
BREEDERS' UPDATE



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
STUD PRESENT
THE BREEDERS' UPDATE.



WOODLANDS STUD
Breeding a better future since 1992

BREEDERS' UPDATE

February 19th, 2021

EXECUTIVE MANAGER UPDATE	2
BIG MONEY TROTTERS	3
MARSHALL MAKES SPLASH	6
\$300,000 KAPS SALE FOR HARVEY	7
TIM BAGS A NICE COLT	8
LUSTY A WIN FOR THE LITTLE GUY	10

Executive Managers Update

Brad Reid

Unprecedented.

Most of New Zealand will be fed up with hearing that word, but 10 years since Cantabrians were shaken to their very core with the Sales in full swing, South Island vendors were rocked again by the news their sale would be postponed.

I have to commend New Zealand Bloodstock and their team who on the back of a ripper day selling bloodstock had to change tact faster than Luna Rossa Prada in the Hauraki Gulf and go into crisis control.

The response was swift, clear and concise and ultimately the right and possibly only outcome was reached.

We just have to thank our lucky stars that the news in the days since of no widespread community cases has allowed the sale to go ahead on the new schedule.

This presented a great challenge to the vendors, particularly those from the Deep South, but it was great to see the response from the wider racing community.

Racing folk are a resilient bunch, and albeit a week later than scheduled the show will go on.

On the back of the Karaka, sale in which every key indicator was up on last year, you will appreciate the angst and frustration of those who for the most part had already arrived at Canterbury Agricultural Park.

The livelihoods of many breeders were and are at stake.

Vendors were up for another week of unbudgeted yearling prep costs, making arrangements for yearlings and staff, while the prospect of no sale had others wondering how they would pay for this years' service fees.

The prospect of further postponement was pretty much a coin toss given the still unknown source and the travel those who tested positive to Covid had made. With this in mind, and having no control over their fate, you will fully appreciate any pessimism about whether we would be selling Monday.

It might be easy for me to say without anything catalogued, but I refuse to believe that momentum from Auckland has been lost, and I refer back to the word unprecedented to explain.

There has never been a time in which the buyers and horseman have had a full week to syndicate their purchases among their owners prior to going again in the South Island.

I have spoken with many horsemen and woman who have been able to do just that.

"We've been lucky enough to get a bit of support this week to syndicate around 70% in both colts we purchased in Auckland which has given me the confidence to look at buying another couple," said Trent Yesberg of Ripple Creek Equine.

"Some people have been on the fence, but the week in between for people like me who bought in Auckland has been of great benefit for sure," he said.

If next week proves to be a success there is clear evidence to suggest the revised schedule assists buyers. Could selling a week after Auckland be a long-term model as some are mooting?

There will be reasons for and against but it is food for thought.

I went to Addington last Friday having not been on track since Cup Day and I have to say the atmosphere in the place was electric.

The fields were good, the races were run and won by a wide variety of owners and trainers and if this is a glimpse into the future of where are headed, then sign me up.

The sabbatical of Mark and Natalie hasn't just left a spring in the step of many burgeoning trainers, but the optimism has rubbed off onto owners and prospective ones as well with many sensing an opportunity that perhaps hasn't been there for a number of years.

I met a bloke outside Spectators who was interested in getting involved in horse ownership.

He has followed the standardbred game for a number of years without dipping his toes in any further than the occasional punt. Yesterday he called me to say he was taking 10% in a \$60,000 yearling purchased at Auckland.

Hardly earth shattering but it is nevertheless encouraging in the sense that there hasn't been a better time to be involved.

If the South Island vendors want more reason for optimism, as good as Auckland was, yearling sales tycoon, Jean Feiss, has not made a single purchase as yet and has her eye on a few at Christchurch.

We have the greatest show on earth when it comes to the standardbred and Christchurch presents the final opportunity for people to purchase a quality New Zealand bred yearling.

Let's keep the momentum going!



BIG MONEY TROTTERS? WHAT THE HELL!!

Garrick Knight

It was more of the same for Woodlands Stud at Karaka on Sunday – an elite draft sold exceptionally well, spear-headed by their long-time 'team captain', Bettor's Delight.

And while his progeny accounted for the top seven pacing lots in the sale, including that perfect \$300,000 filly out of Major Reality, it was actually newcomer What The Hill that created the most chatter on the day.

He sold 15 of 16 lots for a yield of \$733,000, boasting an incredible average just shy of \$49,000 and a median price of \$32,500.

His colt out of Regal Volo, consigned by Breckon Farms, drew a mammoth \$190,000 while he also had the next three highest trotting lots – all fillies – that sold for \$90,000, \$90,000 and \$80,000.

The results a ringing endorsement of the decision of stud head Andrew Grierson to acquire the shuttling rights to the son of freakishly popular sire Muscle Hill, who is essentially now unavailable in this part of the world. Grierson had 'gone fishing' this week but his right-hand lady, Marketing Manager Stacey White, said the stud's owners and staff were over the moon.

"Obviously we were pretty excited when Andrew sealed the deal on him a few years ago, being a Muscle Hill out of a full sister to Majestic Son, combining the two top trotting stallions in New Zealand in to one horse," said White.

"We all thought what an exciting prospect he was and having him shuttle down here was a huge bonus.

"Don't get me wrong, breeders are blessed to have access to many fine frozen semen trotting stallion options, but there's no doubt there was a void on the fresh semen front; it was pretty much just Majestic Son.

"Some of those older mares and the ones that have trouble getting in foal, fresh semen can help shift the odds of getting in foal in their favour."

Getting the majority of Breckon Farms' elite trotting broodmare band in his first season was a huge fillip, too. "We are so lucky that Ken and Karen Breckon, and others like Tardina Farms with Yagunnakissmeornot, opted to support him from the get-go.

"Naturally we are very pleased for them that they got such results. Because, let's face it, it can be a risk sending mares to first season sires."

White says the flow-on effects of that sale are already apparent.



Lincoln Farms went to \$200,000 to secure this Bettor's Delight colt out of Christian Cullen mare, Jessies Cullen.

"I've already taken a number of bookings for him next season off the back of his Karaka results."

Fellow rookie Downbytheseaside only had three offerings in the Karaka catalogue – two from Woodlands and one from Hastings vendor, Merv Martin, which was no doubt hampered by geographical isolation.

The two Woodlands colts were both bought by Stone-wall Stud for \$65,000 and \$55,000 and expectations are high for the seven lots in the Christchurch sale next week. "It was an interesting one, going to Karaka with only three in the catalogue," said White.

"There's probably been a perception that the sons of Somebeachsomewhere aren't that popular, though that is very much being changed by Captainteacherous now.

"The two we put through the ring were, arguably, two of our best horses on type in the whole consignment.

"It wasn't just the prices they netted, we were also really encouraged by the people who came and looked at them.

"We get that many of the big buyers adopt a 'wait and see' approach with these new sires and we know that he will have to prove himself with this first crop."

Sweet Lou's sale was by no means a failure, but with a top price of \$90,000 for 24 sold lots, he might well be sliding in to that 'bonafide mid-market' category, previously occupied for many years by the likes of Mach Three and Woodlands' own American Ideal.

He averaged \$27,479 with a median of \$25,000 so it's fair to say, those with a half-decent budget had no trouble picking up the Sweet Lous they wanted.

Perhaps he's been hamstrung by a small first crop of just 63 live foals, though the 33 winners to date give him an impressive winners-to-foals strikerate beyond 50%.

He started with a bang thanks to 2YO Filly of the Year, Sweet On Me, but she had the advantage of being a daughter of greatest ever race mare, Adore Me, and she was retired at the end of her juvenile season. Since then, the best of that first crop have been Fabrizio, Mighty Looee and Spirit Of Louis.

"We are still really positive about him when we think about his stats on the track from that first crop.

"Perhaps there wasn't a lot of depth of pedigree to them if you took out the Adore Me and a few of the other Woodlands mares, and in hindsight, maybe there was a few too many of them in the Karaka catalogue."

"Less can be more, sometimes. The ones with good pages that were great types did sell well.

"To achieve what he has so far has been highly encouraging and we are just hoping this current crop of yearlings (numbering 154) really stick their hand up on the track next season."

The Woodlands draft totalled 38 and, as of Friday morning, only two remained unsold – a What The Hill filly and Grierson's own Bettor's Delight colt out of First Western, making him a full brother to 2019 Northern Oaks winner, Best Western.

"Negotiations are ongoing on the filly and I would say she will be sold by the end of the week.

"Andrew has decided he's happy to keep his colt and might send him to Murray Brown in Invercargill to race himself.





Where 'AMAZING DREAMS' begin ...



AMAZING DREAM – Winner of 7 Group 1s, including Great Northern Derby & Auckland Cup

SBSR presents its 2021 draft of 70 yearlings at the

NZB Standardbred Yearling Sale
Christchurch, 15-17 February

Go to nzstandardbred.co.nz for digital catalogue

'Search' SBSR in Christchurch menu to view the SBSR draft

SBSR Yearling Tour
8-9 February

Contact Mark Smith 027 436 8144 for details



"You always go in to these sales a little bit apprehensive, especially this year with no Australians on site.

"But thankfully buyers weren't put off and, now more than ever they seem intent on filling up their stables.

"We are so happy to everyone who purchased from our draft and to those breeders who supported our stallions

"To see Harvey Kaplan get \$300,000 for his filly, that was phenomenal but of course, we've learnt not to be surprised by anything Bettor's Delight does anymore."

MARASHALL MAKES YEARLING SALES SPLASH

Garrick Knight

Watching his peers have success from the sale ring, coupled with a couple of successful seasons as a trainer, compelled Kyle Marshall to go shopping at Karaka on Sunday.

The young Cambridge trainer spent \$190,000 on four lots – his first serious involvement as a buyer of yearlings. "I just decided it was time to do it," he said.

"I've got some really nice, supportive owners helping me out and they were interested in getting some young stock to try and target the bigger races.

"And I feel like I've done a good job in my two years as a trainer given the horses that I've had to work with – I don't think any of them came from the sales."

Watching the success his good friend Dylan Ferguson has had with Graeme Rogerson-purchased sales stock recently – including 5th February Young Guns heat winner Classy Operator – gave him the motivation to get amongst it.

"There's a lot of young guys out there doing a great job with horses from the sales – Dylan of course, Brad Williamson and plenty of others.

"I've got a really good staff behind me and I felt like now was the time to sort of do it."

Like everyone who receives the catalogue, Marshall pored over it for the last few months, cherry-picking the ones that he liked on paper.

"I went right through the book and had about 20 picked out that I liked. Then I went through and looked at them all in person and settled on five that I really wanted.

"I ended up getting four of them, so I was pretty happy with how things panned out."

By coincidence, three of the four cost exactly \$60,000 apiece – a Majestic Son colt, a Bettor's Delight filly and an American Ideal colt. He also snagged a Sweet Lou colt for \$10,000.

The American Ideal colt, for now named Szybki Konik, is the first foal out of Mike Berger's former good mare, Lusty Mac.

He was prepared local to Marshall in Cambridge by Ross McKay at Leanach Lodge.

"I went out to Ross's place a few times to see him there and he stood out straight away.

"Ross has a background mainly in preparing thoroughbred yearlings but he said this was easily the nicest standardbred he had taken to the sales and I can see why because he's a lovely looking horse."

The Majestic Son colt, Yogi Son, is a striking black son of Yankee Doosie, a full-sister to champion square-gaiter I Can Doosie and this makes him a full-brother to Tony Herlihy's fine trotter, Forget The Price Tag.

"He's a well-put-together horse that looks like a two-year-old – strong with good size about him and a real credit to the team at Breckon Farms.

"Obviously, he's paid up for the Harness Millions, as well as everything else, because those are the types of races we want to be in."

Breckon Farms also consigned Bettor High, the Bettor's Delight filly Marshall acquired, and she hails from the family of Under Cover Lover.

The Sweet Lou colt, Robbie, was also consigned by Leanach Lodge on behalf of local breeder Pat Laboyrie and he's a half-brother to John Hay's good performer, Just Wondering.

Marshall's existing clients, including former New Zealand soccer coach Ricki Herbert, have filled two horses already but he has left open a few 10 percent shares in Yogi Son and Bettor High to encourage new clients to join his burgeoning stable.

"Like every trainer, I am always keen to welcome new owners in to the fold so I've left open a few shares in the filly and the trotter."

Marshall and his team – including Fergus Schumacher and former trainer George Wallis, who prepared open class trotter of the 90s, Bay Talent – are doing around 20 horses at present.

"George trained about 50 winners and is a great help, plus Ricki comes and lends a hand most days as well. "His soccer academy pretty much runs itself and he was really keen to take up another hobby so decided to get back into harness racing.

"I helped him get his amateur drivers' license. He also



bought a nice filly from down south to race from our barn, Sweet Treat (Sweet Lou – Vengeance – Artsplace)

“Sophie Jefferies works here too; she has a background working at Breckon Farms but wants to be a junior driver and is probably a year away from achieving that.

“I really like the team we have here at present. They’re a good, reliable bunch.”

\$300,000 YEARLING KAPS BIG DAY FOR HARVEY

Jonny Turner

The biggest thrill many people get from sitting back in their lounge and watching TV come from their much-loved sporting teams clinching championship victories or their favourite series delivering a captivating finale.

Victorian breeder Harvey Kaplan was among them until Monday’s NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sale at Karaka.

The big screen in his lounge had most recently delivered triumphs from his beloved Essendon AFL side or the Liverpool football team.

But Monday at the Kaplan household was not any normal day watching TV by anyone’s standards.

There, the breeder and his family were forced to watch the live stream of the Karaka sale while locked down in Melbourne, rather than being there in person.

At home, Kaplan watched on in amazement when his Bettor’s Delight yearling filly from Major Reality set a

new record at an NZB Standardbred auction when she was knocked down to Stonewall Stud for \$300,000. Kaplan admitted that price tag never entered his wildest dreams.

“I watched it with my wife and my eldest daughter on the big tv in the lounge.”

“There was a 30-second delay so the moment she was in the ring they called for bids and she went to \$110,000. I thought \$110,000 – if that is all it is that will be a good result.”

his phone in anticipation or relayed messages to preparers Logan Hollis and Shane Robertson. Instead, the first thing he did was hang up.

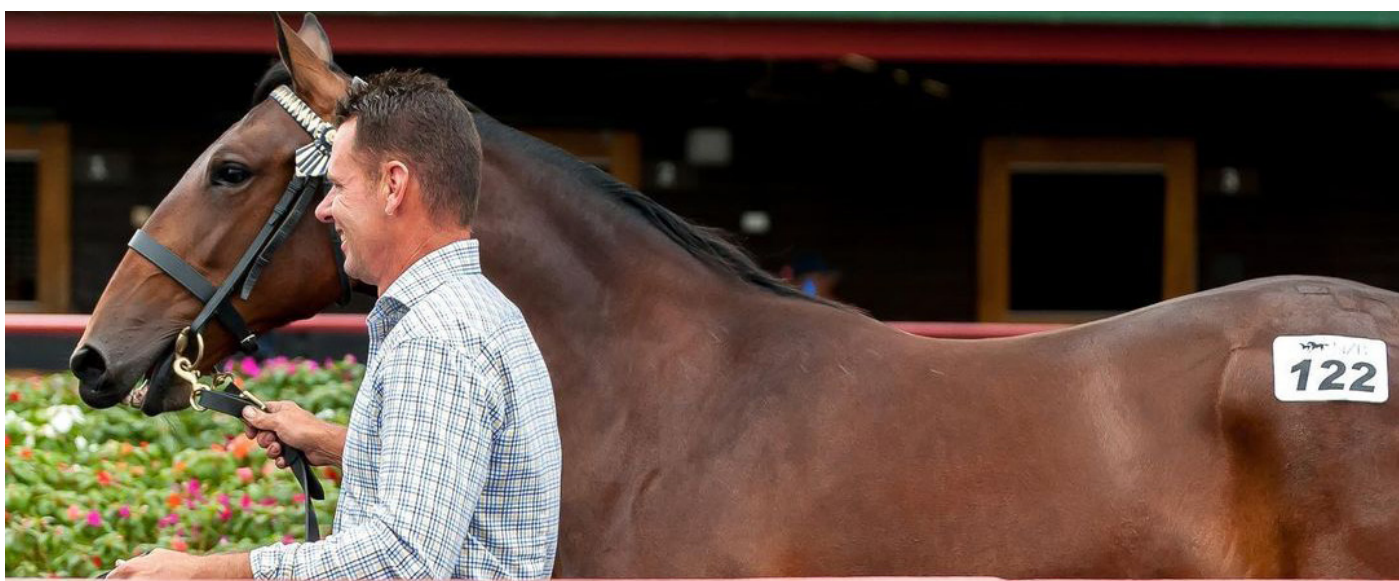
“I thought if she got to \$150,000 that would be great and if she got to \$200,000 that would be unreal. My best result was last year in Melbourne, I got A\$160,000 when I topped the sale there. I was hoping we could match that, but never in my wildest dreams did I think she would get to \$300,000.”

During his filly’s run to \$300,000 Kaplan never clutched his phone in anticipation or relayed messages to preparers Logan Hollis and Shane Robertson. Instead, the first thing he did was hang up.

“I had Shane Robertson on the phone and I said as a bit of a joke to him hopefully there is a bid of \$100,000 to start off with and then I can relax.”

“What I do is the moment the bids gets to the reserve I just hang up. Shane can then go look after the horses and do what he needs to do.”

“I put her a \$100,000 reserve on her and the market was going to tell me what she was going to bring. So, when she started at \$110,000, I just hung up.”



Logan Hollis is all smiles after the filly he and partner Shane Robertson prepared sold for \$300,000 on behalf of Kaplan



Though Kaplan did not see his \$300,000 payday coming, he had confidence there was plenty of interest in his filly from the inquiries Hollis and Robertson had got leading up to the sale.

"I spoke to Logan in the morning and he said I have been doing the sales for quite a long time and I have never, ever had a horse that has been out that many times."

"He said I am not exaggerating; she could have been out 100 times. He said she just looks just like Bettor's Delight and she looks like a two-year-old."

"She wasn't a particularly big horse, but that is probably what people liked. That she was a bit more compact and racy and looked like an early going two-year-old did her no harm!"

"There is no way in the world you could ever predict or think you could get \$300,000 for a yearling," said Harvey.

His \$300,000 result ended an incredibly short, but incredibly sweet ride for Kaplan and Major Reality.

Before the Karaka sale Kaplan sold the Art Major mare to Ultimate Breeding's Graeme and Katrina Walsh.

The Walshes bred the half-sister to star brothers Ultimate Machete and Ultimate Sniper, and as a yearling she sold to West Australian trainer Kim Prentice for \$31,000. Major Reality came to Kaplan late in her career.

"I chased this mare for probably two years and eventually she was going to be retired."

"I paid really good money for her for an empty mare. I gave her a few starts at Menangle, I thought she could take a really good mile time and she did – she went 1.51."

"I got her in foal to Bettor's and sent her off to New Zealand, I just figured that was the best place for her. I am forever looking for opportunities and obviously this one went quite well. But there are plenty of cases that don't go quite as well," said Kaplan.

Kaplan has not been left with regret after Major Reality's first foal made history on Sunday.

Instead, he wishes the Walshes all the best with the classy former race mare.

"To think she could throw a \$300,000 foal every year is just not possible, there are so many risks involved. I am an investor and that is what I do on a day-to-day basis, I trade commodities, shares etc."

"So with horseflesh I often use a similar mentality. If I get offered what I think if a fair price I will in most cases sell it. I am not a horse person. I have not grown up on a rural property or anything. What I know about horses is dangerous, outside of pedigrees and identifying abilities in a horse."



Lot 122 Bettor's Delight x Major Reality filly

"That is where my strength is and I have a really good handle on what things are worth. I buy and sell things regularly."

"Unfortunately, this filly is the last one I am going to have, but I wish Graeme and Katrina every success when they take their first one to the sales," said Harvey.

Major Reality has not produced a foal this season after missing to Bettor's Delight. She has gone to the Walshes in foal to the champion sire with the prospect of her producing another stunning yearling.

TOM BAGS HIMSELF A NICE BETTOR'S COLT, MORE AT CHCH?

Jonny Turner

This year's yearling sales period may have been hectic, but it cannot have gone much better so far for trainer Tom Bagrie.

The search for his next racetrack star was made more a little more frantic and a whole lot more special when his partner Bonnie Heyde gave birth to their first child in late January.

By the end of the NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sales Bagrie could have up to half a dozen babies in his lift – both equine and human.

"It has been full-on, I think I will try to time it better next time," Bagrie quipped.

"It has been hard work on my partner Bonnie – she is a great mum. Being away on the odd yearling tour and being at the sales – being a horse trainer is always hectic."

"The main thing is the baby is healthy and doing really well."

**PIERSON
BREEDING PARTNERSHIP**
presents its
**2021 NATIONAL YEARLING
SALES DRAFT**

Always B Miki – Sara Holley *Bay Colt*

LOT 218



Sweet Lou – Tessa Rocks *Black Filly*

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



CLICK HERE TO VIEW THEIR PEDIGREES AND VIDEOS ON THE NZB WEBSITE

Bagrie landed one yearling at Sunday's Karaka sale, a Bettor's Delight colt from Abide With Me for \$60,000.

The Canterbury trainer could not be happier after buying into New Zealand's hottest harness racing family – the late Charlie Roberts' Scuse Me line.

"I was really happy to get a horse with that sort of pedigree, there are four millionaires on his page. We are absolutely stoked, he is home and has settled in really well. He was straight into his tucker, he is sensible and happy and now we just hope he can run," said Tom.

Bagrie has most of the colt sold but is keeping a share open for a syndicate he will set up once the Christchurch sale is completed.

"Three-quarters of him is definitely sold. I have left the last quarter of him open just to make sure my good clients are catered for.

"I am hoping to get a couple more horses. We will just play it by air until we have got them, I don't want any of my good supporters to miss out."

Bagrie has found syndication is the key to introducing new owners to the thrills of ownership.

After racing their first horse among a group of people, owners often look to expand their involvement.

"I will set up a syndicate which will take a minimum of two, possibly three horses. There will just be a small buy-in, it is a way I have found that is really good at getting people into the game."

"Belmont Major is a good example. One of the guys in him paid \$1000 for a share and he has taken a quarter in the Bettor's Delight colt. He came in some yearlings last year and now has a bigger involvement this year. Belmont Major just gave him a bit of a taste of what the game is all about, he has obviously really enjoyed it."

"It has been really cool to see it work out like that, that is always the aim to get as many people involved as possible."

Bagrie hopes to land two more yearlings in Christchurch next week so his new syndicate can join in their ownership.

"We have done a lot of homework and we are still going over things. Ideally I would like to get a nice a nice trotter and a nice pacer – both colts."

Bagrie could have as many as five or six yearlings in his stable after the completion of the NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sales.

He has at least two owners looking to make purchases of their own.

LUSTY MAC DELIVERS WIN FOR THE LITTLE GUYS IN INDUSTRY

Brad Reid

The Karaka sales complex is arguably the greatest venue in the Southern Hemisphere for selling bloodstock.

It regularly attracts the biggest names in both equine codes, coupled with offerings by some of the best maternal families available the world over.

With the warm climate in the selling months and the glistening grounds that bestow a glow on those in attendance, it combines for a Hollywood like feel is impossible to replicate anywhere else.

Skyrocketing land values have seen the demise of the hobbyist and left the North Island breeding landscape in the hands of the elite.

This is reflected in the number of consignors for the standardbred sale at Karaka with professional studs and preparers like Woodlands and Breckon Farms hogging headlines, and for good reason.

The two drafts last Sunday to sell a whopping 66 of the 75 consigned lots with an aggregate of \$3.3 million.

Nipping at their heels was the highly credentialed Hollis & Robertson draft which grossed a shade over a million dollars from 15 offerings, including the whopping \$300,000 price paid for the Bettor's Delight filly out of Major Reality.

Lost among the bright lights and high-priced sales is an offering like Lot 119.

\$60,000 might be chump change in comparison to some of the money on offer, but for a self-described battler like Ken Bowles of Pukekohe, stepping out onto the red carpet at Karaka for the first time was an experience he will never forget.

"The old guts start to turn over a bit. It's like when you go to the races and your horse starts going out on to the track, your guts are churning and you are crossing everything hoping nothing goes wrong," laughed Bowles.

"I've never experienced that before. I've bid on a couple but never sold one and until you get that experience for yourself, it's hard to explain," he said.

The 80-year-old took a colt from his speedy race mare Lusty Mac to the sales with the advice of Sandy Yarndley ringing in his ears.

"Sandy told me many years ago that if you take a yearling to the sales, you really need to be getting close to



three times the service fee to be breaking even.

"We put a reserve of \$30,000 on him hoping to get a bit more than that obviously and were thrilled with the result," he said.

His sale was one that Bowles gave great thought too having raced or tried every standardbred he has ever bred to this day.

The Lusty Mac mating with American Ideal was done with the intent of breeding a filly, one he and his family would have retained had she produced a female.

"It's always the same when you want a colt you get a filly and vice versa," he laughed.

"I'm 80 now and we only have the pension to live on. I've spent a lot of money on horses over the years and had a couple of nice collects, but you can't rely on them for a living

"My son and his wife wanted to keep him, and I think if I hadn't had been so old, we probably would have kept him, but I said to them we would keep a share in him which smoothed things out," he said.

On type alone, nobody should have been surprised about the outcome of the sale despite the fact that American Ideal offerings have not been in vogue with the buyers in recent times.

The colt had an impressive physique and a lovely way of moving and given the increased demand for American Ideal stock and a shortage in supply, basic economics suggests that is a recipe for good things.

Although a mouthful at the first attempt, the colt is named in the native tongue of his wife Irena with Szybki Konik being the Polish phrase for 'fast horse'.

"There was quite a bit of interest and I know a couple of good trainers had been looking at him. I really liked him, he has a great walk and temperament, and you can tell he knows what's going on around him.

"You're sitting there waiting and looking at other horses going through and comparing them with your own, but if I was buying horses he would have been near the top of my list," he said.

For Bowles who has spent the last 40 years developing the breed, it was a case of real serendipity having secured the great great grand dam of Lusty Mac in Lusty Lopez from a dispersal sale as a going horse.

His love for the standardbred developed from he and his son taking a share in a racehorse some 45 years ago.

"Pity was he won a race and you can't get the game out of your blood after," reckoned Bowles.

From there Bowles developed his own interest being drawn by both the animal and the social side of going



Lot 119: American Ideal x Lusty Mac colt

to the workouts on a Sunday at Pukekohe cited as one specific example.

"You used to have to get to Pukekohe bloody early on a Sunday in those days just to secure a box for your horse.

"We would rush on down there and find a stall and leave something in it and rush back to get the horse and hope like hell nobody had pinched it," he laughed.

"It was great fun. There were a lot of amateur or hobby horseman like me who just enjoyed the social side of the industry and tried to prepare the odd winner."

Bowles prepared seven winners in a span of five years as a license holder between 1986 and 1990, with his best season coming in 1987 where he prepared Konnique (1982 g Tay Bridge – Rendina) for three wins.

While there have been a lot of comings and goings of both horses and fellow participants from that era, the one constant for Bowles and his wife has been the family of Lusty Mac.

As alluded too previously, Lusty Lopez (1975 Lopez Hannover – Lustre Light) was the Bowles matriarch and was acquired at a dispersal sale in the early 80's.

She had won a single race from 13 starts for her breeder and trainer, Douglas Grantham, with that victory coming at Bay of Plenty in 1981 and truth be told, didn't have a lot of pedigree behind her.

"I was a bit green at the time and bought her on a friend's, Doug Hawkins advice. She was a right handful and set the tone for the rest of the family, particularly the fillies.

Bowles laments the fact his truck driver wage in those days wasn't enough to patronise his mares with some of the better stallions going, but nevertheless he persevered where others may have thrown in the towel.

Lusty Lopez's first foal was a Tay Bridge filly by the name of Lusty Bridge (1983) and she was bred in partnership with Doug Hawkins.

"She showed a bit of speed but would crush you against



the wall or try and bite you. If you went into her feed box while she was eating, you had to be very careful.

"Lusty Mac was the same, she would fight you and you couldn't make her do anything against her will. The breed has always wanted to do things their own way, except for the colts who are a bit more laid back," he said.

Despite having kicked one A G Herlihy out of the cart a couple of times, Lusty Bridge was the winner of four races, three times with Bowles as the trainer in between stints with Owen Purdon.

She also ran 6th in the only Group race she contested, the Group 2 North Island Breeders Stakes which is ironic given the deeds of her granddaughter who we will get too shortly.

Unfortunately lightning never struck twice and in this instance, was more like a never-ending drought with the next seven foals from Lusty Lopez all amounting to nothing for Bowles.

Fortunately, the first foal and four race winner, Lusty Bridge, was the tap root for further success.

Eleven foals for eleven qualifiers is pretty good going by anyone's measures. Nine of her progeny made it to the races and seven were winners.

Interestingly between 1999 and 2002, Bowles produced three foals by what you would deem relatively commercial sires in New York Motoring (x2) and Soky's Atom and the breed lifted accordingly.

Megastep (1999 Soky's Atom) was good enough to win four races and contested three Nevele R Fillies heats against the best North Island fillies at the time. They included the likes of Pullover Brown, Coburg and Alta Serena to name a few with plenty who finished in behind her going on to have wonderful broodmare careers, Pacing Grace, E J Becks etc.

She wasn't a slouch at stud and left the Falcon Seelster colt Jasami who after winning on debut and running second to Sir Lincoln in a Sires Stakes heat at his second start was sold for big money to Perth.

Manhattan Bridge (2000 New York Motoring) won just the one race from 19 starts here in New Zealand before going on to having a prosperous Australian career spanning another 188 starts for 23 wins and 51 placings.

The last of the three commercial matings produced the unraced That's It (2002 New York Motoring) who is the dam of Lusty Mac.

Bowles sounded like he doubled over laughing when asked about the mare and recounts his difficulty in getting her to pace.

"I had her up here and mucked around with her myself. She would pull you out of the cart and once you got her

working at any speed, you couldn't hold her.

"One day at Alexandra Park I had to run her into the fence just to pull her up, and I couldn't put up with much more of that. I'm not a professional trainer and I don't think anyone would have been able to sort her out," he said.

For the record, with a family of head case fillies, Bowles has bred 27 foals from the Lusty Lopez maternal family and produced just the nine colts. A sucker for punishment? The best was yet to come.

That's It was sent to stud and produced two foals (filly & colt) by Red River Hanover with the first filly foal qualifying for two race day starts and the colt getting his race day ticket but never made it to the races.

The third and final foal was a filly by the son of Falcon Seelster in McArdle.

"We sent Lusty Mac to Mike Berger who is very good with fillies. He doesn't fight them or knock them around and gets on with them as well as anyone. He said to me he thought we might have a good one on our hands here," said Bowles.

Lusty Mac won on debut at Cambridge and was a certainty beat at her second start finishing second having never obtained clear air after being locked three the fence.

After never firing shot in a Northern Oaks prelude at her third start, Lusty Mac rattled off three wins and two placings in her next five which included two victories at Alexandra Park.

Lusty Mac developed a foot abscess in April of 2015 that derailed the rest of her three-year-old season and wasn't sighted again until November that year. Despite having a large part of her hoof out, both trainer and owner being adamant she was never the same as a result, Lusty Mac carved out (excuse the pun) a very tidy career.

She was the winner of nine races and placed on 18 occasions for \$132,216 in stakes.

She was the back-to-back winner of the Listed Northern Mares Classic at Alexandra Park and provided Bowles and his family with the thrill of lining up in the 2017 Auckland Cup won by Vincent.

"When she won the first Mares Classic it was like walking on Cloud Nine. We had bred a few horses over the years and had a few duds, but when you get a horse like her it does make your chest puff out a couple of inches.

"I realised we were going to have to make a speech and thank the sponsors. I said to my son I'm no good at making speeches, I was more accustomed to talking to the lads at the freezing works than the people in suits.

"Well, my son was so fired up about winning the race, the only thing he could muster was a huge YAHOOO!"



On account of Phillipa 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

"It was a big thrill and I think my son had quite a bit of money on her too, Mike was pretty confident she would win

"We've got great memories and have met some wonderful people along the way, and that is what it's all about," he said.

Too right, and to go to Karaka and get \$60,000 for a yearling is not just a win for Bowles and his family, but for all the battlers in this great industry who persevere through thick and thin.

With over 45 years of involvement in the sport, few would begrudge Bowles and his family of this success in the ring.

OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FOR SOUTH ISLAND CONSIGNORS

NZB Standardbred

Overwhelming offers of support for the Southern Bred Southern Reared group have demonstrated how close-knit the New Zealand standardbred breeding industry is following this week's postponement of NZB Standardbred's National Yearling Sale at Christchurch.

Many southern vendors were at Canterbury Agricultural Park putting the finishing touches on their yearlings when a change in the country's COVID-19 alert levels forced NZB Standardbred to delay its Christchurch yearling session by a week until 22 – 24 February.

Southern Bred Southern Reared committee member John Stiven of Arden Lodge was among those affected.

As his 12 yearlings were settling in for their first night in Christchurch, news of the change in alert levels was confirmed.

Just moments later an outpouring of support began from Canterbury standardbred breeders and the wider harness racing industry.

"It is a great industry to be in and people have just been extremely helpful," Stiven said.

"It started when we were covering up the yearlings for the night, it was getting dark and there wasn't a lot you could do.

"But the phone started going and people started offering to help us out.

"There were more stables and boxes than we had horses to put in them by the end of it, it was rather encouraging," he said.

The Southern Bred Southern Reared vendors waiting the week out in Christchurch include Shard Farm, Michelle Caig, Beaudiene Breeding, Denario Breeding and Tuapeka Lodge.

Canterbury breeders and stables to offer their support included Long Acres Stud, Studholme Bloodstock, Kentuckiana Lodge, Regan Todd Racing Stables, Ripple Creek, Dangingonmoonlight and Nevele R Stud, along with many others.

Stiven likened the outpouring of support for southern vendors to the same kind of encouragement harness racing industry members extend to each other when their horses compete on the track.

"It is a bit like at the races you always congratulate the winner and if you are down the track you try again," Stiven said.

"It is pretty much the same."

Stiven has his and wife Judy's Arden Lodge draft is currently stationed at Kentuckiana Lodge for the remainder of the week, with the yearlings settling into their new surroundings in fine style.

"They are pretty happy."

"We are lucky enough to be at Cran Dalgety's and they are in his yearling barn.

"We are really grateful and so far they are as happy as can be," he said.

Waiting a week to offer their yearlings in the Christchurch session of NZB Standardbred's National Yearling Sale has been made a little easier for southern breeders by the strong results seen in Auckland on Sunday 14 February.

The Auckland session saw a rise in all key sale indicators, with the aggregate, average and median prices as well as the clearance rate all rising.

Southern vendors buoyed by the strength of the yearling market at the Auckland Sale and the endorsement of the New Zealand-bred on the world stage.

"It is always encouraging, I think the past will show that when it has gone well in Auckland it has gone even better in Christchurch," Stiven said.

"It is a really good indicator."

Buyers wishing to inspect Southern Bred Southern Reared yearlings this week can find each vendor at the following locations:





HARNES MILLION SERIES

ADMINISTERED BY THE NZ SIRES' STAKES BOARD

All yearlings offered at NZB Standardbred's 2021 National Yearling Sale are eligible for the exciting new NZB Standardbred Harness Million Race Series.

\$1,000,000 IN TOTAL WILL BE RACED FOR:

- 2YO Colts & Geldings, Fillies and Trotters
- 3YO Colts & Geldings, Fillies and Trotters
- 4YO & Older (conditioned) Entires & Geldings, Mares & Trotters.

 NZB
Standardbred®

ONE-TIME QUALIFYING FEE \$700^{+GST}

ONE-OFF ENTRY FEE \$2000^{+GST}

ONE MILLION IN PRIZEMONEY

*Visit www.nzbstandardbred.co.nz for the full terms and conditions.

CONSIGNOR	LOCATION
Arden Lodge	Kentuckiana Lodge
Shard Farm	Long Acres Stud
Michelle Caig Breeding	Canterbury Agricultural Park
Beaudiene Breeding	Dancingonmoonlight
Denario Breeding	Regan Todd Racing Stables
Tuapeka Lodge	Studholme Bloodstock

All unbroken yearlings purchased at the 2021 National Standardbred Yearling Sale are eligible for the lucrative \$1million NZB Standardbred Harness Million Sale Race Series, with an estimated one million dollars in the prizepool.

Buyers who cannot physically attend the Christchurch session are encouraged to visit standardbred.bidonline.nz.co.nz to register and verify their online bidding accounts 24 hours prior to the Sale, which begins with the trotting session at 3PM (NZT) on Monday 22 February.

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](#).

2021 National Standardbred Yearling Sale Calendar - Christchurch

- *Christchurch Parade & Sale of Trotters: Monday 22 February 2021, 3PM (NZT)*
- *Christchurch Sale of Pacers: Tuesday 23 & Wednesday 24 February 2021, 1PM (NZT)*

All parades and sale sessions will be broadcast live on Freeview channel 200, on nzstandardbred.co.nz and NZB Standardbred's facebook page

SURGE IN KEY INDICATORS AT OPENING SESSION

NZB Standardbred

After an incredible start to NZB Standardbred's Auckland session at the 2021 National Yearling Sale, all key critical indicators have increased dramatically on last year's figures.

Day One of trading kicked off with a strong benchmark after the Sale broke NZB Standardbred records selling 107 lots for a total turnover of \$5,370,500, increasing more than 20% on last year's aggregate.

The average rose to \$50,192, with the median increasing to \$40,000, while the clearance rate settled at a stand-out 82%.



NZB Director and Operations Manager James Jennings was ecstatic after a solid day of trading in Auckland.

"We have had a phenomenal start to our yearling sale, with significant rises in all key metrics."

"Our aggregate has increased by 23 percent, while our average and clearance rate increased 10 percent on last year's figures at the end of Day One.

"We would like to congratulate our consignors whose extra efforts and transparency came to fruition in the sale ring.

"The depth of the domestic buying bench was extremely pleasing, which was continuous throughout the day.

"We are looking forward to carrying the momentum through to Christchurch over the next three days of selling," Jennings said.

The highlight of the session came towards the end of the day, after Stonewall Stud's Steve Telfer purchased Lot 122 for a substantial \$300,000.

The Bettor's Delight filly out of Major Reality (NZ) (Art Major) was secured from Hollis & Robertson Equine Services draft, who landed as leading consignor by average.

Telfer was pleased he managed to knock down the top lot of the session.

"The numbers got up very high very quickly but we really liked the filly so we decided to have a good go."

"She comes from the family of two of the biggest names in harness racing over the last few years in Ultimate Sniper and Ultimate Machete.

"She will have a long career and is likely to go to stud after that," he said.

The second highest priced yearling was Lot 102, purchased by Ray Green on behalf of Lincoln Farms Bloodstock for \$200,000. The Bettor's Delight colt out of Jessies Cullen (NZ) (Christian Cullen) from Woodlands Stud's draft.

Leading sire by average was Champion stallion Bettor's Delight, with 24 lots selling for an average of \$87,792, totalling \$2,107,000.

Peter Lagan purchased the third top lot of the day early on in the session on behalf of Emilio and Mary Rosati for \$190,000. Lot 14, a colt by first season trotting sire What The Hill out of Regal Volo (Malabar Man) who Lagan judged as his "pick of the Sale when it comes to trotting colts."

The buying bench at Auckland was topped by Stonewall Stud, purchasing five lots for an aggregate of \$554,000.

The leading consignor by aggregate was Breckon

Farms, selling 32 of their 36 lots for a total turnover of \$1,806,000.

Principal Ken Breckon was wrapped with how NZB Standardbred's 2021 Auckland session concluded at Karaka.

"New Zealand Bloodstock have helped turn this industry around and I'm forever thankful for them."

"I think the industry is in great feel which was evident today and our local market was very strong.

"Despite everything that has happened with COVID, I think it is a fantastic result," he said.

The Christchurch Sale of Trotters commences on Monday 15 February, with Lot 135 to 183 selling from 3PM (NZT). The Parade of Trotters will begin tomorrow at 1PM (NZT).

Selling at the Christchurch session will be beamed to viewers on Freeview channel 200, with coverage streamed live at nzbstandradbred.co.nz and on NZB Standardbred's facebook page. Presenter Greg O'Connor will bring key sale highlights and interviews throughout the day and will host a Preview Show prior to the Sale of Trotters beginning tomorrow at 2:30PM (NZT).

All horses purchased at the National Standardbred Yearling Sale are eligible for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million Series, with approximately \$1 million in prizemoney on offer for graduates of the Yearling Sale Series.

To make enquiries about any [Passed Lots click here](#), or contact NZB Standardbred's Cam Bray on +64 21 737 199 or email cam.bray@nzbc.co.nz.

OFF N GONE LIVES UP TO HER NAME IN STANDOUT HARNESS MILLION VICTORY

NZB Standardbred

Off N Gone (NZ) (Somebeachsomewhere) lived up to her name in emphatic fashion to win the \$150,000 Listed NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Fillies Pace (1980m) at Addington on Friday night.

The Robert Dunn-trained pacer made light work of the power of mid-race that a wide barrier draw forced her to do before she was off and gone from her rivals to take out the lucrative feature by four and a half lengths.

Off N Gone was caught wide in the early stages of the NZB Standardbred Harness Million Final before driver John Dunn worked her forward to the parked position.

Racing without cover for the entire 1980m event took no toll on the classy filly as she burst to the lead on the home turn and scorched to victory with fast closing sectional times.

Off N Gone came into the NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Fillies Pace in outstanding form.

The three-year-old ran to two impressive victories at last month's two-day meeting at Nelson before she charged into third after being held up in her latest run at Addington.

Now a Harness Million winner, Off N Gone has earned a shot at Group One glory in the Northern Oaks at Alexandra Park.

"It was a great win, she drew wide and did plenty of work and she ran a great time," Robert Dunn said.

"She has always been a lovely filly, we have always liked her. I thought her two runs at Nelson were terrific and she has just come on from there.

"She will head to Auckland now for the Cadeceus Club Stakes and then go on to the Northern Oaks."

Off N Gone stopped the clock in the NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Fillies Pace in the scintillating time of 2-23.9, producing a 1-56.9 mile rate.

Off N Gone was followed across the line by With Grace (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) in a Robert Dunn stable quinella.

The Woodend Beach trainer qualified four runners for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million 3YO Fillies Pace with Shankia (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) finishing fifth and Passion And Power (NZ) (Art Major) finishing eighth.

Avana (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) ran third behind the Dunn trained quinella makers to complete her second placing in an NZB Standardbred Harness Million Final.

Breeder-owners Brent and Suzanne Williams and Gary Woodham offered Off N Gone at the 2019 NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sales where she was knocked down for \$37,000.

The filly's dam Kabet (NZ) (Bettor's Delight) had already proved to be a broodmare gem, becoming a stakes-winning producer after Off N Gone's victory in Friday night's race.

Off N Gone's half-brothers Take A Bet (NZ) (Mach Three) and Above N Beyond (NZ) (Art Major) have both been multiple race winners.

A half-sister to Off N Gone and full sister to Above N Beyond will be offered at the 2021 NZB Standardbred National Yearling Sale.





Dunstan breed & grow NUTS

For broodmares, weanlings & yearlings

Dunstan Breed & Grow

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

0800 438 678 | www.dunstan.co.nz



Dunstan Breed & Grow

Feed their future



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

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



Available from your leading horse feed retailer



DELAY TO AMAZING DREAM SALE

Michael Guerin

The potential sale of Auckland Cup winner Amazing Dream has been delayed by the Covid restrictions put in place this week.

But owner Jean Feiss says if all goes well in the next week the wonderful little mare is still likely to be sold to the United States.

Amazing Dream was a brave if somewhat expensive second to Watch Me Now in the Breeders Stakes at Addington last Friday going down in national record time for a mare after leading.

"I don't think she is as good in front but you have got to lead when you get the chance and I am not making excuses," says Feiss.

Amazing Dream was scheduled to be vetted early this week for a potential sale to well-known North American-based owners but the veterinarian those owners use is based in Auckland and could not travel to Canterbury to perform the examination.

"So when that happens will depend on how things go with Covid over there," says Victorian-based Feiss.

"But if she vets well and the offer is still on the table then the intention is she will still be sold."

Sydney carnival where she could have been aimed at the Ladyship Mile but she is not now automatically qualified after her defeat last week. which starts at noon on Sunday have embraced that.

That would mean the two mares who quinellaed the race were both sold, with Watch Me Now also heading to the US as has Beyond Words, so the only three mares in New Zealand who have won a group one pacing race this season could all soon be gone.

The delay to her vetting and any potential sale also makes it highly unlikely Amazing Dream will head to the Sydney carnival where she could have been aimed at the Ladyship Mile but she is not now automatically qualified after her defeat last week.

Feiss had a frustrating night at the office at Addington with her New Zealand Cup winner Self Assured also beaten by Pembroke Playboy in the Summer Cup.

"I still thought he went good and he hasn't raced much so is still working his way back to his peak," says Feiss.

"They simply can't win all the time in that grade and he can head back to Auckland now for the free-for-alls up there."

That means another clash or two with Copy That in races that hopefully get off the ground to give the Auckland meeting some open class firepower.

Meanwhile, Feiss wasn't bidding at the Karaka yearling sales on Sunday but still intends buying some yearlings if the Christchurch sales go ahead next week.

"I didn't even bid on Sunday but it looked a really strong sale which is great for the industry."

"It was strange not being there but I have my eye on a couple in Christchurch and I am hoping it goes head next Monday cause I intend bidding there."

NZSBA THANKS ITS PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ASSOCIATION

