



THE BREEDERS



BREEDERS' WEEKLY

This week we caught up with the breeder, owner and trainer of a leading Three Year Old Emerald contender (Pictured: Buster Brady) Kyle Austin to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

/SMART LINKS

NEW ZEALAND OAKS 2016 ROUNDUP	2
BREEDERS PROFILE - KYLE AUSTIN	3
THE JOAN BELCHER MEMORIAL SPEED TROT SERIES	4
ANOTHER TOP LINER FROM THE HULSTON NEST	5
READY, WILLING AND ABLE : ROYAL WILLIE	7
EMBRYO TRANSFERS - STIGMA OVER!	8
A FRIEND PASSES	9
BIT OF A LEGEND WINS AGAIN	9
JUST LIKE MUM!	9
SHANTALIA STUD STILL KICKING GOALS	10



Kyle Austin. PAGE 3.

Dream About Me (inner) and Golden Goddess fight out the spectacular finish in the Group 1 2016 The Breeders New Zealand Oaks



NEW ZEALAND OAKS | 2016 ROUNDUP

Saturday afternoon marked the second occasion in which The Breeders have supported the pinnacle event for three year old fillies in this country, and what an occasion it was.

The 68th running of the New Zealand Oaks was a truly remarkable spectacle in which the cream rose to the top.

Dream About Me, Golden Goddess, Arden's Choice, Piccadilly Princess and Luisanabelle Midfrew ran home as the first five in the deep field of fillies, the same five as the Nevele R Stud Group 1 the previous week. Remarkably the five of them have all won a Group 1 race with the seventh place finisher in Nek Time having picked up the Group 2 Southland Oaks earlier in the season.

Is it too early to say that the 2016 New Zealand Oaks is the greatest performance by a filly in our country, ever? You could be forgiven for thinking the hairs standing on the back of my neck were simply because of the arctic conditions.

But standing watching The NZ Oaks from the Addington birdcage (shivering), I walked away questioning what I had seen. Since its inception in 1948, when won by Perpetua, it's been a race fitting for champions and many a champion has won this race. Armalight, Hilarious Guest, Mainland Banner, Carabella and Adore Me to name a few.

Are we witnessing another superstar mare in the making in Dream About Me? Her breeding and current race record of 15 starts for 14 wins and a second placing would suggest so! We saw in February winning at Menagle when she cut out the 2400 metres New

South Wales Oaks in 2:50.3, a mile rate of 1:54.2 which equalled the track record for a three year old filly.

In many ways it feels only fitting that we as The Breeders support this time honoured event for three year old fillies. Yet there are those who will question why The Breeders are contributing to races such as The New Zealand Oaks?

We have an obligation under our current Business Plan to ensure financial returns for breeders in New Zealand are maximised. Ensuring our premiere race for fillies (as well as fillies and mares racing at grassroots) is supported is just one of the many ways in which we are able to fulfil that obligation.

We recoup most of the contribution by hosting a breeder's function at the meeting, something that was well supported again this year despite the 'Oaks' meeting falling on a Saturday afternoon.

Since the 17th of January 2014, The NZMTC has paid an astounding \$220,000 to financial members of the NZSBA under their Breeder Bonus Scheme.

The scheme is open to any financial member of the NZSBA (paid prior to August 31st) who breeds the winner of a totalisator race, excluding premier race days, held at an NZMTC meeting at Addington Raceway, subject to conditions published on the NZSBA and NZMTC websites.

In sponsoring the New Zealand Oaks, we not only support the breeders who have worked hard to breed a filly good enough to line up on the day. We also

support the club which provides the largest financial contribution to breeders annually throughout the country.

The money hasn't come out of thin air. We applaud the introduction and ongoing preservation of this scheme by The Met, and challenge other clubs to follow suit. The \$80,000 annual budget is just a small part of the \$7.5 million in stakes paid by The Met, but it is \$80,000 of recognition for breeders.

It is a small component in the desperate need we have to revitalise the breeding industry in New Zealand and reverse the trend of declining numbers of mares being bred and resultant lack of numbers on our racetracks.

Since its inception, the Cheviot and Amberley Racing Clubs have come to the fore and implemented the scheme at their own race meets and for this they must also be applauded.

The argument for what cog is the most important part of the racing product is largely a moot one.

The product that clubs rely on and punters enjoy is a direct result of horses being bred. What is certain though is that the breeders are the front-line investors and the first risk takers in a fickle market.

Sixty five percent of our current foal crop is provided by those breeding from one to four mares. A \$500 reward for the many of us in this bracket is a great thrill.

Rob Carr recently applauded The Met and the scheme in an article on the Breckon Farms website where he shared how he felt the benefits of such a scheme have had a positive effect on breeders and have gone some way to addressing the real need for breeder's incentives nationally.

It's fair to say the impact is being felt widespread.

If this recognition of the breeders with a small token financial return encourages them to continue within our industry and feel part of it, then we must continue to support these initiatives.

Brad Reid



BREEDER'S PROFILE



Kyle Austin

Kyle Austin knows that there might not be a better opportunity to grab a Group 1 race then in a weeks time when his charge Buster Brady takes his place in the Colts and Geldings three year old Emerald.

The horse he bred, owns and trains is coming off the back of a gallant victory on premier day at Addington, last Saturday. The Real Desire gelding was too tough for a small but select group of three year olds in the \$40,000 Sophomore Classic.

From a family steeped in Harness traditions, Kyle utilises his other talents with his signwriting business he set up after the sale of a good horse called Nutwood (more on that later). We caught up with Kyle to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN HARNESS RACING?

Been involved all my life with dad (Mike) and brother (Roger). Dad's been a trainer as long as I can remember and Roger is a farrier and trainer but more recently helping dad. Roger does not hold a licence any more. They all race in dad's colours.

I have always mixed with the harness crowd. Just the way it is.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING?

Gosh probably 20 - 25 years.

FIRST HORSE YOU BRED?

A mare called Centre Royce (Oblivan II - Ravena) who we bred to Miles McCool, Fake left, Soky's Atom, Holmes Hannover and Tinted Cloud for nothing. She was not much chop! It was not a great start and her fillies left nothing.

FIRST WINNER YOU BRED?

Half Pint Lester (Miles McCool - Centre Royce) won in Australia. Greg Payne broke him in but he got crock. Eventually we sold him.

WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBREDS?

The fun of it. Been involved with family all my life. You are always looking for the next good one. Curious as to why it is and where they come from. Hopeful of getting a good one.

I enjoy looking at the pedigree. Looking at the pedigrees of the good ones and trying to match them up. Seeing how they are bred.

FAVOURITE HORSE YOU BRED?

Has to be Buster Brady (Real Desire - Kacie Marie), four wins, 1.57.2 \$70,000 from eight starts. It is a bit of a long story. In about 1990 we leased Beau Cavalier (Bo Scott Blue Chip - Brave Lady) from Vincent O'Connor and his wife. I liked him, he qualified as a 2yo and we sold him to Australia. The dam Brave Lady got hurt and did not race.

Her next live foal was Nutwood (Nero's BB) which had a great record of eight wins and 1.50 in the USA. He free-legged paced. Nutwood had extreme speed which the family needed.

Vincent then offered us the Clever Innocence (Nero) mare Kacie Marie (1 win). She won at Kapiti, free-legged and was a lovely pacer. Sadly she died last winter. Her first three foals to the races are winners: Kacie's A Fly (Sands A Fly), Carlos Santana (Santana's Blue Chip) and Buster.

I went to Real Desire because I admire Cowgirl N Indians, Real Desire out of an In The Pocket mare. She won a Jewels at Ashburton with good high speed and that seems to be a trait of his progeny. He also had a great career and raced until he was 7 years old!

Brendon Hill and some others came out to see Carlos Santana. Buster was still on the mare. They admired the big strong type that he was and said that they would have preferred him! He was a big upstanding yearling and a bit naughty. Greg Payne broke him in and we knew he was a bit better than average.

FAVOURITE STALLION?

Not particularly. I bred Kacie's A Fly to Bettor's Delight. The foal is a lovely colt. You have to admire what Bettor's is doing. He has the track record.

My favourite is most probably Christian Cullen. I have bred some but without much luck and never got a good one - not much luck. I love watching the good Cullen's how they paced. They look a lot like their old man.

HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

Nothing this season in foal. I purchased Millwood Hope (McArdle - Millwood Minisota) a sister to Ohoka Punter. I got one start one win out of her and tried to breed her to Mach Three, but she did not get into foal. Mark Fuller and I will bred her this season.

THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE IN THE INDUSTRY?

Not really. Big fan of breeding my mares at home. Prefer them at home than at the stud. Hey, everyone is trying. Everyone is out there trying to make a living I am happy with how we are.

WEARING YOUR BUSINESS' HAT HAVE YOU ANY ADVICE FOR THE INDUSTRY ON CHANGES TO THE OSH LAWS?

The people in harness can be a little laid back when it comes to complying with OSH. You never know when an accident is going to happen. They have to keep up with the times and put the systems in place. If there was an accident I would hate to think what would happen to them. We all need the right things in place including the signs.

I get a lot of support from trainers. We do the helmets etc It is great industry address to be in! Very happy.

THE JOAN BELCHER MEMORIAL SPEED TROT SERIES

On Sunday afternoon at Rangiora, eleven female trotters will put their best foot forward in memory of the late Joan Belcher.

The Joan Belcher Memorial Speed Trot Series was put forward as an end of season target for lower grade trotting mares by the Canterbury Standardbred Breeders Association.

The notion for the series as described by CSBA rep Sheldon Murtha was "to give the mares an opportunity to grab a two minute or quicker mark before heading into a new breeding season."

The fact that the inaugural heat of the three race series takes place in Rangiora is only fitting.

Joan Belcher was a figure synonymous with North Canterbury harness racing.

Born in the late 1920s, Miss Belcher obtained her first licence in 1983 to assist her uncle Noel Wilson. Although they never officially trained in partnership, racing purists will remember Noel Wilson training horses such as Crusader (1962 Bl g Johnny Globe - Lady Lightfoot) & Little John (1972 B g (dead) Tuft - Roydon's Queen) that won two races and placed 12 times also. The last horse she trained in her own right was Opulent (2 wins, \$7000).

Her love for the harness racing industry was none more evident than in her passing, as Belcher left her small estate to the Canterbury Standardbred Breeders Assn.

CSBA decided to use the funds to support fillies and mares racing with the clubs north of the Waimak. It has supported races at the Rangiora Harness Racing Club, of which Joan was a life

CONT. P5



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

Contact the N.Z. Sires Stakes Board

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



CONT.

member, under the banner of 'the Joan Belcher Memorial' since 2009.

With limited opportunities for trotting mares to compete against their own sex, the series has attracted strong support for Sunday. The 2000 meter mobile trot will be an evenly contested race with the draw being based on assessment, then earnings using the preferential barrier system.

CSBA representative Sheldon Murtha was also quick to point out that the fastest mare of the series won't just pick up a speedy time, but a service to one of the quickest North American trotting juveniles of the last decade.

Stallions Australasia have kindly supported the series by donating a service to Lucky Chucky who at three years old left a mark of 1:50.8. In all, Lucky Chucky won 14 of his 23 starts for \$2,099,973, of which \$1,432,324 was earned at 3 years. He was subsequently named 3YO Trotter of the Year and Trotter of the Year.

Valued at \$5000, the connections of these trotting mares will be eye the potential mating as the icing on the cake for their careers post racing.

The Joan Belcher Memorial Speed Trot Series

Where:
Rangiora TC.

When:
May 29th, June 19th and July 24th

Conditions:

- C1 – C2 Trotting Fillies and Mares
- Preferential Barrier Draw based based on assesment and winning stakes.
- Races will not be run if less than 7 acceptors
- Fastest Winner over the three races to receive a free service to Lucky Chucky courtesy of Peter O'Rourke of Stallions Australasia (The free service is semen only.

- All other breeding costs are the responsibility of the Breeder. This includes semen transport costs if outside of Canterbury.

- The free service will be made to the owners of the fastest winner as it appears in the race book at the time of the race.

Start: Mobile

Distance: 2,000 metres

Brad Reid

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



ANOTHER TOP LINER FROM THE HULSTON NEST

Temporale and Tony Herlihy winning the Dunstan 3yo Mobile trot at Cambridge last Friday night

He might not own Temporale anymore the but Graeme ('Pup') Hulston and his wife Bev will still trek the 950km from West Melton to Cambridge to watch the trotter they bred compete in the 3-year-old Sovereignty Ruby Jewels Final at Cambridge Raceway on June 4.

"We sold him when he was three-months-old as a foal at foot. I sold the mare with him because I was downsizing at the time. We always watch and cheer on our progeny and will be doing the same in Cambridge in a couple of weeks' time," Hulston said.

Temporale won her second race in six starts this season when triumphant in a 3-year-old trot at Cambridge Raceway last Thursday night. The daughter of Monarchy has also placed four times this season thus cementing her top three spot in the \$100,000 Jewels Final.

"We always go to the Jewels. We are harness racing fanatics. We won't have a horse running but it will be good to be up there cheering for the filly. Tony (Herlihy MNZM) has done a great job with her," Hulston said.

CONT. P6



CONT.

Temporale, who was named by Brian West when he purchased the filly, is out of the seven win Armbro Invasion mare, Whosinthenest. She was bred by Neil Munro, who like Hulston, is based at West Melton.

"Tim Butt and Prop (Phil) Anderson originally trained her and then Billy Heads took over before Neil trained her with Jim O'Reilly. When she retired in 2008 David and Catherine Butt were her trainers.

"She was a lovely mare who won just over \$66,000. We bred the first four foals from her before Studholme and Kahukuri Bloodstock took over after she was sold. She has left another three foals since and has been served by Dream Vacation," Hulston said.

Whosinthenest's first foal – a Sundon colt named Strathfield Sun won one race and then along came another Sundon colts named The Big Nest, which sadly had to be put down due to health issues.

Hulston said the mare's third foal, a 4-year-old Sundon mare named Lily Campbell, was progressing nicely.

"She's currently in work and has a wee bit of ability. If she doesn't make it at least we can keep her as a broodmare," Hulston said.

The 61-year-old Canterbury horseman has been involved in harness racing for about 40 years. He said he got into the game through his Kirwee rugby mates.

"My first horse was a 1975 Typhoon Hanover gelding named Seanui. He won a race for us and I think that got me hooked. Jack Litten trained him," Hulston said.

That Under-19 Kirwee team included Hulston, and the famous Gilmour, Stewart and Hayes trio of the legendary Canterbury Shield era, along with Peter Jones, Brian Kerr, Ian Shinn and Robert Dunn.

"It was a very good side - Hayes formed a loose forward trio along with Gilmour and Number 8 Kerr who never grew much after that. We won the Under-19 and Senior B Ellesmere competitions before the likes of Hayes won selection

for Canterbury Country and ultimately became the best player to not be an All Black.

"Kerr went on to work for Jack Litten and led Gilmour, Hulston and Stewart into Seanui, Kerr drove to win a 3-year-old race at Addington in April, 1979, before he was sold for big money to Australia," Hulston said.

But the best horse Hulston has bred is undoubtedly the 15-win Monarchy - Hands And Heels gelding King Charlie.

"He was a lovely trotter. I still have the mare on the property and just weaned

a Peak filly from her. King Charlie did a huge job winning almost a quarter of a million dollars for his owners, including the Northern Trotting Derby. He also placed in the Jewels 4yo Final behind Springbank Richard," said Hulston who has farmed sheep and beef for much of his life.

Duane Ranger

Hulston's latest winner - Temporale is now owned by Herlihy's wife Suzanne, Kevin Risely, Dean Biddlecombe, and D. I. Donaldson.

Click below to visit website

**YOU START
WE PAY**

ADGTN15/16

ADDINGTON 

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.

READY, WILLING AND ABLE : ROYAL WILLIE

The 2012 edition of Royal Willie (Majestic Son/Miss Whiplash), 3yo trotting colt, as opposed to the 1972 Royal Scotsman/Cyone Duchess pacer is the latest pin up boy for former OC trotting mare Miss Whiplash. He follows closely on the heels of his full sister, 2014 2yo Trotting Filly of Year Wanna Play.

From the same family as recent trotting winner Torpedo Run, Royal Willie's maternal family is that of Nell by Hiatoga (U23), from whom Continental Victory, Elaine Rodney, Fancy Crown, SJs Photo all descend. Royal Willie is by Majestic Son from Miss Whiplash, by Gee Whiz from Working Girl, by Nevele Pride from The Pro, by Porterhouse from Gallons Lady, by Bill Gallon from The Colonels Lady, by Scotland from Letha Guy, by Guy Abbey from Letha Express, by Atlantic Express from Lettie Lee, by Moko from Leetell, by Axtell from Amy Lee, by Bay Star from Nell. Royal Willie comes from the Letha Express (unraced) sub branch, the most productive of her dam Lettie Lee's foals.

Bred by Dr. Tony and Anne Parker, he is currently leased by the Parkers, Edwin (recently deceased) and Kath Davidson, Charlie Hunter, ONZM and Anne Hunter. Sean McCaffrey trained him during his 2yo career, joined this season (2015/6) by Ross Paytner. Maurice McKendry is his usual driver although Sean has handled him in three of his starts, combining in his initial victory.

Royal Willie is the eighth live foal of nine produced by Miss Whiplash and seventh winner, the other qualified and raced but not a winner. Royal Willie to date, has started on 15 occasions resulting in three victories and 3 placings, T2:06.7, \$21,853. Two of these wins came as a 2yo from seven starts, winning his third and fifth starts at Alexandra Park before finishing eighth in the 2015 Harness Jewels Ruby - 2T at Ashburton. At three, to date, his seven starts have included another win at Auckland before Christmas 2015. Gelded since his latest win, he

recommenced his Jewels quest at Cambridge's 4 May meeting finishing a tidy fifth on a wet track,, another fifth at Auckland and fourth at Cambridge to confirm his Jewels spot.

Miss Whiplash (Gee Whiz) fashioned an excellent record in late 1990's/early 2000 for the Parkers and trainer Peter Wolfenden (son Glen Wolfenden driver). Her 13 NZ wins (12 at Alexandra Park), 27 placings plus 2 placed efforts in Australia (2nd ID heat) netted stakes of \$151,765, T2:04.7. In many of her races she started off back marks. Her major successes included GN Breeders Trotters Stakes, Thames Trotting Cup, second in the Rowe Cup, third in the Challenge Stakes, fourth in a Dominion Hcp.

As a broodmare, Miss Whiplash has produced a high proportion of fillies among her nine foals - seven in total, the first six were fillies (all six winners). Her seven winning progeny are :

Madam Heidi (Sundon mare), 2 wins, T2:10.8, \$8,150; dam of 3 winners

Dutch Annie (Continental Man mare), 4 wins, T2:05.5, \$35,719; dam of 3 winners including Hot Pants (4 wins, T1:59.6, 1950m, \$67,829, 3rd NZ Trotters Oaks),

Yagunnakissmeornot (12 wins, T2:01.8, \$114,119, 3rd Jewels Ruby - 2T, GN Trotting Breeders Stakes

Playmate of the Year (Muscles Yankee mare), 2 wins, T2:06.3, \$14,402

Emma Hamilton (Earl mare), 6 wins, T2:01.3, \$77,385; NZ Trotters Oaks, 2nd NZSS - 3T/GN Trotting Breeders Stakes (twice)

Demimondaine (Continental Man mare), 7 VIC wins, T2:03.2, \$54,471

Wanna Play (Majestic Son mare), 5 wins, T1:58.9 (1950m), \$91,191; NZSS - 2T, 3rd Hambletonian; 2yo Trotting Filly of Year

Royal Willie (Majestic Son colt), 3 wins, T2:06.7, \$22,103

Royal Willie's grand dam Working Girl's (Nevele Pride) was purchased at a National Bloodstock dispersal sale in 1990. Her progeny included Miss Whiplash's half-brother's Stakhanovite (successful sire NZ/Australia) and Well Built (T1:53.3, John Simpson Memorial - 2cT), half-sister Lilly The Pink (13 wins, T1:57.5TT, ID heat; dam of Jazz Legend (ID Consolation, Vic Emerging Stars), Another Starlet - eleven foals to race for eleven winners including Millburn Michael, Gammel Dansk, Pink Diamond, Brylin Crescent, Another Love, Enghien; grand dam of Groovy Bromac).

Royal Willie's third dam is The Pro (Porterhouse/Gallons Lady). Aside from Working Girl, her progeny included dual gaited Drill Instructor, Tabor Lobell (Zweig Memorial, sire of HP Pague, USA Breeders Crown - OT), Mountain Breez (T1:54..3US, Virginia Breeders - 3FT).

Peter Craig



Standardbred

Classic Families

Discover The Performance Behind The Pedigree





EMBRYO TRANSFERS - STIGMA OVER!

Two of the more interesting results to come out of the premiere meeting at Addington held on Saturday were that of the Embryo Transfer kind.

Embryo transfer is the process of taking a fertilised egg from the desired donor mare and implanting it into another healthy mare's uterus to carry to full term.

The 2016 New Zealand Oaks winner in Dream About Me is a direct result of an Embryo Transfer, and should go a long way in dispelling the stigma around foals of the process not being any good or somehow a second class product!

One of The Breeders' principal sponsors, Dr Lee Morris has been offering the service to the equine sector for the better part of the last decade through Equibreed NZ Ltd. The veterinary practice situated just outside of Cambridge offer specialist veterinary equine reproductive services to all of the equine sectors including Standardbreds/Harness.

As one of the countries most decorated equine reproduction experts, her achievements and research are held in the highest regard around the world.

"EquiBreed NZ is very excited by the recent success of embryo transfer foals in New Zealand. Their success is proof that good genetic selection produces great results", said Dr Morris.

Interestingly, More The Bettor who won the Group 1 Sires Stakes 2yo Final on the same day is out of Lucky Pocket (2006 B m In The Pocket -Pleasant Franco), a full sister to Christian Cullen, who was herself the result of the ET procedure.

Embryo Transfer has been around in New Zealand for a lot longer than many would have realised!

The first registered standardbred in New Zealand as a result of the process was Historic Mirmir (1977 B h Gerry Mir - Compliment) back in 1977.

Since then, 230 Standardbreds have been registered in this country as Embryo Transfer foals with 222 of those taking place post 1999 as the technology has become more readily available.

The first race winner as a result of the procedure was the aptly named Designer Genes (2001 14 B g Live Or Die - Blue Genes) and since then a further 81 ET runners have been victorious.

That said, one in every 2.8 ET foals born have won races.

Saturday was not the first time an ET foal has saluted the judge in a Group or Listed race with seven others blazing the path for their breeders and believers in the procedure.

Other Embryo Transfer foals to have won at the elite level include:

- Jays Debut (2002 g Presidential Ball – Tarena Jay - \$239,454)
- Real Deal Yankee (2004 g Dream Vacation – Catherine the Great - \$171,571)
- Sno's Big Boy (2004 g Muscles Yankee – Shezadoosie - \$215,308)
- Great Getaway (2005 m Dream Vacation – Catherine the Great - \$117,259)
- Shard Ark (2006 g Badlands Hanover - She's Mighty - \$77,733)
- Pemberton Shard (2008 m Christian Cullen - Sly Shard - \$229,578)
- One Over Da Moon (2010 5 Majestic Son - One Over Kenny - \$294,313)
- Nike Franco (2010 McArdle - Nearea Franco - \$392,697)

Other talented ET foals you will remember include Return to Sender, Rocker Band, Freespin, Aliante, Weka Lass & Cruzee Lass.

"Embryo transfer creates breeding opportunities that may otherwise be lost and can be used for old mares, late in the season, mares while they are racing and for mares with fertility issues, said Dr Morris.

Habibiti is a good recent example of a mare being bred while racing. In 2014 she was still in the midst of a promising campaign having won the Group 3 Yaldhurst Hotel Canterbury Park Trotting Cup. With many other big money targets on the horizon, but the broodmare credentials already in tact, an embryo was taken in 2014. The result is a rising one year old Majestic Son filly called Astound whom the owners are now a couple of years ahead of where they would have been had they waited for Habibiti's retirement.

"If you believe in genetics (which is what you pay for when you pay for a service fee) then embryo transfer is a great option in many situations"

For more information regarding Embryo Transfers, please visit Equibreed New Zealand's website by [click here](#).

Brad Reid

A FRIEND PASSES



Mark at his recent 60th birthday party

I cannot say that I knew Mark Robertson well, but for the last 18 years our paths crossed frequently in and around racing and West Melton. Whether it was as a sales agent with John Curtin, a publican at Darfield or after a stint in Australia as a journalist for Harnesslink I can say that Rebecca and I always enjoyed Mark's company, and his advice.

In the last two years Rebecca and I were the beneficiaries of some lovely Harnesslink articles written by Mark about our fillies. He always tried to find an angle that was fresh or new. He wrote well, he was also dedicated and productive. The story had to go out right now. At the Christchurch Sales he sat in the stands and pushed out the articles, the odd technical hitch notwithstanding!

During his recent illness he travelled the country far and wide. It was not easy, but it gave him both a release and relief. Sometimes he over did it, majorly so to the point of collapse - but what else was there to look forward to except another hospital visit, a two or three day stay and more chemo. Racing and standardbreds were his life after his devotion to his son Liam.

All speed my friend. The Breeders will miss you.

John Mooney

**Mark's Memorial Service:
11 am Monday, Sacred Heart Catholic
Church, Stevens Street, Addington**



Bit Of A Legend

BIT OF A LEGEND WINS AGAIN!

Bit Of A Legend won again at Yonkers Raceway on Saturday, making it 9 wins from 12 USA career starts now!

Bit of a Legend N as he is known over there was winding up from last and rallying down the middle of the oval. Sixth turning for home, he was a going-away winner, defeating Outrageous Art by a length-and-a-quarter in 1:52.1.

JUST LIKE MUM!

Brilliant McArdle mare Nike Franco was a stylish winner of the \$100,000 Group 1 Queen Of The Pacific (2,760m) at Tabcorp Park, Melton on Saturday evening.

The former Queensland Oaks winner led for the majority of the trip comfortably crossing the line 1.9m clear of Milly Perez, rating a smart 1:56.5 for the last mile.

A Group 1 winner already this season in WA, the win was Nike Franco's third Group 1 victory and her 18th overall lifetime win, taking her earnings to an impressive \$392,697, and not far shy of her champion dam Nearea Franco's earnings of \$441,405.

The Dean Braun trained 5-year-old daughter of McArdle is enjoying her most successful season to date having already won the Westral Mares Classic and the Warragul Cup, as well as placing third in the Ladyship Mile on Miracle Mile day to Frith and Our Willow - both of whom were again rivals in the Queen Of The Pacific, with the pair finishing at the rear of the field.



Nike Franco



SHANTAHLIA STUD STILL KICKING GOALS

Shantahlia Knight and John McDermott win the second heat of the NZ Amateur Drivers Championships at Cambridge Raceway last Friday night

Sixty nine year-old Graeme Lamb's standardbred breeding days might be behind him but the North Canterbury horseman still takes an interest in the remaining three horses he bred with his wife Christine.

The Lamb-bred Shantahlia Knight notched up his fifth career win, and fourth this season at Cambridge Raceway last Thursday night. The Knight Rainbow gelding out of Shantahlia Classic, which was the \$15 sixth favourite, was driven by John McDermott in the second heat of the New Zealand Amateur Driving Championships.

The 9-year-old is trained by Rangiora-based Andrew Stuart who shares in the ownership with partner and vet Becky Sutorius.

"I just returned from a month in China and unfortunately didn't get to see him win. We have wound down our operation considerably since the Shantahlia Stud Days.

"We still race (own, train, bred) 5-year-old Hesa Dazzler (Extreme Three – Sheza Rainbowdazzler and 6-year-old Shantahlia Romeo. They have both won a race each," Cust-based Lamb said.

He said he and his wife ran Shantahlia Stud for several decades before retiring from that stint about five years ago.

"The game got too tough and I wasn't getting any younger. I've always loved the sport and have enjoyed breeding and racing horses over the years. I've now got a couple of gallopers and the two I'm working," Lamb said.

Lamb has conditioned 49 winners and netted \$380,544 in stakes since taking out his trainer's licence in 1993. He said Billy Dazzler and Payson's MoneyMaker were the two best horses he had trained.

"Billy Dazzler won two races here and then another 24 in Australia while Payson's MoneyMaker won three for me before he was sold to the United States where he won \$90,000 in his first three months over there. He also ran third in the 1993 (NZ) Sires Stakes Final behind Motoring Magic.

"We bred him but sadly he had a float accident and never raced again. At least he returned his purchase price and some," Lamb said.

Shantahlia Knight upset the apple cart at Cambridge last week when scoring by a length from the widest second row draw of 12.

He is the fourth foal of six left by the deceased zero-win W R H – Sherree Coulter mare Shantahlia Classic.

"I didn't breed her but owned and trained her to about five placings before retiring her to stud. She placed a 1:57.4 mile at Hororata (March 2000) but sadly she is no longer with us," said Lamb.

"Shantahlia Knight has been her only New Zealand winner. Her last four foals were by Knight Rainbow and her first two were by Classic Tale and Shantahlia Shiraz. The youngest was a 6-year-old bay mare named Classic Woman."

Lamb said his breeding days might have been over but he enjoyed pottering around with the two horses left on his property.

"I'll wait for my jetlag to wear off and then I'll put them both (Hesa Dazzler and Shantahlia Romeo) back in work. They keep me busy and I've also got a couple of gallopers too," Lamb said.

"I've always loved harness racing. I used to sponsor the junior driver races down here for several years," he added.

Duane Ranger

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



- Alabar is this year forming a select syndicate so you can share in the thrill.
- 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

Alabar (NZ) Ltd is an authorised syndicator



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

