
BREEDERS' UPDATE

May 8, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
STUD PRESENT **EDITION 83** OF THE
BREEDERS' UPDATE.

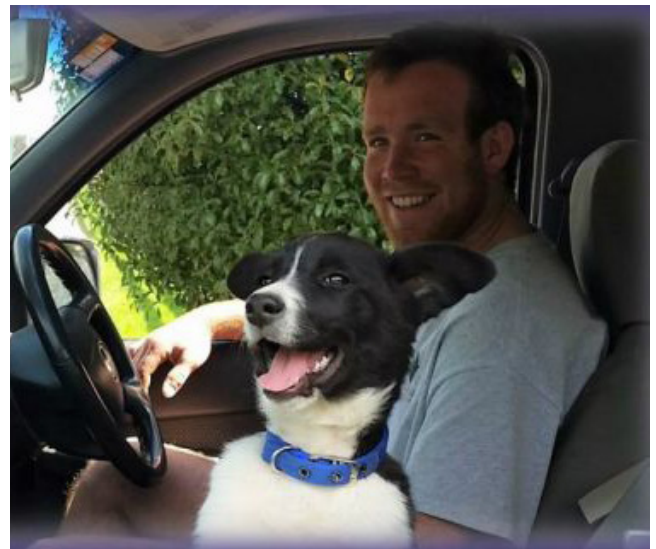


WOODLANDS STUD
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BREEDERS' UPDATE

MAY 8, 2020

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Rest easy Lee Stiven, you will be greatly missed!

NOTE FROM STIVEN FAMILY

Many of you will already know that Lee passed away at Dumfries Hospital on Thursday 23rd April just four days after his 25th birthday.

His sinus infection developed into an abscess in the brain and tragically he went into a coma and died just a very short time after finally being admitted to hospital.

Lee will be cremated at Roucan Loch Crematorium in Dumfries at 9pm this evening our time so if you would like to share a quiet moment for us and Lee then that would be lovely.

We are fortunate that Lee was staying at the Goldie family farm at Newbiemains, Annan, south west Scotland and he is now at their home until the service tonight.

We will be able to connect privately with the Trish, Jim and the boys tonight at their home and share some memories of Lee.

We don't know when or how but Lee's ashes will be returned to New Zealand and there will be a memorial service held at a later date.

John, Judy, David and Cindy, Scott and Danielle, and Kate

RACE		TENTATIVE PLAN	CLUB
Garrard's Sires Stakes Heat 2	2YO C & G	mid August	NZ Metro
Garrard's Sires Stakes Heat 3	2YO C & G	early September	Auckland
Garrard's NZ 2YO Sires Stakes Final (G1)	2YO C & G	mid September	Auckland
NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Colts & Geldings (L)	2YO C & G	late September	Auckland
Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Heat 2	2YO F	early September	NZ Metro
Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Heat 3	2YO F	mid September	NZ Metro
NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Fillies	2YO F	early October	NZ Metro
Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Heat 4	2YO F	early October	Auckland
Magness Benrow Sires Stakes Fillies Championship (G1)	2YO F	late October	Auckland
Haras des Trotteurs 2YO Trotters Sires Stakes Prelude 2	2YO T	late September	NZ Metro
NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Trot (L)	2YO T	early October	NZ Metro
Haras des Trotteurs 2YO Trotters Sires Stakes Championship (G2)	2YO T	mid October	NZ Metro
Nevele R Fillies Series Heat 6	3YO F	early October	NZ Metro
Nevele R Fillies Series Heat 5	3YO F	early October	Auckland
Nevele R Fillies Series Heat 7	3YO F	late October	NZ Metro
Nevele R Fillies Series Final (G1)	3YO F	NZ Cup Day	NZ Metro
PGG Wrightson 3YO Trotters Final (L)	3YO T	early October	Auckland
Haras des Trotteurs 3YO Trotters Sires Stakes Championship (G2)	3YO T	late October	Auckland

Revised draft schedule is above (actual dates to be conformed in the 20-21 dates calendar)

REVISED DRAFT DATES FOR SIRE'S STAKES AND HARNESS MILLION RACES

NZ Sires Stakes Board

September and October will be jam-packed with Sires' Stakes and Harness Million races, under a draft schedule just released by the Sires' Stakes Board.

With all racing in this country coming to a halt because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Sires' Stakes Board has been forced into a major re-think of when and where the races would be held.

"With 18 races involved in all it's been challenging," says Sires' Stakes executive Martin Pierson, "we have worked towards getting a flow of races so that all horses have every opportunity to contest the races they are eligible for. Every attempt has been made to ensure 2YO Series' are completed before the 3YO's start their campaigns."

The first of the outstanding heats (2YO colts and geldings) is scheduled for Addington in mid-August, before six weeks of Sires' Stakes and Harness Million races at Addington and Alexandra Park in September and October.

"Any Series that has already started will carry over that qualification form into the remainder of the Series," said Pierson.

Of the three Group One races, the Garrard's Sires' Stakes Final for two-year old colts and geldings is set down for Alexandra Park in mid-September, the Magness Benrow Sires' Stakes Championship for the two-year-old fillies at Alexandra Park at the end of October.

The Nevele R Fillies Series Final for the three-year-old fillies is scheduled to be run on New Zealand Cup day.

The NZB Standardbred Harness Million races are set down for Alexandra Park in late September for the two-year-old colts and geldings, with the fillies and trotters at Addington in early October.

Haras des Trotteurs Sires' Stakes races for the two and three-year-old trotters have been scheduled for October to accommodate those wanting to compete in the Breeders Crown heats that start on November 12.

Just what the stakes will be is yet to be determined, Pierson added, "Funding for all races is still being worked through, but the Board assures participants all monies paid into each Series has been ring-fenced for these races."

It is unlikely that the rescheduled races will be able to be run at the same stakes level. The impact of COVID-19 on wagering means the distributions that would have supported these races (on top of the ring-fenced contributions from the Sires' Stakes Board) in the 2019-20 season are no longer available from RITA. Decisions on stakes levels for the rescheduled races will be made as a part of the HRNZ funding model review for the 2020-21 season.

The Board wishes to thank HRNZ for its help with this process. "We also acknowledge the support of our sponsors in rescheduling these races," concluded Pierson.

Note – age as at July 31, 2020. The horses competing in the 2YO races will be 3 at the time the races are run, those in the 3YO races will be 4 when the races are run.

For further information contact: TELEPHONE 03 964 1186 MOBILE 027 4711 081 Email: martin@nzsiresstakes.co.nz

Martin Pierson
NZ Sires' Stakes Executive





Charles with some of his many trophies won by his champs!

Vale Charles Roberts

(22 February 1924 – 27 April 2020)

Every life story inevitably has a beginning and an end. Few, if any, begin and end in precisely the same spot. However, as in so many aspects of his very full life Charles Joseph Robertson Roberts is the exception to all of that. Just over 96 years ago Charles was born in this room here at Tyrone Villa and today we gather to farewell him in the very same spot.

When Charles' parents Joe Roberts and Linda Millen married in 1906 they brought together two of the original Pakuranga families – indeed this house is situated on what was known as Millen's Hill. Charles was the youngest of five – and a good 10 years younger than the youngest of his sisters.

Charles was adored by his three sisters who, because of the age gap contributed a lot to his upbringing. However, the work ethic that was to characterise Charles' entire life was instilled at a very early age – milking cow making hay, all things agricultural were the stuff of his life from the very beginning. But it was the animals that featured prominently – so much so that Charles only ever wanted to be a Veterinarian – hence the name of his autobiography, published three years ago and titled "VET ONLY".

When the time for secondary schooling arrived, Charles donned school shoes for the first time and headed off to Auckland Grammar – there to begin an association that was to last a lifetime. Grammar days were amongst his happiest and the School always meant so very much to him. He excelled at sports like Rugby and Tennis, worked his way scholastically to the top class each year and mastered Latin that was then a pre-requisite to a Veterinary Science degree. Perhaps his only frustration remaining from those days was the fact that his being school tennis champion one year seems never to have been recorded on the honours board!

1946 brought another milestone. Charles ventured to Sydney to begin studies at the University of Sydney Veterinary School from where he graduated in 1950 – the same year he married a very attractive girl from Otahuhu, June Forder with whom he shared 65 (frequently eventful) years until June passed away in 2016. Through all those years they worked together, June supporting his every endeavour.

After they married, years then followed when Charles was employed by the local Vet Club, prior to a move back to Auckland and the establishment of Veterinary Associates and life above the Clinic alongside what was then the end of the Southern Motorway at Takanini.

It also saw the arrival first of Mary and then of Mark – the two most important people in Charles' life after his treasured wife. It was a joy to Charles that Mary was to have a special affinity with horses and Mark a talent for farming.

And as time went by, their children (and now grandchildren) brought Charles considerable pride in their various endeavours.

Charles believed in achievement and that hard work and application was the way to achieve anything.

In dairy farming he constantly strived to achieve the highest production possible, to use his scientific training to better his herd and their production and to be the best.

He took particular pride in breeding and then milking New Zealand's highest producing dairy cow and the fact that his bulls were superior enough to stand at Ambreed with their frozen semen available to all.

In his veterinary practise Charles came to specialise in equine reproduction where he achieved international recognition as a leader in the field. He lived for this work

His pioneering achievements included:

1. Kerosene – whilst it was to the horror of many, Charles pioneered the irrigation of mares with endometritis with kerosene – a practise that persists today, with the only change being it is used early in the stud season and not as a last resort come Christmas.
2. Crushing twins – Charles was the first person, before the days of ultrasound, to develop the procedure of crushing a bilateral twin palpated at 32 days.
3. Ultrasonography – Charles pioneered the use of ultrasound in equine reproductive practise in New Zealand.
4. Propantheline bromide – in the early days of equine stud practice, the manual palpation of especially maiden mares was a procedure that carried the risk of rectal perforation. Charles dissolved the tablets in saline and injected them iv before palpating maiden mares.

Concurrent with his equine practice, Charles was an enthusiastic thoroughbred breeder – frequently with his great friends the Chitty family – breeding many Group 1 winners and eventually being named New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeder of the Year.

However, it was in the field of standardbred breeding and harness racing that Charles really achieved legendary status. Charles always wanted to stand stallions and breed on a large scale. With his veterinary partner, Andrew Grierson,



End of an era at Sires Stakes Board

Brad Reid

With the 19/20 racings season robbed of its glamour racing by Covid19, it was also robbed, for the time being, of the opportunity to bid farewell to the matriarch of the NZ Sires Stakes Board.

After 37 years as Secretary, Doreen Graham has called time on her position at the helm.

When it comes to careers in racing administration, Doreen has few peers when it comes to tenure and contribution.

The latter is often overlooked when it comes to paid administration, simply for the fact you are deemed to be remunerated for the job you are doing.

However, the contribution made by Doreen over the years with dedication and the careful and fiscal management of industry funds has seen the Sires Stakes Board remain a shining light in what is presently our darkest hour.

Thirty seven years is longer than I have been alive, and well before things were digitised at the New Zealand Trotting Conference (HRNZ).

"Originally I started at what was the Trotting Conference and worked there for four years before heading to the broodmare paddock," laughed Graham.

"I was approached to come and help out at the Standardbred Breeders' Association and the Sires Stakes Board was just being put together at the time.

"They already had the Dominion Breweries Flying Fillies going and the idea for the Sires Stakes Board was to create a better environment for two-year-old racing.

"None of the clubs in those days would run two-year-old races and with Wayne Francis bringing stallions in from America for Nevele R Stud he could see that the breed was improving and something needed to be done," she said.

When you look back through the annals and crunch the numbers, the Sires Stakes scheme did not so see a huge increase in the number of two-year-olds that raced as much as it paved the way for better stakes and opportunities.

The leading two-year-old pacer by stake money in 1983 was the Peter Robertson trained Natural Guy.

He raced 13 times that season winning six races from 13 starts. That included the \$15,000 NZ Breeders Sires Produce Stakes Final (one of only two Group 1s for juveniles) and collected \$33,365 in stakes.



Charles was ever the student of his drafts, casting a watchful eye

he achieved these goals when Woodlands Stud was born – and when the opportunity arose to purchase the southern hemisphere breeding rights to a stallion Bet-tor's Delight. The stallion was (and still is) a champion in both Australasia and North America and has transformed standardbred breeding in this part of the world. To give June credit though, none of that would have happened had she not relented and co-signed the Bank's loan documentation!

Timing is everything and so it was that Charles resolved to purchase a New Zealand bred standardbred broodmare in America – Scuse Me – delegating another family member to find the money to cover the purchase price and cost of transport back to New Zealand of course. Scuse Me has become the foundation of a family that would delight many racegoers and bring Charles such absolute joy through the harness racing deeds of the likes of Christen Me, Adore Me, Dream About Me and Sweet On Me.

Charles concludes his autobiography much the same as his life – in a circle = from horse and cart to horse and sulky, and from this very room and back again – but with 96 years of energy, achievement, pride and love along the way. It is sad, though, that these strange times mean that his family and friends cannot give him a traditional send off – but being the practical (and at times patient) man he was, after 96 years he would be the first to say that can wait until we can all gather to properly celebrate his life.

Footnote;

Thank you very much to the Kenny family for allowing us to publish the lovely words used to celebrate the life of Charles after his sudden passing last week.

Our condolences go out to Mary, Paul, Andrew, Sarah & the extended family of Charles at this tough time.

Next week we will follow up with statistics from his breeding endeavours that will blow you away, as well as some words from Paul Kenny and Andrew Grierson.

Brad Reid





Doreen and Kevin Graham celebrate Chase Auckland winning the Sires Stakes Final in 2017

The following season with the advent of the Sires Stakes Final, Billbob was the leading stakes earner for 2 year-olds having won the inaugural \$100,000 Group 1 Final at the host club Franklin.

He earned just under \$80,000 in stakes, more than double that of Natural Guy the previous year.

The carrot of the Sires Stakes Final for 2-year-olds saw only 20 more pacers start than the previous year, hardly a massive leap. But what transpired was more opportunity for earnings.

By 1988, a mere five years later, two-year-old pacers earned \$1.5 million in stakes.

Francis' vision for two-year-old racing was \$1million dollars ahead of where it was prior to the Sires Stakes concept when two-year-olds earned a combined \$400,000 for the season.

To put that in perspective, One Change earned a cool \$287,000 in 2019 from just five starts.

The leap in prize monies by 1988 was aided by the first ever National Bloodstock Sales Series race won by Tight Connection, but you could argue that one would never have happened without the other.

Staggeringly the 1990 version of the race was sponsored by TVNZ and carried a purse of \$600,000.

Master Musician won the race in a 1:58.9 mile rate and took home more than the entire Cup field that year, with a winner's purse of \$365,000.

Without knowing the ins and outs of how we ever came to such an inflated stake, it is fair to say two-year-old stake money peaked that season in what must be an Australasian record for a juvenile race to this day. Adjusted for inflation, that equates to \$1,080,631.75 in 2020!

Getting back to core business, the industry by and large was supportive of the idea for increased opportunities for two and three-year-olds which in turn would lead to earlier returns to owners.

The late Wayne Francis and Tony Abell were instrumental in ensuring the idea came to reality.

"Wayne Francis and Tony Abell pushed and pushed to get it going and there was a lot of opposition to it at the time.

"I can remember getting pages of faxes as to why it would fail. There was a lot of people saying it would not work, but those two refused to see the concept fail and were crucial in seeing it through.

"Wayne was the money man behind it and had great influence at the ANZ Bank and was able to bring them on as a sponsor.

"Tony was the brains behind how the series would work," said Graham.

"Originally, we were pretty lucky with John Rowley who was in charge of the Trotting Conference those days, as Wayne and him had a pretty good relationship. John was really supportive and helped with stuff that we needed to get started," she said.



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One of the big early challenges for the Sires Stakes Board was not in funding the series but becoming a legal entity!

"At the time to get an incorporated society, you needed 15 members and we were struggling to get the signatures to actually make that happen.

"In the end we got enough members of the Canterbury breeders to actually formulate it," she said.

Before long, the industry support was in full swing with breeders, studs and sponsors in behind the idea.

"We started off by running a stallion service auction where they brought the stallions into Addington which is where the original pool of money was drawn for the first series to get up and running," said Graham.

The greatest source of funding for the Sires Stakes Board has always been from the breeders themselves and a few of you will remember the first series which rather than being a voluntary foal nomination payment, was initially charged as a \$10 levy on the foal registrations.

The legalities of the levy were challenged by Kypro Kotzikas and upheld by a decision in the courts, which created an administrative nightmare of returning the \$10 to everyone at a time where online banking and digital records were merely a pipe dream!

"One of my first jobs as Secretary was sending the \$10 back. In the end a lot of people donated the money which helped with what would have been a massive task," she laughed.

In the days when nearly 8000 mares were being bred the concept wasn't an easy sell. This is often the case when one challenges the status quo.

"Based on the numbers being bred the percentage was probably less than 50% because there was still a lot of people who were opposed to racing two-year-olds, particularly in Southland.

"With the three-year-old final being on Cup Day, many in the South felt because of their weather, they would not be able to get horses into that series."

That sentiment from Southland soon changed when the Allan Devery trained Arveeae won the inaugural running of the Sires Stakes Final for three-year-olds in 1984!

The argument still remains whether the best placement for the three-year-old final is in fact Cup Day.

Being in November it is very early in the season and the argument is that it is basically an extension of the two-year-old season.

However, there is no denying that its placement on Cup Day with all the hoopla and excitement has seen the race (particularly for its sponsors) become one of the best and most exciting fields assembled every calendar year.

There is no denying it is a race that is reserved for the great equine athletes of our industry and is a hell of a spectacle.

The Sires Stakes Series is now into its 38th running and has not been without many challenges.

Graham considers ongoing funding challenges as paramount with a declining foal population and club funding being at the forefront.

"You will see clubs putting mega funding into their own races, but because the Sires Stakes Series has a lot of money there they don't feel they have to put up the same.

"That is one of the issues the current Board is starting to tackle, and where that is going to go in the future is anyone's guess," she said.

The other challenge the Sires Stakes Board has faced in recent times is getting trainers and owners to nominate for the heats in the series the owners have paid up for.

The success of the All Stars Stable is a Catch-22 with their excellent strike rate almost threatening the sustainability of a series in which they and their owners have had a stranglehold.

Rather than line up in a heat where you can safely assume you have next to no chance of competing, paid up horses are being left in the paddock.

The flow on effect is detrimental with small fields seeing many heats become non totes which has a flow on effect for the clubs, sponsors and the ability for these races to drive turnover.

"Non tote heats are no good for clubs and for turnover, and the mindset to get trainers to support these races is one of our biggest challenges," she said.

Challenges aside, you do not spend 37 years in a role without having some fond memories and the Sires Stakes concept has expanded beyond a lot of what Wayne Francis and Tony Abell would have first envisioned.

Graham points to some of the core races and also a couple of the new ones as her favourites.

"Aside from the race on Cup Day, I really love the Nevele R Fillies Series and also the two-year-old races," she said.

"You see the young horses come through the heats and quite often the North Island and South Island horses don't clash until they get to those finals. Pitting the two crops against each other is very exciting. "The new conditioned races we have programmed have been great for seeing the smaller owners getting a slice of the pie. When you see them in the birdcage having won a race and received a trophy and a dress rug, that is what it is all about. It is not all about the big wins. We would all love to win a Group One but that is where these races have been a huge success.

"I am most proud of the fact that the Board has been prudent. At times it has been criticised for holding reserves, but you are in a market where you do not know whether the sponsor is going to be there or where the funding is going to come from.

"Maintaining a good level of reserves to ensure that if we ever experience challenges like we are today with Covid19 is good policy. The Board is in a financially stable position to keep going forward and that is one of the keys to its success.



Someone who has been involved with Doreen for much of her tenure on the Sires Stakes Board is Bruce Barlass having been on the board for coming up 30 years himself. Barlass exclaims that whenever the word integrity was needed, Graham was a pillar of strength in that capacity, in what was a trying position for anyone, let alone a female in racing.

"In all my time on the Sires Stakes Board I believe Doreen has been the only female to ever sit at the table and to be the first woman recognised as the Harness Racing Personality of the Year in 1993 is testament to her contribution".

"She was the sole employee for a board of volunteers that in many ways was an amalgamation of the industry. The Sires Stakes was responsible for bringing together every sector, be it breeders, studs, horsemen, sales companies or clubs. She held them together and set the bar for integrity.

"I use to tell my staff that if a decision was to be made, hers would be the right one. In a role where there is enormous amounts of money at stake, her integrity and ability to stand her ground was evident. Particularly when coming under vast amounts of pressure for late entries and the like, but Doreen never once wavered in upkeeping a series that was fair for all," said Barlass.

For over 30 years, Graham has shared in the thrill of presenting the winning owners with dress rugs and trophies for some of New Zealand's richest races.

In 2017 she was to experience the thrill for herself when a horse she shared in the ownership won the Sires Stakes Final on Cup Day, Chase Auckland.

"I've dabbled in all sorts of horse breeding and syndicates. I've stood in that birdcage for every single final on Cup Day and never dreamed of actually winning a race like that. I think it was quite an emotional day for myself to share it with Graeme Henley, as he had been involved for a long time as Chairman and stand their together on the receiving end was amazing.

Graham has three and a half acres of garden and some grandparent duties to keep her busy in the sunny town of Mapua near Nelson.

She is also hoping some of the horses she part owns resume racing soon and keeps her somewhat connected to an industry she has been involved in for a very long time.

"If we can get Chase back racing we might have a bit more time to follow him round, and Beaudiene Hustler is looking like going to the races when we ultimately resume.

"Apart from that just enjoying life and the free time," she said.

On behalf of the NZSBA, breeders and industry participants, congratulations Doreen on a wonderful career in racing.



Update from Rita

We wanted to inform you of an announcement earlier this afternoon by RITA to begin consultation with its people on proposed changes to its business.

As you know, like many New Zealand companies, the TAB has been impacted significantly by COVID-19.

While the TAB remains a very profitable business, it has taken a major hit from COVID-19 with very limited sporting product and no domestic racing available, total revenue 47 percent below forecast and customer numbers down more than 35 percent, when compared with the period pre-Covid.

Despite far reaching efforts to reduce costs across the TAB, including salary reductions, staff taking leave and reducing all non-essential expenses, regrettably, further change is proposed.

Today we informed our people that we will soon begin consultation with them on changes that would, if progressed, include a reduction of approximately 30 percent of roles across all areas of the organisation.

The details of the proposal will be presented to staff on Monday for feedback. At this stage no decisions have been made.

We will update you on any changes to our business following the completion of consultation and once decisions have been made.

If you have any questions in the interim, please let me know.

Regards

Ian Long
Head of Public Affairs
Racing Industry Transition Agency

Jobs Slashed at RITA

The Racing Industry Transition Agency (RITA) confirmed to its staff on Tuesday it would commence consultation about changes to the TAB in response to the impact of COVID-19.

The proposal includes a reduction of approximately 30 percent of roles across all areas of the organisation and is in addition to other cost saving measures aimed at reducing total expenditure.

The detail of the proposal, which will be presented to staff on Monday, and if progressed, would see the business becoming leaner, more efficient and with increased commercial and customer focus.

Already a number of contractors have been laid off but



Dean McKenzie: RITA CEO

remaining salaried staff have been informed there are more than 160 roles (and a further 70 contractors) to be cut across the board, with voluntary redundancies offered.

RITA Executive Chair, Dean McKenzie, said the scale of change presented to staff was required to ensure the business was sustainable for the future and best placed to meet the needs of New Zealand racing and sport.

"The TAB has taken a major hit from COVID-19 with revenue last month 47 percent below forecast and customer numbers down more than 35 percent," McKenzie said.

"Despite far reaching efforts to reduce costs across the TAB, including salary reductions, staff taking leave and reducing all non-essential expenses, it simply was not enough to offset the blow COVID-19 has had, and will have, on our industry.

"The implication of the pandemic extends beyond the immediate impact to the TAB, with racing and sport looking very unpredictable over the next year.

"The reality is the TAB will need to be a leaner, more efficient business with fewer roles, and focused on driving our core wagering and gaming business.

"Our focus now is to discuss this proposal with our people and to listen to their feedback before a final decision is made in late May."

COVID-19 has provided the impetus for swift change, however, the wagering operator and broadcaster was already under pressure to create efficiencies prior to the coronavirus outbreak.

RITA was appointed by Racing Minister Winston Peters on July 1 last year to enable the urgent changes required to drive the racing industry toward a financially sustainable future.

2020 All Age Sale Live on gavelhouse.com

New Zealand's largest breeding stock sale of standard-breds featuring weanlings, yearlings, racehorses and broodmares is now live and available to view on gavelhouse.com.

The 2020 All Age Sale catalogue was initially available on the NZB Standardbred site to allow prospective buyers to conduct early research, with the 148-lot offering now transferred to the gavelhouse.com platform.

Bidding on gavelhouse.com will be available from Wednesday 20 May, with the first Lot closing on Wednesday 27 May at an earlier start time of 1pm (NZT).

For a deeper understanding of how the online auction process works, view the full step-by-step buyers guide [here](#).

While government Alert Levels currently impose restrictions around the ability to inspect horses in-person, consignors have supplied extensive photos and video footage to give prospective buyers the best possible information about each lot on offer.

With the Sale running under NZB sale terms and conditions, all weanlings offered are eligible to be nominated for the \$1 million NZB Standardbred Harness Million Race Series.

View the Sale on gavelhouse.com [here](#).

Create a gavelhouse.com account to ensure you are registered for bidding [here](#).

For more information, contact Cam Bray (Cam.Bray@nzb.co.nz or call +63 21 737 199) or Haylie Martin (Haylie@gavelhouse.com or call +64 22 637 8127).

In-Person Inspections Permitted

Under safe practice of hygiene and protocol measures, NZB Standardbred can confirm that bloodstock agents and industry licenced professionals are now permitted to enter studs and agistment farms to inspect 2020 All Age Sale stock at Level 3.

In-person inspections permitted under Level 3. At Level 3 the approved recommendation is that bloodstock inspections are by appointment only and can only be conducted by a registered bloodstock agent or HRNZ licenced professional, specific to their area.

Prior to arrival, the agents and licenced professionals must arrange a date and time that is suitable to all parties. They must provide their address and contact details, as well as a clear and detailed inspection list in advance of arrival.

Studs or agistment properties reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to grant or refuse access for inspections. Under no circumstances is access to be sort without prior approval.



NZB Standardbred encourage persons to carry some form of identification to show who they are, who they work for, and their role to support the authenticity of their travel e.g. a business card or letter from their employer or work ID.

Guidelines provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for all businesses can be found here, and further information on COVID-19 for businesses can be found here.

WorkSafe have also released guidelines on safe practice in the workplace, which you can find here.

An agent must not enter any property if they have cold or flu symptoms, including coughing, sneezing, runny nose, headache, aches or fever, or if they know or suspect that they have been in contact with a person suspected or confirmed as contracting COVID-19, or if they or a close contact has returned to New Zealand from overseas within the previous 14 days.

A list of licensed trainers is available on the HRNZ website under Infohorse > Trainer/Driver Enquiry.

While previous government Alert Levels have imposed restrictions around the ability to inspect horses in-person, consignors have supplied extensive photos and video footage to give prospective buyers the best possible information about each lot on offer, if location prevents buyers from physical inspections.

ALABARS BEST CONSIGNMENT EVER

The annual sale of weanlings at Karaka, through the support of Alabar and Woodlands Studs, has become a significant date on the harness racing calendar - and a well proven source of top horses.

This year, Covid-19 means the sale has had to go online via gavelhouse.com.

This maybe a change of format but the quality is still very much there and, in the eyes of many, the catalogue of weanlings is the best ever.

The Alabar consignment of 57 weanlings features no fewer than seven that are from \$100,000+ winning mares:

Alchemist (\$351,805), Alta Serena (\$593,618), La Joconde (\$153,285), Safin (\$176,360), Samantha Q (\$130,597), Trigirl Brigade (\$143,711) and Twist N Shout (\$112,741).

Quite amazing for a weanling sale consignment - and put into perspective by the fact that there were only 19 \$100,000+ winning broodmares represented in the whole Auckland catalogue of the National Standardbred Yearling Sale this year.

There are also 14 weanlings in the consignment that are half-brothers or sisters to \$100,000+ winners.



Art Major x Alta Camilla

These include half-sisters to two of Australasia's leading Open Class pacers this season in Alta Orlando (winner of the Schweppes Sprint and third in the NSW Miracle Mile) and Classie Brigade (winner of the Kaikoura Cup and third in the NZ Cup).

A real highlight of the Alabar consignment is nine weanlings from the first crop of former superstar, Vincent.

These weanlings are attractive, muscular types and are all great walkers.

A view of the photos and videos of the Vincents is an absolute must.

Many outstanding horses have come off the Alabar NZ property in recent years.

In fact, two of New Zealand's most exciting horses of the moment - the star of the South, U May Collect and the Auckland Cup winner, Self Assured were both bred and raised at Alabar NZ.

This season's exciting two-year-old filly, Ariella is another bred and raised at the Waiau Pa nursery.

The daughter of Art Major was sold by Alabar at the 2018 weanling sale and showed herself to be among the best of her age when she won the Gr3 Alabar Fillies Classic at Invercargill in 2:41.5 for 2200m - a New Zealand record for a two-year-old filly.



Sportswriter x Safin



Rock N Roll Heaven x Trigirl Brigade



Vincent x Kim Maguire

"This is definitely the strongest consignment of weanlings we've presented for sale.

"The enforced cancellation of the sale was a setback at the time but NZ Bloodstock have provided us with the great alternative of presenting the catalogue on gavel-house.com.

"Importantly, all the weanlings will still be Harness Millions eligible.

"Getting all the photos and videos taken was a huge job but it means everyone has as much information as possible. Some inspections should also be possible next week so people should contact us if they're interested in doing so." Graeme Henley, Alabar NZ

DUNSTAN FEEDING ADVICE



WEDNESDAY WISDOM

This week we chat to Ria Gunson, our Territory Manager in the Upper North Island Region, about the benefits of feeding Dunstan Betabeet and Dunstan Sugarbeet.

- Do you need your horse to gain condition before going into winter?
- Do you have a laminitic horse/pony that requires a low starch diet but needs to maintain condition?
- Do you want to add more "cool energy" to your horses diet without adding grain?
- Do you need to supplement fibre intake for horses on low pasture?

Well Beet is your answer! One of the most versatile feeds in our portfolio and the recent winner of our Great NZ Dunstan off is the ever popular Dunstan Betabeet, and alongside Dunstan Betabeet is its trusty sidekick Dunstan Sugarbeet.

Dunstan Betabeet is natural sugarbeet pulp which is dried, flaked and micronised to produce a quality fibre source that fully soaks in just 10 minutes. Fibre is essential to maintain the microbial environment of the hindgut in horses and both Dunstan Betabeet and Dunstan Sugarbeet are 'super fibres' meaning they are more calorie dense than traditional fibre sources. Dunstan Betabeet is also low in sugar and starch meaning it is suitable for laminitic ponies and those prone to tying-up, while still maintaining a quality fibre ration.

As a highly digestible quality fibre, beet supports the health of the microbial population in the horses hindgut and therefore contributing to overall hindgut health. The calories in beet are derived from fibre rather than starch, therefore providing a 'cool' energy source and ideal for horses that are sensitive to grain-based diets, while still providing a similar energy level to oats.

Dunstan Sugarbeet has added molasses which makes it highly palatable as well as more calorie dense, meaning you can feed slightly less dry weight to achieve the same ration. The addition of molasses has a sugar content of 18% per 1kg fed and provides more energy for the working horse. Owners who are feeding between 250-500gm (dry) of Dunstan Betabeet would increase the sugar quantity by 24- 67.5g if they were to switch to Dunstan Sugarbeet. This is roughly 1.5-4.5 tablespoons of sugar in a 500kg horse so may surprise some of how little that is comparatively. Dunstan Sugarbeet is fully soaked in 30 minutes.

The beets have added bonuses of assisting in hydration in your horses when they are in high workloads or may be reluctant to drink and are also suitable to feed to horses with respiratory issues as they are dust free.

Always remember to work out your beet feeding rate using the dry weight (Dunstan dipper holds 800gm) and you may be surprised on how much you can feed per day to gain condition!

Find out more about these fabulous Beet products here: Dunstan Betabeet <https://buff.ly/2Wcwj8i> Dunstan Sugarbeet <https://buff.ly/2Sf6UUc>



Dunstan breed & grow NUTS

For broodmares, weanlings & yearlings

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- **Fibre based** to provide a **low glycaemic index feed**
- **Low GI status** assists to minimise negative effect of insulin on joint and cartilage development
- Includes **glycinate organic trace minerals** and **selenium yeast**
- Balanced **Calcium & Phosphorus** levels to promote **sound bone & joint development**
- Contains **live yeast** to aid digestion
- Contains **Mannan Oligosaccharide** and **Aluminosilicate Clay**
- Contains **natural Vitamin E**

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Dunstan Breed & Grow

Feed their future



Dunstan Breed & Grow is a quality feed formulated to provide optimum nutrition to **broodmares** and **youngstock** assisting in sound growth & development.

Dunstan Feeds are produced in a specialised equine manufacturing facility ensuring a product of premium quality, safety and performance.



Available from your leading horse feed retailer



NZB Airfreight Resumes with Trial Flight

NZB Standardbred

Under strict health and safety requirements, New Zealand Bloodstock Airfreight has successfully completed a test flight with a small pool of horses from Auckland to Sydney.

With new regulations and plans in place for grooms, NZB can confidently begin to work on limited flights for the backlog of horses requiring trans-Tasman travel.

The test flight was conducted with all grooms and travelling staff in full personal protective equipment including overalls, masks and gloves, with loading and unloading completed by a separate bubble of handlers to avoid any potential spread of the COVID-19 virus.

All horses were from the same property, using only one horse float for transport to the airport and one vet for the inspections and pre-flight checks, allowing complete control over horse and human movements and detailed contact tracing recorded.

The strong working relationship with Tasman Cargo Airlines staff and pilots has made it possible for the planning process to get underway for future flights.

While NZB Airfreight are working on opening all ports for equine freight, services in the near future will only be possible via Auckland to Sydney and return until government Alert Levels are eased to a Level 2 or lower.

The major challenge for NZB Airfreight will be the movement of grooms and staff internationally and the return of the horse stalls that are currently overseas, with limited cargo services to ship these.

NZB are working closely with all regulatory bodies, airlines and governments around the world to get travel lines open to all of our major racing jurisdictions, requiring some patience from clients as restrictions are adhered to.

For any queries or to book your horses flight, contact NZB Airfreight Manager Greg Northcott on +64 27 459 4995 or email Greg.Northcott@nzb.co.nz.

AUSSIE NEWS

COMEBACK star Chicago Bull lines up for the fourth consecutive week at Gloucester Park tonight (Friday).

Gary Hall Sr's stable star won superbly first-up and has run brave placings at his next two runs after doing the work.

He's well-graded, but again faces a challenge from a wide draw (gate eight) in the Vale Gavin Lang free-for-all (2536m).

"He's the sort of horse who needs racing to get the weight off and right to his peak," Hall Sr said.

TIM and Anthony Butt are the key players at tomorrow night's Menangle feature night.

Anthony trains and drives buzz three-year-old trotter Elite Stride, who is a commanding \$1.15 favourite to make it eight wins from nine starts in the Group 2 NSW Trotters Derby.

Anthony then teams with Tim and former Miracle Mile winner My Field Marshal, who is \$2.10 favourite despite the outside draw (gate 12) in the free-for-all (race six).

Tim has two of the major hopes in the Bulli Trotters Cup – Sassy Pants (\$4.60) and Majestic Courtney (\$9) – where exciting former Kiwi trotter Super Fast Pat is \$2.20 favourite to make it five wins on end for KerryAnn and Robbie Morris.

NZSBA THANKS ITS PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERS

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