



WAIKATO STUD NEWSLETTER

DOUBLE TRANS- TASMAN GROUP 1 STRIKE

Waikato Stud 3-year-old graduates produced Group 1 strikes on both sides of the Tasman on consecutive Saturdays during March with the top-class duo of Amarelinha and Mo'unga taking resident stallion Savabeel's tally of individual top-flight winners to 23.

Amarelinha was an outstanding winner of the G1 New Zealand Oaks with a commanding performance that also saw her crowned the New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year while Mo'unga swamped his rivals in the G1 Rosehill Guineas.

Trained by Jamie Richards, Amarelinha has enjoyed a glorious season that has also seen her triumph in the G2 Eight Carat Classic, the G2 David & Karyn Ellis Fillies' Classic and the G3 Sunline Vase.

"She was bred by Waikato Stud and we've had a lot of luck with Savabeel, I'm just really proud of the filly," Richards said.



Amarelinha winning the G1 NZ Oaks

Amarelinha jumped in the air as the Oaks field jumped and rider Opie Bosson was forced to settle the filly further back in the field than intended.

They moved ominously into the race 600 metres from home and was in front soon after straightening and held a strong gallop in the straight to score with ease.

Amarelinha was sold at the 2019 New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sale to Te Akau's David Ellis for \$300,000 and is out of the unraced O'Reilly mare Hopscotch, a half-sister to multiple Group 1 winner Metal Bender and to the dams of stakes winners Missybeel and North Pacific.

"It's a fantastic start for a young mare. This story goes back to the early 2000s, when we bought a package of mares off Roy Potter, a

supermarket owner who at that stage was at Wellfield Lodge," Mark Chittick said.

"He wanted to cut down his numbers and we bought some of the mares that he sold. One of them was Jacqwin, who had a Zabeel filly at foot and was in foal to Zabeel again."

Mo'unga will always be a colt dear to Annabel Neasham's heart as he delivered the first Group 1 victory of her fledgling training career with an imperious display at Rosehill.

"I was worried that he was spotting the leader way too far, but Tommy knew what he was sitting on.

"I just can't thank the Fung family enough for giving me an opportunity with a horse like this. He came to me in great order and it was up to us to get the job done."

Mo'unga sports the colours of the Fung family, who purchased the colt for \$325,000 out of the Waikato Stud's draft from Book 1 at the 2019 New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales.



Mo'unga winning the G1 Rosehill Guineas

She described her breakout victory as unbelievable, but did admit to concerns with how far back in the running Mo'unga was before rider Tommy Berry asked a serious question of the colt and he responded in style.

"He's always a horse that is sort of mid-field and I thought he might end up a pair further forward than he was," Neasham said.

"Everybody has done a marvelous job and full credit to Tommy. He came in and galloped him at 3.45am on Thursday before going to Randwick and his father John works with us so he'll be jumping up and down at home."

Out of the O'Reilly mare Chandelier, who was runner-up in the G3 Lowland S., Mo'unga is another example of the successful Savabeel – O'Reilly cross, which operates at an incredible 14 per cent stakes winners to runners.

AUCKLAND CUP WIN & GAME GULLY AFTER PARTY



Bill Pomare with the Auckland Cup

Tough 5-year-old Ocean Billy credited his Waikato Stud-based sire Ocean Park with his third individual Group 1 winner when he reigned supreme in the Auckland Cup to give trainer Bill Pomare the biggest thrill of his thoroughbred career.

Ocean Billy's success further underlined the versatility of Ocean Park's progeny as he has now been represented by top-flight winners from 1400 metres to 3200 metres with Tofane and Kolding his other flagship performers at the highest level.

Ocean Billy was bred by Pomare with Kirkwall Thoroughbreds and races the gelding with wife Suzi and Peter Ludgate.

"For me, a young Maori boy who came out of nowhere, who slept under bridges and in cars, to suddenly have an Auckland Cup winner is incredible," Pomare said.

"This is the dream race to win and to think that he has come out of a sprinting mare is

amazing. I have to mention Justine Sclater as we both bred him and it was her vision to go to Ocean Park as I couldn't afford it.

"I also owe my wife Suzi who rides him every day. She has been riding since she can walk and just loves horses to pieces."

With plenty of time to ponder the future, Bill mentioned a trip to Brisbane in the winter and potentially a tilt at the famous G1 Melbourne Cup in November are in the mix for Ocean Billy.

In the days following while discussing those options with Ludgate, Pomare received a phone call that he never dreamed he would get.

"I said a little sarcastically 'sure it is' but he said no it is Chris Waller and I just wanted to congratulate you on the win with Ocean Billy, he looks like a very promising stayer"

"I was around at Peter's place and we were talking about the horse, like we do and the phone rang," Pomare said. "It was an Australian number that I didn't recognise and when I answered it the voice on the other end said, 'hi it's Chris Waller here'.

"I said a little sarcastically 'sure it is' but he said no it is Chris Waller and I just wanted to congratulate you on the win with Ocean Billy, he looks like a very promising stayer.

"I put him on to Peter and they had a good old yarn and when I spoke to him again he told me he was keen to help me if I was going to bring the horse to Aussie and to not be afraid to ask him for advice if I needed it.

"That just means the world to me, that someone like Chris would be prepared to give up his time to talk to someone like me and you can bet I will be asking him plenty."

GAME GULLY AFTER PARTY

Post Ocean Billy's Auckland Cup heroics, Pomare, his wife and friend John savoured Waikato Stud's famous hospitality at the Matamata farm.

On the edge of the farm's 688-hectare property lies Game Gully, with the Chittick family's operation able to treat clients to an array of leisure activities including jet skiing, clay bird shooting and fine dining and refreshments at the Bamboo Bar.

Hunza and Booker's Lodge also offer high-class overnight accommodation.

All Black Dan Carter became a part-owner of a filly after winning a clay bird shooting competition at Game Gully in 2009.



To add a competitive edge to the shooting contest, Mark Chittick offered a 10 per cent share in a filly to the best shooter. Carter, being the ultimate competitor, thrived under the pressure and scored himself a share in a then filly named Chandelier.

She would go on to place in a G3 during her racing career and produce none other than G1 Rosehill Guineas winner Mo'unga.

Back to last week's event with Mark Chittick as guide for the day, the crew of four (five if you include the Cup that never left Bill's side) headed out on the boat towards the infamous Bamboo Bar, a hidden pitstop along the riverbed with a stash of aging whiskey.



Bill & Suzi Pomare and their friend John at the Bamboo Bar



Lunch was at the Y-how Inn, perched up on the banks of the nearby Sacred Falls stream, where on farm Chef Steve cooked up a mean barbecue.

**ALL IN ALL A
PERFECT DAY
FIT FOR NEWLY
CROWNED
AUCKLAND
CUP WINNERS.**

INGLIS

EASTER SALE PREVIEW

A quartet of youngsters by champion resident sire Savabeel will be offered by Waikato Stud through the Royston and Catriona Murphy's Sledmere Stud draft at the Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale

First through the ring will be Lot 21, a half-brother to stakes winners Bonnie O'Reilly and Pretty To Sea with their dam the Pins mare Pretty. She is a half-sister to the Group 1-winning siblings Vision And Power and Glamour Puss, granddam of the G2 Thousand Guineas Prelude winner Acting.



Lot 21 Savabeel x Pretty



Lot 49 Savabeel x Romancing

Lot 49 is a filly out of the unraced O'Reilly mare Romancing, who has already produced the G3 Eagle Technology S. winner Love Affair and Pacquiao. Romancing is a sister to the stakes winner Salsa, dam of South African black type winner Diamond King, and a half-sister to the G3 Hawkesbury Gold Cup winner Somepin Anypin.

There is sure to be plenty of interest as well in Savabeel's son out of the two-time Group 1 winner Suavito, who's being presented as Lot 105. Successful in the Futurity S. and CF Orr S., Suavito is a half-sister to the G3 J Swaps Contractors Sprint winner Sultan of Swing.



Lot 105 Savabeel x Suavito



Lot 408 Savabeel x Magic Dancer

The consignment is completed by Lot 408, a colt from the winner and Group 3 winner Magic Dancer, whose first foal to race is the recent winner Noverre, also a son of Savabeel. The dam is a half-sister to the talented sprinter Manten, who placed at Group 1 level, and their dam Dazzling Belle was successful in a brace of Listed events.

2021 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale

April 6-7

Riverside Stables, Sydney
Sledmere Stud, Barn C

Royston Murphy

0428 418 926

royston@sledmerestud.com.au

Catriona Murphy

0409 369 965

treen@sledmerestud.com.au

Q&A

WITH AVA PLIMMER

What is your role with WS and how long have you been working there?

My role at Waikato stud is working in the yearling yard.

I worked here last year for the 2020 yearling sales and decided to come back again and I have been here for the last 8 months.

What does a typical day during yearling prep look like for you?

Start at 6am and bring in all the yearlings into the boxes where they have their breakfast and we have ours. After that it's grooming, washing, hand walking and parades for clients so making sure the yearlings are looking their best! After lunch they all get turned back out into the paddocks/fed. Muck out the boxes then repeat!

What's the most rewarding part about working at WS?

I think the most rewarding part for me would definitely be both the amount I have learnt in only the small amount of time I have been here. And also seeing the yearlings that we prepped to go through the ring at Karaka is super rewarding.

Favourite memory at WS?

Taking my first yearling through the ring at Karaka 2021. Honestly all smiles!

“Seeing the yearlings that we prepped to go through the ring at Karaka is super rewarding”



Ava Plimmer

How did you become involved in the Thoroughbred industry?

I never thought I would get into the thoroughbred industry because there's nothing down in Wanaka like this. I just saw the job opportunity come up for yearling prep on Facebook and I knew Charlotte (Chittick) from school so I asked her about it, loved the sound of it and started! Since then I'm 100% hooked.

Which yearling was the hardest to say goodbye to this year?

Probably the Tivaci x Exactly Like You filly. (Sold for \$100k at Karaka to Roydon Bergerson)

I loved her since day one of prep. Also, I was lucky enough to get to take her as my first filly through the ring this year.

Which yearling from any sale in 2021 do you think is most likely to win a G1?

Lot 437 Savabeel x Heyday filly. (Sold for \$280k to Danny O'Brien Racing & Bruce Perry Bloodstock)

Favourite WS graduate to come off the farm & why?

Noverre (Savabeel x Magic Dancer) simply because of how stunning he looks and his kind nature!

What time of the year do you find most enjoyable at Waikato?

Prep. The busiest time for everyone but you're working with a cool team of people prepping some awesome horses it's just a whole lot of fun and we always have a few laughs.

If you could invite any three people to dinner at the Y-how Inn who would it be?

James Corden, Channing Tatum and Damon Salvatore



THE WINNERS

ATISHU OVERCOMES BARRIER SCARE TO WIN IN STYLE

Smart Savabeel filly Atishu overcame a scare at the start at Riccarton to produce an impressive display to add to her record.

The well-related Waikato-bred and sold filly broke her maiden at her previous start and trainer Stephen Marsh's decision to send her south was justified.

Atishu jumped skyward at the start and rider Kozzi Asano did well to stay in the saddle. They settled toward the back of the field before unwinding powerfully in the straight to post what looked an unlikely win at barrier rise.

The 3-year-old will chase further black type during her southern sojourn after finishing runner-up in her last preparation in the Listed Wanganui Guineas.

Atishu was a \$260,000 purchase for Albert Bosma's Go Racing syndication company at New Zealand Bloodstock's National Yearling Sale.

She is a daughter of the No Excuse Needed mare Posy, who was successful

twice, and she is a sister to the multiple Group 1 winner Daffodil, dam of the recent G2 Sunline S. runner-up.

It is also the family of the G1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas winner Aegon and Courier Wonder, a son of Sacred Falls who is unbeaten in two dominant appearances in Hong Kong.



Atishu

SACRED FALL'S SON IMPRESSES ON DEBUT

Trainer John O'Shea has been won over by the Sacred Falls 3-year-old Waihaha Falls, who made the perfect start to his career at the Kensington track.

The Randwick conditioner was sent the gelding by breeders and owners Waikato Stud and Hastings trainer Guy Lowry following a trial placing and wasn't surprised at the outcome.

"I've been really taken by the horse and I'm really happy for the owners," O'Shea said.

Waihaha Falls jumped well from the inside gate to trail the leaders and rounded off strongly in the run home to score by a comfortable 0.5l under jockey Tom Marquand.

"Drawing helped him and it was a very good win. He's got a bright future and I'll get a few more miles into his legs. With a spell, he will come back in the

spring a really good horse," O'Shea said.

English jockey Marquand echoed the trainer's opinion and said Waihaha Falls had plenty more to offer.

"I got the chance to jump on him the other morning and he's a really nice horse. I probably hit the front a bit too soon and there's a lot to come from him."

Waihaha Falls is out of the Scaredie Cat mare Think Mink, also trained by O'Shea, and she was successful three times and her only other foal to race has been the multiple winner Golden Key, by Pins.

The mare, who is out of a half-sister to the Listed WATC St Leger winner Crumpet O'Reilly, produced a colt last year by Vadamos.

DAFFODIL CONTINUING TO MAKE AN IMPACT

Daffodil was a pin up girl during her racing days for Waikato Stud and has underlined her success in a broodmare role.



Sacred Falls

The daughter of No Excuse Needed won eight races, including the Australian Oaks, New Zealand 1000 Guineas and the Windsor Park Challenge Plate at Group 1 level, and at stud she has also shone.

Her gifted daughter Grand De Flora went within a whisker of winning the G2 SUNLINE S. at Moonee Valley and at Pukekohe her grand-daughter Lavita Vishvi broke her maiden in fine style for local trainer Nigel Tiley.

Daffodil is also the dam of the multiple winner and stakes placegetter Snowdrop and the five-time winner and Group performer Grand Bouquet.

The lightly-raced Savabeel filly Lavita Vishvi was offered at the 2019 New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sale and the daughter of Daisy Chain (Pins) was purchased by the N & P Balia Trust for \$340,000.

Daisy Chain was the second foal of Daffodil, who is out



Daffodil

of a half-sister to the G1 Ellerslie Sires' Produce S. winner Good Faith (Straight Strike), who produced eight winners including Tully Dane, successful in an edition of the G3 McNeil S. and placed in the G1 Railway S.

This is also the family of the Waikato Stud-bred and sold G1 New Zealand 2000 Guineas winner and dual Group 2 winner Aegon.

WONDERFUL START TO CAREER

Courier Wonder maintained his perfect record in Hong Kong with a runaway success on the Hong Kong Derby undercard.

The Waikato Stud-bred and sold son of Sacred Falls was a debut winner for trainer John Size in the spring before a spell and, off the back of a trial win, resumed in triumphant fashion in the hands of Joao Moreira.

"I have been saying to connections he is such a special horse and I doubt that he is going to let us down because he is so professional," Moreira told the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

Courier Wonder was bought out of Waikato Stud's draft at Karaka for \$150,000 by agent John Foote and is a son of the Savabeel mare Fabulist, who was won five times.

Sacred Falls



All five of her foals to race have been successful and includes the Listed Singapore New Year Cup winner Nowyousee and the Group performers Just Fabulous and Icebath.

Fabulist is from the family of the G2 Wakefield Challenge S. winner Kapsdan and the Listed winner Eccentricity, whose son Wyndham Glory was a dual stakes winner.

TONYA OPENS ACCOUNT IN STYLE

The well-related Tonya opened her autumn campaign in perfect fashion at Tauranga where she posted a breakthrough success.

The Waikato Stud-bred and raced filly was given an economical run in the trail by rider Andrew Calder and he urged the 3-year-old through a tight gap along the fence 200 metres from home and she bounded away.

Tonya is prepared by Ken and Bev Kelso and she had placed in two of her three previous appearances before going for a break and a trial placing at Rotorua



Tonya

earlier this month had her primed for a return.

A daughter of Ocean Park, the filly is out of the Pins mare Pins On Ice who was successful three times in Victoria and has now produced five winners.

They include the progressive Richard and Michael Freedman-trained Savabeel mare On The White Turf, who has carried the Chittick family's colours to six victories.

Pins On Ice is a sister to the G2 Avondale Guineas and G3 Taranaki 2YO Classic winner Raid, also runner-up in the R. Listed Karaka Million, and half-sister to Listed Tattersall's Mile winner Frozone.

The second dam is a sister to the multiple Group 1 winner Kinjite, who stood at Waikato Stud as did another family member in the G2 Ascot Vale S. winner Scaredie Cat.

MISSYBEEL BACK TO GROUP- WINNING BEST

Missybeel bounced back to her best form with a rousing front-running victory at Randwick in the G3 Aspiration Quality.

The Savabeel mare bowled along at the head of affairs under jockey Jay Ford and had enough in reserve to post the

seventh victory of her career for trainer Bjorn Baker.

Bred by Waikato Stud, Missybeel was a \$210,000 purchase at the 2016 Inglis Australian Easter Yearling Sale by Baker Racing and Blandford Bloodstock.

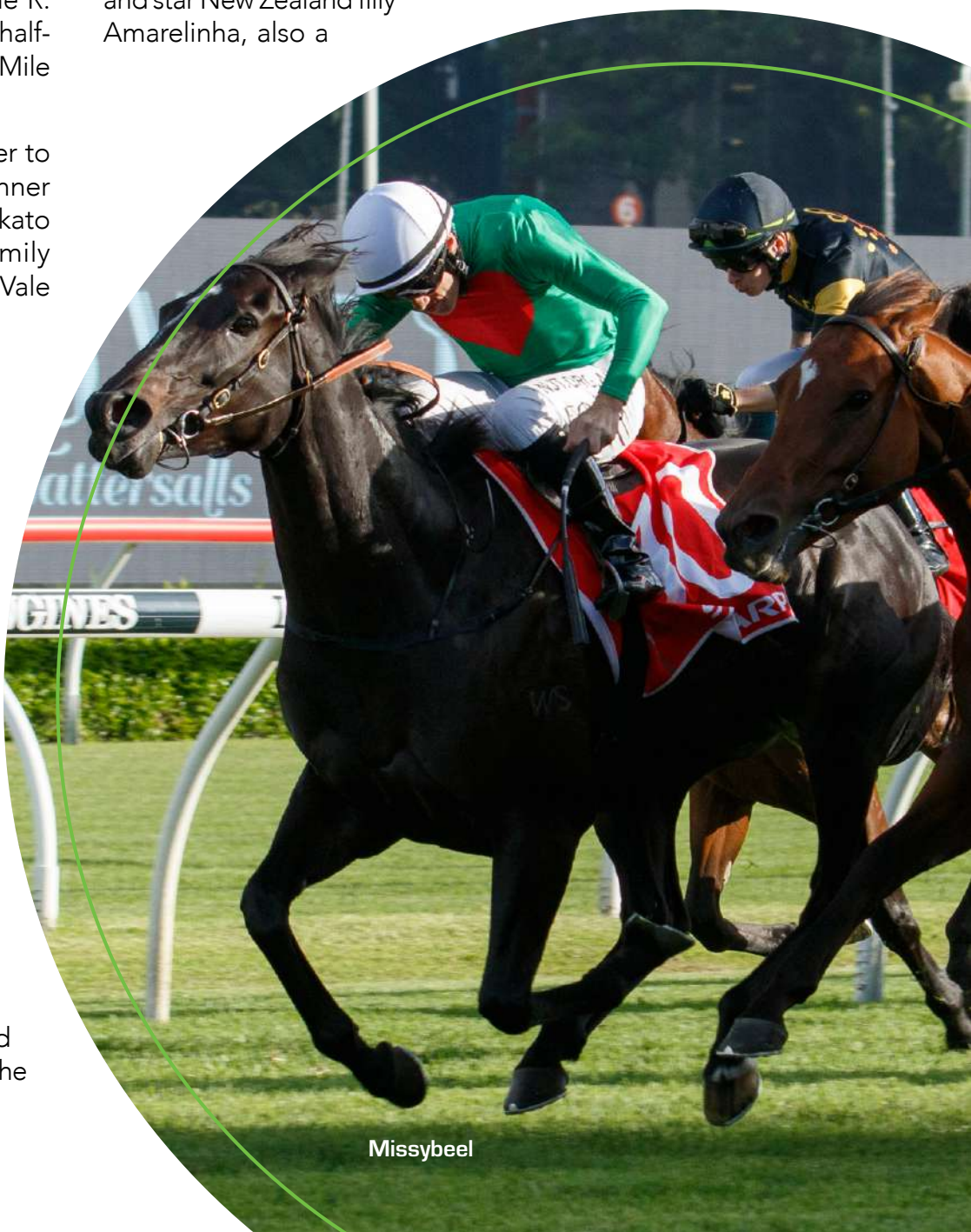
She is the first of three foals out of unraced O'Reilly mare Sitting Pretty, who is a half-sister to the four-time Group 1 winner Metal Bender.

She is also from the extended family of last year's G1 Golden Rose runner-up North Pacific and star New Zealand filly Amarelinha, also a

graduate of the Matamata farm.

Sitting Pretty's most recent foal is an unraced filly by Savabeel who was purchased for \$625,000 at the 2018 New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sale by Yulong Investments.

She has since struggled with fertility issues, missing to Savabeel on a further three occasions.



Missybeel

WISH COMES TRUE WITH IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

I Wish I Win had looked good winning both of his trials and he had no trouble replicating that form on race day with a stylish debut performance at Awapuni.

The Waikato Stud-bred and raced 2-year-old was caught three wide early before settling outside of the leader and he finished off strongly for rider Johnathan Parkes to land the major spoils in the HR Jones & Co Juvenile.

I Wish I Win is a half-brother to G3 Premier's Cup winner Another Dollar while his brother and stablemate No Limits, who has yet to win in a brief career, was bought by Te Akau's David Ellis for \$1.4 million at Karaka in 2019.

Their dam is the Pins mare Make A Wish, who has missed to Savabeel for the last two years, and she is a half-sister to the winner and G1 NZ 1000 Guineas runner-up Ambitious, who has produced the G3 Gloaming S. winner and G1 Australian Guineas second Strike The Stars.

Make A Wish is a daughter of the dual G3 winner and G1 placegetter Starcent and the family of the dual group 1 winner Sacred Star,

G1 Spring Champion S. winner Vanbrugh and current form added by the G3 City of Auckland Cup winner Savvy Yong Blonk.



South Parade



I Wish I Win

PROGRESSIVE 3YO STRIKES AGAIN

South Parade, son of Sacred Falls, has been taken along quietly and from a handful of starts placed three consecutive times before he led all the way at Bendigo earlier this month effortlessly break his maiden.

The Waikato Stud graduate then went to Ladbrokes Park and won before making it three wins in a row at Sandown on March 31st.

South Parade was purchased at Karaka by Sadler and Suman Hedge Bloodstock for \$130,000 and is a son of the unraced Savabeel mare Celebrate, who has a 100 per cent record at stud with all four of her foals to race winners.

They include Pinzu, who was successful on nine occasions, including the Listed Carbine Club S. of WA.

Celebrate is a half-sister to the Listed Lightning H. winner Keano and to the dam of the unbeaten Listed Mitchell McKenzie S. winner Ocean Beyond.

It is the celebrated family of Waikato Stud's late champion sire O'Reilly and the G1 winners Madison County and Critic.

SYNCHRONIZE GETS TIMING RIGHT

Synchronize brought her excellent trial form to the races when the Jamie Richards-trained daughter of Savabeel opened her career with stirring debut victory on her home turf at Matamata.

Synchronize made her first appearance in the NZB Insurance Pearl Series Race off the back of three trial successes and was backed into odds-on favouritism.

Rider Danielle Johnson settled the Jamie Richards-trained Synchronize in the trail and was off the fence before the turn to allow the 2-year-old to stretch out stylishly in the closing 250 metres and cruise home by 1.75l.

Synchronize was a \$280,000 purchase for Te Akau's David Ellis at New Zealand Bloodstock's National Yearling Sale and is a daughter of the unraced O'Reilly mare Splits.

Splits is a sister to the stakes winner Wolfwhistle and they are out of the dual Group 1 winner Legs and also the family of the dual top-flight winner and sire Xtravagant with Sixty Seconds, Guyno and Tiptronic other Group 1 winners in the pedigree.

All three of Splits' foals have now been successful and she produced a filly foal by Ocean Park in 2020.



Synchronize



Blesk as a yearling

BLESK COLLECTS DESERVED WIN

Blesk, the John O'Shea-trained 4-year-old gained a deserved success at Warwick Farm.

Blesk has now won three times in a brief career and was due a change of fortune after being denied clear air at his previous start on the Kensington track before arriving late for second.

"He's been knocking on the door and he hasn't had a lot of luck either," O'Shea said. "He's a talented, progressive horse who has got a bright future."

Blesk was offered at the Magic Millions Gold Coast Yearling Sale by Sledmere Stud on behalf of Waikato Stud and was knocked down to O'Shea for AU\$450,000.

He is a half-brother to the multiple winner and G1 HKJC Centenary Cup Sprint runner-up Regency Legend with their dam the unraced O'Reilly mare Sparkling.

She is a half-sister to the Listed winner Plaudits and to the dam of former Champion New Zealand Sprinter Sacred Star and also featuring on the pedigree page are the Group 1-winning siblings Diademe and Embellish.



SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS



THE CORNER

with Garry Chittick



I am lucky to have you as my devoted followers, even better I am not even sure who you are which allows me the license to ramble on, whether sensible or not on the subject near to my heart.

Of course, it can be said I have a vested interest in the subject and I do, but if I was not to use my little platform on the subject of racing there would be no Corner.

I am bemused, racing has survived for 150 years, guided and driven by all sorts of people. I don't need to identify them, you who have patiently read my rantings are fully versed in the colourful history of our codes survival. So, what is it that has caught my attention that I have cynically found tickles my fancy and really is so typically a reflection of who wants to drive racing currently?

Winston Peters identified the chance to attract a few more voters in the 2017 election promoting his concern and support for our sport. To be fair, apart from looking for a little more support electorally Winston does have a genuine enthusiasm for racing. Anyway, a large part of his attraction

was the promise to even out wagering duty paid by our sporting codes and gaming machines. It was post-election he was pointed in the direction of John Messara using his generous donation of time to develop the much-touted Messara Report. It is difficult to identify the little use of the report that is being adhered to. John must be very disappointed, but our then Minister waved the report at many meetings as the blueprint for the future. HE ALSO SAID IT WAS TIME TO CLEAN OUT THE SWAMP, RACING! HE SAID IT NEEDS TO BE RUN BY RACING PEOPLE. Why not? The first 140 years had plenty of ups and downs but nothing like the last ten. I don't need to remind you of the recent years they

have been well canvassed, so what is the way forward?

Our current Minister has anointed a committee of three to recommend suitable Board Members for the perpetually delayed NZ RACING BOARD. Don't you love committees! But someone has to do the spadework. I only know one of the three but then why should I know any. The one I know was a member of the Racing Board when I was Chairman so they should know something, however, is the current suggestion that today's racing difficulties stem from earlier administrators?

Anyway, a debate for you to digest, a list of those who were to be considered for our new Board has become available for our consumption. Why shouldn't we know who thinks they have the capacity to advance our industry, well it's not the done thing. The list availability has occurred as so often happens by the slip of a finger on the computer. The list of roughly thirty is the usual potpourri of nutters who want to run everything with a smattering of those considered qualified. But, it would appear the committee is not happy as the "Minister" has called for more nominations. Well, as you know, he has many commitments (such as introducing a new Capital Gains Tax) so my guess is this extension is a recommendation. Ironically we now have the first batch awaiting the results of the rearguard action.

If I was in the first batch I would now withdraw, but then I am a bit touchy, principled, but touchy.

Does any of this adhere to Winston's cleaning out the swamp? More importantly, if Winston was right are the people that live and depend on the industry getting a fair go? You be the judge!

the requirement of fitness, soundness, staying and speed makes the Oaks and Derby something to plan for, with matings done four years in advance. Just as importantly the preparation of the animal whom you can't communicate with requires something extra. This was Jamie Richards 44th Group One as a trainer, remarkable!



Garry and Mary Chittick

You have access to my Corner by way of the Waikato Studs Newsletter, the weekend results are well covered but I am entitled to add my tuppence worth.

The Oaks is a race that internationally has an aura about it and so it should. The testing of three-year-olds over 2400m is a great spectacle,

The late Colin Hayes said winning big races was 90% common sense and 10% instinct. Richards clearly has the balance right. We, as Breeders, are guided by similar measurements. Our decisions don't normally take long but we have been around and lived with our families for a long time. You will have read how we acquired Jacqwin, she

was a beautiful mare whom we decided early on we could develop an ongoing family from. This is not hindsight as we have a dozen descendants to breed from.

I have said in my Corner before if you are in this game to breed money you won't last. If you plan on developing families you will be rewarded in more ways than one. We have been fortunate to have had several

first-rate stallions but even their selection is about how they will help our breed. They are difficult to identify but if we compromise the result it will be inevitable. Sure, top stallions make our matings easier but how many studs have had similar sire success? Waikato Stud has produced three Group One winners this season so far, supported by another dozen stakes winners. You can see the long

game process of developing families gives us something to look forward to and more importantly, something to look back at and learn from.

I won't go any further as you'll know too much. Watch the Board selection process and hope for the best. It's not something we do but they know best.

G

Hugh Bowman, Garry & Mary Chittick, Kevin Gray and Daffodil

