



NZSBA



# BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This week we caught up with a Southland breeder and Winton local, Michelle Caig, to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles. (October Rain – above winning at Timaru)

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## MOGUL OF THE COAST

James Geddes and Mogul claim victory at Westport last Friday to record the first of his two victories on the Coast

Jim and James Geddes can claim a healthy treble with the stock of American Ideal.

For a start, it was Magna, one of his first crop who won six. They recently sold unraced 3-year-old Daytona for big money – “he’s got push-button speed”, says James – and he’s just arrived in Perth. And Mogul gave them the third reason to praise the stock of the horse by winning on debut at Westport and then again two days later at Reefton.

From a lot of American Ideals, James says Daytona “is the best we’ve had.”

But Magna was good and Mogul has surprised them.

“They’re an unknown quantity until you take them out, but nothing worries him and he eats everything. He did the best of the four we took to the Coast,” he said.

As well as winning with Mogul at Reefton, they also won with Bontz, another they have by American Ideal. This daily double was the first for them since the trotter Pine Tree and the pacer Dirt Cheap won at Blenheim in January, 2006.

Bontz is from Blue Delight, one of the first crop sired by Bettor’s Delight when he arrived at Woodlands. She was from Riviera Blue Jean, a Beach Towel mare from the family of Black Watch the Geddes bought as a yearling. They had no pleasure handling her.

**“WE COULDN’T GET A SHOE ON HER, SO WE NEVER BOTHERED,” SAID JAMES.**

They bred three and stopped. One was Blue Delight, but she was never tried after getting caught up in the jogging machine. Other than Bontz, she has left a filly, now two, by American Ideal.

Mogul is from a super family of good performers over many generations with Star Lady and Village Lady being the more recent principals. Star Lady, the winner of five for Brian Owens, was a remarkable broodmare leaving 10 winners, notably Village Rogue (9 wins), Village Raider (6), Village Chief (11), Clever Rogue (3 from 7), Village Rose (5) and Village Lady (5).

By Equitable II, Village Lady was used by Clarrie Sprutt – now retired in Hastings – to breed Village Sarti (3 wins), Village Lord (4) and Village Club (2).

Sprutt was a neighbour and when he moved north he asked the Geddes to look after Village Lady and the largesse was the part ownership and breeding of Mogul, and a 2-year-old sister.

There are still a few to come – “we’re not short of horses”, says James – but with four mares in foal this season, the number being bred is a bit less than what it has been. They’re all trotters: the good mare Dixie Commando who won seven, is in foal to Majestic Son, and so are J D Gee, J D Spur, a Pegasus Spur mare who ran second to Escapee in the New Zealand Oaks, and Galleons Tribute, the dam of Dixie Commando who foaled a colt this season to Andover Hall.

Magna has left a stunning filly by Bettor’s Delight, her first foal, and she’s not been served.

“She’s always on the move and she’s put everything into the foal,” said James.

**Mike Grainger**

# BREEDER'S PROFILE



Michelle Caig

**Michelle Caig is a Southland breeding identity who is as tough as they come. Having just been kicked in the mouth by a yearling on a cold and shitty Invercargill day, the Southlander took a few painkillers, had a cup of tea and was good enough to chat to the NZSBA regarding her involvement and passion for the industry. Michelle is a well-respected preparer for the sales and while her City Lane/The Pres yearling was passed in, sold her American ideal colt out of Zoe's Charm (half sister to Holmes DG) for a tidy \$30,000.**

**Her progeny as a breeder continue to race well as the Gavin Smith barn showed on Sunday, winning with He's Like The Wind by a massive six length margin. This is what she had to say!**

## WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN HARNESS RACING?

Initially when I was a kid I rode gallopers and other horse. Race Courses, as a kid, always had an appeal. They really do, the grandstands etc I can remember going to Addington as a kid and having a hot dog etc and you don't forget those things. My interest peaked a little later when I would watch harness racing on the television and the very first thing that comes to mind is Holmes DG coming

back to win a major race. For some random reason Merinai (whom she now owns) she was just there that particular year and as it turns out, we now have Holmes DG's half-sister in the paddock, and Merinai, Sun Mist (who is out of Merinai) and a Majestic Son filly out of her. So I've got three generations and to be honest they're the only three broodmares I need!

## HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING STANDARDBREDS?

I got into breeding when my children rode, so initially I started out breeding ponies. Once they got a bit older and the ponies went by the wayside, I paid for my first standardbred service fee, 18 years ago. It was never a commercial cause, it was just something I was good at and enjoyed!

## FIRST HORSE YOU BRED?

It was a colt out of Mistequila called (Its) Mistefire (Courage Under Fire 2003g) and Tim Butt bought him for \$30,000 before he went to Australia.

## FIRST RACE WINNER YOU BRED?

It would have been Mistefire (won a race at Bunbury, WA), he only had about six starts for a win and a second so I assume he broke down over there.

## WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBREDS?

This time of year it's a bloody good question isn't it? WHY! Regardless of money and stature or anything like that, you've got to have a passion worth getting out of bed every day for. I'm probably doing a lot better than some, even though I do battle along a bit on my own down here, you know I've done well enough each year to keep going. From now on, as much as I've got five mares, four are totally fertile but I'm only going to breed two first class foals a year to the commercial stallions because otherwise you're wasting your time when you head to the sales.

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

Well there's a few. At the moment probably He's Like The Wind because of that lovely NZMTC Breeders Bonus he just picked up! My very own mares

are consistently producing horses that are winning. I actually bought Flem N Em at a mixed stock sale for \$8000 and sold him for \$30,000 eight months later. It's been pretty neat watching him win over \$600,000 in his career to date.

I love (and bred) October Rain that Sun Mist had. She's been plagued by stifle problems and Gavin Smith said she could have been anything without those issues. She's won some very nice races to date and is currently in foal to Muscle Hill!

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE STALLION OF ALL TIME?

To be honest I'll say Angus Hall right now, because Sun Mist is in foal to him (Laughs). But I have a lot of favourites, Majestic Son and Bacardi Lindy. I think it's more about statistics and their commercial value to me!

## HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

I've got Chloe Finn in foal to American Ideal, Sun Mist is in foal to Angus Hall, Zoe's Charm who is Holmes DG's half-sister is in foal to Bettors Delight and City Lane in foal to Bacardi Lane. I don't think I can do much better than that!

Keiran Read's parents own a Bacardi Lindy 3 year-old filly that I bred called Gin (Vein of Gold) which is trained by Tony Herlihy. It's nice having owners like that racing your horses. It has had four starts for a third and a good second at its last start in late February.

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

I would like to see the Jewels reward breeders of trotters with races for their own sexes. We've always been the poorer cousins to the pacers and I don't believe the colts and fillies should have to race against each other. In pacing the boys and girls don't have to race each other so why should they for trotters? I know Fred Fletcher's a big advocate of the change, and the trotters are starting to come on as a breed. More and more are being bred, we have access to better bloodlines and while there are really good juvenile trotting races in April/May, I think the Jewels should have single sex races for both gaits.



# SPUD GETS IT DONE FOR BREEDER

Ray Warwick congratulates Dexter Dunn on getting his pride and joy, Arran Chief home at Oamaru last year

The man who used to drive Richie McCaw to and from his rugby games when he was a youngster landed a winner at Forbury Park last Thursday night.

Kurow bus driver Ray Warwick bred and owns Arran Chief, the brown 7-year-old Sundon gelding who is nicknamed 'Spud' because he is named after a 100-year-old species of potato.

The 7-year-old was too smart for his nine opponents in the Happyshire C2 to C6 Trot. It was his fifth win in 27 starts for trainer/driver Andrew Faulks of Burnham.

But Mr Warwick, who tricks about his age, should not have been alive to see 'Spud's' latest two-and-a-quarter length victory.

The well-known Hakataramea identity was flown by helicopter to Dunedin Hospital in December with a severe kidney stone disease.

"The doctors told me that if I had spent another night in Kurow my organs would have shut down and I would have died. Thankfully I was helicoptered to Dunedin, because it would have been curtains if I had gone by road.

"I'm just happy to be alive. I've got a lot of living in me yet," the spritely owner-breeder said.

When contacted for an interview about Arran Chief Mr Warwick was bedded up in Dunedin's Cancer Society House in Great King Street.

"I'm not in the best of health but I'm on the improve and this prostate cancer

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## 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.

### 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!

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won't beat me. I've been here for the last six weeks.

**"IT'S A BUGGER BECAUSE THEY CAN'T WORK ON THE KIDNEY STONE WHILE I'M RECEIVING RADIATION FOR THE CANCER. IT'S SLOWED ME DOWN A BIT BUT I WAS SO PLEASED TO HAVE SEEN 'SPUD' WIN THE OTHER NIGHT. IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO THE TRACK IN A WHILE," MR WARWICK SAID.**

Arran Chief is out of Mr Warwick's Earl mare, Early Girl. She only left two foals.

"She had a curbed hock and never raced, even though (the late) Warren Bartlett trained her. She was a lovely big strong mare.

"Her dam was Fiver (by Chiola Hanover) and her grand dam was Rovina (Nat Lobell). Rovina left Cockie (Chiola Hanover). I think Cockie is the best horse I have owned or bred.

"He won seven races and almost \$50,000. Mind you 'Spud' hasn't finished yet. He could be my best," Mr Warwick said.

Arran Chief is the first of Early Girl's two foals. Two years later along came Monarchy colt Benmore.

"He's five now and was broken in by Denise Ottley and then Andrew (Faulks) syndicated him out. I think he will race soon," Mr Warwick said.

Mr Warwick paid a tribute to Faulk's training abilities.

"He has been so good with 'Spud'. He told me all along that this horse just needed time and sure enough he was spot on. He has just plugged along with him at his own pace and his patience has worked brilliantly.

"He's a big strong horse and very well tempered. I like him a lot – just as much as I like 4-year-old gelding Sunspot, who is out of the Straphanger mare, Babe, who in turn was out of Fiver," Mr Warwick said.

"I've also got a grey 2-year-old Monkey Bones half-brother to him named Grey's Is Great. He is named after an old tobacco tin I've got. I think he's got a bright future as well," Mr Warwick said.

The long-time Kurow identity has a very colourful past.

"I've lived in Kurow all my life and I clearly remember Donald (McCaw) lifting his son on to the bus as a four-and-three-quarter-year-old. He was supposed to be five years-old to join the junior rugby ranks but that didn't stop him.

"He was just a little fella who grew into something great. I remember driving him to Oamaru for his rugby right up until his teens.

"I remember taking a busload of kids to Lancaster Park one day. I never dreamed that Richie would rule that field one day. He was just like any other kid," Mr Warwick reminisced.

Mr Warwick said he became hooked on harness racing in 1946 when Leo Birkett's Snowflake was doing the business.

"I loved that horse. I remember him winning the Great Northern Derby that year and I have followed that breed ever since. Those were the days when I farmed cattle on 41 acres," he said.

He said he was looking forward to watching Friday's Northern Derby – and then Arran Chief's next assignment at Waimate on Sunday.

**Duane Ranger**

**BIDWELL'S BREED LEAVING PLENTY OF OPTIONS**

Michael Bidwell has a proud record as a small-time breeder.

And so has Two Options, a Live Or Die mare he has and soon you'll see the reason for it.

He started with Tonie Gallant in 1983 and here he is now, 35 years later, still keen and planning to put a couple of old mares back in foal.



No doubt the success of Many Options at Westport last week has something to do with his thinking, but it's more because they look in such bonny order.

One is Two Options, aged 15 and the dam of Many Options, and the other

**Robbie Holmes and Many Options get the chocolates in the Doubleyou Tee Cee Syndicate Pace at Westport last Friday**

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is her 20-year-old half-sister Beat The Odds, by Dancing Master.

Two Options has left four foals and three winners – Opting Options, Full Of Options and Many Options – all trained by Robbie Holmes and all with the impressive and rare credential of winning at their first start.

She's been empty since leaving a filly, now three, and being used as a hack. Beat The Odds had a foal, by Armbro Operative 11 years ago, but it now seems she may get another chance.

Many Options, a 4-year-old by Lis Mara, has won two of his five starts, and nothing went right for him on Sunday at Reefton.

He has the potential to win a few more, but Bidwell has been around long

enough – 29 years with Harness Racing New Zealand, mostly as Licencing Manager until being made redundant 20 years ago – to number them as they happen.

His first winner, and the second to last winner ever trained by George Noble, was Valentino, one of the second crop sired by Smooth Fella.

Then, to do a mate a favour, he grazed Tonie Gallant, a Scottish Hanover mare who won three and was hugely consistent in a 61-start career, and made arrangements when she started breeding. This worked out very well. Her first foal was Reilly, a top horse by Smooth Fella who won 10, and then she left Aiming High, a classy mare by Alberton who was 4YO Horse of the Year in the 1989-90 season.

After those two gems came Modern Woman, by Holmes Hanover who won one, and Italian Design, also by Holmes

Hanover, who won two from 12 but it could have been more.

**"PETER JONES TRAINED HER AND SAID IF IT WASN'T FOR A LIGAMENT PROBLEM SHE COULD HAVE WON FIVE OR SIX," SAID BIDWELL, NEVER BUSIER THAN HE IS NOW WITH HIS FIREWOOD OPERATION.**

Italian Design had eight foals and two winners, but Two Options who won three, has been the only keeper besides Beat The Odds.

Tonie Gallant was from Kaotinka, a handy Thurber Frost mare from Elusive, the daughter of 1937 New Zealand Cup winner Lucky Jack and his half-sister Trusty Maid, both progeny of Tairene.

**Mike Grainger**

## PRINCESS CLAIMS HER CROWN FOR FAMILY AFFAIR!

Some amazing fillies have won the Great Northern Oaks since its inception in 1967.

Paula Scott, Armalight & Hilarious Guest were female royalty to collect the crown in their day.

Then along came names like Tigerish, Scuse Me, Under Cover Lover & Elect to Live with champion fillies Lauraella, Carabella, Adore Me, Venus Serena and now the Orange Agent having since assumed the role of Northern Oaks victors.

With Dream About Me tearing up Australian tracks, it was safely assumed on the back of Christmas form at

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Alexandra Park that Golden Goddess would simply be too good for her female counterparts in this year's version of the race.

Then Methven happened.

Piccadilly Princess had slowly been on the improve since a debut victory at Motukarara back in September and her \$19.50 quote on the tote didn't warrant the improvement that regular pilot Tim Williams spoke about prior to the race that day at Mt Harding.

Fast forward twelve days and she was repeating the dose in race record time to provide breeder Mike Ward of Christchurch with the biggest thrill of his life.

"When I left school I got involved in breeding with a fella called Kevin O'Brian 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 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 (1993g 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, but 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 AT THE YEARLING SALES."**

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

"She had a problem with an internal injury and had to be withdrawn so I asked the vendor if I could buy it, and he ended up selling her too 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 defer me to 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 (2003g 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 its 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.

Not that Piccadilly Princess is going anywhere. In May she will attempt to become just the fourth filly in the last ten years to pull off the Northern/New Zealand Oaks double before pushing on through to the Harness Jewels at Cambridge.

This breeding business really is unbelievable.

To think an un-sound gelding that was meant to put a full stop to a failed breeding venture was in fact what ignited a new beginning. It just goes to show how fickle and endearing this game can be to all.

**Brad Reid**

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## TROTTING UP A STORM: TORNADO VALLEY

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By taking out a recent trotting event at Timaru, Tornado Valley extended his impressive strike rate to four wins plus seven placings from eighteen appearances. The 4yo gelded son of Skyvalley and Begin, was bred and owned by his Ashburton trainer/driver Terry McMillan and Mrs Petina Gaugler of Richmond. Mrs Gaugler's association with this particular branch of the Peri family (N21) goes back three decades to the days of Tornado Valley's third dam Chesapeake and the Gaugler's had an even earlier interest through fourth dam Susquehanna part owned by DI Gaugler and trainer/driver Noel Berkett, Petina Gaugler's father. Berkett is best remembered for his involvement with NZ Cup winner Mobile Globe and Auckland Cup winner Prince Polka.

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Tornado Valley's four victories have been recorded as a 3yo last season (2014/5) on the grass at Methven (Hororata's annual meeting) in his third start, at Oamaru (Waimate's annual meeting) and at four this season (2015/6) on the all weather tracks of Ashburton on Boxing Day and Timaru in mid February. His overall record to date is 20 starts : 4 - 4 - 4, \$27,050, T2:04.1.

Sire Skyvalley (Muscles Yankee/Chiola's Lass, dam of Allegro Agitato, Cabaletta) was the winner of 24 and placed on 13 occasions from 47 starts (Breeders Crown 3T/4T, Bill Collins Mile, 3rd ID Trotters Final, \$322,675, T1:56.4). He is already a successful sire.

Tornado Valley's dam Begin (2002 Sundon/Bega) was bred by Mrs Gaugler and raced by her with Terry McMillan. She had two wins as a five year old (Timaru, Rangiora) in a 56 start trotting career spread over four seasons together with her first and one and only start as a pacer (56 : 2- 3 -6, \$21,854, T2:06.6).

In the broodmare paddock, she has been responsible for leaving three foals for Mrs Gaugler and Terry McMillan to date - Tornado Valley (first foal), Monkey Bones yearling colt Iron Eagle and an unregistered Majestic Son weanling colt.

Tornado Valley's unraced grand dam Bega (1987 Lordship/Chesapeake) was bred and owned by Mrs Gaugler. She produced eight foals for her for five winners, three of whom also raced and won in Australia. They were :

- Hershey (f Grant Our Wishes), 1 Addington win, T2:08.7; 3 AUS wins (2 Harold Park), T2:08.1AUS; dam of a winner

- Hanginthere (f Straphanger), 3 NZ wins, T2:09.0; 5 AUS wins, T2:05.9AUS

- Strapon (f Straphanger), 4 NZ wins (3 Cambridge), T2:05.7; 1 AUS win, T2:07.7AUS

- Begin - see above

- Desert Blue (g Brylin Boyz), 1 win, T2:10.5 for Terry McMillan as owner, trainer/driver



**Tornado Valley and Terry McMillan storm down the outer to beat Ruby's Jewel by a nose at the February meeting at Timaru)**

The jewel in Tornado Valley's maternal line comes from third dam Chesapeake (1978 Game Pride/Susquehanna), a 3f Trotter of Year and Trotting Stakes - 3T (now NZ Trotting Derby) winner among her six victories and 8 placing from 21 starts for owner Mrs Gaugler (breeders : DI Gaugler/Noel Berkett). Her wins came at Greymouth twice, Reefton, Addington three times for earnings of \$19,927, T2:06.9 when trained by Noel Berkett. She was the dam of 11 live foals with 5 to race for 4 winners and a qualifier for Mrs Gaugler (except for Strawb's K Two - bred by Brian Wastney) :

- Bega - see above

- Grand Jete (f Dancing Master), 1 win, T2:08.9, placed second NZ Trotting Stakes - 2T for Mrs Gaugler as owner and trainer Noel Berkett

- Strawb's K Two (f Pernod Eden), 1 Addington win, T2:11.2; dam of 2 winners

- Tiger Galleon (g Gee Whiz), unplaced NZ; 22 AUS wins (7 Albion Park), \$128,153, T2:03.7AUS; NSW Trotters Derby (Fairfield), 5th VIC Trotters Derby

- Sundon's Peak (g Sundon), 3 wins (Addington, Alexandra Park) plus Motukarara win when driven by Terry McMillan, T2:06.4

Chesapeake's dam Susquehanna won two for breeder Noel Berkett and DI Gaugler finishing fourth in 1974 Trotting Stakes - 3T. In addition to Chesapeake, she left half sister Graceland whose grandson The Drunken Drummer won nine in Australia (Franco/Australian series - Gp3).

This is the family of Peri (N21), through her daughter Daphne and grand daughter Daphne Wilkes, ultimately leading to Chesapeake and her relatives as described above. However, through Daphne Wilkes half sister Sweet Daphne is an amazing family branch of predominantly pacers such as Jiffys Girl (GN Oaks, 3f Pacer of Year), Vice Chairman (fastest family NZ performer 1:51.9/Australia Brave Wiggy 1:51.6), Preferred (Nevele R Fillies, NZ Oaks, 3f Pacer of Year), Quiet Touch (NZ Breeders Stakes, 4m Pacer of Year), Scruffy Murphy (\$1/2m), Ohoka Texas (1:50.1US), Miracle Man (1:50.0US), Mustang Mach (Messenger), Morgan James (highest family stake earner, \$571,966) and an occasional trotter like McGrady (Challenge Stakes), Great Venture (Dominion Hcp), Gate Keeper, amongst others. Yet another sub branch of Peri leads to speedy trotter of the early 1930's in Todd Lanzia.

Other major family performers include Parawa Derby (NZFFA), Governor Frost (GN Derby/Messenger), Justaboyden (WA/Fremantle Cups). Gracious Knight (NZ/Easter Cups).

Apart from Tornado Valley and his family members, Mrs Gaugler part owns Rosetta Stone with Mrs DM Berkett and Mrs CB Pash. The 6yo Julius Caesar/Rose Holmes mare is trained by Murray Pash and is the winner of four races to date for her trio of owners (Timaru, Waterlea, New Plymouth twice on grass).

Tornado Valley is continuing to extend a proud family record for Mrs Gaugler and members of the foundation broodmare Peri's family.

**Peter Craig**





**Dennis Bennett and Linda Joyce celebrate the first win of King Denny's career as a three year old at Rangiora before his sale**

## LINDENNY LODGE CONTINUES TO DELIVER!

An un-raced Walton Hanover mare will provide North Canterbury breeders Dennis Bennett and Linda Joyce with their second Northern Derby starter this Friday.

Motown, which has drawn 10, sealed his place in the \$250,000 Group One feature for New Zealand's best 3-year-olds at Alexandra Park with an easy three-and-three-quarter length victory in a \$20,000 C1 pace at the same venue last Friday night.

The \$87,500 purchase at the 2014 New Zealand Premier Yearling Sale in Christchurch has now won four of his 13 starts and placed in three others for \$44,152 in purses for trainers John and Josh Dickie.

The Dickies bought him off Bennett and Joyce on behalf of Rosslands Stud.

"I'm pleased for John and Josh and especially the family of the late Kerry Hoggard who was the owner of Rosslands Stud. He's a lovely horse. The Dickies had a high opinion of him since day one.

"He was too good for that class of field. He just ran away from them," Rangiora-based Bennett said.

Hoggard, who was the Auckland Trotting Club's president at the time of his death passed away last October.

Motown is a Bettor's Delight gelding and the fifth of seven foals left by Touch Of Grace. Her first foal – Washington V C gelding, Georgetown won 12 of his 69 starts (\$534,190) in New Zealand and then won several more in Australia and the United States.

He finished fourth in the 2008 edition of the Northern Derby.

"Even though Touch Of Grace never raced we took a punt on her back in 2005 and paid \$7,000 for her at the Mixed Age Sale.

**"IT WAS A BIT OF AN EDUCATED PURCHASE THOUGH. WE BOUGHT THE MARE SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE HAD GREAT BLOODLINES ON HER DAM SIDE. I ALWAYS THOUGHT THOSE GENES WOULD BE PASSED ON," BENNETT SAID.**

Motown and Georgetown's grand-dam was the un-raced Nero's B B mare, Bindanero. She was the fifth foal out of the Brad Hanover mare, Gina Marie, which won 10 races and \$34,435.

Gina Marie's second foal was the brilliant Plat Du Jour mare Gina Rosa, trained by Jack Smolenski, which won 17 of her 78 starts and \$414,665 between 1985 and 1991. While she never

won a Northern Derby but she did win the 1986 Northern Oaks.

All up Gina Marie left 11 foals – her first being the eight-win Nardins Byrd mare, Nardinski, who won eight races and \$184,275.

Nardinski won the 1985 edition of the Northern Derby.

"I'd love to see Motown win the Derby on Friday. He was a strikingly good horse when he was young. In fact he was a very big reason why we bought Touch Of Grace," Bennett said.

As part of the deal Touch Of Grace came with her first foal at foot (Georgetown) and in foal to Red River Hanover.

"The mare was such a big capacious mare and is still leaving some nice horses. We have a full brother to Motown named Denstown. He's a 2-year-old colt.

"We put him through the Yearling Sales last year and he was passed in at \$30,000. We also have a Changeover yearling filly named Lexi Lindenny out of her. She is also in foal to Mach Three," Bennett said.

Bennett, a retired dairy farmer, said he only got into harness racing about a dozen years ago as a hobby.

"It's well and truly in my blood now and I absolutely love the game. Who would have ever thought back in the early 1990s that I would have trained 11 winners and also saluted the judge in the bike," Bennett said.

As well as Georgetown and Motown he said the best horses he had bred was the multiple Group One winning pacer Bettor Cover Lover (Bettor's Delight – Front Cover Lover) who won 19 races and just over \$1 million; Group One winning trotter King Denny (Majestic Son – A Touch Of Son) who won 10 races and \$258,794; and Lightning Raider (Christian Cullen – Talent Hanover) who won 10 races and just under \$120,000.

"Harness racing has been good to Linda and I. We love it. We are really hoping Motown can do it for Rosslands Stud and the Dickies on Friday," Bennett said.

**Duane Ranger**



# HORSE OF THE YEAR 2016

In 2014 NZSBA received some welcome news when their application to the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) as an affiliated breed society was accepted. Affiliation was the gateway to restoring the standardbred classes at the prestigious Horse Of The Year in Hastings.

Kiely Buttell, NZSBA's former Executive Manager put a lot of work into getting standardbreds to HOY.

"I have been an advocate of Life After Racing since joining the Harness Industry back in 2007. When I was alerted to the news that Standardbreds were unable to compete in 'breed specific' classes at HOY, I contacted the RAS to see what could be done. To their credit the RAS have been fantastic to deal with.

"The kudos must go to North Island Standardbred Riding Association, especially Lisa Millar and Claire Madden, who did a lot of work behind the scenes liaising with HOY organisers to make the classes happen."

NZSBA set up a 'pleasure horse membership' aimed at participants who rehome standardbreds after they have retired from racing.

The standardbred as an equestrian prospect is growing in popularity. Previously much ridiculed for being 'jug heads' or 'wobblers' the modern

standardbred has developed into a stunning breed in temperament and looks. They can easily hold their own against their thoroughbred cousins and many are enjoying successful careers in a variety of disciplines.

NZSBA Chairman John Mooney said "while there were only 10 competitors and 11 horses this year at HOY it was a great success. The Association provided \$1,000 to NRM which joined us in giving \$2,000 in prizes of feed consultations and feed."

"With the RAS, HOY and competitors we are going to review the classes on offer. My target for 2017 is to attract 20 competitors. Costs make it tough for South island horses to compete. NZSBA will continue to provide significant support and encouragement to the In-Hand and Ridden standardbred classes at HOY and around NZ's extensive show circuit."

## RIDDEN CLASS

Travelling all the way up to the Horse of the Year from West Melton paid off for Chanelle Dickie as she and her lovely chestnut Bronze Jay took out the Ridden Standardbred of the Year Title Class.

"It came as a shock. I hadn't won a single class apart from the rider class so I wasn't expecting it. I was wanting it though," said Dickie.

Bronze Jay (commonly known as Patch) won three races with David Butt and has been with Chanelle about four years and has been doing well in the showing since joining her team. Judge Graham Dore was very impressed with what he had seen throughout the competition. While it was only his third time judging standardbreds, he said the standard was amazing, and he was blown away by the level they have reached.

"I'm an Arabian judge, but get utilised for all breeds, such as miniature. I'm looking for what you look for in any good horse. Conformation and movement are important. I've been very impressed with the presentation of



**Chanelle Dickie and Bronze Jay take out Ridden Standardbred of the Year for 2016!**

the horses. They are so well groomed and presented. Some of the showmanship has room for improvement but the exceptional presentation and effort that has been done to get these horses to the show looking so well is amazing."

### Results from the Ridden Classes:

**Best Presented:**  
Elaine van den Berg | Regal Cullen

**Open Standardbred and Open Paced:**  
Amanda Burton | Change of Pace

**Open Mannered Standardbred:**  
Gotham Bromac | Claire Madden

Chanelle Dickie won the Rider class.

Ridden Standardbred of the Year 2016:  
Chanelle Dickie and Bronze Jay – 1st,  
Claire Madden and Gotham Bromac 2nd,  
Amanda Burton and Change of Pace 3rd,  
Natasha Bol and Dancing Jonty 4th

## IN HAND

It was big win for Amanda Burton with her ex-pacer, Change of Pace. She took out the title of In Hand Standardbred Horse of the Year, with Nigel Heron and Final Mission winning the reserve prize.

CONT. P11

**Amanda Burton and Change of Pace win In Hand Standardbred of the Year!**



CONT.

Change of Pace was named by Amanda when she got the 7 year old a few years ago. Nicknamed "Crash" by his trainer, Gavin Smith from Canterbury, for his way of getting off the truck, the gelding was broken in and went into training but never made it to the track. Gavin sent the horse to Michelle Morrison who runs a standardbred rehoming operation and it was Michelle who alerted Amanda to the horse's potential.

Amanda had hurt herself falling off her thoroughbred and was on the verge of giving up riding altogether, but decided to try a standardbred because of their "awesome temperaments." Amanda says they are "kind and willing, and with time and patience they are the most amazing riding horses."

Zoe Cobb had a good win in the Showmanship class with her beloved O'Sheas. Zoe has been the forewoman for trainer Nicky Chilcott for seven years. O'Sheas won eight races with the trainer and raced until he was about 12 when Zoe took him over and now shows him. He is now 15 and has also recently recovered from colic surgery. "He is a very special horse, he's the only one I have and he is so special."

#### Results from the In-Hand:

**Best Presented Combination:**  
Major Ouch, Claire Madden

**Junior Filly 5 years and under:**  
Beautiful Dangerous, Nicole Givan

**Intermediate Gelding, 6-11 years:**  
Change of Pace, Amanda Burton

**Senior Gelding: 12 years and over:**  
Final Mission, Nigel Heron

**Best Movement:**  
Santo, Mandy Hamilton

**Best Manners:**  
Major Ouch, Claire Madden

**Showmanship:**  
O'Sheas, Zoe Cobb

**In Hand Standardbred of the Year Title Class:**  
Change of Pace, Amanda Burton 1.  
Final Mission, Nigel Heron 2.

**Brad Reid**

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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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