
BREEDERS' UPDATE

May 14, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
STUD PRESENT **EDITION 84** OF
THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

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FUNDING POSITION UPDATE: NZSBA

Brad Reid

Albert Einstein once said when you sit with a nice girl for two hours, it can seem like two minutes. But when you sit on a hot stove for two minutes, it can seem like two hours.

That is relativity.

I think for most of us, the Level 4 and subsequent Level 3 Lockdown was a mixture of the two extremes.

In my case and that of the National Breeders Association, it felt like we were sitting on a hot stove when the reality of Covid19 started to show its ugly head.

The only difference between sitting on this hot stove and relativity according to Einstein's quote was that the 6 weeks have come and gone at a frenetic pace.

When confronted with challenges you can sit on your butt and burn or rise from the fire and show your true mettle.

As both an employee and industry participant, it was challenging to accept that things were not likely to be the same.

With that said, I am proud of the response from my Executive, our three affiliated breeding associations and the breeding community in rallying behind and showing support for what we do.

Six weeks ago the future of the National Association was on life support with the funding which we heavily rely on from HRNZ coming to a halt.

After presenting to the public a package on Anzac Day which was honest, transparent and pulling no punches, we have made some progress regarding our future funding.

As of today, while we still have a long way to go, the future of the National Association is back on track, by in large thanks to the unanimous support shown from our affiliate bodies in the North Island, Canterbury and Southland.

The three Affiliate branches of Canterbury, Southland and the North Island have agreed to inject a combined \$40,000 of capital into the National Body.

In addition to a cash grant of \$20,000 the three associations also agreed to forego their portion of membership subscriptions from the 19/20 season, and provide an increased percentage to the National Body for the 20/21 season.

While no home run, there is still a likelihood that

Harness Racing New Zealand will support the strategic plan put forth and make a contribution from their budget later in the 20/21 season.

While HRNZ have had to cut our funding from this season, there is an acknowledgement from both parties that the NZSBA plays a pivotal role in sustaining a viable breeding industry.

Until such time as HRNZ has some clarity around its own funding for the new season, it will not be in a position to make any commitments. We will however be making a presentation to them soon. We must respect the fact that right now there are some pressing challenges facing the business and the future sustainability of our industry.

I must acknowledge the numerous breeders who have taken the time to contact me via email and phone to discuss the challenges and offer their support financially or with their time and ideas.

By cutting the fat from some of our core activities and adapting to the new strategic plan put forth on Anzac Day, we believe this puts us in a position to be financially solvent through to July 2021 with a full time employee at the helm.

Personally I bloody hate swimming.

But give me the option to sink or do the former and I'll damn near do the butterfly quicker than Ian Thorpe in his prime.

The challenge before us is immense and we will be surveying the breeding sector, breeders and studs, to forecast the impact Covid19 will have on this coming season.

The pandemic has forced us all to review our expenditure in one way or another and right now a reluctance to spend is logical.

There isn't a lot about breeding horses that is logical.

Good thing we as humans are illogical beings and while the economics of breeding horses will be challenging in some quarters, I am confident it will not be the blood bath some are predicting.

Clarity in uncertain times such as these is what we as human beings desire above all us.

The reality is that right now there isn't a lot of clarity, and pointing fingers and portioning blame will not do us any favours.

The picture is becoming clearer every day.

Let us rally together and come forth with solutions before pointing out the very many obvious problems we face.

Solutions and being kind to one another that will see us prosper much quicker than tearing each other down.



Winston Peters addressing the media on Tuesday

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR RACING

Rt Hon Winston Peters

"Out of the gate and going for the winning post"

Good afternoon.

Today we are making a Pre-Budget announcement on emergency support assistance for the New Zealand racing industry.

We knew from the beginning of the COVID-19 invasion that the racing industry was facing an unparalleled crisis in its history.

We immediately alerted the Minister of Finance, and our officials started working on a recovery plan.

Our response is driven by an attitude that with the right investment it can be a fast recovery.

Guiding government strategy are three steps – to respond, to recover, and rebuild – in the immediate term.

Today's Pre-Budget announcement is the initial response – not only critical to racing but critical to our national interests.

The racing industry is seriously underestimated for its important contribution to our regions and our economy.

Past studies indicate it contributes \$1.6 billion to the economy each year.

There are 15,000 full time racing industry jobs and nearly 60,000 indirect jobs participating in some form – from vets, to equipment suppliers, and owners.

There are 15,000 owners, 800 trainers, and 200 jockeys.

Not only is New Zealand bloodstock world class – it's a significant export earner.



And all facing an unprecedented threat.

It is well documented the racing industry has experienced several years of financial under-performance.

It was partway through a reform programme.

Then COVID-19 arrived.

As one expert put it, this has created the perfect storm.

We can't gild the lily.

It is taking the industry to the brink of insolvency.

It is a matter of urgency for the Government to provide support.

We have to protect what we have – and we have to rebuild for the future.

A 50 million dollar grant

For this reason the Government has approved an immediate \$50 million dollar grant to be provided for the Racing Industry Transition Agency – RITA.

A good proportion of this money – \$26 million dollars – will be used so that RITA can honour its outstanding supplier payments.

RITA, and the operation of the TAB, is cash reliant.

There has been a dramatic plunge in revenue while costs have remained fixed, and the bills have been backing up.

RITA's lenders also advised they could no longer extend credit.

It means RITA has faced the risk of defaulting on its supplier commitments by this Friday.

It would have been devastating for many in the regions.

So \$26 million of this initial grant will be directed to supplier commitments.

The rest allows RITA and each of the racing codes to maintain a baseline functionality and to resume racing activities. As mentioned, this is the government's initial response.

Treasury engaged PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide a financial assessment of RITA.

The PWC's analysis underlined that RITA has a very weak equity position.

And that an immediate grant was the most effective means to prevent default.

PWC also advised close consideration should be given to recapitalising RITA.

This work will proceed over the next three months.

Our plan wants the industry to achieve value-add to the economy.

And we are calling upon the industry to deliver serious reform.

That is necessary for the government to be confident that any future investment is well directed.

Infrastructure spending – fast track with synthetic race tracks

The government is also creating momentum for two more synthetic race tracks.

Compelling arguments exist behind synthetic race tracks because they reduce the number of cancelled events due to weather or poor surfaces.

For example in the 2018 year there were 32 races abandoned which cost the industry millions of dollars.

In other words synthetic tracks offer consistency and reliability.

Synthetic tracks sustain a higher workload for both training and racing.

There are much fewer abandoned races days.

That translates to retaining income, and not losing it.

And they are safer for the horse.

The Messara review into our racing industry urged greater use of synthetic tracks.

Construction of a track in Cambridge is under way assisted with \$6.5 million PFG funding.

But in the wake of COVID-19 the Government has approved up to \$20 million dollars on a further two tracks.

The intention is to have one located at Awapuni in the Manawatu, and the other at Riccarton Park in Christchurch.

We not only want to save the industry we want it to have viable assets for the future.

The next step is for RITA and the Codes to consult with the local race clubs on the terms behind these projects, and the Clubs willingness to engage.

Fast track work on gambling revenue

The COVID-19 has also caused a funding slump for community and sports groups who normally receive a share of gambling revenue.

And more New Zealanders are turning to online gambling through offshore platforms.

Both trends are concerning.

For that reason government is fast tracking a programme of work to identify how we can mitigate these concerns.

It is our intention to regulate the off-shore online gambling sector, and reset the on-shore online gambling sector.

If there is going to be gambling by New Zealanders then it



If there is going to be gambling by New Zealanders then it is our country that will benefit, not another.

And in doing so, we will be better able to address harm minimisation, and make sure our community benefits.

The industry leadership and the future

We are in this together.

The government is responding.

The industry also has to respond as well.

The management teams at RITA and the Codes have tightened their belts.

They also are managing difficult decisions on staffing levels.

Nothing is the same.

Now is the time to try different approaches.

And the industry is adapting.

Sadly, there has been some internal squabbling in racing circles.

Some blame the transition agency for the problems it inherited.

Look to be honest, we have had enough of mostly old men leaning against the rails scratching their derriere, and blaming everyone else.

Fortunately common sense is prevailing.

Most in the industry accept collaboration is the key to recovery.

That is good because, generally speaking, if you are in financial difficulty it's a bad time to be rude to the bank manager.

So finally, let us thank the RITA Board and its management team for its responsive leadership.

Thank the racing codes management teams for focusing and moving quickly to achieve a resumption of racing.

And a note of appreciation for the departmental officials for their tireless work to date.

All of us know the hard work has only just begin,

In the long term, if we get all the steps correct, there is no reason why racing in this country cannot be a world class industry, stronger than ever.

We are out of the gate but we have distance to cover before we get to the home strait and the winning post.

That said, we are going to make racing great again.

HRNZ agrees, "Make racing great again."

David Di Somma

Harness Racing New Zealand (HRNZ) has hailed the funding announcement by Racing Minister, the Rt Hon Winston Peters as "timely and vital".

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Government has announced a \$72.5 million dollar support package for the racing industry.

"We are going to make racing great again."

"This is exactly what's required," says HRNZ Chair Ken Spicer, "we are very appreciative of this funding package, it helps with the here and now and also into the future."

Mr Peters said, "We can't gild the lily... It is a matter of urgency for the Government to provide support."

"Of the immediate grant, \$26 million will be used by RITA to pay its outstanding supplier bill which it hasn't be able to do because of strangled revenue. The other share of this package will ensure RITA, and each of the racing codes, can maintain a baseline functionality and resume racing activities," said Mr Peters.

"That's the key for us," said Spicer, "this allows the industry to begin to plan for the weeks and months ahead with renewed optimism."

"It's too early to say how the funding package will be allocated, but it's great news for all of racing."

The announcement comes little over a fortnight before harness racing resumes at Addington on May 29.

TROTTING GREAT MUSCLES YANKEE PASSES

Brad Reid

Muscles Yankee (Valley Victory-Maiden Yankee), the Hambletonian champion of 1998 and among the greatest trotting stallions in history, passed away peacefully in his paddock at Perretti Farms on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, it was reported by Nicola Abrams, manager of the still existing Cream Ridge New Jersey farm.

He had been most recently standing stud at Winbak Farm of New York but was retired from stallion duty last year.

Muscles Yankee, immortalized as the sire of the greatest trotter in this decade Muscle Hill, won 15 of 21 starts at two and three and retired with earnings of \$1,424,938.





Muscles Yankee and John Campbell

A foal of 1995, Muscles Yankee was 25. As a stallion, Muscles Yankee produced three consecutive Hambletonian winners: Deweycheatumnhowe, Muscle Hill and Muscle Massive.

"I remember that when we got him he had OCDs taken out of his hocks and when we x-rayed him, he still had OCDs in his hocks. So he had to be operated on again," remembered Chuck Sylvester, who trained Muscles Yankee.

"So he got a late start because of that. He never had a bad training day. He was always a horse that was ready to do his work and it came easy to him. He never had any problems. He was a horse that always wanted to please you.

"He was good gaited even though he had a dish foot in his right front. We always had to worry and work on that. But he was a very smart and very good horse. I knew that with the way he was built that he would be a good sire. He was a good-sized Valley Victory, and never touched his boots or anything."

Muscles Yankee was one of four Hambletonian victories for Sylvester, and one of six wins for world champion driver John Campbell.

"He was exceptional," said Campbell, currently the president of The Hambletonian Society. "I have always said it is hard to compare horses from one year to another, and they can only be compared to the ones they raced against. He certainly compared quite favourably his year.

"He had enough ability at the end of his two-year-old year that he won some Grand Circuit races. He got a little over-aggressive at the end of the year and that cost him some money and races. But I think certainly ability wise he was on par to be successful.

He really matured both physically and mentally over the winter, and when he came back he was just a professional horse. And a very easy horse to drive. He certainly left his mark as a stallion, and that is going to show up for generations.

"I would have liked to have seen him come back as a four-year old because I think he would have been bigger and stronger. But the economics of him going to stud did not allow for that, and I certainly understand it. I think he would have proven himself even more so on the track had he had another year," he said.

His 15 wins included the Hambletonian & Breeders Crown which saw him crowned Three-Year-Old Trotter of the Year in 1998 and he was also the fastest North American trotter that season for all comers posting 1:52.2, only 0.1 of a second outside the North American record at that time.

At stud he was a revelation and has had arguably the greatest impact outside of the Hall brothers in the last 20 years.

His first crop in North America (2000) produced two millionaires, including Mr Muscleman, 2005 US Trotter of the Year and the winner of over \$3.5 million, good enough for 20th place on the richest trotters of all time.

At stud in New Zealand, Muscles Yankee made an immediate impact despite having a few factors against him.

Despite his introductory service fee of \$10,000 in 2004 being four times that of the all-conquering Sundon, and being one of the first sires made available by frozen semen, trotting breeders gave him great support in his debut year down under.

From his first crop of 41 live foals, 24 were race winners.

A date with Chiola's Lass, dam of Allegro Agitato produced Skyvalley, the winner of three Group One races and multiple Group Two and Three credits.

The same crop also produced the enigmatic Snos Big Boy, winner of the Group Three City of Sails Free For All and Cambridge Flying Stakes.

A full brother to Snos Big Boy was to produce Muscles Yankee's only down under millionaire and one of the most dominant trotters we have seen in New Zealand this century.

I Can Doosit was typical of much of the Muscles Yankee stock in that he was slow maturing. In the case of 'Dooisit' he had the excuse of having had a paddock accident, but it never stopped him from reaching dizzy heights, at one point winning 18 races in a row, most of them at Group level.

You know you have had an enormous impact at stud when one is dissecting not how many six figure earners he had, but rather how many millionaires.



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I Can Doosit: One of 13 Muscles Yankee millionaires

All told, Muscles Yankee is the sire of 13 millionaires;

- **Blur 2002** - T1:55.1US \$1,022,268 [3]
- **Costa Rica 2007** - T1:54.3US \$1,380,219
- **Deweycheaturnhowe 2005** - T1:50.4US \$3,155,178
- **Housethatruthbuilt 2001** - T1:52.4US \$1,164,931 [2]
- **I Can Doosit 2005** - T1:55.5 \$1,377,319
- **Little Brown Fox 2009** - T1:51.2US \$1,192,403
- **Looking Hanover 2005** - T1:53.2US \$1,125,136
- **Mr Muscleman 2000** - T1:51.1US \$3,582,823
- **Muscle Massive 2007** - T1:51.0US \$1,239,138
- **Muscles Marinara 2000** - T1:52.1US \$1,057,750
- **Neighsay Hanover 2006** - T1:52.2US \$1,276,548
- **Strong Yankee 2002** - T1:50.3US \$1,434,351
- **Muscle Hill 2006** - T1:50.1US \$3,273,342

Undoubtedly the greatest in that list was not only regarded as the greatest modern-day trotter, but also the greatest modern-day trotting sire in his son Muscle Hill.

The winner of 20 of his 21 starts is now dominating the global trotting ranks as a sire.

Another son of Muscles Yankee to stand at stud here in New Zealand with very good results is Muscle Mass, his full brother, Muscle Massive makes the list of millionaires above.

Most champion sires eventually show their worth as dam sires, and Muscles Yankee was no exception.

Muscles Yankee is the dam sire of 13 millionaires;

- **Brad de Veluwe 2008** by Andover Hall - T1:09.7EU 1,141,155€
- **Creatine 2010** by Andover Hall - T1:51.2US \$2,102,022
- **Whiskey Tax 2008** by Revenue - T1:52.1US \$1,028,812
- **Caprice Hill 2013** by Kadabra - T1:52.3US \$1,329,072
- **Charmed Life 2010** by Majestic Son - T1:52.2US \$1,446,387
- **Lucky Chucky 2007** by Windsongs Legacy - T1:50.4US \$2,099,973
- **Habitat 2012** by Conway Hall - T1:53.0US \$1,262,221
- **Take My Picture 2007** by Classic Photo - T1:52.3US \$1,189,186

- **Hot Shot Blue Chip 2006** by Revenue - T1:51.2US \$1,202,702
- **Windsong Soprano 2006** by Windsongs Legacy - T1:52.4US \$1,231,325
- **DWs NY Yank 2009** by Dilbert Hanover - T1:51.3US \$1,455,695
- **Spider Blue Chip 2010** by Andover Hall - T1:51.3US \$1,243,897

Three notables in the list above are commercial sires, furthering the influence of the Muscles Yankee line.

Explosive Matter, Lucky Chucky and Creatine are all presently at stud in North America with the latter two available to down under breeders.

Muscles Yankee is already the grand dam sire of two millionaires including the world champion filly Atlanta (Chapter Seven/Cantab Hall/Muscles Yankee).

He is also the grand dam sire of the exciting winner of the NSW Trotting Derby, Elite Stride.

What make that mating interesting is the close-up way in which the Muscles Yankee influence is duplicated.

The Anthony Butt trained trotter is by Muscle Hill out of the Donato Hanover mare Real Babe whose dam Housethatruthbuilt was by Muscles Yankee making him 2x3 to the son of Valley Victory.

Interestingly there is a number of notable performers currently in North America bred on this 2x3 cross.

Here in New Zealand, the enigmatic Ronald J is out of the Muscles Yankee mare, Polar Blast.

So too his full brother Quevert.

Derby placegetter BD Khaosan and the talented Molly Bones are other notables out of Muscles Yankee mares.

His most talented female performer in this country was undoubtedly High Gait, the winner of three Group Ones and 2YO Filly of the Year in both New Zealand and Australia.

She has since had two foals for Ken and Karen Breckon by Love You and Father Patrick and is sure to make her mark given her impeccable maternal line and race record.

CHARLES ROBERTS **Vet Pioneer**

Brad Reid

The mark of a great person like Charles Roberts is felt in the legacy he leaves behind.

He did that on several fronts through his pioneering work as an equine veterinarian, his roles in both equine racing codes as an administrator and breeder and finally his efforts as the co-founder of Woodlands Stud.

We know a lot about his achievements and accolades





He formulated a product he marketed as 'Chasmix' using bovine bone flour and disodium phosphate with traces of copper and fluoride. This was a breakthrough in its day and used by all major stud farms in the 90's, and only got phased out when feed companies started producing balanced complete feeds for young horses.

He was the first to use propantheline bromide as a smooth muscle relaxant for rectal examinations of maiden mares.

On the recommendation of a Proctologist friend he purchased what was available; 10mg tablets in the day. Mixing a syringe of sterile water with a couple of blue Propantheline tablets was such a success the idea was later commercialised by NatureVet of Australia and sold around the world.

Charles was a fearless pioneer for investing in some of the early technology that is common place in today's equine veterinary work.

An example of this was his enormous outlay on one of the first three mare scanners to ever be produced.

"Charlie helped me to get into a referral practice in Kildare, Ireland," said Grierson.

"The principal there was a guy called Stan Cosgrove who was a legend also, similar age to Charlie and unfortunately he passed away recently. He was the only Irishman to become the president of the British Veterinary Association," he said.

"Between Charlie and Stan, they arranged to buy one of the only three scanners originally produced. I believe the cost of each unit was around \$20,000 and you could buy a brand new Ford Fairmont for about \$2,500 and a house in Papakura for about \$20,000 at the time.

As with a lot of technology, earlier models were not as practical as the equipment on hand today.

"It was hard to get inside the mare because it would have been half the size of a coke bottle," laughed Grierson.

Despite not being as fit for purpose as today's models, the foresight in outlaying a considerable amount of money is not lost on Grierson who said at the time, many assumed the technology to be simply a fad that would pass with time.

"In actual fact it is probably the single most important tool inside your car besides a stethoscope. And we are not only doing pregnancies now, but areas like tendons to abdomens and everything in between," he said.

Charles was the first person to describe the crushing of twins and in a paper presented to the Third International Symposium on Equine Reproduction in 1982.

What was extraordinary was this paper pre-dated the advent of the ultrasound scan. He described how they are best done around twenty rather than out at thirty plus

Charles was born in the heart of Pakuranga on the family dairy farm. His ambition was always to become a vet and work with cattle and horses. In those days that required a trip to Sydney as Massey University Veterinary School never existed then. Charles originally worked in Matamata before starting Veterinary Associates in Takanini, and then in 1990 Auckland Veterinary Centre.

Someone who was close to him in many of his pursuits was Woodlands Stud co-founder Andrew Grierson.

When it came to work ethic, Charles had few peers.

"He believed there was never an easy way to make money except by working hard.

"His family owned part of Pakuranga and he worked that hard as a farmer he turned a small fortune into a huge fortune," said Grierson.

It followed him into his lifelong passion of veterinary work.

"He was a leader in his field in his time without a doubt," said Grierson.

"Mares don't understand it's a weekend and Charlie knew that and never backed away from it. He was always available for anyone who rang him any day to come out and check on horses and was very conscientious and diligent as a stud veterinarian and got good results as part of that," he said.

Charles was always thinking and questioning why we do things and would say to young graduates; 'get the right diagnosis and only then can you be of help'.

His work in the late seventies on epiphysitis in young growing horses confirmed the calcium/phosphate ratio imbalance was almost always from a deficiency in phosphorus not calcium.



days and this was later to be proven correct with the advent of the scan.

"Charles always use to down play his intelligence and say there are a lot more intelligent people then me around, but to give you an idea of how clever he was, he was the pioneer of palpating mares and crushing twins," said Grierson.

"Everyone rubbished this claim and said he was making it up saying you couldn't feel if a mare was pregnant at only 20 days!

"The answer to that is some people can and some people can't, and Charlie quite clearly could and others who could recognised this and said he was right on the money.

"Of course when scanners came out it did a lot of this work for you, but Charlie's work and records had been done and kept well in advance of this," said Grierson.

In the late 70's, before bottles of prostaglandin were available, he pioneered the uterine irrigation of kerosene to bring mares into season.

Because of the flammable nature of the liquid, it drew the ire of those who did not understand its many applications and uses in not only cleaning up animals, but humans also.

"Back in the early days before 'Prostaglandin' was in place you couldn't get a mare or a cow to come into season when you wanted too.

"Charles had observed talking to different dairy farmers over the years that they use the technique of running a bit of kerosene over the vagina of cows and that would stimulate them to come into season.

"We know now that there is a couple of reflexes associated with the genital tract where if you irrigate the genital tract of a horse or a cow, that can stimulate them to come into season naturally.

"Charlie was playing around with that and that was initially what the kerosene was for. What he noticed was that when he went to irrigate them to come in to season, a lot of them had faeces and crud in their uterus' which was holding them back from breeding.

"What he also saw was that some of those mares seemed to clean up after the process. He then found a lot of mares that would not get into foal or into season properly, started to get into foal once flushed out with kerosene," said Grierson.

On Charles's insistence Professor Twink Allen agreed to do a controlled study at Equine Fertility Centre, Newmarket, UK, where it was confirmed some mares with a Grade III uterine biopsy improved with the

procedure.

Charles would perform a party trick that would stun many of the liquid's doubters into silence.

He had found out from the leading eye specialist at the time, Dr Calvin Ring, that kerosene was the "go to" flush for human eyes to counter some industrial solvents.

"When people would say that is horrible for a mare, Charlie would ask them if they had any kerosene lying around," said Grierson.

"Charles would then pour some into his eye and say, 'see, I told you it was fine', he laughed.

The flushing of mares with Kerosene is still used today.

On a slightly less serious note, Grierson also fondly remembers one of the nicknames Charlie picked up among the local farriers and how it came to stick.

"One of his nicknames back in the day was they use to call him 'chainsaw' Charlie.

"Horses back in the day would go from racing on steels during the week, and then if they were racing on the weekend would then have to be plated in aluminium's.

"Farriers would be in there day plating them and at night taking them off.

"If there was ever a horse with a fester in its foot, Charlie believed you needed to get in there and cut a decent V in it to get decent drainage.

"Much of the chagrin of the local farriers many of them were lamenting the fact of having to shoe a horse after Charlie had treated a stone bruise, and that's how he got that nickname," laughed Grierson.

Roberts, who was inducted into the Hall Of Fame, was a regular winner at the annual Harness Racing Awards and in 2013 won five trophies including Owner and Breeder of the Year, as well as awards for his champion stallion Bettor's Delight and broodmare Scuse Me and top filly Adore Me.

He raced top liners like Miracle Mile winner Christen Me, Adore Me, Dream About Me and Sweet On Me, sharing in the success in later years with daughter Mary and her husband Paul Kenny.

He is the only breeder to be awarded Breeder of the Year in both the Harness and Thoroughbred codes.

However it is his work as a vet that he wanted to be remembered for the most.





PHOTO OF THE WEEK

CHOCOLATIER AND HIS HERD!

Successful trotting stallion Chocolatier was in his day a stud on the track, taking all before him at two and winning over a million dollars in stakes.

He hasn't had the same success at stud, failing to leave one as good as himself.

The son of Credit Winner has spent the last decade or so in Europe but as his age has caught up with him, his fertility had dropped remarkably.

Botique trotting stud Menhammar Stuteri, based in Eke-ro, Sweden, have for the last two seasons tried something completely outside the box to try and aid the issues they had been having with him!

Chocolatier is pictured above as the black horse on the right of the picture. In an effort to try and improve his conception rates, he has been allowed to return to nature as such and is serving mares via 'pasture breeding'. (Also known as 'free range' breeding).

In the picture above, Chocolatier is looking on as one of the mares he has covered naturally foals, while the other mares in the herd look on!

In a world of artificial insemination and embryo transfer, simplicity can prevail. Registered stallions and mares can breed with minimal human intervention, through natural cover in the pasture.

Pasture breeding continues as an accepted breeding method recognized by many breed registries. As in the wild, a stallion roams with a band of mares.

Some horse owners would label this method as old-fashioned and hazardous. They cite the dangers of turning horses out in a herd, where injuries can occur or diseases spread. The lack of supervision means that the breeding manager doesn't know the exact dates of breeding or if a stallion actually covered a mare.

A primary benefit of pasture breeding is the higher percentage of conception. Breeders report a conception rate of more than 90%. When the stallion is constantly present with one or more mares, he has more opportunities to breed. Both horses can court, and either can initiate contact.

Critics of pasture breeding expressed concerns about the safety of valuable horses. Turned loose in a field, stallion and mares can be in danger from each other, or from fencing or terrain. At liberty, horses are involved in the dynamics of a herd. Mares squabble among themselves as they establish the hierarchy of highest-ranking to lowest-ranking members.

However, being in a herd doesn't mean that mares constantly bite or kick others. Lower-ranking mares and their foals are kept in place through threats rather than physical contact. They might be bossed around or ignored by the more dominant mares.

The stallion himself learns manners from older mares. "Half a dozen old, pregnant mares will quickly teach a young stud," said Jim Brinkman, a successful breeder of Quarter Horses at the Pitzer Ranch in Ericson, Neb.

The pasture breeding method doesn't necessarily mean there are more accidents, since accidents do occur to horses and people during in-hand breeding, either by natural cover or artificial insemination.

By all accounts this instance has proven to be accident free and of the 12 mares Chocolatier covered, eight of them had successful pregnancies!



LATHER UP – THE WORLD'S FASTEST PACER JOINS WOODLANDS STUD

Woodlands Stud is proud to announce that the world's fastest pacer Lather Up is set to join their imposing roster in the 2020/21 season.

In a major coup for Australasian breeders the World Champion \$1.9 million earner will shuttle from America to join Bettor's Delight, American Ideal, Sweet Lou, Downbytheseaside, What The Hill and Speeding Spur.

Lather Up will be standing in Australia alongside star sire American Ideal at prominent Victorian farm Northern Rivers Equine. Woodlands Stud has enjoyed a very successful relationship with Dr Kath McIntosh's Kyabram base and with the arrival of the World's fastest pacer this will continue in the 2020/21 season.

Lather Up is one of the greatest horses of his time. He broke two world records and became the fastest four-year-old horse in history, the equal fastest horse in history over a mile and the single fastest horse in history over a mile and one eighth.

He raced against all-comers and broke seven track records as a two, three and four-year-old as well as two world records as a four-year-old. He was a very good two-year-old, a top three-year-old and a world champion four-year-old.

At two, Lather Up set the track record for a two-year-old pacer winning in 1:52.2h. At three, he won a heat of The Little Brown Jug in 1:49.3h (half-mile track), and the \$1 million North American Cup elimination and Final in 1:48.1. And at four, he set a world record 1:46 for a mile and a world record of 1:59.2 for a mile and one-eighth.

When he took his 1:46 world record he raced at the Meadowlands against 10 runners and won by open lengths against an incredible group – including six millionaires. He then backed that world record up the following week with his other world record, going 1:59.2



Lather Up equalling the world record mile rate!

His sire, I'm Gorgeous by Bettor's Delight, was among the top colts of his year winning a heat of the little brown jug in 1:50.4 and finished a close second to 'Horse Of The Year' Rock N Roll Heaven in the \$410,000 final. He has a tremendous maternal line as well, with his super dam being one of the best producers by In The Pocket, leaving 9 significant winners, 5 of them in under 1:51.

His pedigree combines two of the greatest producing sires ever down under in Bettor's Delight and In The Pocket but they are far enough removed to be able to be bred to almost all mares across Australasia.

His book is full and closed in America for his first season as a sire and with his speed, conformation, gait, looks and pedigree he is set to make his mark on the Australasian harness racing industry too.

Lather Up will be available via fresh, chilled semen throughout Australasia and his 2020/21 service fee will be \$6,000 + GST in New Zealand and \$6,600 GST Inc in Australia, with discounts available.

For bookings or inquiries about Lather Up in New Zealand please contact Stacey White on 021 595 492 or via email stacey@woodlandstud.co.nz and in Australia contact Mark Hughes on 04 5165 0707 or via email mark@woodlandstud.co.nz

Im Gorgeous 2007 - U50	Bettors Delight 1998 - U66	Cams Card Shark 1991 - U22	Cam Fella U21
	Joy 1987 - U50	Classic Wish 1990 - U66	Jefs Magic Trick U22
Pocket Comb 1994 - U289	In The Pocket 1987 - U112	Andrel 1981 - U26	Armbro Emerson U10
		Perky Almahurst 1976 - U50	Best of the Best U66
	Shampoo Girl 1988 - U289	Direct Scooter 1976 - U16	Nero U8
		Black Jade 1974 - U112	Armbro Tequila U26
		Umbrella Fella 1980 - U47	High Ideal U43
		Closing Time 1983 - U289	Pretty Almahurst U50
			Sampson Direct U12
			Noble Claire U16
			Tar Heel U4
			Miss Skipper U112
			Governor Skipper U34
			Keystone Mist U47
			Escape Artist U107
			Jersey Tandy U289



Rock N Roll Heaven x Trigirl Brigade



Vincent x Kim Maguire

SALE AN IMPORTANT BAROMETER

Alabar general manager Graeme Henley says the upcoming May sale on Gavelhouse is more than just a sale.

Because he believes it will be an important barometer for where the industry's confidence stands coming out of the Covid-19 crisis.

The May sale conducted by New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred also contains a smattering of broodmares, yearlings and even the odd racehorse but it is predominantly about weanlings, with huge offerings from Alabar and Woodlands (who were profiled on hrnz.co.nz last week).

And because of Covid restrictions around travel and the size of gatherings the sale will be not only online but over a week starting May 20 on the Gavelhouse platform run by NZBS.

Online sales are proving incredibly successful in the thoroughbred world and Henley, who was the first vendor to majorly support the May sale with big numbers, says the move to online for this month's sale is both logical and could prove a success.

"We would prefer a normal sale but NZBS have been great to deal with by getting this online and there will be positives to that," says the general manager of Alabar.

"It means the Australians can be just as involved as the locals and I think that market will be boosted by the fact they have a new sales company over there so buyers can purchase weanlings here as pinhook prospects and on-sell them as yearlings over there."

For that reason and also because the sale comes as hopefully both countries start to move out of the Covid-19 crisis, Henley sees it as a crucial barometer on where the industry is heading.

"Those markets, like pinhooking and buyers looking to pay higher end money for weanlings, will tell us a fair bit about where things are heading and how people see the near future in harness racing."

Alabar has always been a big supporter of the May sale and Henley says the reasons are simple.

"It is because of the way our business is set up.

"We have had up to eight stallions on the farm here before and some breeding seasons we will serve 2500 mares.

"That is a lot of work, even the work around the semen transportation is a lot and we simply don't have the time or space to be preparing a lot of yearlings for the sales as the two things overlap.

"For that reason we supported this sale very early and now Woodlands have come on board with big numbers and I think it is a really important day for the industry."

Horses like U May Collect have been sold by Alabar at the May sale and last year they had a Kadabra weanling sell for \$80,000 and a brother to Alta Maestro for \$75,000.

Another brother to the latter will be one of the highlights of their 57-strong draft this month while Henley sees some real highlights.

"We also have a sister to Star Galleria, who would be valuable for that reason alone but she is only the second filly from that dam Starlight and the other filly, Star Of Venus, has left Self Assured.

"So a filly like he has value to keep, pin-hook or even as a broodmare because that is a really fast, current family and you just can't buy fillies from that family."

The stock of Alabar's superstar Art Major are naturals for any young horse sale as he produces such athletic horses and Henley is also excited about the stock of world record holder Always B Miki and of course local hero Vincent, who has eight weanlings in their draft.

"Vincent is as good a looking horse as you would see and that comes through in the weanlings. Even the fillies look strong with good shoulders.



"So we think they will be popular."

Henley says next week looms as an important day for sale with trainers and agents set to visit the South Auckland farm for inspections on Tuesday week.

"I think that is crucial," says Henley.

"I have had a lot of people ring me and ask me about certain weanlings, which has been a good sign.

"But we expect to have trainers and agents here next week and if people can't be here if they ring their mates who can be, with many of the top trainers going to be here, then at least they can give them an unbiased opinion.

"So that is going to be a real asset, especially for the Australians."

Of course Alabar aren't just relying on that, with Henley himself manning the camera for the eight pics and then videos needed of all 57 weanlings for the sale.

"That made an interesting experience," he laughs.

"Trying to get 57 weanlings to do what you want when you want is a bit of a mission and I reckon it was the first time I had ever used the video function on my camera.

"But we got there, it helped we had 10 days of fine weather otherwise it would have been impossible. What also helped with the guidance of a celebrity Nanny, former champion racehorse and Alabar stallion Elsu."

"We gelded him a couple of years ago when he was no longer commercial because if we hadn't

have he would have spent the rest of his life alone.

"So he buddies up with the odd mare these days but we actually put the weanlings in a paddock with him, in bunches of 5 or 6, for the first week when they come off the mares.

"He keeps them calm, shows them how to behave and loves it because he gets fed well and has some company.

"So we call him our celebrity Nanny."

So as for the sale, what can buyers expect?

"We are being very realistic about our reserves but it won't be a fire sale because it doesn't need to be and I can tell that by the interest we have had already.

"But the most important thing is for people to register with Gavelhouse and then they can choose to buy or not."



Tiger Tara winning the 2018 Inter Dominion Final

TIGER TARA GETS HIS CHANCE AT STUD

Tiger Tara, the 2019 Horse of the Year and Grand Circuit champion and one of the greatest pacers ever raced in this country, will stand his first public season at the Medowie Lodge stud, of Darren Reay, near Newcastle.

His service fee is \$3,500 including GST with chilled semen in Australia and frozen to NZ.

He served a few of his owner's mares between race-track campaigns and his first small crop of yearlings have been broken in and have shown up as natural, bold pacers.

In a career spanning eight seasons, Tiger Tara amassed \$2,375,065 from 37 wins and 40 placings in 112 starts and took a mile mark of 1:49.8 – the fastest time ever recorded by an Inter Dominion champion.

He notched seven wins at Group 1 level and won a staggering 22 Group races overall and earned \$100,000 or more in six consecutive seasons.

Tiger Tara, a top flight pacer and a real iron horse, won over all distances from 1609 to 2760 metres and emerged successful in three States in Australia and both islands of New Zealand.

Tiger Tara set the harness racing world abuzz from October 2018 to February 2019 winning seven races – six at Group level – highlighted by an unprecedented treble in Grand Circuit events – the Inter Dominion Final, A. G. Hunter Cup (smashing his own track record) and the Victoria Cup – by a combined margin of 41 metres.

Perhaps one of his greatest performances came in defeat however, when, after being required to overcome a difficult barrier draw and a torrid passage, he finished a nose second in the 2018 NZ Cup.

From 19 starts for this term he netted nine wins and seven placings for a season's high \$865,500 and was voted Australian Horse of the Year, NSW Horse of the Year and Grand Circuit champion.



Tiger Tara began his career as a two-year-old in NZ, placing in six of his nine starts including the Group 2 Welcome Stakes at Addington.

As a three-year-old Tiger Tara won seven of his 12 outings and \$298,461 and was the highest stake earning colt of his year. At one stage he won six races on end including the Group 1 \$222,000 Great Northern Derby at Auckland and the Group 1 \$165,000 NZ Sires' Stakes Championship at Addington and finished runner-up in the Jewels.

Tiger Tara won a further six races during his four and five-year-old campaigns highlighted by victories in the \$240,000 NZ Free-for-all, Hannon Memorial, Canterbury Classic and Cheviot Cup.

Bought by the Pizzuto family in January 2017, Tiger Tara cut a swathe through cup and free-for-all ranks throughout the country for the next two years, winning such classics as the \$100,000 Canadian Club Sprint, NSW Golden Mile, Renshaw Cup, Sydney Cup, Brian Hancock Cup and the Goulburn Gold Cup.

Contesting the Inter Dominion Championship for the first time, he won a 2100 metre heat in track record time at Bunbury defeating Lazarus, ran second in two other heats and was a close third to Lazarus and Chicago Bull in the \$1.1 million Grand Final at Gloucester Park.

As a measure of his durability and soundness, Tiger Tara contested the NZ Cup on a record five occasions, finishing second twice, third and twice unplaced.

He is a classic combination of quality and power as could only be expected of a horse of his breeding.

By the great Bettor's Delight, Tiger Tara, who was foaled in NZ's Canterbury district in 2010, is from the great maternal family that has produced the Ballarat Cup and dual Inter Dominion heat winner A G's White Socks, the Fremantle Cup winner Power Of Tara, Robyn's Treasure (NZ Oaks), Salty Robyn (1:49.4), Sammy Maguire and among many others, including the NZ Easter Cup winner Matthew Lee.

Tara Gold, the dam of Tiger Tara, had a 100 percent record at stud with six winners from six foals of racing age, three of whom took records of better than 2:00. She was by Dream Away from Atomic Gold, dam of three in 2:00, by Soky's Atom from Vita Gold (dam of six winners), by Knowing Bret from Petronella, and tracing to the noted foundation mare Dolly (by Young Irvington).

Tiger Tara is a Cam Fella line horse – that which produced Fake Left – from a top maternal family, and boasts four strong crosses of the blood of Albatross. He should prove an ideal outcross to mares boasting Artsplace, Direct Scooter and Western Hanover blood, and others.

Bookings and further information from Richard Camilleri of Alphastud on phone 1300 078 237



WINTER FEEDING CONSIDERATIONS

Winter is certainly not a horse owner's favourite time of the year. Along with the cold, dark and mud, many horses struggle to maintain condition, making it difficult to have them looking their best when the season gets underway.

There are a number of things to consider about your horse and his or her individual circumstances when developing a winter feeding plan.

- Their current body condition
- Will they remain in work over winter?
- Their temperament
- How much access to pasture and the quality of the pasture
- Will they be boxed /yarded?

If your horse is underweight coming into winter it will be very important to implement a feed plan that provides a good increase in daily calorie contribution as soon as possible. Not only does your horse need to intake more calories for weight gain it also needs to contend with the conditions winter brings – cold, wet and in most instances reduction in pasture availability and quality.

If the horse is in good health i.e. has no health issues that may limit its ability to put on condition, it will be a matter of looking at the existing feeding regime and ensuring an increase in supplementary feed.

Fibre First! If pasture is limited, ensure the horse has access to plenty of quality hay or haylage to make up this shortfall. This will not only provide calories, it will also assist in ensuring the horse's minimum daily requirements are satisfied, which is critical for digestive health.

Hay will also help keep horses warm due to the extra heat generated during its digestion.

Further fibre can be added to the feed with the inclusion of Dunstan Beet:

- Dunstan Betabeet Flakes or
- Dunstan Sugarbeet Flakes

As Dunstan Beets are super-fibres, they have more calories per kg than traditional fibre sources. Not only do they provide more calories than many other fibre sources for weight gain, they also add additional fibre to the ration to assist with maintaining digestive health

Dunstan provides two beet options for horse owners to allow them to choose the beet product which best suits the requirements of their individual equine.

Further fibre options are Equifibre Lucerne Pro and Equifibre Meadow Pro, two variants of ensiled products which provide horse owners with great choice. These palatable forage supplements will bulk out the ration



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with more fibre – great for horses spending time in boxes or yards, with limited pasture and when feeding out hay is difficult in mob situations.

Move to a higher energy feed?

Horses that are light require an increase in total daily calorie intake. This can come from increasing the intake of the current feed or moving to a higher energy feed which will provide more calories per kg. If you weigh your feed and you are not feeding the recommended intakes appropriate for the size of your horse, simply increase the intake of the existing ration. Alternatively if you are feeding high intakes of a lower energy feed it may be appropriate to move to a more calorie-dense feed. For example, if feeding Dunstan Coolfeed you may move to Dunstan Maxim Low-GI. The feed you choose will of course need to be suitable for the temperament of the horse.

If the feed you are feeding suits the horse, then you may be reluctant to make a complete change, and adding in a 'little something' to the mix may be the answer!

Adding a 'Little Something'

Dunstan has two great calorie-dense supplements that are intended to be added to a 'full feed' to boost overall calorie contribution as well as assist with coat quality and 'topline'

- Dunstan Extruded Rice, and
- Dunstan Muscle n' Shine.

Vitamins and minerals are not added to Dunstan Extruded Rice (with added Rice Bran oil) and therefore it can be incorporated into the existing ration to provide further calories without doubling up on vitamin and mineral contribution.

Add Dunstan Extruded Rice into the existing ration at 500grams to 1.5kg daily. Alternatively, Dunstan Muscle n Shine can be included at 250grams to 1kg daily. Dunstan Muscle 'n Shine does include added vitamins and minerals so will help to 'top-up' requirements if there is a slight shortfall in the current ration.

Calories without More Feed

Unfortunately some owners are only able to feed their horses once a day and this can make it difficult to get additional condition on their horses. Sometimes it is not appropriate to just make the feeds larger, as due to the small size of the horse's stomach, it is recommended that no more than 2kg of concentrate be fed in a single meal (based on a 500kg horse). However, adding some oil to the ration will increase the calorie intake without the horse having to consume more feed. Oil also provides a 'cool' energy source, ideal for horses that do not tolerate addition grain in the ration.

Dunstan Trifecta Oil is a blend of vegetable oils to provide the important fatty acids Omega 6, 9 and 3. A natural antioxidant based on extract of Rosemary and Vitamin E is included to optimize shelf life and product stability.

To assist in your horse putting that feed to good use over winter for weight gain, ensure that he/she has plenty of good shelter and/or is well rugged.

If you are struggling with the winter feeding woes and would like some assistance with the best feeding options for your horse please contact Dunstan:

Ph 0800 438 678
Email dunstan@dunstan.co.nz



CHANGEOVER MARE SIZZLES AT HOT RODS

Talented Changeover mare With The Band NZ earned her connections a \$10,000 cash bonus when she won the fastest heat of the Trot Rods at Redcliffe on Sunday night (May 10).

Coming from the tail of the four-horse field, With The Band produced closing sectionals of 27.8 and 27.6 to win the 947 metres scamper by two lengths. The mile rate was a brilliant 1:50.2.

It was her seventh win this season and her ninth overall.

Raced over 947 metres at Redcliffe Raceway in Queensland the Trotrods is racing's version of T/20 cricket. It features a series of quickfire races with a field of up to five facing the mobile. Held over a series of 16 heats, the big finale was held last night.

Going into the last heat Risky Business had the best time of 65.24 seconds, only for With The Band to go 64.77 and take away the \$10,000 prize.

Drawn four of four Paul Diebert got the favourite into the one-one and then powered away for a comfortable win.

With The Band is by 2008 New Zealand Cup winner Changeover out of Flashbang and raced in New Zealand for three wins from 28 starts before crossing the Tasman.

Trained by Chris McDowell and driven by Leo O'Reilly the horse's last win in New Zealand was at Banks Peninsula in December.

The Trotrods have proved a hit, especially with its on-board cameras that provide a new perspective for the fans on track and at home.

To watch the race [click here](#)

AUSTRALIAN RACING SEASON EXTENDED

A historic decision by the Executive of Harness Racing Australia will extend the current racing season to the end of the year, due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The executive announced the decision yesterday, extending the current 2019/20 racing season to 31 December.

The decision will appease industry participants becoming increasingly concerned about the loss of opportunities for two, three and four year old feature and futurity racing.

The HRA Executive said the decision to extend the season allows the various State Controlling Bodies time to consider the reprogramming of various Feature and Futurity Races which have been, or will be, impacted by the direct or related effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The extension to the season is for the current 2019/20 racing season only and does not alter the breeding season. From a racing perspective, all Standardbreds will keep their current age through to 31 December 2020.

Further updates will be provided in due course by Harness Racing Australia and the respective State Controlling Bodies as they apply to matters including rules, ratings handicapping and the feature race calendar.

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