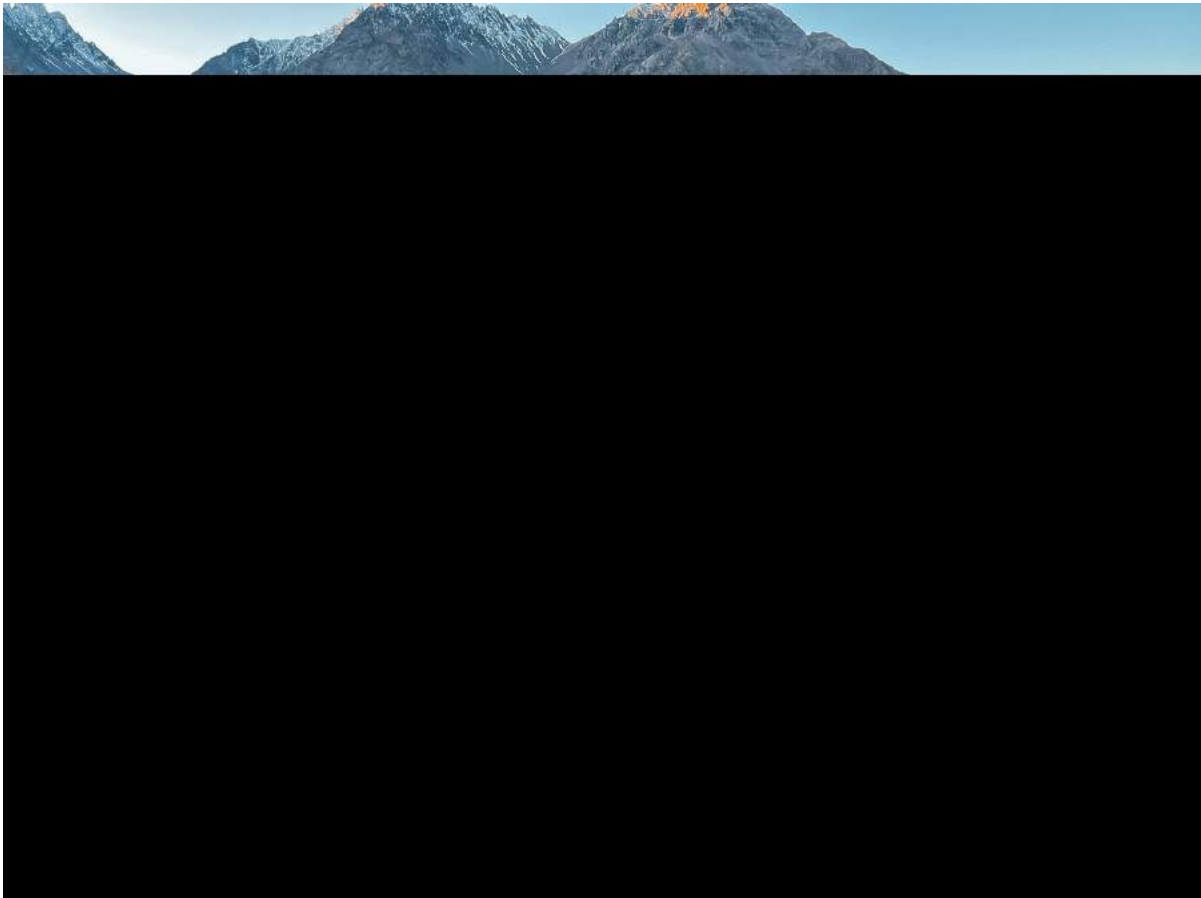


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What's been happening at Waikato recently?

#WaikatoInTheWild



Waikato Stud merch spotted deep in the Kaikoura Ranges.
We love to see the brand outside the farm gates!

Welcome to #WaikatoInTheWild! Tag WS or send in your pics of our merch making an appearance.

We couldn't do it without them! Meet a key part of the WS team... Eli Burr



1. Introduce yourself!

Hey, my name is Eli Burr and I started working at Waikato Stud halfway through October, 2016.

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

I could go into more detail but... A whole lot of trial and error and finding out where I fit in.

3. Go-to beverage?

Black coffee... STRONG

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

I'm kind of a jack of all trades I think, stallion work when I'm needed, foaling, covering barn, crush work but I spend the majority of my time alongside the foals giving them their first lessons on what a human is and giving them the guidance on how to act around us two legged folk. I'm also a massive fan of driving farm machinery in all shapes and sizes, so in the quieter months, I break away from the horses and join the maintenance crew for a bit of a change of scenery, just as good as a holiday they reckon!

5. Explain the highlight of your career so far

Finding a workplace that accepts me for who I am.

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

I think being honest, to have integrity, a willingness to learn and a smile on ya dial, you'll get a look

The quiet racing doesn't stop the WS stallions

Savabeel



Savabeel mare, **Ideal** (ex **I Do**) showed she is in for a lucrative campaign with a runaway victory in the WS silks at Te Rapa on Saturday afternoon for Allan Sharrock.

[Read more here.](#)

Ocean Park



Gallant **Ocean Park** mare **Poser** (ex **Wannabe**) continued her admirable run of form with a tenacious display to win at Te Rapa for Kurtis Pertab. We are so stoked for Kurtis and his efforts with this mare!

[Read more here.](#)

Tivaci

A canny ride from Billy Egan guided **Do I** (ex **I Do**), a well-bred son of **Tivaci**, to a second career victory when he was successful for Ballymore Stables.

[Read more here.](#)



READ THE
WHISPERS

OCEANA BLUE

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...

(Ocean Park x Ruud Van Slaats) 4YO Mare

Trainer: Peter Moody

Jockey: Linda Meech

Upcoming Race: Leilani Series Final - Flemington, Race 2 - 1400m

Comment: First up. Go OP!!



The only joy in being old is you are not dead, you yearn for the past when everything seemed so much easier. Well, it was. I happily rewarded my creditors with a monthly cheque, I paid the GST only on payments received, the net end result is the IRD received no more or less than entitled to. My cash and handwritten invoice book reminded me constantly of where my finances were, I had a bank manager who actually knew me, better still he was able to make decisions immediately trusting his judgment. In 1973 I was financially underwater. The Wairarapa was also under water as a result of major weather events. I was able to find grazing for my cattle resulting in Mary and myself driving over two days to their temporary destination. The conditions went from the hill country slipping, the flat country flooding to severe wind conditions

that baked the environment. I received a letter from my bank manager reminding me, as if I didn't know, that I was three times over my allowable overdraft. By chance we met one morning at the local post office. I said, "You have written to me."

"Well," he replied, "Even I am accountable to those above me."

"Do you think I am not aware of my precarious position? Receiving letters only adds to the stress levels," was my reply. The point being, he exercised his judgement and stuck with me.

Do you need to know this? Probably not, but the yearning for the past was exacerbated by my being scammed for the third time in eighteen months. We have alternative options when travelling to the beach, one is more convenient but a toll road. So, I receive a request for payment by Waka Kotahi, our recently renamed transport department. This document, I label it a document because it was four pages long, obviously looked legitimate so not only did I settle, I deposited sufficient money to cover future trips. Suddenly, having gone through all the processes, I felt uneasy. I called the 0800. ANZ explained my possible foolishness, the gentleman never hesitated, "You have been scammed." My card was immediately cancelled, the third time. Fortunately, they hadn't activated the information they now possessed.

To cover offshore travel I have a pretty solid limit. Well, the man sorting this situation out said they couldn't have drawn down past that limit, now that would have slowed down any enthusiasm for a while.

So, I now struggle to keep on top of my transactions without the help of our office manager. I visit the ATM to draw down cash, I like paying the small amounts with cash. Can you believe it? Some will not take cash. I now bet on the iPhone, this of course enables any authority to have access to my activities. When moving from Palmerston North to Waikato I was assigned a new manager. Now, if your bank manager has been indoctrinated as to the sins of our industry, he or she won't be compatible. He wasn't. So another, our local branch now sees fit to open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 10am until 2pm. Queuing is not my strong suit, so another reallocation this time to Tauranga. My new manager has moved on to wealth management for which I have no need, therefore currently I have no direct contact.

Twelve months ago, when required to settle for a new property, I could not access any one to confirm all was in order.

You can see why the past gave me more comfort than now. I often dwell on how Mary will cope should I fall off the perch. Therefore I intend to extend my time here beyond the national average. Anyway, I have half a dozen well-bred rising two-year-olds to race. There won't be a bank manager casting a critical eye on my team. With geo blocking I will struggle to find competitive odds legally, the increase in stakes is welcome but I can't compete in the \$350k race for southern horses only. It's unlikely I will be racing with trainers who aren't in the top ten, another \$300k race my training

fees won't qualify for. I am not a fan of the synthetic tracks, I know they have a place but there are another couple of \$100k races I miss out on.

Still, that good horse we all aspire to is actually more portable than me; I don't care where they win.

Our mate Savabeel is a nat's breath away from breaching the \$25 million in prize money. Remarkable. I haven't researched it but I doubt any of his competitors will reach such lofty heights .

Perhaps it's not so bad now.



It's your lucky week, a second corner from Garry...

Now you ten all know I have been breeding to sell for a long time. 1975 was my first sale of two yearlings at the Waikato Sale. I grossed \$2200, not enough to retire on, so I have had to persevere. Mind you, I first attended Wellington Races and Wairarapa some 70 years ago so you could say I am a tragic addict.

It hasn't been all bad, in fact it's been great. The people you meet from all facets of life, the horses you rear and watch either retained or sold, the families both equine and human you develop, the travel experiences enhanced by racing... The racecourses, when visited, there will be many you can share your interest in, taking advantage of the terroir to produce such world-class competitors... Winning... the thrill of being competitive.

After all that, what do I know? Well, I definitely know more than when I sold those two yearlings about how to present and market our product. What eureka inspiration have I been able to apply to our craft? None. And, if I did, I wouldn't share it.

After all this time the one common denominator is the bull rules the herd. The fact that a sire can produce numbers annually as against the best of the mares who rarely breed annually. I have learnt that sending the best mares available to a new season sire will not change the result if he is one of the 90% who can't climb the ladder of success.

Centaine was the horse that changed our life and direction; out the 42 foals of his first crop there were 13 two-year-old winners. His quinella of the Group 1 Sires' Produce was the highlight. A shareholder when watching the weigh-in shed a tear telling me

his heart was near bursting, horses can do that to you. Then over the career of that first crop there were nine stakes winners. The quality of the mares covered to produce such a result was certainly not commercial but the bull ruled the herd.

We at Waikato have been fortunate to have had on the property an above average sire to mate our mares to since Centaine. On arrival at Waikato we also added Pompei Court, not too bad, then over time O'Reilly, Ocean Park, Pins, Sacred Falls, even Danasinga was ok, Tivaci and Ardrossan are now putting up their hands, then those without runners who without knowing it are all hoping to fill Savabeel's shoes.

An article on the season's Australian Group 1 winners confirms his place among the very good stallions. Last week I suggested he was on the cusp of \$25 million stakes earnings for the year. This week he's done it. More importantly, his three individual Group 1 winners was not surpassed, let alone the fact they were three of the eleven NSW Championship races. Australia is our market, we would have a very limited industry without them. So, well done you good thing.

Amongst our ten stakes winners for the year we bred four individual Group 1 winners: Icebath, then the three at Sydney all by Savabeel.

I have not yet confirmed it but if any of you ten are historians you can confirm or not if the breeding and racing the TJ Smith and Australian Derby winner has ever been achieved on the same day by any previous owner/breeder. If so, congratulations to them - we know how hard it is, we did it.

Cheers
G

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