
BREEDERS' UPDATE



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BREEDERS' UPDATE

February 12th, 2021

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PRICE BLOODSTOCK BULLISH ABOUT THEIR DRAFT

Brad Reid

Travelling down to Invercargill was not something I can honestly say I ever looked forward to, only because it was somewhere that until I took my position with the Breeders I had never physically been.

However, in my time with the NZSBA it has been a great privilege to travel around the region and meet so many of our stakeholders and particularly breeders from the Deep South.

While that sounds awfully political, it's a place I am very fond of.

The scenery, the people, the horses and the cheese rolls. What more can a man want!

I imagine I wasn't the only one chomping at the bit to get back down there on Waitangi Day and inspect the yearlings on offer at the 2021 NZB Standardbred Yearling sales under the SBSR banner.

Not even the forecast of a wet and cold two days was going to put a dampener on it.

Unfortunately, that was what transpired but in a testament to the yearlings and the preparations given to them by their preparers and vendors, the tour went forth without a hitch.

"It was a bit weather affected, particularly the second day and that had a wee bit of an impact," said Katrina Price of Price Bloodstock.

Price and her husband John are entrenched in the southern workings of the industry as breeders, preparers, owners, trainers and administrators of the sport.

Price concedes that while the rain was less than ideal and it had a few unintended consequences, the ability of everyone to cope, horses included, was a testament to the SBSR group.

With the touring party numbering close to 100 on occasions, and closer to 150 at the Monday night meal, keen to take refuge from the rain, many of the yearlings were paraded indoors and at times in close quarters.

The yearlings responded with their best behaviour and showed great character to handle what was thrown at them.

"They are incredible animals, standardbreds," said Price.

"They really are, with what they can adapt too. None of them had been in that circumstance before and they just take it in their stride. It's pretty amazing.

"With the weather being what it was, there were horses that couldn't be presented outside and people perhaps didn't feel as comfortable taking the time to take a second look and take them out and parade them again.

"That was a bit unfortunate but I think that everybody saw what they need to see and with the three days at the sales this year, there is probably more time available for individual inspections of horses anyway," she said.

You can plan for everything, but you can't do much about the weather.

Despite what they tell me about how hot it can get in the Deep South, if your grass was that green in early February you wouldn't be complaining at all.

It really is remarkable to see such a deep green shade of grass in every paddock you come across as you travel around the region. It's a little wonder the yearlings do so well down there.

As mentioned above, the attendance was likely a record on any other year with trainers and buyers making the time to come down and inspect the fine bloodstock on farm.

That was all part of the plan.

"We probably went at it pretty hard this year in terms of getting as many prospective buyers down. We went hard and tried to grow based on the last couple of years with the tour," said Price.

"We wanted to get as many eyes looking at the horses as possible beforehand as we don't have that Australian presence on the ground. We know they will have agents looking at the yearlings so it was important to cover that basis as well.

"After the sales we will have a debrief and review of the tour and look at some analysis of some of the linkages between the attendance and how that translates to sales because it has to work for both parties.

"We still have to get some feedback from those that came on the tour also and ensure we are meeting their needs because at the end of the day that is what it is all about," she said.

Harness racing in Southland has optimised a strategy around one of the glaring failures of the racing industry as a whole and that is its ability to work together for a greater purpose.

Southern Harness and Southern Bred Southern Reared have shown us all what is possible.

Price knows that it has been that mindset of together-



Lot 315: Betor's Delight x Chicago Blues colt

ness that has really been the springboard for the continued growth in the SBSR brand.

"I think that is the key, everybody working together and realising that what we can actually achieve together is just so much more than if we go off on our own path promoting our own drafts.

"The big growth in the last couple of years as a group has been the realisation that success for another breeder or vendor has a spin off for everyone involved with the SBSR brand.

"What's good for the brand is good for us as individuals and we have bought into that as a group which is really encouraging," she said.

The key to anyone involved in the business of selling is a product that meets the market.

Southland is responsible for producing many of our great champions which include racing's first millionaire in Cardigan Bay.

The nutrient rich soils and pasture provide an equine nursery up with the best. The vendors have met the demand for quality standardbreds with sound breeding decisions over a number of years.

"I think there is that really good mix of both commercial breeding and realising that what happens on the racetrack is the key," said Price.

"It all comes down to performance on the racetrack by the horses that have gone before them and we can't lose sight of that. We obviously want to get good prices at the sales, but that only comes off the back of the horses who go out and perform.

"We have breeders that have invested really heavily in broodmare quality and retaining really good families and then developing them further with good stallion selection. I guess also there are breeders who have taken the risk on other stallions and as you know that is how



some really good horses are bred," she said.

Themightyquinn (Washington VC), Smiling Shard (Grin-from-ear-to-ear), and Arden's Choice (Panspacificflight) are three obvious examples that spring to mind.

All sired by horses who commercially weren't a success, but that crossed well with the breed and produced fantastic results.

Even the likes of Bettor's Strike, Arden Rooney and Arden's Darlin kind of fit that mould.

All three were sired by Bettor's Delight and looking back you could say it was obvious, but it took a bit of courage to go to the stallion in his first two seasons and plenty of people took a bath before 'the king' began to rewrite history.

Price Bloodstock found success of their own in breeding and racing stock of American Ideal with the likes of Democrat Party who was the winner of the Group One Sires Stakes 3YO Fillies Championship among her six victories and \$254,688 in stakes.

They have also bred and currently race under their own tutelage the very speedy Yankee Party, with the five-year-old mare only finishing out of the money once in her ten race day appearances.

Most will know Price Bloodstock best for the deeds of their war horse Chicago Bull with the son of Bettor's Delight x Chicago Blues having been the dominant force out West for the better part of five years.

He is a five-time Group One winner and has saluted the judge a monstrous 61 times from 92 starts for over \$2 million in stakes.

It's that sort of success that makes the horse fraternity take notice. With a full brother in this year's sales along with another three Bettor's Delight colts out of stake performed mares, interest in the Price draft is at an all-time high.

Last year Price Bloodstock were one of seven vendors to crack to the \$200,000 barrier when they offered the first colt from cracking mare, Democrat Party.

He was snapped up by Cran Dalgety for \$210,000 and has rewarded his new owners by qualifying in December where he beat race winning two-year old's Executive Banner and Casino Action by a combined 6 lengths.

"It was exciting getting that sort of money for him and I guess it's the same as winning a big race for us as breeders and vendors. The sales for a vendor I guess is like heading to a Group One as an owner, so it was great to come away with a result like that," said Price.

"You're not going to get horses like that every year so it's nice to be rewarded for them. Those quality of horses you are lucky to have them, to be able to present them and you feel very fortunate when they do come along,"



Lot 361: Bettor's Delight x Hartofdxie colt

she said.

As we know, it's not a case of pulling a yearling out of the paddock in January and getting ready for the sales in Feb.

The work starts from the day the yearling is conceived in utero and Price and her husband John have their eyes set well beyond what many would believe to be the end goal.

"I don't see the sales as the grand finale. We are trying to present a racehorse and something that has the best possible preparation for the racetrack, not necessarily the sales ring.

"We are trying to produce an athlete. I'm out here on the jogger at the moment walking with four of them having already done the other three earlier.

"Our yearlings are in the barn with all my horses and around racehorses who are in and out of the barn gearing up and being trained. It really is about giving them the best grounding possible so that when they leave here they have every opportunity to succeed," she said.

With seven fantastic yearlings headed north in a few days time, it would be remiss to start anywhere other than with the show stopper himself, Lot 315.

The full-brother to Chicago Bull was always going to attract some interest but you could remove the champion older bro from the pedigree and this guy would have stood out on type alone.

He's a rockstar really isn't he," laughed Price.

"He's black, he's strong, he's got presence, beautiful legs, no faults and a pedigree to match.

"There's not much more you can say. As I mentioned we feel very fortunate when they come along. We've had a bit of misfortune with his dam over the last few years





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SBSR draft.

she lost a foal and missed getting into foal a year later. So, this is the first of her progeny since Perfect Stride, so we're pretty pleased to have this one," she said.

The second offering of the Price Bloodstock draft caught the eye of every horseman as he walked out the barn and was a personal favourite of mine.

Lot 361 is a Bettor's Delight colt out of the stakes performed American Ideal mare, Hartofdixie.

She herself is from the champion maternal family of Scuse Me and is an example of SBSR vendors looking to further raise the bar with sought after genetics.

"Initially we bought Hartofdixie as a broodmare and then a few days later we were given the opportunity to buy her colt. He was exactly what we would have been trying to breed out of the mare, a nice Bettor's Delight, so we snapped him up.

"He's just lovely, just a wonderful temperament and he's just a really nice all round colt and I cannot see how you would go wrong really with him," she said.

The 2021 draft is the first time the Price Bloodstock team have prepared for outside clients leading to a busier than normal few months.

When you look at the offerings and the maternal pedigrees however, the hard work is all the more worthwhile and the five outside yearlings compliment themselves with good looks and big futures of their own.

This will be the first Christchurch sale in over 50 years that won't be graced with the presence of the late great Father Dan Cummings.

His life's work is on full display and while I'm gutted he will not be in attendance to see his draft go through the ring, I am sure he will be smiling down as three of his best offerings of the last decade will strut their stuff.

Lot 289 is a Bettor's Delight colt out of the champion race mare, Bonnie Joan.

The daughter of Somebeachsomewhere was bred and raced by Tuapeka Lodge to great effect with 10 race wins and a mile credit of 1:52.8 without leaving New Zealand's shores.

She was as tough as she was fast and had some wonderful battles with Spanish Armada, Party On and Delightful Memphis - a crop of sensational fillies.

"He's a really nice athletic colt and he is just going to want to run. There are not too many Bettor's Delight colts in the sale and we've prepared four of them!

"He's the first foal and she is such a well-performed mare and has a great pedigree. He is lovely, very correct, compact type and will sell well," said Price.

Lot 301 is the second offering on account of Tuapeka L-

odge and is another Bettor's Delight colt out of the well-performed race mare, Break Dance. The half-sister to Bonnie Joan was no slouch herself with the daughter of Art Major winning five which included a scorching mile at Winton in 1:53.3.

This is the mare's second foal, with her older brother being snapped up by Stonewall Stud for \$50,000 at last year's sales. Speaking with Gillian Stockman, the reports on his progress are great!

"He's a smaller type but when he arrived I was giving him an inspection and I sort of thought that the only thing you could fault him on were the same things that you would fault Chicago Bull for," she laughed.

"He's is a smaller, neater type but he's a great mover and been the big improver in terms of his behaviour. He was quite a handful when he arrived, but now he is like a little pet to work with and somebody will have a nice racehorse with him."

Tuapeka Lodge are also offering a beautifully bred daughter of Sweet Lou in Lot 193.

The blueblood filly will present someone with a great opportunity of not only purchasing a terrific racing prospect, but bloodlines that have been developed over a lifetime.

"Someone is going to be buying into a beautiful family and you are buying a long-term asset with her," said Price.

"She is going through a bit of a growth spurt at the mo has grown a hand since she arrived and is still going up at the moment and she is just starting to fill out.

"You can kind of imagine what she is going to be like in 12 months' time. She is going to be a lovely looking filly," she said.

The health complications of fellow SBSR member Dave Kennedy have seen Price Bloodstock muck in and lend a helping hand to prepare the two trotters from the Beaudiene Breeding draft.

Kennedy offered his first Beaudiene trotter last year when preparing a colt by French stallion Quaker Jet.

This year Kennedy has two well-bred square gaiters to sell on the first day in Christchurch and Price really likes what they are bringing to the table.

Lot 140 is a colt by boom sire Father Patrick out of a full sister to the dam of Stent.

"He is just a gorgeous looking fella who could probably go to Karaka and wouldn't be out of place with the thoroughbreds.

"He looks like an O'Reilly and has a stunning head. He is lovely to work and is just an all-round very nice colt," she said.



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Lot 153 is a colt by Creatine out of a daughter of the freshly crowned Trotting Broodmare of Excellence award winner in Niamey.

"I guess the thing there is how people will respond to the Creatine factor and whether buyers will warm to that.

"As far as movement, he is a great walker and when we did his video he was trotting around the arena and it was pretty stunning actually.

"He has a lot in his favour coming from one of New Zealand's best trotting families and if you like horses with big ears, he certainly has those," she said.

EMDEEGEE MAKES EM SAY OMG!

Brad Reid

Anyone watching the trots at Oamaru yesterday would have seen a sensational performance by a maiden trotter in Race One.

Emdeegee had me saying O M G as he let rip at the 800m mark, opening up a margin of 10 lengths by the 400m marker, only to further extend that margin to win going away by 20 lengths.

He was a \$32,000 yearling sales purchase in 2018 by Dunedinite Gary Clarke and the timing of yesterday's win was absolutely spot on for his breeder, Mike Gourdie.

Gourdie is offering the third foal (Father Patrick colt) out of The Bog at the Christchurch sale on Monday.

He admits to having thought the first win of Emdeegee would have come a bit sooner with the now gelding having had a two-year-old look about him as a young horse, evident in his sales price.

However Gourdie is not complaining and if anything, celebrating the fact that his first win came so impressively with less than a week until sales day.

His history with this specific family is now into its third generation having raced both the dam and granddam of Emdeegee. A history that Gourdie describes as "a lovely story that's had a few twists and turns in it."

Yesterday's maiden success came at the son of Majestic Son's ninth start in a career that has thus far shown the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Emdeegee is the first foal out of the enigmatic seven-win Monarchy mare, The Bog.

The talented but erratic square gaiter rarely went what you would call a 'crap' race in her life, however had a propensity for mixing her gait at some inopportune moments shall we say.

"She was a rocks or diamonds sort of a mare. I remember many occasions where she was coming into a finish like she was going to steam roll everybody and would just go up into the air," said Gourdie.

"At her first start at Addington I can remember she was roaring down the outside of the straight and galloped 50m short of the post when looking like the winner.

"Mark McNamara said: Her name is The Bog and your tickets have gone straight down the dunny," he laughed.

The Bog lined up in the New Zealand Trotting Oaks while still a maiden and ran a creditable fourth behind Habiti, Paramount Queen and Quite A Moment.

The first and third placegetters in that race were eventual Group One winners and the second-place getter won



Lot 152: Father Patrick x The Bog colt



Lot 161: Muscle Mass x Castleton's Jewel filly



a Group Two, so it was no mean feat and showed she had the speed required to mix it with the best on her day.

“She went a 1:58.5 mile rate at Ashburton under a hold and the only reason she was never given her head was because she was going to probably break,” he said.

“She got a wee bit cunning towards the end of her career. I think she had probably had enough. In the end, I think she started to find ways of getting out of racing and was telling us it was time to head to the broodmare paddock.

“She had a lot of ability and we never really saw the absolute best of her, but that’s racing.”

The Bog is out of the Grant Our Wishes mare, Spin Ya Wheels who was the winner of three races and very much of the same mould.

High speed, high motor and highly like to blow to bits without rhyme or reason.

“She was, dare I say it, a nut case with absolutely unbelievable speed. Every race she trotted in she ran a marble,” he said.

The numbers then say she had an 80% likelihood of galloping having run in the money nine times from 43 starts.

Of her three race day wins, they all came when she found the lead and was able to dictate and although possibly just a coincidence, all three races were won during daylight hours.

“Spin Ya Wheels was mixed up with another horse when we leased two for the syndicates I was running under the Regency Standardbreds banner. The true identity of the horses came to light when one was taken to Ashburton for a trial. John Korostchuk was the breeder owner and ended up having to sell the horses and I bought Spin.

It’s a small miracle Gourdie ended up breeding and selling yesterday’s winner given the mix up with Spin Ya Wheels and the fact he tried selling her first foal which was subsequently, The Bog.

“I actually offered her in the HRNZ Weekly Marketplace for \$4000 but nobody was interested so I got a couple of mates with me to race her and we did to good effect as you know.’

The Father Patrick colt has a fair bit going for him, despite the fact he has a five-dam pedigree page.

As you know trotting mares have a better chance of winning Division Two Lotto than they do of earning black type. And sales pages have very little room for bad luck.

I know this firsthand with Bolt For Brilliance having had a six-dam pedigree page of his own. It was enough to



Lot 360 Rock N Roll Heaven x Harper colt

see prominent owners walk up to the barn door and walk away without ever getting him out of the box. His pedigree page would have needed a few chapters to detail the bad luck associated with his siblings.

Spin Ya Wheels and The Bog’s progeny have some hard luck yarns of their own.

Take the third foal out of Spin Ya Wheels: Winnie McGoogan was a cracking Muscle Mass filly who right from the get-go showed a willing attitude and some seriously high speed.

“Phil Williamson would verify this, and he actually said this to me at the time, she was probably the fastest trotter he had ever had at the time.

“That stable doesn’t race two-year-olds out of turn, but Phil said to me he thought she was a little bit special. She had a few little problems along the way and broke her pedal bone on the grass at Oamaru which was the end of her,” he said.

Winnie McGoogan cut her last 800m in 57.8 as a September three-year-old which shows her speed, and to be able to run home that quick with an injury like that shows she also had a fair amount of ticker.

Unfortunately for her connections she died having only had the one foal, this two years after her dam Spin Ya Wheels died foaling what would have been her sixth foal and first to champion sire, Muscle Hill.

The bad luck didn’t stop there with The Bog’s second foal being due to race as a two-year-old before lockdown last year, but the Muscle Mass colt was struck down with colic and sadly died before getting the chance.

Those are the sorts of titbits that don’t make the catalogue but go a long way to completing the picture when assessing the potential of Lot 152.

“The Father Patrick colt does look to be an early going sort of a horse. They talk about two different type of Father Patricks. You have the big ones who are big bones and then the smaller and finer boned types. He looks to be a finer and more athletic type.”

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LOT 218



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LOT 240



Betting Line – The Vicars Daughter *Bay Filly*

LOT 247



Sweet Lou – Alta Shangri La *Brown Colt*

LOT 278



He's Watching – Eleanor Roosevelt *Brown Colt*

LOT 334



Rock N Roll Heaven – Macy Delight *Bay Colt*

LOT 407



He's Watching – Never Been Better *Bay Colt*

LOT 425



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Gourdie credits the lockdown period and the ability to work from home as one of the blessings in disguise for his draft this year.

It allowed him to spend a lot of time working with his draft as young stock and has seen the benefits in doing that as they have rounded into yearlings with great attitudes and kind natures.

Sadly what was looking like his best draft in 30 years of selling has suffered a few setbacks in recent weeks and is now down to three yearlings, and very nearly two after initially entering two pacers and two trotters in the sales.

"Yesterday's win was a very welcome tonic," he said.

"I've had a bit of a disaster when it comes to my sales draft in the last few weeks having had to withdraw an Always B Miki colt who was operated on a week ago today. He had five bone chips taken out of one hock and two taken out of the other," he said.

"The other pacer who is still in there tried to get out of the crush and go over 1.5-meter railings without much success. He got his front over but couldn't get the back over. He's got some cosmetic scarring according to the vets and nothing more.

"Conformation wise you would look at him and say he was the best of the four. He got a bit hyper off the sugar levels in the grass and got a bit hyper on me for a while," he said.

That is Lot 360, A Rock N Roll Heaven colt out of the lightly tried Art Major mare, Harper.

This colt's third dam is a half-sister to Armlight in Miss Denver. The family has produced a string of promising pacers evident in the two-dam pedigree page.

Gourdie's third offering is Lot 161, a Muscle Mass filly out of the well-related three-win Sundon mare, Castleton's Jewel.

Gourdie offered a Pegasus Spur filly from the mare last year where she was purchased by Robert Dunn for \$15,000. The reports back since have been favourable which should bode well for this year's offering.

"I was actually in Europe when the dam become available and got Peter Lagan to buy her for me from the Mixed Sale she was offered in.

"I'm really glad we got the mare in foal because she is a lovely horse to have around and has done a job herself, leaving some really nice trotters," said Gourdie.

The best of her three winners has been (Im) The Com-mando who is the winner of 11 races and has finished in the placings on 16 occasions.

"Conformation wise, the filly is spot on, and I have had some nice compliments about her. She should sell well and if she doesn't, I won't worry too much if I end up

taking her home.

"I really love the Muscle Mass' and tried breeding four this year but only got two in foal," he said.

Gourdie has bred three foals from Castleton's Jewel and is over the moon to have finally produced her second colt and informs me that Gael Murray who does the breeding, weaning and sales prep is extremely fond of the resulting progeny by What The Hill.

"Fingers crossed things keep moving in the right direction for her," he said.

Gourdie credits his passion for the game when asked what it is about the sport that has seen him persevere through triumph and disaster while at the front line of breeding, selling and buying horses.

"You're buggered really because once you have got the bug you've got it.

"I love it really. I love the opportunity to try and create something, develop it, raise it and see it go on and do a job whether for me or other people.

We also have a lifestyle block now which means I get to handle my own stock a bit more which is great. They are just lovely animals and there is something special about a horse."

NEW ZEALAND-BREDS DELIVER TIMELY GROUP ONE REMINDERS

NZB Standardbred

New Zealand-bred standardbreds have produced a timely reminder of their incredible success in Australia with a dominant weekend of racing in Victoria just days out from NZB Standardbred's 2021 National Yearling Sale.

Melton at Mooney Valley is one of the many tracks across the world where New Zealand-bred pacers and trotters have stamped their class in elite races.

The names of Australasian greats Lazarus (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) and Tiger Tara (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) have been blasted across the Victorian track in recent seasons, with their stunning performances in Group One events adding to the incredible legacy of the New Zealand standardbred around the world.

Over the weekend, New Zealand-breds Tornado Valley (NZ) (Skyvalley), Princess Tiffany (NZ) (Art Major) and Boots Electric (NZ) (Somebeachsomewhere) claimed more Group One victories across the Tasman.



more Group One victories across the Tasman.

Tornado Valley took out the \$300,000 Group One Southern Star Final (1720m), while Princess Tiffany claimed the \$100,000 Group One Alabar Ladyship Cup (1720m) and Boots Electrics claimed his first Group One victory in the \$100,000 DNR Logistics 4YO Bonanza (1720m).

Kiwi bred Yorkshire (NZ) (A Rocknroll Dance) and Typhoon Stride (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) also produced stakes-winning victories claiming titles in the \$50,000 Group Two Mercury80 Final (1200m) and \$30,000 Group Three Benstud Rising Stars Final (2240m) respectively.

These conquests attributed to kiwi standardbreds winning 11 of the 19 races contested over one of Australian harness racing's biggest weekends.

Although dominance in Australian Group One events is nothing new for New Zealand exports.

From historic performers Blossom Lady (NZ), Christian Cullen (NZ) and Lyell Creek (NZ) to I'm Themightyquinn (NZ), each decade Australian harness racing history is littered with kiwi superstars.

A glance at the statistics from the most recent Australian harness racing season back up those claims.

- *During the 2019-20 season, New Zealand-bred pacers won 49% of all eligible Group One pacing races in Australia.*
- *Their trotting counterparts won 58% of all eligible Group One trotting races last term.*
- *Last season, New Zealand was the leading source of eligible Group One winners in Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland in both the trotting and pacing gaits.*

New Zealand-bred stars to made their mark in Group One races during the last Australian harness racing season include A G's White Socks (NZ) (Rocknroll Heaven), Belle Of Montana (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) (NZ), Bettors Heart (NZ) (Bettor's Delight), Stylish Memphis (NZ) (Bettor's Delight), Chicago Bull (NZ) (Bettor's Delight), Mc-Lovin (NZ) (Monarchy) and Lyell Creek (NZ) (Monarchy).

Just last week, kiwi bred dominated the leading categories at the prestigious 2020 Australian Harness Racing Awards.

Four Group One titles in the \$1,000,000 Miracle Mile (11609m), \$500,000 Hunter Cup (2760m), \$175,660 Blacks A Fake Queensland Championship (2680m) and \$100,000 Allied Express Sprint (1609m) saw King Of Swing (NZ) (Rocknroll Hanover) crowned the 2020 Australian Harness Horse of the Year, Australian Pacer of the Year and Aged Horse/Gelding Pacer of the Year.

Sensational 1:48.9 mile winner Bettor Enforce (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) took out the top honour for mares in the Australian Aged Pacing Mare title. She claimed 13 races and nine placings from 25 seasonal starts.



Lot 200: American Ideal x Queen Of The Crop

Sweeping up more awards, Dr Susan (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) was crowned the Australian 3YO Filly Pacer of the Year and Line Up (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) won the Australian 3YO Colt/Gelding of the Year title.

Three Group One wins helped trotter Tornado Valley secure his second consecutive Australian Trotting Horse of the Year title and Aged Trotter of the Year title.

- *New Zealand-breds have won nine of the past 12 Hunter Cups, six of the last eight Miracle Miles and 13 of the last 18 Australian Trotting Grand Prix's.*
- *The dominance of New Zealand-breds in age-group races has seen them win 15 of the last 19 WA Derbies, seven of the last 10 WA Golden Nuggets and eight of the last 11 Golden Slipper Stakes.*
- *The New Zealand-bred standardbred also dominates on kiwi soil, with New Zealand-bred horses defended 97% of all Stakes races in their home country last season.*
- *Kiwi horses also claimed a total of 15 out of the 16 Group One pacing and trotting races on the 2020-19 calendar.*

From the heady days of the world's first millionaire standardbred Cardigan Bay (NZ) (Hal Tryax) to recently retired fastest mare in the world Shartin (NZ) (Tntin In America), New Zealand-breds have been starring on North American racetracks for decades.

Those wanting to ride the wave of success New Zealand standardbreds have created should look no further than the 2021 NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sale in Auckland and Christchurch, filled with the New Zealand-bred stars of tomorrow.

The recipe for that success is simple, premium genetics combined with lush, green pastures and a temperate climate make New Zealand a paradise for raising young stock.

All unbroken yearlings purchased at the 2021 National Standardbred Yearling Sale are eligible for the lucrative NZB Standardbred Harness Million Sale Race Series, with an estimated one million dollars in the prizepool.

View the full catalogue online [here](#).



Timely success for Hailes by Boots Electric in Bonanza

Courtesy of Frank Marrion | Harness Xpress

The success of Boots Electric in the Group 1 \$100,000 4YO Bonanza at Melton last Saturday night could not have come at a better time for his fledgling Southland breeder Paul Hailes.

The son of Somebeachsomewhere is a half-brother to Glenburn Joy (2 wins), whose first foal in a colt by Sweet Lou is an entry in next week's National Yearling Sale in Christchurch.

Zamperini will be the second yearling that Hailes has offered at the sales after inheriting the family from his farther Eddie, who passed away in 2011.

"The first yearling we sold was a brother to Boots Electric called Handbrake Harry in 2017," said Hailes.

"We only got \$13,000 for him and he died about six weeks after the sale while being broken in.

"He got a cut on a leg and had an allergic reaction to penicillin, dying of Colitis X.

"So hopefully this one goes a bit better than that one."

Boots Electric is the sixth foal and fourth winner from Glenburn Jewel, a Live Or Die mare who won five races for Eddie Hailes and trainer Gil Shirley.

Her first foal in a colt by Bettor's Delight was also lost after splitting a hoof as a foal.

The Honey Badger (3 wins) and the Mach Three filly-Smokin Annie have also been winners from Glenburn Jewel, but Boots Electric is clearly far and away the best of them to date.

He qualified in spectacular fashion just before the lockdown, winning a trial at Wyndham by 10 lengths in 2.58 for 2400m mobile with sectionals in 57 and 28.

Boots Electric was trained at that point by Hailes' father-in-law Brent McIntyre and owned with his son Cain.

He was then snapped up for big money by Emilio Rosati and began racing last year at Menangle when Anthony Butt was based there.

He was a winner in 1.51.3 in September and then moved with Butt to Victoria, where he has really hit his straps in the past month, winning his last three races starting with starting with the Group 3 Metropolitan Pace at Melton.

the Group 3 Metropolitan Pace at Melton.

Butt drove his much more favoured stablemate Perfect Stride from barrier one in the Bonanza and dictated proceedings in front, but was run down into fourth.

Greg Sugars had driven Boots Electric for luck from the second line and wound up three fence before barging his way into the clear and in the run home and scoring in a 1.51.2 mile rate for the 1720m.

Sugars knocked over two runners in the straight and was fined and suspended for the success which now qualifies Boots Electric for the Chariots Of Fire.

Butt had earlier also won the Group 3 Rising Stars Final for Rosati with Typhoon Stride, the five-year-old brother to Partyon and Line Up who was a \$187,500 yearling at Karaka.

The maternal line of Boots Electric, named by Cain McIntyre after the musician Jesse Hughes, and the Hailes family goes back some 60 years when Eddie was borrowing the Dillon Hall mare Ronella to breed from.

Ronella won five races for a neighbouring farmer in Ronnie West and trainer Jock Purdue and she was a sister to Twinkle Hall (8 wins), who produced the top pacer Twinkle Hanover for Bob Cameron.

Hailes bred three foals from Ronella in the Whipster filly Petronella (1 win), the Flying Song colt Lord Avon (7wins) and the Newport Chief filly Newella (6 wins).

Petronella was moved on before racing and would produce six winners including Vita Man, while establishing the maternal line which led to Matthew Lee, Power Of Tara, A G's Whitesocks, Tiger Tara, Tango Tara, Sammy Maguire, Lachie Maguire (US1.50.2, \$480,000), Robyns Treasure, Salty Robyn (1.49.2) and now Robyns Playboy.

Hailes kept Newella and bred eight foals from her, getting just a one-win performer in Hayley's Hero. Another foal he raced from Newella was the Smooth Hanover filly Diademata, who had 52 starts without winning.

Hailes had probably figured he was keeping the best-mare from Ronella to breed from.

"I know dad had Petronella here at one time and she slipped through his hands, but I'm not entirely sure what happened – that was a bit before my time.

"I think Newella was one of the best performers sired by Newport Chief, but he wasn't much of a sire."

Newport Chief did produce Tobias but not a lot else of-note.

The last foal from Newella was the Knowing Bret filly Bretella and she produced eight foals for two one-race winners in Glenburn Prince and Glenburn Flame, her last two foals.



On account of Phillippa Hanley:

Two fillies that you **HAVE** to inspect!

Lot 212

American Rocker
American Ideal
x Sabellian Bay Filly

Lot 212 is a daughter of champion sire American Ideal. She is out of a stakes performed Art Major mare in Sabellian who was **Group 1** placed and the dam of the talented pacer, Slick Joe (4 wins) and the lightly raced but very promising Angus (2 places). 2nd dam is the lightly raced daughter of Christian Cullen in Sabine, a full sister to dual **Group 1** winner Roman Gladiator. She herself is the dam of 3 winners including stakes winning race mare, Apassionato.



Her preparer Steven Boyd thinks there is a lot to like about this girl who has a large frame, great confirmation and is beautifully mannered.



Lot 358

What A Minx
Art Major
x Hannah Sue Bay Filly

A beautifully bred daughter of siring superstar, Art Major out of an unraced Bettor's Delight daughter of three time **Group 1** winner, O'Baby. You will be a long time looking for a weakness in this girls pedigree with champion broodmare sires featuring in the maternal pedigree. Bettor's Delight, Cullen and Artsplace. What A Minx's dam Hannah Sue was unraced but showed huge potential as a young horse. This is her first foal and a great opportunity to get into a special family.

Her preparer Steven Boyd says she is a precocious looking filly who is nice and compact, and has a great temperament.

Both fillies have been nurtured and raised on a grain free diet as well as Hanley Formula, NZ's original amino acid concentrate assisting with the balanced growth of weanlings and yearlings

Contact: Stephen Boyd
for inspections on 027 481 5045



Boots Electric and Greg Sugars winning the Group One \$100,000 4YO Bonanza at Melton last Saturday night

The Stand Together filly Glenburn Rose was only placed, but she finally turned things around for Hailes by producing Chesterton (16 wins, \$136,000), Glenburn Jewel (5 wins), Norham Fella (4 wins), Novena Rose (Aus1.55, 11 Aus wins, \$66,000) and Debnita Rose (1.57.4, 4 wins).

Chesterton, who broke down three times in his career, won seven races in his first season of racing as a four-year-old under Gil Shirley before Hailes did deals with Steven Reid and then Derek Balle.

He won eight races for Balle and as a nine and 10-year-old, mainly in claimers.

Somewhat surprisingly, he was then sold to race at-Menangle, which didn't end well.

Only two of Glenburn Rose's foals didn't win with the filly Novena Joy found dead in a paddock at Macca Lodge.

Glenburn Flyer qualified but he was the only one that could be said to be no good.

Paul inherited Glenburn Jewel and Debnita Rose and the latter is being bred in partnership with racing journalist Jonny Turner.

She's produced a yearling filly by Rock N Roll Heaven-who is being broken in by McIntyre and a colt by Betting Line which is a possibility for next year's sales.

She missed this season to both Betting Line and Lazarus.

The first foal that Hailes bred himself was from Glenburn Jewel and he named the Bettor's Delight colt St Patricks, which is the area where he has a 460-acre sheep farm between Balfour and Lumsden.

That's the colt that was lost as a foal but Glenburn Jewel has since been breeding on in much the same manner



as Glenburn Rose.

"We thought The Honey Badger (by Somebeachsomewhere) was going to be good when he won races as a two-year-old, but he let us down.

"I've just leased Smokin Annie to Michael House to see if he can hopefully get some more wins out of her.

"Macca managed Boots Electric nicely after learning more about the Somebeachsomewhere's.

"He had him at the workouts as an early three-year-old, but tipped him out rather than risk cooking him.

"He was always going to be qualified and sold."

Glenburn Jewel has since produced colts by Captaintreacherous (3yo) and Sweet Lou, but none since, slipping to Fear The Dragon last year.

"The Captaintreacherous is a big horse so we've been biding our time with him.

"Macca will get more serious with him after the sales.

"The Sweet Lou colt was going in the sales last year but developed a big knee."

Hailes says the Sweet Lou colt they have in this year's sales is "a racy wee fellow" much like Celtic Spirit, the horse of Greg Hope's that won the two-year-old race on debut at Addington last week.

He beat another Sweet Lou colt in Cantfindabettorman, the beaten favourite in his two starts to date.

Sweet Lou's siring career has been gaining momentum of late, with Aladdin winning the Sales race in Auckland



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after a third in the Sires Stakes Final.

That is Hailes' lot outside of Bella Cara, a daughter of-Well Said and Imprint that was acquired in partnership with McIntyre.

"She proved too wild to be a racehorse and produced a colt by Fear The Dragon this season.

"We then tried her with Lazarus as well but that was another waste of time."

But it is the long association between the family of Boots Electric and the Hailes' which has led to a fairly constant source of winners and success for Paul in just the last five years or so.

It could be said that the family went through an extended drought, but it has well and truly resurfaced now with Boots Electric.

ONLINE BIDDING REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR NATIONAL YEARLING SALE

Michael Guerin

Online bidding registrations for NZB Standardbred's 2021 National Yearling Sale held at Auckland and Christchurch are now open.

Despite international border closures, buyers using the online bidding platform can bid with confidence based on the results achieved at parent company, New Zealand Bloodstock's, extremely successful 2020 Ready to Run Sale and Karaka 2021 National Yearling Sales Series.

The strong network implemented at the Karaka Sales Centre and Canterbury Agricultural Park will mean that buyers logged in from around the world will not miss out on their chance to secure some of the best yearlings offered in the Southern Hemisphere.

Buyers are encouraged to visit standardbred.bidonline.nz.co.nz to register and verify their accounts 24 hours prior to the Sale, which begins at 12PM (NZT) on Sunday 14 February at Karaka.

Follow the step-by-step guide to NZB Standardbred's online bidding platform [here](#).

View the full video tutorial demonstrating how to use the online bidding platform [here](#).

Should you require any assistance with NZB Standardbred's online bidding platform, contact support@nzb.co.nz or call +64 9 298 0055.

Phone bidding is another welcomed option for buyers, for enquiries contact Bloodstock Representative Cam Bray on +64 21 737 199 or email Cam.Bray@nzb.co.nz.

For those wishing to catch all the sale day action, NZB Standardbred's National Yearling Sale will be broadcast live on Freeview channel 200, as well as live streamed on nzbstandardbred.co.nz and NZB Standardbred's facebook page.

Presenters Michael Guerin and Greg O'Connor will also bring key highlights and interviews throughout the four days of selling.

All New Zealand-based buyers, trainers and agents are welcome to attend the physical sales in person at Auckland and Christchurch. Registration can be completed as usual on sale days at the Sale Day office, or online [here](#).

NZB Standardbred agents and New Zealand-based trainers are also available to complete inspections on behalf of international buyers at the on-farm parades and on site at Karaka and Christchurch, with the last leg of the parade schedule in Southland available to view [here](#).

2021 National Standardbred Yearling Sale Calendar

- *Auckland Parade at Karaka: Saturday 13 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*
- *Auckland Sale of Pacers & Trotters: Sunday 14 February 2021, 12PM (NZT)*
- *Christchurch Parade & Sale of Trotters: Monday 15 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*
- *Christchurch Sale of Pacers: Tuesday 16 & Wednesday 17 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*

All broadcast live on Freeview channel 200, on nzbstandardbred.co.nz and NZB Standardbred's facebook page.



The Breeders Stakes - runner by runner

HRNZ

To mark the running of the Group One Leefield Station NZ Breeders Stakes at Addington on Friday night we have produced a video clip, featuring every runner.

The \$100,000 feature over 2600 metres for the fillies and mares, is set to go at 9.10 pm.

Amazing Dream will be the hottest of favourites, opening at \$1.25 to make it 19 wins from 29 starts. The Auckland Cup winner has accrued nearly \$900,000 in stakes.

The race dates back to the 1970s and has featured three-time winners Blossom Lady and Bonnie's Chance as well as Mainland Banner (2016), Adore Me (2014) and Dream About Me (2019).

Click on the video below to view



NO AUSSIES NO WORRIES FOR YEARLING SALES

Michael Guerin

The Karaka yearling sale this weekend may not have an Australian buyers on the grounds but it has something more important: the strongest catalogue ever put together for a Southern Hemisphere sale.

After the recent thoroughbred sales held by New Zealand Bloodstock they put on their harness racing hat for five days to offer over 400 pacers and trotters, with the selling starting at Karaka on Sunday after a parade day on Saturday.

Like the thoroughbred sales NZBS will have to sell to overseas buyers through their new real-time online bidding platform, which is now well bedded in after two successful sales in recent months.

But the reality is the loss of overseas buyers on the ground shouldn't have as much effect as at the thoroughbred sales because there is close to no Asian market for harness horses as well as a very strong domestic buying bench.

Harness racing does have fewer agents who would have inspected all the yearlings to advise overseas clients but harness buyers tend to be less exacting than the thoroughbred code where almost all horses are x-rayed and scoped before the sale.

The loss of the Australians on the sales ground will still affect the sale but anybody serious about harness racing in Australasia will be watching for the simple fact the sale is remarkably in its depth.

The Karaka sale has been the Australasian benchmark for the last decade, with its boutique catalogue and a more commercial feel to the breeding and sales industry in the north, dominated by huge farms like Woodlands Stud and Breckon Farms.

But even by Karaka's high standards this sale is incredibly deep, with almost every dam of the yearlings a black type performer, has left a black type performer or is a sibling to a black type performer.

Some of the older families have been weeded out by the larger farms culling less commercial mares while both Woodlands and Breckon Farms, by far the two biggest vendors, are putting even their most valuable yearlings under the hammer.

The result is a sale with more depth, current families and potential \$100,000 colts than anything ever seen in this part of the world.

"We are opening up the jewel box," says Breckon Farms boss Ken Breckon.

"We have decided to really get behind the sale after a tough last year for the industry and we have 36 in our draft, 34 of which Karen and I own ourselves.

"Of those 36 we are taking to Karaka, 33 have group one winners in their first or second dams." Along those is the three-quarter brother to Miracle Mile winner King Of Swing while Breckon Farms are selling some blueblood trotters, with that gait no longer the poor relations of the standardbred yearling sales.

Woodlands boss Andrew Grierson is also bouyant about Sunday's sale with a draft fill of brothers and sisters to group one winners.

The sale will be anchored by the enormous popularity of Woodlands stallion Bettors Delight but along with the demand for regular sales favourite Art Major there is newcomer back-up in Sweet Lou, Captainteacherous and there will be increased interest in the stock of Always B Miki after a sensational freshman season in North America for the Alabar stallion.

Domestically there has been good interest in parades





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and yearling tours and most of the big players have indicated they will be buying, including on-sabbatical champion trainers Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen who will be advising established owners even though they don't intend training again this year or maybe ever.

Whether the sale has many \$200,000-plus lots, which is real blue chip level at a harness sale, will depend on just how many of the big players get a crush on the same horse.

But on depth alone the sale is certain to be strong even at a time when the Australians can't get into the country.

KARAKA

Saturday: Parade starts at 1pm

Sunday: Sale starts noon.

CHRISTCHURCH

Monday: Parade starts at 1pm; trotting sale at 3pm

Tuesday and Wednesday: Sales starts 1pm both days.

TECHNOLOGY STEPS UP AT YEARLING SALES

Michael Guerin

One of the men responsible for selling our elite yearlings at the up-coming sales loves the fact standardbred vendors are embracing technology to fill the void for potential buyers who can't be there in person.

And that has even extended to pre-sale endoscopic reports in what is a rarity for standardbred sales in this part of the world, which New Zealand Bloodstock Standardbred's James Jennings says is a very smart move.

"Because the standardbreds are so clean winded 99 per cent of them come back great so the scoping is a really good move," he offers.

Endoscopic examination of the upper respiratory tract has been a common post-sale practice in thoroughbred sales since 1995 but even more common place these days are pre-sales examinations which are placed in a repository at the sales allowing vets to check horses airways for potential buyers before they bid.

That and x-rays have become huge determinants of how thoroughbred yearlings sell but the harness racing industry has been far less demanding in those regards.

Some would say, in the case of x-rays, that could be a good thing, some would say it is shooting in the dark. But in this new era when Australian buyers can't be at the sales grounds because of travel restrictions, the more information vendors can supply the better and Jennings says three of the biggest preparers for the Karaka sale

which starts at noon on Sunday have embraced that.

"Woodlands, Breckon Farms and Logan Hollis and Shane Robertson have all taken pre-sale scopes and we think that is great," says Jennings.

"It provides even more info for potential buyers which might make them more comfortable, particularly if they are considering making a significant purchase.

"And the real beauty of it is the standardbreds scope so well. 99.9 per cent of the time the scopes are great because as a breed they have big open airways and most of them scope as 1 or 2s (good airways with no expected breathing issues).

"So we applaud vendors for doing it." Logan Hollis, who prepares a very strong 15-horse draft for Karaka, says 13 of theirs have been scoped and it is just another level of professionalism as the standardbred industry tries to rise to the levels of the thoroughbred sales.

"We had one owner who didn't bother getting them done but we are happy to do them and provide buyers with some extra peace of mind," says Hollis, who says he has his best ever draft.

Jennings says vendors have excelled this year with the standards of their photos, video presentations and overall information for buyers, again crucial for the Australian market. "We have already had two of the biggest Australian buyers register and we expect plenty more."

One of those buyers, Jean Feiss, says she intends to buy New Zealand yearlings but as a very hands-on buyer she misses seeing them up close.

"It is definitely different not being there," laments Feiss.

"You miss the atmosphere and knowing who you are bidding against as well as I usually see the horses at different stages in the months leading up to the sales.

"So I really miss all that but I will be still looking to buy."

Jennings says for all the information available online for most yearlings going under the hammer next week, some buyers who can't get to yearling tours and inspections have been going straight to the source.

"A lot of people are using Facetime for real time inspections," he explains.

"I have been on the Southland yearling tour this week where there have been some stunning yearlings and a lot of people had their phones out and I thought they were videoing the horses.

"But when you get closer you realise they are actually talking to somebody on Facetime and showing them the yearling at the same time.

"So people are really embracing the technology which can only help come Sunday and next week."

