
BREEDERS' UPDATE



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

November 19 2020

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REST ASSURED, CALDOW OVER- WHELMED BY CUP WIN

Brad Reid

The New Zealand Cup has a place reserved in history for the greats of our sport.

The staying qualities needed to win a New Zealand Cup have undone many of our greats and exposed even the slightest of chinks in the armour.

Think Holmes D G, Master Musician & Elsu.

Few if any of our equine athletes have won our biggest race by chance, even if a couple of them snuck under the guard of punters in recent times.

Bee Bee Cee beat home Master Musician in 1994 at a quote of \$14.85.

Gracious Knight led home the biggest cup trifecta of the last 40 years when winning in 2002 (\$10,000) with Facta Non Verba & Shorty's Girl.

Flashing Red's second cup in 2007 had to be seen to be believed, so too his tote divvy given he was the defending champ, \$23.40 thank you very much. Given his lead up form you could have argued that was unders, also.

The only thing more perplexing you could argue was the pedigree of the son of Echelon out of a Courvoisier mare. This makes Flashing Red one of the rare exemptions of New Zealand Cup winners.

Pedigree is an underlying constant in the overwhelming majority of crowned champions.

Il Vicolo and Arden Rooney traced back to the revered Black Watch family.

Iraklis and Monkey King hailed from the highly storied Sakuntala branch of the Cummings' family breed.

Changeover was from the same family as the 1993 champion, Chokin.

2018 Cup winner The Fixer has the 1949 New Zealand Cup winner in Loyal Nurse in his pedigree as the 7th dam.

When looking at the engine room of the 2020 winner of the New Zealand Cup, it should come as no surprise that the horse bred by Wellington breeder Reg Caldow would salute.

"When breeding horses it is imperative you start with good maternal families," said Caldow.



Self Assured clears out in the final furlong to beat stablemates Spankem and Ashley Locaz in a time of 3:55.2 to win The Cup

"It costs the same to feed all of them no matter what their pedigree is," he reiterated.

The Tabella Beth line that Self Assured descends from is much storied and requires little introduction.

Tabella Beth appears in the pedigree of 27 six figure earners in our sport including the greatest pacer since Christian Cullen in Lazarus.

"Back in 2000 I was looking for a racehorse to be fair, and Peter Ryder fronted me one morning on the phone and said I haven't got a racehorse for you, but I think I might have the best broodmare available in New Zealand.

"He said she was a four year old that hasn't come up in training due to an injury and while she was a Tuapeka Knight mare, she was a half-sister to Stars and Stripes who looked like he was going to make a nice horse.

"Of course this was before Stars and Stripes had won all his derbies in Australia and Light and Sound was merely a foal. I knew a lot about the breed and she certainly had the right credentials" said Caldwell.

Both Stars and Stripes and Light and Sound went on to dizzy heights winning age group Horse of the Year crowns and several group and feature races between them.

"We paid \$20,000 for her which was a lot of money for an unraced mare in those days," he said.

The stars had aligned for Reg and his wife Barb who couldn't wait to get breeding from their new addition in Starlitnight.

The only problem was, Starlitnight wasn't showing the same urgency when it came to producing a foal!

This isn't the first tale of perseverance in breeding and it certainly won't be the last. It doesn't make the story of breeding Self Assured any less remarkable however. Starlitnight failed to get in foal or was met with bad luck in eleven of her 19 seasons at stud.

It took the Tuapeka Knight mare five years and being served with seven different stallions before she would produce a healthy foal.

I loathe the cliché that 'good things take time', but this has never rung more true than when looking at the breeding career of this mare.

"We can't really put the finger on it, other than to simply say she was just a shy breeder. She had to have everything going for her.

"She did have a nice Christian Cullen colt after about three years but he had a deformity and died. The drugs were simply not strong enough to take care of the issues he had with his gut and we sadly had to put him down," said Caldwell.

In her fifth season at stud, Starlitnight produced a filly by Christian Cullen called Star of Venus, the subsequent dam of Self Assured.

"She was very speedy and won her first race on the grass at Westport on Boxing Day while still technically a two-year-old being a February foal.

"Her race record does not reflect how good she was. She had a number of issues including holding her breath during a race and that would see her stop when it looked like she was full of running.

"We retired her to go to stud and we got Jimmy (Curtin) to time trial her at Ashburton for us for one last hurrah.

"We got off a plane to Jimmy ringing me saying you wouldn't believe this but she's just run 1:53 which was faster than Scuse Me's record time and only slightly outside the new record which had been set a year earlier by Kiwi Ingenuity.

"The scary thing was Ricky May who drove the GP told us one night that he thought she could have gone faster! They just held her together and she absolutely cruised it," said Caldwell.

At stud Star of Venus has followed in the hoofprints of her



mother by being a problem breeder, but not through any real fault of her own.

As much as the first foal was responsible for a foaling injury that almost saw his mother die, he is undoubtedly the reason Star of Venus is here today and able to produce a cup winner several years later.

"Star of Dionysis was the first foal and she nearly died having him.

"He kicked her on the way out and destroyed part of her intestine. The following day Canterbury Equine did a massive operation through the night in an effort to save her.

"They cut about 7 feet of bowel out her and the following day she looked like she was going to be alright but she succumbed again. They rang me to say she was very lucky to survive the first operation but had very little hope of her surviving a second.

"They did the second operation and it was only another six inches they had to cut out.

"I flew in the following morning and when I saw her she had her head down as low as the ground and just looked like she didn't want to live. The foal was being kept at the stud and one of the young vets suggested the idea of floating in the foal to see if that would do anything for her.

"The foal turned up and was unloaded from the float and as he walked round the corner he let out a little bit of a noise and as soon as she heard him her head lifted up. He ran over to her and over the next ten minutes, she just about got her head up to full height.

"There was about eight of us there and I can promise you there wasn't a dry eye in sight. It was unbelievable to see and it was as if she suddenly had something to live for, it was incredible," said Caldow.

Star of Dionysis' name carries with a lot of meaning with Dionysis in Greek mythology having saved his mother from the Underworld, after his father Zeus showed her his true nature as storm god and consumed her in lightning.

Put it down to one of nature's miracles, and since then Star of Venus has fashioned a record as one of New Zealand's finest producing mares of the last decade.

Of her six foals of racing age, five of them are race winners and six figure earners, four are Group Race winners (two at Group One) and have amassed 76 wins between them for \$1.5 million in stakes and climbing.

All but her first foal have been bred by embryo transfer.

First foal Star of Dionysis won a couple of country cups before heading to Australia where he has since been retired with 12 wins and 20 placings including a Group Three victory.



The second foal was another colt, this time by Real Desire and he went by the name of Vega Star.

"Steven Reid had him and we thought he would be alright but he needed longer to mature than we gave him. In the end we sold him to Australia where they put him in a paddock for 6 months and he repaid them by winning 21 races before going to America," said Caldow.

The third foal was a colt by Rock N Roll Heaven and he too showed plenty of the family ability and like his older brothers, it wasn't long before he was on a plane and headed to Australia also.

"Star of Memphis won his first race at Oamaru on a Sunday and went a hell of a time. Between the race finishing and going to bed I couldn't shake the agents and ended up selling him about 11pm the same Sunday," said Caldow.

Star of Memphis is still in work with the Gath's in Victoria and he was last season the winner of a Group Three at Melton. His career record stands at 15 wins and \$139,000 in stakes.

Fourth foal Caviar Star was a colt by Betterthancheddar.

"We sold him after he won at Blenheim to the Halls in Perth and has never stopped performing over there. He won the Group One Freemantle Cup last season. He has just come back in to work recently and has won himself 14 races and over \$350,000 in prize money," said Caldow.

The fifth foal was the mares first date with the champion sire Bettor's Delight.

While it would seem a date with destiny given the outcome, it would have happened sooner had a man familiar with the breed had his way.

"Dave Phillips who bred Tabella Beth and was responsible for returning her home from the States to become a broodmare has played a big role in my breeding career. He is quite a genius as far as his breeding thoughts go and his memory of the various stallions and mares in the stud book.

"A lot of my breeding decisions have been made in conjunction with him and in hindsight I should have gone to Bettor's Delight as he suggested years ago, but I just felt he was too expensive. The price was going up but it came a time when I just had to go there given how well he was crossing with Cullen mares and in particular those from the Tabella Beth line," said Caldow.

The resulting colt was entered in the Yearling Sales at a time that Caldow was looking to downsize his operation that at one time had swelled to over 15 broodmares.

"He was always a very nice colt. I wanted to keep him but at that stage I had too many horses and needed to downsize and we put him in the sale. Aimee Edmonds did him very well," he said.



Self Assured and Mark Purdon looking happy with themselves having just second rated their opposition in the big dance!

Very well indeed with Jean Feiss going to \$110,000 to secure him.

Self-Assured was by all accounts a very boisterous colt who would constantly put himself in the wars by being simply too full of himself.

It was the constant niggles that saw the now gelded son of Bettor's Delight as a late bloomer to the track, not starting until very late in his three-year-old season.

After winning his first two runs in New Zealand, Self Assured and his trainers set about making up for lost time by campaigning the horse in Australia through the winter.

He won the South East (G3) and Queensland (G1) Derbies before returning home and being set for the Auckland Cup which he subsequently won and cemented himself as a budding superstar of our code.

"It was very special when he won the Auckland Cup having him and Star Galleria in it. I didn't know what horse to look at," said Caldwell,

It wasn't all smooths sailing heading into this season with much of the discussion leading up to the New Zealand Cup centring around whether this enigmatic talent would step away when it mattered most. Although he picked up the Canterbury Classic and the Maurice Holmes vase enroute, several bobbles from the tapes had even his master trainer pulling what little hair he had left out as the Cup drew closer.

Despite the shambolic nature of the start and the impact on runners drawn the inside, few could argue the best horse in the race was the rightful winner on the day.

"The emotions were pretty special. You dream about those things. You're up against the rest of New Zealand involved in the sport and like any sport when you're trying for the best and it actually happens, it's just incredible to think you've actually done it.

"There were definitely some tears. It was a big day. I've had a pretty rotten run this year with my health at one

stage not looking like I would leave the hospital I was in. I was in pretty deep trouble at one stage - I'm still recovering from that but it's been a dreadful year.

"There is a lot of pride in knowing it's not a one-off or fluke so to speak. The family has done it on several fronts over a long period of time and the New Zealand Cup is the crowning glory that ties it all together," he said.

Caldow has another interesting anecdote to add to his breeding CV having bred the first horse born by embryo transfer to win the Cup.

Of the last three foals from Star of Venus, there are three full brothers and sisters in blood to the New Zealand Cup champ all being by Bettor's Delight.

Stars N Bars is a four-year-old who was purchased by clients of Tank Ellis in the Sloan's who paid \$50,000 for the colt. He has two placings from his five race day starts.

The next foal is a three-year-old filly which has been retained by Caldwell as his sole broodmare left in his ownership.

"The Morning Star is in work at the moment with Jimmy and she will be at the races after Christmas. She is a lovely filly and a nice type. I've had all sorts of interest in her from people looking to buy her but she's not for sale. She's the only mare we have left now that Venus has died," he said.

The last foal from Star of Venus is a colt who was sold to Russel Nieper, a leading owner in Jimmy Curtin's barn and the reports on him are good also.

Given the wretched luck with Starlitnight and what could have been a disaster with Star of Venus early in her broodmare career, you would have to say all is well that ends well.

Starlitnight did more than simply produce the dam of Self Assured having left Caldwell with four other winners including the open class pacer, Star Galleria.

"Star Galleria would have been right up there as well but





Connections from Addington, All Stars Racing Stables & IRT gather in the birdcage to celebrate the win of Self Assured

he kicked out one night as a late two year old. He got his foot over the top of his gate and ripped a huge gash just above his hock. It was eight inches long and five inches wide and was an unbelievable mess. He's been a super performer but that leg had natural damage that you can never fix. He could have been incredible and he's had an incredible career all the same," said Caldwell.

Starlitnight produced a full sister to Star Galleria with her final foal in 2019 when bred by Alabar to Art Major. She was purchased by Breckon Farms at this year's Mixed Stock sale run by NZB Standardbred and will make an awesome edition to their broodmare band given the limited number of daughters produced from this line in two decades of breeding endeavours.

For everything Caldwell has achieved over a lifetime involvement. His perseverance and passion are even more remarkable when you factor in that he has achieved all of his success from his base from Lower Hutt which was robbed of its harness roots nearly two decades ago.

"It's in our blood. My wife Barb loves it just as much as I do. We were administering harness racing in the 80's and 90's at Hutt Park and our daughter Sandi was the secretary of the Owners Trainers and Breeders Association up here before Jimmy (Curtin) poached her off us," laughed Caldwell.

"It's been very difficult to maintain the passion and there are people out there making decisions who don't seem to grasp that when you kill off and close harness racing in the rural communities, the interest dies and generations are lost to other pursuits," he said.

With the likes of Gary Allen, Ivan McNicholl and Keith Gibson all hailing from the Wellington region and being the last remaining links to standardbred breeding, it goes to show what an impact Hutt Park had on its community through a golden era of racing.

On the second Tuesday in November in the Year 2020, Reg Caldwell and his family were able to toast to a crowning achievement after a near lifetime interest in our sport. We salute you!

DREAM REALISED FOR BREEDERS BOSS, COLIN HAIR

Jonny Turner

A year of planning saw Colin and Nancy Hair achieve the impossible when Sundees Son wowed a packed Show Day crowd with his stunning win in the Majestic Son Dominion Trot.

The word impossible did not come into punters' minds ahead of the prized Group 1 feature as they sent the Majestic Son six-year-old out the hottest of favourites for Addington's trotting showcase.

And Sundees' Son's Canterbury breeder-owners certainly did not think the race was any kind of impossibility either.

But rewind two or more decades to when Colin Hair would call into Addington for a beer and a punt after work and the thought of winning a Dominion were a pipe dream and he would have just about told you it was impossible.

"You don't really dream of these things, because they seem unattainable, really," Hair said.

"It has to be our biggest thrill, being a Canterbury fellow."

"Even when I first started going to the races I used to call into Addington on a Friday night."

"Working in town, you would call in and have a few beers and watch a few races."

"And I have always been a fan of the trotters."

"I have been to more Dominions and Show Day races than I have been to the Cup."





All smiles! Robert Dunn holding the Dominion silverware alongside Nancy and Colin Hair having just won the race with Sunny.

"The Cup itself, I recognise it as a pinnacle, but I have never thought of really having an interest in having a horse running in it or anything."

Having the favourite for the Dominion is familiar territory for the Hairs.

The breeder-owners, together with trainer Robert Dunn and his son and driver, John, made the call to withdraw the horse from the event last year.

Just three days out the horse made another in a series of mistakes that were set to make his team's 2019 Dominion dream an impossibility.

While it was not pleasant at the time, the Dunn and Hair camp set out crafting a plan to win the race the following year.

The plan must have been a good one because it produced the fastest ever win in the race's history.

"If you look at a year ago where we were, we pulled the plug on him the day after Cup Day," Hair said.

"We pulled him out and at that stage, he was the favourite for the Dominion and the Interdominion."

"We sat down and we thought that the target and the focus of his whole programme and everything would be aimed at the 2020 Dominion."

Sundees Son gave the Hairs a scare that he could be up to his old tricks when galloping in his return at Addington in July. The horse quickly put that performance behind him when producing stunning wins in the Ordeal Trotting Cup and the New Brighton Trotting Cup.

Just when his trotting action looked faultless, the six-year-old gave his camp another fright with a gallop in the last lap of the South Bay Trotter's Cup at Kaikoura. And while it made his fans and punters nervous heading into the Dominion, the Hair camp did not get as flustered as many others.

"Kaikoura was probably just a turn the page sort of

thing," Hair said.

"It wasn't the horse's fault, as John has put his hand up for and commented on."

"It was basically him grabbing hold of the horse and it was at the worst possible place on that track with no camber."

Punters and trotting fans know what to expect from Sundees Son. His talented can not be questioned, but his manners certainly can. And though the Kaikoura incident did not perturb the Hairs, it could not be considered a rarity, because the breeder-owners have been through so much anguish in the past.

"Sunny is always a hard watch, as you could appreciate," Hair said.

"Nancy did an analysis over lockdown and at that stage, he had had just over 40 races and he had won 14 at that stage."

"And of the races – that he didn't win and he didn't gallop in – there were only four!"

"And of course he has galloped in some of his wins, too." With his manners largely in check and the niggling issues that plagued Sundees Son's last campaign behind him, his camp will now set up a run at each of the country's biggest trotting races.

"We would like to just attack the Group 1 races for the rest of the season," Hair said.

"They will basically be hit and run missions."

"He will go to Auckland for the National Trot, then he will come back to Addington for the Fred Shaw NZ Trotting Championship. "Then he will be back to Auckland for the ANZAC and Rowe Cups."

Missions further afield are being considered for Sundees Son, who as a Dominion and Rowe Cup winner has more than earned a shot at an Australian trip.





Sundees Son and John Dunn are chuffed to bits having broken the record for the Dominion Trot set by Monbet in 2016

Whether that happens or not in the near future will largely depend on how COVID19 affects the ability of his camp to go with him.

“The races we are interested in would be the Interdominion and the Great Southern Star.”

“To me, it is not just a case of sending the horse over there and just bowling around.

“I would want to go boots n all.”

“I want to go over there and I want Robert and John to be training and driving him.

“We wouldn’t just do it from the point of view of attacking those two races. I would want to do it with the team and in the name of the team.”

While his fans would undoubtedly be keen to see Sundees Son show his class in Australia, a much more scintillating clash awaits.

With the National Trot and ANZAC Cup already on his programme, a meeting with brilliant four-year-old Bolt For Brilliance awaits.

The matchup will be a purists dream and must rate as the clash of the two most rawly talented trotters in recent seasons.

CUP WEEK DOUBLE FOR HUMBLE LADD

Garrick Knight

A couple of octogenarian mates from Otago enjoyed dual success at New Zealand Cup week with their much-improved trotter, Humble Ladd.

Jim Hunter and Denis Stumbles, both 83, are near enough to lifelong friends and have been in the racing game together for nearly half a century.



“We used to play rugby together; that should tell you how long I’ve known him,” said Hunter, from Taieri.

“And we’ve had horses together for more than 40 years. “We tried breeding, we tried buying, and these later ones have been better than any others.”

He refers to Humble Ladd, who now has 10 wins and over \$90,000 to his name after last week’s two impressive wins, and his dam, Here Comes Pat, who won eight races for the pair between 2010 and 2012.

“Denis has been a friend of Ginger Woodhouse’s for a long time and one day Ginger said to him, you can have this horse if you like.

“We finished up buying three off him and Here Comes Pat was the third of them.”

Like Humble Ladd, Here Comes Pat was trained by Phil Williamson in Oamaru and she’s a granddaughter of Woodhouse’s broodmare gem, Young Pat.

Upon retiring, she shifted to Hunter’s property and was served by super sire, Sundon, but ultimately missed.

The next season she went to the uber-fertile Majestic Son and Humble Ladd arrived nearly a year later, in November 2014.

“He was born right outside my bedroom window,” said Hunter.

“And after she’d had him, she was so exhausted that she lay down on the ground for ages.

“I actually thought something must have been wrong, she was down for so long.

“Ultimately I had to get the vet out here and he reassured me she was just tired.”

In the five subsequent seasons, Here Comes Pat failed to get in foal to Sundon three more times, but did birth one filly by him.

She’s now three and unregistered.



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Humble Ladd and Matthew Williamson clear out to make it a Cup Week double for breeder/owners Jim Hunter & Denis Stumbles

"The Williamsons have got her, along with the mare; we've wound down our breeding operation and got rid of most of our mares.

"Somehow she (Here Comes Pat) missed the cut."

While Hunter did enjoy watching Humble Ladd win both days at Addington, he nor Stumbles were unable to be on course.

"We've both passed that point unfortunately, of being able to travel that far to the races."

Unfortunately, the Ranfurly-based Stumbles was unable to be interviewed for this story. Sadly, he is suffering the effects of Alzheimer's disease.

"It hasn't been much fun, watching him go through that," admitted Hunter.

"But I know he still watches the horse race and gets a lot of enjoyment out of it."

Williamson says he has been pleasantly surprised by the continued improvement of Humble Ladd and says he has no doubt he would have been competitive in Sundees Son's national record Dominion Trot victory on Show Day.

"He would have run top six, I reckon, because he loves a fast pace and just has so much stamina.

"Definitely, he has improved out of sight in the last year, but he's always had good ability and a fantastic attitude.

"Stamina-wise, he's right up there with the best of them."

The whole stable took immense satisfaction from winning twice in the same week for long-time stable clients.

"They've been with me for at least 20 years and are just the best fellas you could ever meet.

"Right up there with the nicest people I know. It's just so unfortunate how bad Denis has gotten and Jim's health isn't great either.

Williamson and wife Bev were also celebrating at the time of interview, just days after the Show Day triumph, because a little half-sister to Humble Ladd had just arrived in to the world.

"She had a filly by What The Hill at one o'clock this morning."

Plans weren't yet confirmed, but it is likely Here Comes Pat will now be served by Majestic Son to try and get a full sibling to Humble Ladd.

The unnamed Sundon three-year-old filly is "getting there; a work in progress" at this stage, but will, at the very least, have a future as a broodmare for the Williamsons.

As for Humble Ladd, he's now likely to be sold if a suitor can be found at the asking price. But if not, the Rowe Cup beckons.

"Jim sort of said to me that because he's now handicapped out of racing down south and they can't travel, it's probably best to sell him.

"He said they're too old to come in to another horse now, but all he has to do is ask for a share in one racing close to home for him and I would do that because they've been so good to us.

"If he's not sold, there's not a lot for him down here now.

"He would go to Omakau for the good trot there and then I wouldn't be afraid to take him up to Auckland in the autumn for the Rowe Cup.

"He does go pretty good right-handed, too."





It's All About Faith returns to scale after winning the 36th running of the Woodlands Stud Sires Stakes Final on Cup Day

THIRD TIMES A CHARM FOR YARNDLEY & SIRES STAKES FINAL

Brad Reid

There is little in harness racing that Sandy Yarndley hasn't achieved since he begun selling yearlings back in 1979.

Yarndley would give credence to the saying; "start as you mean to finish" as he topped the sale with the first yearling he ever sold at that very sale, a Mark Lobell colt out of the famed mare Black Watch.

Fast forward 41 years and Yarndley is still breeding from the revered breed that has given him so much success and continues to do so.

It's All About Faith gave Sandy and Jan their third breeding victory in the Woodlands Stud Sires Stakes 3YO Final when winning the 36th edition of the race also won by Stunnin Cullen (2008) and Il Vicolo (1994).

All three trace back to the great mare Black Watch.

"I'm not even sure if Jan was home when the race was on but there wasn't much yelling or anything but it is still a big thrill to see horses we bred win big races like that," he said

It's All About Faith gave boom sire Captaintreacherous his first Group One siring success and being out of the smart juvenile Veste, the colt who towers over his opposition was bred to be good.

"He was a big foal and he's been big all the way through to the yearling sales where we sold him for \$130,000 he said," said Yarndley.

Big is an understatement with the horse they call 'Faith' looking like he could eat Ray Green's three year old American Dealer for breakfast and still be hungry.

His dam Veste (Christian Cullen) won the Group One Caduceus Club Classic as a two-year-old but had her racing career cut short only four starts into her three-year-old season with eleven starts in total.

"She had a problem after her two-year-old career but with her pedigree and having won a Group One, her value was always going to be as a broodmare," he said.

Her own dam Coburg (Falcon Seelster) was the winner of 10 races including the Group One Standardbred Breeders Stakes in 2004.

She herself hailed from 2011 Broodmare of the Year in Vicario (Soky's Atom) who in turn was the dam of millionaire and now sire Stunin Cullen to name but a few.

Vicario was out of Burgundy Lass (Noodlum) who left fellow millionaire and sire Il Vicolo and her daughter Sparkling Burgundy who also left a millionaire and sire in Gotta Go Cullen.

It's All About Faith was bred by the Yarndleys together with Max and Judith Hunter, under the banner of the Hardwood Breeding Syndicate.

"We've known Max and Judy for about thirty five years," Yarndley continued. "They'd raced the odd galloper before and had been involved in quite a few syndicates with us too. So about 10 years ago we offered them the chance to join us in a breeding venture, and we've all had a hell of a lot of fun," he said.

The fun included racing champion filly and race mare Lauraella whom the partnership bred the first foal from to produce Express Stride.

"We are racing mares called Emberr (Bettor's Delight – Lauraella) and All Yours (Art Major – Temepara Cullen) with Max and Judy under the Hardwood banner and ran the quinella at Cambridge a fortnight ago.



"Both mares will come back to the broodmare band eventually. If Jan and I have a filly we want to keep, Max and Judy will come in on it with us under the Hardwood Breeding Syndicate banner on a racing lease and then we breed the first foal from the mare together before the breeding reverts back to Jan and I," he said.

The exception to that rule has been with Veste.

The Coburg Syndicate who raced the mother had bred the first two foals from Veste but it was winding up and the Hardwood Syndicate purchased her and have bred the last four foals," said Yarndley.

"Veste has an Always B Miki colt headed to the sales. He's just been dropped off at Logan Hollis and Shane Robertson's place to begin his preparations for the sales. He's a big colt like his older brother.

"She has also left us a Captaintreacherous filly in the last couple of weeks which is exciting, but I haven't seen her yet," he said.

"We aren't breeding from very many now, just five or six mares.

"Christanna (Rocknroll Hanover x Lauraella) has a lovely big filly by Bettor's Delight headed to the sales and Lauraella has a Bettor's Delight filly heading there also," said Yarndley.

Yarndley has taken a slight step back from his racing and breeding involvements and keeps himself busy during the week with his grandchildren, sport and volunteer work.

"I volunteer at Riding for the Disabled on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and play tennis on Wednesday's and try and we go to the beach on Friday morning and come back on Sunday night," he said.

HE'S WATCHING FILLY FAIR DINKUM FLYING

Jonny Turner

Watch Me Now handed the Sloan family their biggest thrill in harness racing in the most appropriate race with her stunning performance in the Macca Lodge South Of The Waitaki event on Show Day.

The Kirstin Barclay and Tank Ellis trained mare delivered one of the most stunning wins of the New Zealand Cup Carnival when putting her rivals to the sword before the home turn and then running away to win by more than six lengths.

By He's Watching from Mach Three mare, Mach N Elle,



Watch Me Now was bred by Tussock Creek breeder (near Invercargill) Steve Sloan, his wife Claire, and Macca Lodge studmaster, Brent McIntyre.

The Sloans race the mare with son Brad and his wife Jess, and daughter Halie Gibb and her husband, Alan.

The Sloan and McIntyre families became great friends when neighbours at Tussock Creek, before the McIntyres moved to Northern Southland after purchasing Macca Lodge.

The two families' neighbourly bond is directly responsible for them breeding a budding star in Watch Me Now.

And as many stories between good mates start, Watch Me Now's tale traces back to McIntyre and Sloan coming up with a good idea over a few beers.

"I bought my 30 acres that I have now off 'Mac", that was about 30 years ago," Sloan said.

"I used to go over and work horses with him, and I had a couple there, we were very good neighbours and good mates."

"One day we were having a beer and Michael House was in town promoting this new stallion – Mach Three." "So, Mac and I thought we better go along for a look." "There was a draw for a free service and I ended up winning it, so Mac and I bred Mach N Elle."

The history between the two families left Sloan with no doubt that he had enjoyed his biggest thrill in harness racing when Watch Me Now bolted in on Show Day.

"That was a huge thrill, especially with the way she did it."

"To be honest I was more nervous about that race than the Southland Oaks."

"To do it in the Macca Lodge race was very special."

"Mac (McIntyre) was the first person to ring me, about two minutes after the race."

"And he got a great kick out of it, too."

Mach N Elle is from Elleuro, a Holmes Hanover mare that traces back to the good Southland 'Tact' breed of the late Derek and Bessie Dynes.

Mach N Elle showed promise as a 2yr-old, but broke down after running fifth in the Leonard Memorial Stakes at the annual Cheviot meeting.

After being tried once again, she went to the broodmare paddock after splitting a pastern for the second time.

McIntyre and the Sloans take turn-about breeding from Mach N Elle.

McIntyre got her first foal by Bettor's Delight in, Darcee.



The thrilled connections of Watch Me Now after she makes light work yet again of her opposition at Addington on Show Day

He won eight for Tony Herlihy before running a 1.50.8 mile in the USA.

Sloan raced Mach N Elle's second foal, Machjagger, who won five races and by far the best of her sire Justatiger's progeny to race in New Zealand.

The mare's breeding record is clearly outstanding, but it has not all been plain sailing.

The 16-year-old did not produce a foal in the four seasons before Watch Me Now was foaled, despite being served each year.

Later she went on to slip a Betterthancheddar foal before producing another Betterthancheddar foal for Sloan.

Watch Me Now looked something a little special as a young horse and that opinion was backed up by Kerry O'Reilly when she was broken in.

"I had three yearlings and I ended up in hospital pretty crook and Brad, my son was Kerry O'Reilly's neighbour," Sloan said.

"Kerry said bring them up here and I will sort them out."

"Kerry said you are not getting this one back for a wee while, she is pretty nice."

"Later on I said do you want to carry on with her and qualify her, but he said she is too good for me, those were his exact words."

"Then she started to get a bit headstrong, so we just brought her home and kept her in the paddock."

McIntyre has the next foal from Mach N Elle, a three-year-old filly by American Ideal, who is yet to hit the track.

Sloan has just organised Mach N Elle's next foal, a yearling filly by Betterthancheddar, to go to O'Reilly to be broken in.

"She is a lovely looking horse."

"Kerry is the first person to ring Brad up every time she wins."

McIntyre has Mach N Elle in foal to Always B Miki this season.

Watch Me Now is currently enjoying a week in the paddock.

Barclay and Ellis will work the four-year-old towards the Premier Mares Championship and NZ Standardbred Breeders' Stakes on her return to the track.

DELCOLA AND HUNTER DELIVER AGAIN AT ADDINGTON

Garrick Knight

Southlander Ian Hunter's hobby breeding operation continues to come up trumps.

It reached fever pitch when trotter Andy Hall won over two miles on New Zealand Cup day at Addington in the hands of trainer/driver, Nathan Williamson.

Edendale-based Hunter has defied statistics to develop a sought-after square-gaiting family with the foundation mare being by the oft-maligned sire, Chiola Cola.

Of course, Chiola Cola was a brilliant racehorse for the late Shane and Don Hayes, plying his trade in New Zealand, Australia and Europe, but he failed to set the world on fire as a sire.

He left just 27 winners from 154 foals across six crops and only one of them – Tina Turner even able to break two minutes.





Andy Hall and his trainer/driver Nathan Williamson clear out to win the two mile trot on Cup Day for breeder/owner Ian Hunter

Back at the turn of the millennium, then a very much novice Hunter sent the aging Honkin Andy mare, Aron Del (11 wins, \$111,289) to Chiola Cola as her final consort.

Despite being a Gr.2 Benson and Hedges Challenge winner, running second in the Gr. 2 National Trot and fourth in the Rowe Cup, she was a disappointment stud.

To that point she had left just two winners of three races from eight foals.

For whatever reason, Hunter's move paid off and the resulting foal, Delcola, won six races and nearly \$40,000.

"She started off with Tony Barron when he was down here and won her first race with him.

"But I think he was being let down by his blacksmith and they just couldn't her right; she wouldn't stop cross-firing.

"So I tried her with Megan Irvine and Ivan Gutsell and between them and their farrier, Jock Williamson, they got her trotting a lot better.

"A lot of the credit goes to Jock, I think. He promised me he would figure her out and he did."

Eventually it was time to breed from Delcola but by then it was clear that Chiola Cola was not going to be a commercially fashionable damsire.

Even so, Hunter liked the family and enjoyed breeding so wanted to persist.

As luck would have it, her first foal, by Sundon was the strikingly-coloured Splash Cola.

Now 10, she's won 11 races, more than \$106,000 and has both a Group 3 win and a New Zealand record on her ticket.

Her formative years were spent with Williamson, but more recently she's been on the beach with Regan Todd up in Canterbury.

She's about to be served by Andy Hall's sire, Andover Hall, next week and Hunter is very much thankful for her not conceiving this time last year.

"We served her with Father Patrick last year because she wasn't up much anymore on the track.

"But she didn't get in foal and because of that, we raced on and she added a 5YO and Older Trotting Mare New Zealand Record to her credits, as well as a Group 3 at Addington.

"So it was a bit of a blessing in disguise, I guess."

After Splash Cola, Hunter bred a full sister by Sundon that never raced and is now in his broodmare band, named Suncola.

"We only tried her as a three-year-old and both Nathan and Phil Williamson couldn't get her going, saying she wasn't well-gaited.

"I wasn't prepared to waste more time and money on her as a racehorse, so put her in foal.

"That hasn't been the greatest of success stories either; we have a Pegasus Spur that is slow, lost her next foal and then she missed.

"Her latest foal is just a yearling colt by The Pres."

After Suncola came the Majestic Son sister and brother, Delestic and Delcola.

Delestic won three races for Williamson but would "go like the clappers the whole time" and run herself in to the ground.

Eventually she retired and sold as a broodmare to fellow Southland breeder, Brent Smith, of 'B D' prefix fame.

Delson showed immense promise with Williamson before being sold for good money to Graeme Rogerson and continues to race well in the north.



"I regretted selling him for a while, but I only did so because I got a good price and Nathan was telling me that he reckoned we had a better one at home.

"We all know horses can make liars out of the best of us, but thankfully Nathan was right because that horse was Andy Hall.

"He's always shown Nathan a bit of ability but we've been patient, not wanting to over-race him and send him through the classes too quickly."

Being by Andover Hall, the feeling was the horse would benefit from time and patience.

"It's weird because the sire won big races as a juvenile, but it's true he does tend to leave bigger horses that need time to grow and mature."

Delcola actually had a tough time foaling Andy Hall and suffered an internal rupture, meaning all subsequent attempts at breeding have been by embryo transfer.

"I thought it was a great system at first because the first two times we did the transfers, we got two foals and you don't have to get later and later every year.

"But that was inexperience talking because we came back to earth pretty quickly after that.

"The next two years we got nothing."

He had pretty much 'upped stumps' on Delcola as a broodmare at the start of the year, but Splash Cola's upgrade and the emergence of Andy Hall has seen him try his luck again.

"She's at Wai Eyre Farm now. And she's since won Southland Broodmare of the Year, so I am kind of obliged to give her another go.

"She's been served by What The Hill and we have our fingers crossed."

Her two most recent foals are Port Pegasus (3g, Pegasus Spur) and Del's Creation (2f, Creatine).

"Nathan couldn't get Port Pegasus gaited and suggested giving him to Brian Norman because Brian does his own shoeing.

"He could be the next failure out of the mare, but he does have a motor.

"I haven't actually heard from Brian lately and I'm not sure if that's a good or bad sign."

As for Andy Hall, he's gone home for a few weeks' let-up. One thing's for sure – there are no cows anywhere near his spelling paddock.

"He absolutely hates cattle. When he qualified they were on the inside of the track at Wyndham and Nathan had to bring him wide because he was so scared.

When he went for a spell at my son's block, with another horse, he just wouldn't settle.

"It took them a while to work out what was wrong with him, because he just kept running up and down the fence line stressed out.

"So we know, now, to keep him as far away from them as possible.

"It's so bad he might even try and jump a fence to get away from them."

NZSBA BROODMARE LISTINGS

The NZSBA has developed a section of its website to make available free listings of mares that breeders do not intend to breed for the upcoming season.

While we would love to see you breed as many as possible, we understand that personal circumstances are unique and the costs associated with breeding will see some tough decisions being made.

Whether you are prepared to give the mare away, make a lease arrangement or see her sold, we would like to see every MARE get a chance at stud this season and there will be breeders out there looking to put mares in foal.

If you would like to have a BROODMARE added to the website, please come back to me with the following information and we will list her for free;

- Mare Name
- Age
- Description of breeding history and current condition ie empty, in foal
- Location
- Terms: Free/Lease/Sale

If possible, please include a photo and as much information about your mare as possible.

To view the current listings we have on our website, copy paste this link into your browser;

<https://thebreeders.co.nz/for-sale-lease/>



LEADING MONEY WINNING SIRES: NORTH AMERICA

Following on from the Breeders Crown eliminations in North America and heading into the new breeding season, it is always great to be able to cast your eye at the North American scene and see what is developing.

While there is plenty of water to go under the bridge with plenty of big races still to come, the below lists are sourced from Standardbred Canada and will give you some good insight into who is kicking some early goals.

TWO YEAR OLD PACERS

SIRE	Starters	Stakes
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	86	\$3,856,795
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	68	\$2,614,441
ALWAYS B MIKI	54	\$2,127,387
BETTORS DELIGHT	54	\$1,798,102
BETTING LINE	77	\$1,454,799
SHADOW PLAY	49	\$1,406,101
AMERICAN IDEAL	63	\$1,341,421
ART MAJOR	43	\$1,219,665
SWEET LOU	47	\$1,112,843
SUNSHINE BEACH	59	\$1,083,124
JK ENDOFANERA	52	\$1,023,757
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	59	\$1,018,049
WELL SAID	50	\$957,648
SPORTSWRITER	77	\$891,967
ROLL WITH JOE	47	\$768,643
RACING HILL	55	\$730,027
MCARDLE	30	\$720,548
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	53	\$658,704
ROCKIN IMAGE	63	\$586,247
PET ROCK	55	\$459,385

TWO YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	72	\$2,622,760
CANTAB HALL	56	\$2,510,621
CHAPTER SEVEN	58	\$2,339,545
MUSCLE MASS	59	\$2,296,039
FATHER PATRICK	65	\$1,437,171
BAR HOPPING	43	\$1,423,348
DONATO HANOVER	33	\$1,398,410
SWAN FOR ALL	47	\$1,205,710
SOUTHWIND FRANK	24	\$1,023,374
UNCLE PETER	54	\$966,939
KADABRA	33	\$757,763
TRIXTON	33	\$725,354
CREDIT WINNER	33	\$663,243
ARCHANGEL	17	\$644,630
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	23	\$599,761
MY MVP	13	\$542,266
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	27	\$514,302
LOUS LEGACY	20	\$428,758
DONTYOUFORGETIT	27	\$383,780
GOOGOO GAAGAA	6	\$377,420

THREE YEAR OLD PACERS

CAPTAINREACHEROUS	83	\$5,707,145
BETTORS DELIGHT	95	\$4,293,398
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	101	\$3,709,599
SWEET LOU	70	\$2,230,945
SPORTSWRITER	91	\$2,014,110
AMERICAN IDEAL	83	\$1,632,355
HES WATCHING	54	\$1,559,018
ART MAJOR	71	\$1,485,900
ROLL WITH JOE	55	\$1,413,762
ROCKIN IMAGE	71	\$1,356,368
SUNSHINE BEACH	80	\$1,348,178
PET ROCK	44	\$1,283,087
WESTERN IDEAL	33	\$1,196,981
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	68	\$1,141,986
BIG JIM	49	\$981,513
TELLITLIKEITIS	36	\$979,179
SO SURREAL	31	\$976,964
MACH THREE	65	\$925,103
WELL SAID	60	\$923,498
BETTERTHANCHEDDAR	40	\$873,788

THREE YEAR OLD TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	56	\$4,602,237
FATHER PATRICK	55	\$3,016,941
CHAPTER SEVEN	49	\$2,370,259
TRIXTON	43	\$2,230,063
MUSCLE MASS	67	\$1,865,711
UNCLE PETER	57	\$1,690,795
KADABRA	57	\$1,545,216
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	44	\$1,535,817
SWAN FOR ALL	53	\$1,366,987
READY CASH	4	\$1,065,777
SEBASTIAN K S	29	\$951,773
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	59	\$933,089
DONATO HANOVER	55	\$904,660
WHEELING N DEALIN	24	\$903,056
GUCCIO	30	\$762,573
CREDIT WINNER	31	\$758,398
ARCHANGEL	27	\$743,965
E L TITAN	25	\$737,265
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	21	\$733,428
CASH HALL	18	\$625,823

ALL AGED PACERS

BETTORS DELIGHT	609	\$16,664,061
SOMEBEACHSOMEWHERE	490	\$15,887,626
CAPTAINREACHEROUS	219	\$10,192,540
AMERICAN IDEAL	435	\$8,406,392
MACH THREE	419	\$8,140,019
ART MAJOR	358	\$7,276,605
SPORTSWRITER	403	\$6,047,598
SHADOW PLAY	263	\$5,478,901
SWEET LOU	177	\$5,308,749
ALWAYS A VIRGIN	292	\$5,145,674
WELL SAID	288	\$5,060,817
ROCKIN IMAGE	286	\$4,474,777
ROCK N ROLL HEAVEN	199	\$4,050,337
ROLL WITH JOE	209	\$3,929,466
PET ROCK	198	\$3,817,107
WESTERN IDEAL	191	\$3,777,209
BIG JIM	169	\$3,641,555
MCARDLE	209	\$3,548,356
SUNSHINE BEACH	199	\$3,476,753
DRAGON AGAIN	229	\$3,401,071



ALL AGED TROTTERS

MUSCLE HILL	205	\$9,322,483
CHAPTER SEVEN	171	\$7,803,064
MUSCLE MASS	248	\$6,347,945
CANTAB HALL	209	\$5,460,499
FATHER PATRICK	134	\$4,972,653
KADABRA	194	\$4,949,654
DONATO HANOVER	177	\$3,943,709
SWAN FOR ALL	175	\$3,903,087
TRIXTON	105	\$3,585,346
UNCLE PETER	147	\$3,307,060
EXPLOSIVE MATTER	180	\$3,059,133
CREDIT WINNER	151	\$2,897,150
ROYALTY FOR LIFE	96	\$2,478,259
ARCHANGEL	78	\$2,100,175
CASH HALL	70	\$1,744,651
ANDOVER HALL	113	\$1,736,443
TRIUMPHANT CAVIAR	76	\$1,695,477
MUSCLE MASSIVE	114	\$1,682,129

NZB STANDARD BRED ALUMNI DOMINATE GROUP ONE FINALE

NZB Standardbred graduates dominated yet another Group One event when It's All About Faith (NZ) (Captain-treacherous) scored a deserved victory in the \$138,000 Woodlands Stud Sires Stakes Final (1980m) on New Zealand Cup Day at Addington.

After having to settle for two Group One placings and finishing runner-up in the recent \$200,000 Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million 2YO Colts & Geldings Final (2200m), the Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen trained colt broke through for his maiden Group One crown with a late burst to claim runner-up B D Joe (NZ) (Roll With Joe) in an exciting finish.

Although NZB Standardbred graduates didn't just quinel-la the Woodlands Stud Sires Stakes Final, they claimed total domination over the race.

Purchases at NZB Standardbred's 2019 National Yearling Sale filled the first 13 placings in the 14-horse feature.

It's All About Faith not only snared a deserved Group One victory, but the classy colt also took an important step forward in his career when he thrived under the pressure of a sold-out Addington Raceway on New Zealand Cup Day. "to get on top of COVID-19, the landscape has changed significantly in the last six months," said NZB Standardbred's Cam Bray.

The three-year-old's class and brilliant speed have never been questioned under Purdon's driving leading in to the event, but his tractability had.

It's All About Faith brushed those concerns aside in the first 400m of Tuesday's race when settling beautifully in to the trail behind B D Joe, who speared to an early lead.

"I am trying to teach him to take a trail," said Purdon.

"And today he settled and just drifted a length or a length and a half off the leader's back."

It's All About Faith's polished run was important to Purdon, who was delighted with his performance in this season's classic races.

"Today I was just so pleased with him."

B D Joe gave the favourite plenty to chase when rolling along at a strong tempo in the lead.

When the field turned for home, the Steve and Amanda Telfer trained three-year-old kicked strongly, setting up an epic home-straight battle with It's All About Faith.

"We were thrilled," Steve Telfer said.

"We were pleased he was able to take advantage of his good draw and he fought all of the way up the straight."

Aladdin (NZ) (Sweet Lou) completed a trifecta of NZB Standardbred graduates with his big effort for third.

The All Stars pacer was tenacious after sitting parked outside B D Joe for all of Tuesday's 1980m feature.

Aladdin held out dual Group One winner and fellow National Yearling Sales graduate, Krug (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) by a nose on the line.

2020 TROTTING BROODMARE OF EX- CELLENCE: NAKURA

Peter Craig

At the Dunstan Horse Feeds Breeders NZ Cup Eve Cocktail Function in Christchurch early November 2020, it was announced that NAKURA was the recipient of the 2020 Trotting Broodmare of Excellence Award.

2020 is the second year separate awards have been made to both pacing and trotting gaited broodmares (as opposed to one overall award).

NAKURA (1985f Jet D'Emeraude/Nakaia; another member of Australasia's leading family Pride Of Lincoln, CF N1) : five win trotter, T2:09.0, \$19,830; thirteen foals, seven raced, three winners, one sub two minutes, millionaire winner. Bred by Bruce and Andrew Corkran; progeny bred by Cockrans – Andrew and Paul individually or collectively except Regal Charm and Saila Charm (Mrs Sue and Austin Williams).





Cam Bray (GavelHouse Standardbred) presents Paul Corkran with the 2020 Trotting Broodmare of Excellence Award for Nakura

By French stallion Jet d' Emeraude, Nakura was a winner of five races having her first two wins at Ashburton over Queens Birthday weekend,. Beginning of sequence of four successive wins, the latter two at Addington. These successes resulted in her being named four year old trotting mare of the year. A fifth and final win was at Addington as an early five year old without a taste of success again when racing for a further two years. Retired to the broodmare paddock, Nakura bred on through her fillies and two successful geldings as outlined below.

Dam Nakaia (1977f Crockett/Morning Haze) attained three wins, T2:12.0, \$5,365 leaving another winner in dual gaited Naraya, three wins, T2:10.1 (qualified in 2:07.3 as pacer), \$15,500, dam of seven live foals for one to race :

- **Stig**, \$841,529, twenty two New Zealand wins, T1:55.2, Jewels – 4T, Ashburton Flying Mile (twice), NZ Trotting FFA, Dominion Handicap, National Trot, Rowe Cup/ one AUS win, T1:57.2, heat Great Southern Star; seconds Dominion Hcp (twice)
- **unraced mare Only A Moment**, dam of Dream A Moment, four NZ/twelve AUS wins, T1:57.5TT, \$138,907 and four other winners; grand dam of Moment In The Sun, seven wins, T1:55.0 (Menangle)
- **unraced mare Bree**, dam of Get Lucky, four wins, T2:01.8, \$93,573, NZYSS – 3T.

Grand dam Morning Haze (1973f Tuft/Haze) was unraced with Nakaia being her only foal. Third dam Haze by Light Brigade stallion Misty was race placed as a nine year old trotter from limited starts leaving eleven foals for a winner in Rere Hine. Fourth dam Gratse (Josedale Dictator) was unraced leaving four foals, seven win trotter Cover On and pacing winner Angmargo.

Nakura's female tail line continues back to Pride Of Lincoln through Kamaldar, Merce, Authoress (dam of Author Dillon, NZ Derby, NZ Cup, NZFFA three times, successful sire) to classic producing mare Thelma. Nakura is nine removes from foundation mare Pride Of Lincoln.

Nakura's male progeny includes :

Another Moment, seven wins, five at Addington, T2:02.2, \$60,327

Take A Moment, bred in the Central Districts by Andrew (AM) Corkran whose nephew Paul (PA) joined him in ownership and trained him in Canterbury. After winning four of his first six starts for the Corkran's as an early five year old, Tim Butt organised the Long Drive syndicate of Bruce Greenhalgh, Barry Cotton, Jack O'Donnell, Merv Rodgers, Peter Barber, Neven Botica, Julie King-Turner, Tom Malcolm and Trevor Woolley to purchase Take A Moment for \$120,000.

Take A Moment (1995g Armbro Invasion/Nakura), one of New Zealand's greatest ever trotters who raced from 2000 to 2005 (five – ten year old), winning 39 of 67 starts which included six of sixteen starts in Australia. A millionaire, his major victories included two Inter Dominion Trotting Championship Grand Finals :

2001 : just his seventeenth career start (eleventh for Tim Butt and Long Drive Syndicate) 2003 : Take A Moment's thirtieth winning performance, undefeated through the whole carnival for Premier Stables trainer Tim Butt and driven by brother and ID Hall of Fame inductee Anthony Butt,

Three consecutive Dominion Handicaps (including dead heat, only other trotter to have won three is former stable mate Lyell Creek) and a Rowe Cup – thirteen Group Ones, seven Group Two's, five Group Three's and best mile rates of T1:57.2NZ and T1:57.7AUS. Between 28 October 2002 Ashburton Trotters Mile and 12 December 2003 Bill Collins Mile at Moonee Valley, Take A Moment won 18 races in succession (including three wins in Australia), just short of Lyell Creek's record of 20 straight wins for a trotter.

Awards won by Take A Moment included Australasian Grand Circuit Trotting Champion (twice), NZ Trotter of Year (twice), NZ Aged (5yo+) H&G Trotter of Year (twice), NZ Harness Horse of Year, Australian Trotter of Year, NZ stake earning Trotter of Year (three times) and inducted into NZ Trotting and Addington Harness Halls of Fame. Tim Butt trained him for sixty one of his sixty seven Australasian starts (thirty five victories) and Anthony Butt





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drove **Take A Moment** in fifty eight Australasian starts winning on thirty five occasions.

Other qualified and raced male foals included unplaced pacer **Saila Charm** (\$411) and race placed trotter, **Dark Moment**, \$1,625.

Nakura's fillies include:

News The Moment, five win trotter (two Alexandra Park), T2:04.6, \$31,577, dam of eleven live foals, eight winners including:

- **Moment Of Truth**, twenty nine wins spread over twelve seasons, T2:02.5, \$269,772
- **Dr Hook**, twenty wins (sixteen NZ/four AUS), \$453,366, T1:56.2, CPTC Trotting Cup/Ashburton Trotters Miles twice, ID heat, Summer Trotting FFA; second AUST Trotting Championship, Jewels - 4T, Rowe Cup, Dominion Hcp, ANZAC Cup; thirds Rowe Cup. Lyell Creek, National Trot
- **Oscar Bonavena**, among the current crop of boom trotters, tenth live foal, from nineteen overall starts, twelve NZ wins, non-winner AUS, T1:55.2, \$175,315, CPTC Trotting Cup, Waikato Flying Mile, Cambridge Flying Stakes; second NZSS - 2T; third National Trot; four year old H&G Trotter of year; NZR's 3yo trotter 2600m stand T3:18.1, 4yo trotter and all comers 2400m stand T2:59.8
- **The Moment**, four NZ wins, T2:05.3, \$31,807
- **The Truth**, nine wins (two NZ/seven AUS), T2:04.1, \$59,290
- **Momentous**, six wins, T2:08.7, \$63,900
- **I've Got This**, five wins, T2:04.5, \$42,732
- **My Moments Now**, three wins from nine starts, T2:03.6, \$28,412

Juvena, race placed trotter, \$525, dam of sixteen foals for nine winners including:

- **Quite A Moment**, sixteen wins (six NZ/ten AUS), T1:55.3 (2016 : VIC Trotters mile record), \$405,856, Breeders Crown - 3T, Lightfoot Laurels, National Trot, second Dominion Hcp, thirds VIC Trotters Derby, Great Southern Star, Dullard Cup; NZR's - mares/all comers 2700mM, T3:19.9 and 2000mM 3yo fillies, T2:30.4
- **Duke Of The Moment** T1:59.6, twenty three wins (six NZ/seventeen AUS), T1:59.6, \$186,844,
- **Kevies Moment**, seven wins, T2:06.8, \$58,301
- **Bankers Moment**, five wins, T2:00.6, \$35,167; dam of three win trotter Kai Time
- **Take N Time**, winner, T2:10.6, \$6,598
- **Eight Double Eight**, three wins, T2:07.4, \$20,259
- **Cameo's Moment**, nine AUS wins, T2:03.5, \$53,123
- **Moment Of Love**, two wins, T2:05.8, \$16,518
- **Muscle Moment**, winner of only start, T2:16.6, \$3,300
- **Sunny Moment**, unraced dam of six foals including four win trotter Luck Of The Moment, T2:04.5, \$44,173

Regal Charm, unraced, dam of three live foals, grand dam of winning trotter Regal Moment

Just A Moment, race placed trotter, \$6,708, dam of four foals, two winners in Majestic Stride (three wins, T2:08.6,

\$31,266) and Precious Moment (four wins, T2:02.8, \$31,946)

Stay A Moment, unraced, dam of six live foals including Majestic Moment (five NZ wins, three Addington/one Alexandra Park, T1:55.4US, \$81,275), Ace Moment (five wins/four Alexandra Park, T2:05.7, \$54,452)

Pick The Moment, unraced dam of one foal, Addington winner Spy Da Moment, T2:08.4, \$12,165.

2020 PACING BROOD-MARE OF EXCELLENCE: DREAMY ATOM

Peter Craig

At the Dunstan Horse Feeds Breeders NZ Cup Eve Cocktail Function in Christchurch early November 2020, it was announced that **DREAMY ATOM** was the recipient of the 2020 NZ Pacing Broodmare of Excellence Award.

2020 is the second year separate awards have been made to both pacing and trotting gaited broodmares (as opposed to one overall award).

DREAMY ATOM (1991f Sokys Atom/Lumber Lie; member of North American family of Kate by Highland Chief U301) : six wins, 1:59.2, \$108,810; twelve foals, eight raced, seven winners plus qualifier, six 1:57 or better, one in 1:50, three \$100k winners. Bred by Vin and Daphne Devery) as were all her progeny.

In what has been a productive couple of decades for Dreamy Atom and her progeny, among Awards won are : Dreamy Atom - NZ two year old pacing filly of year (1993/4), Southland Harness Broodmare of Year (2005), Elite Mare (2006) with her progeny named Southland Broodmare of Year - 2019 Christian Dreamer (NZ Pacing Broodmare of Year 2019/20), Southland Horse Honoured - Western Dream (2019) and NZ 2yo (2004/5)/3yo (2005/6) Pacing Filly of Year. The immediate family includes other award winners as related below.

Dreamy Atom was the winner of six from twenty one starts (1:59.2, \$108,810) for trainer Vin Devery including her first two career 2yo starts in Southland followed by a fourth in the Kindergarten Stakes and a fourth two year victory in the NZSS - 2f final. Named and awarded 1994 2yo Filly Pacer of the Year.

At three Dreamy Atom's two victories were at Invercargill and in the Sires Stakes three year old fillies final at Alexandra Park. Retired after a brief four year old stint with Barry Purdon in Auckland, she set about making her mark in the broodmare barn.

Dreamy Atom's dam was Lumber Lie, an unraced qualifier for Denice Swain at Ashburton in April 1990. She was the dam of eight foals, the first of which was Sokys Atom filly Dreamy Atom. Others of note included unraced Electrify (Holmes Hanover) who left Truer Memorial winner Lochinver (1:52.2, \$302,448), grand dam of Tanaka Eagle (1:54.7, \$261,411) and Islay 1:52.4US; (My) Happy Golucky (Cameleon), winner of the Leonard Memorial as a maiden



at her third start, winning a further eight races in Australia (2:00.1AUS, \$49,313) and her third winner Holmes Hannover gelding Costalot, winner of eight in NZ (Hawera/Kumeu Country Cups) and 1:54.3US in North America.

Dreamy Atom's grand dam Ravinalan left three winners while third dam Facetious (four wins, 2:08.1, Winton Hcp) was Vin Devery's first official racing interest and foundation mare. Facetious third foal was inaugural Sires Stakes Final winner Arvecae by Lumber Dream while another foal Facsimile won the Taranaki Breeders Stakes.

Dreamy Atom is a member of the North American family of Kate by Highland Chief (U301) whose NZ connection commenced when Etienne Le Lievre imported Berthabell in 1914. Berthabell's daughters bred on leaving large families. Among Berthabell's male progeny successful on the track and in the breeding barn were dual NZ Cup winner Peter Bingen (also NZFFA), NZ FFA winner Great Bingen, Auckland Cup/GN Derby winner Great Parrish – all leading sires and GN Derby winner Great Peter.

From Berthabell's daughter Bell Bingen, the female tail line progressed through her unraced daughter Belita, unraced daughter Neferiti and her winning daughter Egyptian Queen who left Fallacy Queen through to Dreamy Atom's third dam Facetious.

Dreamy Atom's male progeny (three colts only) include :

Presidential Dream, winner of two at Alexandra Park and two in North America, 1:53.1US, \$34,856

Tisadream, Dreamy Atom's fastest progeny conceived when she had entered her twenties, with a 1:50.0 credit at 5/8ths Plainridge racecourse, USA. Winner of thirteen in Western Australia (1:54.6AUS) and ten in North America (\$192,281)

Dreamy Atom's numerous fillies (nine) include:

Happy Dreamer, eight NA wins, 1:57.0US, \$96,916

Dream Royale, winner in NZ, fourteen Queensland wins (1:56.3; Queensland Ladyship, Queen Of Hearts mares races) and seven in North America (1:53.3, \$145,068); dam of three winners in Australia including Soho Lennon, seventeen AUS (thirteen Gloucester Park, WA Nights of Thunder)/twenty five NA wins, 1:51.0US, \$617,837

Western Dream, winner of thirteen in NZ/one AUS, 1:56.3NZ, 2:00.2AUS, \$332,895. As a two year old she won her first five starts, four for Vin Devery including NZSS – 2f heat, Leonard Memorial, Caduceus Club Southland with Devery training before Tony Herlihy handled her for two successes including Group One Caduceus Club Classic. Named and awarded 2yo Filly Pacer of the Year honours at season's end.

Seven wins at three in NZ, the first three in consecutive starts, NZSS – 3f heat, Ladyship Stakes and NZSS – 3f Final were followed by a fifth to Tosti Girl in GN Oaks. Vin Devery trained her for the first win with Tony Herlihy preparing and driving thereafter. Success in two Nevele R Fillies heats at Cambridge preceded dual Group One

victories at Addington in the NZ Oaks and Nevele R Fillies Final. NZ stake earnings at three totalled \$228,379 before Western Dream travelled to Australia for the Breeders Crown. A heat winner at Kilmore, followed by a fourth in her semi-final and seventh in the final. Western Dream was awarded NZ 3yo Filly Pacer of the year honours. After a few starts at four without success she was retired to the breeding barn.

Western Dream produced seven foals for the Devery's, the last three by embryo transfer. With five to race for the perfect five winner's record, Western Dream's main claim to breeding fame rests with her first foal, the Christian Cullen gelding "Western Cullen". Bought back at the sales by the Devery's, gelded and sold to Perth owners P & T Poli, Western Cullen's five NZ starts for Mark Purdon and Grant Payne produced two victories in NZSS – 2 heat and Yearling Sales final plus a second placing in NZSS – 2 final and thirds in Welcome Stakes and Harness Jewels (Fly Like An Eagle).

On arrival in Western Australia, Western Cullen went onto record a further seventeen victories including a first start win in the two year old Group One Golden Slipper, one of nine wins at Gloucester Park. His distinguished career included a fourth in the WA Derby and sixth in Golden Nugget, amassing \$447,536 in stakes and a best mile rating of 1:55.6 (1684m, Pinjarra at three).

Dreamy Lover, non-winning pacer, dam of Western Delight, three NZ wins, 1:51.1US, \$81,294

Exotic Dream, winner in Australia, 2:05.3; dam of two winners including Real Stride, fifteen NSW wins, 1:51.3, \$158,480

Boom unraced mare Christian Dreamer, NZ Pacing Broodmare of Year for 2019/2020 season principally thanks to 3yo Pacing Filly of Year Amazing Dream. Her eight two year old starts produced three wins (Group One Caduceus Club Fillies, Yearling Sales series [1:54.9, 1980m], NZSS heat), placed second placing in the Sires Stakes Fillies final and third in the Delightful Lady Classic.

Amazing Dream's NZ three year old career (eight wins from nine starts) included four Group One events - Caduceus Club Ladyship Stakes, NZSS 3yo Fillies Final, GN Oaks/Derby double plus the Yearling Sales series. Amazing Dream was just the second filly to achieve the Great Northern Oaks/Derby double since the Kevin Holmes trained and driven Rippers Delight in 1975.

At the end of her NZ campaign Amazing Dream's record stood at eighteen starts for eleven wins (six Addington, five Alexandra Park; five Group Ones), \$625,085, 1:54.9, 1980m at two. After establishing NZ records at 1980mM 2:21.4 (2yo fillies) and 2700mM 3:16.2 (3yo fillies/mares) and being named 3yo Pacing Filly of the Year, Amazing Dream undertook a short Australian campaign in Queensland. Second in her first race in late August after a 4½ month break between starts, she won her next Albion Park start in a career best 1:53.3MR (1660m).

Back in NZ, Amazing Dream won her first two four year starts in heats of the 2019/20 season's 3yo Nevele R Fillies



series at Addington (1:56.4/1:56.6MR for 1980m). In the final at Addington on Cup Day 2020 she repeated her 2019 Cup Day victory again from barrier nine (outside of mobile gate) in the Nevele R Fillies final in yet another meritorious performance (1:54.0 MR for 1980m). Amazing Dream backed up in the NZFFA on Show Day in her first attempt at the elite Grand Circuit level finishing fifth. Her career record following her latest (sixth) Group One victory stood at 24 : 15 – 4 – 3, 1:53.3AUS/1:54.0NZ, \$706,760.

Amazing Dream's full brother (Lets) Chase the Dream was NZ Two Year colt/gelding of the Year in 2015. The winner of six of nine starts at two (Sapling Stakes; Group One's Cardigan Bay/Sires Stakes) although beaten into third by Lazarus in the Jewels. At three, three wins resulted (Sires Stakes heat, Waikato Guineas, WA Derby prelude - second Final) plus seconds to Lazarus in Sires Stakes and Yearling Sales Finals and GN Derby.

At four he won on Show Day during the 2016 NZ Cup carnival, was third in the Methven Green Mile (grass) preceding his final NZ win in the Group Two Cambridge 4/5yo Futurity. A brief Australian trip yielded two Menangle victories including the Group Two Brian Hancock Cup before a final NZ campaign included a second in the Rangiora Classic.

In Australia permanently as a five year old, Lets Chase The Dream tallied another two Western Australian wins before being exported to North America in September 2018. His Australasian record totalled fifteen victories with best mile rates of 1:53.2NZ and 1:49.9AUS (Menangle). In North America, Lets Chase The Dream has recorded nine victories (two in 2020) in the past two years with a best mile of 1:50.2US that brings his total to twenty four wins world-wide for stakes just over \$600,000.

Catch the Dream, winner of two races from twelve starts, both as a four year old at Alexandra Park (1:59.8) and Manawatu Raceway for trainer Brent Mangos.

Drum Major, winner of first of only two starts as a three year old at Alexandra Park for trainer Barry Purdon who had big expectations of him before he broke down.

Watch the Dream, NZ winner plus three in Australia, 1:56.6, \$31,847

Dreamy Atom's superb record for the Devery's is a testament to the prowess of exceptional horseflesh raised in Southland.

FRANCO LEDGER PASSES

Jonny Turner

The mood at Northern Southland stud Macca Lodge was sombre on Sunday, despite the win of Maya Angelou at Winton.

The Brent McIntyre trained five-year-old broke through for her maiden victory just hours after the death of former racetrack star Franco Ledger.

A heart attack claimed the life of the Macca Lodge stallion in the midst of his fourth season at stud.

The loss of the former group 1 winner and two-time Southland Horse Of The Year came as a shock to Macca Lodge staff.

"It was totally unexpected because he was such in such great shape and looking really good," McIntyre said.

"He was a lovely horse to have around and it is a big loss for his owners."

Franco Ledger retired to stud a 25-time race winner with over \$600,000 in earnings for the Whatever Syndicate and his part-owner and former trainer and driver Hamish Hunter.

The Falcon Seelster stallion had left 25 foals ahead of the current breeding season.

He served 10 mares last season, who were due to foal this spring.

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