

NZSBA

BREEDERS' WEEKLY

Canterbury breeder, Karina Vermeulen has bred some smart horses in her time including the pictured, Explosive Art. We caught up with her this week to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles.

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Best Laid Plans with connections after winning the Peter Walsh & Associates Mobile Pace at Geraldine

'PLANS' COME TO FRUITION FOR MCDERMOTT

The last thing John McDermott needed was another yearling. He had more than enough of his own.

He also knew that he really had no choice.

The advert in the NZ Harness Racing Weekly was offering a Badlands Hanover-Nibiru chestnut colt for sale.

Rick Burnett, whose wife Vicky had died of cancer at the age of 41 and left him with two young children, was off to live in Australia.

Nibiru, a mare by Road Machine owned by Vicky, had been good to John.

"Peter Cowan, Vicky's first husband, trained her and I drove her in many of the non-totes for amateur drivers; before they had tote races. I'm not certain about this but I think I won seven in a row with her.

"SHE WON HER ONLY TOTE RACE AT ASHBURTON IN 1.58 FROM NINE AT THE GATE, DROPPED TO LAST AND WAS PARKED FOR THE LAST HALF. SHE WAS BETTER THAN A ONE-WIN," HE SAID.

For \$1000, John took the weak, over-

grown colt home to join the others.

"It's taken time and he's a smart looking horse now, but he's had a bug like all of them in the stable – coughs, runny noses – and he got it worse than any of them."

The horse – now four - is Best Laid Plans which upset the favourite Mac Toddy and 10 others in a maiden at the Geraldine meeting.

"He likes the grass so there are some nice opportunities coming up for him," he said.

Nibiru has a maternal sire line of Road Machine (damsire of Lewy Risk), Butler B G, Mercedes and Gentry. The fourth dam of Nibiru is Miranda Bay, who also left Miranda Belle to Meadow Al. This mating left the great pacer Luxury Liner, the winner of 37 races including seven over 3200m, two Auckland Cups and a New Zealand Cup among them. It's a stout pedigree that Best Laid Plans should enhance with time.

Nibiru, in the meantime, is on loan to Nevele R Stud, possibly in use as a recipient for embryo transplants.

The addition of Best Laid Plans has, of course, not diminished the McDermott

breeding numbers although he admits to having too many.

"But I love breeding horses. It's a passion, a disease," he says.

Last year he bred six yearling fillies, and three of them – two by Changeover and the other by Auckland Reactor – have been broken in and turned out.

This season he bred six foals – a colt by Bettor's Delight from Supreme Gem (sold as a yearling by Peter Cowan for \$60,000), a filly by Bettor's Delight and the first foal from the fine racemare Flyover, a colt by Peak from Duchess, a colt by Prodigal Seelster from Twitch, a filly by Highview Tommy from Sly And Stylish ("a class act") and a colt by Changeover from Beardsley.

"I'm thrilled with them; probably the best I've had.

"And some will go to the sale. I won't be keeping them all."

Six have been served –Supreme Gem by Bettor's Delight, Flyover by Mach Three, Beardsley by Auckland Reactor, Brookside Babe by Gold Ace, Jenna Franco by A Rocknroll Dance, and Consummate by He's Watching.

Mike Grainger



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BREEDER'S PROFILE



Karina Vermeulen with her
daughter Selena

PHOTO: SHELLEY TOPP

KARINA VERMEULEN

Karina Vermeulen is a Canterbury breeder who has been involved for a long time in racing and breeding Standardbreds. Her father Morris Vermeulen trained and owned several cup class horses including Hilarious Guest and Speedy Cheval. The family have carried on in their father's footsteps and have bred some crackers which more recently include Explosive Art and He's My Hero. Karina is once again putting a member of the 'Guest' family through the ring in Lot 350, and she is excited at the prospect of seeing the only Washington VC at this year's sales go under the hammer. We caught up with her to bring you another edition of Breeder Profiles;

WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN HARNES RACING?

Well I was born and bred in the harness racing industry and my father Morris Vermeulen always had horses around him. He was just a hobby trainer but he

had quite a lot of success in the small team he had around him.

Dad bred and trained Hilarious Guest along with the likes of Timely Robyn, Royal Decision and Speedy Cheval. They were all cup horses and it was a bit of a sad story there with Dad being diagnosed with skin cancer. I tried to talk Dad out of selling him (Speedy Cheval) because I it would have been his best chance and having a horse go close in the New Zealand cup, and I don't know if we knew the potential of him. He ran 3rd in a New Zealand Cup and was a super little horse. He was one of my favourite pets as I did a lot of the work with him! We were so proud of him when he won the Welcome Stakes.

All us three kids were all gifted a share in a horse each, just as a bit of interest if anything, and they all panned out to be cup horses. Philip my brother was gifted Timely Robyn, and I had the coin toss of taking a colt and I said I would try and wait for a filly with result being Hilarious Guest! My sister had Royal Decision so we were all quite luck really.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN BREEDING STANDARDBREDS?

(Sighs) I can't really think back that far but I guess the first one I put through the ring was a colt out of Hilarious Guest called Goodtime Guest (1992 Vance Hanover) and he was a good little horse who had eight wins (including six in a row) before a training mishap, it was just unfortunate he had his accident.

WHY DO YOU BREED STANDARDBREDS?

It's just in my blood. I use to go to the gallops a lot in my younger years but as I've gotten older I've just focused on the Standardbreds. While Dad only ever trained pacers, I have to admit I do love watching the trotters do their thing as well.

There's something about watching the crème de le crème win races, and you know, when Terror to Love won his third New Zealand Cup, it was just a privilege to be there and that was worthwhile being there alone to witness because it was part of history wasn't it?! And I guess that's why we all breed them. In the hope of getting a good horse!

BEST HORSE YOU HAVE BRED?

I'd suppose you would have to say Village Hero. He was such a gentleman of a horse and to be honest he did a great job didn't he. It was quite a mission to get the horse because it was getting quite late in the season and we were quite limited as to where we could go.

I liked the look of Village Jasper so we went to him and because it was so late in the season, he ended up being bred to Northern Hemisphere time. He ended up winning the PGGW Northern Hemisphere Time pace for two-year-olds at Alexandra Park and he won 16 races in the United States and \$274,000 in stakes.

I ran into someone at the trials a few years ago and they advised me that they had seen him race in Canada and he was up against the elite horses over there and won convincingly the day they were there and said he had to be pretty good to win that race, and that made me feel really proud!

Explosive Art was my favourite horse from the mare but I think he had troubles with staying sound, and he's over in Perth now!

HAVE YOU BRED ANYTHING THIS SEASON?

King of Heroes (Lot 350) is going through the ring on the second day of the Christchurch sales and he's just a lovely individual. He's just a lovely individual, and the dam even though she's getting older is just leaving lovely types. He's a people's horse and has a lovely

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temperament and everywhere he goes, he walks in a pace and he just wants to be a part of everything. He's got a lovely head on him and I think he's the only Washington VC in the sale, he looks the part and you can tell he wants to be there.

I put Guest of Dreams in foal this year and Royal Mission. They have both gone to Terror to Love. He ticks all the boxes in terms of being a competitive racehorse and hopefully he can do the job. He has manners on his side and he has the speed to inject into our staying breed. I would love a couple of colts but the mare leave nice types and as long as we get them on the ground safely I guess that's the main thing at the end of the day!

SOMETHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE CHANGE FOR BREEDERS?

I think some of the studs need to take a look at us little guys and make things a bit more feasible for the smaller breeder. It's not solely the service fees, the additional services on top add up and it gets really pricey.

I'd love to see the service fees reduced for some of the unproven stallions as it just seems like a no brainer to me. I think the POLF option is a really good one and gives more people a chance, so hopefully more of the studs look at offering that in the future.

ARABIAN DOES THE TRICK FOR TRICKY MARE!

It took a little Arabian-bred stallion to set the late Tess Le Lua's breeding career alight and even though she only left three foals her only daughter is still nailing winner's cheques.

The Sean McCaffrey and Ross Paynter trained Le Lua Invasion notched up her sixth win at Cambridge Raceway last Thursday night.

That was over the 2200m mobile. Three days later she finished fourth on the Tauranga grass from the 3000m stand. "She's such an honest and versatile mare. That was her first win away from Alexandra Park. Mum would have been proud. She was involved in harness racing all her life.

"Mum was very keen on the sport and tried to get me into it, but I resisted for a very long time. I wished I listened to her a lot earlier than what I did. I don't know why I left it so long. I absolutely love breeding and owning standardbreds," Te Awamutu-based Ken McGrath said.

Tess Le Lua was bred by McGrath's mother, Maire who passed away in Auckland a couple of years ago, not long before Tess Le Lua died. The Scotch Trick mare was the last horse she bred before her son took over the reins.

Tess Le Lua, who won four races between December 1995 and September 1999, had no return and then slipped with her first two attempts at breeding in 2000 and 2001.

That's when Arabian breeder Ken McGrath decided to put her to a little Arabian stallion that lived down the road.

"We only ever bred one Arab out of 'Tess' and then after that her that she didn't have any problem getting in foal.

"The little Arab she left is now involved in South Island endurance events," 62-year-old McGrath said.

McGrath and his partner Melanie Barker breed both standardbreds and Arabs. Their Arabian company is named 'Arahi Arabians'. In fact Barker's two children Alice and Nadine won the North Island Endurance 100km race at Taupo last weekend on Arahi Arab-bred horses.

The couple are also breeding out of Maire's 13-year-old Spirit Of Venus mare

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Le Lua Invasion trots down the outside for second, and is promoted to first with Reine Des Gitans (inside) being lapped on



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Spirit Of Flame; 7-year-old Sundon mare Nia; and 11-year-old Muscles Yankee mare, Wheresmum.

But it's Tess Le Lua that is giving McGrath and Barker the happy times on the racetrack.

The first of her three foals – Oto Invasion was the first horse they bred with the late Maire. He was a son of Armbro Invasion and won eight of his 85 starts (\$57,020) before being retired in December 2014.

"I really enjoyed racing 'Oto' and when he was at his peak we got a real nice offer from Australia for him. It was hard to say no to but I did it for Mum. She

was getting so much pleasure from seeing the horse run so we kept him. I'm glad we did," McGrath said.

He then put Tess Le Lua to Armbro Invasion and Le Lua Invasion was the result.

The mare's third and final foal is a Dr Ronerail 5yo gelding named Primus Inter Paris.

"HE'S THE LAST HORSE MUM BRED BEFORE SHE DIED. IT'S A SHAME SHE NEVER GOT TO SEE HIM RACE. HE IS ONE OF THE LAST DR RONERAILS GOING AROUND AND HE'S HAD TWO STARTS NOW FOR SEAN AND ROSS," MCGRATH SAID.

Meanwhile McGrath and Barker have been together 30 years and are finally going to tie the knot this winter.

"It's been a long time coming but we are finally getting around to it. We own a real estate company together in Te Awamutu," McGrath said.

Of his breeding crop he said he thought a couple of youngsters stood out.

"We have put Wheresmum to Monkey Bones three times and I really like her 2-year-old filly named Goingrey.

"I've also got a lot of time for Nia's second foal by Peak who was born last year," McGrath said.

Duane Ranger

SAILS FLYS THE FLAG FOR FALLEN BROODMARE



Sails & Jimmy Curtin get the job done in the Blue Star Taxi's Mobile Pace at Addington last Friday night

There was as much sadness as there was celebration following the success of Sails at Addington last week.

Trainer Alan Russell, part-owner of Sails with his wife Marina, recalled the years of painful disappointment and heartbreak that have dogged their breeding aspirations with City Of Sails.

"Even now I get a bit choked up thinking about it," Alan said.

City Of Sails, a good racemare by Soky's Atom who won five from 39 starts, is the dam of Sails and earlier the smart juvenile Alinghi. But while her racing career was straight-forward, her career as a broodmare was nothing like it: for six successive seasons – 2005 to 2010 – she either missed getting in foal or lost it.

Finally, getting in foal to Washington VC was a triumph and a tragedy.

"After breeding Alinghi and Millie (by Mattuity) we did the right thing and gave her a year off," said Alan.

"But after that there was nothing but complications.

"In the end I decided to send her down to Keith Norman a year or so in advance to give her time and do the best by the horse. He rang and said she was in foal and I had no doubt things would work out well."

And they did. Keith rang and said she'd had a lovely filly foal.

"But the next day he was on the phone again, this time with bad news; the mare was dead."

There was help at hand for the foal. Terry McDonald had a mare who had lost a deformed foal at Macca Lodge and they matched immediately.

Later, they had to exhume City Of Sails for evidence the foal was hers.

Alan's entry as a breeder came with guidance from Don Bates and Steve Hammar.

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"WE'D GONE TO A DISPERSAL SALE AND STEVE SAID IF YOU WANT TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT BREEDING, THIS IS THE MARE YOU SHOULD BUY."

At the time City Of Sails was a lightly-raced maiden but her pedigree had Volvo value. Her third dam was Star Petite, who to Gentry left Birdie. Unraced, Birdie had 12 foals and nine of them won; to Gaines Minbar she left Dillon Dale, the winner of 17 for Don Dwyer, and to Shicker she left Dillon Dean, a super young horse whose 20 wins included the \$150,000 NZ Derby in 1988, and the \$150,000 Messenger the year after.

Alan paid \$5500 for City Of Sails, Hammar – working with Russell at the Chateau on the Park Hotel – did the training and with five wins she was well credentialed when the time came for another career.

Initially, he was keen on Pacific Rocket, but when Bates and Hammar had bookings to Presidential Ball, he joined them and bred Alinghi.

"Alinghi always had exceptional speed. There were a couple ahead of her, but she had to be the third or fourth best filly of her year.

"We've bred six from her. I've got Spinnaker and Earthquake (both by Bettor's Delight) coming up, and there's a yearling colt by Raging Bull (part-owned by former Addington starter Jack Mulcay), a filly on her by Shadow Play, and she's been served by Alta Christiano."

"Spinnaker is a bit small. She won her first race and that flattened her but she's not far from racing, and we're getting more serious now with Earthquake."

Sails is trained for the Russells by Sam Smolenski, who has made a strong start to his training career.

"It's great to get help from other horse-men," said Alan.

"We were alongside Laurence Hanrahan one night and talking about her gait and he suggested trying her in a heavier hopple. That's made a difference and it's fantastic we can work together like that."

Mike Grainger

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SOUTH AUCKLAND BREEDER NOT JUST A ONE TRICK PONY!

Julija Brosnan has bred dozens of horses over the years including Interdominion, Dominion, Queensland Derby champions - and even a Canadian Gold Cup winner.

But the South Auckland horsewomen said her latest victory in a C1 to C3 amateur driving event at Gate Pa (Tauranga) on Sunday also gave her a great thrill.

That 1950m mobile was won by the Jay Abernethy trained Tyche, which was bred by Brosnan. Her daughter Soraya

and her partner Logan Gurney also share in the ownership.

"We all love to win and I was so pleased for Gerry (Cronin) who had his first winning drive behind Tyche, and it will always be a race he will never forget.

"I was also delighted for Soraya and Logan because I really enjoy breeding, but I have to be subversive about it, because I cannot afford to breed to the

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highbrow commercial stallions – so my winners are all the more appreciated,” said Brosnan who is married to Hall-of-Famer Richard.

Together with her husband, Brosnan won the Outstanding Contribution prize at last year’s North Island Harness Racing Awards Ceremony.

“WINNING ANYTHING IN HARNESS RACING IS A BONUS. WE ALL BREED TO RACE AND WIN BUT AFTER A LIFETIME OF RACING THAT AWARD WAS SPECIAL,” SHE SAID.

Tyche, who is by Santanna Blue Chip, is the fifth of seven foals out of the three-win Ok Bye – Saieda Girl (Surmo Hanover) mare, OK Saieda.

“OK Saieda is a lovely looking mare and was very kind. Her daughter Tyche is a bit more like my daughter Soraya....very lively.

“Tyche is the only one I have from OK Saieda. I gave a share to Soraya and her partner Logan Gurney.

“Roz and I bred from the mare on alternate years. I did not race OK Saieda, she raced out of Mike Berger’s Cambridge stable. I bought her at the autumn sales in foal to Falcon Seelster and took Roz Brown in as a partner.

“Her fourth foal – a son of Falcon Seelster was named Mario Fenech. He went amiss with breathing problems so we leased him to owners in Australia. They operated on him and he won five over there.

“I bred Tyche. Roz bred a 4yo Shadow Play gelding named Lockyer, who has qualified and an un-named Shadow Play filly. We have since given OK Saieda away,” Brosnan said.

Lithuania-born Brosnan knows all about winning low-key grass track races as much as she does winning big Group ones throughout the world.

“I really don’t know how many winners I have bred. Lots and lots of one and two-race winners – the best of them Baltic Eagle, who won the 2003 Interdominion Final; Pompallier in the 2005 Dominion; D B Bopper in the 2002

Queensland Derby and the 2002 Gold Cup in Canada. He won over half a million dollars, while Aquinas won four races here and then about \$200,000 overseas,” said Brosnan.

She said she still bred standardbreds even though she sometimes left her husband scratching his head.

“I still breed much to Richard’s disgust, so I have to come up with all sorts of excuses to calm the waters.

“I’m currently breeding from a Christian Cullen mare named C C Bopper, who is a half-sister to D B Bopper and a half to dam of Second Wind, who won the Group One Taylor Mile in 2010.

“I’ve also got an Artsplace mare named Baltic Art, who is a half-sister to Baltic Eagle. My daughter Virginia is breeding from Baltic Fire also 1/2 to Baltic Eagle.

“My daughter Virginia and I bought Diamonds and Gold in foal to American Ideal last year and she has now produced a lovely colt.

“Richard overlooked his own advice and has bred a Sundon colt from Body and Soul from the Jenover family,” said Brosnan.

And Brosnan’s breeding skills have not merely been limited to the equine breed. Her family have also proven to be successful in their respective paths in life.

“Virginia is an equine vet in Melton, Victoria. Soraya is a pharmacist. My older son Richard John-Paul is in Melbourne working in Advertising and Communications. Emmett is in Victoria working for Geoff Webster but now has his own training licence and won his first group race a few weeks back with Action Kosmos which is owned by his brother Richard, Cameron Mackie and another friend. The horse has now won over \$100,000.

“Richard’s cousin Greg Brosnan owns Brosnan’s Transport and is very heavily involved in harness racing and has a whole room of memorabilia of Brosnan harness history in his home dating back to the late 1800s,” a proud Mum and wife said.

Duane Ranger

TUAPEKA RE-SHUFFLE

Although the famous Tuapeka Lodge is winding down its breeding operations, it won’t be disappearing completely.

They have recently sold eleven mares but they still have a small number of well-bred mares to breed from, some young stock to race and weanlings to prepare for next year’s yearling sale.

“We’ve kept two mares. Tuapeka Maddy, who has a Bettor’s Delight filly on her and is back in foal to him, and Petra’s Star who’s not in foal and is still being difficult this season. Tuapeka Maddy is a half-sister to Raconteur who we’ve also sold,” said Dan Cummings who owns the Lodge with his sister Julie Davie and his brother Peter.

Raconteur’s first foal, Talkerup is unbeaten in two starts for Cran Dalgety and is being aimed at the Sales Series race next month.

“PERHAPS WE SOLD THE WRONG SISTER. MACCA LODGE BOUGHT HER SO THEY WILL BE VERY PLEASED WITH THEIR PURCHASE. THERE WERE QUITE A VARIETY OF ARRANGEMENTS (FOR SELLING) BUT IT WENT VERY WELL AND WE WERE PLEASED THAT THEY ALL SOLD WITHIN THE MONTH.”

West Otago breeder John Stiven was also among the buyers, purchasing Tuapeka Art - an Art Major mare out of Petra Star which is still racing. He also bought Real Wing a one win Badland’s Hanover mare out of Tuapeka Wings and Raindowne a five win mare which is by Life Sign out of Tuapeka Tango.

Tuapeka Lodge still owns Break Dance, a four year old Art Major mare out of the eight win Live Or Die mare Wave Runner. She’s raced on lease to clients of Simon Adlam’s stable with Tuapeka Lodge retaining a racing share.

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"We have a three year old filly in training called Straka (Art Major – Spring Thaw), and three 2 year old fillies - one in training and two turned out till next year. So it looks like Tuapeka Lodge will be around for a while yet if only with a lower profile."

They are preparing ten yearlings for this months sales including a full brother to up and coming Southland three year old Galactic Star.

Cummings says Tuapeka Lodge is the longest continuous vendor at the premier yearling sale with his mother the late Joan Cummings taking their first yearlings to the sales in 1968. The stud has bred a host of top performers, including Ideal Scott, Iraklis, Brad Adios, Tuapeka Star, Tuapeka Knight, Fine Jade, Ermis and Reality Check as well as Tuapeka Vale, the dam of Monkey King.

It has also presented ten sale toppers over the years with the Young Tala (Young Charles – Sakuntala) being the first in 1979 (\$20,000) and the last and biggest earner for the stud being Tuapeka Mariner a Christian Cullen colt which sold for \$250,000 in 2008.

Ideal Scott is the Lodge's recent major winner.

He's performed at the top level with wins in the 2013 Australasian Breeders Crown, Cranbourne Cup, Queensland Pacing Championship and Blacks A Fake and Great Northern Derby. The son of American Ideal and Tuapeka Wings sold for just \$19,000 at the 2010 Premier Sale. He has amassed \$755,614 in Stakes.

No doubt the three experienced breeders will take a keen interest in what the new owners do with their mares in the future.

Meanwhile their immediate focus is on successfully presenting this year's draught of yearlings at the Sale of the Stars.

Although they've scaled down their operation, we can assume the next Tuapeka Lodge winner won't be far away.

Bruce Stewart



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PHARMACIST FINDS THE FORMULA IN BETHANY!

New Zealand Harness Racing continues to churn out colts that quite simply dominate their opposition on both sides of the Tasman.

Over the last twenty years, names that spring to mind include Courage Under Fire, Christian Cullen, Elsu and Pay Me Christian.

After last Saturday night's Victorian Derby win by the aptly named Lazarus (2012c Bettor's Delight – Bethany), you can almost bet that the Mark Purdon

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Lazarus (outside) fights back to beat his stablemate (inner) **Chase The Dream** in the Sires Stakes final on Cup Day

CONT.

trained runner is set to follow in the footsteps of his family and add to the long list of champions spawning from the great broodmare, **Tabella Beth** (1979 **Able Bye Bye** – **Double Tested**).

The only person more excited than the owners of **Lazarus** about his racing prospects is the co-breeder and owner of his dam, **Bethany** (2007 **Christian Cullen** – **Spirit of Beth**); **Gavin Chin**.

"I use to go to **Forbury Park** when I was a young kid with my Dad, and I remember watching horses like **Enterprise** and **Sir Custom** when they use to come down here and the old trotters like **Kimrock** and **Regal Flyer** who use to come to **Forbury** and race off 100m handicaps!"

"As I got older something I really got into was breeding and going through the pedigrees. Usually when a good horse crops up I will have a look at its pedigree and see if I can find any patterns."

That passion led to **Gavin** purchasing his first horse with the intent to breed!

"The very first horse I bought was a broodmare off **Brian West** called **Box Office Hit** (1991 **Soky's Atom** – **Umpteen Million**), I think I bred one from her and sold it at the yearling sales."

"It was when I could afford it basically, when I had a real job," he laughed.

So how did the man who owns and operates the **Mosgjel Pharmacy** wind up breeding a champ in waiting?

"She (**Bethany**) was advertised by **Stuart Valentine** when she was a three year old and **Kerry Hoggard** had bought her but only wanted to race a classic horse which she didn't quite fit the bill for, I rung **Gareth Dixon** and he said she hit the ground quite hard and wouldn't make a racing proposition," said **Chin**.

She did however have breeding on her side.

"She ticked a lot of the boxes being a young mare and a **Cullen** mare and it was a family I had always liked."

For a pedigree purist there is more than a lot to like when looking through the progeny **Tabella Beth** has graced our racetracks with, and some of the girls in the family have followed in her hoofprints leaving fantastic horses themselves.

Her first foal, **Star of Bethlehem** (1987 **Soky's Atom**) won five races from 15 starts for **Paul Kerr** and was good enough to pick up a **Southland Oaks** in the process. Where she really did her damage was in the broodmare barn leaving the emphatic **Stars and Stripes** (1996c **New York Motoring**) whose three year old year was as good as any seen in the last 20 years winning three derbies and the **New Zealand** and **Australian** 3 year old horse of the year titles respectively. **Spirit of Bethlehem** wasn't

finished yet leaving another outstanding juvenile, 2002 **New Zealand** two year old pacer of the year in **Light and Sound** (1999c **In The Pocket**).

Her second foal **Soky's Sunday** (1988 **Soky's Atom**) had little luck on the race track but left the very smart **Niobium** (1997c **New York Motoring**) who won an **Interdominion** pacing heat before finishing sixth in the \$500,000 final at **Addington** in 2003.

Her eight foal, **Davey Maguire** (2004c **Christian Cullen**) also did a great job here for **Gareth Dixon** before going on to win 23 races and \$285,000 in stakes with most of its racing done in **Western Australia**. Others **Soky's Sunday** left include **Harrison Maguire** (2006c **Christian Cullen**) who won five races here in **New Zealand** for **Mark Purdon** & **Grant Payne** before winning 16 and \$100,000 in **Australia**.

Tabella Beth's fourth foal, **Karmic Reward** (1991c **New York Motoring**), won the **Kindergarten Stakes** as a three year old.

Her fifth foal, **Spirit of Zeus** (1992c **Soky's Atom**) kept up with tradition of being a smart youngster when taking out the 1996 **Sires Stakes** final on **Cup Day** for **Brian O'Meara** and **Anthony Butt** before then winning the **Sales Series** final at **Alexandra Park**!

CONT.

That brings us to Spirit of Beth (1995 Soky's Atom) and the immediate family of our current champion juvenile and three year old in Lazarus.

Spirit of Beth's first foal was the South Australian free for all horse in United We Stand (2001c In The Pocket) who won 21 races and \$135,000 in stakes.

Her third foal was Victory Spirit (2003c In The Pocket) who raced admirably against a supreme three and four year old crop which included Changeover and Gotta Go Cullen with his best performance being a placing behind the two mentioned in the New Zealand Messenger in 2008.

Bethany was her sixth foal and as mentioned earlier, was never a racing prospect, but put her best hoof forward when it came to leaving nice types.

Champagne Dreams (2011m Art Major) was her first foal and was bred by the same partnership that bred Lazarus in Brian West and Gavin Chin.

"She was a nice filly but they didn't seem to want Art Major filly's that year from the sales. Hamish Scott bought

her and she won once for Mark Jones before being sold to Harvey Kaplan in Australia," said Chin.

The next breeding effort brought Gavin his first Group winner in 15 years of breeding Standardbreds for which he was duly recognized at the NZSBA Cup Eve Function!

"I only ever saw Lazarus at three and four months old and then again at the yearling sales. He wasn't a big yearling but he was just so well put together with great confirmation and he was just a neat little horse."

The neat little horse went on to win the Yearling Sales Final at Alexandra Park and the Harness Jewels Emerald at two.

This year he seems to have gone to another level and in claiming the Sires Stakes final on Cup Day, the three year old Sales Series Final and Elsu Classic at Alexandra Park before crossing the ditch for his Australian assault.

On Saturday night, the Bettors Delight colt had to be good to win the Victorian Derby! The closest he got to the pegs was after working from three wide to sit parked for the last lap.

The Mosgiel breeder sat up late and took in the victory from his own home. Not one to rest on his laurels, he is already looking forward to seeing what this year's crop brings.

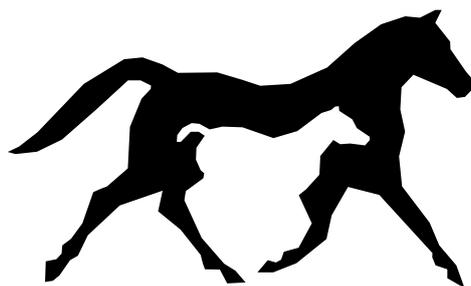
"Donna Williamson in Timaru looks after all five of my mares."

They are Dudinka's Angel (2007 Christian Cullen - Dudinka), Catherine Zeta (2003 Village Jasper - Smooth Rowan), Simply Scrumlicious (2000 Perfect Art - Smooth Rowan), It's That Simple (2011 Christian Cullen - Simply Scrumlicious) & Bethany.

"Three are in foal and two have missed. I breed with the intent to race but we do sell the odd couple through the sales also," said Chin.

Gavin plans to put Bethany back to Bettors Delight in the near future and given the success of the family to date, it would not surprise anyone to see the Tabella Beth breed and Bethany continuing to leave some seriously smart standardbreds.

Brad Reid



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