

[View this email in your browser](#)

A collage of images featuring a jockey on a horse, rugby players, and spectators. The jockey is in the foreground, wearing a blue and green helmet and a white and blue jacket, riding a dark horse. In the background, several rugby players in black and yellow jerseys are visible, along with spectators in red and white clothing.

 **Waikato Stud**

Invites you for an evening of

RUGBY, RACING & BEER

Where: **United Matamata Sports Rugby Club**
Bedford Park, Tainui St Matamata

When: **25th August 2023, 5-7pm**

Beers flowing and barbeques glowing to celebrate Matamata's rugby and thoroughbred racing season.

Don't forget:

WS Foxbridge Plate 2023 is on **Saturday 26th** free entry

First steps with this gorgeous filly



A foal's first steps - it never gets old. Welcome to the Waikato world, little one!

This **Savabeel** x **Montoya Star** filly was our first born this season, and she's keeping mum on her toes!

[Watch her first steps here.](#)

Mark's Mail

Welcome to the local coffee shop! A good mate of ours, Johnathan D'Arcy caught up with Mark following his on-farm inspections for next year's Inglis Sales.

[Click here to watch the video.](#)

We couldn't do it without the team! Meet Tommy Hazlett...



1. Introduce yourself & how long you have worked at WS?

Tommy Hazlett and I've been at WS for just shy of twelve months.

2. What previous experiences have led you to where you are?

I have experienced the game from a few different angles I rode jumpers for 23 odd years then when I retired, I worked for NZTR as an apprentice jockey mentor, I then spent some time at Te Akau, before moving to Valachi Downs, where I did the breaking and pre-training eventually moving away from the horses to manage the farm. I also spent a couple of years as an on-course presenter for Trackside.

3. Go-to beverage?

A good coffee or a raspberry and coke on special occasions!

4. What section of the farm do you mainly work in and what do you enjoy about it?

My primary role is as an Equine Relocation Specialist (I drive the truck), and when not doing that, I just fit in where needed I enjoy getting around the whole farm and catching up with everyone, but I have developed a soft spot for the Stallions.

5. Explain the highlight of your career so far

Oh jeez, that's a tough one! Riding wise, I was fortunate enough to have a fair bit of luck, but away from that, I suppose being 50ish, happy and healthy could be considered a highlight!

6. A piece of advice you would give someone who is new in the thoroughbred industry

Get involved in as many different areas of the game as you can, you will eventually find your passion, never be afraid to seek the right advice and don't be embarrassed by your mistakes we all make them it's only human.

Most importantly, be teachable, you're not always going to get the answers you want, you're not always going to get the results you were expecting, but how you handle that will determine what you learn.

TGIF

Peace out from Mark and Iris - enjoy your weekend!



Waikato whispers

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...

THE LITTLE PUMPER

Horse: The Little Pumper (2019 Shalaa x Sensibility gelding)

Trainer(s): Gai Waterhouse & Adrian Bott

Jockey: Adam Hyeronimus

Upcoming Race: Race 1, Rosehill, Inglis Pink Bonus Handicap 1300m

Comment: Won last 2, is carrying heaviest - second fave.



How do we reignite the enthusiasm for our wonderful sport, it seems to be a universal problem that will have far-reaching consequences after all no next generation, no future. But we are not alone, all sports seem to be afflicted with the success of event days followed by the loneliness of the supporting acts.

Racing in NZ has a history of what used to be weeks not to be missed, Wellington Cup meeting was a three-day event culminating with the Cup. Boxing Day (Auckland) attracted one of our bigger crowds when hosting the Derby. New Year's Day Cup meeting would motivate me to leave my favourite lakeside Kinloch and drive the three hours each way. Manawatu Sires Produce used to be a week of racing, golf, and bowls. Then the week of the National, now that was never to be missed with the exceptional South Island hospitality and the challenging steeplechase course.

There is nothing wrong with the week of the Classics, you will be starting to think when or if there was any work done. Clearly one never attended all of the events mind you, I didn't miss a lot.

Now, to be fair there are few of my vintage fit enough to attend, not enough still owning all or part of a horse, remarkably I have found increasing numbers of my friends feverishly saving for their old age without realising they are already there. You've got to think that with the generation following now middle-aged my remaining contemporaries would realise the adrenaline rush of a winner is probably the only such rush they are likely to legitimately be able to share with remaining mates and family. Still, there wouldn't be enough of us to rejuvenate racing, but we remain entitled to be recognised as a remaining contributor of the ownership ranks.

The real events nowadays are pre-sold, is this good or bad? It's good in as much as the Club knows how to generate income, you know, a tinny priced competitively at five times pub price, now that's going to encourage those non-punting event day attendees to return, the bad is we relics of the past who are paying training fees to provide the horses for the day struggle to find a mate and struggle to battle our way to the overpriced bar to drown our disappointment having failed to run a place.

But there are lots of non-event days we can attend without the hustle and bustle. We will be racing for fewer stakes, and the big stands will allow us to grab a Scotch, hang on, bugger it half the bars are closed, but still we are there for the horse, we are there because, well, where would we sooner be? But we are not the future, unfortunately.

Syndication requires skilled organisers, not only do the syndicators have to find buyers, they have to manage the multiple emotions of multiple ownership. Still, this includes a big spread of people of all ages and different backgrounds, we all hear about the odd shonky promoter, they won't last, our experience would be to say to a potential new participant, put your toe in the water with a five percent, go with the syndicator who uses the Trainer you want to have a horse with. The recent dual Oaks Winner Penny Weka has 72 owners, most have travelled to all her starts including across to Sydney. Fantastic, great for the sport.

Back to the beginning, where to from here? Who would have thought the initiative of Racing NSW with the Golden Eagle and the TAB Everest would have attracted capacity crowds, more importantly, not my lot, no, they reckon the average age of attendees was no more than thirty-five. I met Peter Vlandys he made it very clear I was welcome but not the future. He is right. I just hope that a number who attended will still be attending in forty-five years.

You see, I am convinced my best is yet to come, my just three-year-olds will need to improve, but do I have a number of exciting two-year-olds, it should by now be clear to the ten of you I am not saving for the future, if you've got the energy and a bit of dough, wouldn't you rather go out on a winning note?

Cheers

G

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



www.waikatostud.com
