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Super Seth's exciting 2YOs



Super Seth registers his first trial winner.

Poetic Champion (ex **Regally Blonde**) demonstrated a nice turn of foot to win with ease for Tony Pike at Cambridge this week. While **Super Em** (ex **Emily Margaret**) produced a smart debut at Riccarton Park for Andrew Carston.

[Watch replay here.](#)

Mark's Mail



Pip and I managed to get to Caulfield last Saturday, which we could do knowing that the farm was left in great hands with the dedicated and professional team at WS. Thank you to all.

IWIW's first run for this campaign was spot on, and it was great to catch up with a few of our Aussie counterparts on a great day of racing. Another big Saturday of sport coming up, with various runners in WS silks at Hawkes Bay.

Looking forward to Adrossan's gun son Codigo kicking off the season, with our wonderful racing partner, Dame Lowell Goddard. As well as the already Group-winning Mazzolino kicking off her season, Skew Wiff representing us in the first G1 of the season in NZ in a very, very strong field. A magnificent day of racing at Hawkes Bay on a completely different track from last year; really looking forward to that.

We are excited to have the Hickman family from Taimate Enterprises at the farm this weekend over

some good wine and food.

First week of breeding season; couldn't be happier with how it began. Awesome start with 60+ mares covered.

We are over 20 foals ahead compared to the same time last year, and the impressive Noverre foals just keep coming!

Winner of the week: Gold Bullion; his first win helps to continue the family's success; he's out of a half-sister to Gram, who is the dam of Major Beel - the ATC Derby winner. Gai and Adrian do an impeccable job with this bloodline. Thank you to them and their team.

The highlight of the week is a very impressive trial winner for Super Seth, Poetic Champion. It was a big week all round; good luck for the next one.

Thanks team!

Mark

A yarn with Ladbrokes



"The turn of foot we'd seen at home on dry ground, particularly, was pretty special." - Peter Moody

We've had an incredible ride with **I Wish I Win** so far, and the excitement continues to build as we prepare to scale The Everest!

Thank you Ladbrokes for the awesome video. Link below.

[Watch video here.](#)

A beautiful Tivaci colt

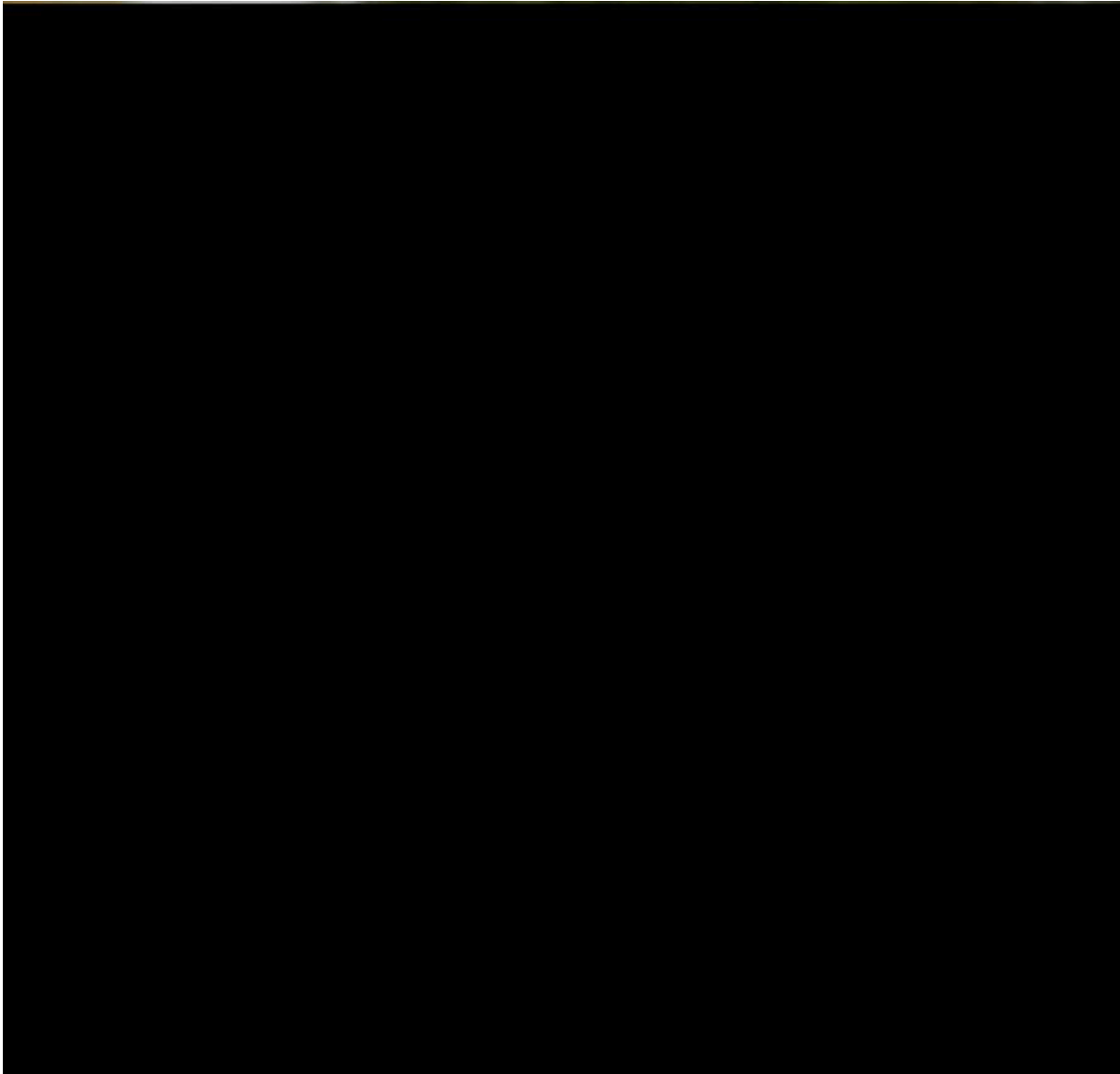




An impressive first foal from **Knot (Ocean Park)** by our G1-producing sire, **Tivaci**. Boasting exceptional looks and a kind head, this colt is just what we hoped for - and mum has seamlessly taken to her new role!

We couldn't do it without the team!

Meet Emma...



1. Introduce yourself & how long you have worked at WS?

Emma Smith and I've been at WS for five months now!

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

I've worked in racing for nearly ten years; riding track work, travelling horses and being involved in running a pre-training stable. I still ride trackwork for Stephen Marsh before starting my day at Waikato. I am loving learning more about the breeding side of the industry.

3. Go-to beverage?

A cold Corona!

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

I work in the office and enjoy learning how all the aspects of the farm work and what goes on behind the scenes to keep such a successful operation running smoothly.

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

I have been lucky enough to travel to Hong Kong several times with ready-to-run horses for

Ascot Farm to sell in the HK International Sale. Riding them in the breeze-ups at Sha Tin Racecourse was always a huge thrill. The last trip I did was during the height of COVID and was very challenging, so to top the sale that year was extra special. I was very proud of the horses and team I was part of, the trips were amazing experiences.

6. A piece of advice you would give someone who is new in the thoroughbred industry?

Do what you love and you'll never work a day in your life!

Have you read our journal?



Dive into stories of our land, our horses, and the friendships that have built us and continue to build us.

This is our second journal and compiled by Pippa Chittick, who poured a huge amount of time and love into its pages.

Waikato Stud Journal, Issue Two/ What We Live For, read here

<https://waikatostud.com/journal/>

#ThisIsWhatWeLiveFor



So, the breeding season is upon us again. Not sure if it's the spring air, but something stirs the brain of the breeding gurus, and why not, after all if you are committing to yet another horse of the future, why not apply all the resources your I.Q. can absorb.

We try also, but to some extent, our choices are narrowed by our desire to support our resident sires. I have over the years, avoided viewing sires we don't stand. My reason is human nature, and economic necessity creates a natural bias. Most visitors viewing our sires will have been somewhere on the way, inevitably they will ask what do think of whoever. My stock answer is, haven't seen him, can't get into trouble. However, I will not mate a mare of mine without viewing her potential mate, we are very much breeders of the type of animal we think a horse should be. Must be our farming background, I still prefer a particular type of beef animal, when you think about it shouldn't matter, meat is meat. But, our horses are bred to perform. What's a perfect horse? Who knows, but it's hard to deny the evolution of our breed has led to the animal we see perform, which over the years is of a type.

My foray into the stallion business Super Gray had smallish feet, tight at the heel which is not unusual for US breeds, my neighbour on inspection said, "buy a horse with a fault, breed a horse with a fault", the advice has been imbedded in my thoughts ever since.

Then we have our choice pedigree, well when I ventured into this mystery, Australasian prospects were sourced in Europe. Our resources meant we were sorting through those that were not considered elite enough for their breeding operations. Both countries came up with sires that performed way better than they should have, the Northern Hemisphere view being we were racing in our own genetic pool, given the opportunity for the next step up is certain to improve our breed.

Peter Kelly, Chief Auctioneer and a director of Wrightson Bloodstock was appointed Robert Sangsters Southern Hemisphere representative, this was the serious start of dual hemisphere prospects. He took the time out to visit our Palmerston North stud to inform me there was a chance of us standing a Sangster stallion, but we would be well down the pecking order. "Well", I said, "not a lot of point in that, so we would continue to paddle our own canoe". "Regretfully, Garry, you will find there will be limited opportunity for our type of operation in the future". Very encouraging.

Our venture into colonial bred is well documented, but it would seem different racing jurisdictions require different attributes. This realisation led to our decision, rather than attempt to change the racing pattern we would breed for it.

Now, it wasn't easy, Centaine sired 42 foals for 13 first-crop two-year-old winners. We were now committed.

Apart from one season of Paco Boy, we haven't wavered since. The problem is our fellow breeders are now equally committed, when you consider there are 8000 colts born in Australasia a year, you would assume a wide choice from which to select a prospect. However, at the end of a three-year season, the desired choices for NZ are remarkably few. It is our view that attempting to compete with the Australian genetics breeding 1200 metre athletes is a waste of time, therefore 50% of the three-year-old colt prospects are crossed off.

Unfortunately, some Australian studs are now competing in what used to be our patch.

Sire lines add to the puzzle, we have never been unduly detoured by a line that is not a recognised sire line, if the horse suits, we will give it a go. You will be surprised how few sires leave a number of sires. Century only had one top-class sire, Zabeel has only one, Ocean Park and O'Reilly are the flag bearers for their respective sires, Ardrossan's reputation is enhanced by three two-year-old stakes winners from his first modest crop, and I could tip you Super Seth's first winner, it won't be long, but you will have to watch out for it.

As for the late Peter Kelly's advice, well I would refer him to the annual sires results, but you see it doesn't matter to the sales companies, we take the risk, cop the flac but they still get the result.

My advice to the eleven of you is, to breed the type of horse you want to breed, I could give you a long list of those who buggered their high-performing race mares by attempting to breed money.

Cheers

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