

NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACEHORSE OWNERS FEDERATION

OWNERS' BULLETIN



SPRING 2022



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Presidents Annual Report, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racehorse Owners Federation 2022.



I am not one to be lost for words but found drafting this report exceedingly difficult! So much has been promised in the last year but nothing comes out and hits me to say, we are moving in the right direction! Stakes have increased slightly but so have costs and inflation. The TAB held its own and the racing codes simply just limped along. The strategies in place have yet to yield the fruits promised and we have an anxious period to see if our industry can sustain the number of listed and group races in the future.

Each year we have our stars in racing, but we also had good thoroughbreds go amiss with early retirement and others deciding that the grass is greener across the ditch. Owners always bear the brunt, but we are hardy souls and keep coming back for punishment. That is what makes the industry so proud and interesting when you see the battlers come to the top and see the joy and smiles of our industry participants who helped in the journey of success. To all our members who tasted success, I congratulate you and may there be more to come.

As your President and nominated member on the New Zealand Thoroughbred Members Council, I have been highly active in advocating on your behalf on too many topics and subjects to list but have found the last year challenging to say the least. Some people may say I am too outspoken, but the 'black hat' fits and I am not known to sit on the fence or lay down when it comes to ensuring accountability within our industry.

I have always maintained that our stakes will only increase when the TAB partners with a recognised offshore betting agency. Likewise, we need to stop foreign betters taking our winnings without clipping the ticket. All these matters have been canvased before but the urgency to act is **now** as time is running out the longer we do nothing. We have a new Minister of Racing in Kieran McAnulty who has skin in the game and we all must support him to take his Racing Minister portfolio seriously, as owners cannot continue to sustain on average a 18% return on their investment, if anything at all for most.

It's pleasing to learn, and communicate to you, that the TAB and Racing Codes are working more closely and better together. The days of 'them and us' have gone and may that continue as we are all in the same game and business and only want the best for all involved. Our industry has copped it all in the last two and a half years with COVID, but we have managed

and survived, and our industry leaders need to be thanked and congratulated in this respect. They have traversed a number of difficult encounters but remained resolute to the cause.

Your Board at NZTROF is working well as a team and each have different skills to offer and one thing that is evident is that they have their heart in the game. There will always be challenging decisions to be made and not all of us will agree on most decisions, but we must move on for the betterment of the industry. Your Board is committed, and their 'Statement of Intent and Business Plan' will be closely scrutinised over the next year to measure as to whether they have got it right and we see progress.

For our Owners' Federation we need to gain full membership of the Code and increase our presence as advocate for all registered owners and not just the owners who join our Federation. Our Federation will have a strong voice when all are members, and this is my objective to achieve in 2023. Further to that members please support your designated local Association and become involved in any activities that they may organise.

Our strong financial performance for the year, despite COVID challenges and a disrupted racing calendar, was built on doing the basics well – sustaining income and tightly controlling operating costs. I would like to thank the executive who worked hard to ensure we could deliver this result, and our members who have stuck with us for your commitment to the Federation.

A special thank you to Sally Blyth and her team who worked hard on updating our Website and Neil Miller as Editor in producing a *Bulletin* that is the last of its kind published within the Thoroughbred Industry.

To our Secretary Jim Keyte who is standing down after 15 years' service, I pass on my sincere gratitude and thanks to you. You would have witnessed change in your time whether good or bad within the industry. May you and Barbara sit back and enjoy your retirement and I know there are others who would like to extend their 'thanks and appreciation' to you both.

Happy Racing and it is a pleasure to offer this as my fourth annual report.

Signed,
Bernard Hickey (President) 



Jim and Barbara Keyte being presented by President Bernard Hickey at NZTROF's 2022 AGM

RETIRING NZTROF (NATIONAL) SECRETARY JIM KEYTE 2009-2022

When the Federation employed the services of Jim Keyte as secretary, we got a bargain. Not only the valuable skill base that Jim brought with him but Barbara, his wife, also stood up and assisted in the stabilizing and growth of the Federation into what it has become.

Initially, a meeting in Cambridge left all scratching their heads, "wondering just what have we here." But it soon settled down. The divisions that were apparent healed as the Federation adopted the national database, a key step forward.

This roll of members, administered by the secretary, collected subscriptions and forwarded capitation fees back to the regional Associations.

That key also allowed for a funding model from NZTROF, and subscriptions to develop strong bonds within the industry. The invitation to return to a Board, at what was then the Racing Conference, further endorsed the maturity within the Federation.

When John Morrissey, the then Canterbury representative, promoted the development of the magazine concept it was a valued and trusted correspondence to subscribing members and other industry participants.

Having Jim, and Barbara toiling away, offering a strong, and diligent professional service, to not only members but other industry groups, has given credibility to the Federation and members alike.

The interest in horses is long standing, with Jim and Barbara involved in the Waikato Hunt and the A & P Associations judging panels.

That Claudelands facility was also the benefactor as he worked there for a number of years.

Certainly, from my perspective I always appreciated the wise counsel, diligent attention to detail, and the professional way that Jim and Barbara have carried out their duties for the Federation, always in excess of what many organisations would expect.

Neil Oldfield – Past President NZTROF 

EDITORIAL

Neil Miller

**Life is a passing thing.
The seasons pass and so do all
living things.**

The previous issue was Winter and we set out to show what lies ahead for the racing game, as far as we know. You could say there wasn't much love in it. Some reports are like that aren't they?

With love comes regret of the passings and that is why the front page is the colours of the most significant Owner there has ever been in Racing – Queen Elizabeth the Second.

There follows in later pages extracts from British racing publications lamenting her death, as well as a "write up" by Sally Blyth.

Sally is Vice President of our Federation. She also is a Tour Leader and a published travel writer. She is just back from a European tour and Page 8 sees a story she wrote on the Piazza in Siena, Italy where mad races are held on ancient cobbles.

Then below that is a small advert for a summer week of racing and good living in the Chatham Islands. Pre Covid, we had a fantastic time in Noumea where Sally looked after the details. You will have to be quick if you want to join us in the Chatham's as numbers are limited.

Horses pass on too soon and those people that love them feel it keenly. But you are a lucky living thing to be born a racehorse and have an interesting life albeit to us a short one.

I was alerted to an equine obituary on Facebook where the ever fizzing Kieran Murdoch honoured her Burglar? Go and see, it's lovely!

I wrote a story on a horse rehab place that was meant to go in the last issue but we ran out of space. Here is a youngish couple of goers providing an excellent service in restoring health to horses.

Finally, some scary statistics the winning potential of racehorses. I think the experience outweighs the return sought.

Ain't nothing like the winning feeling when your nedly salutes the judge.

I've had my share of luck and could tell you stories till your eyes glaze over.

Contact me -
neilandjeanette@yahoo.com

INTRODUCING DENISE MAYHEW NZTROF'S NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

As we farewell our long-serving Secretary/Treasurer Jim Keyte, we are pleased to welcome Denise Mayhew, our new person in this role, which has been renamed "Executive Officer" – a more modern and relevant title.

Denise has extensive experience in administration and accounts across many industries as well as a raft of experience working in membership organisations, including the Auckland Bridge Club. She's a systems and processes person, with an eye for detail and focus on efficiency.

In a voluntary capacity, Denise has been involved in many committees over a long period of time (kindergarten, school, community) and has organised plenty of successful social and fundraising events.

After many years living in Remuera and Ellerslie, Denise now lives in Buckland, Pukekohe, having recently moved into the area to be closer to family. Although not an owner herself, Denise's late parents were avid racegoers and she is no stranger to the racing world. She has fond memories of meeting her parents in the Members' stand at Ellerslie for big race meetings over many years. She now lives five minutes from Pukekohe Park.

This remains a part-time role, working from home, into which Denise will be gently nurtured from early November. She is looking forward to having contact with members, Regional Associations and industry stakeholders, as well as learning more about this thrilling and complex world of racing that we all have such a passion for.

Welcome Denise, it's great to have you climb into the saddle and take over the reins from Jim as the industry continues to navigate these times of change.

**Feel free to contact Denise -
Phone: 021 254 8683 Email: admin@racehorseowner.co.nz**

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OUR COVER
COLOURS OF
THE LATE QUEEN
ELIZABETH II

WINNERS GALLERY

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

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

**All images courtesy of Race Images:
<https://www.racehorseowner.co.nz/winners-gallery/> and <https://raceimages.co.nz/>**



NZTROF HAS NEW CONTACTS
DETAILS ON BACK PAGE | PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

REGIONAL ROUNDUP

AUCKLAND & NORTHLAND

Mike Gething

Managing tracks has been put at the top of the list of priorities by NZTR but there seem to be so many problems to solve.

The problems seem to exist at club level. Let us hope they have the skills to sort things. Bad tracks stress horses and cancellations are a cost Owners' bear.

What a relief it will be when the new Strathayr track at Ellerslie opens for use. The recent Cox Plate Saturday at Moonee Valley, on a long-standing Strathayr track demonstrated that clearly.

The card the night before was shortened due to very heavy rain yet next day a full card plus the Group 1 Manikato Stakes took place.

On that note Paul Wilcox, CEO of Auckland Thoroughbred Racing, gave a very interesting presentation at our very well attended AGM recently. At this stage all is going to plan at Ellerslie and the expectation is that their first meeting on the new track will be the Karaka Millions meeting in January 2024.

A number of owners, for whom he had ridden horses, contacted me after the sad death of Taiki Yanagida seeking some form of memorial at Ellerslie. Your committee agreed to this suggestion. After discussions with Auckland Thoroughbred Racing and Taiki's family, through Ted McLachlan Taiki's manager, we have planted a rose of his family's choosing adjacent to the front parade ring. A memorial plaque will be added soon.

The Auckland Owner's Association social will be held at Pukekohe Park on Saturday 18th February 2023. Invitations and details will be emailed out shortly. It is Avondale Guineas and Avondale Cup Day so there will be high demand for space. I advise you to book early.

Best wishes to all. Mike

Auckland members Bruce Amies and Lyn Salvidge raced the successful Bullbars mare Contessa Vanessa, now an 8YO. "Nessy" won five races from 43 starts and had plenty of placings. She now has a 4-week-old filly by Savabeel - called "Wee Nessy" - who Bruce and Lyn recently went to meet at Rich Hill Stud. Nessy has been served by Satono Aladdin. Let's hope there are some more wins in store for Bruce and Lyn with the progeny of their beloved mare who ran her final race in January 2020.



Paul Wilcox and Mike Gething plant a rose for Taiki



Lyn getting to know Wee Nessy

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Monique Brocx

The Waikato / Bay of Plenty had a well-attended (17 people, 9 non committee), and lively AGM on Thursday 15th September 2022.

The guest speaker, Brian de Lore, presented a constructive discussion. The chairperson, Karen Remetis resigned, as she had foreshadowed at the last AGM in 2021. We have 5 new committee members, which include some who are well experienced in the thoroughbred horse industry.

Monique Brocx, a shareholder in two horses, is the new chairperson, and was voted in unopposed.

John Stafford commented on the Messara report, and how he thinks it is not the current legislation. A lively debate began between Brian and John. Points made include Brian challenging John on some of his comments. John was particularly cross about how tracks have been closed here in NZ and how NZTR has handled these closures. Track closures were not recommended in Messara report according to John, and there was some agreement that while synthetics tracks are good for training, they are not so good for racing on.

Brian gave a great presentation on where thoroughbred racing has come from. That is from very "hands on" in the past, to today run by professional directors, most of whom have no understanding or skin in the horse industry.

Brian spoke about the books he has written and the one he is writing now. This latest book is about the stories of 25 major players in the industry. These people all had skin in the game. Brian spoke about how having a Minister of Racing first in 1991, has meant the Government is now involved in the industry.

Winston Peters, even though he had strong interest in the industry has disappointed by bringing in a Government who are too involved now. Government owns us now he thought. There is a gravy train of administrators, all overpaid, the TAB not working properly, poor leadership and the various Boards are not talking to each other.

Brian said, "We need to encourage young people to enter the industry and also bring the industry to young people at school."

Owners, breeder, trainers need to front up and engage young people more.

IMPORTANT CHANGES AT NZTROF

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER Our new Executive Officer is Denise Mayhew who has taken over from Jim Keyte to oversee the administration of the Federation. **Welcome Denise!** [See page 3]

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE FEDERATION - PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

Executive Officer Phone Denise on 021 254 8683 **Email** admin@racehorseowner.co.nz

The website remains the same www.racehorseowner.co.nz

Please note: The old email, phone numbers and postal address are now redundant.



HAWKES BAY

Tony Lyndon

Twenty six year old Hastings born hurdle jockey Shaun Fannin added the Grand National to his list of credits and has now won every top steeple chase in New Zealand.

Hasting's trainers Paul Nelson and Corrina McDougal finished the jumping season with 26 jumping wins. Their success was led by the unbeaten in NZ champion jumper The Cossack.

The Lowry/Cullen partnership have decided to go their separate ways, after 13 years and training 235 winners including 3 Group 1 victories.

Carnaby part owned by 4 Hastings owners Tony Lyndon, Peter Johnstone, Greg Horton and Peter Unverricht, followed a string of placings by winning the \$30,000 Open Steeplechase at Te Rapa.

Local trainer John Bary added another Group race to his list when Best Seller won the Gold Trail Stakes at Hastings. There are 7 Group races held at Hastings and John has won them all.

Jimmy Choux 3 wins, Survived 1, Miss Selby 1, Miss Wilson 1, and Call Sign Mav 3 wins.

Call Sign Mav recently added the \$1 million dollar Sir Rupert Clarke Stakes in Melbourne to his list. He is now trained by Danny O'Brien, but John still has a 10% share in him.



Best Seller home and happy at Hawkes Bay

Photo: www.raceimages.co.nz

OBITUARY

John Scoular an owner and breeder for more than 40 years passed away recently at the age of 92. John and his wife Lucy bred the 1984 Derby winner Jolly Jake by Okawa Stud stallion Three Legs out of their Sucaryl mare Honey Pot. The Scoular's sold Jolly Jake as a yearling to Singapore based Ivan Allen. 🍷

WANGANUI & TARANAKI

Brian O'Dea

It would be difficult to find a more enthusiastic racehorse owner than John Lynskey of Taranaki.

To give you some of John and Carole Lynskey's background, like a number of other successful Taranaki dairy farmers, they got their start on the Dan Myers (of racing fame) farm at Matapu. This allowed them within a few years to buy a dairy farm at Oeo on the Hawera - Opunake Coastal Highway. (Oeo is famous for the Oeo Hotel)

With luck, price wise in timing of cow purchases, they were able to establish a good-sized herd and farm very quickly.

While socializing with John Wheeler in 2005, and overindulging one Sunday, John discovered on the Monday morning he had bought his first racehorse - and a goody - going on to win \$400,000 with seven wins.

Good fortune meant the horse was to become Tobouggie Nights. Carole wasn't that happy initially but enjoys the sport now and has become a keen follower/owner.

Tobouggie Nights was a top jumper winning only one hurdle race but over the big fences won the Koral Steeples and Pakuranga Hunt Cup. In those days Trainer John Wheeler would successfully raid the Adelaide jumping races at Oakbank. Tobouggie Nights enjoyed great success there in 2012 winning the Easter double, these being the Van Dousa and Great Eastern Steeplechases. He returned the following year to run second in the Great Eastern.

On retirement Tobouggie Nights became the Clerk of the Course's horse for Taranaki meetings. The photo having pride of place in their office is of him as the Clerk's horse alongside Beaudz Well, who had just won his first race. Beaudz Well, bred by John and Carole out of a mare owned by John Wheeler and trained by Wheels, was just pipped into second place in last year's New Zealand Cup and they are hoping as at late October to go one better this year.

Involved in Beaudz Well ownership are John and Carole with 50% and partners Beaudy Barrett, James Marshall, the Crusaders Back Coach, Marty Banks of the Highlanders, the D4 Bar in Wellington and Jared Hamer from Perth.

Other successful horses owned, or part owned include Malo Bik, winner of four in their ownership, Racquetor whose three wins included the Baggy Hillis Memorial Steeplechase at Te Rapa in 2014 (one of the craziest horse races you will ever have seen), Gold Cape (seven wins) and also Doiknowyou trained by Ben Ropiha, who in addition to five wins was just beaten in the Canterbury Jockey Club's Winter Cup.

One of the things that needs emphasizing is the pleasure this family gets supporting their horses. This was very evident over the last year with their present star Puntura whom they bred. After four wins in NZ, he was transferred to Brisbane for three wins and two seconds and an also ran. Carole and John crossed to Australia five times to see his last five races. He is now back in the New Plymouth stable of Robbie Patterson.

Their adventure into breeding has also had success. John was gifted Mumzahoney by Selwyn Tisch. The first two foals were average. After consulting with Selwyn, it was decided Vespa would be a good cross and Puntura is a result of the first mating to that sire. There are more Vespas in the pipeline including Puntura's full sister, Margherita Veloce recently placed in Taranaki.

John has Irish Ancestry on the Paternal side and Italian on the Maternal side, and the family is from Maolla a village in Ireland. Irish look for signs. Good decisions by John based on intuitive feeling have also led to success such as selecting the stallion Vespa as when John first met Carole, she was riding a Vespa motor scooter.

Not only are Carole and John deeply involved in breeding and ownership, but it was great to see their son Simon and daughter in law Lisa with the three grandchildren at the recent Hawera races. The kids enjoy trips to the farm and stables to see the horses. The children take "ownership" of horses and love to follow "their horse." They will be of the future of racing.

The family has had disappointments but oh so many highlights and have now hitched their wagon to the progeny of Vespa and Zed. They have six Zeds, four they have bred and two purchased from Grangewilliam Stud.

To quote John "it's a great sport and I love to have young horses to feed and to care for".

They both like a nice wine and have quite an extensive wine cellar in their home, ready to toast any further successes. 🍷

MANAWATU/ WELLINGTON

Allan Fenwick

Member Don Frampton and his fellow partners would have had the experience most owners only dream about when their pride and joy Smokin' Romans lined up in this year's Melbourne Cup. A win at Moonee Valley in September was followed with success in the Turnbull Stakes. Next up run was a creditable 7th in the Caulfield Cup.

Another brave run by the White Robe Lodge bred 6 year old saw him end up 7th in "the Cup". As a winner of more than A\$1.5m in stakes he has certainly provided his owners with many thrills.

Mark Fearon was thrilled to bring up win number 300 as an owner when Bradman won at Hawera on 8 October. The Pins gelding is trained by Roydon Bergerson and coincidentally it was Roydon's dad, the late Herb Bergerson, who trained Mark's first winner. There would be very few people who enjoy racing horses and going racing more than Mark & Faye Fearon. Hence the reason that they participate in so many partnerships.

Beven & Christine Parlato's owned & bred Per Incanto gelding Marotiri Marsta broke through maidens recently after good lead up form. Buddy Lammas trains him.

Feilding's Ian Scott shares in the ownership of Victorem who followed on from winning at Otaki with a solid 3rd in the Group 3 Grangewilliam Stud Taranaki Breeders Stakes. Vesmart was also a winner at Otaki for Wairarapa owners & breeders Andy & Carol Fisher. The Vespa gelding is trained by Ilone Kelly.

Here Comes Trouble finally cleared maidens recently for Graeme & Lesley Martin after recording 12 minor placings. Graeme bred the Darci Brahma mare which is now trained by David Jensen at Foxton.

Grand Prospect raced by a partnership including David Marner also has taken time to win a race but did so at Otaki in mid September. The half brother to champion Verry Elleegant, had been placed 15 times before breaking through.

Member Jill Dixon was quick off the mark as an owner with her very first horse when Town Cryer won at Trentham at its first start after she acquired her share. Well done Jill, some birthday present. Also in the Syndicate are members Bob Wiltshire & Mark Fearon.

Congratulations to the Woodville - Pahiatua Racing Club for taking up the challenge to host the last Jumps meeting for the 2022 season. It has been years since a jumping race was held at Woodville, so a lot of effort was needed to arrange for fences to be available. The day went off without a hitch so well done to the Club. Hopefully, they will be allocated similar Jumps days in the future.

Shaun Fannin was the star of the show on Jumps Day winning the Open Steeplechase on Interlectus as well as finishing second or third in the other 4 jumping events. For good measure he also won the only other flat race on the programme, other than those races restricted to amateur riders. Shaun who has recently started training, with a team of 10 or so in work at Awapuni, recorded his first winner in that capacity when Jesko won at Waverley in early October.

The owners of Interlectus, Douglas Duncan, Margot Lupton, Don Newman & Kevin Myers have had to be patient with him. He won his first jumping start in August, 2020 and was then put aside to recover from injury. His next start was nearly 2 years later when he reappeared at the Grand National meeting in August, 2022. The win at Woodville after a number of placings was a just reward for all concerned.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's AGM will be held at Awapuni on Wednesday 30 November, 2022 commencing at 5.30pm.

The guest speaker will be Mr Darin Balcombe, Chief Operating Officer, NZ Thoroughbred Racing.

The CD Breeders Association will also hold their AGM in conjunction with our AGM

RACE RACING AWARDS

The NZ Bloodstock 2022 RACE Awards were held at Awapuni on 27 October. Due to Covid this was the first formal awards function since 2019 although a less formal event was held in 2020 to recognise outstanding efforts in the abbreviated 2019/20 racing season.

Horse Of The Year was Wolverine who also took out the 2 & 3yo section. As the winner of her first 3 starts including the Group 2 Wakefield Stakes and Eclipse Stakes and then runner up in the Karaka Millions and the Group 1 Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires Produce Stakes, she was a very worthy winner. The Tivaci filly was trained by Royden Bergerson and included in the ownership

syndicate are local members Fay & Mark Fearon and Bob Wiltshire. The filly is now based in New South Wales.

Owner of the Year was Pee Gee & WJ Bloodstock (Association member Peter Gillespie & Bill Gleeson) whose best winner was House of Cartier, who took out the Group 3 Marton Metric Mile and the listed Feilding Cup and had 2 other black type placings.

Association member Len Haydock received the Outstanding Contribution to Racing Award. Len has raced many horses over the years and enjoyed success last season with both Super Spirit and Super Flash. He has also been a long-time sponsor of local racing through their ITM family business

The Association was pleased to be able to sponsor 1 of the Apprentice Prizes.

A full list of winners is as follows -

Leading Apprentice 2020/2021 season - Hazel Schofer

Head Pupil Apprentice School 2020/2021 season - Ashvin Mudhoo

Leading Apprentice 2021/2022 season - Ashvin Mudhoo

Head Pupil Apprentice School 2021/2022 season - Faye Lazet

Jockey of the Year - Chris Dell

Trainer of the Year - Lisa Latta

Owner of the Year - Pee Gee & WJ Bloodstock

2 & 3 year old - Wolverine

Jumper of the Year - Te Kahu

Broodmare of the Year - Centree, dam of Sierra Sue

Horse of the Year - Wolverine

Outstanding Contribution to Racing - Len Haydock

Also, during the evening there was a special presentation to Lisa Latta on her milestone of 1,000 winners and to recently retired senior jockey Robert Hannam.

MAJESTIC HORSE FLOATS 2022/2023 POINTS SERIES TABLE TO 31 OCTOBER, 2022

Deerfield is setting the pace, just like in his races, after the first 3 months of the season followed by Yolo with a congested chasing pack in pursuit

First.....	Deerfield nominated by Judith Bambry.....	24 points
Second	Yolo nominated by Sam & Philippa Trotter.....	18 points
Third =	Carnaby nominated by Cam Arnott.....	11 points
	Maryweka nominated by John Macmillan and Les & Janine Wallace	11 points
	Victorem nominated by Iain Scott	11 points
Sixth.....	White Noise nominated by Logan & Matthew Fenwick and Tim Gillespie	10.5 points
Seventh =	Dancarina nominated by Rosy Pratt & Kamada Racing.....	10 points
	Grand Prospect nominated by David Marner.....	10 points

REMINDER

It is not too late to enter your horse/s in this season's Points Series but remember that points only accrue from the date of receipt of your entry. **Entry is free.**

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND *Peter Faulkner*

Hello from the Mainland. Spring racing is well and truly here, and cup week is only just around the corner. ‘

Always an exciting week in the South Island, but it is National week I'd first like to talk about and one runner in particular. West Coast, winner of the Koral and then the Grand National steeplechase. The 7yo gelding by Mettre En Jeu is owned by Mr Ron Williamson and his wife Jennifer of Birchwood Station, Omarama. His son Henry and wife Gabby are also in the ownership. Bought off the Aurets at Whanganui after two starts as a late 4yo, they gave him to Mark Oulaghan who they have had several horses with over the years.

According to Ron the 'writing was on the wall' that he was going to be a jumper. His first start for Mark, a maiden 2200m contained future accomplished jumpers like Tittletattle, Raucous and Nedwin.

He had three placings on the flat, before entering the jumping game in August last year. Two seconds over the hurdles straight away, then another second over the steeple before being turned out. Fast forward to this jumping season, one flat run and yet another second over the hurdles in May, then a maiden win over the steeple at Hawkes Bay in June. Next a third in the open Hawkes Bay steeplechase, before tackling National week at Riccarton.

It was a shame jumping numbers were light at the Carnival, but you still have to turn up, get around safely and do the business. The Koral was the first assignment on the opening day. Nedwin led early under Shaun Fannin, before taking the trail, then at the 400m he went for home and powered away to win by seven lengths.

A week later, The Grand National Steeplechase, and he was a \$1.50 favorite. He set the pace, kicked clear at the 900m and was an easy steer for Shaun again, as they were dominant in the end by ten lengths.

I'm sure there's more in store for West Coast in the future, being lightly raced and young as far as jumpers go! Ron had had a lifetime in racing, his father had horses with Phil Andrews at Washdyke who he rode work for before becoming an amateur jockey.

He has often sponsored jumping races at Otago in an effort to keep jumping racing alive in the South.

He has a 4yo Jakkalberry in work with Mark looking to be a jumper in the future and also a horse at Parsons at Balcairn.

Another horse who is going places is Astrakhan, a 4yo mare by Sweynesse. Trained at South Islands hq by strike rate trainer Terri Rae for owner's RM Marlow of Renwick and PD and Mrs PM McBreen of Alexandra. She has scored a double recently.

Firstly at start four after a fourth and two seconds. She picked up her maiden win on the all-weather at Riccarton over 1200m. A filly and mares race with a Pearl bonus.

She led with Terry Moseley aboard, was taken on but kicked entering the home straight and was waaaaay to good to the line.

Four starts later, same course but on the grass. This time, Lisa Allpress was piloting her in R65 1600. They jumped from the widest gate and improved to lead by the 900m mark, went clear at the 400m and no one got a look in, winning by two lengths.

Nice to have a horse that has won \$40k from eight starts and only once further back than fourth.

Trainer Danny Crozier and partner Rachel Deegan from Christchurch, have a nice 5yo mare by Atlante called Dushku. It was start eleven, having only one start where she finished further back than fifth,

it was time for her to shine and clear maidens ranks. A 1400m race at Riccarton under Corey Campbell, they relaxed four back on the rail, before improving wider on the corner, hooked out at the 300m and drove the best to the line to enter the R65 ranks.

I'm sure now she is there, she will be more than competitive, as she is very considerate, and probably will get over more ground. 🐾

MELBOURNE CUP DAY @ PUKEKOHE PARK

By Sally Blyth

It had been more than a year since I last went to a race meeting so it was with great anticipation that I attended Melbourne Cup Day races at Pukekohe Park. Last year I watched the Cup at home, ecstatic as James McDonald won on Verry Elleegant. I backed her! I was at Ellerslie in 2020 to watch Twilight Payment win. I backed him! What would today bring. I was sure a great day lay ahead – and was hoping for a hatrick. However, this year's field was wide open with numerous roughies in with a show – picking the winner would not be an easy task.

I attended with fellow Auckland Owners' Association Committee member and ATR member Virginia Healey. We found a table with a view in the Fulton Lounge, reserved for club members, and were joined by several other keen racegoers – and also new Federation Secretary Denise Mayhew.

There was a healthy turnout on course but it wasn't too crowded. The atmosphere was relaxed and happy. The track looked a picture.

There were plenty of tote operators, but no queues due in part to people betting on the TAB app on their phones. Free wifi was available..

I was surprised at how rusty I was when it came to watching a live horserace after so long away from the track. As Race One got under way, I got myself in a right tangle trying to watch, listen, refer to racebook, pick out my horses, observe the goings on and yell and cheer all at the same time.

I redeemed myself with the running of Race Two – you should have heard the cheering as my horse romped down the outside to get up by a nose, all the more exciting because it was paying \$91 for the win! "Sea the Light" was jockey Warren Kennedy's first winning ride in NZ, having recently arrived from South Africa. He later picked up another win in Race Four for the Lindsays.

When the Melbourne Cup field jumped, it was all eyes on the screens. It was a torrid race and when Gold Trip took it out for 2022, my hatrick hope became a reality! After years of failure at picking the MC winner, I seem to have cracked the code!

ATR put on a grand day at Pukekohe and we had a ball. Several Federation members had winners on the day – congratulations to all!

There's nothing quite like being in the stands as a field of racehorses thunders down the straight under blue skies. I was so pleased to be immersed in all the live action of the day – a potent and memorable experience that had been missing from my world for too long. 🐾



Siena

HOME OF THE PALIO HORSERACE

Sally Blyth

I WAS RECENTLY IN TUSCANY AND SPENT A DAY IN THE MAGNIFICENT MEDIEVAL CITY OF SIENA. ONCE A MAJOR BANKING CITY IT SHOWCASES THE ARCHITECTURE AND AMBIENCE THAT BRING DREAMS OF ITALY TO LIFE.

Famous for the hectic Palio horserace, the Piazza del Campo has an impressive tower and a life of its own. Seeing the attractive Duomo (Cathedral) with the sun glinting on its façade is magical and the general hustle and bustle of the place provides great dining and people-watching opportunities.

The Palio is Siena's most important event and takes place on 2nd July and 16th August every year. Quite how they get around that sharp and dastardly corner of the square defies belief.

Ten of the 17 "Contrade" (areas of Siena) participate in the race – seven by right and three drawn by ballot. Each Contrada has its own emblem and colours, and the streets of the city are awash with flags in all shades of the rainbow. It's a showy nod to the fierce loyalty that locals have for the area in which they were born and continue to support throughout their lives. There is Palio passion on display everywhere you look, even when it's not Palio time.

Records show that horse racing in Siena dates back to the 6th Century, giving the Palio event a long and strong history. Rules have evolved, along with traditions and customs, and today it is a spectacle like no other.

As the race date approaches, the Piazza del Campo is prepared for the event, ready for four days of festivities. The first three days are devoted to sorting which of the Contrade will participate and assigning a horse to each of them. Trials take place in the run-up to the event and the official race itself happens on day four. It's notable that each Contrada picks their own jockey but not their horse. Much trust is obviously

placed in the jockey to bring the prize home. I think these Palio jockeys may be made of even stronger mettle than the turf kind.

The day of the official race is a frenetic one; an early Mass for the jockeys is followed by the final trial. The jockeys, who ride without a saddle, aim to avoid tiring their horses out so it's possibly the most sedate gallop around the square of the whole event. I guess they also don't want to end up injured and out of contention for winning glory.

Blessing ceremonies are held mid-afternoon, followed by a huge parade through the city with participants wearing historical costumes. The parade arrives at the Piazza del Campo in the early evening and there is ongoing pageantry until the big moment when the horses enter the square. The jockeys are presented with a whip made of ox sinew, they mount their horses, and the race is ready to get under way.

And they're off...

The starting phase is complex and can take time to be deemed valid. The horses run three laps around the square. There are tricky and dangerous points along the way, with narrow curves and sharp corners. Collisions and falls are common. Animal activists are not amused, and it's not hard to understand why, given the

bedlam of the race amongst a fever-pitched crowd.

Interestingly, the winner is the first horse across the finish line, it doesn't matter whether the jockey is still on board or not!

The prize is the "Drappellone" (large drape) – a painted canvas that is designed and created by a different artist each year. This gets presented to the victorious Contrada members and later displayed in their local Contrada Museum.

The Palio race is competitive and the team rivalry enormous. The traditions and ceremonies associated with it are steeped in rich history. The carnage and chaos of the race itself are part and parcel of proceedings. The glory of victory comes with frenzied celebration. Being a spectator of such sheer and passionate madness must be something else.

Whilst I loved my time in Siena, I'm not sure I could cope with the crowds, chaos and potential calamity of seeing the Palio event in real life. I suspect that, even if I did get the chance to be there to watch it, I'd have my eyes covered the whole time – so it's unlikely I'll ever get to see it in person! But I'm sure it will have an enduring future given the passion that the locals have for this unique event. 🐾

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LA LITTLE AVONDALE BIG ON WINNING



Stud chat with Sam

When **Per Incanto** stepped off the float at LA in 2011, even in the cool, darkening Wairarapa autumn evening and despite having just come from a completely different climate on the other side of the world, he was still the good-looking athlete that had stopped Bruce Perry and I in our tracks when we first laid eyes on him a few months earlier, but even in my wildest dreams I couldn't have envisaged him making the impact that he has.

Forward 11 years and I've got on my desk in front of me positive in-foal scans to **Per Incanto** for half-sisters to **Melody Belle**, **Golden Sixty** and **Tofane**. Between them, they won 23 **Group 1** races!

Talk about taking oil to the Arabs but how good have **Lost And Running** and **Roch 'N' Horse** been in Australia this spring, against the best sprinting talent in the world. But for a scratch the size of your little fingernail, I'm convinced **Lost And Running** would have been fighting

out the finish of the Everest.

It's staggering the investment that goes into getting a horse ready for a race like the Everest, and I know personally how excited the ownership group were. Good things come to good people, so there are many more exciting days ahead with **Lost And Running**.

'Rocky' as **Roch N Horse** is affectionately known has run 2nd at **Group 2** level and won the Darley Champions Sprint Group1 in her three most recent starts. It took Private Eye, who came out at his next start and ran 2nd in Everest, to beat her in the Gilgai, while Bella Nippotina who defeated Rocky when she resumed, won the **Group 1** Manikato.

It was Rocky's turn in the famous Darley **Group 1** though, where she beat the worlds best sprinters, including Nature Strip and Giga Kick, that I was lucky enough to witness in person.

Quite simply one of the best days of my life.

Per Incanto's counting house is the sales ring and he was in his element at last month's Inglis Ready to Race Sale in Sydney. His eight yearlings to sell, who were conceived off a \$17,500 service fee, averaged \$186K which

placed him 2nd on the sale averages.

There are nine **Per Incanto** 2YO's catalogued for the NZB RTR Sale.

Warmer weather and better tracks here have seen more of **Time Test's** progeny step out. It's satisfying to see some of the breeders who invested passionately in the stallion starting to get results. **Maryweka**, who was bred by Les and Janine Wallace, won nicely after running 2nd on debut, while **Time Test's** 1st runner in Hong Kong, the Kevin and Jo Hickman bred **Golden Island**, bolted away on debut to score by nearly four lengths.

Time Test's 6th individual stakes winner came up in style. The high-priced RTR and tried horse sale graduate **Crypto Force** won the 1600m **Group 2** Beresford Stakes at the Curragh in good style; it's a race that's often a good pointer to the Classics.

All five of **Time Test's** lots at the NZB RTR Sale breezed up under 11 seconds. Given that the stallion's only Hong Kong runner to date is the unbeaten **Golden Island**, interest from Asia will be strong.

All the best for a great season

Sam

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THE QUEEN WAS A RACEHORSE OWNER, BREEDER, AND RACING'S NO 1 FAN!

By Marcus Townsend for *The Mail On Sunday*

After losing their greatest ambassador, the sport of Kings is hopeful the Royal Family will follow in her footsteps. But we all knew that racing was the sport that was truly in the heart of the Queen, someone who loved being immersed in it and a human magnet drawing the sort of interest to it beyond even the wildest global marketing budget.

Ed Chamberlin, who presented ITV's coverage of the rescheduled Doncaster St Leger meeting, which was opened with a 20-minute tribute to the Queen and heavily interspersed with tributes and films of her best-known winners, agrees.

He said: 'She was absolutely the single most important person in our sport. The influence I see from her, as an owner and breeder, at the Royal Ascot meeting and Derby day is there to see but her impact on the sport goes far beyond that. 'You only have to look at the tributes from all around the world to see that and the horse and racing is linked to that. 'Her devotion to the horse and encyclopaedic knowledge shone through. You can't replace her. Only now in the next few years will we start to see the influence which she had for our sport.'

After the formalities and ceremonies have all played out, the question many in racing will be pondering, not without trepidation, is what will be the effect of losing its greatest ambassador. No formal announcements have been made but it is anticipated the royal string and colours will now pass to King Charles III. He has a racing connection and rode in races as an amateur jockey when younger, but his passion for racing falls way short of that of his mother.

Some feel, with justification, that the sport will never be able to replace its greatest benefactor. And while the younger royals, headed by the new Prince and Princess of Wales, enjoy the occasional day at the races, there is no evidence they have inherited the late monarch's passion for the sport.

More encouragingly, Camilla, the Queen Consort, enjoys racing. She and the King have bred, owned and raced a smattering of horses in their colours since 2008, but the feeling is that she is far more interested. This year, that included two fillies in training with Ralph Beckett, including *Pride of The Pack*, who finished third at Doncaster last month.

Horses have also played a massive part in the lives of Princess Anne and her daughter Zara Tindall, both successful three-day eventers on the world stage who are frequent racecourse visitors.

This season, 37 different horses had run in the Queen's colours, winning 20 races. Four of those successes had come in the last fortnight, including victories packed with promise for the future from two-year-olds *Circle of Fire* at Salisbury and *Theme Park* at Kempton.

But whatever scenario develops, there are massive footprints to follow. None can claim to share the same passion and knowledge of the royal string as the late

monarch, who loved her visits to the royal stud in Sandringham, Norfolk, and was also a patron of the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association. Transferring the affection racegoers held for the Queen will be equally hard. That was evident at Royal Ascot in June, when the crowd reception for the royal procession which did not include the Queen, who was confined to watching on from Windsor Castle, was noticeably muted.

There was also tangible disappointment that in the Platinum Jubilee year there was no royal winner at the biggest meeting of the year. In the spring, royal racing manager John Warren had instructed the Queen's Flat trainers — Andrew Balding, Michael Bell, Harry and Roger Charlton, Clive Cox, William Haggas, Richard Hughes, John and Thady Gosden and Sir Michael Stoute — to aim their big guns at the fixture. But the outcome was agonisingly close second places for the *Gosdens' Reach For The Moon*, whose Derby aspirations had been scuppered by injury, and *Saga*.

You have to go back to the 1950s — 1954 and 1957 to be precise — for the last time the Queen was champion owner and last year, even with her 36 successes which were her best tally this century, she only finished in 19th place in the owners' championship. But her participation punched with far greater weight than those numbers indicate

Many of those above her in the owners' table, particularly those from the Far and Middle East, had been drawn to invest in the sport because of the rich heritage her participation continued to propagate. The chance of being invited to take part in the carriage procession at Royal Ascot, be presented with a trophy by the Queen, or be invited up for a cup of tea in the Royal Box to discuss the colt that had just won the Derby were also money-can't-buy moments.

Foreign runners were shipped into the country to run at Royal Ascot from as far afield as Australia, Hong Kong, Japan and the US not because of the prize-money — they could earn far more and have less hassle racing in their own countries — but to seek a little bit of the stardust that the Queen and the royal connection brought to British racing.

After 48 hours of the sport respectfully shutting down to mourn her death, just how much the Queen's loss will hit its profile in the next few years can only be speculated on. But there are plenty running the sport and taking part in it who will be nervously watching how events unfold. 🕒

HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II 1926-2022 – RACING'S GREATEST PATRON

By Sally Blyth

I arrived in the UK on 7th September 2022 as part of a long-awaited, post-lockdown trip to the northern hemisphere. A day later, the Queen died.

By chance, I had caught the very first "breaking news" item on TV, just after 12:30pm, announcing concerns for the Queen's health. And then, just six hours later, came the news of her death, delivered with solemnity and black ties. My friend and I toasted her long and purposeful life with a G&T as we prepared our dinner. We'd already suspected she'd died before the royal entourage made it to Balmoral and were proved correct as the world later learnt that her actual time of death was 3:10pm. Hmm, we should have poured our G&Ts a few hours earlier!!!

And so began days of parades, processions and protocols to mark the end of an era. I can confirm that I did not join any queues for views, but it was poignant to be on the ground, in both Dorset and London, as the aftermath of her death unfolded and "Operation London Bridge" was put into action. My taxi ride from Victoria Station in London took me around the back of Buckingham Palace Gardens (no queues) and weaved me through the side streets of Mayfair (where I used to work in the 1980s) to deliver me to my very lovely hotel in Marylebone (my favourite part of London). But that's another story...

I did sign a condolence book during a visit to the very lovely Dorchester Museum (which is worth a visit if you're ever in the area). I also took a look at nearby Poundbury, which I only mention here because it is an experimental urban community development on Duchy of Cornwall land designed in accordance with the principles of architecture and urban planning as advocated by the then HRH Prince of Wales – now King Charles III – in his book *A Vision of Britain*.

The concept was initially lambasted as weird and sterile, but now, some 30 years later, Poundbury has proved to be a highly successful and influential urban model providing a lifestyle with a mix of modern and traditional housing styles where residents don't need to rely on cars and where the community spirit thrives. There's a rather odd feel to the place but it has more charm than most housing developments in this country and the people apparently love living there. Built with vision and purpose, it seems to have fulfilled its brief very well indeed.

Alas there are no racecourses in Dorset – the nearest ones are Wincanton (Somerset), Salisbury (Wiltshire) or Taunton (Devon), so



I didn't get to the races in the UK. But I digress...

The Queen's love of horseracing and breeding is well known around the world. She was twice Britain's champion Flat owner (1954 and 1957) and she continued to enjoy success as an owner over the following decades. Perhaps her most famous win was in 2013 when Estimate carried her iconic silks to Gold Cup glory at Royal Ascot.

After acceding to the throne at a young age following her father's death, the Queen was determined to continue to race and breed horses, which she had been fascinated with since childhood. She was an accomplished horsewoman herself and was already an avid racing fan.

The Queen always attended the Derby at Epsom and every day of Royal Ascot, until this year when mobility issues made it too difficult. She served as patron of both the Jockey Club and the Thoroughbred Breeders Association and was custodian of the Royal Studs. She consented for her name to adorn some of the world's most prestigious races, among them the Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Randwick, Sydney.

According to the edition of *The Racing Post* published the day after her death, "The first six days marked in her diary each year were Derby Day and the five days of Royal Ascot."

It's heartening to know that her love of racing was so strong that she was not going to let royal duties get in the way of fun at the races. I'm aligned to the Queen's practice as the first day marked in my own diary each year is the first Tuesday of November which has "MC" written in indelible ink!! Even though I may not actually go to Melbourne, I let nothing get in the way of participating, in some shape or form, in the very important meeting that is Melbourne Cup Day!

The Queen was a winning owner for the final time on Tuesday 6th September, the same day she officially appointed Liz Truss to become the 15th Prime Minister

of her reign – Love Affairs won a Goodwood Nursery race. Her very last runner lost by a short head after being caught in the final stride of Epsom's final race on the day she died.

One of the Queen's trainers, John Gosden, said of her, "We are uniquely fortunate that Her Majesty was so involved and fascinated by the thoroughbred racehorse from the day her father took her to meet Sun Chariot at Beckhampton during the war."

Jockey Willie Carson, who rode for the Queen, including winning the Oaks and St Leger on Dunfermline, said, "She was the most famous woman in the world, but for racing, she was our biggest patron and it's a colossal loss."

Hors racing was a huge passion and multi-faceted pastime for the Queen:

As a Breeder: Her level of expertise in breeding thoroughbreds was decreed by royal historians to have exceeded that of all previous monarchs.

As an Owner: She enjoyed great success and won all the British Classics except the Derby (she had runner-up Aureole). Her colours were carried to victory in 36 races, with the £584,399 earned by her horses placing her into the top 20 of leading owners.

As a Racegoer: At the races, she found a freedom of expression far removed from the solemnity of official duty. She loved the informality of days at the races which were a world away from her other world as Queen.

The Queen's best ten horses were: Aureole, Landau, Carrozza, Pall Mall, Highclere, Dunfermline, Height of Fashion, Carlton House, Estimate, Dartmouth.

The Duke of Devonshire, who served as Her Majesty's Representative at Ascot from 1997 to 2011, says, "We have always described racing as the sport of kings and queens – and thanks to the Queen it has been wonderful to know that has been true."

Some quotes from the Queen:

"My philosophy about racing is simple. I enjoy breeding a horse that is faster than other people's. I enjoy going racing but basically I love horses."

The Queen outlines her priorities.

"If you did but know it, that is how a fit racehorse should look!"

The Queen admonishes the Duke of Edinburgh after he said her horses looked too thin on a stables visit.

"For once I don't remember much about the race, owing to the excitement, but I do know that a homebred Guineas winner has given me more pleasure than anything for a long time."

The Queen writes to Joe Mercer after the jockey brought Highclere home a winner of the 1,000 Guineas in 1974.

On 8th September 2022 the world lost a long-serving monarch – but the racing world lost its strongest advocate. RIP QE2 🐾

KING CHARLES II

by Mary Mountier

Now that we have a King Charles III, it is timely to look back on his namesake, whose influence on thoroughbred racing was profound, but is now largely overlooked by historians. In my book *How to Pick a Winner* (now long out of print), I included a chapter called "King Charles II has a lot to answer for". Here is an edited extract from that.



King Charles II is regarded, quite rightly, as the father of racing. His grandfather, James I, had built a royal palace at Newmarket, which he used as a base for hunting and hawking. James's son Charles I had introduced horse racing there, but these were rambling, 20-mile affairs. When Charles II took over the English throne in 1660, he turned Newmarket into a trendy modern racecourse.

Perhaps "modern" is a slight exaggeration. Races were mostly run in four heats of four miles each, with half an hour's rest in between. Charles used to haul his entire court up from London twice a year so he could indulge in his favourite pastime, while keeping the country running on the side. He was a spectator, owner, breeder, rider, patron (today's "sponsor") and adjudicator of the first proper rules, which he also helped formulate.

At first the horses were slow enough for the king and his court to keep up with as they galloped alongside – grandstands hadn't been invented then. Gradually the horses got faster, as Charles and his fellow enthusiasts spent fortunes importing lighter, sleeker, high quality Arab and other Eastern stallions to mate with their existing mares. Thus, the king unwittingly helped found a new breed of horse that eventually became known as the Thoroughbred, and Newmarket became, and has remained, the headquarters of English racing.

And what began as a leisure activity of the nobility filtered down to the rest of the populace. A love of horses, racing and gambling gave people of all classes an interest. And of course, commerce rapidly developed around the sport, as horses were bred, sold and trained, racecourses opened and betting blossomed.

So Old Rowley, as King Charles II was nicknamed (after his favourite riding horse), had not just indulged a passion – he had fathered an industry that spread worldwide and is today worth billions of dollars.

EDITORS NOTE Traditionally considered one of the most popular English kings, Charles is known as the Merry Monarch, a reference to the liveliness and hedonism of his court. He acknowledged at least 12 illegitimate children by various mistresses but left no legitimate children and was succeeded by his brother, James. 🐾

RIP SEAGAR

(FROM ISOLA RACING BLOG)

It's taken a little time to write this post.

An end of an era at Isola came with the passing of Burglar as he was known on the track, or Seagar to his friends.

Seagar was purchased by Moira and Mike Murdoch and Ady and Doug Alderslade from the Karaka yearling sales in 1999.

They had given up standing ring side and took a break to have lunch above the indoor ring when Seags floated in. I say floated because there are not many who move like he did.

With very little time or information on the chestnut colt they bolted downstairs just in time to bid \$8,500 and purchase him more than less sight unseen.

(It was double the price they paid for Solvit 10 years before.)

As tradition, they followed him back to his box to learn more about him and in this case take their first look at him.

As he walked toward them it was clear his conformation reflected his low sale price, he had about the worst set of knees that could possibly be.

But there was no point worrying that when they had already purchased him, and the beach lifestyle was probably just the place those knees needed to be trained on.

He was already a special boy to his breeders, who told us all about him and his first year of life at their property. That included how they had to run outside and miss their favourite TV programme to attend his foaling at home. Their programme was Jo Seagars cooking show, very popular at the time and that is exactly how their new baby became Seagar.

Seagar made the short trip home from Karaka and was broken in here on the farm by Moira, he was the last horse to be broken-in in the indoor riding school of Isola Equestrian Centre.

In fact it was Mum who rode him in work from the beginning to end of his 9 year racing career, he was like riding a Ferrari who used to change leads like a short-shift sports car and you could pretty much 'hear' the 'car' sounds he was making in his head when he worked as he took it so seriously he'd change gear to accelerate, and he was fast.

He was one of those special horses you ride who make you look good because they are so eye catching and beautiful in their movement. Seagar spent his whole life making people stop and stare at him, he was incredibly hard to overlook.

Seagar was the first horse to live in the brand new 7 barn, and he had box 1, closest to the action. Our 7 barn is special to us because it was the first of or unique 9m x 5m covered sawdust yards. Which are lovely for the horses and for us to work with.

Seags was a huge character and used to delay his saddling by asking for scratches at different

parts of his body before you tried to begin, pointing to his side, his chest, his bum or lifting his hind leg like a dog. He never grew out of these tricks either!

When you put his towels and pads up, he'd pull them off from the other side when you turned to get the next item. He would also unsaddle his neighbours the same way.

When it came to his race name Mike knocked it out of the park by suggesting 'Burglar' as he was by Housebuster and because it was such a great name it was used in advertising throughout his career.

He had an exciting beginning to his career winning a few trials, a close 2nd in his first race due to being a green lad and then winning the next three starts

The following spring, he took on all 3 days at the spring carnival at Hastings for a 4th and then back to back wins.

To strap pre-race, he was business at the front and party at the back. His beautiful face would glide along next to you while his bum would have what is called 'Bouncy-Bum Syndrome' out the back doing wee fly bucks without kicking out, just bouncing along behind us.

His career was consistent, honest and a lot of fun, he was somewhere between under-rated, to a just below the top-level galloper who raced in company with far more depth than on offer today.

He travelled all over NZ and had three trips to Australia and raced continuously in group company where he would jump from the barriers like a rocket, thanks to his powerful red bum.

He was always there or thereabouts at the top of the straight and gave 100% in every outing.

He had his fair share of wins and placings, he weighed in 20 times from 29 career starts including 6 wins, 6 seconds, 3 thirds & 2 fourths.

His biggest claim to fame is to this very day he holds the track record for his win at Cranbourne over 1400 metres. A huge achievement considering how many 1400m races are run since he clocked up his slick time in 2002. With a spot of luck, he will continue to hold the record and we can remember him for that achievement for years to come.

As his race career was winding down at the age of 9 there came an overseas sale offer to race on the synthetic track overseas where his race style would be suited. However, Ady, Doug, Moira and Mike felt he didn't owe them a thing and retired him from the track. He stayed home to become one of my first hacks when I went up from ponies.

We spent his teenage years as all teenagers and their horses do, with lots of riding and fun and we Show Jumped. Mum and Dad kindly

took us out for years where he competed up to the height of 1.25 metre for many placings, and the odd win. He was a bit of a 4 fault wonder in the jump-off and arguably always a racehorse first.

He was not hot or difficult to jump but had always taken his racing seriously and he wondered when we would stop playing with silly coloured poles.

In fact, the only time he disgraced himself was when we went to Te Teko Spring Show jumping held at the racecourse and he left the track side jumping arena every time over the two days because he couldn't believe we weren't there to race.

When I was busy with University, he did return to the racing side of things when he'd accompany the babies out of the barriers for their first time. He wasn't very good at it and I suspect he'd say to them, 'There will be learning today young fella' and absolutely gas it out of the barriers with the other rider trying not to get left behind. All the babies would see is a puff of chestnut hair in a cloud of dust and have no idea what just happened.

Seags would also be bloody hard to stop until he'd reached the winning post for his victory and glory. He was well into his teens at this time.

From around 20 years he looked after the yearlings as their sensible older buddy and took part in their breaking process as we have a very unorthodox way of doing our own, he was kind and gentle but kept them in line. His strike rate is 100% excellent! All his babies have gone on to be super riding horses with excellent manners.

In the more recent years Seagar and our other golden oldie Peri, retired together, which was lovely because they had been friends for the best part of 20 years, they enjoyed each other's company and all the pamper special old horses deserve.

He will be remembered for his larger than life personality,

For absolutely having to put everything in his mouth, including being the easiest horse to ever give medication to.

For being the hairiest horse on the property in winter and the most hairless in summer,

And for his carrot and apple eating abilities. He would literally use your hand like a plate and take the whole apple, crunch it, put some back on your hand, eat half, take another bite, put some back, leave you holding apple foam and eventually eat the entire thing but leaving your hand very sloppy and sticky,

In fact I'll miss not having a sloppy sticky hand again, it was an experience

He had a new rug every winter and every summer. He loved a good play in the hose on a hot day.

He never missed a feed and he was loved for everyday of his life

Oh and his knees? they held him up perfectly and without complaint for all his years.

And that is the story of Seagar 1998-2022.

Kieran Murdoch. 🍀



DO HORSES RECOGNISE HUMANS?

Dr Nancy Diehl shares research results that indicate whether horses recognize their people.

Q: DOES MY HORSE RECOGNISE ME FROM OTHER PEOPLE?

A: We all get a sense that our horses recognise us by our appearance or the sound of our voice, and that they can distinguish us from strangers or less familiar people. Certainly we know horses learn associations between a person coming around an expected time and their getting fed, turned out, or exercised. It's difficult from this simple scenario to discriminate between a horse learning by reinforcement and a horse actually recognizing a specific person providing the reinforcement.

One very old study showed that horses depended on facial features as well as clothing to recognise individuals. A number of more recent studies have shown that horses seem to be able to tell when the audio recording of the voice and the sight of familiar handlers match up; that is, compared to when the voice recording is from a different person than the one a horse is shown. This is known as "cross-modal recognition," because the horses were asked to combine multiple sensory cues. By the way, this also seems to be true when researchers asked the question of whether horses recognise and discriminate between familiar horse herd mates. Horses seem to detect when the recorded horse vocalizations played for them and the visual appearance of the horse actually presented match up.

It's also notable that in these studies, the humans or horses used as cues in the tests were kind of paraded past the subject horses and taken behind a barrier out of sight. Then researchers played the audio voice or vocalizations. So the horses were not seeing

and hearing the cues at the same time. Yet they could still seem to discriminate when the audio and visual cues matched up. In humans, it's understood that individual recognition of other people depends on the immediate audio and visual cues but also draws on past experience or knowledge of that individual. So these studies suggest that horses, too, are relying on both immediate cues and some representation in their memory.

A number of studies show that, in some manner, horses respond to what a person is paying attention to. You know, like when I point at something and you are inclined to look where I'm pointing. One study showed that horses obeyed known voice commands similarly from their long time handler and from a new unfamiliar handler as long as both directed their attention toward the horses. Yet these horses always obeyed commands from that long time handler even when that handler was not physically directing his attention to the horses, like when he was facing away from the horse or his eyes were closed. So here, familiarity with the handler seemed to be the best way to assure a horse obeyed a command.

These studies I've briefly summarized all had something interesting in common. The researchers counted the kinds of behaviors that showed the horses were reacting to the audio and visual cues provided—for example the amount of time the horse spent looking in a certain direction. And in all the studies, the horses spent more time reacting to the cues that were most incongruent, such as the mismatched audio and visual presentations of people or the known command given by an unfamiliar person.

Researchers explained this increase was due to "violation of expectations," so they speculated that the horses were trying to figure out why the different cues presented to them were not adding up to what they expected.

I think both our experiences and the science tell us that horses probably best recognise individual people by using all sorts of cues together: voice, physical characteristics, typical postures and movements, and the sequence of things happening the way they've learned to expect them to happen based on simple conditioning and reinforcement.

IT'S A NO BRAINER – OF COURSE THEY DO

Years ago I wanted to drop something off at the stable. It was a Sunday. I met Dave at the door and we chatted awhile in the quietness. That was interrupted by an incessant ding, ding dinging noise from the far side of the stable where the mares were boxed.

Dave said that we better see what is going on.

We followed the noise down across and down the line of boxes and there was the good mare that I owned a share of. She knew me well as I used to visit her when she was boxed at a rehab place after having bone chips removed from a knee. I had given her lots of cuddles.

There was a steel tether ring in her stall that she was bouncing with her nose that was making the loud dinging noise. She spun around to the door so I could give her a scratch in her favourite spot. She had heard my voice from a fair distance and just wanted my attention.

NM

SEND YOUR HORSE TO A HEALTH SPA

Neil Miller

Our horse got transferred to a stable in Cambridge. Somehow a long dead email was given as our contact. We got that sorted, then the overdue accounts rolled in. The last one was from an outfit called Margaret Park. Huh, never heard of them!

Investigation revealed our boy had gone there, after an operation, for some TLC.

I found their website; it was interesting and I resolved to call by and share with you.

It's easy to find via the Waikato Expressway. Jump off at Tamahere and head down Tauwhare Rd past Matangi village, turn left on Tai Patena Place and there you are,

What they say on www.margaretpark.co.nz

Here is 'Where Winning Continues'! We offer a top quality service for Equine Rehabilitation and Conditioning. While the sport is growing and getting more advanced, different training methods across the sport are proven to be successful, but we believe accompanied by the right modern technology, we can help lift your horses performance to the next level. Margaret Park is offering you the benefits of the following – top German equipment, developed for race and sport horses to help with the recovery from injury, surgery or sickness and also with the overall performance conditioning, e.g. fitness.

We work out a tailored training program for each individual horse and treat it like the top athlete that it is, so they can be on top their game. Our facilities have (limited) boxes for live in and long term horses and limited appointments spaces for casual 'walk ins'. Please contact us for our prices. A happy and healthy horse tries hard! So book a spot for your horse or message us for more information!

We cater to all horses, including Thoroughbreds. We are experienced and well set up.

Our services include

- ▶ Freshen up after a spell before returning to track work
- ▶ Freshen up between races
- ▶ Post surgery care
- ▶ General rehabilitation
- ▶ General fitness and conditioning programs
- ▶ Post race care (including after twilight races)
- ▶ 'Spell with benefits', we can have your horse spelling in the paddock and add training sessions to its stay during that time
- ▶ Cross training



The facility was set up by Margaret Thiede and Josh Barker.

Margaret had been around horses from a young age and then had worked in equestrian and racing stables.

Josh came from pony club and later found his groove in show jumping and built a team of horses. Managing the horses wellbeing was part of owning that team.

This morphed into the operation today which is a very well set up complex on a quiet and flat property. The pair have built the complex themselves, the stable blocks came as kits minus the cladding and when each day was done with the horses construction time began.

We walked into a stable block that was very clean and I couldn't smell horse. There are none in here! Oh yes there is! A couple poked their heads out.

Under the stall bedding is a rubberised floor. Each stall has an outside open window so the inmate can see out. And each has an auto watering system that monitors how much the horses drink.

There is a large walker in the courtyard that they bought second hand and the pair assembled that. The footing in the circle is hundreds of rubber tiles and Josh said proudly, "Maggie laid all those."

Clear of the buildings is a big sand yard where horses not well enough to go free can enjoy the outdoors.

We checked out the apparatus. There was a nice looking warmblood cruising along on the "Dynamic Scope Treadmill." A staff member on a stand was managing the pace and incline. Horses are managed up to 36km per hour building fitness with a potential top speed of 60 km per hour (very seldom used) capability.

Around the corner, out of sight are the water – walkers. Fresh (zero chemical) water / salt water.

There was a filly working in knee deep water. That is great for shin soreness. The water levels are set to wherever they will benefit a horses soreness. The object is to target where a horses flexion problem is and fix that.

Then there is the solarium box where beneficial rays bolster the horses wellbeing.

Looking around outside at the surrounding



land. There are small warm paddocks that are hedged and divided with high post and rail and hot-wired fences. The special horse pasture is good and lush with no sign of weeds.

The client base is broad from top trainers in either racing code, to equestrian or even folk with a sport horse that's felt a bit scratchy and needs a tune up. Some of the studs also send a patient that has a problem.

Margaret Park have no need to advertise their services. They have a solid base built from the excellence of what they do. A stream of happy horses that have gone out the gate and returned to their home stable to be able to perform to the top of their ability.

There is a lot more information on www.margaretpark.co.nz than I have here, We just went to the place and were very impressed.

We are not looking forward to any more bills from them, But if they land I will know there was a very good reason for it – and the daily rate will be a bit less than our trainer. 🐾

HORSE STATISTICS - proving it's not easy to own a winning racehorse!

Below are some interesting NZ statistics showing how many horses never win a race (more than 50%) and how many win one or more. The .5 denotes a dead heat.

The table covers unique starters over six seasons from 1/8/2015 to 31/7/2021 showing the number of wins (or not!) per each unique starter.

WINS	UNIQUE HORSES	TOTAL WINS	% OF UNIQUE STARTERS
0	7,347	-	53.05%
0.5	19	10	0.14%
1	3,046	3,046	21.99%
1.5	16	24	0.12%
2	1,396	2,792	10.08%
2.5	11	28	0.08%
3	797	2,391	5.75%
3.5	9	32	0.06%
4	483	1,932	3.49%
4.5	12	54	0.09%
5	301	1,505	2.17%
5.5	5	28	0.04%
6	158	948	1.14%
6.5	2	13	0.01%
7	112	784	0.81%
7.5	2	15	0.01%
8	54	432	0.39%
8.5	2	17	0.01%
9	31	279	0.22%
9.5	2	19	0.01%
10	18	180	0.13%
11	11	121	0.08%
11.5	1	12	0.01%
12	5	60	0.04%
13	3	39	0.02%
14	2	28	0.01%
15	1	15	0.01%
15.5	1	16	0.01%
16	1	16	0.01%
17	2	34	0.01%
Grand Total	13,850	14,867	100.00%

NB: There were 4,473 unique starters in the 2021/22 season.

JAMES MCDONALD'S WINS LAST SEASON

HORSE	RACE	TRACK	DISTANCE	PRIZE MONEY
NATURE STRIP	G1 KING'S STAND STAKES	ASCOT	1006M	GBP £500,000
CASCADIAN	G1 ALL AGED STAKES	RANDWICK	1400M	AUD \$605,000
NATURE STRIP	G1 TJ SMITH STAKES	RANDWICK	1200M	AUD \$2,614,500
ANAMOE	G1 ROSEHILL GUINEAS	ROSEHILL	2000M	AUD \$607,000
VERRY ELLEEGANT	G1 CHIPPING NORTON STAKES	RANDWICK	1600M	AUD \$605,000
HOME AFFAIRS	G1 BLACK CAVIAR LIGHTNING STAKES	FLEMINGTON	1000M	AUD \$1,002,500
COOLANGATTA	MAGIC MILLIONS 2YO CLASSIC	GOLD COAST	1200M	AUD \$2,005,000
NATURE STRIP	G1 VRC SPRINT CLASSIC	FLEMINGTON	1200M	AUD \$2,002,100
ZAAKI	G1 MACKINNON STAKES	FLEMINGTON	2000M	AUD \$2,005,000
VERRY ELLEEGANT	G1 MELBOURNE CUP	FLEMINGTON	3200M	AUD \$7,950,000
HOME AFFAIRS	G1 COOLMORE STUD STAKES	FLEMINGTON	1200M	AUD \$1,502,100
NATURE STRIP	G1 THE EVEREST	RANDWICK	1200M	AUD \$15,549,000
VERRY ELLEEGANT	G1 GEORGE MAIN STAKES	RANDWICK	1600M	AUD \$1,005,000

CHANGES AT NZTROF

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Our new Executive Officer is Denise Mayhew who has taken over from Jim Keyte to oversee the administration of the Federation. Welcome Denise! [See page 3]

NEW CONTACT DETAILS FOR THE FEDERATION - PLEASE UPDATE YOUR RECORDS

Executive Officer
Phone Denise on 021 254 8683
Email admin@racehorseowner.co.nz

The website remains the same
www.racehorseowner.co.nz

Please note: The old email, phone numbers and postal address are now redundant.

THE OWNERS' FEDERATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS MAY 2022 - OCTOBER 2022

AUCKLAND

Bruce & Courtney Clarke Auckland

HAWKES BAY

John Bary Hastings

WAIKATO/BAY OF PLENTY

Roger & Jo Blunt Cambridge

WELLINGTON

Hayden & Jocelyn Mingaye . . . Wellington

CENTRAL SOUTH ISLAND

Kerri & Lance Spence Port Chalmers

EDITORS MESSAGE

Right at the end of this issue I want to record my thanks to retiring NZTROF Secretary Jim Keyte.

I have been relying on Jim for well over a decade to help me keep the *Bulletin* functioning.

Ever reliable and ever amiable has been Jim. If I asked, I got. If he was a horse, I would call him Mr Reliable! (Reliable Man is taken)

Early days we would meet at the Claudlands Showgrounds where Jim was the secretary to the Waikato A&P Association. He has now stepped down from that position as well.

But you can't keep a good man down and Jim has recently taken up the mantle of President of that A&P.

It's a competitive game those shows. I wish him well handing out the ribbons and prizes. And soothing the losers!

Neil Miller

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.

15 JULY 2022 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

R G Allen KAHU ROCK

Archer Equine Investments QUEEN SARABI,
DARK DESTROYER,

G C Arnott CARNABY

Tony & Judith Bamby DEERFIELD

P Bardell MAUNA LOA

Dr W J & Dr H M Bishop JIN LU, FIANO

Mrs C Bolton COOGEE KATE

D J Brook POWERFUL MOSS, ATAAHUA SELFIE

Mrs J O Burrows STREET KID

Mrs R A Carter DUBAI DIVA

J T & Mrs J K Cassin BARI

M A Collinson CARNABY

A B Coombe ROCKING GOOD TIME

M S Dalzell CAPTAIN OUMUAMUA

W B & Mrs L C de Lautour DONARDO

L G Dobbs YOU NEVERKNOW

P G Doughty PINION

J D Druce SOTIRIO, BARZETTI

D McK Duncan FACETIME

Ken Duncan TITTLETATTLE, PHELAN FOXY

D C Ellis CNZM IRISH RED

M & Mrs F L Fearon SOTIRIO, BARZETTI

A R & Mrs S J Fenwick CARNABY

A K & Mrs C A Fisher VESMART

S P & Mrs L M Forsman TURN THE ACE

S J Freeman THE RACKETEER

P G Gillespie KUSUDA

Go Racing Syndicate DEELS DONE, MAKE TIME

A S & Mrs L R Goodall ROBBIE BURNS

C J Grace YELLOW JERSEY

C T Grammer GOOD OIL

B J Hackett SEA THE DREAM

I G & Mrs R J Hackett SEA THE DREAM

M J Hall AVAQUINELLA

B J & Mrs M A Harvey LASER'S FURY

Haunui Farm RED VIENNA

A & C M Hayden LAGERFELD

G & A Hill Trust TAVIS COURT

M R Hollamby FIRST ROCK

G E Horton CARNABY

C A Ironside SOTIRIO

P W Johnstone CARNABY

Mrs S L Kay FIANO

P G & Ms E M Keegan MADAM ZARA

B Kendall DUBAI DIVA

W G & Mrs J P Kingsford GREASE LIGHTNING

D W Lake OTTAVIO

B J Leach QUARTZ QUEEN

G & Mrs J Lee TURN THE ACE

C A Leishman SHARP 'N' SMART

Brendan & Mrs J E Lindsay LUBERON

A A Lyndon CARNABY

T D B & Mrs B L Macphee HERSELF

R M Marlow ASTRAKHAN

C A Marner GRAND PROSPECT

D R Marner GRAND PROSPECT

Graeme & Lesley Martin HERE COMES TROUBLE

P Martin IRISH RED

S Massey THE RACKETEER

P D & Mrs P M McBreen ASTRAKHAN

S M McDonnell MANOLO

J D & C McPherson RED INFERNO

J S Mee MISS CARTIER

P S & Mrs C Nelson NEDWIN, NO TIP,

G R O'Dea SOLDIER BOY

Mrs D C Opie FLIGHT PLAN

B & Mrs C Parlato MAROTIRI MARSTA

A D Pate HAIL DAMAGE

M & W Potter LORD POLONIUS, QUARTZ

QUEEN

J A Roache BARZETTI

C J & L M Robinson DOC MARTYN, HIGHLAND
FLING, BOOT IT SCOOTER,

Mrs J J Rogers SHAZZA, FINEST WINE

P W Rogers SHAZZA, FINEST WINE

Diane Rushworth CHASE 'N' GOLD

I L Scott VICTOREM

G O Sherratt THE BAMBINO

M G & S K Smith SPLENDIOR

A B Tapper BELLE DE VAL

Te Akau Racing STONYBRECK, FELLINI,
IMPERATRIZ, ZEITAKU, PERFECT SCENARIO,
COGNITO, ILLICIT MISS, BELLE OF THE BALL,
CAMPIONESSA, BURGUNDY ROSE, HERO
WORSHIP, DYNASTIC, STELLA SPLENDIDA,
SUMMER MONSOON, FASHION SHOOT, WILD
NIGHT, BARONET, CHALLA, ZANTABULOUS,
BUBBLES AWAIT, SHE'S A SHOWOFF

The Franz Josef Trust MAUNA LOA

B C Thomas CNZM SHOW BAZZ

Mrs C Tims MANDALO

K G Towers SOTIRIO

Trelawney Thoroughbreds PAGE THREE

A S & Mrs P J Trotter YOLO, KING KICK

E P & Mrs M K Twomey HIT THE ROAD JACK

P B Unverricht CARNABY

D M Vermeulen BUTLER

Mrs J L Vermeulen BUTLER

Shane T Voice CHASE 'N' GOLD

Whakanui Stud RUSAVY

R M & Mrs J M Williamson WEST COAST

J C Willis CHOLULA

Windsor Park Stud SANGRITA,
MUSTANG VALLEY

B W P Wright PIER

Ms J C Young YOU NEVERKNOW

NOTE NEW CONTACT DETAILS

FEDERATION CONTACTS

Telephone: 021 254 8683

Email: admin@racehorseowner.co.nz

Post: TBA

Website: www.racehorseowner.co.nz

President: Bernard Hickey

Executive Officer: Denise Mayhew

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