



THE BREEDERS

## BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This weeks edition of breeders weekly covers the breeders of all nine harness jewels winning breeders, we hope you enjoy!

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EDITION 25

JUNE 16, 2016





Donegal Bettorgretch and Dexter Dunn hold off a gallant Wilma's Mate to win the 3YO Ruby in 1:57.0

## RUBY HEADS TO KAIKOURA!

### DONEGAL BETTORGRECH

#### Breeding

2012 3 B f Bettor's Delight - Donegal Gretchen

#### Breeder

M A Boyd

#### Lifetime

13 starts, 5 wins, 6 placings, \$88,164 and 1.57 (T)

Just last week Murray Boyd was quoted as saying he would give anything to win the 3YO Ruby with his pacing bred trotter, Donegal Bettorgretch, to get one up on an old friend.

"If there's anyone I want to beat it's that lucky bugger Ken Ford. He was my neighbour for 30 years before he shifted, and I know he has told people he gets great satisfaction out of beating me as well," Kaikoura-based Boyd joked about his good mate.

The Cran Dalgety trained trotter had the week prior broken a national record for 3yo fillies from the 2200m mobile, lowering the long standing record of Galleon's Paradise in the process.

Fast forward a week to Cambridge and the daughter of Bettor's Delight put in what would arguably be the performance of the day in sitting parked

the trip and breaking the hearts of her main rivals.

"If you had said to me 10 or so years ago when I started out that I would be training trotters I would have scoffed and laughed at you. Bloody things I thought. I once said 'if you ever see me racing or breeding trotters, shoot me' - and now look at me, I've bred a Jewels winner!" Boyd said.

Being by pacing super sire Bettor's Delight, you could be forgiven for thinking she was the only trotter of note to have been bred in New Zealand, but taking a look at the list below you will see he has left 7 trotting winners and one of significant note in Thunder Road.

**Bet Online** (2007 8 B g Bettor's Delight - Trelise) 28 Starts | 3 Wins | 3 Placings | \$14,312

**Cherry Lindenny** (2009 6 B m Bettor's Delight - Chokhann) 46 Starts | 5 Wins | 6 Placings | \$35,507

**Free Bird** (2009 6 B m Bettor's Delight - Time's On My Side) 22 Starts | 4 Wins | \$20,536

(Also has 1 pacing win from 15 starts)

**Lindenny's Laddie** (2007 8 Br h(exp) Bettor's Delight - Helena Kilena) 5 Wins | 16 Placings | \$35,415

(Also has one pacing win and all racing done in Australia)

**Main Divide** (2009 6 B m Bettor's Delight - Susy The Floosy) 24 Starts | 1 Win | 3 Placings | \$10,783

**Thunder Road** (2009 6 B g(exp) Bettor's Delight - All The Way Home) 40 Starts | 19 Wins | 10 Placings \$199,000 (1 x Group One, 1 x Group 2, 3 x Group 3!!)

The super sire only has two Australian bred trotting winners and none that have set the world alight quite like Boyd's filly.

Interestingly only one of the winners named above come from a mare who has left more than one trotter, that being the dam of Main Divide, Susy the Floosy (2004 11 B m Christian Cullen - Star Favourite) who also left Squaw (2010 5 B m American Ideal - Susy The Floosy | 3 Starts | 1 Win).

Boyd, who runs the Irish Hotel 'Donegal House' in Kaikoura, said Donegal Bettorgretch's dam - Donegal Gretchen never raced because she burst a blood vessel in her fetlock.

"She was a Christian Cullen mare who left four foals - all of them fillies. Her first was a Four Starzzz Shark mare named Donegal Star Gretch. I leased her. She wasn't much and never won a race in 25 starts.

"Her second filly (Donegal Annie Mac), which was by Bettor's Delight, had one race here and then was sold to Australia in the middle of last year, and has won five races across the ditch," Boyd said. Donegal Bettorgretch was the third foal, and an un-named 2-year-old filly was recently sent to Philippa Wakelin to train at Oxford.

Boyd breeds from several mares at his Kaikoura property and also stands his stallion Bettor's Creek (Bettor's Delight - Millie Rose).

The best horse he raced would undoubtedly be Donegal Delight. She won 17 races and almost a quarter of a million dollars. Her best performances came via placings in the 2011 Group One New Zealand Oaks and the 2011 Group One Nevele R 3YO Fillies Final.

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Donegal Delight (by Bettor's Delight) was also a place-getter in the 2012 New Zealand Standardbred Breeders Stakes and the 2013 New Zealand Premier Mares Championship.

Her biggest win came at Alexandra Park in May 2012 when she scored in the North Island Breeders Stakes. the Cup behind the bar at work.

**Brad Reid**

## THE KID IS DEFINITELY FOREAL



The talented son of Art Major out of the freakish mare Foreal combines with Dexter Dunn to win the 4YO Emerald in 1:53.1

### FIELD MARSHALL

#### Breeding

2011 4 B h Art Major - Foreal

#### Breeder

S B Brown and Mrs S A Brown

#### Lifetime

26 starts, 15 wins, 6 placings, \$333,686 and 1.53.1

Syd Brown says he will continue to race, rather than sell the progeny of his multiple Group winning mare, Foreal.

The breeding value of the talented daughter of Washington V C and Krystle took another dimension last Sunday when her second foal – Field Marshall – led all the way in the Group One \$150,000 NRM Asset Emerald for 4-year-old pacing colts and entires.

Brown and his wife Shona bred and own both Foreal and Field Marshall, while Tim Butt does the training and Dexter Dunn was the driver.

"It's a bit ironic really because Dexter was Foreal's strapper when she went to the Inter Dominions in Hobart back in 2006. Dexter was just 16 and now he's gone full circle. It's quite an amazing twist of fate really," Brown said.

To say the Mosgiel-based owner-breeder was over the moon with his Emerald crown is understating the truth a whole lot.

"This is my first Jewels winner and my greatest moment in harness racing. This tops the lot – even better than what my previous two best Regal Light and Foreal have achieved.

"The Jewels Final is a race all breeders want to win. It's the pinnacle for me – the top of the heap," Brown said.

That's some statement considering Field Marshall has won his last seven races in a row and the last four have been Group events – the Group One \$100,000 Taylor Mile, the Group One \$100,000 NZ Messenger, the Group Two \$40,000 Superstars Championship and the Jewel.

He's now won 15 of his 26 starts and \$333,685 compared to his mother who won 18 of her 57 starts and \$664,800 in a career spanning from 2004 to 2008. Her only Group One triumph came in the \$100,000 3YO Great Northern Oaks at Alexandra Park in 2004. She also won two Group Two races.

"She was a very good racehorse and now she's a gem of a broodmare. Shona and I have to keep pricking ourselves to see if it's true.

"But no matter what, they can't take this Jewels crown off us. It's coming on the plane with us back to Dunedin," Brown said.

Field Marshall is by Art Major. He is a sixth generation son of his 1960 foundation mare, Omylight, who he purchased for 2,200 guineas 51 years ago.

Foreal's first foal, a 6YO Christian Cullen, Madiba Magic sold at the Australasian Classic Yearling Sales in 2011 for \$80,000. He won five races in New Zealand before being exported to the United States in May last year. He has won five races in that country this year and recorded a 1:51 mile.

Brown said Foreal's third foal, a 3YO Rocknroll Hanover gelding was on the verge of racing and was being trained by Butt at West Melton.

"He won a trial and then copped a foot abscess, so I don't think we will see him racing until early Spring – but by all accounts he is promising."

Foreal has also left a black Bettor's Delight yearling filly named Prego.

"She is the only filly that Foreal has left us so far, so Shona (wife) and I will breed from her. We also have a weanling colt by Foreal and she is currently in foal to Art Major," the Otago breeder said.

Butt said Field Marshall was the quickest horse he had trained, so will he stay

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over 3200m and be set for the New Zealand Cup in November?

"He's spelling now in Cambridge for six weeks and then I will leave all the decision-making to Tim. He and Dexter are absolute professionals and Shona and I are so lucky to have such quality around us.

"Of course he can stay over two mile. The question is whether we rush him back after his spell for a daunting race like the Cup. Only Tim knows the answer to that one. The horse will tell him," said Brown.

"But Shona and I are extremely happy. We won our New Zealand Cup yesterday," he added.

**Duane Ranger**

## HEAVEN ROCKS ALRIGHT!

### HEAVEN ROCKS

#### Breeding

2012 3 B g Rock N Roll Heaven - Mendelico

#### Breeder

Benstud Standardbreds

#### Lifetime

7 starts, 5 wins, \$127,211 and 1.52.4

The most impressive winner on Harness Jewels grand final day had several Aussies screaming at their TV sets from far-off Katunga in the Goulburn Valley.

Benstud Standardbreds in Northern Victoria bred Heaven Rocks - a gifted son of Rock N Roll Heaven and Mendelico (Pacific Fella), which not only recorded the fastest mile of the day (1:52.4), but the gelding also won by the widest margin - an increasing four-and-three-quarter lengths.

His victory in the Group One \$150,000 Sweet Lou At Woodlands Stud Emerald

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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 (excludes premier days, see T's & C's) held at Addington Raceway will be eligible for a \$500 bonus payment. Bonus also applies to meetings held by the Akaroa, Amberley and Cheviot Trotting Club meetings who pay a Breeder Bonus on their own accord.

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

## MARES FOR SALE

### QUALITY IN FOAL BROODMARES & WEANLINGS FOR SALE

The NZSBA currently has multiple listings of well-bred mares for sale/lease/free.

To find out more information and to see what is available, please [click here](#). This will direct you to our website, and then click the For Sale/Lease heading in the navigation bar.

## N.Z. SIRES STAKES NOMINATIONS & SUSTAINING PAYMENTS DUE JULY 1ST 2016

Foal Nomination	Sires Stakes - Nevele R Fillies
Yearling Sustaining	Sires Stakes - Nevele R Fillies - PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales
3YO Sustaining	Sires Stakes - Nevele R Fillies - PGG Wrightson Yearling Sales

### PAYMENTS FOR THESE WILL CLOSE ON 1ST JULY 2016

If you have an email address with HRNZ or have elected not to receive these by email - remittance advices will be emailed early June.

Please note: if you attend on heading away on holiday around this time, please make payments before heading away.

Payment details are available on our website including a blank nomination form if you wish to pay now [www.nzsiresstakes.co.nz](http://www.nzsiresstakes.co.nz)

#### Contact the N.Z. Sires Stakes Board

(03) 338-5662 (Chch Office) - (03) 544-8820 (Doreen - Nelson office)



## CONT.

for 3-year-old pacing colts and geldings was his fifth from just seven starts.

The brilliant bay also helped his trainers – Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen – create New Zealand harness racing history.

Harness racing history was made in the last of the nine Jewels races today and it came as no surprise that Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen's All Stars created it.

For the first time the stable won every two and three-year-old Group One pacing event in 2015-2016.

"We were yelling at the TV. We were staggered with the ease of his win. He ran away from them and hid didn't he? It was a real emotional time for us all," said co-breeder Craig Judd.

Judd and his parents Peter and Judy, and his wife Renee, own Benstud Standardbreds, which is situated alongside the Murray River.

They also bred from New Zealand mares Three Eagles and Alldatglittersgold who produced New Zealand Derby winner Fly Like An Eagle, and multiple Group One winner Bling It On. Both were raised at Benstud Standardbreds.

Last year's Inter Dominion heat winner Philadelphia Man is another Benstud-bred pacer.

"We breed from Mendelico every other year with her owner, Harvey Delmenico. She won 17 races and almost \$200,000 and has now left four foals. We recently put her to Sportswriter.

## BOOKS WANTED

I'm on the lookout for New Zealand Trotting Registers and Year Books from 1955 to 1990, I'd like to purchase a full set if possible.

If you're able to help, please email: [brucestewart@woosh.co.nz](mailto:brucestewart@woosh.co.nz)

"After yesterday's result we are wishing we went back to Rock N Roll Heaven, but Sportswriter has a good reputation and we are confident he will do a good job too," 47-year-old Judd (Craig) said.

The Judds bred Heaven Rocks and then in 2012 Delmenico put her to Bettor's Delight resulting in a colt. Then in 2014 mare then missed to Art Major and while getting into foal to Sportswriter the foal died.

Then last October she produced an Art Major colt for Benstud Standardbreds.

"Heaven Rocks has really set the mare alight. Clients of Mark Purdon's paid \$60,000 at the APG Sale here for him. Mark and Natalie (Rasmussen) are not only one of Australasia's best trainers but they also have a very good eye for horse-flesh.

"We are rapt with what they have done with the horse. He has an enormous future. We are really looking forward to him fronting up on Breeder's Crown Day. That will be an absolute joy," said Judd.

Benstud comprises two properties with a combined total of 400 acres. The home block of 200 acres has been totally re-fenced both internally and externally to provide safety for all their horses.

"We started off with eight mares about eight years ago and now have 150 on our property. Our three daughters are heavily involved.

"It's a fantastic place to raise a family. We all love it here and we all love that winning feeling.

"That was our first Jewels winner, and hopefully not our last," Judd said.

He said successful breeding in the standardbred horse industry in being able to make your efforts profitable is no longer a game. Like playing the stock market, those who make use of the best expertise will be those poised to make a profit over those playing for fun.

Even one of Australia's famous sporting stars, the Adelaide Crows AFL forward Josh Jenkins was cheering on Heaven Rocks from Adelaide.

"Josh goes out with one of Harvey's daughters and likes harness racing. It's great to see sporting stars from other codes getting involved in our great sport," Judd said.

Jenkins tweeted the following on Jewels Day:

"Looking forward to the NZ Harness Jewels after training this morning. Go Heaven Rocks!"

"Best be nice to the father in-law! Heaven Rocks obliterates them in Harness Jewels 16 at Cambridge".

Heaven Rocks is owned by Mrs G J Kennard, P I Kennard, P J Creighton, Mrs M C Creighton, G R Douglas, and K J Riseley.

## Duane Ranger



# SEVEN GROUP 1'S FOR POTENTIAL HORSE OF THE YEAR

## MONBET

### Breeding

2011 4 B g Love You - Diedre Darling

### Breeder

G P Hope, Mrs N M Hope

### Lifetime

31 starts, 20 wins, 5 placings, \$572,844 and 1.56.6 (T)

The man that helped breed one of the best square gaiters to grace a New Zealand racetrack is being credited with the success of the potential Horse of the Year candidate, Monbet.

North Canterbury breeder, co-owner and trainer Greg Hope said Mark Smith suggested he put Monbet's dam – Diedre Darling – to boom French sire, Love You.

Peter and Mark Smith bred the great Lyell Creek, which won 56 of his 113 starts and almost \$3 million in purses. His sire Roydon Glen was bred by Sir Roy McKenzie of Roydon Lodge fame, and trained by Fred Fletcher at Roydon Lodge Stud.

Fletcher also trained Monbet's dam – Diedre Darling to her only victory in her last race at Forbury Park on September 15, 2006.

"After I paid \$6,000 to Sir Roy Mackenzie (May 2007) for Diedre Darling, Mark had a word with me and said if I crossed her with Love You I couldn't help but get a horse which would win races.

"He was spot on with his advice and I'll always be grateful for that. If anyone knows how to breed a champion trotter it's the Smiths from Kaikoura.

# YOU START WE PAY

ADG15/16

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[www.b4breeding.com](http://www.b4breeding.com)

A blog about standardbred breeding, issues and topics of interest, written by New Zealand breeder and writer Bee Pears.

Recent blogs include the legacy of Romola Hal and her down under connections; what we can learn from other industries; comments on yearling sales results; Tintin In America's results as a sire; and a new series about Nibble Hanover and Lydia Knight.

Plus four years of previous blogs covering new sires, pedigree matching, the future of harness racing, links to great articles and lots more.

Independent. Information. Interesting.

Check it out.

"The dam didn't return a foal to Love You the first time but I'm glad we stuck by him. Monbet is a very special racehorse. It's quite hard to believe that Ricky May has said he's the best trotter he has sat behind," Hope said.

Monbet dealt to his rivals yet again when claiming his 7th Group 1 win of the season when taking out the 4YO Ruby at Cambridge, and he had to dodge all sorts of traffic problems along the way which is no mean feat for a trotter on a tight track.

Hope said both he and Smith were well aware that, although Diedre Darling only won one of her six starts, she had the bloodlines to leave some nice foals.

"Her mother – Diedre's Pride, who was trained by Fletcher, won 21 races and \$230,241. The Game Pride mare placed in the 1997 Rowe Cup and 1996 Dominion Handicap, the 1996 New Zealand Trotting Free-For-All, and three Ordeal Cups.

Diedre's Pride left seven foals – the best performer in New Zealand was her first foal – Sundon gelding Diedre Don, which won 10 of his 75 starts and \$96,433. Diedre Darling was foal number two.

"I've always wanted to breed a nice trotter and I saw Diedre Darling advertised in the 'Weekly'. I knew she wasn't

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much as a racehorse and I did notice a big scar on her leg but her bloodlines were impressive.

"She was by a leading sire (Sundon) and her dam side also won a lot of races. I thought to myself I couldn't get those impressive bloodlines for that price if I was looking for a pacer.

"It took us three seasons but we finally got her in foal to Earl. Roydon Lodge had originally put her to Earl but she missed. I thought if they put her to that sire, they would know, so I followed suit," Woodend Beach-based Hope said.

Seven-win trotter Donaldson was the result. The next year the Hopes put the mare to Thanksgiving and two-win bay McConway was foal number two. Three seasons later Monbet arrived on the scene.

"He was a lovely looking animal from day one. We then couldn't get her in foal until last year when she left a Muscle Hill colt.

"She's settled down a lot now with her breeding and we've got her back in foal to Love You this year," said Hope.

That's a scary proposition for anyone who bred a trotter last year!

The Hope's have a nice band of trotting mares on the property with The Earth Moved (2010 5 B m Monarchy - Dear Diedre) in foal to Love You (which makes the resulting foal three quarters in blood to Monbet) and also Unyielding Spirit (2009 6 Ch m Love You - Merlene O) which is carrying a foal by Peak.

**Brad Reid**



Ricky May and Monbet cruise to a second Ruby and stop the clock in 1:56.6 to make it a staggering 13 wins from 15 starts this season!



More the Bettor and Mark Purdon continue their domination of the juvenile races this season, carving out the mile in 1:53.3

**HE'S BETTOR  
ALRIGHT!**

**MORE THE BETTOR**

**Breeding**

2013 2 B c Bettor's Delight - Lucky Pocket

**Breeder**

C N Radford, W E Radford, Ms D E Richardson

**Lifetime**

10 starts, 6 wins, 4 placings, \$339,447 and 1.53.3

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**Standardbred**

**Classic Families**

**Discover The Performance Behind The Pedigree**

## CONT.

Harness Jewels winning breeder, Neil Radford doesn't produce quality foals for just any old body.

The 77-year-old retired Kaiapoi dairy farmer said he only recently realised that two of the three owners in 2-year-old Emerald champion - More The Better - have been officially recognised by Queen Elizabeth II.

Both men are in their 80s.

Roy Purdon (MBE) needs no introduction. He's the doyen of New Zealand harness racing. No horseman in the history of horse training in New Zealand can match Roy Purdon's 14 premier-ships.

The Harness Racing Hall-of-Famer was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1988.

Sir David Levene (KNZM, OBE) is a New Zealand Business Hall-Of-Famer. He joined his father and uncle's paint business in 1947, taking over the management in 1952 after his uncle's death.

He was aged 23 and the business had one outlet. By 1994, when Levene & Company was sold to Skellerup Group, it had 50 stores, paint and wallpaper factories and a total turnover of \$150 million.

Mr Levene was bestowed with his Knights' Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit in 2010.

The third owner is Mr Purdon's youngest son, Mark who is also the driver and co-trainer of More The Better with Natalie Rasmussen at Rolleston.

"Mark has done a brilliant job with the horse. I wasn't in Cambridge because the Belfast Rugby Club was celebrating its 100th centenary celebrations that Queen's Birthday weekend and I had already committed to that," the former five eighth, who played for the club between 1947 and 1963, said.

However Radford did sacrifice 'Belfast Club Day' on the Saturday to watch the gifted Bettor's Delight - Lucky Pocket colt he bred win the Group One \$150,000 Emerald for the 2-year-old pacing colts and geldings. More The Better has now won six of his 10 races and run second in the other four. His \$339,447 in stakes has come largely via his three Group One wins this season. The other two being the Cardigan Bay Stakes/Young Guns Final and the New Zealand 2yo Sires Stakes Final.

"I was cheering him on from down here. He's now the best horse I've bred. I did own Stars N Stripes and he won 15 races and more than half a million dollars.

"It's very satisfying. Patience is a virtue. I had to wait two generations to get a good one from the family," Radford said.

More The Better's dam, Lucky Pocket never raced due to a paddock accident, but her mum wasn't half bad - both on and off the racetrack!

Pleasant Franco (Bo Scots Blue Chip - Pleasant Evening) won three races and then went on to leave 12 foals including the great Christian Cullen, who won 22 of his 31 starts and \$1.2 million.

"We paid \$200,000 for her before Christian Cullen won the (New Zealand) Cup in 1998. I think she was about 11 then.

She's 29 now," Radford said.

By "we" Radford was also referring to his brother Billy and his wife Diane Richardson, who also co-bred More The Better.

Pleasant Franco also left Auckland Cup winner Kate's First (by Holmes Hannover), Oscar De La Hoya (Jaguar Spur), and Julius Caesar (In The Pocket). Radford bred the latter.

He said the Purdons and Mr Levene paid \$62,500 for More The Better at the 2015 New Zealand Premier Yearling Sales in Christchurch.

"He's the fourth of five foals left by Lucky Pocket, and after getting no return from Bettor's Delight last year she's now back in foal to him," said Radford.

He said the mare's first foal Elsambo (by Elsu) died suddenly a week before he was due to race, while Lucky Three (Mach Three) has had five placings in 25 starts.

"Her third foal - Real Lucky is a 3 colt -year-old by Real Desire. He was bought by Brent Mangos at the Sales and won a race here and has since won another six in Australia.

"Her last foal - Major Lucky is a yearling Art Major colt. Clients of Mark's (Purdon) paid \$82,500 for him at this year's Yearling sales in Christchurch.

"The dam might not have raced but her Mum's genes have certainly shone through her," Radford said.

"I'm going to watch More The Better's career very closely. I wish the owners all the very best with him," he added.

## Duane Ranger

## PARTYON

### PARTYON

#### Breeding

2013 2 B f Bettor's Delight - Beach Parade

#### Breeder

Woodlands Stud Limited

#### Lifetime

2 starts, 2 wins, \$84,525, 1.55.5

Party On (Bettor's Delight - Beach Parade) won the Group 1 \$150,000 RA & JV Yarnley 2YO Diamond. The filly, a big mover on the tote, went forward from her handy draw to easily lead, to then dictate terms in front and go on for a quality win. A great result for the

Breckon Farms - The Top Ten Syndicate at only her second race start and up against the two leading 2-year-old fillies in New Zealand, completing the 1609m in 1:55.5.

In her first two trials Partyon finished a close second to stablemate Renske B. She was very impressive winning her

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first start at Auckland on 13 May 2016 in the Lincoln Farms F&M pace.

Bred by Woodlands Stud Partyon is the second foal of Beach Parade (Beach Towel - Idle Franco - Falcon Seelster) the first being (So) Ubettabelieveit (2010 c Bettor's Delight). The colt won a 2YO Garrards Sires Stakes Heat in April 2013 before being sold to Australia from the Ray Green Barn with a race record of 10 starts, a win, \$28,110 and a best time of 1.58.7. In WA he picked up another three wins and a time of 1.55.7.

A full brother to Partyon was sold for \$44,000 to Ken Breckon at the pre-Jewels Auckland PGG Wrightson Weanling and All Age Sale. He was a standout type, and his purchase price was clearly on the bargain side of the ledger following his older sister's win at the Jewels.

Andrew Grierson, Woodlands Stud co-proprietor with Charles Roberts, told the Weekly "I bought Idle Franco as a broodmare. She had a medical issue which we fixed. I bred her initially to Il Vicolo with Idler (Lifetime: 20 starts, 3 wins, 4 seconds, 1 third, Lt \$31,232 ) being the first foal bred by us. Beach Parade was the next foal. After that only Glenferrie Idol (Bettor's Delight) with two wins had any success."

"One thing I do regret is not having more Beach Towel mares. You can see the benefit of his influence in Partyon and the weanling colt we sold recently. The colt is absolutely correct corner to corner with four very straight pins!" "Ken Breckon purchased Partyon as a



Partyon and Mark Purdon rolled straight to the lead and she won with ears pricked in a dominant time of 1:55.5

weanling for \$20,000 at the 2014 Mixed Sale having earlier purchased Linda Lovgrace (Bettor's Delight - Linda Grace) at the 2012 Mixed sale for \$26,000. He has come to us on each occasion and asked what we had and what we thought of our lots. I am delighted that he and his syndicates purchased this year's colt and wish them great success" said Andrew. "Bob Sandford purchased last year's Bettor's Delight weanling and I have heard good reports about that."

"People have asked why we sold the colt this year, especially after Partyon won first up at Auckland? When we entered him in the sale Partyon had had a couple of trial seconds to Renske B down south, a fourth at a workout and had not been to the races. The colt was there to be sold. It is a swings and roundabouts business. We had a good year last year. This year we move on! Andrew continued "we will be back

again next year: this is part of Woodlands long term strategy. We are in the market to sell weanlings and will continue to do so. This year's sale seemed to lack a full buying bench. I am not sure whether having races at Auckland that night or the Jewels the next day affected the number of buyers present, but some prominent trainers were missing."

"We bought three weanlings home, two have since sold and the last is under offer. For us the sale was a little under our estimation but that is the market.

## THE PRINCESS OF CAMBRIDGE

### PICCADILLY PRINCESS

#### Breeding

2012 3 Br f Bettor's Delight - Hyde Park Royal

#### Breeder

T W J Patterson, K E Patterson, M T Patterson

#### Lifetime

17 starts, 9 wins, 5 placings, \$347,151 and 1.53



Tim Williams and Piccadilly Princess capitalise on a sweet trip to add a Diamond to her two Oaks this season, pacing the mile in 1:53.0

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In March Breeders' Weekly caught up with Mike Ward, the breeder, and one of the owners of Piccadilly Princess (2012 Bettor's Delight - Hyde Park Royal - Holmes Hanover) the winner of the Dunstan Feeds 3YO Diamond Jewel at Cambridge just after the filly won the Group 1 Pascoe's the Jewellers Northern Oaks.

Piccadilly Princess had her debut victory at Motukarara back in September 2015. Her next win was at the February 2016 Methven heat of the Nevele R Fillies Series. Fast forward twelve days and she was repeating the dose in race record time in the Northern Oaks (Group 1) to provide breeder Mike Ward of Christchurch with what was then the biggest thrill of his life.

"Since the Northern Oaks the trip has been fantastic. Tim's (Williams) drive in the Victoria Oaks was outstanding. The Jewels win was unbelievable and now everything seems so flat! No racing after such a thrilling three months feels a bit of a let-down, but please I am not complaining. The filly is spelling up north, although we did consider going to Queensland. But Mark has spelled all three of his NZ 3YO fillies."

Since the Northern Oaks Piccadilly Princess' record over the next ten weeks, including a successful trip to Australia, has been:

- Nevele R Fillies Series Heat, Cambridge
- Victoria Oaks Heat, Melton
- Victoria Oaks (Group 1) at Melton
- 3rd Nevele R Fillies Final (Group 1), Addington
- 4th The Breeders NZ Oaks (Group 1) Addington
- 1st Dunstan Feeds 3YO Fillies Jewel (Group 1), Cambridge.

"When I left school I got involved in breeding with a fella called Kevin O'Brien and we pursued it without a lot of success. We were breeding from a few mares and not really getting any returns, so I took a share in a gelding from Jack Smolenski and that was meant to be the end of my breeding."

"This horse was quite promising and wasn't particularly well bred and I thought it went along ok, but then it all went to custard. So Jack offered

me a share in a horse that had already qualified and thought was going to be ok and that was called OK Royal (1993 g OK Bye - Mayfair Royal)."

It took a fairly handy mare in Scuse Me to shatter the national mile record in 1998 in the Noel Taylor Mile to deny OK Royal and Mike Ward his first group race success as an owner. He would get revenge the following week when winning the Group 1 New Zealand Messenger.

"We had a lot of fun with that one (\$167,455 worth of fun!) and that's what led me to take some interest in a half-sister to OK Royal at the yearling sales.

Her name was Hyde Park Royal (1996 m Holmes Hanover) and would be the dam of Piccadilly Princess.

"She had a problem with an internal injury and had to be withdrawn. I asked the vendor if I could buy it, and he ended up selling her to me. She only ended up winning one race, but I've ended up breeding from her and I've managed to get some other family members involved."

Those family members include the Patterson brothers, Thomas, Kenneth & Michael (Mike's nephews) most of whom have now assumed the helm in helping run the family business, the Commodore Hotel in Christchurch.

While the record books will show the Patterson brothers as the breeders, Thomas was quick to refer me, Uncle Mike, as the man responsible for their recent success as breeders.

"I signed the mare over to them and they've done the business really but funnily enough they've all jumped ship and even though the mare is in their name, I've got the next three foals after this one.

Probably could be worse. All of Hyde Park Royal's progeny have shown a fair amount of ability.

"Of all the foals she's had they've all qualified and most of them have won races with the only blights really being her three Red River Hanovers."

Her first three foals ended up in Australia and all won races with The Cumberland (2003 g Live Or Die) winning 12 races in Queensland.

More recently she left a Mach Three colt called Royal Mach (2009) who was good enough to place behind Ohoka Punter as a two-year-old in the Elsu Classic at Group 2 level. He also took part in the Woodlands Great Northern Derby before subsequently being sold out of the Mark Purdon barn and winning five further races in Australia.

A full sister to Royal Mach in The Royal Garden has also won five races and usually gives her best in each outing.

"Mark Purdon has her (Piccadilly Princess) full brother and they think he goes along not bad, and was about ready to qualify back in November but I haven't heard a lot since, but their foreman Duane has indicated that he looks quite nice."

"The full sister is currently being broken in by Mark Smolenski and it's early days there but he likes her too."

If those reports come to fruition, it won't be long before Mr Ward and the Patterson boys are back contesting the classics.

This breeding business really is unbelievable.

To think an un-sound gelding that was meant to be the finish of a failed breeding career was in fact what ignited it, shows just how fickle and endearing this game can be to all.

It also shows that despite all the talk about cashed-up owners buying their way to success the future of the homebred is assured, and for a breeder nothing is sweeter than to bred, own and win.





Sam Ottley extricates Rocker Band from an impossible position to win the 4YO Diamond and claim their first Group 1 race together in 1:53.3

## THE BAND IS A ROCKING AT CAMBRIDGE!

### ROCKER BAND

#### Breeding

2011 4 B m Rocknroll Hanover - Mainland Banner

#### Breeder

Glenferrie Farm Limited

#### Lifetime

24 starts, 9 wins, 5 placings, \$164,685 and 1.53.3

Breeders around the country may agree with Burnham trainer Mark Jones when he says that there is not enough races for aged mares in this country. After a brilliant drive from Sam Ottley the NRM Evolve 4YO Diamond Jewels winner Rocker Band (4m Rocknroll Hanover - Mainland Banner - Christian Cullen) seems to be heading towards the broodmare paddock.

Rocker Band is now a C8 mare after the Jewels win plus four others this season including the Southern Belle Speed Series Final (1.53.3), a heat of the Prodigal Seelster Speed Series and the Prelude to the Nelson Cup.

Owned by trainer Mark Jones Rocker Band is raced by Mark's client Greg Brodie under a racing lease. The mare will be retained by Mark as a broodmare when her racing days are

finished. She will join his other broodmare Telemecanique (2005, Falcon Seelster - Seldom Home). Telemecanique raced 56 times for 12 wins, 15 places, \$186,000 here and in the USA/Canada, with a best MR of 1.56.1. She has two foals on the ground a 2014 filly to Christian Cullen and a filly to Bettor's Delight. She is currently in foal to Bettors.

"I am very interested in the breeding side of our sport and will increase my involvement" Mark told Breeders' Weekly. "However, my main issue at the moment is the lack of opportunities to race the mares. After the Jewels Greg Brodie asked me to outline the possible races for her next season. When I told him that there were only three big mares races (The Queen of Hearts, The Standardbred Breeders Stakes, and the Mares Premier) here he was surprised. When I then said she will be joined in that grade by Dream About Me, Piccadilly Princess and Golden Goddess the enormity of the problem becomes clear."

"After the Jewels I was talking to Nigel McGrath about the issue. He put it neatly by saying that Luisanabelle Midfrew (3YO American Ideal - Lula-belle Midfrew) has gone from being the best horse in his barn to the worst because of the difficulties placing her next season."

Mark said "Looking at all those 3YO fillies and the mares that raced at Cambridge, I think that Addington should be programming a mare's race every fortnight. If the trainers and owners knew that there was going to

be conditioned races for mares then they would keep them racing. Just below the top three or four there is a group of very competitive mares here in Canterbury which next season will be joined by the rising 4YO's."

"I have explained to Greg that the only other option is to race her in Sydney where they programme mare's races on a regular basis. Or he can send her to the US as happened with Telemecanique and she returns here as a broodmare. But that seems silly when I want to race her here and we need horses."

"I have spoken to John Mooney, the owner of Luisanabelle Midfrew, and he is thinking the same. John wants to race her here as a mare but is not prepared to line her up against the boys at Addington when she comes back in September. Hopefully the changes to the handicapping system will bring concessions for fillies and mares, but initially the trial of the points systems is only up North. The only other option is the broodmare paddock which while potentially profitable seems a poor second for people who want to race their fillies and mares here in NZ."

Glenferrie Farms purchased Mainland Banner at Ian Dobson's dispersal sale and breed her to Rocknroll Hanover. The resulting filly was then acquired by Greg Brodie in a swap arrangement with Mark.

Mainland Banner (2001) Christian Cullen - Corporate Banner) was bred by Dennis and Diane Moore of Christchurch and established herself as one of our premier fillies and mares with a race and honours record that included:

- 2005 NZ Oaks
- 2005 NZ Southland Oaks
- 2005 NZ Superstars Champ
- 2005 NZ Trotting Cup
- 2005 NZ 3YO Filly Pacer of the Year
- 2006 NZ Premier Mares Championship
- 2006 NZ City of Auckland FFA
- 2006 NZ Messenger
- 2006 NZ Breeders Stakes
- 2006 NZ Addington Free-For-All
- 2006 NZ Taylor Memorial Mile
- 2006 NZ Pacer of the Year
- 2006 Harness Horse of the Year
- 2006 NZ 4YO Mare Pacer of the Year

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## CONT.

The mare has been difficult to get into foal but despite that has established a good record as a broodmare.

Her foals include Peruvian Banner (Peruvian Hanover, 1.52.2 10 wins, 16 places \$98,794 NZ/US), Stunin Banner (McArdle, 1.56.2, 13 wins and 24 places \$107,541 NZ/Aust), Return to Sender (Mach Three, 1.57.4, 8 wins, 8 places \$102,148), and Glenferrie Classic. Her last three foals were all embryo transfers. In Australia she has had a further two foals to Bettor's Delight (unnamed) and 2YO Island Banner (Rock N Roll Heaven).

The filly's grandam Corporate Banner (1996 Soky's Atom - Graceful Poplar) is the dam of the emerging stayer Titan Banner (Art Major, 27 starts, 10 wins, 10 places, \$99,713).

# THE ROOTS RUN DEEP

## CUSTODIAN

### Breeding

2012 2 B G Muscle Mass - Maia

### Breeder

Mrs J A Butt

### Lifetime

8 starts, 2 wins, 5 placings, \$ 69,733 and 1.59.6 (T)

The two year old trot division of the Harness Jewels (the Mitre 10 Mega 2YO Ruby) has one of the richest family lines history of any division with many of the starters being there by virtue of sheer raw ability.

With their still developing frames (and minds) learning the game, often getting round in one piece is a credit in itself.

Because of this, it is not uncommon to see trotting's blue blood rise to the top time and time again.

One of the all-time great trotting mares in Pride of Petite (1987 B m Royal

Prestige(USA) - Petite Evander) got the party started way back in 2007 when her daughter Petite Sunrise (2004 B m Sundon) won the first edition of the 2YO Ruby in fine fashion.

Cipollini's (1996 B m Sergio Hanover - Broomfield Ann) daughter Mercx (2005 m Dream Vacation) was a promoted winner in 2008 and she has since left a further 2 Jewels starters in Contador (3YO Ruby - 2010) and Lemond who started in the 3YO Ruby this year.

Then you have Aspiring Gal (2000 B m Sundon - Aspiring Lass) whose first filly foal gave Sam Smolenski his first Group winning drive when upsetting the hot pot The Fiery Ginga in 2009. Jinja Gal (2006 m S J's Photo) was her name. Three years later her little brother was winning the same race with the same reinsman aboard. His name? Royal Aspirations (2009 g Monarchy).

One Over Da Moon (2010 h Majestic Son) was victorious in 2013 with his mum being none other than One Over Kenny (2001 14 Ch m Sundon - Frances Jay Bee).

Monbet was the winner in 2014 and in the article detailing his win this year, you understand just how deep the blood runs in his family.

Missandei (2012 f Angus Hall) won in 2015 and she herself is out of a 3YO Ruby winner in the incredibly speedy mare Pocaro.

That brings us to the winner of the 2016 edition at Cambridge.

Bred by Jenny Butt, Custodian is the third son of the unraced Maia (2005 B m Armbro Invasion - Epona), a half-sister to trotting millionaire Vulcan who was a dual Jewels winner himself.

The family lineage is much stronger than that though and catching up with Jenny over the phone, she puts the family success down to a series of fortunate events and luck. Which while to some might seem dismissive, you really do require a little bit of luck in this breeding game, even if you make your own luck in life.

So how did Jenny become involved in a family that includes the likes of Thane-sean, Dream Machine and Vulcan?

The success starts three generations back in the family tree of Custodian with a Game Pride mare by the name of Abundant (1985 B Game Pride - First Prize).

"It was a funny situation really!" said Butt.

"One of the owners who owned half of her with us wanted to sell her, so my husband said just put her through the clearance sale so it will be fair.

"So I rang Don Mackenzie at the time because we had horses with him and said would you go halves with me because I don't really want to sell her. Don and I ended up buying her back through the clearing sale for \$300, and that's how I came to take over the breeding from the family!"



Custodian and Mark Purdon cling on win the 2YO Ruby after doing it tough in the parked position, stopping the clock in 1:59.6

## CONT.

That turned out to be a masterstroke with the first foal by Sundon being an eventual winner of 40 races and 44 placings!

"The first one I bred out of Abundant was Noam (1997 g Sundon) and we sold him for really good Money to Australia and he was a super horse."

"Another colt by Sundon produced Genius (1999g) and he was fantastic, he was unsound and had really bad knees after his three year old season. But to his credit he came back and won some more. He was just a marvellous horse, but never quite hit the big time," she said. (24 wins | 11 Placings & \$214,523 including a Group 3 in Aussie sounds alright!)

The foal that separated the two was the unraced Sundon mare Epona (1998 Sundon) who while never making it to the races for a variety of reasons, carried the family's ability through to the broodmare barn.

"I always choose the stallions because I love the breeding part of it and I'm right into the breeding. Tim had Mountbatten at the time. He was a wonderful little trotter (you can say that again). So I thought oh well, we'll try Earl and it was a really strange one that she would leave such a good one from him because he was alright Earl, but he wasn't the best one around."

"Vulcan (2006 g Earl) had a start at two but I don't usually try them at that age and usually leave them in the paddock. He was quite a good three-year old and he just went on and on and when he was sound he was unbeatable!"

Before the 10 time Group 1 winning trotter Vulcan came a plucky mare by the name of Maia.

"Maia was a really lovely trotter and she went to Motukarara and qualified really well where she won by 5 lengths. But then she had a paddock accident. She was never really sound after that, we leased her to Bernie Hackett up in the North Island and while she won her first start at Nelson, she was never 100% sound.

"Tim bred her first foal which was by Pegasus Spur and it had twisted legs. Don Mackenzie bred the next one which unfortunately died in paddock accident (Great Success) which was a shame," said Butt.

And along came Custodian! So how did the mating with Muscles Mass come about?

"I was mad about Muscle Mass and it was me who put all of our mares over him, I am just crazy about him," said Butt.

Custodian was part of an uprising by the young Muscles Yankee sire, Muscle Mass which had a phenomenal season in New Zealand in 2015/16.

Not only did he quinella the 2YO Ruby with the now Todd McFarlane trained Heavyweight Hero narrowly going under, at this late stage of the season he is also the leading sire of 2 year old trotters, both by winners and stakes.

Having initially becoming available via frozen in 2009 where he left 5 foals for 4 winners which included the likes of Zhenya and Schleck, he then stood Down Under at Barra Equine in 2012 where he served a solid book of mares eventually leaving 55 foals. All of whom are now 2 year olds.

The exciting news for breeders of trotters is that he may be on his way back this season, however whether that be via fresh or frozen semen is yet to be determined if at all.

So how did Jenny feel seeing her third Ruby winner get the job done at Cambridge? Especially given the colours of Wes Butt and her son Roddy's involvement in educating and owning a share in the horse?

"It was fantastic, it really was! It made the spine tingle and it was lovely, Wes was a big part of our lives. It was a huge thing for Roddy as it was always in his blood and he is a very good horseman in his own right. He trained 25 winners in Australia and won two junior driving championships. It's not easy for the third son in a family of horseman to cut it on his own but rugby was his love and he made a wonderful career out of it and travelled the world with it," she said with immense pride in her voice.

One of the many feel good stories to come out of Jewels day, this one was just entrenched with roots that go deep into our history of harness racing in New Zealand.

Both human, and equine.

## Brad Reid

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## NZSBA THANKS ITS PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ASSOCIATION AND MEMBERS

