



Tuesday 13 December 2011

NZTR Regional Meeting in New Plymouth on 23 December

New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is conducting seven Regional Meetings, following its Annual General Meeting, to present its proposed Business Plan and development of its long term strategic objectives. These are open to all industry participants.

The remaining Regional Meetings have been scheduled for:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Dunedin | 10.30 am Thursday 15 December at Wingatui Racecourse |
| Invercargill | 4.00 pm on Thursday 15 December at Ascot Park Racecourse |
| New Plymouth | 4.00 pm on Friday 23 December at Pukekura Raceway |

Regional Meetings have already been held in Christchurch on 7 December, Cambridge on 8 December, and Auckland and Palmerston North on 9 December.

NZTR Plan to Revitalise Thoroughbred Racing

Bigger fields with more mares and fillies are part of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing's proposed plan to raise revenue flows and revitalise the gallops industry.

Facing up to what has been a growing gap between falling revenue and increasing costs, NZTR has proposed a comprehensive business plan with 22 separate areas of action which was released to its Clubs last week. [Click here](#) for NZTR Business Plan 2012-14.

Among the core objectives detailed in the business plan is an initiative to grow field sizes from an average of 10.7 runners in 2011 to 11.2 by 2013. To achieve this NZTR will attempt to increase the number of times that horses compete each year from 5.7 starts to 6.2 starts by introducing a new programming and handicapping system. Research shows the size of race fields is the greatest driver of betting revenue and in recent years the number of races with less than eight starters has risen from 364 in 2007 to 484 in 2011.

While fillies and mares comprise approximately 55% of the available horse population, they made up only 46.5% of horses which raced in 2011. NZTR is aiming to raise the participation of fillies and mares in thoroughbred racing by increasing the gender allowance from 1.5kgs to 2.0kgs, introducing a 90-race annual fillies and mares series, and investigating other potential incentives.

Other initiatives to make far better use of our horse population include a lift in prize money levels from 1 March 2012; a further planned increase from 1 August 2012; smoothing the considerable variations in field size that exist by time of year; better aligning race programmes to horse availability by region and class; recently implemented handicapping reforms to ensure a more even spread of horses through the grades; and a general move to racing later in the day. Finally, NZTR intends to apply considerable focus to the sizeable growth opportunity that lies in exporting our racing to international audiences.

NZTR is moving to reposition the industry in certain key areas. NZTR will work with clubs to put in place benchmarks to ensure they meet customers' needs and will re-examine funding models so that accurate cost and price signals are sent to clubs to assist them in allocating resources efficiently. NZTR Chairman Matthew Goodson said that, "we must move from a supply-led to a demand-led racing structure."

The Plan also recognizes the crucial need to return the industry to a path of revenue growth. NZTR Chairman Matthew Goodson stated that, "we intend to use the attributes of our sport to reconnect with mainstream NZ. A key priority is to drive a sea change in the fragmented marketing efforts of our industry."

Alongside this, the funding of racing is closely linked to wagering revenue which provided more than 70% of racing industry funding in 2011. We see a number of opportunities to work more closely with the NZ Racing Board to turn around the trends of recent years.

While describing the plan as a solid platform on which the industry can move forward, NZTR chairman Matthew Goodson says, "this industry has seen business plans come and go. It will require absolute commitment to actually implement the numerous planned initiatives. Progress will be tracked carefully, with clear targets and delivery dates."

NZTR has been presenting the proposed plan to stakeholders at regional forums and will provide periodic updates as the implementation of the plan proceeds.

Tapanui RC Stake increases for 18 December 2011 Meeting

The Tapanui RC has announced the following stake increases for its race meeting on Sunday 18 December 2011.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Open Handicap 2000m - Tapanui Cup | \$13,500 (previously \$12,000) |
| Rating 85 Benchmark 1335m | \$8,500 (previously \$8,000) |
| Rating 75 2000m & 1200m | \$8,000 (previously \$7,500) |
| Rating 65 2000m, 1335m & 1200m | \$8,000 (previously \$7,500) |
| Maiden 2000m, 1335m & 1200m | \$7,500 (previously \$7,000) |

Looking for the Perfect Gift for a Racing Fan?

The 40th Anniversary edition of the Thoroughbred Racing Annual features all the highlights from the 2010-11 season including New Zealand-bred champion So You Think (NZ), Champion juvenile Anabandana, Filly of the Year King's Rose (NZ), star three-year-old Jimmy Choux (NZ) and much more!

The Racing Annual is available at the special price of **\$40** plus postage and handling.

To purchase visit [NZTM](http://www.nztm.co.nz) or phone NZTM on (07) 849 7230

Christmas at the Races Nationwide This Week

Christmas draws closer and the Christmas Parties continue on-course at Christmas at the Races events nationwide. You'll find great racing action at Otaki (Thursday) and Riccarton Park (Friday) this week. Awapuni and Te Rapa also host their second consecutive Christmas at the Races events this Saturday. And for the fans in the far South, Gallop South has a fantastic day lined up for you at Gore (Sunday).

To see pictures from Christmas at the Races events and the latest news visit <http://www.facebook.com/TheRaces.co.nz?ref=ts> or follow TheRacesNZ on Twitter!

Turnover Information for the Period ending 11 December 2011

| Date | Club | On-Course | | Off-Course | | Fixed Odds | | Starters | |
|-------|--------------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|------------|-------|----------|-------|
| | | | | | | | | 11-12 | 10-11 |
| 7/12 | Auckland | 158,951 | 8.5% | 777,676 | 0.4% | 190,150 | 0.7% | 69 | 4.5% |
| 8/12 | Taranaki (1) | 88,314 | 9.0% | 731,682 | 13.6% | 152,653 | 0.9% | 119 | 8.2% |
| 9/12 | Tauranga (2) | 160,373 | 10.4% | 709,826 | 16.8% | 160,254 | 25.8% | 97 | 15.7% |
| 10/12 | Manawatu | 203,970 | 7.5% | 1,242,320 | 6.2% | 227,151 | 12.0% | 117 | 6.4% |
| 10/12 | Southland | 209,846 | 2.0% | 661,169 | 18.4% | 101,500 | 7.6% | 101 | 10.6% |
| 10/12 | Waikato | 442,715 | 3.3% | 1,979,397 | 12.4% | 457,463 | 22.5% | 132 | 14.8% |
| 11/12 | Auckland | 101,948 | 4.6% | 890,435 | 11.8% | 250,877 | 26.3% | 70 | 11.4% |

- (1) Taranaki TR; 9 races this year, in comparison with 10 races last year.
- (2) Racing Tauranga; 8 races this year, in comparison with 9 races last year.
- (3) Domestic thoroughbreds down 6.8% (-\$620k) with two less races (-3.2%) with same number of meetings, and with average field sizes for the week ending 11 December 0.4 starters a race greater than in the same week last year. The Group 2 Waikato Times Gold Cup at Te Rapa was the largest betting race for the week with turnover of \$423k down 11.1% on last year (\$476k), while at the same meeting the Group 2 Cal Isuzu Stakes \$380k was up (+\$50k or 15.2%) on last year.

Thoroughbred Summary – 11/12 Year to Date 1 August 2011 – 11 December 2011

| NZ Thoroughbred Summary | This Season, Year to Date | Last Season, Year to Date | Variance +/- | Variance +%/(-%) |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Races | 1,123 | 1,133 | (10) | (0.88%) |
| Starters | 11,855 | 11,966 | (111) | (0.93%) |
| Avg Field Size | 10.56 | 10.56 | (0.00) | (0.05%) |
| Off-Course Turnover | 117,326,055 | 127,119,698 | (9,793,643) | (7.70%) |
| On-Course Turnover | 12,815,736 | 14,349,220 | (1,533,484) | (10.69%) |
| Total Totalisator Turnover | 130,141,791 | 141,468,918 | (11,327,127) | (8.01%) |
| Fixed Odds | 23,031,957 | 21,548,058 | +1,483,899 | +6.89% |
| Total NZ Thoroughbred Turnover | 153,173,748 | 163,016,976 | (9,843,228) | (6.04%) |
| NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Race | 136,397 | 143,881 | (7,484) | (5.20%) |
| NZ Thoroughbred Turnover per Starter | 12,921 | 13,623 | (703) | (5.16%) |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Total NZRB Racing Turnover | 496,579,728 | 507,682,497 | (11,102,769) | (2.19%) |
| Total NZRB Sports Turnover | 95,244,808 | 65,468,191 | +29,776,617 | +45.48% |
| Total NZRB Turnover | 591,824,536 | 573,150,688 | +18,673,848 | +3.26% |

Note: NZRB supplied On-course Turnover total represents On-course turnover placed on NZ thoroughbred meetings from all on-course venues. 'Total' NZ Thoroughbred turnover figure includes Off-course (including Pick 6), On-course (NZRB figure as commented above) and all Fixed Odds Turnover. All Turnover figures are supplied by the NZRB.

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