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## NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Awards



The New Zealand thoroughbred breeding fraternity came together on Saturday night to celebrate a stellar season of elite-level achievements at the National Breeding Awards at Karapiro.

New Zealand breeders produced 35 individual Group 1 winners across Australia, Hong Kong and New Zealand over the past 12 months and **Waikato Stud** was awarded the Sir Patrick and Justine Lady Hogan **New Zealand Breeder of the Year** title for a phenomenal **tenth** time.

The mighty **Savabeel** claimed his eighth **Centaine Award** for worldwide progeny earnings and seventh **Dewar Award** for combined Australian and New Zealand progeny earnings.

The headline act for **Savabeel** this season was outstanding sprinter **I Wish I Win**, who sports the colours of Waikato Stud and typified the underdog theme of the night.

The four-year-old gelding was born with a well-documented severe knock-kneed deformity that meant he was never a candidate for the commercial sales ring, but he has gone on to be judged by his deeds on the racetrack.

**Major Beel, Atishu and Icebath** were other top-flight winners this season bred by the Matamata nursery and Waikato Stud's Mark Chittick acknowledged it was the result of a massive team effort while flanked by members of his family on stage.

"Waikato Stud is a big family and a big group. It takes a whole community to run it and to get the results like we do. I'd love to have everyone (from the stud) up here on stage. It is such an incredible night," he said

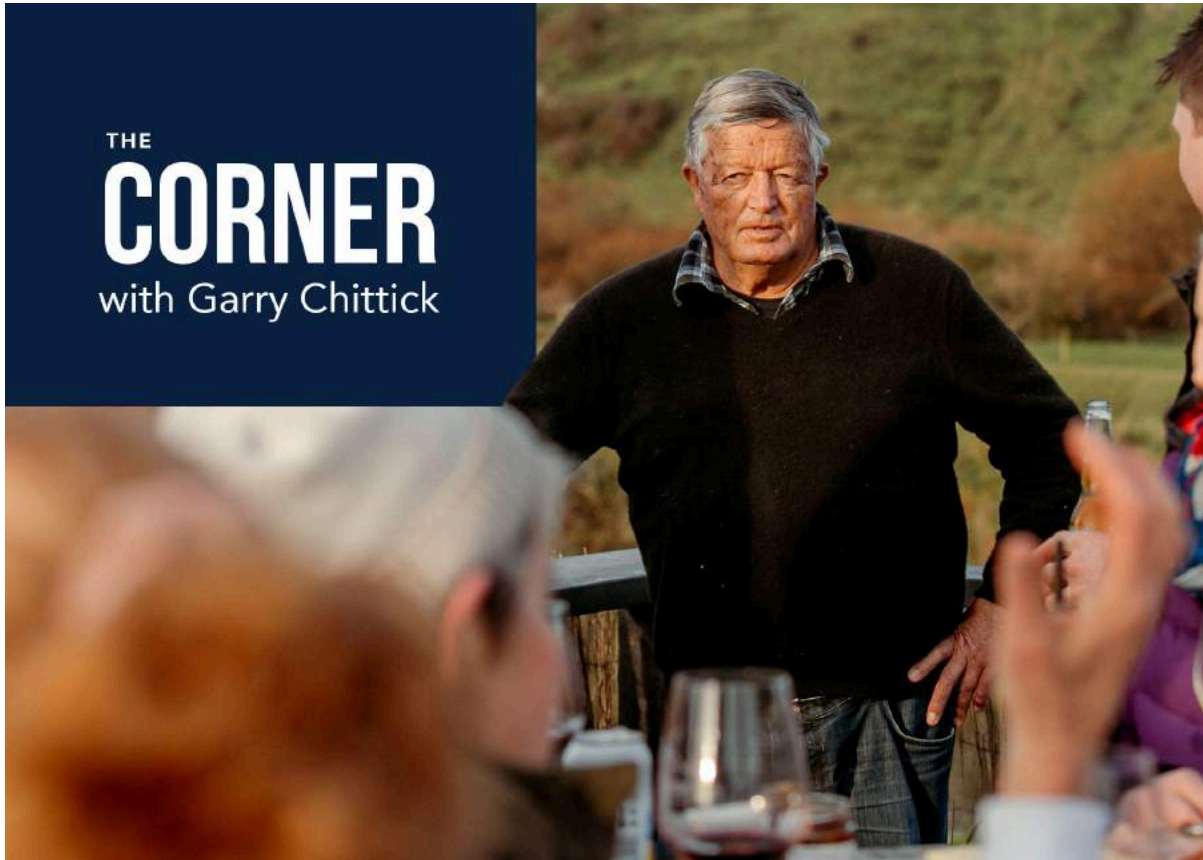
"Everybody puts in a huge effort and we appreciate it immensely."

"It has been a great year and a great night and when we see the outstanding results of these horses on the big screen, and there are horses from all over the country and breeders from all over the country, it is very heartening.

"I know how much we enjoy and get carried away about winning any race, let alone Group 1 races and I hope everybody else is as proud breeding horses like that as we certainly are.

"Seeing New Zealand-breds winning Doncasters, Derbys and Oaks as well as Group 1 winning two-year-olds and sprints, man New Zealand is bloody good at it (breeding thoroughbred racehorses) and we should be really, really proud."





THE  
**CORNER**  
with Garry Chittick

This week deserves a report on the annual awards night for our thoroughbred breeders. Our industry supports two awards nights which, at times, causes some confusion. However, the night we have just been part of was the Waikato Branch Group One Awards. The branch ran a consistently top-class night out, so the inevitable happened, and our National Awards were attached. Full credit to our branch; it was again a great night out at a unique venue, with the inimitable Steve Davis in control, ably supported by Emily Bosson. With the number of awards to get through, giving time to all recipients requires both discipline and humour, and these two had both. Well done.

There were award nights that were shorter; it's not every year we have the number of Group One successes offshore. Obviously, our NZ Group One events are dominated by local participants, and our international successes fluctuate. This year's past results are quite remarkable, with twenty-four winners of twenty-seven Group One races in Australia and Hong Kong.

The exciting prospect is that most of these winners will continue racing, hopefully supported by a new crop of three-year-olds. We can continue to retain our long-held reputation as breeders of such high-quality athletes.

The stallion awards are no surprise, as the three awards are there for all to follow through the year. The new kid on the block, Proisir, scooped the Grosvenor Award. Good luck to his shareholders; we are fortunate to have him here. Our old mate Savabeel continues to amaze us here at Waikato. His \$25+ million of stakes earned, I would think, would be a record. It has been said, 'Oh, he sired a winner of a \$10 million-dollar race.' Well, he did, and I have no doubt a number of our rising four-

year-olds will be targeting this event. However, if you take the \$5 million that I Wish I Win earned off of Savabeel's total, you are still left with an amazing \$20 million. Mary and I attended the Championship week in Sydney; to have bred three winners of the eleven Championship Group One races by one sire, Savabeel, will not be repeated often.

These three, along with Icebath by Sacred Falls, were no doubt why we received our tenth NZ Breeder of the Year Award. This recognition is not to be taken lightly; we believe this award confirms that we are achieving our aims as a thoroughbred breeder. You may say that having the benefit of standing a Champion Sire, we should achieve these results, maybe, but we all know of many who had similar opportunities without adding their name to the trophy.

Lucky Sweyense was awarded the Breeder's Horse of the Year; he certainly has created quite a record in Hong Kong and is an excitement machine. Good luck to them. We never considered I Wish I Win a contender; however, his international rating as the world's highest-rated sprinter probably warranted some consideration. We look forward to this year's racing.

The Small Breeders Award was collected by the Jeffries family. What an achievement to breed two such outstanding performers out of five mares. This is a recent addition to the awards as a result of the so-called domination of the larger operations. To be fair, there are many recipients of our Award in previous years who were not breeders of numbers. Still, it is a good innovation, and good luck to them.

It would be incredible to achieve similar results in the season ahead, but with the number of this year's winners racing on, who knows.

Incidentally, my comments on the climate last week were not necessarily my opinion if you have read it. No, I simply reported known history. I was surprised that my editors felt the need to create a debate on MY Corner. However, I have been canceled before, but not surprisingly, I normally get little response from the ten of you. Not last week's Corner; a 90% means all but one enjoyed it. The other one, I doubt, has read it yet.

Cheers,  
G

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