

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2015

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

J Swap Contractors Matamata Breeders' Stakes Day offers a glimpse at the northern region's best two year olds. The \$100,000 Group Two J Swap Contractors Matamata Breeders' Stakes (for two-year-old fillies) and \$50,000 Listed Reid & Harrison (1980) Limited Slipper (two-year-old colts & geldings) features a quality card of juveniles. The older horses get their moment in the \$50,000 Listed Marks Ewen & Associates Kaimai Stakes over 2000m. Raceday tickets available at <http://www.matamataracingclub.co.nz/Raceday/Race-Day-Packages.aspx>

Unfortunately Nashville will not be vying for a hat-trick in the Group One \$200,000 Haunui Farm Weight for Age Classic this Saturday. However the race still promises to be a quality affair with Puccini and Soriano having a rematch over the mile. Former Hong Kong Derby winner Fay Fay will look to spoil the occasion and has the class to win for Cambridge based partnership Trevor & Martin Cruz. Racing fans will be keen to see last year's Champion Two Year old Vespa resume in the Tui Backing a Winner Since 1889 3YO. The Elusive City colt is being targeted at the Hardy Trade Wellington Guineas and will look for a successful start to his campaign. Raceday tickets available at <http://www.otakimaoriracing.co.nz/page/group1day.aspx>

Also a friendly reminder that Derby day nominations close at 12pm on Tuesday, 24th February and withdrawals close at 10am on Wednesday, 25th February.

Auckland Cup Day Nominations close at 12pm on Friday, 27th February and Withdrawals close at 10am on Saturday, 28th February.

NEW ZEALAND CHIEF HANDICAPPER APPOINTED TO HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's Chief Handicapper, Brett Scelly, is to leave New Zealand in March 2015 to take up a position as Handicapping and Race Planning Manager at the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Scelly, 37, a New Zealand citizen, originally worked at NZTR as Handicapper in 2005-2008 before being appointed Senior (Managing) Handicapper at Racing NSW. He returned to New Zealand in 2011 and was appointed to the role of Chief Handicapper following the retirement of long standing Chief Handicapper Dean Nowell in 2013.

"It will certainly be hard to leave New Zealand as this is definitely home" Scelly said "but this is such a great opportunity and I have always wanted to work in Hong Kong."

"I've had the opportunity to handicap some great horses in my time here including Jimmy Choux, Mufhasa, Ocean Park, Dundeel and Veyron. That has reinforced to me how good the level of racing is in New Zealand".

"I know that handicapping is always a contentious issue and that some people will always disagree with our decisions, but I believe that the NZTR Handicapping Department is doing a great job of implementing the NZTR Handicapping Policy".

“At the international level, New Zealand based horses are performing well and I am leaving NZTR with a great platform to maintain the international integrity of our black type races”.

NZTR Chief Executive Greg Purcell said: “I would like to thank Brett for his efforts over the last three years and congratulate him on his appointment to the Hong Kong Jockey Club.”

FINAL CHANCE TO ENTER NZB’S NATIONAL WEANLING, BROODMARE & MIXED BLOODSTOCK SALE

Entries for New Zealand Bloodstock’s National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale close on Wednesday 25 February.

Last year saw a hugely successful Sale, with both the weanling & broodmare sessions posting great gains. The weanling average was up 22% on the 2013 edition, with the median up 40%, and a healthy 79% clearance rate. Last year’s broodmare session also posted good increases, with the average up 26%, the clearance rate solid at 79%, and the median up a staggering 108%.

This Sale has celebrated 32 stakes wins by its graduates over the past five years with some of the most recent successes to include Hardline (NZ) (Showcasing), winner of the 2015 Karaka Million (Res.L), Belle Miraaj (NZ) (Iffraaj), Puccini (NZ) (Encosta de Lago), Showboy (NZ) (Showcasing) and Tavy (NZ) (Tavistock).

The National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Bloodstock Sale will be held on 11-13 May.

Entries are welcome for weanlings, yearlings, two-year-olds, racehorses, unraced stock, broodmares and stallion shares. Visit www.nzb.co.nz for more information. Catalogues will be available from Friday 10 April. Request yours from reception@nzb.co.nz.

EQUIDAYS GOES ‘OFF THE TRACK’ FOR 2015

Equidays is pleased to announce the addition of Beyond the Barrier NZ’s Dunstan Ex-Factor 2015 competition to New Zealand’s premier equestrian event lineup, held at Mystery Creek Events Centre on 16–18 October this year.

With an aim to educate the public about the potential of Thoroughbreds as sport horses and the importance of re-homing retired racehorses, the competition will see 10–15 invited sport horse riders from a variety of disciplines schooling an off-the-track (OTT) thoroughbred for a new career.

Beyond the Barriers NZ’s Dunstan Ex-Factor 2015 will see the invited riders source their own off the track (OTT) Thoroughbred, which has had no prior sport horse education, and train and produce that horse between now and Equidays in October. During the three days of Equidays, competitors will present their horses in a three-round competition.

Gina Schick and Nicky Wallace, co-founders of Beyond the Barriers agree the word 'retired' brings to mind an elderly horse ready to be put to pasture and this is where public education is so valuable. Horses 'retiring' from the race track are so often four, five, six years old.

Schick and Wallace have created this not-for-profit organisation to promote the adaptability and versatility of this breed as sport horses by showcasing successfully re-homed Thoroughbreds in their post-racing lives both in New Zealand and internationally, and communicating with people who may be able to provide suitable post-racing homes for Thoroughbreds.

2014 BROODMARE RETURNS DUE 28TH FEBRUARY 2015

Broodmare owners/lessees are reminded that 2014 mare returns must be lodged with the Stud Book by 28th February 2015.

A return is required to update a mare's foaling/service details in the Stud Book, and needs to be lodged even if she has not produced a live foal or has not been served this season.

It is the responsibility of the mare owner/lessee to lodge the return, and it can be done either:

- **Online via the Breeders Service Centre at www.nzracing.co.nz**

If you used the Breeders Service Centre last season, your access codes are still valid. If you have forgotten the codes, email studbook@nzracing.co.nz and we will re-send them to you.

If you would like to register to use the Breeders Service Centre, email studbook@nzracing.co.nz with your name, and the name of the mare, and we will send you codes to access this secure part of our website.

Please note, only credit/debit card payments are accepted online. A 10% discount applies to these payments made by the due date.

- **Over the telephone**

Call 04 576-6240 and choose Option 3 to speak to someone from the Stud Book (Monday – Friday from 9am until 5pm).

Payment can be made immediately by credit/debit card (10% discount) through our secure payment system or we can send you an invoice to pay by cheque or internet banking (no discount for these payment options).

If a mare has been sold/leased out/given away, retired or died, email the details to studbook@nzracing.co.nz so that we can update our records.

Please note, 28th February 2015 is a Saturday. You will be able to complete online returns on this day but the telephone service will not be in operation.

NZRacing123.com PICK & WIN PUNTERS CHALLENGE

Are you the best Punter in New Zealand?

With Auckland Cup week and the Oaks meeting at Trentham approaching, here is your opportunity to enter a free online punters challenge and compete for cash prizes.

The challenge is simple:

1. Get over to www.nzracing123.com and register your entry
2. Pick a horse in each race over the four meetings of the competition and you will get a virtual \$1 each way on your selections
3. If your horse wins or places you will receive the tote dividend
4. Competitor with the most virtual dollars at the end of the competition will be the winner

Prizes

1st Prize - \$600

2nd Prize - \$300

3rd Prize - \$100 (*All cash prizes will be deposited into a NZ TAB account)

Spot Prizes

4 x entrance tickets for each day of the Auckland Carnival.

50 x entrance tickets to the NZ Oaks Meeting at Trentham 14th March 2015

5 x 2014 New Zealand Racing Annuals

Competition Schedule

Saturday 28th February 2015 - Saturday 14th March

Starting on Derby day the competition will run for three weeks encompassing four meetings finishing on Oaks day at Trentham.

Auckland

Derby Day – Saturday 28th February

Opens 2.00 pm Wednesday 25th February - **Closes** 10.00 am Saturday 25th February

Auckland Cup Day – Wednesday 4th March

Opens 7.00 pm Saturday 29th February - **Closes** 10.00 am Wednesday 4th March

Diamond Day – Saturday 7th March

Opens 2.00 pm Wednesday 4th March - **Closes** 10.00 am Saturday 7th March

Wellington

Oaks Day – Saturday 14th March

Opens 2.00 pm Wednesday 11th March - **Closes** 10.00 am Saturday 14th March

Good luck!

TURNOVER INFORMATION

Date	Club	On-Course (Tote & FOB combined)		Totalisator (Off & on-course combined)		Fixed Odds (Off & on-course)		Races		Starters	
		14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14	14-15	13-14
11-Feb	Ashburton	6,993	14,325	358,391	363,047	173,108	182,405	7	8	66	71
11-Feb	Auckland	65,608	42,707	606,921	545,137	366,566	248,906	6	6	56	47
12-Feb	Wanganui	25,426	53,412	518,941	763,283	305,440	233,854	8	8	66	89
13-Feb	Te Aroha	28,813	25,858	541,613	472,729	366,884	184,224	8	7	71	60
14-Feb	Auckland	145,827	161,428	1,695,173	1,749,099	907,633	558,118	9	9	103	104
14-Feb	Taranaki	206,095	165,614	1,103,322	1,239,165	607,140	324,931	9	8	83	71
14-Feb	Southland	70,528	57,428	911,969	785,043	338,778	244,736	10	9	110	92
15-Feb	Poverty Bay	60,559	55,515	366,787	513,681	271,209	208,043	8	8	53	60

NZ Thoroughbred Summary FY15	This Season, Year to Date	Last Season, Year to Date	Variance +/()	Variance +%/(%)
Meetings	192	201	(9)	(4.48%)
Races	1,624	1,663	(39)	(2.35%)
Total Starts	17,051	17,395	(344)	(1.98%)
Avg Field Size	10.50	10.46	+0.04	+0.38%
Number of races less than 8 starters	255	268	(13)	(4.85%)
Off-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	245,590,121	238,554,489	+7,035,632	+2.95%
On-Course Turnover (Totalisator & FOB)	23,549,271	24,065,093	(515,823)	(2.14%)
Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover	269,139,392	262,619,583	+6,519,809	+2.48%
Subtotal Totalisator Turnover	193,315,367	201,632,748	(8,317,381)	(4.13%)

Subtotal FOB Turnover	75,397,221	60,986,820	+14,410,401	+23.63%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race	165,726	157,919	+7,807	+4.94%
NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter	15,784	15,097	+687	+4.55%
Total NZRB Racing Turnover	964,390,035	870,838,419	+93,551,616	+10.74%
Total NZRB Sports Turnover	198,561,075	149,581,034	+48,980,041	+32.74%
Total NZRB Turnover	1,162,951,110	1,020,419,453	+142,531,657	+13.97%
NZ Thoroughbred Export Turnover \$NZ (to 8 Feb)	198,167,749	188,031,857	+10,135,892	+5.39%
Total Races (to 8 Feb)	1,559	1,600	(41)	(2.56%)
NZ Thoroughbred Export turnover \$NZ per race	127,112	117,520	+9,592	+8.16%

Meeting details:

- Ashburton RC Wednesday meeting equivalent was run on Monday last season; 7 races this year, 8 last.
- Racing Te Aroha Friday meeting ran 8 races in FY15, 7 races in FY14.
- Taranaki TRI Saturday meeting ran 9 races this season, 8 last.
- Southland RC Saturday meeting ran 10 races in FY15, 9 races in FY14.
- Poverty Bay Tfc Sunday meeting equivalent was run on a Sunday in September last season.

Turnover summary notes:

- Total NZ thoroughbred turnover is up 2.5% year to date.
- 9 less meetings and 39 less races have been run than to the same date last season.
- Turnover per race is up 4.9%.
- Total starts made by thoroughbreds in NZ are down 344, 2.0% less.
- Average field size is 10.50 in FY15, up from 10.46 in FY14.
- The number of races with less than 8 starters is 13 less than the season prior (255 v 268).
- The decline in NZ thoroughbred totalisator turnover (down 4.1%) has been offset by an increase in FOB turnover (up 23.6%).
- Export turnover (\$NZ) is up 8.2% per race to 8 February.

Note: Turnovers are provided by the NZRB from various reports. On-course is totalisator turnover on the meeting and on intertrack meetings, plus FOB racing turnover on the meeting only (FOB intertrack is not provided from these reports at present). On-course self service turnover is also not currently included. Total NZRB racing turnover is NZ thoroughbred, harness, greyhound plus all imported thoroughbred, harness and greyhound turnover; combined with sports this provides the total NZRB turnover. NZ thoroughbred export turnovers are stated in \$NZ, generally up to a week or two behind other turnover numbers.