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Weekend @Waikato

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Savabeel

WAIKATO STUD'S OUTSTANDING SEASON ACKNOWLEDGED

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Another stellar season for Waikato Stud has them in leading contention for the Breeder of the Year Award.



BELOW / Waikato Stud
Photo Credit: Nicole Troost

The Matamata nursery is one of four finalists with the winner to be announced at the NZTR Racing Awards Dinner in Auckland on August 26.

Waikato Stud's tally for the 2017-18 season boasted an impressive three Group One winners, eight Group winners and 15 stakes-placed graduates.

Among their top-flight graduates was the star colt Embellish, a regally-bred son of the nursery's champion resident Savabeel.

The good-looking three-year-old won the Gr.1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas in a canter to post the third victory of his short career. Embellish was purchased out of Waikato Stud's 2016 Premier Sale draft at Karaka by Te Akau principal David Ellis for \$775,000.

The gifted colt is a brother to the Gr.1 New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes winner Diademe. Their dam is the O'Reilly mare Bling, who hails from the family of the former champion sprinter Sacred Star.

Embellish's victory at Riccarton set up a memorable spring week at Riccarton for Waikato Stud and Savabeel.

Their home-bred Hasahalo subsequently came out a week later to take top honours in the Gr.1 New Zealand 1000 Guineas.

Trained by Stephen McKee for Albert Bosma's Go Racing, she came from the back of the field to rout her opposition.



The filly was bred by the stud with Isabel O'Shea, wife of leading Sydney trainer John. Hasahalo is a daughter of the Encosta de Lago mare Halloween, who was a cheap May Sale purchase at Karaka at the urging of the Group One-winning Australian conditioner.

"We bought her for \$6,000, at John's insistence, and she had a foot like a cow to be honest," stud principal Mark Chittick said.

Hasahalo was subsequently sold at Karaka in 2016 for \$110,000.

The third member of Waikato Stud's Group One-winning trio of the 2017-18 season was the New Zealand Oaks heroine Savvy Coup. She is trained by

Michael and Matthew Pitman and also collected Group Three victories in the Lowland and Eulogy Stakes.

Savvy Coup is a daughter of the unraced Pins mare Eudora and was a \$65,000 purchase for the Pitman, Coupland and Bruford families.

Eudora is a sister to Tootsie, whose son Ocean Emperor won last season's Gr.2 Japan/NZ International Trophy and the Gr.2 Tauranga Stakes. The son of Zabeel was purchased out of Waikato Stud's 2013 Karaka draft for \$450,000 by part-owner and trainer Gary Hennessy.

SAVABEEL SETS THE STANDARD

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It might seem like business as usual but closer examination of champion stallion Savabeel's achievements from the past 12 months reveals just how good his season has been.

Such is Savabeel's record, expectation is that he continues to churn out high-quality racecourse performers with monotonous regularity.

And while that's again been the case for the 2017-18 season, the Waikato Stud sire has continued to forge through old barriers and set a new benchmark of siring success.

At this month's New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Awards, Waikato Stud's Mark Chittick will accept the Grosvenor Award, Dewar Stallion Trophy and Centaine Award, a Savabeel clean sweep of all three New Zealand stallion awards for an unprecedented third straight season.

Zabeel stallion Savabeel was represented by six Group One winners - Kawi (Captain Cook Stakes), Shillelagh (Cantala Stakes), Embellish (2000 Guineas), Hasahalo (1000 Guineas), Sword Of Osman (Sistema Stakes) and Savvy Coup (New Zealand Oaks),

the latter five all first-time Group One winners and taking his career tally of Group One winners to 17.

While his 16 stakes winners this season was down three on last year's tally, Savabeel has continued his career ratio of one in 10 stakes winners to runners and he sired a million dollar yearling for the first time - a colt out of Pins mare Katie Lee, which was knocked down to David Ellis, fetching \$1,025,000 at Karaka in January. Meanwhile, his daughter Diademe fetched \$A1.7 million at this year's Magic Millions Broodmare Sale.

"It's been another cracking season. His success, earned in so many countries, at the highest level was huge," Chittick said.

"The obvious highlight, which he gave us the opportunity to do, was breeding the 1000 and 2000 Guineas double and we got a lot of satisfaction from Savvy Coup winning the New Zealand Oaks. They were all out of young mares too.

"That's the fortunate position we are in with Savabeel. He is always giving mares a great opportunity and continually upgrading families.

"The unwritten rule is anything above five per cent of stakes winners to runners and you have a successful stallion. I think he's one of only three in Australasia at 10 per cent or higher, which is freakish really."

Savabeel's progeny earned \$3,396,125 in New Zealand, nearly \$1.5 million clear of nearest Grosvenor Award rival Iffraaj. In the Dewar Trophy standings, Savabeel finished with \$8,422,028, more than \$4.8 million clear of Darci Brahma, while his earnings in the

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BELOW / Savabeel
Photo Credit: Trish Dunell



SAVABEEL SETS THE STANDARD (CONT'D)

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Centaine Award were \$13,454,236, more than \$2 million clear of Darci Brahma.

Another facet Chittick has been especially buoyed by is the upsurge of success from Savabeel's two-year-olds.

Sword Of Osman became Savabeel's second Group One-winning juvenile after Pasadena Girl's Champagne Stakes (1609m) in Sydney in 2015 and Peaceful's Listed Auckland Futurity (1400m) win in May took his tally of two-year-old stakes winners to 11 from the sire's overall total of 75.

"His record with two-year-old stakes winners has been a good selling point of ours and to get a top quality horse like Sword Of Osman winning at two this season just underscores that," Chittick said. "It just shows his versatility and I think

that's the Success Express (Savabeel's damsire) coming through."

Rising 17, Savabeel remains in excellent health ahead of the upcoming breeding season for which Waikato Stud have preferred not to make his service fee public.

"We've restricted his book to outsiders. Syndicate members' mares make up 100 of his book so we've only taken about 20 or 30 outside mares this season and that's a decision we've made to look after him as he gets older and add longevity to his stud career," Chittick said.

"He was a \$10 million purchase and I'd say 70 per cent of the original syndicate are still in him and have been wonderful supporters of his. He's getting older and we're very conscious of looking after those members and

the stallion himself. This type of horse doesn't come along every day.

"He's in great order. A couple of years ago Garry suggested buying a treadmill to help get the stallions fit for the breeding season. We got it fitted out last season and he's getting full use of it this season and he looks amazing.

"He's a very good doer but he loves getting on there and working out. Our other stallions use it too but our thinking is if we can get another year out of Savabeel because he's so fit and healthy then it's paid for itself." - **NZ Racing Desk**



BELOW / Savabeel
Photo Credit: Trish Dunell



O'REILLY MAKES HIS PRESENCE FELT IN THE RYDER

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It was only fitting that the final black type event of the New Zealand racing season was dominated by the late, great O'Reilly.

His grandson Atenartin won the Listed Ryder Stakes at Awapuni Racecourse on Saturday while the former champion Waikato Stud stallion's son Mexican Tycoon finished second.

Trained by Matthew Eales, Atenartin was a \$7,000 New Zealand Bloodstock Karaka purchase and is from the family of Group One winners Anacheeva, Headturner and O'Marilyn.

The youngster led all of the way in the hands of Danielle Hirini to close out his season in style.

"I could see he was travelling quite well and I knew he could handle the track, so I was quite confident," Eales said.

"I knew he had improved off his last run as he didn't have the perfect prep, yet he was still a dominant winner.

"He had really improved in three weeks, so I thought that would count for a lot today.

"To get a black-type win on his home track is great for the owners."

Mexican Tycoon topped the 2016 Karaka Weanling Sale when he was knocked down for \$185,000 to Queensland's Aquis Farm.

He is out of the former champion Singapore two and three-year-old Mexican Rose.

Mexican Tycoon has now placed in all three of his runs and looks a top new season prospect for premiership-winning trainers Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman.



ABOVE / O'Reilly
Photo Credit: Trish Dunell

STAFF PROFILE BEV SPRIGGENS

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This week we caught up with Night Foaling Unit Manager Bev Spriggens as she heads into her eighteenth foaling season with Waikato Stud.

Q How and when did you get involved in the thoroughbred industry?

A My summer job during high school was working at Potomac Polo Club, Maryland, USA. When Ken Browne brought over a boatload of ponies and a team of NZ players and their wives/grooms, I had to check out New Zealand. My first job was working for Brian Mollet. I went on to marry Tom (stallion groom Ra Ora) have two daughters and breed/race a few horses. We were lucky enough to race a good Zamazaan filly and she bought us 50 acres in Waharoa when we sold her in 1987. Horses have been very good to us.

Q Is there a mare you look forward to having through the foaling unit each year? If so, why?

A So many of the old girls, now gone. Escada, Gio and Jacqwin. Now

I love seeing their daughters in the paddock. We even have a stunning 2-year-old Rock 'n' Pop filly at home who is a great, great granddaughter of Jacqwin.

Q What is your favourite part of working at Waikato Stud?

A Foaling time of course but I also love the sales. Cooking breakfast for the staff and getting the yearlings ready for the ring.

Q Do you have any special tricks for staying up through the night?

A I am a pretty good sleeper during the day but I walk around if I feel drowsy.

Q How many mares do you think you have foaled throughout your career?

A I have just started my 18th season at Waikato and was at Fayette for

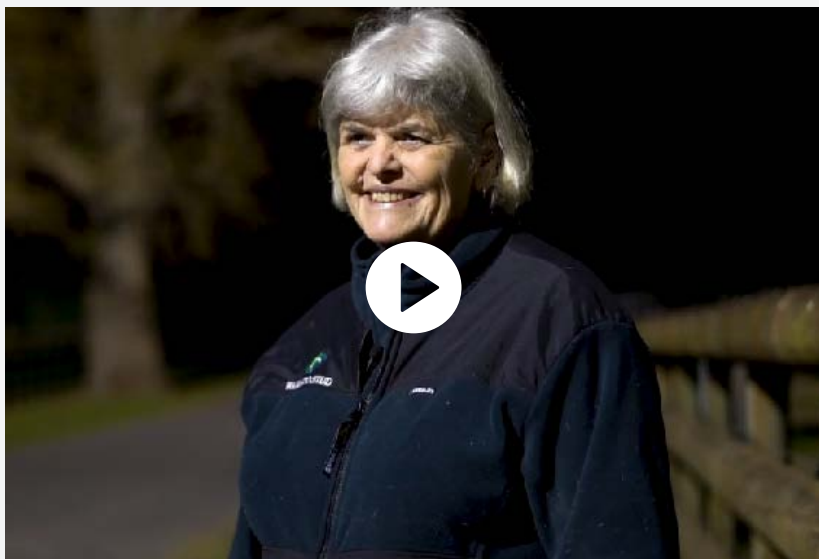
5 years and did 5 seasons at Ra Ora plus a few others at Brian's and Matamata Stud. It must be 2000 plus.

Q What's your secret talent that no one knows about?

A I love my garden and growing roses, I'm very proud of my strawberries too. Not a great talent but gives me a lot of pleasure.

Q What's the craziest thing you have ever done?

A So many crazy things! I have enjoyed several of the New Zealand's great walks with much encouragement from my wonderful family.



LEFT / Click the video to watch Bev and the foaling team in action

The *anatomy* of
New Zealand's Champion Sire

Savabeel

SERVICE FEE: PRIVATE

The Overachiever

Four-time New Zealand Sires' Premiership Winner

Three-time Dewar Award Winner

Three-time Centaine Award Winner

Leading NZ Three-Year-Old Sire

Leading NZ based stallion on the Australian General Sires' Premiership

Leading NZ based Three-Year-Old Sire in Australia

Potent Sire Power

17 Individual Group One Winners

75 Individual Stakes Winners

10% Stakes winners from runners

70.1% winners to runners

The sire of more Stakes winners than Zabeel at the same stage in his career

Sale Ring Dominance

The Leading NZ Sire at Karaka for the fourth consecutive year

Australasian Yearling Sale average \$259,766

Multiple million dollar progeny sold



Waikato Stud

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FIND OUT MORE

FEATURED STALLION: SAVABEEL

www.waikatostud.com

Going from strength to strength with a succession of new Group horses in the 2017-18 season, champion sire Savabeel has claimed his fourth straight New Zealand Sires' Premiership, his third consecutive Dewar Award (combined Australian and New Zealand progeny earnings) third Centaine Award (combined progeny earnings worldwide) and he is the leading New Zealand based stallion on the Australian General Sires' Premiership.

Savabeel has proved himself to be one of the most versatile stallions in Australasia with Group One winners at two years over 1200 metres, three years over 1600 – 2400 metres and older horses who have been successful at the highest level over a variety of distances. Sword of Osman, Embellish, Hasahalo, Savvy Coup, Shillelagh and Kawi achieved those feats respectively in the 2017-18 season to take Savabeel's number of Group One winners to 17.

Savabeel has notched up a total of 75 Stakes winners to date and recent success includes siring the New Zealand Group One Guineas double with Embellish and Hasahalo and his daughter Savvy Coup won the Group One New Zealand Oaks, resulting in Savabeel siring the winners of three of the four main New Zealand Group One Classic races.

In the 2017-18 season, Savabeel sired 16 individual Stakes winners including Group One winners Savvy Coup, Hasahalo, Embellish, Sword of Osman, Shillelagh and Kawi as well as Group winners Coldplay, Splurge, Savapinski, Addictive Nature, Royal Success and Clarify plus Listed winners Grazia, Santa Catarina, Savaheat and Peaceful.

Savabeel's class as a racehorse was evident when he defeated 9 Group One winners in taking out the 2004 W.S. Cox Plate and that level of achievement has followed through to both the yearling sales ring and progeny record on the racecourse.

His success shows he is the heir apparent to his own Champion Sire Zabeel who in turn was the heir apparent to Sir Tristram before him. And like his sire and grandsire, his progeny display the toughness and durability to win over all distances, at all ages from two years to eight years and, incredibly, Savabeel has passed Zabeel for the number of Stakes winners sired at the same stage of their careers.

With recent successes, Savabeel is now achieving a Stakes winners-to-runners ratio above 10 per cent and has thus become only the second sire currently standing in Australasia to reach that level of excellence. Savabeel also boasts an enviable winners-from-runners ratio that exceeds 70 per cent.



By Zabeel, from Savannah Success (by Success Express)
16hh | 2001 | Brown | **Service Fee Private**

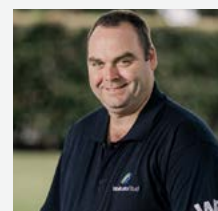
For the fourth consecutive year, Savabeel was crowned Leading New Zealand based sire at the Karaka Yearling Sale and the 2018 Australasian sales series have seen 82 Savabeel yearlings sell for an average of \$259,766 with 80 bringing \$100,000 or more – testimony to the type and correctness and an acknowledgement of the progeny success.

Leading buyers have paid up to \$1,025,000 to secure yearlings by Savabeel and the demand to purchase his older progeny at the Hong Kong International Sale has also been strong with his three-year-olds selling for up to \$770,000. Similarly, his daughters have been highly sought after with Diademe selling for \$1.7 million at the 2018 Magic Millions Broodmare Sale and Nurse Kitchen and Soriano fetched \$1.7 million and \$1.15 million respectively at last year's Magic Millions Broodmare Sale.

Speak to our Breeding Consultants



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AT THE FARM

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ABOVE / Rock 'n' Pop very happy to be reunited with his Te Akau Racing strapper Teina Walters at the farm on Thursday



LEFT / Hong Kong based couple Joe Weil and Amy Taylor stopped in on Monday to see the farm and stallions

MARK'S MAIL

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We're still waiting patiently for our first foal to arrive and have been flat out this week with plenty of people through to see our stallions.

We celebrated the end of another massive season this week and are so proud of the achievements made by our stallions and horses we have bred. We were thrilled to be announced as finalists for the Breeder of the Year Award after 23 Stakes horses made us so very proud in the 2017-18 season including our trio of Gr.1 Classic winners Savvy Coup, Embellish and Hasahalo.

We look forward to seeing what lies ahead in the coming season and all the best to everyone out there breeding, racing or just enjoying the game!

Have a great weekend.

Cheers
Mark



GARRY'S CORNER

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I am not sure if it's good or bad but the one thing for sure is the years go real quick in this racing game. They go a lot quicker if you are lucky enough to be racing a good horse, you don't want the run to end.



[Click here](#)
to read Garry's Corner



RACING THOUGHTS

Former racing journalist Mary Burgess shares her thoughts on the current issues faced by the New Zealand Thoroughbred Industry

Operating costs a mystery to NZRB

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