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Weekend @Waikato

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BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Waikato Stud have claimed their sixth Breeder of the Year title.

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Savabeel takes home all the major sire awards for the third year in a row at the Horse of the Year awards.

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Savabeel
Photo Credit: Sarah Kapua

STUD'S STELLAR SEASON HONOURED

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Waikato Stud again played a starring role during a night of glitz and glamour at the New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Awards evening in Auckland on Sunday evening.

The Matamata nursery lifted the prestigious Breeder of the Year title for the sixth time in acknowledgment of another outstanding season.

The 2017-18 term provided the farm with classic highlights aplenty – a memorable spring double at Riccarton followed by success at Trentham.

Stud graduates Embellish and Hasahalo claimed the NZ 2000 and 1000 Guineas titles respectively and then Savvy Coup reigned supreme in the NZ Oaks.

“The Guineas double with horses born

and bred here out of young mares was the highlight for me and one of them was the highest-priced yearlings we had sold at that stage,” principal Mark Chittick said.

Embellish was purchased at Karaka by Te Akau principal David Ellis for \$775,000 in 2016, while the Gr.1 NZ 1000 Guineas winner Hasahalo was secured for \$110,000 by Albert Bosma’s Go Racing.

“And then to get a third classic winner with Savvy Coup in the New Zealand

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BELOW / George, Charlotte, Pippa, Charlie, Harry and Mark Chittick



STUD'S STELLAR SEASON HONOURED (CONT'D)

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Oaks was outstanding," Chittick said of the \$65,000 purchase.

For her heroics, the Michael and Matthew Pitman-trained Savvy Coup was crowned the champion three-year-old.

Savabeel's best son Kawi was retired last season and his efforts were fittingly recognised with him winning the sprinter-miler category by a wide margin.

Trainer Allan Sharrock did a magnificent job throughout the gelding's career to guide him to seven Group One wins.

To cap off a remarkable evening for Waikato Stud, resident Savabeel

completed a clean sweep of the stallion titles.

His 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 more than \$8 million while his earnings in the Centaine Award were in excess of \$13 million.

"There's no doubt we are going to see more serious horses by Savabeel as he's always giving mares a great opportunity and continually upgrading families," Chittick said.

"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."



BELOW / Click the video below to watch the next generation of Chitticks in action.



SAVABEEL REPEATS CLEAN SWEEP

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At Sunday evenings New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Awards, Waikato Stud's Mark Chittick accepted 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.



BELOW / Savabeel
Photo Credit: Sarah Kapua



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 in the 2017-18 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 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 76.

"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.

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SAVABEEL REPEATS CLEAN SWEEP (CONT'D)

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"It just shows his versatility and I think that's the Success Express (Savabeel's damsire) coming through."

Now at 17 years of age, 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: Sarah Kapua



O'REILLY COLT REMAINS UNBEATEN

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O'Reilly colt Brutal turned in a beast of a performance at Moonee Valley on Saturday to maintain his unbeaten record.

The three-year-old impressively jumped from a runaway maiden win to claim the Listed Mitchell McKenzie Stakes.

"I really did like his last 50 metres when he flattened out and they don't have to win by big margins," said co-trainer Wayne Hawkes.

"It's only his second start and it's still all new to him."

A \$220,000 Karaka yearling, Brutal sat close to the pace and finished determinedly under Dwayne Dunn.

"I don't know whether we keep him sprinting or stretch him out," Hawkes said.

"There really hasn't been a plan after today. He's a lovely horse who's got a fair future.

"He's a seriously good sort with plenty of upside and improvement to come."

Brutal is out of Alberton Princess, who was purchased for \$65,000 a year after Brutal's sale by Gary Hennessy.

The Matamata horseman bought the Golan mare with a specific plan in mind and sent her straight to Ocean Park.

He currently has a colt by the Waikato Stud stallion, who he prepared for multiple Group One success including the 2012 Cox Plate.



BELOW / Brutal
Photo Credit: Darryl Sherer



GRUNT TACKLES VEGA MAGIC IN NZB MEMSIE STAKES

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Luke Currie will be the new rider for Grunt when he starts in the Group One Memsie Stakes at Caulfield.

Trainer Mick Price was forced to search for a new rider with Damien Oliver riding Vega Magic on Saturday.

Vega Magic won the Memsie Stakes under Craig Williams last year before running second to Redzel in The Everest, a race he is again chasing this year.

Oliver partnered Grunt in two autumn victories, including the Group One Australian Guineas, and was aboard in the four-year-old's return run in the P B Lawrence Stakes at Caulfield on August 18, finishing fifth to Showtime.

Price had originally planned to go straight to the Makybe Diva Stakes at Flemington on September 15 with Grunt.

"He pulled up too well and I don't reckon I could win a tough mile at Flemington four weeks between runs second-up," Price said.

"He's a colt and you can't get the work into him."

Price said he would be nervous going to Flemington with only trackwork and potentially another trial under Grunt's belt in that four-week period.

"I think he's nice and fresh and I'm allowing this 1400-metre race to bring him on for the Makybe Diva," Price said.

"The other consideration, if he was to fluke winning the Memsie, stick his head out at the right time, it would greatly help his stud career."

Grunt is nominated for the Cox Plate on October 27 for which he is a \$26 chance. He is also at \$26 for the Caulfield Cup and \$51 in the Melbourne Cup. - NZ Racing Desk



BELOW / Grunt



HENNESSY HOPING HISTORY REPEATS

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Matamata trainer Gary Hennessy sees a number of similarities in Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy (1400m) hopeful Ocean Emperor and his five-time Group One winning galloper Ocean Park.

It is six years since Hennessy prepared Ocean Park to win the Hastings Group One, then known as the Makfi Challenge Stakes, which was a pre-cursor to the entire winning three Group One races in Melbourne during the spring of 2012, including the Cox Plate (2040m).

A seven-year-old entire by Zabeel, Ocean Emperor missed much of his three and four-year-old seasons with a hoof injury, but the dual Group Two winner is making up for lost time.

Ocean Emperor prepared for

Saturday's contest, for which he is rated a \$10 chance, with two impressive trial victories at Te Teko and then Taupo, leaving a host of weight-for-age gallopers in his wake.

"He's right where we want him to be," Hennessy said.

"He's like where we were with Ocean Park when he won his trial by three-lengths going in to this race. This horse did it a lot easier and against a lot stronger opposition."

To be ridden by Shaun McKay, Ocean Emperor has lead in both trials, but

Hennessy said the horse would not necessarily play pacemaker.

"The beauty of him is he's got good gate speed and he's able to take a posy and settle.

"If he gets a little bit of cover he's got a huge turn of foot, he could really explode onto the scene like he did in the two Group Two races that he has won."

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BELOW / Ocean Emperor



HENNESSY HOPING HISTORY REPEATS (CONT'D)

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A 1400m Group One success would also go a long way to securing a future home at stud for the stallion, aiming to become the 47th individual Group One winner by his late sire Zabeel.

"That would be huge," Hennessy said. "That was in the back of my mind from the day we bought him. He is the most gorgeous looking horse.

"We've had a few little set-backs with him but I think he's come of age and the trip to Singapore earlier this year has probably been the making of him."

Ocean Emperor could embark on

further travel, with Hennessy keen to replicate Ocean Park's successful Melbourne campaign.

"If he can run a really good race and run in the first three, I think we'll go straight to the Underwood like we did with Ocean Park.

"The step up to 1800m from 1400m will suit. He's always looked like he can get a trip.

"He's easy to train. He's very similar to Ocean Park, he's like a clone really. It's just unfortunate he missed his three-year-old career and didn't get that racing experience that Ocean Park did at the same age.

"But being a Zabeel, they just get

better with age and he's a lovely entire to work with."

Bred and sold by Waikato Stud, Ocean Emperor is out of the Group Three-winning Pins mare Tootsie and was a \$450,000 Karaka purchase by Gary Hennessy from the 2013 Karaka Premier Yearling Sale.

While Hennessy is hoping to enhance a stallion's pedigree this weekend, he was savouring the stakes success of Caulfield Guineas favourite Brutal in the Listed McKenzie Stakes (1200m) at Moonee Valley last Saturday, having acquired his dam Alberton Princess and another close relative just over two years ago.

"I bought both Alberton Princess and Lady Alberton at the 2016 New Zealand Bloodstock May Sale," Hennessy said.

"I paid \$75,000 for Alberton Princess and she was in foal to Sacred Falls. The subsequent foal made \$170,000 as a yearling earlier in the year, so she owes us nothing and Brutal looks very exciting."

Hennessy, who along with wife Jenny, operates Weowna Park in Matamata, has Ocean Park yearling colts out of both mares.
– NZ Racing Desk



LEFT / Ocean Emperor

NZTBA WAIKATO STALLION PARADE

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ABOVE / Ocean Park



LEFT / Tivaci

[VIEW GALLERY](#)

NZTBA WAIKATO STALLION PARADE (CONT'D)

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[VIEW GALLERY](#)



LEFT / Savabeel



BELOW / Mark and
Charlotte Chittick



WELCOME TO THE TEAM JOANNA SMYTH

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She has treated the Queen's foals and was a finalist in the Young Farmers National dance competition - meet Joanna Smyth, Waikato Stud's new Assistant Vet.

Q What is your role at Waikato Stud?

A I am the Assistant Vet.

Q Tell us a bit about your background with horses and how you got to where you are now?

A I grew up on a farm in England and have always had horses. After vet school I worked in a farm and equine practice for 3 years before spending two years doing an internship in an equine hospital in Newmarket.

Q Where are you from and what brought you to New Zealand?

A I have lived in the UK all my life before coming here – NZ is somewhere I've always wanted to work and I like foals and stud work

so coming for a season sounded like a good plan.

Q What would you say is the greatest achievement in your career to date?

A Probably when the Queen came to visit one her sick foals at the hospital – and it survived.

Q What is something that not many people know about you?

A I went to the Young Farmers National Dance Finals where we danced a routine to 'Uptown Funk'.

Q What would you consider to be your greatest achievement?

A Making my sister's multiple tiered-wedding cake from scratch.

Q What aspect of your personality adds the most value to the world?

A I'm quite optimistic and laid back so I'm pretty calm in a crisis.



LEFT / Joanna Smyth

RESIDENT STALLIONS

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SAVABEEL

Sire of 17 Individual Group One Winners
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Free Mating Analysis

Feel free to call or email our team to discuss the compatibility of your mare/s with our stallions.



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BLACK TYPE SPOTLIGHT WITH JEREMY ROGERS

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GRUNT

GROUP 1 NZB MEMSIE STAKES



Grunt / By O'Reilly, from Ruqqaya

Although he passed away nearly four years ago, O'Reilly's dominance is still seen on the racetrack through the deeds of last week's Listed Mitchell McKenzie Stakes winner Brutal and on Saturday it's his Group 1 winning son Grunt that takes centre stage in the Group 1 NZB Memsie Stakes. He is second up and the plan was to wait for the Makybe Diva Stakes in two weeks but he has done that well trainer Mick Price felt he needed the run here. Bred by Trelawney Stud, he is likely to settle midfield and be doing his best work over the concluding stages – this run should have him spot on for the Group 1 Makybe Diva at Flemington in two weeks.

HECTOPASCAL

GROUP 3 COCKRAM STAKES



Hectopascal / By Pins, from Sussex Dancer

This very honest Pins mare tackles Stakes company for the first time. Bred and raced by Stu & Katie Hume's Berwickshire Bloodstock, she has been brought along patiently by Darren Weir and has ran top four in 16 of her 20 starts. The 1200m is at the bottom of her distance spectrum so likely to find these a little sharp but expect her to be finishing off strongly and follow her when stepping up in distance.

OCEAN EMPEROR

GROUP 1 TARZINO TROPHY



Ocean Emperor / By Zabeel, from Tootsie

The Waikato Stud bred entire returns after running in Singapore and has won both his trials leading into this race. A dual Group 2 winner, he comes from one of Waikato Stud's best families and has a good record first up. Gary Hennessy who won this race with Ocean Park will have him primed to run a good race.

SAVVY COUP

GROUP 1 TARZINO TROPHY



Savvy Coup / By Savabeel, from Eudora

She resumes from a spell and was recently named New Zealand 3YO Horse Of The Year. By Savabeel from the Pins mare Eudora, she comes from the same family as race rival Ocean Emperor. Last season's NZ Oaks winner she is likely to find a few of these a bit sharp over the 1400m – it would be good to see her doing her best work over the concluding stages.

WS SIRED & SALE GRADUATE STAKES RUNNERS

www.waikatostud.com

1 SEPTEMBER

MASQUE

Savabeel - Disguised

Listed El Roca Trophy, 1200m

Hawkes Bay, 2:42 pm (NZT)

SAGUNTO

O'Reilly - Queen Sabel

Listed El Roca Trophy, 1200m

Hawkes Bay, 2:42 pm (NZT)

CAVALLO VALOCE

O'Reilly - Giant Mystique

Listed El Roca Trophy, 1200m

Hawkes Bay, 2:42 pm (NZT)

OCEAN EMPEROR

Zabeel - Tootsie

Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy, 1400m

Hawkes Bay, 3:50 pm (NZT)

SAVVY COUP

Savabeel - Eudora

Gr.1 Tarzino Trophy, 1400m

Hawkes Bay, 3:50 pm (NZT)

GRUNT

O'Reilly - Ruqqaya

Gr.1 Memsie Stakes, 1400m

Caulfield, 6:10 pm (NZT)

HECTOPASCAL

Pins - Sussex Dancer

Gr.3 Cockram Stakes, 1200m

Caulfield, 7:25 pm (NZT)

2 SEPTEMBER

BLUE SWEDE

O'Reilly - Hooked Ona Feeling

Sgp - 3 Moonbeam Vase, 1600m

Singapore, 8:50 pm (NZT)

SONG TO THE MOON

Savabeel - White Mouse

Sgp - 3 Moonbeam Vase, 1600m

Singapore, 8:50 pm (NZT)

PREDITOR

Savabeel - Bird

Sgp - 3 Moonbeam Vase, 1600m

Singapore, 8:50 pm (NZT)

FOAL GALLERY

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ABOVE / Sacred Falls
- Needed filly



LEFT / Savabeel -
Pinata filly

MARK'S MAIL

www.waikatostud.com

Mark Chittick joins you from the dry mare crush on the eve of the breeding season to discuss the week that's been and the exciting weekend of racing ahead. Click the video below to watch.



GARRY'S CORNER

www.waikatostud.com

Garry is joined by fellow former Chairman of the Racing Board Tom Williams to discuss the release of the Messara Report. Click the video below to watch.



RACING THOUGHTS

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

Much to digest as we absorb the Messara report

[CLICK HERE TO READ](#)