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## What's been happening at Waikato recently?

The celebrations continue...



It's in the house!! Thank you IWIW and [#MOODS!](#)

## All Aged Stakes tomorrow

WS sires have left their mark in the history book of the G1 All Aged Stakes. Our G1-producing sire **Tivaci** grabbed the race in 2017, **Ocean Park's** daughter **Tofane** won the 2020 edition and his son **Kolding** will look to repeat his 2021 victory tomorrow for Chris Waller at Randwick. Good luck to connections!

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

## I Wish I Win on top of the world



Our Savabeel 4-year-old **I Wish I Win** has shot to the top of the global sprinting ranks after an incredible performance last weekend. A very special horse to team WS.

[Read more from Racing.com here!](#)

Sav with his visitors

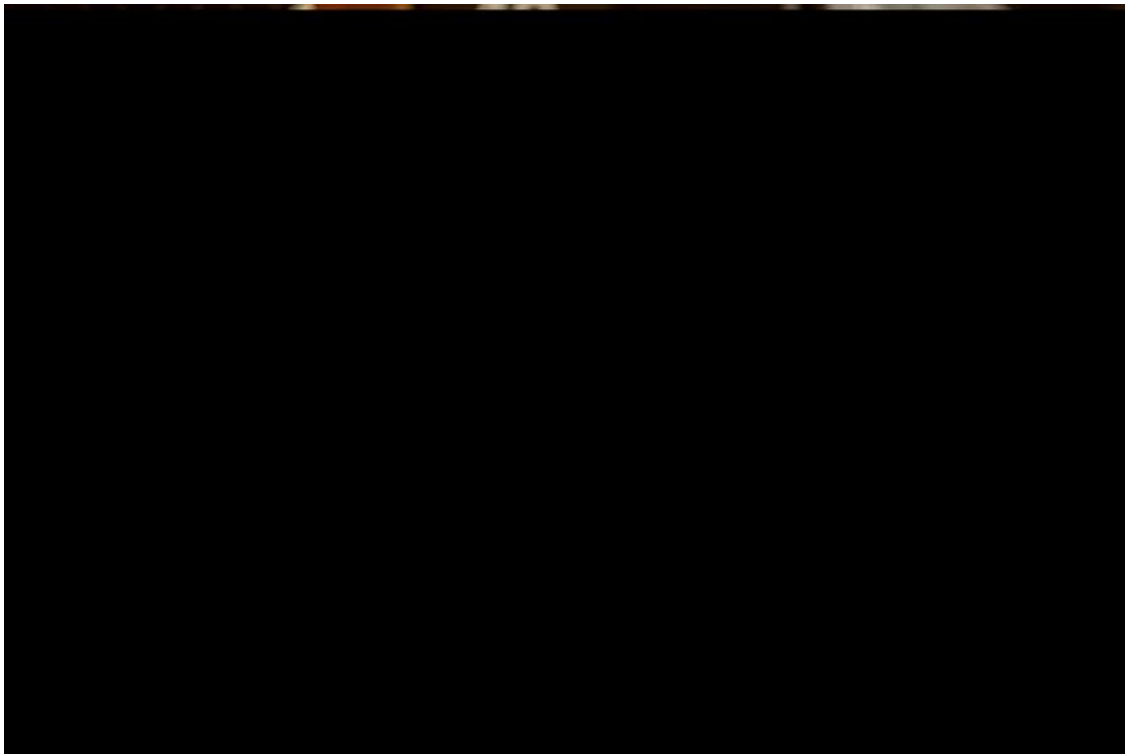


Yesterday was a ripper day here at WS, and we were stoked to have Gary & Mitch Cunningham, Neil Douglas, and Andrew Dunemann from Ridgmont Farm visit. Savabeel was especially delighted to catch up with his old mate and our former vet Dr Chris Phillips!

[Read about Savabeel's recent successes here.](#)

We couldn't do it with out them! Get to know our team

Grace White



**1. Introduce yourself**

Hi I'm Grace, I'm 23 and started at Waikato nearly 2 years ago.

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

I studied Agricommerce at Massey University and started doing yearling preps/sales as a summer job at various farms between NZ and Aus. I grew up hunting and eventing so have always had a passion for horses. Upon graduating, an opportunity arose to work at WS and dabble in a bit of marketing as well as yearlings - and now here I am!

**3. Go-to beverage?**

Gin... or wine

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

I work in the yearling department permanently now, I love the challenge of the young horses and how malleable they are. Every interaction leaves an impression, and they are so quick at learning. This is a challenge as much as it is rewarding.

**5. Explain the highlight of your career so far?**

Ahhh highlight... I'm still very green in the scheme of things but a personal highlight would have to be being top vendor at Karaka again this year with it being my first season in this new role. Otherwise, undoubtedly I Wish I Win.

**6. A piece of advice you would give someone who is keen to get into the thoroughbred industry?**

Advice.. head down, butt up. Also, horses will be horses, don't be afraid to admit you aren't sure about something. There is so much advice and experience around, just listen and watch and you just have to find what works for you.



**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...

**CANNON HILL**

**Cannon Hill** (2020 Ardrossan x Vanilla Essence colt)

**Jockey:** Tony Pike

**Trainer:** Vinnie Colgan

**Upcoming Race:** Te Rapa, Race 3, Website Angels 2YO - 1100m

**Comment:** Ardie produces those 2YOs!



Mary and I have returned from our nine days in NSW, this is our first visit five years after Covid disrupted all of everyone's life and travel plans. I am not going to dwell on how various countries dealt with this pandemic except to say we still live with an active virus. We are mostly vaccinated so that may have been our saviour, who knows, but I have more of my acquaintances infected with many not reporting – so, was the disruption worth it? I doubt it.

We were booked to attend the French Tennis Open, travel through Italy, across to Spain, London then home. Would have been great, but not as great as nine days in Sydney. To be in attendance when two of Waikato's progeny conquered Australasia's best at two extreme distances beats any French Open. I Wish I Win's magnificent performance against a field of which you would be proud to own any of the contenders was as exciting as anyone on course could be part of. And part it they were; he has developed his own following, the manner in which he wins has its risks. Had he finished second we would have said great run.

Luke Nolan said post-race that until the rise he was not going well enough to be in the finish.

Then, as we all witnessed, his acceleration carried him, and us, to the line.

I very rarely yell when our horses are a chance, but I was taken up in the wave of emotions that such a performance generates. To share it with Mary, George and Charlotte was enough to remember the day as a great one.

However, two races later we witnessed our homebred and part owned Major Beel succeed in the historic AJC Derby. From the wide draw we knew, as with Gai's racing pattern he would go forward, then heading for home he was pushed out to lead. Normally the kiss of death, I thought with 300 to go surely he will feel the pain of such a test, not to be. One has to congratulate Gai and Adrian, even better it was Gai's first AJC Derby success. By this stage I was practically out of voice. For the four of us on course to share such a moment, I may be wrong, but I doubt that any breeder has produced such a result, to own, part own and breed two Group One winners by the same sire on the day.

A day at the sale resulted in a gorgeous filly to join Mary and my racing team. Why buy when we breed? Well, we have long had a policy introducing a new family to grow over the years, our two Group 1 winners on the Saturday attest to that. She is a worthwhile addition regardless of racing results.

Then to the Blue Mountains where our daughter has a cottage, back to the Central Coast where she lives.

A more relaxed day on Oaks Day, congratulations to the Wallaces was disrupted by the stunning performance of Atishu in the Group 1 Queen of the Turf, so Waikato can hang our hat on three Group 1 victories over two days of their Championships.

Coupled with the other NZ-bred results, why would I want to be in France?

Enough for a Corner, we returned with the trophy. Savabeel has now clocked up over \$171m in stakes - remarkable. We have three families upgraded and hopes to develop another.

You need to be around a long time in this game. I've got a lot to look forward to, let's hope I'm around.

Cheers

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