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## What's been happening at Waikato recently?

WS hits the 2023 Inglis Classic Sale



The awesome Sledmere team are offering seven of our sensational yearlings at the Inglis Classic Sale commencing Sunday. **Savabeel**, **Ocean Park**, **Tivaci** and stakes-producing, first-season sire **Ardrossan** are all represented.

Have a look at them, located at **Barn C**.

## The 2023 Inglis Classics draft...



**Lot 183**

Ardrossan x Vanilla Essense colt





**Lot 320**

Tivaci x Cheex filly



**Lot 450**

Savabeel x Glistening colt



**Lot 464**

Savabeel x Happily colt





**Lot 647**

Ocean Park x Oahu colt



**Lot 650**

Ocean Park x Of Two Minds colt





**Lot 676**

Tivaci x Polish colt

We look forward to the coming week catching up with our friends at the sale, enjoying Saturday's racing and supporting our seven WS-bred yearlings through the ring. We are proud to present this year's draft and look forward to seeing what the future has in store for them.

Contact **Mike Rennie** on +64 21 433 073 for further discussion on our Inglis Classic draft.



**READ THE WHISPERS  
AROUND WAIKATO  
THIS WEEK...**

There are plenty of 'tipping experts' amongst the Waikato team. It's time they show us what they're made of...

**Tip 1****WS BRED: GET LIT**

**Get Lit** (2019 x Savabeel x Chandelier filly)

**Jockey:** Michael McNab

**Trainer:** Tony Pike

**Comment:** We will get lit if this filly wins

**Upcoming Race:** Saturday 11th Feb, Te Rapa, Race 4, Group 2 David & Karyn Ellis Fillies Classic, 2000m

**Tip 2****WS BRED: WOLVERINE**

**Wolverine** (2019 Tivaci x Knew It filly)

**Jockey:** Tom Marquand

**Trainer:** Kris Lees

**Comment:** Fingers crossed

**Upcoming Race:** Saturday 11th Feb, Randwick, Race 7, Light Fingers Stakes, 1200m





“It’s a funny, funny world we live in Master Jack.” I had forwarded to me the briefing document prescribing the new minister’s responsibilities and authority under the current racing act. As with all these responsibilities, it depends on how the minister chooses to exercise his power over those at the coal face.

I had the privilege of chairing the then racing board having been anointed by the late John Falloon, next in line was Tau Henare. On introduction he made it clear he knew nothing about racing, he was good natured with love tattooed on four fingers and hate on the other four. Clem Simich believed he was well acquainted with the various vagaries of his portfolio; he was attending every presidential luncheon. Annette King had the health portfolio as well as racing which she delegated to one of the many zombies parading around Parliament. Importantly, apart from Annette the rest were ministers outside of cabinet. Their power over the board was restricted to appointing board members only. On many occasions ministerial advice was treated with the respect it deserved. Simich took the prize having met with my chief executive on the issue of merging the TAB and Racing Board, the effusive praise we got for the role we were playing allowed us to believe he was doing his best to get our proposed changes on the order paper of parliament. Less than 48 hours later he informed the Thoroughbred Racing Clubs’ Annual Meeting we were wasting our time. Bewildered we were, with John Alexander the next speaker he expressed the view it was a pleasure to meet Clem’s twin brother.

For all that we were better served than now, the Thoroughbred Board was elected regionally, appointments to the racing board were contested within the three codes or at least code supported. The racing board currently has seven members, certainly one each from the codes, but a majority of four so called independents. Whilst under the act I worked under allowed my Board the freedom that racing was founded on, the current Minister has an overarching ability to interfere. Hence, we have slid into the arms of bureaucrats, we are now a government department!

One of the more compelling concerns is the briefing of the Minister as to how sports betting results are returned to the various sports. Of course, they feel entitled, you know like the offspring who reaches the age when regardless of the family history can't understand why they are excluded from previous generation's efforts.

You know I have expressed my concerns about sports by stealth in effect sharing in our equity. There has long been the debate as to ownership which has never mattered whilst we were in charge. Brian deLore after extensive research produced the argument that the codes are entitled to consider the agency as theirs. I will not cover again this debate but consider: If there is a value to be gained from any joint venture, why on earth would it be shared? Currently we are sports betting agents, negotiating returns should be left to the codes and whoever. If unhappy then sports can with modern technology create a competitive model, or find another provider who of course will not be subject to any ministerial interference. Good luck to them.

I have said it before sports are competitors, the last figures available to me showed sports and codes shared equally the margin, which is tight, competing as it is on a world market. My view is there is a limited amount of dollars to be shared, let them fight for their share but not in a ministerial office.

So we now have Chippy, bundled up in birthday wrapping which will of course slowly be unravelled from the October election on. The evidence of where the Labour Party currently sits must have been compelling, Jacinda would never have handed over the reins early otherwise, she loved it. Remind yourself of the burden of daily TV exposure, not her, us.

More importantly, consider the many changes of our life's directions proposed through legislation we would never have voted for. I have spent the last fifty years trying to impose my values on three children, nine grandchildren with marginal results, of course these values should be the benchmark for the country. With the time I have devoted to this cause over fifty years for limited success what chance did Jacinda and her crew of motley supporters have of creating a changed society of five million, and neither they should have.

Cheers

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