedford BREADWINNER

Bryan & Mrs Deirdre Black OVERHEATED

Phillip Blacktopp CITALA, PRIVATE TREATY

Sally Blyth HORRIE

Claire & Warren Bolton WELL WRITTEN, ROC ALL NIGHT, SAJA

Sue Bourke LERADO, WELL WRITTEN

Jean Brown HORRIE

Geoff Brown KESSEY

Les & Cilla Brown BRIAN LAMONT

Jackie Burrows BEAVER FEVER

Andy Calder BELLISH BOY, RYDERS LEGACY

James Chapman ALTARI

Lucinda & Steven Christopher PASSION 'N' PRIDE

John Clapham PLOY

Pat Collins PEACHY KEEN

Debbie Condon TULSA TURNAROUND

Fred and Lindsay Cornege CHATELLE ROSE

Chris & Liz Cowell CAPE HORN

Peter & Sue Cowley SHAMBO JACK

Paul Cunneen ON PISTE

Richard Davey HORRIE

W B & Mrs L C de Lautour POETIC JUSTICE

Andy Denham CALL TO ARMS

Steve Donovan ESCAPE ROOM, HAWEA

Tony & Denise Dravitzki PIPER'S SON

Graham Duff MERCY

Douglas Duncan GASGAL

Joan Egan CHARLEMAGNE, OBERON

Pete & Steph Faulkner WAY OUT WEST

Mark & Faye Fearon KIDS GOT GEARS

Allan Fenwick CARIGNAN

Terence & Colleen Fleming FULLA GRACE

H A & Mrs S Fletcher LARK

Donald & Debra Fox LARK

Steve Freeman GATE CRASHERS

Alan Galbraith KC SHARAPOVA

Murray & Julie Garrett OVERRATED

Brenda Gerard HORRIE, ROSE AYE REIGN

Mike Gething HORRIE

Nick Gibb PASSION 'N' PRIDE

Tim Gillespie PARTY ROCKING

Go Racing EL ARISH, WITH GRACE

Dame Lowell Goddard SO FEAR

Chris & Mrs Jill Grace PETITE ROCHER, RYDERS LEGACY, ZANARDI

Kylie Grass ROCK ON OZZY

Christine Gray BRUTIFUL LASS

Linda Green GASGAL

Douglas Grieve SHEZA PROFESSIONAL

P H & Mrs B A Grieve SHEZA PROFESSIONAL

Elizabeth Griffin PIPER'S SON

Russell Guckert BORN TO BE ROYAL

Paul & Maureen Guise GOOD SPOT

Mark & Sharon Hardy ANGELS HALO

Judy Harriman CONFECTIONIST, SO FEAR

D C & Mrs R L Hartridge SQUIRE

Bruce & Mrs Maureen Harvey SETHERO

Stephen Hawkings WELL WRITTEN, WHISKEY N' RYE

Brian Haycock CONFECTIONIST

Virginia Healey HORRIE

G & A Hill Trust WHEELITIN

Frank Hilliar SONORAN

Mark Hogan BELLISH BOY, RYDERS LEGACY

Murray Hollamby ROCA MILE

Kevin & Denise Hughes HEZA WARRIOR

Craig & T A Hunter YOO HOO JOY

Dave & Mrs Nicky Hurst CHARMROSE

Elaine Johnson HORRIE

Alan J & Paula E Keall WITH GRACE

J L Kirby HAKKINEN

Don Lake PLAY

Bryan Leach AUTUMN HEIGHTS

Craig Leishman ALEZANDO, CITALA, PLAY

Donna Logan LARIUS LACUS

Donald MacKenzie LADY CHARLTON

Mark Lupton Mark Lupton MAKAROV

Paul Martin TOWERING VISION

Gregory McCarthy SIR STERLING

George & Fern Moore POETIC JUSTICE

W L & Mrs E E Mountfort VINTAGE ROSE

Colin Mowbray BLONDMOON

Daniel Nakhle ZANARDI

John Naylor GENEVA QUEEN

P S & Mrs C Nelson MONROE, POETIC JUSTICE, SATOMI, TAIKA

Colin & Mrs Joyce Oakes GASGAL

Kevin O'Brien RYDERS LEGACY

Gavin O'Dea FLAGSHIP, DIPLOMATIC, MAJOR HOULIHAN

Michael Ormond INTERPLANETARY, POETIC JUSTICE

Allan Pate QUEEN OF NAPLES

David & Niki Peacocke BALANCE OF POWER, QALI AL FARRASHA

Wayne & Marion Potter AUTUMN HEIGHTS

Paul Ridley-Smith BELLISH BOY, BRUTIFUL LASS, WITH GRACE

Fiona Ritchie PASSION 'N' PRIDE

John Roach (Estate of) WAR PRINCESS

Paul Robinson MERCY

Charlie Rose JAMAICA FAREWELL

Murray Rutledge WHISKEY N' RYE

Lyn Salvidge HORRIE

Berri Schroder BREADWINNER

Brent Schumacher ROC ALL NIGHT

Lucy Scoular POETIC JUSTICE

Dean Shuker ROSE AYE REIGN

Wayne Slee QUEEN OF NAPLES

Dale Smith BELLISH BOY

Noel & Suzanne Stanley MALACHY

Ron Stanley MALACHY

John & Helen Steffert ROB'S MISTAKE

Sharon Stevens GASGAL, RYDERS LEGACY

Aaron Tapper ETERNAL LIGHT

Brent & Cherry Taylor ASTORIA BROOKE

Te Akau Stud ALTARI, ASTURIA, BALANCE OF POER, CENTURIAL, HAKKINEN, KING'S ENGLISH, PETITE ROCHER, QALI AL FARRASHA, QUEEN OF NAPLES SWORD OF STARS, SYSTEM OF PLAY, TOWERING VISION, ZANARDI

Marilyn Te Paa BRUTIFUL LASS

Peter & Leslie Telfer BREAKER BAY

Brent Tupaea SPELLBOUND

Janice Volz HORRIE

John Walsh CAPE HORN, MYSTIC PARK, PALACE PRINCESS

Geoff Ward POUNCE

Leith Weitzel BEAVER FEVER

Windsor Park Stud CITALA, EXPLODE, PARTY TIME, VANTAGE TIME

Peter Woods LARIUS LACUS

FEDERATION CONTACTS

Website: www.racehorseowner.co.nz

Telephone: 021 254 8683 **President: Sally Blyth**

Email: admin@racehorseowner.co.nz **Executive Officer: Denise Mayhew**

While every care is taken in the compilation of this publication, neither NZTOF nor any of its agents will be held liable for any errors or omissions contained herein or their consequences either in original material or in any material (including advertisements) supplied.