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What's been happening at Waikato recently?

Banquo's progeny hit the market



The New Zealand Bloodstock National Weanling & Broodmare Sale catalogue is here. We're delighted to offer five exceptional weanlings by our first-season sire **Banquo** (Written Tycoon x Noondie). They've got presence and quality and we can't wait to present them to you next month!

Click here to view our draft.

We couldn't do it without them!

Meet Jack Newman...



1. Introduce yourself
Hey I'm Jack & I'm from Bulls!

2. What previous experiences have led you to where you are? I have been around horses since I can remember and slowly moved into the thoroughbred industry around 10 years ago.

3. Go-to beverage? Speights Summit Ultra always.

4. What section of the farm do you mainly work in and what do you enjoy about it? I work with the stallions and spend a bit of time in the office. What I love about being able to work with the stallions all year round is that I get to learn all their moods, habits and various tricks. As well as talking to breeders about the stallions, helping them with decisions. I really enjoy it.

5. Explain the highlight of your career so far Working with the great Ryan Figgins.

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

Have a crack, ask questions and don't be afraid to get stuck into it.

WS floods the G1 Doomben Cup

This Saturday will see the 2023 renewal of the G1 Doomben Cup feature a notable representation of contenders by Waikato Stud Stallions.

We are stoked to see the Kiwis in the lineup, see below...

No Compromise

(Pins x Baggy Green)

Trainer: Chris Waller Jockey: Opie Bosson

Atishu

(Savabeel x Posy)

Trainer: Chris Waller Jockey: Nash Rawiller

Kovalica

(Ocean Park x Vitesse)

Trainer: Chris Waller Jockey: James Orman

Debut black-type success for Pertab



WS-bred daughter of **Ocean Park**, **Poser** (ex **Wannabe**) produced a huge run home last Saturday to claim the Listed Rotorua Cup. A massive training performance from her owner Kurtis Pertab, who purchased Poser on Gavelhouse. Congratulations to Kurtis and his team, awesome work for his first black-type winner!

Read more here



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...

KOVALICA

Kovalica (2019 Ocean Park x Vitesse gelding)

Jockey: James Orman
Trainer: Chris Waller

Upcoming Race: Doomben, Race 7, G1 Doomben

Cup - 2000m

Comment: 3rd up, would go each way.



It has been a difficult year, climatically I mean. Now I am not going to turn the Corner into a climate debate, I have been around long enough to present counter-examples of climate events over the years that will neither convince the believers or for that matter give credence to the non-believers.

We, at Waikato, have an abundance of Silage, harvested as insurance against the emphatically

predicted Autumn drought. Currently as a result of incessant rain the whole of the North Island has an oversupply of grass, resulting in no market for our silage.

Does any of this matter, probably not it's just farming, but nature is a great leveller. The lush grass would have been of far more value had we have seen more of that very important component, sunshine. Now the ten of you don't support the Corner to learn about the birds and the bees but a John Messara reflection on the effect of a similar weather pattern on the Hunter Valley matings that was experienced here reminds us we have, as a result of the racing programmes made our job difficult by being out of step with nature.

When I first became involved there was very little veterinarian intervention, a full book was 60 mares with our coverings being determined by our unfortunate teaser. We were allowed to mate in August providing any resulting foals were not born before August 1st. We didn't worry too much about August coverings but started the teasing process.

Running two stallions with full books of 60 meant there were probably no more than 30 dry mares so it wasn't a major. Then the fad of the moment was to put the dry mares under lights to fool the mare into believing spring and longer days were here. We never bothered based on the unscientific belief that top nutrition would result in similar early foals.

When we moved to Manawatu the land was pure free-draining silt on the edge of the Manawatu river, Fairdale was, as the crow flys probably three kilometres further from the river, still silt but on top of a puggy clay base. The late Jim Kelly, at one stage the veterinarian for both properties, said to me that they would always be ten days behind at the start of the season's matings regardless of an abundance of grass simply as a result of the imperceptible earlier lift in the protein on the lighter country.

John O'Brien as the vet for his father, Jack was a fan of the lights, funnily despite being told of his early conceptions we always had the early foals. Our experience with the walk-ons who had been under lights was it was imperative to get them in foal in the early rounds or they could regress to a difficult anoestrus.

On our arrival at Waikato, we continued with the previous vet who also was a fan of using lights. We had of our own 100 mares of which 25 would be dry, I said to him what's the plus? "Well you will get possibly an extra foal over the lifetime of the mare, bearing in mind once those 25 were in foal there would be no more lights until they failed to conceive I was happy to let others use them".

Back to the Hunter Valley, we also had a spring with no sun. Lots of grass no sun. The local dairy farmers in an attempt to maintain conception rates supplemented their grass with high protein maize or palm kernel, at a recent Taupo cattle fair I was told local dairy farmers still missed 8% of their herd resulting in a large build-up to be slaughtered.

As always the Corner has to have a point, don't all corners, my point is nature will have a lot more to say about our business than money. Because we attempt to breed probably two months earlier

than nature would determine as ideal, we have made both our and our animal's lives more challenging.

But then we would need to adjust our racing calendars, we all know it's not going to happen.

Just remember when you are disappointed your earlier mating wasn't positive, lay off the stud master, remember we are, regardless of our investment all equal under the sun in this game.

Cheers

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It is your lucky day, there are x2 corner's in this week's mail-out, enjoy!

I read with great interest how we here in little NZ have 90 uber wealthy people who want to pay more tax. Don't they realise if they buy an expensive yearling off me they will pay with tax-paid money and I will pay tax on the proceeds? Then all of those who contributed to producing the horse – blacksmith, veterinarians, feed merchants, stud grooms, fencers, farm fertiliser – will in turn pay their fair share of tax to the point where it is difficult to arrive at a fair assessment of that horse's contribution to society. But more, training fees will be met with tax-paid income, though the wagering used to be subject to a duty which was abolished to try to return more to those lucky enough to win a race. Remember, only 10% of those racing break even. However, there is still the considerable impost of GST on our turnover. Then, we have the pyramid that blights all businesses – you know where those at the peak are entitled to more because they believe they are deprived of 39% of their efforts. Still, it is said the galloping code employs, full and part-time, 16,000 people, who of course pay their share of tax.

So, where do the gatherers look next? Ah-ha, the dreaded value increase of those lucky enough to have their name on a title, share certificates, or, for that matter, anything that adds to one's paper equity. As you appreciate, we need land to grow this animal that has contributed to the above so let's tax that. Of course, it would be socially unacceptable to suggest our local body rates are any form of tax. Yeah right. With local bodies believing the more valuable the asset they rate proportionally. This is a wealth tax. Bearing in mind all local amenities are shared by all then why not a rate per head? I am, of course, for those of the ten of you being cynical but if you think about it I am right.

I was challenged by a former employee about the injustice of my land increasing in value. Well yes, my property has an increased paper value, I also agree not as a result of any personal contribution. Yes, I said to the person (see how politically correct I have become), all true but then unless I sell it doesn't matter what the perceived value is whilst I farm and rear the above horse in fact it is just a tool that is part of the many required. My lecture ended with me pointing out that without the ability to turn the grass into money the property is a liability. I have to service the mortgage, pay the rates, fertilise, fence, power bills, machinery... Then, looking at the person eye-to-eye there was this

person to pay. I looked duly concerned when explaining I wasn't sure I was getting a fair return.

But, then why has the asset grown in value? Well, really it hasn't. Successive governments balance their book debt by way of depreciation of the value of our currencies. Nowhere has this been more pronounced than the last five years where an explosion in the amount of money in circulation reflected in property values. Therefore let's hammer this injustice, TAX THE RICH.

I think a fairer way is to encourage them to own more horses. This will result in a rapid redistribution of the wealthy ones' equity, keep all of the above in a job or business, or let the civil servants reallocate. Mind you, they are the new secure rich; I need to get in amongst them.

Cheers

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