



THE BREEDERS



BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This week we caught up with Canterbury breeder and current NZ Amateur Driving Series Champion John McDermott to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

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John and Christine. PAGE 3.



JEWELS FEVER FOR DONEGAL

Murray Boyd would give anything to beat the hot \$1.15 Ruby Trot Jewels favourite Marcoola, and after smashing a 19-year-old New Zealand record at Alexandra Park last Friday night, he reckons he's got the horse to do just that.

"If there's anyone I want to beat it's that 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 filly he bred and co-owns – Donegal Bettorgretch (2012 3 B f Bettor's Delight - Donegal Gretchen) smashed Galleon's Paradise's April 1997 three-year-old fillies New Zealand record by 1.6 seconds in a C1 to C3 trot last Friday.

Donegal Bettorgretch stopped the clock in 2:45.7. Going into the 2200m mobile she had already qualified fourth for the \$100,000 grand final on Saturday (June 4). The daughter of Bettor's Delight is now the \$13 fourth favourite to take out that event.

"She was very impressive. I was very proud of her. Watch out Marcoola, here we come! Be afraid Kenny," 58-year-old Boyd said.

The Cran Dalgety trained and Dexter

Dunn driven bay was the \$1.70 favourite and it was her fourth win from 12 starts since making her debut with a length-second behind Precious Moment at Ashburton on Boxing Day.

Boyd has a half-share with Dalgety's wife, Chrissie.

"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 got one of the favourites for the Jewels," Boyd said.

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 Starzz 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.

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.

"Cran trained her and Dunn drove her when she ran second in the Oaks behind Carabella. She was a lovely pacer and my foundation mare. She gave me a great introduction to racing."

"She's eight now and will hopefully have her first foal next season. She was served by Changeover in December," Boyd said.

"I've still got Chokin Hanover. I bought her and then used her for breeding purposes after she won four races. I have also bred from her and her daughters.

"Her first foal – Donegal Chokin won four races for Cran and then raced in Australia where she's won 13 races now and almost \$100,000.

"Donegal Bettorgretch could end up in Australia as well. It's something Cran and I will be talking about after the Jewels," said Boyd.

Boyd's family have been involved in harness racing since the 1920s.

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"My grandparents (Walter and Georgina Smith) won the 1930 Kaikoura Cup with their dray horse, Van Arc. I've still got the Cup behind the bar at work.

"Remarkably they drove the horse by cart from Woodend to Kaikoura via Waiiau to get it to the races."

Boyd owned-and-bred horses have set two records in 20 days this month.

On May 7 at Oamaru the Dalgety/Dunn duo combined to win the second race with 2-year-old filly Donegal Rundlescreek. The daughter of Bettor's Delight and Boyd's Creek (by Elsu) set a new 3-year-old fillies track record of 2:25.8 for the 2000m mobile.

Duane Ranger

BREEDER'S PROFILE



John and Christine.

John McDermott is a Canterbury based horseman/trainer/owner/breeder who has a lifelong tradition in harness racing. His Grandfather Eugene McDermott tragically passed while leading in the 1939 New Zealand Cup aboard Colonel Grattan with a little over 800m to run.

John has since dedicated his recent success in the Amateur driving ranks

to his Grandfather and while he may not have achieved the dizzying heights of winning a New Zealand Cup, his run of form over the last few weeks has been sublime.

John won the first three of four heats in the New Zealand Amateur Drivers Series and was crowned victorious at Rangiora last Sunday!

We caught up with the champ to find out a little bit more about his breeding exploits, and to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN HARNESS RACING?

It has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. Starting with my grandfather Eugene McDermott. McDermott Senior was driving Colonel Grattan in the 39 Cup and they were several lengths ahead of the field and looked to have the race parcelled up when McDermott had a heart attack and died. He had previously won the 1934 Cup on Indianapolis, and won the drivers premiership in the 1919/20 season with 34 and a half wins, obviously there was a dead heat included.

It might have been 77 years ago but it's a race that is stuck in time and one our family will never forget. He was just 54 and his passing and his horsemanship was the catalyst that led to my love of harness racing. My father (also Eugene) when President of The Met had the thrill of presenting the Cup to the owners of Robalan which he bred and sold with the dam Elsinore and foal at foot which even when young free legged paced. I did not want Dad to sell it but he ignored my advice, I think I was 11 or 12 at the time.

On my maternal side there is also strong trotting blood. Pat Dugan my grandfather owned the 1941 Auckland Trotting Cup winner Navy Blue when leased out, but she left a stout family including Blue and Aksarben and through her Light Brigade daughter Sailor's Love we retain the family through our tough mare Flyover.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING?

I was given a half share in Olga Korbut (1972 B m Lordship - Deft) by her breeders Ann & Andy Wilson, friends of my

parents who wished to give me a good start in the game due to my obvious enthusiasm. She won the two top 2YO races of her year and was 2YO Pacer of the Year. I wanted a filly from Deft. I was offered a share in Noodlum a few days after he was born but turned it down. Probably pulled the wrong rein!!

FIRST HORSE YOU BRED?

The first horse I bred was All Gold a Tiger Wave colt out of Olga Korbut. He was very small, won at his second start for Richard Brosnan r and I sold him to American where he won 20.

The dam's third foal Olympic Medal (Out To Win) was to this day the best horse I bred. He is also my greatest disappointment in racing and breeding. He won two races and then got kicked. He easily beat the best of his era one night at Addington. He later got kicked by another horse and after trying to get him right to no avail he was retired.

FIRST WINNER YOU BRED?

All Gold.

WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBRED?

I have always had the passion for breeding. Every spring I look forward to seeing the mares foaling and the babies arriving.

I am not the most technical of breeders. I look at the stallions and their dams and try to see what has worked with them. I go to a few new stallions but generally like going to the proven ones.

FAVOURITE HORSE YOU BRED?

Has to be Flyover (2006 9 Br m Live Or Die - City Plan - Camtastic) because of the long family connection and what she did for us as a race mare. Her mother was very very small and was so small Dad got a free return. I refused to allow him to put her down. My brother Maurice thought that she was too small to breed from and would produce small foals but I persisted as her size was caused by her premature arrival. She never left a small foal but died foaling far too young!

Flyover is in foal to Mach Three a sire who can leave an exceptional horse,

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so we keep hoping!.

I love the Live or Die toughness coupled with the strength introduced by Cam-tastic and his sire Cam Fella.

FAVOURITE STALLION?

Christian Cullen was a great race-horse. I have three broodmares by him including Supreme Gen (1.53.7) out of the speedy Flying Sands (11 wins) by Sands A Flyin. Gem won eight races and \$80,000 for us and following her second broken pastern two days after her great mile time was retired.

While they are out of favour because they need time I also love training Changeovers as they are so easy to handle which suits an older fellow like me.

I also think Badlands Hanover will do a good job as a broodmare sire.

HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

Supreme Gem - Bettor's Delight
Flyover - Mach Three
Beardsley (Christian Cullen - Balance) - Prodigal Seelster
Brookside Babe (Badlands Hanover - Tiara Franco) - Gold Ace
Jenna Franco (Live or Die - Joys Girl) - A Rocknroll Dance
Curve (Courage Under Fire - Sly and Stylish) - Auckland Reactor
Consumate (Island Fantasy - Take My Arm) - He's Watching

THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE IN THE INDUSTRY?

It is a very difficult time. There are no easy solutions. We lack young breeders but it is impossible to attract them if it is not going to pay. The sales middle market has devalued and lacks buyers. It is not PGGW's fault. There are simply not the people about with plenty of money who are attracted to our sport.

Also the dominance for four or five stallions is making it hard for other studs to survive. Therefore it is very hard in this market for other studs to get a new stallion from North America and then gain the support stallions owners require as a return.



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.

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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

Contact the N.Z. Sires Stakes Board

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



WHOSE YA DADDY | SIRE LEADERBOARD | HARNES JEWELS

Ruby | SIRE OVERALL

Monarchy | 5
Sundon | 5
Dream Vacation | 4
Earl | 3
Majestic Son | 3
Pegasus Spur | 2
Muscles Yankee | 1
Armbro Invasion | 1
Angus Hall | 1
Love You | 1
S J's Photo | 1

4YO Ruby | Sires

Dream Vacation | 2
Earl | 2
Majestic Son | 1
Monarchy | 1
Muscles Yankee | 1
Sundon | 1
Armbro Invasion | 1

3YO Ruby | Sires

Sundon | 3
Monarchy | 2
Dream Vacation | 1
Pegasus Spur | 1
Earl | 1
Majestic Son | 1

2YO Ruby | Sires

Angus Hall | 1
Love You | 1
Majestic Son | 1
Monarchy | 2
Pegasus Spur | 1
S J's Photo | 1
Dream Vacation | 1
Sundon | 1

Diamond (Fillies & Mares) | SIRE OVERALL

Bettor's Delight | 7
Christian Cullen | 5
Mach Three | 4
Badlands Hanover | 3
McArdle | 1
Courage Under Fire | 1
Falcon Seelster | 1
Riverboat King | 1
Soky's Atom | 1
American Ideal | 1
Real Desire | 1

4YO Diamond | Sires

Badlands Hanover | 3
Bettor's Delight | 3
McArdle | 1
Courage Under Fire | 1
Christian Cullen | 1

3YO Diamond | Sires

Mach Three | 2
Bettor's Delight | 2
Christian Cullen | 1
Falcon Seelster | 1
Riverboat King | 1
Soky's Atom | 1
American Ideal | 1

2YO Diamond | Sires

Christian Cullen | 3
Mach Three | 2
Bettor's Delight | 2
Art Major | 2
Real Desire | 1

Emerald (Colts & Geldings) | SIRE OVERALL

Bettor's Delight | 6
Christian Cullen | 5
Art Major | 4
Mach Three | 4
McArdle | 2
In The Pocket | 2
Sand's A Flyin | 1
Courage Under Fire | 1
Badlands Hanover | 1
Grinfromeartear | 1
Western Terror | 1

4YO Emerald | Sires

Christian Cullen | 3
Art Major | 1
Western Terror | 1
McArdle | 1
Mach Three | 1
In The Pocket | 1
Sand's A Flyin | 1

3YO Emerald | Sires

Bettor's Delight | 3
Art Major | 1
Courage Under Fire | 1
Mach Three | 2
McArdle | 1
In The Pocket | 1

2YO Emerald | Sires

Bettor's Delight | 3
Badlands Hanover | 1
Art Major | 2
Mach Three | 1
Grinfromeartear | 1
Christian Cullen | 1

SUNDON MARE ON THE BALLE!

Raelene Balle is more than the rock of her Pukekohe family.

The mother of three and wife to Group One winning trainer Derek, is starting to

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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

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make her own impression in harness racing.

Many times a winning owner, Balle is now starting to make an impact on the breeding scene with her foundation mare, Cool Kahli (1998 17 B m Sundon - Cool Store - Sergio Hanover).

That now 17-year-old bay landed her fifth New Zealand winner when foal number four of six, Mr Good And Evil easily won his maiden trot at Alexandra Park last Friday night.

The Skyvalley 3-year-old gelding was the \$10.70 eighth favourite in the nine-horse field. It was his first win in three starts.

Two of Balle's three children had a part to play in the naming of the young squaregaiter.

"The dam Cool Kahli was named after my 17-year-old daughter, while my youngest Hunter (10) named Mr Good and Evil.

"Hunter was obsessed with Lego mini-figures at the time we named the horse and his favourite was Mr Good and Evil. The figurine had a twist-around head which had a good face on one side and evil on the other," Balle said.

And Friday's win came a day before Balle's 39th birthday, which she celebrated at a wedding in Queenstown.

"You never ask a lady how old she is Duane, so just tell the readers I'm 39 again. I didn't get to the track on Friday night because I was preparing for my flight to Queenstown to celebrate Kenny Baynes and Joelle Calder's wedding.

"Derek trained Cool Cobber for Kenny as well as War Machine who has drawn eight in the 2-year-old Ruby Trot Final at Cambridge next Saturday.

But Friday's winner, Mr Good And Evil, was trained and driven by Brent Mangos. A six-strong ownership spear-headed by Auckland horseman Tim Vince and his partner Sheryl Wigg paid \$20,000 for the bay at the 2014 Australasian Classic Yearling Sale at Karaka.

"He was the mare's fourth colt in a row

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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.

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so we didn't mind selling him. I think he's got a bright future. It was a lovely drive by 'Mango'," Balle said.

The winner's dam won seven of her 41 starts and just under \$40,000 before being retired to the broodmares' paddock in March 2005.

"She's a big mare and did a good job for us and we always thought she might make a nice broodmare one day. Her dam - Cool Store (by Sergio Hanover) won five races," said Balle.

Cool Kahli's first foal - a now 9-year-old hack named Capt'n Commando (by CR Commando) placed four times in 14 starts in New Zealand before being given away to friends as a riding horse.

Balle said foal number two - The Duke Abides (by Continentalman) is the best horse she has bred so far.

"He won one race here and then we sold him to Australia in 2012 and he has gone on to win many more including a Group Two.

"After him came King Of Cool (By Monarchy) who we sold at the 2011 Yearling Sales (Karaka) to Jason and Megan Teaz. He won three races here before they sold him to Australia (2014). He's six now and still racing and has now won eight races."

Cool Kahli slipped to Skyvalley in 2011 but just over a year later Mr Good And Evil was born.



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"We went to Skyvalley because we wanted to introduce a bit of speed into the Sundon breed. I think Mr Good And Evil showed that the other night when he won easily," Balle said.

The first filly out of the mare is a September 2014 foal named Kimkar Dash who is also out of Skyvalley.

"We took her to the Sales this year and she was passed in which suited us fine, because we want to breed from her and race her. Like I said she's a bit precious because up until then she was the only girl we got out of the mare," Balle said.

Then last year along came an unnamed Pegasus Spur filly.

"She's a weanling and is progressing well. Cool Kahli is not in foal this season. We decided to leave her empty," her breeder said.

Balle, who is one of four organisers for the annual North Island Harness Racing Awards, said she was loving the breeding game and hoped to breed from more mares in the future.

"It's a great feeling winning any race but to watch a horse win after you have seen him or her being born, then develop into a weanling, a yearling, and then finally a racehorse is an amazing feeling.

"Cool Kahli has done a good job and I don't think she has bred her last winner yet. There's still plenty of life. She's only 17," said Balle.

"Now for the Jewels," she added.

The Balles will have two, possibly three starters, in the 2016 Jewels Final at Cambridge Raceway this weekend.

"As well as War Machine (8) in the 2-year-old trot we will have Kenrick (1) starting in the 3-year-old pacing Emerald. Then there's Ideal World in the same race. He has draw 12 and is the first emergency – but he's ready to go a big one," said Balle.

The Balles have placed in a Jewels Final before when Sir George Gray ran third behind King Denny and Monseigneur in the 3-year-old Emerald Trot at Cambridge Raceway two years ago.

Duane Ranger



ROYAL VISIT AT FORBURY!

Brad and Phil Williamson join Reg Caldwell and his talented filly Danielle Amore after her victory at Forbury last Thursday

Wellington breeder Reg Caldwell had a special week with winners in both the North & South Islands as well as a winner across the Tasman.

The most interesting (hard to say when all his breed are blue bloods) came down at little old Forbury Park in Dunedin.

Reg made the trip down from the capital to see his blue blood trotter Danielle Amore (3 f Love You - Danielle Daunou) turn out for her second race day start. It's a long way to go to watch a maiden trot on a cold Thursday night, but the daughter of Love You obliged impressively!

Danielle Amore is out of the beautifully bred mare Danielle Daunou purchased at the Melbourne Yearling Sales.

"I really stole her and to be fair Dave Phillips was instrumental in her purchase. I didn't understand much about her blood at the time but Dave did and he said if you buy her you will never

regret it. I think I paid \$8000 for her and then shipped her back to New Zealand, said Caldwell.

"She is by Yankee Paco (Balanced Image) who is out of a mare called Yankee Playgirl who is a full sister to Maiden Yankee and she is the dam of Muscles Yankee. On the dam side her mother was by Buvetier D'Aunou (Royal Prestige - Nesmile). Buvetier D'Aunou's dam is one of the best dams in France being the grand dam of Love You.

"Around the time that we bought Danielle Daunou we knew the Love You French blood was making its way into New Zealand and decided that she would be an excellent mating with the French stallions coming forward.

"I also knew she was from one of the best dam sides in New Zealand. Her grand dam Adella Lobell (Speedy Sommolli - Arcane Rainbow) is the second dam of Speeding Spur." Danielle Daunou is currently in foal to Peak.

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Standardbred

Classic Families

Discover The Performance Behind The Pedigree



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How's that for some breeding?

"These aren't just good dams and sires. They're great dams and sires in the pedigrees so there is amazing blood in there."

After galloping away on debut and losing considerable ground, the three year old filly recovered well to only go down a neck after working hard to tack back on to the field. On the back of that she was sent out a warm favourite for her second start and subsequent victory.

"She's taken a bit of getting organised. You know what trotters are like. Phil has had to go quietly with her if you like in order to not destroy her confidence. She was hitting a knee there initially but he now has her trotting squarely!

"While she still puts in some rough ones, basically it's because she doesn't realise it doesn't hurt anymore. She's expecting it to hurt. She's freed up really really well and what we've seen in her two starts is she's got a great ticker, lots of heart and she wants to be there. She looks as though she could be a bit special", said Caldwell.

The weekend got better for Reg when he flew to Auckland to see his 2YO Star Galleria (2013 2 B g Art Major - Starlitnight) win his maiden start in Race 8. His dam Starlitnight (1994 Tuapeka Knight - Star Of Bethlehem) is of course a full sister to Light and Sound and Stars and Stripes.

Three of Starlitnight's other progeny held NZ records being Night & Stars (Christian Cullen), Star of Van Gogh (Christian Cullen) and Star of Venus (Art Major), the dam of Star of Dionysis (American Ideal).

At Ballarat on Saturday another Caldwell bred mare that New Zealand trotting fans will be familiar with, Zhenya (2010 Muscle Mass - Starcus) won a T1 trot off a huge handicap.

Three nights. Three different venues. Three wins as owner and breeder. A good weekend I would say!

Brad Reid



COURNANE'S SOUTHERN 'ALL-STARS' HORSE HOTEL

Grove Bush horse lover Diane Cournane and husband Noel operate an 'all-stars' hotel for harness racing's elite in Southland.

Her paying guests have included a list of harness household names including Hands Christian (13 wins \$330,824), Smolda (27 wins \$1,518,824), King Denny (10 wins \$258,794) and includes the sports latest pinup boy Have Faith In Me (14 wins \$1,381,274).

Understandably the four year old wasn't exactly roaring around the paddock as he recovered from a fairly arduous campaign that culminated in a sensational win in the Group One Miracle Mile with an Australasian record of 1-47.5.

"He's fairly tired but that's understandable as he's done a few miles. I'm feeding him 10 kgs of fattening food twice a day with my own brew and there's plenty of grass here as well," said "landlady" Diane Cournane.

The diminutive gelding is no stranger to the Grove Bush meadows. He was a boarder after winning at Ashburton in July 2014, when he arrived as a colt and left as a gelding.

In amongst the paying guests Diane still has room for her own band of mares and talented racehorses, including world record holder Fight For Glory

(2400 metres mobile 2-50.3).

The large rolling 10 acre paddocks at the Cournane's Diamond Head Lodge 25 minutes from Invercargill have become the R and R HQ for Australasian's most successful harness racing stable of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen.

The horses sent from the All Stars stable are those that require time to mature, time to rest, or a grassy paddock as part of their retirement package - like Hands Christian. He is now a part of the furniture on the farm although when I paid a visit there last week to do this story he was away on loan doing some trekking.

Diane Cournane doesn't get any instructions from her clients and often not too much warning as to when the next four-legged guests are arriving.

"I just get a call from Majestic (horse transporters) who say 'horses coming.' Or sometimes Mark (Purdon) rings and says one is coming down and there's four on the truck. I always say to him can you not count?" said Diane with her familiar laugh.

But she welcomes all, gives them all the same care and attention and gains great enjoyment out of being the 'housemaid' to these horses.

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"When you see them win you feel a part of it because you know them."

Diamond Head Lodge is 150 acre farm which has beef cattle and sheep to help keep the pastures healthy.

Back a few years ago I suspect Noel was running a normal farming operation with a few horses. But the horse business, as it sometimes does, has taken over.

"Diane is the boss so I get the best paddocks," says the former hairdresser who has recently sold up and retired for the horse hotel business.

Mark Purdon has been sending horses south ever since he started training in Canterbury at his former Yaldhurst Road stables.

"He trained Christiansheritage (Christian Cullen) for me (in 2003) when he moved to Yaldhurst Road in Christchurch. She was the first Christian Cullen to be born. He just said to me one day will you take some horses to spell. We take the ones that stay for three or four months. Owners in Christchurch just have small paddocks whereas here they get out into 10 acre paddocks."

It's obviously been a winning formula and without doubt part of the success that Purdon and Rasmussen have enjoyed over the last few years.

The horses come south for a wide range of reasons. The very talented Didjamakem Bolt has been a regular 'client', He's owned by Cournane's biggest clients, Australians Merv and Meg Butterworth.

"He's (Didjamakem Bolt) got bone issues. It's almost like a baby with chalky bones. Every time they get him up he seems to go. Merv says just send them to horse heaven as he calls it."

All enjoying the lush grass which is hard to find in Canterbury even in the best season.

"In the winter they get hard fed with lucerne and baleage. Marks leaves it up to me and I just send them back when they're right."

Brought up around horses, her father Don McRae senior trained and drove standardbreds working for Bob Townley at Nightcaps and Jim Flynn at Wairio before training in his own right. Diane's sister Wendy Blakie of Oturehua has bred a host of winners from Princess Della including Kyvalley Mac (12 wins) and Just A Cracker (11 wins).

Diane's first venture into breeding and racing was with McWay (Knowing Bret - New Way) trained by Doody and Kevin Townley.

From a limited racing career she won two races before she was retired.

One of her first foals was My Name's Good (Nero's BB).

"She never raced as she had dreadful feet. She had one workout and won by 16 lengths. Dad trained her."

My Name's Good proved to be a real gem at stud providing the Cournanes with their next generation of racing stock. She left Anvil's Top Gun (Christian Cullen) the winner of seven races, Breath Of Life (Village Jasper) also seven wins, and Make Mine Roses one win.

It was Breath Of Life that provided Cournane with her first quality race mare.

Initially trained by Ben Waldron she won twice for the Ashburton trainer before Mark Purdon took over.

"Mark drove her at the trials one day and rang me and said "Diane, what are you doing with Breath Of Life?" I said she was coming home to be a broodmare. He said that he wanted to take her to Auckland so I said that's okay but if she doesn't win you can keep her as a broodmare. So he now says to me "Can I have her as a broodmare?"

She won a further five races for Purdon including a five-length win over Kiwi Ingenuity in the 2009 Breeders Stakes at Alexandra Park in Auckland. She was the first mare in New Zealand to break the 2-40.0 mark for 2200 metres mobile. Her winning time of 2-39.8 was also a New Zealand record.

She also provided Mark Purdon with his 1000th training win when she won at Alexandra Park in September 2009

when driven by Jordon Compain. Breath Of Life along with her half-sister Make Mine Roses (Washington VC) and Nitouche Franco (Soky's Atom) are the three mares Diane and Noel are breeding from at the moment.

Nitouche Franco has provided the couple with quality racehorses All Star Man, (8 wins) and Whisper Jet (6 wins).

But it has been Breath Of Life that's been a bit of a revolution at stud.

Her first foal by Art Major recently won the \$200,000 Group One NSW Oaks in world record time. She was purchased by Mark Purdon for just \$20,000 at the 2013 Sale of the Stars in Christchurch.

"There was a mess up and she was presented in the wrong order. The sale was declared null and void and she was supposed to go into the sale the next day. I refused and Mark said "She's mine and she's not going up (for sale again)." She was one of the few horses Mark has bought without looking at."

Purdon offered Cournane a share in the filly and the ownership group was completed by Ann Gibbs (wife of former galloping trainer Jim Gibbs), Dean Illingworth who also shared in the ownership of Breath Of Life, John and Gaylene Tait and Lyn Tucker (wife of Ivan Tucker former galloping trainer).

Fight For Glory was recently retired after winning 14 races and \$674,842.

There is no doubt that Diamond Head Lodge is part of the current success of The All Stars Stable of Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen and that the pasture Noel and Diane Cournane grow coupled with the Southland weather toughens and nurtures both old and young horses.

Diane enjoys being part of this success and finds pleasure in giving horses her individual attention whether they be her own or some of her star boarders.

A royal relationship.

Bruce Stewart

2017 YEARLING SALES

UPDATE TO BREEDERS

Totals and averages are not across the board benefits to everyone, but it must be said, the 2016 Yearling Sales produced a very good result on the back of a very good result the previous year. Certainly the Sales have climbed back hugely in the four years since the low point in 2012 after the World Economic Crisis.

The amazing stat of 2016 was that nationally 53 individual purchasers spent over \$100,000 and of those 53, 21 of them were trainers. Outstanding.

All the reviews and feedback received since the sales in February indicates that the sale format meets the consensus of Vendors' wishes. The only fine-tuning might be the selection of the two days in Christchurch down to around 340 - 350 entries next year.

One facet that wasn't successful this year was the sound at Christchurch on the first day. It was improved on the second day and new speakers have since been trialled in the roof of the arena. As well next year in Christchurch electronic indicator boards will be introduced to highlight the lot number of the horse in the ring to both the inside and outer parade areas.

There was some irony that the sound at Karaka wasn't to its usual high standard either. They did have an excuse though. The latest local fad of having bicycles and vehicles mounted with speakers saw over 100 speakers stolen from the complex just prior to the sale.

In conjunction with the Sires' Stakes Board, opportunities are being looked at to widen the appeal of the Yearling Sales Race Series. After 26 years this series continues to be a great stimulus to the sales. In addition some interest has been expressed in an option to televise the sales live, although South Island vendors in the main have indicated they favoured giving precedence to the Race Series as long as the sale was still webcast live.

Looking ahead to the 2017 Sales involves many variables around dates of race meetings and feature races on both sides of the Tasman. Simply said though, we cannot get access to Karaka for a minimum of 10 days after the thoroughbred sales conclude on 5 February and the Miracle Mile is set for 26 February in Sydney. So realistically it just leaves one window of opportunity:

Selling at Karaka on Monday 20 February and then in Christchurch on Tuesday 21 and Wednesday 22 February.

Entries for 2017 will be called for in July and inspected over the month of August. Entry forms will be available to download from www.standardbred.co.nz in July.

THE BREEDERS | JEWELS HONOUR BOARD

The table below is a wonderful example of how diverse our industry is! As we approach the 10th running of the Harness Jewels, it is fair to say the concept has captured the imagination of not only the harness racing sport in New Zealand, but across the Tasman and also in the other codes.

A great stat to come from the data is that our country's most influential and prolific breeder in Charles Roberts of Auckland has bred the same number of Jewels winners as Rangiora's Dennis Bennett and Linda Joyce.

Both have four.

Given the latter only picked up the harness game and breeding a little over a decade ago, it is an incredible achievement.

To the rest of the breeders around the country who have bred one good enough to win a Jewels title, we salute you! Good luck to breeders across the country this weekend who have starters in the nine Group 1's on Saturday!

4YO Ruby

2015: **King Denny** | Breeder: D J Bennett, Ms L A Joyce

2014: **Sheemon** | Breeder: S R Moffatt, Mrs B E Moffatt, W J Bishop, Mrs H M Bishop

2013: **Cyclone U Bolt** | Breeder: A S Lowe, Mrs A E Macfarlane

2012: **Charlemagne** | Breeder: Alta Breeding Co Ltd

2011: **Vulcan** | Breeder: Mrs J A Butt, D J McKenzie

2010: **Can Doosit** | Breeder: Breckon Bloodstock Ltd

2009: **Leighton Hest** | Breeder: C J Campbell

2008: **Springbank Richard** | Breeder: R A Smith, Mrs D J Smith

2007: **Stig** | Breeder: Jessleigh Harness Bloodstock Limited

3YO Ruby

2015: **Sunny Ruby** | Breeder: W F Fletcher

2014: **King Denny** | Breeder: D J Bennett, Ms L A Joyce

2013: **Prime Power Breeder**: B L Macey

2012: **Cyclone U Bolt** | Breeder: A S Lowe, Mrs A E Macfarlane

2011: **Paramount Gee Gee** | Breeder: G F Gimblett, Studholme Bloodstock Limited



CONT.

2010: **Vulcan** | Breeder: Mrs J A Butt, D J McKenzie

2009: **Pocaro** | Breeder: T G Casey, K M Barron, G S Allen

2008: **Sovereignty** | Breeder: Roydon Lodge Stud Ltd

2007: **Springbank Richard** | Breeder: R A Smith, Mrs D J Smith

2YO Ruby

2015: **Missandei** | Breeder: T G Casey

2014: **Monbet** | Breeder: G P Hope, Mrs N M Hope

2013: **One Over Da Moon** | Breeder: L E Williams, Mrs H R Williams

2012: **Royal Aspirations** | Breeder: Roydon Lodge Stud Ltd: Keith & Rob Gibson

2011: **Flying Isa** | Breeder: Miss K S Kearns

2010: **Kylie Ree** | Breeder: Silverdale West Melton Ltd

2009: **Jinja Gal** | Breeder: Sir Roy Mackenzie

2008: **Mercx** | Breeder: R O Paynter, H N Paynter

2007: **Petite Sunrise** | Breeder: F R Weaver

2yo Diamond

2015: **Dream About Me** | Breeder: C J Roberts

2014: **Supersonic Miss** | Breeder: Roger Bazley Syndicate

2013: **Venus Serena** | Breeder: R L Sandford, Mrs J A Sandford

2012: **Onlyforyou** | Breeder: C H Barlow, Mrs T J Barlow

2011: **Cowgirls N Indians** | Breeder: R C Johnson

2010: **Bettor Cover Lover** | Breeder: D J Bennett, Ms L A Joyce

2009: **Gotta Go Harmony** | Breeder: Mrs S J Martin

2008: **Lauraella** | Breeder: R A Yarndley, Mrs J V Yarndley

2007: **Lizzie Maguire** | Breeder: R L Kennedy

3YO Diamond

2015: **The Orange Agent** | Breeder: Mrs P C Green, J P Green, Mrs M E Green, P C Bult

2014: **Venus Serena** | Breeder: R L Sandford, Mrs J A Sandford

2013: **Adore Me** | Breeder: C J Roberts

2012: **O Baby** | Breeder: B J Whitelock, Mrs C J Whitelock

2011: **Carabella** | Breeder: Cavalla Bloodstock Limited

2010: **De Lovely** | Breeder: Les Girls No 2 Syndicate

2009: **Joyfuljoy** | Breeder: C J Barron, A R McDonald

2008: **Safin** | Breeder: M J Noble, Mrs R L Noble

2007: **Running on Faith** | Breeder: Mrs K D McMurtry

4YO Diamond

2015: **Lancewood Lizzie** | Breeder: J W Wood

2014: **Adore Me** | Breeder: C J Roberts

2013: **Elusive Chick** | Breeder: D W McDonald

2012: **Pembroke's Delight** | Breeder: W D Power, Mrs G L Power

2011: **Lancome** | Breeder: J W Smolenski

2010: **Beaudiene Bad Babe** | Breeder: W D Kennedy

2009: **Kiwi Ingenuity** | Breeder: H A Scott, Dr K M Lawson, Equine Investments Ltd

2008: **Nearea Franco** | Breeder: Spreydon Lodge Ltd

2007: **GTH Aveross** | Breeder: R E Pettitt, Mrs A G Pettitt

2YO Emerald

2015: **Lazarus** | Breeder: G Chin, Studholme Bloodstock Limited

2014: **Beaudiene Boaz** | Breeder: W D Kennedy

2013: **Sky Major** | Breeder: B A Hedger, Mrs H A Hedger, G Sweeney

2012: **Five Card Draw** | Breeder: J H Abernethy, W S Abernethy

2011: **Fly Like An Eagle** | Breeder: Harshell Investments Pty Ltd, Chyra Pty Ltd

2010: **Major Mark** | Breeder: A N Rich, Mrs J E Rich

2009: **Smiling Shard** | Breeder: Mrs D E Smith, C M Smith

2008: **Highview Tommy** | Breeder: A M Clark

2007: **Ohoka Arizona** | Breeder: Mrs K Carville, D T Carville

3YO Emerald

2015: **Have Faith In Me** | Breeder: C J Roberts

2014: **Sky Major** | Breeder: B A Hedger, Mrs H A Hedger, G Sweeney

2013: **Border Control** | Breeder: Farquharson Pty Ltd

2012: **Smolda** | Breeder: P B Blackshaw

2011: **Gold Ace** | Breeder: D G Moore

2010: **Sir Lincoln** | Breeder: J F Street, Mrs S L Street, G G Blackburn, Mrs E Blackburn

2009: **Tintin In America** | Breeder: B E Pears

2008: **Fiery Falcon** | Breeder: B Sandford

CONT.

2007: **Changeover** | Breeder: R G Carr,
D G Kirkbride

4YO Emerald

2015: **Sky Major** | Breeder: B A Hedger,
Mrs H A Hedger, G Sweeney

2014: **Franco Nelson** | Breeder:
Spreydon Lodge Ltd

2013: **Christen Me** | Breeder: C J
Roberts

2012: **Terror to Love** | Breeder:
T McDonald

2011: **Franco Emirate** | Breeder:
Spreydon Lodge Ltd

2010: **Tintin In America** | Breeder: B E
Pears

2009: **Auckland Reactor** | Breeder: A J
Parker

2008: **Changeover** | Breeder: R G Carr,
D G Kirkbride

2007: **Monkey King** | Breeder: Mrs J M
Sharples, Mrs L K Lewis, M J Lewis

Overall Tally | Multiple Jewels Winning Breeders'

C J Roberts | 4

D J Bennett, Ms L A Joyce | 4

Spreydon Lodge | 3

B A Hedger, Mrs H A Hedger,
G Sweeney | 3

B E Pears | 2

W D Kennedy | 2

Studholme Bloodstock | 2

T McDonald | 2

Alta Breeding Co | 2

R L Sandford, Mrs J A Sandford | 2

Roydon Lodge Stud | 2

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

