

Breeders' Bulletin



Autumn 2012

New Zealand Bloodstock's Yearling Sales Review



Members and their guests from throughout New Zealand met in the NZTBA Members' marquee – Karaka 2012

Now that the dust has settled following the New Zealand Bloodstock Yearling Sales, it is more than likely that next year there will be a tightening up of the selection process, resulting in a shorter sharper Premier Session.

This is just one aspect that the auctioneering company is looking at after viewing the figures, and assessing the buyer and vendor feedback from the sales series.

Over the three sessions, two days for Premier, three for Select and one for Festival, 985 lots were sold for an aggregate of \$77,334,300 reflecting an average of \$78,512, and a median of \$47,500, with a 75% clearance rate. The top price was \$1,750,000 for Lot 353 the Fastnet Rock-Nureyev' Girl colt purchased by David Ellis.

In 2011 1,050 lots sold for an aggregate of \$88,094,250 with an average of \$83,899 and a median of \$45,000. That year the top price lot was \$875,000 for a Red Ransom colt out Nureyev's Girl also purchased by David Ellis.

The Managing Director of Bloodstock and Finance at New Zealand Bloodstock Andrew Seabrook attributes the result of the \$11 million dollars deficit directly to the Australian buying bench.

"Vendors need to realise that it's better to be a big fish in a small pond and sell in Select," according to Seabrook.

"The premier sale started a bit slower than we would have liked. We were happy with the buyers bench, the interest in the sale and the bookings for flights and hotels were good from the Australians but they didn't have the cash to spend.

"They spent \$11 million less and that was really the difference between the sale being a good one and a satisfactory one. The New Zealand spend was around the same and Asian spend was up.

"The Australian economy is not going that well and it's only in the last six months that people are beginning to feel the effects of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) there. It hit New Zealand almost immediately but it has taken a lot longer to impact there. I believe it absolutely attributed to the Aussie spend being \$11 million down," he said.

New Zealand Bloodstock's Chairman and New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing director Joe Walls concurs with this sentiment.

"The market has been difficult to read over the last few years, when we thought the market would drop it didn't, then we had the EI spike when the Aussies came and bought our horses as they were EI free.

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New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association



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It held up reasonably well last year, and this year we may well have seen the effects of the GFC. We probably have to wait and see how all the other sales fare this autumn."

Seabrook went on to say that normally K2 and K3 mirror the premier and that didn't happen so we were really pleased about that, we ended up with a 75% clearance rate over the three sales and that was positive overall. The median was the highest it's been in three years at \$47,500.

One common trend that has appeared over the last few years is that the tail of premier lags behind the top of select.

Seabrook and Walls also agree that this needs addressing. In the past they have used this fact as a marketing tool to get vendors to sell their horses in Select rather than Premier.

"The vendors need to get smarter," according to Seabrook. "Vendors need to realise that it's better to be a big fish in a small pond and sell in K2. The top 40% of K2 sold better than the bottom 40% of K1.

"We have to look at tightening up the selection of K1 and getting rid of that tail, we will look at a smaller catalogue and be tougher on selection – we will focus more on type and drop off at least the bottom 40 lots including the weaker fillies. Those horses will sell well in K2.

They both believe that the Premier Sale days were too long this year and will look to sell around 200 to 220 horses a day instead of the 250 odd they sold this year. On those figures that's around 1100 horses over five days. Despite a possible decline in the number of yearlings next year due to the decline in the foal crop, they are still going to have an overflow that needs to be sold at a lesser sale, so the Festival sale it seems is here to stay and will remain as an extra day.

"The vendors in Festival were terrific – they presented their horses well and they had realistic reserves and plenty of them made more than they were expecting. The atmosphere on the day was great and there was an excellent crowd. It was very encouraging," said Seabrook.

Walls agreed and stated that this sale would always be needed for the local buyers.

"If you look at the results, the horses were predominantly bought by New Zealand buyers. They still have to secure horses and they haven't necessarily got \$50,000 to \$60,000 to do that, so this sale fills a much needed gap," he said.

"It was encouraging how the bottom to middle sold well. The New Zealanders stepped up to the plate. We still have the New Zealanders holding back in K1 and buying up in K2 and K3. In K1 there were lots of horses under \$50K that could have stayed in the New Zealand market," added Seabrook.

"We have to do something about getting the New Zealand buyers to K1. It must be psychological whether they think they don't have the buying power or will get blown out of the market I don't know – but on what they spent at the other sales, they would have had the buying power to buy a hundred horses in K1.

"We will have to look outside the square and see how we can improve things both for local buyers and overseas. The aggregate for the sale this year is down \$16 million from 2010, that's \$1.6 million off our bottom line. We need to get that \$16 million back in turnover. We will be encouraging new buyers and will be more active in continuing to explore new markets. There is still room to grow in Australia and Asia. It's not a time for us to cut back on buyer incentives or marketing. We won't be resting on our laurels, that's for sure."

Making a Tough Job Look ‘Super Easy’ For Mike Ryan

Singaporean sensation Super Easy (Darci Brahma – Parfore) carries an “NZ” after his name, as he was born here, but the story behind this horse is quite international.

He is raced in Singapore by the Joy N Happiness stable, and is trained by an Australian – Michael Freedman. He was bred in New Zealand where his dam Parfore is a resident at Wentwood Grange. His breeder, another Australian, is Mike Ryan who currently lives in Abu Dhabi.



Singapore sensation, Super Easy

A three-year-old son of Darci Brahma, Super Easy is the current star of Singaporean racing having won seven straight. According to his trainer, he is currently having a short break before being prepared for the Singapore Three-Year-Old Challenge which commences with the Singapore Group Three Singapore Three-Year-Old Print over 1200 metres on March 30.

The series then goes to the Singapore group two Singapore Three-Year-Old Classic over 1400 metres on April 20 and a month later concludes with the Singapore group one Singapore Guineas over 1600 metres.

To date, Super Easy has not raced against his own age group. All his wins have been against the older horses, and he has yet to win beyond 1400 metres. In this age of modern technology his breeder Mike Ryan has no trouble following the deeds of Super Easy.

“It’s fairly easy to follow the racing from Asia and Australia here in Abu Dhabi and thanks to technology and working with good people I have no trouble keeping track of my bloodstock interests,” he said from his home in Abu Dhabi.

His bloodstock interests consist of a small portfolio of mares and racehorses, based in New Zealand and Australia, under the banner of Rytz Bloodstock.

Ryan established Rytz Bloodstock about nine years ago, basically as a breeding and racing business, but by 2007 he had accumulated around 35 – 40 horses.

“The business had got too big, so I made a decision to scale down and just breed quality horses, mainly to sell. However, we have ended up with the odd one to race. It was about the time of El in Australia and that made it difficult as well and sort of took its toll on our operation.

“Just before El shut everything down I had made the decision to send Parfore – the dam of Super Easy – back to New Zealand specifically to be mated with Darci Brahma. I sent two mares over, and that decision has proved quite fortuitous.

“I liked Darci Brahma as a racehorse, it’s a pretty gutsy horse that can come to Australia and win a group one as a two-year-old, and I really liked his pedigree. I think if Super Easy can go on and win a group one in Singapore and then race outside Singapore he could be a stallion prospect himself and that would be great for Darci Brahma then to become a sire of sires.”

Ryan acquired Parfore in 2004 when she was purchased by Paul Willetts on his behalf for \$30,000 from the Mixed Broodmare Sale.

“All credit to Paul – it was his decision to buy the mare. He saw the potential in the family – she was in foal to Faltaat at the time but all the subsequent matings have been my decision. And just to give the mare a chance, Paul went back the following January and bought the Generous yearling out of the mare for me for \$20,000.”

The Generous yearling is Our Lukas, who has now won 12 races including five listed races. He has won the Ipswich Cup twice along with the Seymour Cup, the Brisbane Handicap and the Strawberry Road Handicap. Ryan, who named the horse after his young son Lukas (now six) raced Our Lukas originally in Melbourne out of Peter Moody’s stable, but on-sold him to Queensland clients of Robbie Heathcote’s and that is where the horse has found his forte.

A winner of one race, Parfore is by Gold Brose out of the stakes

winning Twig Moss (FR) mare Classy Twiggy (AUS) and shortly after the acquisition the family also produced the champion two-year-old Il Quello Veloce (Captain Rio [GB]- Nishaani). Nishaani is an unraced full sister to Parfore and she has also left two winning siblings to Il Quello Veloce in Captain Bro and Another Superior.

“The Faltaat mating produced a small colt foal, quite late in the season. She always seems to go about two to three weeks over, and we tried to mate her with Montjeu before he went back but she missed. The Faltaat turned out to be quite a handy horse in Our Boy Lukas who has won four races and over \$100,000 in Victoria.

“Stravinsky (USA) was running hot and in demand so her next mating was to him and she came to Australia in foal with that mating. She produced a filly which was sold to Patinack Farm at the Magic Millions for \$150,000. That filly raced as Frustrating and won two races. She is now in foal to Casino Prince (AUS).

“I had seen Dubawi win a race at Newmarket and thought he was a magnificent looking horse; I hoped that he would come to stud down here, so when he did I sent Parfore to him. That foal is Tiger Tees who has won six from nine out of Joe Pride’s stable in Sydney. I sold him privately and have retained a share in him. He is being set for some big races at the Brisbane Carnival this winter.”

It was while in foal to Dubawi that Parfore returned to New Zealand to be mated with Darci Brahma. She returned the following year to Australia in foal to Captain Rio carrying a three-quarter brother to Il Quello Veloce. Named Terravista, he was also sold privately to some colleagues of Ryan’s and has joined the Pride stable in Sydney as well.

Following that foal, Parfore returned to Dubawi and produced another colt, a yearling who has been sold privately to some of the partners of Tiger Tees and will join his siblings at Joe Pride’s. Parfore returned to Wentwood Grange in May last year, and is safely in foal to Zabeel.

“I am hoping for a filly as I would love a Zabeel mare. Parfore has already produced two fillies. The first was a full sister to Our Lukas by Generous (GB) Ininthree a winner of two races and served this season by Darci Brahma. The other is Frustrating. Her last three foals have been colts so she must be due to produce a filly.

“Now that she is getting older it is quite important that I try and get a filly from this family. Hopefully nature will be kind to me – after all, Zabeel is the best stallion in New Zealand so regardless of the result, a colt would be just as good. Parfore will probably then return to Darci Brahma.”

Ryan has six mares in the Rytz Bloodstock portfolio at the moment, most of them younger than Parfore and they include the New Zealand-

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Weanling feed options and the Dunstan Feed Keg opportunity



It is weaning time again and it's great to know that Dunstan has a range of feeds ideal for your young horses, no matter what the pasture situation or farm management methods.

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To discuss the **Dunstan Grain Keg** options, or for further information, please contact **David Smith on 0274 931 580** or **Gretel Webber on 021 557 316**.



All NZTBA members welcome at Te Aroha

The Waikato Branch of the NZTBA will once again host NZTBA members from throughout New Zealand to the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes Day at Te Aroha Racecourse on Easter Saturday, 7th April 2012.

This popular event offers a day of high-class racing headed by the Group 1 Fibre Fresh NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes, the country's premier WFA Fillies and Mares race. There will be a variety of promotions on the day including a 2012 service to Bachelor Duke (USA) generously donated by The Oaks Stud.

This service nomination will be won by an NZTBA financial member who has entered the draw and is present on course (conditions apply). Every registered members' name will enter the sweepstake draw on the day's feature race and the person who draws the winner of the 2012 NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes will claim the prize.

Additional services have been donated by Paxton Park (Gorky Park and Shinko King) and Chequers Stud (Battle Paint) and Fibre Fresh has kindly donated feed to be given out on the day.

This year guests will be hosted in the Waikato Breeders Lounge (the first building that you come to, previously the public stand). The area has had a facelift and provides superb views of the track. Tables and sun umbrellas will be available outside with betting facilities. Lunch will be served inside. All NZTBA members are warmly invited to attend this very popular day of racing. Non-members are welcome for a small



entry fee of \$20 per person. NZTBA members are asked to carry their current season membership swing tags to ensure direct entry. An up-to-date membership listing will also be available on the day to confirm membership.

New members are welcome to join on the day and can take advantage of the special NZTBA offer of \$165 which will cover an 18 month period. Joining on the day will of course give eligibility to enter the prize draw, as well as free entry to the Breeders' Lounge.

For further information contact **Lisa Dunbar**, Waikato Branch secretary: Email: nztbawaikatob@gmail.com or go to our website: www.nztbawaikato.nzthoroughbred.co.nz

NZTR National Fillies and Mares Series Schedule

As part of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's strategy to reposition the industry, a new National Series of restricted class Fillies and Mares races have been programmed and commenced on 1 March, 2012.

A total of thirty \$12,000 midweek races for Fillies and Mares have been scheduled between March and the end of the current season. NZTR Chief Executive Greg Purcell said: "The NZTR Board is committed to developing opportunities for fillies and mares long term and NZTR will continue to work with the Clubs and the Regional Programming Committees to provide a schedule of eighty \$12,000 midweek Fillies and Mares races nationally in the 2012 – 13 season."

Across a full season it is envisaged that there will be a minimum of \$1.2 million in advertised prize money attached to the eighty midweek and ten Saturday Fillies and Mares races that will be held.

This new initiative, together with the 2kg sex allowance being provided for all fillies and mares racing in set weight or handicap races, has been introduced by NZTR to encourage more fillies and mares to compete. The NZTR Board believes that activating more fillies and mares to race is critical to the long term success of the industry.

Historically Fillies and Mares have made up between 54 – 57% of the available horse population after exports, but Fillies and Mares only represented 46.5% of the individual horses that raced in 2010 – 11.

NZTR's objective is to ensure that Fillies and Mares are competitive. Across the next three seasons NZTR is looking for the percentage of Fillies and Mares racing to increase to 50% of the available horse population and for Fillies and Mares to represent 50% of the total number of individual winners.

The eighty midweek racing opportunities for Fillies and Mares will complement the existing black-type races conducted currently, along with another ten \$25,000 Premier or Feature Fillies and Mares races that will be run on selected Saturdays throughout the year.

The first of these races will be a \$25,000 Open Fillies and Mares 1400m Handicap run at Riverton on Saturday 7 April, with Premier Fillies and Mares R75 races being run at Te Aroha on April 7 and Wellington on May 26. The South Island Regional Programming Committee programmed a \$12,000 midweek R75 1600m Fillies and Mares event at the Amberley Racing Club meeting at Riccarton on 8 March, together with a \$12,000 Rating 85 Fillies and Mares race at Southland on Sunday 18 March to lead into the Riverton race.

There is no restriction around entry to any of the \$25,000 Saturday races programmed, which means that any eligible filly and mare is able to be nominated for these races at the time. There is also no early entry or qualifying conditions attached to any of the midweek Series races. Regional Programming Committees will allocate the \$12,000 midweek Filly and Mares across a mix of Maiden, age group, R65 and R75 races over a range of distances. In scheduling these races the Programming Committees will look to ensure that there are alternative opportunities available for male horses in the same period.

While the Regional Programming Committees has allocated a number of the midweek races to ensure that there are suitable lead-up races to upcoming Saturday \$25,000 Fillies and Mares races, the midweek opportunities have been programmed at other times of the year to give three year old fillies additional races and to provide an additional programming option before established black-type Fillies and Mares races at other times of the year.

NZTR FILLIES AND MARES FY12 NATIONAL SERIES (Confirmed schedule through to 31 July 2012)

CENTRAL (10+1)			SOUTHERN (8+1)			NORTHERN (12+2)		
Waverley	Sun 11/3	R65 1650 F&M	Amberley RC	Thur 8/3	R75 1600 F&M	Waipa	Tue 13/3	Mdn 1580 F&M
Taranaki	Tue 20/3	R65 2000 F&M deleted	Southland RC	Sun 18/3	R85BM 1200 F&M	Rotorua	Mon 19/3	Mdn 1200 F&M
Wanganui	Fri 29/3	R65 1340 F&M	Riverton	Sat 7/4	Open 1400m F&M	Counties	Wed 21/3	Mdn 1600 F&M
Otaki-Maori	Tue 10/4	R65 1400 F&M	Beaumont	Sun 22/4	R75 1400m F&M	Matamata	Tue 27/3	R65 1600 F&M
Masterton	Sat 28/4	R75 1400 F&M	Sth Canterbury	Fri 11/5	R65 1600m F&M	Te Aroha (P)	Sat 7/4	R75 1600 F&M \$25k
Hawkes Bay	Fri 4/5	R65B 2200 F&M	Canterbury	Fri 1/6	R65 1200m F&M	Rotorua	Wed 11/4	Mdn 1320 F&M
Waverley	Tue 8/5	R65 1200 F&M	Otago	Sun 10/6	R75 1200 F&M	Avondale	Wed 25/4	2yoF 1200 \$30k
Egmont	Thur 17/5	R65 1600 F&M	Ashburton	Fri 6/7	Mdn 1200 F&M	Counties	Mon 7/5	Mdn 1600 F&M
Wellington (P)	Sat 26/5	R75B 1400 F&M \$25k	Oamaru	Mon 9/7	R75 1600 F&M	Te Aroha	Mon 21/5	Mdn 1600 F&M
Taranaki	Thur 7/6	R65 2000 F&M added	New season:			Rotorua	Tue 29/5	Mdn 1400 F&M
Hawkes Bay	Mon 11/6	R65 1400F&M	* Canterbury	Wed 5/8	R75 1500 F&M \$25k	Te Aroha	Wed 13/6	R65 1600 F&M
Wairarapa	Thur 28/6	R75 1600 F&M				Matamata	Mon 2/7	Mdn 1600 F&M
						Cambridge	Wed 4/7	R65 1600 F&M
						Whangarei (F)	Sat 14/7	R75 1600F&M \$25k

While the Regional Programming Committees will allocate a number of the midweek races to ensure that there are suitable lead-up races to upcoming Saturday \$25,000 Fillies and Mares races, the midweek opportunities will also be programmed at other times of the year to give three year old fillies additional races and to provide an additional programming option before established black-type Fillies and Mares races at other times of the year.

**Have you vaccinated your mare for EHV?
If not, you should discuss this with your vet NOW.**

Warhorse – First Group 1 for Jonathan

Well known Cambridge veterinarian Jonathan Hope admits to experiencing a few anxious moments awaiting the outcome of the Haunui Farm Diamond Stakes (Gr 1).

The race was eventually won on protest by Warhorse (General Nediym [AUS] – Rathlin Island [AUS]) after Rollout The Carpet, who was first past the post, ran an erratic last 400 metres veering across the track and interfering with and taking the line of Warhorse. In a valiant effort, Warhorse came from a length behind Rollout The Carpet at the 100 metre mark to finish half a head behind the winner, Silk Pins was a mere nose back in third position.

“It was a nail-biter for a while,” said Hope the breeder of Warhorse, “I didn’t know if it would go our way, and it’s not really how you want to win a group one race but I will take it. They were all good horses fighting out the finish.

“Hopefully now Te Akau Stables will take him to Manawatu for the Sires and he can prove himself again. I haven’t spoken to them but I believe he will eventually go and fly the flag in Singapore and he will do well up there as he obviously likes a little bit of sting out of the ground.”

Warhorse is raced by Singaporean Tang Weng Fei and is trained by Jason Bridgman at Te Akau Stables in Matamata. He made his race debut at Ellerslie in October on a dead track and finished second to Silk Pins. He was unplaced in his next start six weeks later in the listed Wentwood Grange Stakes, then started the year off perfectly, easily winning the group three Eclipse Stakes also at Ellerslie on a slow track. Back there for the Karaka Million he charged home late to finish third, before coming out six weeks later to race in the Diamond Stakes.

He was purchased by David Ellis from the 2011 Premier Sale for \$100,000 from the Trelawney Stud draft, the same draft that presented Silk Pins. Although he was bred by Hope it was rather fitting that Warhorse is a graduate of the Trelawney draft as Brent and Cherry Taylor played a big part both in the purchase of his dam and mating.

“I have a lot to thank Brent and Cherry for. I couldn’t have done it without them, and it was wonderful that I was able to celebrate my first group one winner at a party for Faith (Brent’s mother) after the Diamond Stakes. I can tell you I wasn’t too flash the next day – we really celebrated hard and it took a bit of getting over.

Hope has always had an interest in horses since he started as a vet in Cambridge in 1974.

“I had a few mares, both thoroughbred and standardbred and the odd racehorse, and a fair bit of success. A few years ago as some of my older mares were starting to breed out I had to make a decision to either stay in the game and do it properly or get out.

“I chose to stay in and decided I was going to buy one decent broodmare from the Sydney Easter Sale. I set myself a budget of \$200,000 and then established criteria for selection and set about trying to find the perfect premier quality mare.”

The criteria stated that the mare couldn’t be a stakes winner, as young stakes winning mares from that sale are usually way too expensive, but she had to be closely related to a stakes winner, either a half, three-quarter or full sister. She would have to have a good strong pedigree to support that with strong commercial sires and she could be unraced, as unraced mares can still make good broodmares.

Along with that she had to be carrying her first foal, and had to be served by a southern hemisphere bred stallion, along the lines of a Zabeel,

O’Reilly, Pins or Encosta de Lago but not necessarily that expensive, but still a strong type of stallion from a commercial stud.

“She had to be in foal to a good stallion because basically it’s a numbers game so it had to be a stallion with numbers on the ground. It had to be the first foal as I couldn’t afford to buy a mare that was going to be downgraded from Premier if the first couple of foals didn’t come up and the third foal turned out to be a filly which we all know are hard to sell.

“I also knew that the budget wouldn’t allow me to buy a young mare in foal to Redoute’s Choice or Encosta de Lago, so I studied the catalogue and narrowed it down to two mares and Rathlin Island was one of them. She was an unraced half sister to California Dane (AUS) (Danehill [USA]) a multiple group two winner in Australia now at stud and out of Storminwinter (USA) (Seattle Slew [USA]), a winning sister to Williamstown (USA) a multiple stakes winner in America and a successful sire.

“She had a pedigree with plenty of black type besides California Dane and Williamstown. There are another couple of stallions like Capote (USA), Baldski (USA), Excellence (USA) and Broad Brush (USA) quite close up. She was by Giant’s Causeway, and she had good strong sires in her female line like Seattle Slew. In the Southern Hemisphere Giant’s Causeway may not have matched what he has done as a sire in the Northern Hemisphere but it is still fantastic blood.

“To be honest I would have preferred an Irish pedigree but I thought this one may just click down here. She was in foal to Fastnet Rock (AUS) and even though he was unproven at the time he still ticked all the boxes for the stallion criteria.

“That said, I wasn’t able to get to Sydney so I went to Brent and Cherry and said you guys have to be my eyes and ears and check out this mare, which they did and Cherry went ahead and bought her for me. It was a huge leap of faith on both sides, but I couldn’t have

done it without their help, I am totally indebted to them.”

The mare then returned to New Zealand and foaled down a gorgeous filly at Trelawney Stud. After many round table discussions with the Taylors another suitable consort General Nediym was found for Rathlin Island.

“We chose General Nediym for all the reasons we had discussed earlier and as it turned out it was his last season at stud. After she foaled to him I entered into a foal share arrangement with Sir Patrick and Justine Lady Hogan and Rathlin Island went to Zabeel for the next two years and produced two fillies. I have done the vet work at Cambridge Stud since its inception and love working with Sir Patrick. He is a fantastic stockman. This season I sent her back to Australia and she is in foal to Commands (AUS).

Rathlin Island’s first foal, the filly by Fastnet Rock, sold at the 2010 National Yearling Sale for \$375,000 and recouped all the expenses for Hope. As Epona Princess she went on to become a stakes placed winner at two. Warhorse sold the following year for \$100,000.

This year when the first Zabeel filly went through the ring she had the added advantage of being a half sister to a stakes winner and a stakes placed winner and sold for \$120,000.

“It was a little bit disappointing but to be fair she was a little bit weak behind like her mother, and Rathlin Island only carries her foals for eleven months and that makes them a little bit weaker but they soon catch up with time,” he added.



Dr Jonathan Hope, the breeder of Warhorse

On the other hand Bruce Perry, who purchased the filly on behalf of his client Bruce Neill a former Australian cricketer, couldn't be happier. "I thought she was the pick of the Zabeel fillies in the sale," said Perry.

"Bruce has three or four well bred Zabeel mares on his farm Cressfields, in the Hunter Valley and was keen to buy another one. I thought she had terrific residual value as she was a half sister to Warhorse who had just won the Eclipse Stakes and to Epona Princess who was stakes placed.

"She is a really nice type, quite athletic, well balanced and maybe a little weak behind but she will be great given time, and that is exactly what Zabeel's need, and she had great bloodlines. You don't often get the chance to buy fillies with bloodlines like Giant's Causeway, Seattle Slew and Turn-to in their pedigree.

"We thought we would have to pay more for her, and actually bought her after she was passed in, so we were quite happy to get her."

Harking back to Hope, when he landed his first veterinary position out of Massey University in 1974 he was hoping to specialise in small animals.

"I grew up in Takapuna and my only contact with horses was when I went to visit my brother who had taken up farming. I come from a family that had no interest in racing. They did however have a doctor in every generation and I did have the hard word put upon me by my uncle, a prominent cardiothoracic surgeon, to follow in his footsteps but I plumped instead for veterinary science.

"My first job was in Cambridge, with the highly respected equine vet Bruce Voyle who was the only equine specialist around at the time. Unfortunately he died suddenly and I got thrown in at the deep end and I had to pick it up as I went along. I learnt an awful lot very quickly especially from people like Sir Patrick, and Jim Morris, and I soon developed a love of horses.

"Until now the most successful horses I had bred were the dual stakes winner Tip The Wink (Stravinsky[USA]- Kape Dancer) and her stakes placed half-sister Volks Dancer, along with an Australian Grand National winner Marlborough (Zabeel- Belle Venus). These days my partner Jenny Sutherland, who has always had a passion for horses, and I are also quite involved in standardbreds and we have shares in the best two and three year-old trotters of last season in the southern hemisphere, Flying Isa and Paramount Geegee. Racing horses in a syndicate is such fun I would encourage anyone wanting to get involved in racing to join a syndicate."

"Winning is such a wonderful sensation and if it happens to be a group one winner and one that you have bred, well, it's even better."

bred mares La Ravisante an O'Reilly mare out of Mer du Sud (IRE), a Bluebird (USA) mare and a half sister to the Hong Kong Mile winner The Duke, who is in foal to Rothesay, and La Mouette. She is a winning Montjeu (IRE) mare out of Rune a sister to the multiple group one winner and champion sire Sky Chase.

"I am happy to breed to sell, and if I don't take horses to the sale I have a good group of people who are not interested in breeding but who are happy to buy from me and they've had a bit of success."

Ryan developed his interest in horses through his father who had an interest in harness racing horses.

"I got involved in the stables after school when I was about fifteen or so, but I decided to stick with school and join the corporate world. Harness racing was in rapid decline in those days so I switched my interest to thoroughbreds and became interested in pedigrees.

"I continued to follow horses throughout my business career and travelled and lived overseas a lot, and that makes you appreciate just how good the racing is in Australia and New Zealand. It's right up there with the best in the world. I have a bit to do with racing in Dubai. I still think the racing in Australasia rates. My wife Christine loves horses as well and is an avid follower of racing. Christine has a senior role working for the Crown Prince, which is primarily why we are based here. I still undertake some consulting work and manage high-end brands but I am always around to spend time with Lukas if Christine has to go away. We have been here for three years now it's a very nice lifestyle – we live right on the beach, we can follow the racing from both hemispheres here, we can pop over to Dubai or Europe to go racing, and maybe even down to Singapore to follow Super Easy."

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Rollout The Carpet a thrill for her breeders

A passion for thoroughbreds forged a friendship many years ago between the Hong Kong based English born New Zealander Matthew Oram and New Zealand Bloodstock's International Bloodstock agent John Cameron and now they are enjoying the thrill of racing a good horse.

Along with their wives Elizabeth Oram and Jackie Cameron, William Fan and Moon Lai Tung, they bred and race Rollout The Carpet (AUS) (Holy Roman Emperor [IRE] – Out of Egypt [USA]), the winner of the Group Two J Swap Contractors Matamata Breeders Stakes and the relegated second place getter in the group one ARC Diamond Stakes.

"Isn't she exciting!" declared Matthew Oram who with Elizabeth is fortunate enough to be in based in New Zealand for the summer and is able to enjoy seeing her race.

"She's lovely, she's strong, well made, nicely put together, with a lovely head and big ears. She has a lovely temperament and everything you throw at her she just takes in her stride.

"I am actually not a fan of two-year-old racing here. It's a bit of a bug bear of mine and I don't like to see two-year-olds have to climb Mount Everest in their first year of racing. The way the racing programme is constructed here is too hard on them, but we don't have much option, after the Breeders' Stakes, two weeks to the Diamond Stakes and then three weeks to the other group one, the Manawatu Sire's Produce Stakes.

"When you compare it with the way they have constructed races for two-year-olds in England their top two-year-olds only have a handful of starts. They may win one race and then go straight into group one company. We have a tendency down here to get into them too early, partly because of the Karaka Millions – and that's a potential graveyard for two-year-olds, and the two-year-olds down here have six, seven or maybe eight runs and can't come back as three-year-olds.

"In my heart I feel she has done enough but she deserves another crack at group one as I believe she is a genuine group one horse."

Among Oram's business interests in Hong Kong, he produced a successful racing publication for Hong Kong horse-crazy punters, *Racing World* and met Cameron through his involvement in that region as the international bloodstock representative for New Zealand Bloodstock. They now own four mares together along with William Fan and Moon Lai Tung.

"John always stays with me when he comes up and over the years we have purchased a number of horses together. He was staying with me when we bought Out of Egypt out of a Goff's auction in Ireland. He got up in the middle of the night to bid through a bloodstock agent he used over there.

"We both liked her pedigree. I am a fan of Red Ransom and she is completely free of Northern Dancer. She was in foal to Dansili, and we left her there to foal down and sold the Dansili foal as a weanling for about the same as what we paid for the mare.

"She came to Australia which is where our mares are residing at Lincoln Farm in the Hunter Valley, as we have greater access to a wide variety of stallions."

Prior to coming to the Southern Hemisphere, Out of Egypt had produced two winners Johannesburg Jack (Johannesburg [USA]) and Dubai Petal (Dubai Destination [USA]) Her first down under mating was to Galileo, which produced a colt, External, a winner in Australia. Her next foal was a filly by Rock of Gibraltar.

"We put the Rock of Gibraltar filly through the Premier Sale and she didn't get a bid, so we took her home and put her back through the

Ready to Run Sale and the same thing happened so we took her home. She's a late developer and is in work with Don Sellwood, she still hasn't got to the races.

"The Holy Roman Empire filly was the next foal, and she looked a nice well made yearling, she was tidy enough but one of her knees was a little off, but that's the Danehill influence, so off we went to the Select sale, and we didn't get a single bid.

"We weren't too fussed as that was the way the market was going last year, no demand for

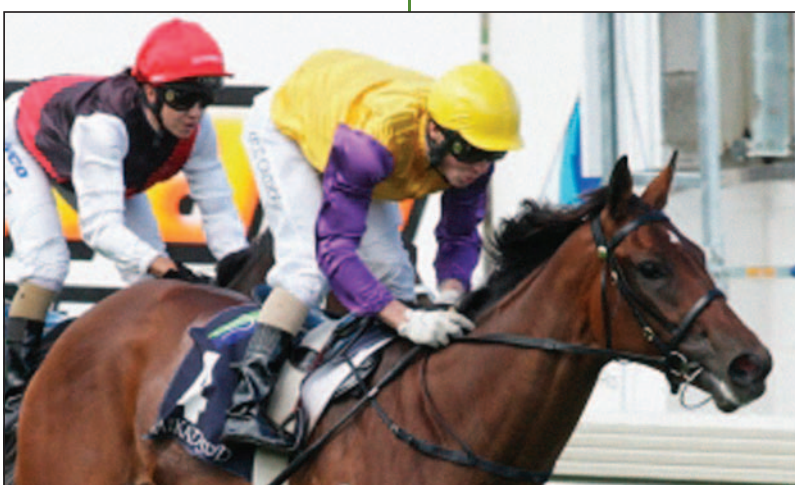
fillies, so we sent her back to Curraghmore as she had been in their draft and decided we wouldn't even bother trying to put her through the Ready to Run sales and just carry on and race her.

"Gordon Cunningham always had a very high opinion of her, and looked after her until she went to Jeff McVean's to be broken in. Well Jeff, Emma-Lee and her husband David Browne did such a fantastic job with her we decided to leave her there and the rest as they say is history."

Out of Egypt also has a yearling filly by Tale of The Cat (USA) and a filly foal at foot by Henrythenavigator(USA) and missed to Starspangledbanner.

"We now have three half sisters to a group winner and an empty mare who is the dam of a group winner so there is plenty of exciting times ahead for us as breeders. Tung is as keen as mustard and William Fan is mad keen as well; however they tend to leave the matings up to John and me. We talk them all through, but we are partly governed by money. There is no point in being in a long queue with an Encosta de Lago or a Fastnet Rock, for example. With Out of Egypt having no Northern Dancer blood that leaves us plenty of options for possible matings," he mused.

Oram was born and brought up in England, but holds New Zealand citizenship through his father Matthew Oram, son of Sir Matthew Oram, the Speaker of the House of Representatives here in New Zealand from 1950 to 1957.



Rollout The Carpet wins the Group Two Matamata Breeders' Stakes

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News From The 2012 Scholarship Winners

In February the two NZTBA scholarship winners left New Zealand to take up their respective places.



Georgina Bolton travelled to Ireland where she quickly became settled in at the Irish National Stud. At the end of five months she will graduate with a world-recognised qualification, the Irish National Stud Diploma.

Georgie's scholarship is sponsored by the K.I.A. Taylor Charitable Trust and at the end of the course in Ireland, she will join the staff at Trelawney for the season. This is a condition of the scholarship. Georgie previously worked at Berkley Stud in Christchurch and is pictured (above) leading the joint top priced lot at the Festival Sale – the colt by Berkley Stud's resident sire Coats Choice out of Illusive Hope which fetched \$70,000.

Jamie Richards left a couple of weeks later to start his 8-month long study trip, beginning at Cheveley Park Stud in Newmarket, England. Jamie's scholarship is sponsored by the Sunline Education Trust. He is the ninth young New Zealander to win this scholarship and he will be following his experiences with keen interest. The next stop for him will be at Coolmore Stud in Ireland in May and after the 10-week period there, he will travel to the United States to take up his position at Taylor Made Farm in Kentucky.



Jamie is posting regular blogs on the NZTBA website: www.nzthoroughbred.co.nz/Latest-News/Jamie-sBlog/default.aspx/ and he has also started a photo blog: www.sunlinescholarship.blogspot.co.nz/ so we can follow his progress over the next few months.

"This is only a sneak peek to the amazing time that I have had. Soaking up everything that is going on around the stud is never ending and I really am enjoying every minute of it. It's all happening over here with "football" on a Monday night and lectures at the National Stud on Tuesdays and Thursdays."

Excerpt from Jamie's excellent blog

Veterinary Reproductive Procedures: Risks and Limitations With Your Mares At Breeding Time

By Dr Paul Fraser BVSc, Cambridge Veterinary Services

• Rectal examinations

Palpation of the mare's internal reproductive organs via the rectum (rectal examination) is an important and common veterinary procedure at breeding time. It is used to assess ovarian activity during the mare's cycle, to gain information as to the state of her reproductive tract and for the timely detection of pregnancies.

The procedure involves insertion of the veterinarian's arm into the rectum to enable examination of the reproductive organs with either the hand or a handheld ultrasound probe. The procedure is an essential part of managing the reproductive status of your mare. With the mare having a normal oestrus (heat) period of five to seven days, on busy commercial studs it is essential to have an accurate assessment of ovarian development to coordinate a well timed mating.

The rectal examination is not totally without risk. Despite the upmost care, there are rare occasions when tears to the rectum can occur. Tears might occur in mares with a pre-existing rectal damage, for example, previous rectal scars or weaknesses, mares with different rectal anatomy or it may occur if the mare reacts violently to the procedure. In some cases tears can have serious consequences. While the incidence of rectal tears is extremely low, it is important that mare owners understand and accept that this risk exists.

• Twinning

Ultrasound examination, used to reveal the presence of twin/multiple pregnancies, is a common veterinary procedure at breeding time. Before the advent of this technique, a 2% live twinning rate was the accepted norm. While ultrasound pregnancy testing has resulted in a vast reduction to this rate, there are still certain cases in which it is not possible to detect twin pregnancies. Circumstances which may contribute to this failure include: the age of pregnancy, the timing of the procedure, additional structures within the uterus (for example, cysts) and positioning of the uterus.

Not all pregnancies within a uterus may be of the same age. A mare may ovulate on two or more occasions during the same cycle and may then produce pregnancies which will vary in age by several days. In this case, a very young foetus of less than ten days may not be visible on a single ultrasound examination while the older one would be clearly seen.

Many older mares have numerous fluid filled structures known as lymphatic cysts within the uterus. On occasions these can affect the ability of a veterinarian to detect twins. The cysts may either hide a pregnancy or present as a similar shape and size to one.

To minimise the chance of failure to detect twins it is recommended that multiple ultrasound scans be performed.

NZTBA COUNCIL 2012 – 2013 NOMINATIONS

Nominations are called for the forthcoming election of the members of the Council

Northern Region: Two vacancies

Central Region: One vacancy

Southern Region: One vacancy

Studmaster Branch: One vacancy

Any financial member may nominate any other financial member for election to any of the regional vacancies listed above provided the nominator and nominee reside in the geographic region for which the nomination applies.

The members of Council required to retire by rotation are:

Northern Region: Messrs Mark Chitty and Mrs Vicki Pascoe

Central Region: Mr John Fokerd

Southern Region: Mr Myles Gordon

Nominations, which are to be countersigned by the nominee, must be forwarded in writing to:

The Secretary,
New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association
Private Bag 99908
Newmarket,
AUCKLAND

Fax No: (09) 525 2434

Email nztba@nzthoroughbred.co.nz

The members of Council continuing in office are:

Northern Region: Messrs Peter Francis, Chris Luoni and John Thompson

Central Region: Messrs John O'Brien and Murray Brenton-Rule

Southern Region: Mr Chris Dennis

Studmaster Branch: Mr Mark Baker

All retiring councillors have indicated their availability for re-election.

**Nominations close at noon
on Tuesday 3rd May, 2012**

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