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What's been happening at Waikato recently?

Excitement heading into this weekend

Our boy **I Wish I Win** (Savabeel x Make A Wish) is off to his next G1 assignment, the TJ Smith on Saturday. Good luck to Peter Moody and his crew. You will hear us cheering him along from the farm.



Look for the WS silks at Randwick tomorrow

The Waikato Stud team are looking forward to watching some of our racing team line up for their events tomorrow at Royal Randwick. Keep your eye out for the following.

Race 2 - G3 FUJITSU GENERAL CARBINE CLUB STAKES

Fall For Cindy (Sacred Falls x Cindy Cee)

J - Zac Purton

T - John O'Shea

Race 4 - G3 TAB ADRIAN KNOX STAKES

Candy Love (Savabeel x Absolutely Me)

J - Tim Clark

T - Anthony & Sam Freedman

Race 7 - G1 FURPHY T J SMITH STAKES

I Wish I Win (Savabeel x Make A Wish)

J - Luke Nolen

T - Peter Moody

We couldn't do it without them! Get to know our team

Anna Poyhonen



1. Introduce yourself

Hello! I'm Anna and I manage the foaling unit here at WS. Im coming up to my 5th season at the stud and when I'm not foaling, I mainly run amok with the weanling crew.

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

I'm originally from Finland but grew up in Hong Kong and have always ridden but didn't find my way into the thoroughbred industry until I moved to Australia in 2016. Ironically enough, I had no interest in racing while living in HK so many Wednesday meets at Happy Valley were lost on me growing up.

I had been volunteering with the RDA and working some odd jobs outside Melbourne but found myself at a loose end and ended up doing stints at both Swettenham and Gilgai. Both farms had smaller crews and meant I got to float between each department on the farms and learned a hell of a lot in a very short space of time.

None of my work experience prior to being in Aussie are very relevant at all! I did an undergrad in Theatre Studies and a Masters in English Literature. I then worked as an au pair, in children's fashion, in theatre and eventually found my way back to horses. I worked with Emma Dench in the foaling unit for two seasons here when I first arrived and luckily she taught me everything she knew and here I am.

3. Go-to beverage?

A good Chardonnay always hits the spot

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

Strange as it sounds, my favourite thing about working in the foaling unit are the daily adrenaline rushes. I've never had a job with so much variability, where every day brings something new and challenging, year after year. The inevitable lows are far outshone by the wins, which thankfully are also far more frequent. I'm also getting to the stage where yearlings I prepped in my first year here are coming through the foaling paddock and seeing their foals always feels a little bit special.

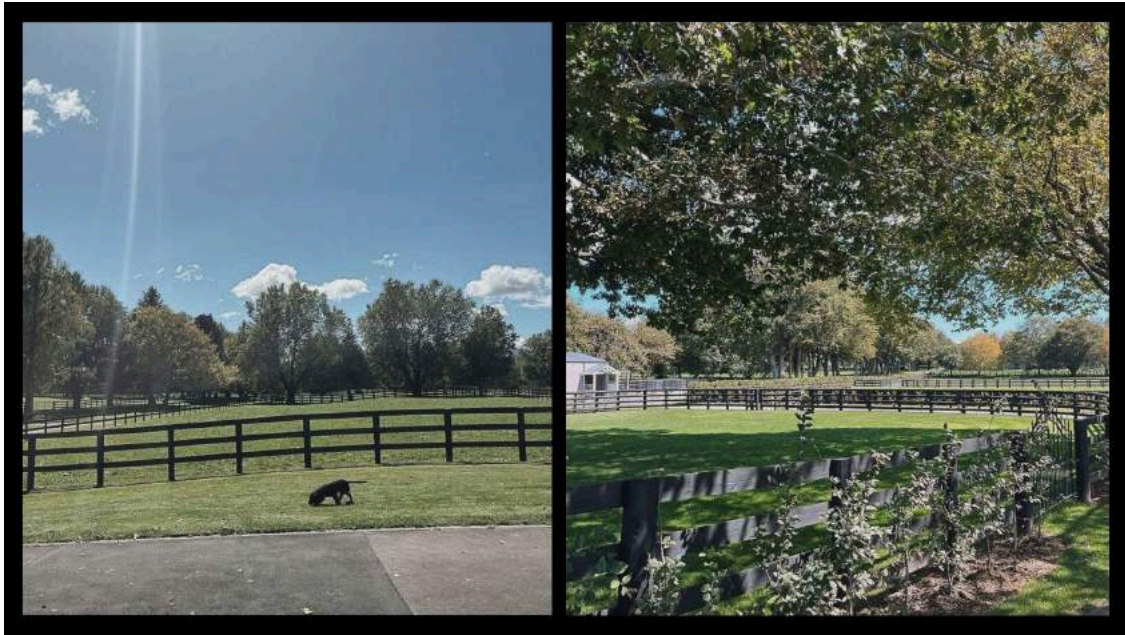
5. Explain the highlight of your career so far

Specific career highlight is a hard one to pin point. Mostly it's getting to share a champagne at the end of the season with the crew knowing we worked our socks off with every mare and foal. Makes me immensely proud of our team and I just love that feeling.

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

My advice to anyone wanting to get into the industry is that hard work rarely goes unnoticed. If you put your head down, earn a couple of stripes, listen and learn as much as you possibly can from people around you, you'll go alright. And don't be scared to jump in the deep end - it's the scarier but funner end of the pool. You'll also never learn as much about horsemanship or laugh as hard as when you're being helicoptered around by a weanling, grab the lead and have a go.

Recently on the farm



Spirits have been high on the farm as the grass is growing and the sun is shining. The team have been working hard together to truck the freshly handled foals to their new paddocks ready for next week's weaning.

[Watch the video 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...

Tip 1: WOLVERINE

Wolverine (2019 Tivaci x Knew It filly)

Jockey: Hugh Bowman

Trainer: Kris Lees

Upcoming Race: Randwick Race 2, 1600m G3 FUJITSU

GENERAL CARBINE CLUB STAKES

Comment: Ran on strong from last in the Canberra Guineas and 1600m 4th up is now the perfect set up

Tip 2: I WISH I WIN

I Wish I Win (2018 Savabeel x Make A Wish gelding)

Jockey: Luke Nolen

Trainer: Peter Moody

Upcoming Race: Randwick Race 7, 1200m G1 FURPHY T J SMITH STAKES

Comment: The Waikato shout



Well, it's happened, we have succumbed to the belief that a partner will be the saviour of NZ Racing. Now I won't immediately address the ramifications of the deal that will come, I will just remind my readers of the advocate for such a future for our industry: Allan Jackson, who was Chairman of the Racing Board and briefly of the Greyhound Code (before disposed of). Chairman of Thoroughbred Racing for the last decade, he advocated we could not grow without investment which was out of our reach. It was interesting to attend meetings, some

with self-designated titles that were not prepared to accept the logic of Allan's reasoning.

The Messara report clearly demonstrated a picture of misery without the vision to coalesce with someone. Again, a big thank you to John Messara and those he called upon to present a vision for our salvation. So, why, why were there those that couldn't see the wood for the trees? Who knows, as an independent thinker I have always believed that inviting someone to partner you was because of one's inability to raise the capital based on your business model. To plagiarise one of my more colourful philosophers, 'Anything that ends with ships is doomed, partnerships, relationships, sailing ships; they all sink.' You get the picture. So why us now? Well, clearly our new partners see an opportunity to profit from the timing of our product. You see, we might be first to wake up but somewhere there will be someone wanting their last wager before resting for the next challenge, or so they say. Mind you, if this is not right then the question is: If we are to remain dependent on Australasia how come they can produce a better bottom line than those who, apparently, deserve to have guaranteed further employment? You see the industry is simply dependent on stakes, stakes that those retained have never delivered. If they had, no need to coalesce.

The privatisation of both NSW and Victoria was dependent on a reduction in the betting duties. In simple terms the capitalisation of the reduction of these duties was the value that offered the potential returns. Hence both State Governments grabbed the lion's share of the sale price. So, are the current stakes of these two Eastern States a result of their now partners management? Clearly not.

We no longer pay wagering duties so we have nothing to offer other than our shareholders wagering license, this clearly has a value hence the supposed competition but the promise of greater returns to the owners is dependent on our belief that our new partners will achieve results not only for us but them also. So, we are to carry our infrastructure on, share our bottom line, and still have increased stakes. There must be something I am missing.

However, I am hopeful. Afterall, it can't possibly be worse than the last decade.

Again, another great year across the Tasman for not only NZ breders but trained also. Mary and I are off to the Championships, what a week of racing. If you love the game then the next two Saturdays are the Autumn showcase of our product. Waikato are not only breeders of competitors but owners also. If we win we will let you know; if not, we won't .

But we will have a great catch up with many we haven't seen since the COVID virus. I love Sydney, it is vibrant, attractive and most of all positive. Sydney Easter Sales complement the racing, without them it would be a bleak racing autumn in NZ. Let's hope this is the start of the renaissance.

Cheers

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