



NZSBA



# BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This week we caught up with Martin Pierson for another instalment of Breeder Profiles

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## SOME THINGS NEED CHANGE

**The Yearling Sales bring joy to some people and despondency to others. Every year opinions and views are freely shared on what "needs to be done" to improve returns to breeders. This year is not different. NZSBA Chairman John Mooney explores some of the questions and views people raised with him in Auckland and Christchurch.**

Firstly my congratulations to everyone who took a yearling to the sales. It is not an easy journey. The breeding decision is made a few years earlier with a high degree of expectation and hope. The promise of the unknown siring ability of a new stallion and the change of opinion on a stallion in the intervening years can be very fickle friends. So to all breeders, however you ended up, thank you for contributing to the NZ standardbred market.

Auckland is a unique venue, not just for the standardbred sale. It is one of the premier horse sales facilities in the world. The venue, the overall quality of the draft and the very high standard of presentation of horse and handlers contribute to creating a strong sales and selling atmosphere. The sale in Auckland had a rhythm and vibe which undoubtedly contributed to positive returns for many vendors.

That said it is somewhat disappointing to see some lovely trotting yearlings selling for what seems to me to be

undervalue. The average stakes for trotters in this country is just a few hundred dollars below that of the pacers. With at least three trotting races on each card (five this Sunday at the Cheviot meeting!!) the opportunities are there. It seems obvious that there is a market for another trotting stallion that can provide chilled semen to the pool of 700 trotting mares bred each year. It is not hard to compare the Auckland venue with the Christchurch sales venue with the latter being the poor cousin, but to do so is a little unfair. One is purpose built the other a conversion in a barn of a building. Simply put the consensus views over the last few days is that conversion does not work. It is very, very difficult to build a positive sales momentum in the facility. There are too many distractions, its height, shape and size make it difficult for a consistent sound system to cover the audience evenly and the seating arrangement does not generate the intimacy needed. But what is the alternative? At the moment there is none. Building something new out of the question. I am sure PGW will welcome suggestions in the sales debriefs in a few months time.

On the facilities the other issue is not having all horses for the two days on site. There are simply not enough boxes. It was suggested to me that as the massive Harrisburg Sale in the States can handle 1700 horses using flatpack demountable boxes we could do the same in Christchurch. I am not the

technical expert and do not know the cost or the logistics, but again options could be explored.

I have changed my mind on another contentious issue i.e. Auckland Sale going first every year. I now strongly believe that the former system of alternating the sales start between Christchurch and Auckland should be restored. I am aware of all the arguments. I am aware that some in Auckland will threaten to start their own sale. However, there is a strong view among the Christchurch vendors that they feel that they are disadvantaged, with justification.

The South Island needs to lift the overall standard of preparation and presentation of some yearlings. The difference between the whole crop (the average) in Auckland and Christchurch is significant. I am not talking about the preparation in last two months before the sales. Many of the South Island draft do not appear to have had much if any supplementary feeding from weaning until just prior to the sales. Too many yearlings are weak, small and lacking in body. Sure some of this may be genetics at work, and I accept nature has to take some responsibility. But nurture has a role, a massive role to complement nature. This is not just a sales issue. In two recent conversations trainers have talked to me about having yearlings delivered for breaking-in in the spring that are poorly developed and in poor condition. Wintering on grass and baleage in the south is not enough for a growing horse.

NZSBA this year will be doing a Winter Roadshow to bring to breeders throughout the country practical suggestions on raising the weaning to a racehorse. We are going to offer you the chance to hear from a panel of practical, sensible and successful breeders what they actually do in practice.

Finally, the biggie and most controversial. Strong views were being widely stirred up that Christchurch needs a Premier Sale, a single day like Auckland (possible at Auckland), and basically who cares about the rest. Well I do! Taking South Island yearlings to Karaka in numbers will never happen. It is too costly and too risky.

By consensus over the last few years South Island breeders expressed the

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view that a 'blended' sale over two-days was preferable to a premier sale day and a so-called 'trainers' sale day. The argument for a single premier day is that the auction will build a strong sales momentum and atmosphere. It is a valid argument. It is good for those that have bred, and who can afford to bred, to the top four or five stallions. However, the greater good for the industry comes out of the blended two-day sale in my view. Those horses and those vendors that were on a second day would be slaughtered. If you think it is tough for some breeders now then isolate those yearlings by non-top tier stallions to a day of their own and I predict that the sale will not be there in five years and nor will those breeders be breeding.

A final thought. The current yearling sales format needs to be supplemented by a Ready To Run Sale run by PGW and an enhanced Autumn Mixed Stock sale. If there was an RTR sale scheduled for September/October then buyers, particularly younger trainers, would have a target that could enable them to buy on spec and cash-out a horse later in the year. This would contribute to strengthening Christchurch as a two-day sale. It will keep the pool of horses in the Sales Series races high, keep those race's stakes high and give a continuum to the selling stream for breeders to get cash.

The middle part of the sales trio is the autumn Mixed Stock Sale. With the studs increasing the number of mares they are breeding an increased number of weanlings will be on offer.

Again if this sale builds momentum it is another opportunity for breeders to sell weanlings and late developing yearlings. Perhaps even offering an opportunity for those yearlings to join the Sales Series at a higher entry fee? The NZ Bloodstock South Island Sale is now in mid April with yearlings eligible for various series.

My challenge to sales vendors is to get your thinking caps on. Go along to the Sales debrief meetings with positive and practical views on how the NZ Premier Sale can be improved for all breeders.

**John Mooney**  
Chairman

## BREEDER'S PROFILE



Martin and his family pictured with the now broodmare, Eleanor Roosevelt after her fifth of six wins at Timaru

### MARTIN PIERSON

**Martin Pierson is a man who has been a prestigious student of pedigrees and breeding for over twenty years. In that time he has put a lot of effort into best matching his mares with the right stallions, and with horses such as (Mr) Odd's On,**

**Countess Raine and Eleanor Roosevelt, the proof is in the pudding. When not buried in a stud-book or reading the form guides, the New Zealand Post employee can also be found actively working in his role on the committee of the Canterbury Standardbred Breeders Association where his hard work and opinions are strongly appreciated. We caught up with Martin this week to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.**

#### WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN HARNESS RACING?

My father was heavily involved in the Greymouth Trotting Club & we were always down at Victoria Park at working bees etc. In those days Greymouth raced six times a year & when they raced there was a lot of interaction with visiting owners, trainers & drivers. We also travelled most weekends, other than the whitebait season, to the races from Nelson to Timaru & everywhere in between. There was no Trackside in those days so on course was the place to be; sadly it's seldom like that these days.

#### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING STANDARDBREDS?

We bred our first horse in 1993 but purchased a yearling at the 1991 PGG Sales, Franco's Blast, thanks to mum.

#### FIRST HORSE YOU BRED?

Countess Raine

#### FIRST RACE WINNER YOU BRED?

Countess Raine – she won at two & four from 21 overall so was a nice filly & it was an encouraging start.

#### WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBREDS?

Although I often went the gallops as a kid I always preferred the trots. Very early on I became interested in the breeding side of things & over time this interest became my passion although I still love a punt. Before the web, the latest Stud Books was always on hand as I keenly observed breeding trends around the world before trying out my own theories.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE HORSE (OR) THE BEST ONE YOU HAVE BRED (AND WHY)?

We have bred some nice horses but I suppose (Mister) Odds On is our best to date. He was one of the very first by Bettor's Delight, via frozen semen, & was a very special horse to my family but that is too long a story for here.. We had watched Bettor's Delight race & his dam was doing a sensational job. We jumped at the chance to breed to him

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but being by a new sire, and by frozen semen, Odds On never even attracted a bid at the Sales. It was the first & last time we took one home from the Sales but I was not too disappointed. He was a beautiful mover, out of a speedy In The Pocket mare, & we thought he was a big chance. He broke in well, raced at two & was sold for nice money to Perth. He did a good job over there & was one of the first to put Bettor's Delight on the map downunder.

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#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE STALLION OF ALL TIME?

I'd have to say In The Pocket. When Geiger Bloodstock bought him down it was one of the first times we had access to a top colt straight off the track in America. Nevele R responded with Falcon Seelster & now we, breeders,

have access to the very best stallions in the world almost from the day they are retired to stud. In The Pocket gave us Christian Cullen of course & In The Pocket mares have gone on to be exceptional matrons. We went the first year & the resulting filly, Retro Rocket, was the second In The Pocket mare to leave a winner in Australasia. By chance we also got a filly from In The Pocket's last crop, Sara Holley, & she is in our broodmare band today.

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#### HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

There are three foals on the ground by Art Major, Bettor's Delight & Rocknroll Hanover & four mares are back in foal. This season we've mixed our approach with proven sires Bettor's Delight & Art Major along with He's Watching & A Rocknroll Dance. The latter breaks my rule of not going to second season sires but at the Nevele R's open day we were very impressed by his foals.

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#### SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGE FOR BREEDERS?

Fair to say I am not sure many of our Industry Leaders see the big picture. It's not just about the breeders, nor the owners, trainers, punters etc but the Industry overall which needs to grow sustainably so participants, at all levels, are encouraged to firstly stay then grow their stake in the Industry. That means all parties working together for the game's sake which, if this can ever be achieved, will make it better for us all. I am full of admiration for what the Auckland Trotting Club are doing.

Just on the breeding front, it is encouraging to see opportunities for the so called second tier sires. With broodmare numbers falling the domination of the big four is, in my opinion, not helping our industry & narrowing up our gene pool. With those four all getting on it will be fascinating to see which young sire can rise to the top in the next few seasons.

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## YEARLING SALES RESULTS

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### NEW ZEALAND PREMIER YEARLING SALE: CHRISTCHURCH RESULTS

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**Sales Average: \$28,442**  
**(Last Year: \$26,777)**  
**Clearance Rate: 80%**

**Pacers**  
**Sales Topper;**

**Mach Three | Sly Shard colt**  
**Vendor : Shard Farm**  
**Buyer: Barry Purdon**  
**Price: \$200,000**

**Always A Virgin:**  
Average = \$6,000  
Sold = 1/1  
Top Lot = Lot 167 –  
Classy Line filly = \$6000

**American Ideal:**  
Average = \$25,949  
Sold = 10 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 215 –  
Flying Mrs Williams colt = \$62,500

**Art Major:**  
Average = \$53,947  
Sold = 20 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 524 –  
Breath of Life colt = \$170,000

**Art Official:**  
Average = \$5250  
Sold = 4 Passed = 5  
Top Lot = Lot 483 –  
Agnes Patron colt = \$9000

**Artsplace:**  
Average = \$27,000  
Sold = 4  
Top Lot = Lot 429 –  
Timeless Perfection filly = \$52,000

**Auckland Reactor:**  
Average = \$14,411  
Sold = 17 Passed = 5  
Top Lot = Lot 490 –  
Baileys Delight colt = \$36,000

**Betterthancheddar:**  
Average = \$13,611  
Sold = 9 Passed = 4  
Top Lot = Lot 218 –  
Gotta Go Harmony filly = \$50,000

**Bettors Delight:**  
Average = \$44,717  
Sold = 46 Passed = 4  
Top Lot = Lot 379 –  
Rona Lorraine colt = \$132,500

**Big Jim:**  
Average = \$18,333  
Sold = 3 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 453 –  
Under Cover Lover colt = \$25,000

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**Changeover:**

Average = \$9035  
Sold = 14 Passed = 9  
Top Lot = Lot 523 –  
Blackbird Fly colt = \$24,000

**Christian Cullen:**

Average = \$38,708  
Sold = 12 Passed = 4  
Top Lot = Lot 419 –  
Suzy's Delight colt = \$160,000

**Courage Under Fire:**

Average = \$27,666  
Sold = 3  
Top Lot = Lot 476 –  
Zante Beach colt = \$40,000

**Falcon Seelster:**

Average = \$16,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 308 –  
Miss Moonlite Shadow colt = \$16,000

**Four Starzzz Shark:**

Average = \$15,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 245 –  
Holm's Spirit filly = \$15,000

**Gotta Go Collect:**

Average = \$11,000  
Sold = 1 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 433 –  
Take Wing colt = \$11,000

**Grinfromeartoear:**

Average = \$4,000  
Sold = 1 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 516 –  
Balgownie filly = \$4,000

**Live or Die:**

Average = \$5,500  
Sold = 2 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 213 –  
Good Looking Woman filly = \$9000

**Mach Three:**

Average = \$36,645  
Sold = 24 Passed = 3  
Top Lot = Lot 409 –  
Sly Shard colt = \$200,000

**Mister Big:**

Average = \$6,500  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 355 –  
Rein Chick colt = \$7,000

**Panspacificflight:**

Average = \$11,333  
Sold = 3  
Top Lot = Lot 446 –  
Truly Jaccka colt = \$22,000

**Raging Bull:**

Average = \$24,500  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 264 –  
Lady Moonlight colt = \$27,000

**Rock N Roll Heaven:**

Average = \$17,700  
Sold = 5 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 482 –  
Ardens Darlin colt = \$24,000

**Rocknroll Hanover:**

Average = \$30,625  
Sold = 4 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 199 –  
Fleet's Pocket colt = \$60,000

**Roll With Joe:**

Average = \$21,000  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 348 –  
Pure Vogue colt = \$31,000

**Shadow Play:**

Average = \$13,200  
Sold = 10 Passed = 5  
Top Lot = Lot 246 –  
Jessica Vhea colt = \$25,000

**Sir Lincoln:**

Average = \$11,666  
Sold = 6 Passed = 3  
Top Lot = Lot 461 –  
Ardernart colt = \$28,000

**Somebeachsomewhere:**

Average = \$46,250  
Sold = 8 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 416 –  
Soky's Legend filly = \$70,000

**Sportswriter:**

Average = \$14,100  
Sold = 5  
Top Lot = Lot 382 –  
Sagrato colt = \$21,000

**Stunin Cullen:**

Average = \$11,000  
Sold = 3 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 188 –  
Duomo Bromac colt = \$18,000

**Washington VC:**

Average = \$45,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 350 –  
Radiant Guest colt = \$45,000

**Well Said:**

Average = \$22,571  
Sold = 7 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 517 –  
Beaudiene Quick Chic filly = \$30,000

**Trotters**

**Sales Topper;**

**Love You | Paramount Star colt**  
**Vendor : Studholme Bloodstock**  
**Buyer: Grinaldi Lodge**  
**Price: \$110, 000**

**Angus Hall:**

Average = \$65,000  
Sold = 2/2  
Top Lot = Lot 244 –  
Jasmyns Gift colt = \$105,000

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**DON'T FORGET TO CLAIM YOUR BREEDER BONUS'!!**

Any financial member of the New Zealand Standardbred Breeders Association (as of 31st of August 2015) who breeds the winner of a totalisator race at a New Zealand Metropolitan Trotting Club (Met) meeting held at Addington Raceway will be eligible for a \$500 bonus payment. Bonus also applies to meetings held by the Amberley and Cheviot Trotting Club meetings!

Click [here](#) for full terms and conditions.



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**Bacardi Lindy:**

Average = \$2000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 425 –  
Tehoro Bliss colt = \$2000

**Dream Vacation:**

Average = \$6,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 455 –  
Violette colt = \$6,000

**Imperial Count:**

Average = \$4,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 410 –  
Successor colt = \$4000

**Love You:**

Average = \$80,000  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 334 –  
Paramount Star colt = \$110,000

**Lucky Chucky:**

Average = \$8,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 432 –  
Sunny Moment filly = \$8,000

**Majestic Son:**

Average = \$17,5000  
Sold = 16 Passed = 6  
Top Lot = Lot 305 –  
Kylie Ree colt = \$60,000

**Monarchy:**

Average = \$16,000  
Sold = 3 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 216 –  
Hot Vacation colt = \$40,000

**Monkey Bones:**

Average = \$6,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 347 –  
Puissant colt = \$6,000

**Muscle Hill:**

Average = \$57,500  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 266 –  
Landora's Pearl colt = \$57,500

**Repeat Love:**

Average = \$8,600  
Sold = 5  
Top Lot = Lot 191 –  
Another Starlet colt = \$15,000

**Sam Bourbon:**

Average = \$25,000  
Sold = 1 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 469 –  
Whosinthenest colt - \$25,000

**Skyvalley:**

Average = \$8,666  
Sold = 3  
Top Lot = Lot 242 –  
Galleons Assault colt = \$11,000

**Superfast Stuart:**

Average = \$5,000  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 399 –  
Spot of Golf filly = \$5,500

**The Pres:**

Average = \$8,200  
Sold = 5 Passed = 1  
Top Lots = Lot 209 –  
Glenferrie Slipper filly & Lot 286 –  
Lyn Chiola colt = \$12,000



[Click above to visit website](#)

## AUSTRALIAN CLASSIC YEARLING SALE: AUCKLAND RESULTS

**Sales Average: \$45,037**  
**(Last Year: \$41,500)**  
**Clearance Rate: 85%**

**Pacers**  
**Sales Topper;**

**Bettors Delight | Abide With Me colt**  
**Vendor : Woodlands Stud NZ**  
**Buyer: PGGW as agent**  
**Price: \$230,000**

**American Ideal:**  
Average = \$34,200  
Sold = 15 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 112 –  
Splendid Bet colt = \$110,000

**Art Major:**  
Average = \$70,000  
Sold = 15  
Top Lot = Lot 82 –  
Pacing Grace colt = \$180,000

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**Art Official:**

Average = \$5000  
Sold = 1 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 52 –  
Miley Maguire colt = \$5000

**Auckland Reactor:**

Average = \$17,400  
Sold = 5  
Top Lot = Lot 7 –  
Delicata colt = \$45,000

**Betterthancheddar:**

Average = \$22,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 142 –  
Baptism of Fire colt = \$22,000

**Bettors Delight:**

Average = \$54,218  
Sold = 32 Passed = 3  
Top Lot = Lot 72 –  
Abide With Me colt = \$230,000

**Christian Cullen:**

Average = \$52,500  
Sold = 2 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 104 –  
Presidential Belle colt = \$60,000

**Lis Mara:**

Average = \$35,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 117 –  
Van Seraa colt = \$35,000

**Mach Three:**

Average = \$35,588  
Sold = 17 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 70 –  
Hearty Lass colt = \$80,000

**McArdle:**

Average = \$22,500  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 139 –  
Rein Chick colt = \$22,500

**Rock N Roll Heaven:**

Average = \$17,000  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 133 –  
Zenterfold filly = \$25,000

**Rocknroll Hanover:**

Average = \$41,937  
Sold = 8 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 199 –  
Fleet's Pocket colt = \$60,000

**Roll With Joe:**

Average = \$21,000  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 348 –  
Pure Vogue colt = \$31,000

**Shadow Play:**

Average = \$22,500  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 22 –  
Exposay colt - \$25,000

**Sir Lincoln:**

Average = \$18,666  
Sold = 3 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 125 –  
Tigerzoreal colt = \$50,000

**Somebeachsomewhere:**

Average = \$93,301  
Sold = 5 Passed = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 57 –  
O Baby colt = \$136,000

**Well Said:**

Average = \$37,500  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 26 –  
Impish colt - \$37,500

**Trotters  
Sales Topper;**

**Muscle Hill | Regal Volo filly  
Vendor : Breckon Farms Ltd  
Buyer: C J Roberts  
Price: \$120, 000**

**Angus Hall:**

Average = \$16,000  
Sold = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 151 –  
Brite Paula filly = \$26,000

**Majestic Son:**

Average = \$23,250  
Sold = 8 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 126 –  
Yankeedoosie colt = \$50,000

**Muscle Hill:**

Average = \$73,000  
Sold = 2 Passed = 2  
Top Lot = Lot 83 –  
Regal Volo filly = \$120,000

**Sam Bourbon:**

Average = \$35,000  
Sold = 1  
Top Lot = Lot 5 –  
Classic Armbro colt - \$35,000

# YEARLING SALES STORIES

## NEW ZEALAND PREMIER YEARLING SALE:

### DAY ONE ROUND UP

A new face emerged as a big spender on the first day of the New Zealand Premier Sale in Christchurch Tuesday.

West Melton horseman, Paul Court, is renowned for being associated with good horses, largely thanks to the deeds of triple NZ Trotting Cup winner Terror To Love, but he's never been a major player when it comes to sales time.

This week however he changed that in one massive swoop.

Court went to \$130,000 to secure himself the Bettor's Delight colt from Lulabelle Midfrew.

Offered by the Mooney family, the colt is a half-sister to recent PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales Series winner, Luisanabelle Midfrew.

"The family is really developing and it was pretty hard to ignore him," Court said.

"He's got a magnificent walk, his really reaches when he strides, I just liked everything about him to be honest."

Court was still finalising ownership of the colt last night but was hoping to be able to confirm that within the next few days.

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Big spending stable owner, Lin Lang is a potential owner for the colt.

The equal top lot of yesterday's first day of selling in Christchurch was one of three horses Court has purchased in the past two days.

He spent \$90,000 in Auckland on Monday purchasing two lots for \$45,000.

The first was a Christian Cullen colt who is a half-brother to Gaius Caesar while the other was a Bettor's Delight colt from the foundation mare of the Whitelock family, Braeside Star.

"They'll both be syndicated to the same group of owners, I really like them both. "I was lucky too in the fact that I didn't have to go to really high prices to get them, I thought they were both pretty fair."

Robert Dunn and stable client Ross Gordon paid \$130,000 for the day's other equal highest colt – a Bettor's Delight colt out of Free As A Bird.

"I bought his half-brother last year by Somebeachsomewhere and I really like him," Dunn said.

"He's up in Auckland and progressing along quite nicely."

Dunn also went to \$105,000 to get his hands on the Bettor's Delight filly from Group One winning mare, Lancome for a largely Ashburton based syndicate which includes Alan Neumann.

Oamaru owner and breeder, Bev Williamson, made a rare appearance at the sales as a vendor, but like Court, she made an impact.

The wife of prominent trotting trainer, Phil, offered up a colt from Angus Hall from outstanding trotting mare, Jasmyn's Gift.

He was knocked down to the same anonymous buyer of Monday's \$230,000 colt at Karaka for \$105,000.

That went close to the top trotting lot for the day, but late in the day Invercargill owners and breeders Ben and Karen Calder shelled out \$110,000 for a son of Love You from good producing mare,

Paramount Star.

The brother to Paramount Geegee attracted plenty of action in the ring but the Calder's held firm and were rewarded with the telling bid.

Overall yesterday's first day of selling left many vendors feeling a little further past frustrated after a large number of horses were left unsold.

The sale went flat at stages with multiple lots struggling to stretch past the \$20,000 mark although some strong stages during the middle part of the sale will help the final numbers.

Again it was the progeny of the incomparable Bettor's Delight which shone through – continuing an outstanding week for Woodlands Stud principal, Charlie Roberts who celebrated his 92nd birthday on Monday.

## Matt Markham

### DAY TWO ROUND UP

It's lucky Barry Purdon was such a fan of Lot 409 at the NZ Premier yearling sales in Christchurch Wednesday because he wasn't so much of a fan of the price he had pay for the colt.

The master Auckland horseman went to \$200,000 to secure the rights to own Mach Shard, a Mach Three colt out of outstanding broodmare Sly Shard – the highest price he has paid for a horse at the sales.

Offered by the Smith family of Invercargill under the banner of Shard Farm, the half-brother to Smiling Shard and Pemberton Shard, was subjected to some intense bidding between various parties before being knocked down to Purdon.

"He's a standout colt. An expensive colt, but a standout colt all the same," Purdon said.

"I liked everything about him from the moment I first saw him to be honest.

"He's got a real presence about him and he carries himself rather impressively.

"It's exciting to be able to get the chance to train him."

**NEW ZEALAND  
METROPOLITAN TROTTING CLUB INC.**  
announce nominations for the  
**THE \$150,000, GROUP 1**

## **THE BREEDERS NEW ZEALAND PACING OAKS**

for registered and qualified 3 YO  
Pacing Fillies, to be held on

**SATURDAY 21ST MAY 2016**

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**WEDNESDAY 24TH FEBRUARY**

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**ADDINGTON** 

Purdon wasn't in a position to confirm definite owners for the colt, although he did say the Kevin Riseley and Trevor Casey would definitely be involved.

Meanwhile, Ian Dobson showed he's still able to flex his muscles at the Sales, when he opened up with a \$100,000 bid to buy the full-brother to open class pacer, Locharburn.

The hammer eventually fell to the owner of the colt's sire, Christian Cullen, for \$160,000 after Cran Dalgety attempted to make things interesting before realising Dobson's intent was to head home with the horse.

Offered by Paul Walton and Helen Conaghan, Cullerburn looked every bit the part of Locharburn's brother and his progress to the track will be closely monitored by many parties.

Early on in the day's selling, Group One winning mare, Rona Lorraine produced her second \$100,000 plus foal when her first colt, by Bettor's Delight went for \$132,500.

Purchased by long-time Ken Barron stable clients, Steve Thompson and Grant Dickey, the colt was a stand-out

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individual and fetched a price fitting of that.

A full-brother to standout mare, Fight For Glory, the colt kept everyone on the edge of their seats until the final moments of the sale.

The upstanding individual, who is the third foal of former NZ Record holder Breath Of Life, was offered by Dianne Cournane's Diamond Head Lodge and was knocked down to big-spending Australian couple, Merv and Meg Butterworth for \$170,000.

"His pedigree says a lot really, I was rather determined to get him," Merv Butterworth said.

A very clearly over the moon Cournane described the moment as "simply wonderful" although she did admit to quite a few nerves when the colt was in the ring.

"I was rather nervous, I'd put a \$150,000 reserve on him so all I really wanted was to reach that.

"To get to where he has is a great result and I'm very excited."

The colt, dubbed Honor And Glory, will be headed to the All Stars Racing Stables of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen.

Yesterday's sale gave the same feel as Tuesday's effort with good horses again selling for good money while some others continued to struggle.

More pleasing was the list clearance rate, which after flat-lining at 75 per cent on Tuesday, lifted to 85 per cent yesterday giving an overall clearance rate for the two days in Christchurch of 80 per cent.

The combined average for the two days of selling closed off at \$28,442 which was an increase from last year's average of \$26,777.

**Matt Markham**

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## AUSTRALASIAN CLASSIC YEARLING SALE ROUND UP

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A Christian Cullen mare, who won four of her 40 starts and \$36,031 for trainer Pukekohe Steven Reid, has now fetched the highest price at the Australasian Classic Yearling Sale - for the second consecutive year.

The 8-year-old has left only two foals and at the Karaka Sales Complex Monday her Bettor's Delight colt - How About Me - fetched the Sale high price of \$230,000.

Last year her full-brother You Gotta Have Faith (formerly named Praise Be) was the Karaka sales topper fetching \$200,000 for buyers Denis and Mark Dunford, who ironically were the under-bidders yesterday on How About Me.

The Dunfords did manage to buy an Art Major - Pacing Grace colt named Phenomenon. He was lot 82, and like How About Me, was sold by Woodlands Stud, for \$180,000.

He is a full-brother to this season's Sapling Stakes and Kindergarten Stakes winner - Pacing Major 1:54.6 (\$38,646).

However when three members of the media went to interview How About Me's new owner (believed to be prominent New South Wales harness racing identity), he refused to go public.

"Go away! Don't even tell them our name," he told the lady sitting beside him. PGG Wrightson signed off on the deal saying the owners had every right to remain anonymous.

"It is their wish and we have to go with it. They don't want their name revealed. It's as simple as that," said PGG Wrightson's Bruce Barlass.

Abide With Me's record is one to be envied.

She was the eighth foal out of former national mile recorder holder Scuse Me, whose 10th foal was the Bettor's Delight mare and champion pacer, Adore Me. She won 26 of her 36 starts (\$1.67 million) including the 2014 New Zealand Trotting Cup.

She also recorded a 1:47.7 mile at Menangle.

Barlass termed it an incredible sale - one of the best in years and compared it to the Auckland housing market.

"We had eight lots that fetched over \$100,000. The prices have just escalated so much in the past few years. There was a big spread of buyers from Australia and throughout New Zealand. There were some superb horses on show that fetched the prices they were worth.

"But it all comes down to supply and demand. There simply aren't enough horses being bred but the ones that are being produced are top quality.

"And the great thing is that those that didn't get what they wanted will have another chance tomorrow and the next day in Christchurch," said Barlass.

He said the average price had kept leaping from \$27,900 in 2012, \$29,300 in 2013, \$31,300 in 2014, and \$41,500 last year.

"This year's average price was \$45,037. That is huge and our clearance rate was

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## CONT.

85 per cent – the same as last year,” Barlass said.

Total sales this year were \$5.53 million – up from \$4.68 million last year.

“The average is very pleasing. It has increased \$18,108 in the last four years. That’s an amazing 65 per cent increase,” Barlass said.

The first 22 Bettor’s Delights that went through the Sale fetched \$1.37 million averaging \$62,263.

Meanwhile, the top trotting lot fetched Monday was sold to Paul Kenny by Breckon Farms for \$120,000. Lot 83 was a Muscle Hill - Regal Volo filly named Girls On Film.

Eight lots fetched more than \$100,000 on Monday. They were:

Lot 40: A Bettor’s Delight - La Filou (In The Pocket) bay filly named Perfect Take sold to John Craven of South Australia for \$100,000.

Lot 57: A Somebeachsomewhere – O’Baby bay colt named Beachbabe-beauty sold to Steven Thompson and Grant Dickie on behalf of Ken Barron for \$136,000.

Lot 72 (A Bettor’s Delight – Abide With Me colt) named How About Me sold to Australian interests for \$230,000.

Lot 73: A Somebeachsomewhere – Maheer Princess filly named Feel The Burn sold for \$125,000.

Lot 82: Full brother Pacing Major – an Art Major – Pacing Grace colt sold to Dennis and Mark Dunford named Phenomenon sold for \$180,000.

Lot 83: A Muscle Hill - Regal Volo filly named Girls On Film sold to Paul Kenny for \$120,000.

Lot 111: An Art Major –Alta Camilla colt named Alta Maestro sold to Robert Dunn for \$100,000.

Lot 112: An American Ideal – Splendid Bet colt named Chief Joseph sold to Cran Dalgety for \$110,000.

## Duane Ranger



fokus harness photography

## ANOTHER CLUB SYNDICATE WINNER

Normally when one reads about Trotting/Harness Racing Club syndicate winners, it is in relation to either a successful Auckland Trotting Club syndicate or a “Met” syndicate run by the NZ Metropolitan Trotting Club.

So it was refreshing to see success for another club’s syndicate recently, that of the Cambridge Harness 2010 Syndicate with EASY FOR CULLEN. The seven year old Christian Cullen gelding’s latest victory came in an amateur drivers race (dr : Steve Phillips) at Harness Racing Waikato’s Rotorua grass track meeting at Arawa Park on Sunday 24 January 2016.

Bred by Ian Dobson from the Holmes Hanover mare Electrofying Franco, eighth foal Easy For Cullen was purchased at the 2010 NZ Premier Yearling Sale for \$32,500. Racing from dual code and outstanding thoroughbred trainer Graeme Rogerson’s stable (together with Peter Blanchard until mid 2015), Easy For Cullen has recorded seven victories from his 61 starts together with 15 placed efforts for stakes of \$35,403 (2:01.2, Cambridge, 2200m).

Commencing his racetrack exploits as a 3yo in the 2011/2012 season, Easy For Cullen won second up for the syndicate at their Cambridge “headquarters” driven by junior driver Zac Butcher. Follow-

Easy For Cullen wins in the hands of Amateur reinsman, Steve Phillips at Rotorua last month

ing his five 3yo starts, aside from the occasional junior drivers race, the bulk of his career has been spent in amateur drivers races primarily for Rogerson stable employee Michelle Northcott and on a few occasions Warren Rich. Easy For Cullen recorded two 4yo victories at Cambridge and Alexandra Park; one victory at five at Cambridge; as a 6yo two wins within the month at Gate Pa (Tauranga) and Alexandra Park with his latest 7yo win being almost twelve months between drinks for syndicate members.

Easy For Cullen’s dam Electrofying Franco (1993 Holmes Hanover/Easy Key) was bred by David Shammall. She won 11 races from 45 attempts in Australia (8 Globe Derby, 2 Bathurst. 1 Moonee Valley), \$60,334, 1:59.8, placing second in Edgar Tatlow 2f final to Sheza Mona and third in Bathurst Gold Tiara.

The dam of 12 foals, 7 to race/6 winners (3 in two minutes) including Cambo - 5 wins, 1:58.5, \$49,985, Reefton Cup. Cambo was the winner of his first start for Robert Dunn at Timaru and showed his liking for grass tracks with two wins at Westport as well as his Reefton Cup victory for Dunn stable. His only other win came at Cambridge for Dave Kaa. Cambo

Lynne Falcon also won on five occasions for Robert Dunn, 1:59.4, \$41,547 with four of those wins coming at Addington, two in consecutive three year old starts. Her other win came over a mile at Ashburton (1:59.4), also placing second in NZYSS Southern Gradulette

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and third in Caduceus Club/Canterbury SBA 4/5 Sires Stakes. Lynne Falcon is the dam of three winners including Millwood Nebraska, 3 NZ/6 VIC, 1 NSW wins, 1:56.6AUS, \$72,316; Picobello, 1:55.9 for Paul Yesberg. Lynne Falcon

Lynne Falcon was sold to Yesberg Bloodstock (\$12,000) at the 2010 Cullen Breeding dispersal sale. Progeny to have won in Australia for Electrofying Franco are : Champagne Dash, 2:00.3AUS, 5 VIC wins, dam of 2 winners; Artistic Dash, 1 VIC win, 2:01.3; Electrifying Cullen, 4 NZ/1 NSW wins, 1:57.2NZ, \$44,555; with two wins at each of Alexandra Park and Cambridge as well as a fourth in GN Oaks and fifth in NZYSS - 3f.

Electrofying Franco was sold at 2010 Cullen Breeding dispersal sale for \$12,000 to Chester Family Trust whose three foals bred from her resulted in qualifier and one race starter Electrical Storm. At the same sale, her Christian Cullen filly Electric Cullen (Hot Chilli Stride in Australia) was sold to E & M Stride for \$15,000.

Easy For Cullen's second dam was Easy Key (Keystone Scotch/Easy To Love), 14 VIC wins, \$46,772, VIC Youthful - 2f. She set an Australian 2yo Pacers race mile record in 1983 with a 2:00.2 mile at Carisbrook Raceway, Maryborough. Easy To Love left Rolls and Rolls, \$145,533, 25 VIC wins. Aside from Electrofying Franco, Easy Key left six other winners including Franco Elect, 3 NZ/12 VIC wins, 1:59.0AUS, \$133,256 (Timaru Nursery, VIC Antipodes Cup);

Elusive Franco (1:55.0US); Easy Dash (1:50.2US); Love In Your Eyes, winner of two (NZSS - 3f ht) and placed second in NZYSS - 2f, Caduceus Club Classic - 2f (dam of 6 AUS winners). Easy Key is grand dam of Striking Dash (11 wins), (The) Express Way (27 wins) and 3rd dam of Extreme Bromac (12 wins).

Easy For Cullen's family traces to Rawene (N29) whose more prominent descendants include Race Ruler, Royal Force, Padlock, Swartz Pete, Stratum, Mr Metallica, Tealsby Karita. Ima Fulla Luck (quickest 1:51.6), Major Crocker.

Whilst the returns received by the Cambridge Harness 2010 syndicate hardly outweigh the initial purchase price, one can be sure the seven low key victories have been fully enjoyed by all participants.

## GREAT START TO STUD LIFE FOR MOOAR

It's old territory for the new boss at Nevele R Stud.

Ged Moor is back where he started in harness racing, but with greater cares and heavier responsibilities than he had before.

After five years as the stud's marketing manager followed by a similar post for almost as long at Addington Raceway, Ged was approached and accepted the role as general manager of Nevele R and Spreydon Lodge.

He has joined an efficient, experienced and loyal team, and with the addition next week of junior driver John Morrison to the staff of Spreydon Lodge, has gently embarked on a plan to "bring young people into the game."

Ged has been in the job three weeks, and says key areas will be customer focus, a sales slant, commercial development, and the promotion of the stud and lodge as a one-stop operation.

"We are offering a total package - grazing the mare, foaling, weaning, breaking in and training; there are efficiencies we can offer there. And we shall continue to enhance our relationship with Alabar.

"That side of it is important for the profile of the stud. With them we've been able to do a 50-50 deal in Rock N Roll Dance. That's a positive message. In two seasons he has covered 550 mares. We share the risks and we share the profits.

"But the Board has said if there's a business case to be made for a certain new horse, they will certainly consider it."

At present, there are seven resident stallions including Live Or Die who is still serving a few mares.

"He doesn't owe us anything. His best days are over, there's no secret in that, and he's done a fantastic job. It's his home and this is where he will stay.

"The others are at different stages of their careers and they've got to be affordable.

**"CHANGEOVER IS TAKING TIME AND NEEDS A HEADLINER, BUT HE'S GOT NUMBERS COMING AND IT TOOK COURAGE UNDER FIRE A WHILE TO GET GOING."**

The mares, some once owned by the stud and others by the lodge, are now all under one banner. From a total of 70 or 80, the number has eased down to a quality pool of 25, and already there are healthy signs from the trim in that area.

"We only had three yearlings are the Premier, and we've got \$70,000 (filly by Mach Three-Nearea Franco), \$30,000 (filly by Mach Three-Elisit Franco) and \$55,000 (colt by Christian Cullen-San Rafaella).

"But next year we could have eight."

Ged says his big challenge is careful management.

"Changes will be made as and if required."

Already, the signs all point up.

**Mike Grainger**





## POTENTIAL QUICKLY BECOMING PROGRESS

Martin John breaks through at Addington last Thursday for breeder/owner Marty O'Malley

Marty O'Malley has pretty much given up on a wish-list aim to win a race at Reefton.

But it's not too late. Martin John could do it, providing he hasn't advanced his rating too far.

And that's the issue: his win in a maiden at Addington last week followed four placings and was impressive. He could find himself off a back mark if he turns potential into progress.

He is a 4-year-old by Changeover from Bend It Becky, a one-win Live Or Die mare from the family of Noodlum and Tactile. That's back a few generations; from Nell Grattan who left Tactics, the dam of Tactile and Deft who left Noodlum to Bachelor Hanover. Noodlum won 28 of his 42 starts, including 15 on end, until beaten twice by Commissioner and then by Parlez Vous. He later won the sires' premiership twice and topped the broodmares sires list.

O'Malley was well in the game by then, starting off with a galloper when he was 16 in Reefton where he was born.

His harness racing affections were started first with Sunshine Bright, trained by Jack McDonald, and then

given heat when he co-bred Vienna Charm, the winner of seven races – all on the grass.

By Regal Yankee, and trained by Steve Little, she won the Cheviot Cup from Stortford Lodge by five lengths and the Nelson Cup from Panair by six, and was the very last winner in the grass track at Ashburton.

This was in 1982, and four years later while doing some maintenance work on supermarket trollies owned by Brian West, he was offered the chance from the same operator to buy Mighty Dear, a yearling filly by Surmo Hanover from Donna Dear.

Nell Grattan figures as the great grandam of Donna Dear, as she does with Noodlum. After being tried by Mark Fuller and Robert Cameron, Mighty Dear did a solid job at stud, leaving 11 foals and the winners OK Dear (by OK Bye), Lavros Cam (by Cameleon), Moting With Marty (by New York Moting), Electric Loader (by Son Of Afella), Giddyupandgobaby (by Dream Away), Bend It Becky, and Venus Williams (by Washington VC).

Bend It Becky died after leaving Martin John, but she produced the type of horse they hoped for.

**"WE GOT OUR MONEY'S WORTH IN SIZE AND WE GOT THE SIZE WE WANTED," HE SAID.**

**"ANDREW STUART, WHO TRAINS HIM, IS KEEN ON GIVING HIM A BIT OF A BREAK SOON BECAUSE HE REALLY NEEDS ANOTHER SIX MONTHS."**

Martin John also had a setback – more mental than physical – when he crashed in a race at Ashburton on Boxing Day.

"He's a lovely horse, and I think Andrew has a good opinion of him."

O'Malley, a dual-code enthusiast, had not won since Hunter The Punter followed his Westport Cup win in 2010 for Fuller and Stephen McNally with the Nelson Cup a fortnight later.

Martin John could be a worthy replacement and later on he can anticipate racing a yearling filly by Changeover after borrowing the OK Bye mare Well Dressed Poplar, dam of the promising and recent Ashburton winner Nolan Sackett.

**Mike Grainger**



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## MOMENT HOLDS THE ACE'S

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Paul Corkran's health might have slowed him down a tad in recent years but the man who bred multiple Group One winning trotter Take A Moment is still kicking goals with his progeny.

The Bernie Hackett and Michelle Wallis trained Ace Moment won the last race at Alexandra Park last Friday in the hands of John Dunn.

In doing so the 7-year-old Dream Vacation gelding notched up his fifth win in 66 starts. He's also placed 16 times and netted \$54,216 in stakes. He was the \$4.80 third favourite and got there by a head.

"His dam – Stay A Moment (By Armbro Invasion) is a full-sister to Take A Moment. They are both out of the Jet d'Emeraude five-win mare Nakura.

"Her mother Nakaia (by Crockett) was out of his Tuft – Haze foundation mare, Morning Haze. She never got to the racetrack but Nakaia won three races," Corkran said.

He said he leased Morning Haze with a right to breed a foal and Nakaia was the result.

Nakaia's first two foals were Nakura and Naraya (by Gekoj).

**"WE ALL KNOW NAKURA LEFT THE BEST HORSE I'VE BRED – TAKE A MOMENT, BUT NARAYA ALSO LEFT ANOTHER VERY GOOD TROTTER. HIS NAME WAS STIG (ARMBRO INVASION) AND HE'S NOT HALF-BAD EITHER," CORKRAN SAID.**

Corkran said he got into harness racing about 40 years ago via Robin Frizzell, the breeder of Haze, which in turn was the dam of Morning Haze.

"It all started from there and I've enjoyed it ever since. I've trained a few winners (12 since then and still have a licence but my health has slowed me down a bit," Leeston (Lakeside)-based Corkran said.

He has suffered from several fractures, compressed vertebrae, and whopping cough over the years.

"Every time I would cough I would black out. That put me out for a year and then in the last few years I've had a couple of horses run over me.

"The ligaments in my arms are still bugged and it makes it tough sometimes working horses, but I'm on the way back and will carry on. I love harness racing and always have," Corkran said.

He said he was still breeding from Stay A Moment every other year.

"She's left a lovely Love You 2-year-old filly named Love A Moment. I've got a few I like, especially A Monarch – Pick The Moment colt named Spy Da Moment.

"Pick The Moment, who is by Sundon and out of Nakura, never raced and this colt is her only foal," said Corkran.

He said his father and uncles were mainly into thoroughbreds but he took a shine to harness racing when his father would take him to the trots as a youngster.

"I've always gravitated towards the standardbreds. It's been more than a passion over the years. My Uncle Andrew and I raced Take A Moment.

"He's now an Interdominion Hall-Of-Famer. That horse fuelled my fire and paved the way for a lifetime of harness racing," 63-year-old Corkran said.

Ace Moment is owned by Mrs N J Hackett, P J May, I J Smith, G L Read, Ms D Wapp, and A L Wilson.

### Duane Ranger

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## THE JEWEL IN GEORGE'S CROWN

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Eighty-four-year-old George Illingworth has played table tennis against legendary West Indian cricketer, Sir Garfield Sobers. He's even been 12th man for his East Otago province against Sobers' West Indies cricket team.

That was when he played alongside New Zealand test cricket captain John Reid.

The year was 1956 Fast forward another six decades and Blenheim-based Illingworth is still making a name for himself in sport.

Last Thursday at Manawatu Raceway the 8-year-old Earl trotter he bred with his wife Isabel won his eighth race at start number 142.

"Rarangi Jewel is the best horse I have bred. It was wonderful to see him win again for the Weavers," said Illingworth who still works horses with Graeme Neill at Waterlea.

Rarangi Jewel is the first foal out of Illingworth's former three-win Gee Whiz II mare, Black Onyx.

"I bred three from her but I gave Millicent (by Monkey Bones) to Graeme. I also swapped the dam for a service to Monkey Bones via the Kennards.

"Brent Weaver then bought her I think from the Sales. I've still got a 15 per cent share in Rarangi Jewel. I love watching him and still work the Monkey Bones 2-year-old," Illingworth said.

That 2-year-old filly is Rarangi Opal, who is just embarking on her racing campaign.

"I've given her just a couple of quiet little preps so far and she has shown enough to make a racehorse. At this stage she can go a mile and a half in about 3:35 to 3:38.



**Rarangi Jewel and Brent Weaver get the job done at Manawatu last Thursday night**



**CONT.**

"She still keeps me involved in the game. I think it's something I will always do. I enjoy getting up and training the horses every morning," a spritely Illingworth said.

Otago born and educated Illingworth said he got into harness racing in the early 1980s through his shearing mates Vince Heffernan and Barney Tisdall.

"Ironically the first winner I had was a horse named Illingworth at Hutt Park back in 1983," Illingworth said.

His foundation mare was the maiden Niatrix mare named Farcical. She left Black Onyx and Rarangi Gold.

"He was by Armbro Invasion and won three races for me and then went to Australia and won five more. He was a nice trotter but not as nice as Rarangi Jewel," Illingworth said.

"He's the best I've bred or raced," he stressed.

The Brent Weaver trained, owned and driven Rarangi Jewel started from 30m behind at Manawatu and at the end of the C0/C1 handicap he had two-and-a-half lengths to spare over fellow back-marker, Larch.

The brown gelding has now won on eight occasions, placed 31 times and won \$68,625 in stakes.

Incidentally who did win that post match game of table tennis at Oamaru's Waitaki Boys High School all those years ago?

"I thought I was pretty good at table tennis, but I was no match for Sir Garfield. Gee he was good. It seems he was good at everything," Mr Illingworth said.

Footnote: Rarangi is a small coastal community approximately 15 minutes drive to the north-east of Blenheim, on the coast of Cloudy Bay.

**Duane Ranger**

## WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN THE EXCITEMENT OF RACING THE FIRST AUCKLAND REACTORS?



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- The yearlings will be hand-picked at the 2016 Yearling Sales (and trained) by leading Auckland, Canterbury and Southland based trainers.
- It is envisioned the syndicate will not only include the progeny of Auckland Reactor but also a proven Alabar sire.
- Fractional interests from 2.5% upwards will be available.

Register your interest now in the Alabar Racing Syndicate 2016 – early indications are spaces will be limited

Full details will be available after the 2016 Yearling Sales

For further information or to register your interest contact Ivan Behrnes - Alabar Syndicate Manager 03 615 6332, [ivan@alabar.co.nz](mailto:ivan@alabar.co.nz)

*Alabar (NZ) Ltd is an authorised syndicator*



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