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What a time Karaka was!



Waikato Stud ended the Book 1 session of the Karaka National Yearling Sale as the leading vendor by aggregate. That is 10 times out of 11 years.

[Read more here.](#)

[Watch Mark's final say here.](#)

1, 2, 3 days of Karaka Book 1



We documented our days with video. What a time it was!

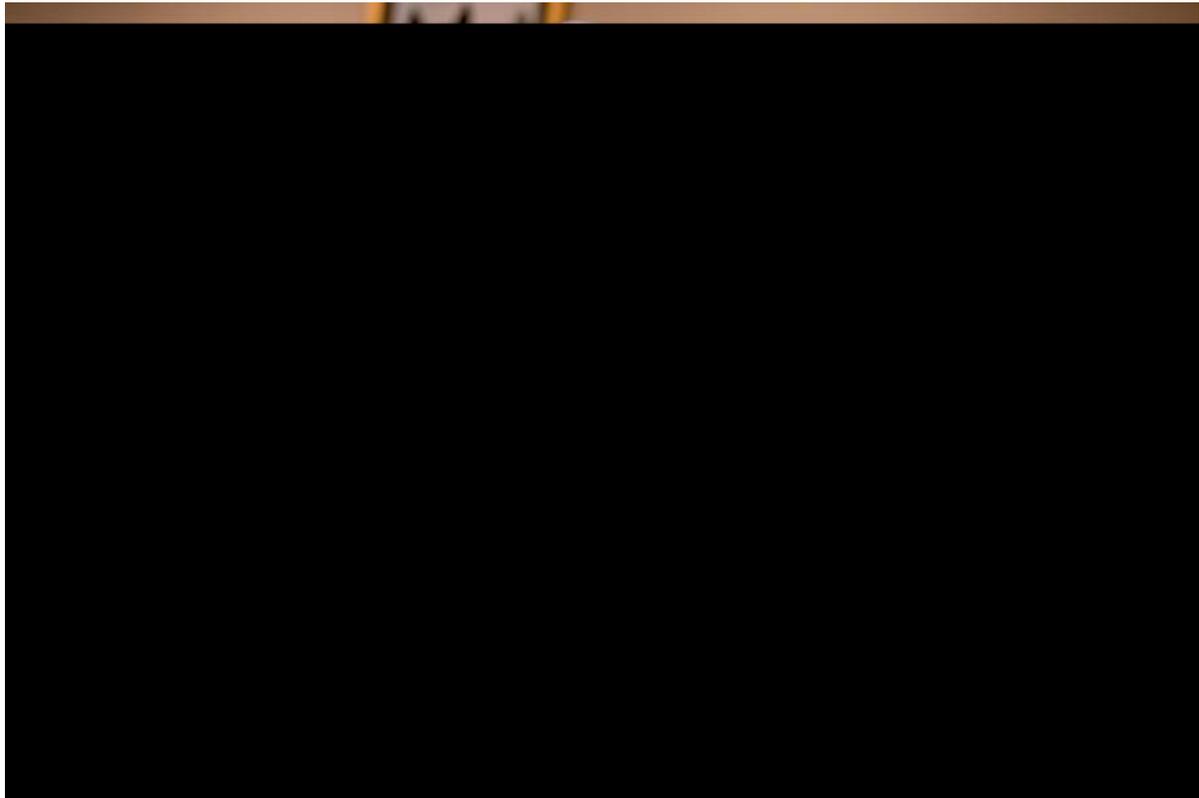
Click the links below for each day's wrap up.

[Day 1](#)

[Day 2](#)

[Day 3](#)

Fruit cake on its way!



'I think she will make me a fruit cake': Mark Chittick delivers for mother Mary.

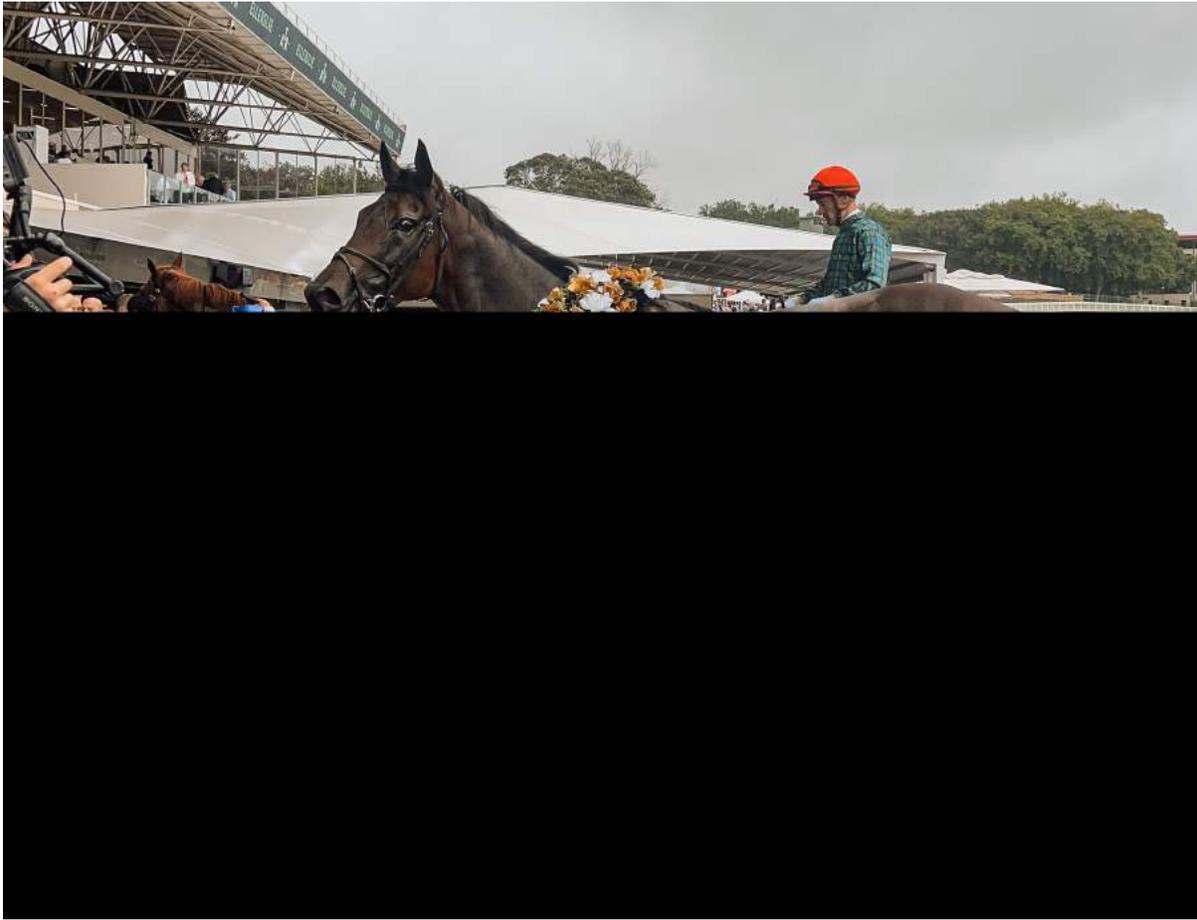
"Mum has been in the industry her whole life, so to see her breed a nice filly like that and for it to make that kind of money is just fantastic."

"I think we entered 90 for Book 1 last year, and the only one to miss was Mum's Ardrossan-Wannabe filly. Hence, she got the name 'Wannabe Book One.'"

A great read in TTR about Mary's Ardrossan x Wannabe filly (Lot 525) who realised \$290,000 at Karaka last week.

[Click here to read the article.](#)

Savabeel star takes out the Karaka Million 3YO



Savabeel took out the Karaka Millions 3YO last Saturday. Orchestral (ex Symphonic) raced away to her first stakes victory in the hands of James McDonald for Roger James & Robert Wellwood. Bred by Chris, Sarah, Sophie and Harry Green of Barneswood Farm, she was a \$625,000 NZB buy for her trainers from Haunui Farm. Congratulations to all owners including Colin and Helen Litt, who are long time Savabeel supporters. Another exciting Karaka Millions day for Savabeel. We love seeing the WS brand on the big stage!

Super Seth & Ardrossan making their mark

We want to thank each and every supporter of our young and exciting stallions.

A few stats to keep you going today...

Super Seth

29 sold out of book 1

Equaling an average sale price of \$138,448

Backed by great judges...

- Te Akau
- Danny O'Brien
- Lindsay Park
- Ohukia Lodge

- Chris Waller & Guy Malcaster
 - John O'Shea
- Wexford Stables
 - Go Racing
 - & more

Ardrossan

8 sold out of book 1

Equaling an average sale price of \$171,250

Backed by great judges...

- Peter Moody & Katherine Coleman
- Stephen Marsh Racing / Dylan Johnson
- Ladbrokes Racing Club / Newgate Farm
 - Grahame Begg Racing
- TAB Racing Club / Wexford Stables
 - Alan Sharrock
 - & more

We look forward to watching the WS progeny prosper & hit the race tracks.

See you all at Karaka in 2025... Something exciting is coming.





Quite clearly there are now more than eleven readers digesting The Corner. The readers who attended Karaka made themselves known, it was a varied group, but the responsibility to comment with a degree of accuracy will just weigh more heavily on my shoulders.

Do I really care about what they think? I'll leave you to be the judge.

So we now have Karaka Book 1 to ponder, now I haven't had the time to analyse in depth, to be honest, I rarely do. I naturally concern myself with how Mark is selling, Waikato is not a cheap place to run. The industry has changed, for most of early years, we had three clear income streams, service fees provided for the constant requirement of stallion replacement, agistment, the cattle we farmed, ready-to-run results ran the farm, the yearling sales were the taxable profit. Now with the price of replacement sires, it is impossible in NZ to recover enough to enable us to compete. The ability to run Waikato with the above sources is a long past dream so we are now more than ever dependent on reasonable sales result. In my view, this is a barely sustainable model, I am not whinging, after all, life is about choices, we don't have to do it.

Then a look at our enthusiastic clients, fortunately, it seems most got a share. It was a sale of peaks and troughs, but most seemed to have reached a high spot, enough to keep them going. They don't buy stallions, but we couldn't either without their support so they have to pay service fees.

Quite clearly, the fact NZ had one only new season sire is unsustainable, let's hope he meets all expectations however, the fact is one in forty are lucky to reach the elite level. Don't believe me, add up the last twenty years in Australia, so who is going to put their toe in the water this year, and at what level? My view of New Zealand's future may be different to yours, but if we attempt to out-gun Australia up to a mile, it will take little time before we have no one crossing the Tasman. Now unfortunately for us, our fellow studs in Australia are venturing into our patch, grabbing the milers we have built our reputation on.

Back to the sale, you often have a bit of time on your hands, which can encourage you to overanalyse, I found time to analyse the number of stakes winners per crop and the various stallions with runners represented at the sale. Now I will let you find out for yourself, you may be surprised. If I were buying, I would address the known, after all you can't hide in this game. So I would buy based on known results, I can tell you this, I have been around longer than most at the sales, and it is very rare that the results change.

I can't sign off without a shout to the Baker boys, what a result for Hallmark, and what a result for Denny. At Waikato there is a special box housing a bottle of Chivas Regal, it is to give Denny the fuel he requires to drive the Hallmark float home from their walk-ons. What will change is Denny will be bringing the replenishment.

A shout out to Entain, they have done everything they said they would do. They are commercial and expect results, they have put up, so now it's up to our administrators to run with them.

I look forward to the Autumn racing, our favourite son is not far off from gracing the tracks. We return to Easter with a handful of yearlings, let's hope Savabeel can achieve the results of last year's Championships.

Cheers,

G

Stop Press, our mate has done it again, Savabeel has today (last Wednesday), sired his 139th stakes winner. Ascend the Throne has just won the Legacy Lodge Waikato Guinea's Group Two. I need to confirm the number of stakes winners by Savabeel Te Akau have presented, but it is a number that any trainer by all sires would be proud of.

We don't think they secured enough this year, but then we always think that. Nevertheless, they have enough to maintain their remarkable strike rate. Well done.

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