

HAUNUI FARM UPDATE

YOUR BEST MATCH FOR SUCCESS



December 2007

Breeding Season Winds Up

With the arrival of December (and the panic that sets in as Christmas is fast approaching) the breeding season begins to wind down with 95% of mares covered for the season.

The stallions have enjoyed another successful year at Haunui with both Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel) and Elusive City (USA) (Elusive Quality) kept busy in the breeding shed.

Don Eduardo has covered 78 mares to date with a handful still to be served whilst Elusive City has covered 84 mares and will visit the breeding shed on a few more occasions before heading back to Ireland at the end of this month.

"The stallions have served really well this season," said Mark Chitty of Haunui Farm. "Dane Trompert, our Stallion Manager, has done a fantastic job with them both and they are

a true credit to him," he said.

As resident veterinarian at Haunui, Mark has been kept on his toes in the vet bay this season. "It hasn't been an easy season that's for sure," said Mark. "With a relatively wet and cold spring, the dry mares were a little more challenging than they sometimes are but all credit to the broodmare team, we have got the results on the board," said Mark.

It has been another successful year in regard to foaling with 111 mares foaled on the farm so far. The countdown is on with two mares yet to foal and all going well, this will be completed before Christmas.

A big thank you goes to Keith Konn and his team for a job well done and also a special mention must be made of Sharon Wright, our night watch person and as we all know, a majority of foals come in the early hours of the morning.

"Foaling the mares is largely a team effort here at Haunui," said Mark. "An experienced staff member is on call every night for foaling and there is always at least two people at a foaling," he said. Keith does a good job in organising all of the short shifts (5pm–8pm) until night watch comes on and also, the staff on-call and back-up," says Mark.

Right:

Don Eduardo—Surprise Belle filly, born 14/09/07



Another Derby Prospect for Don Eduardo

With the AJC Derby firmly on the agenda of Najib (NZ) (Don Eduardo) in the Sydney Autumn, it was pleasing to see that Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel) looks set to have a Derby aspirant on this side of the Tasman in the form of Il Divo (NZ) (Don Eduardo).

It may have come two days later than expected, but Il Divo lived up to expectations at Ellerslie on the 4th of December running out the impressive winner of the three-year-old event on the card.

A half brother to Group Two filly Naturo, Il Divo has always been held in high regard by his trainer, John Sargent and didn't disappoint when expected to perform. "He's a lovely horse," said John. "I've always thought highly of him and it was a good win yesterday, he showed a turn

of foot and quickened nicely," he said.

A \$100,000 purchase from the 2006 Karaka Select Sale, Il Divo will now head toward the Group Two Great Northern Guineas (2100m) at Ellerslie on Boxing Day with his main target, the Group One Mercedes Derby (2400m) on the 1st of March 2008.

"I will just keep him ticking over for the next three weeks until Boxing Day and then he will have another one or two starts before the Derby in March," said John.

"It was good to see the horse win so well yesterday," said Mark Chitty of Haunui Farm. "We knew John has always had a high opinion of him and the horse came from the back of

the field, got checked and still quickened to win well," he said. "All going well, it looks as though he will certainly justify the price tag," said Mark. "It's great for Don Eduardo to have a horse already en route to the Derby and Dashing Donna is likely to be contesting some of the nicer fillies races of the Summer," he said. "And hopefully, there will be a few more Don Eduardo's lining up in those races as well!"

A Derby-winner himself, it would only be fitting if Don Eduardo could produce a Derby-winner from his first crop. "It would be a dream come true for Mr Cojuangco who bought, raced and still owns Don Eduardo," said Mark. "It would be a dream come true for us too with so

many of our clients and a large number of smaller breeders having supported the stallion in his first seasons at stud," he said. "While that kind of success is still some way off, it is certainly nice to know that Don Eduardo has horses that top trainers such as Lee Freedman and John Sargent are targeting for major races such as the AJC Derby and Mercedes Derby," said Mark. "We receive nothing but good reports about Don Eduardo's progeny and one thing is for sure, they're only going to get better with time," he said.

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Ready-to-Run Draft Reaches Expectations

STOP PRESS:

Van Nistelrooy Strikes Again

The numbers keep rising for the progeny of Van Nistelrooy with yet another winner added to the list.

Haunui graduate Lodovico made light work of his rivals winning on debut at Mata-mata on the 6th of December.

Out of Locomotee (NZ) (Last Tycoon), Lodovico was bred by Haunui and Marie Leicester and was sold from our 2006 draft to Scott Richardson for \$50,000.

As expected, the progeny of Van Nistelrooy (USA) (Storm Cat) were well sought after at the recent New Zealand Bloodstock Ready-to-Run Sale. Averaging just under \$100,000 for five lots sold, a gelding by Van Nistelrooy was the top seller of Haunui's draft of six, fetching \$120,000 to the bid of NZB as agent for a Singapore client.

"It came as no surprise to see Singapore interests signing for the horse," said Mark Chitty of Haunui Farm. "Last year we sold a Van Nistelrooy from the same sale who turned out to be Onceuponatime, Champion Juvenile of Singapore," he said.

The first day of selling saw Lot 60, a filly by Reset (Aus) (Zabeel) out of Coupon, a filly from the Haunui Farm foundation family, sold to Australians Ken and Wendy Baker for \$60,000.

The second day of selling provided two nice results for Haunui with the Lloyd Williams team of John Peatfield and Graeme Rogerson purchasing Lot 337, a colt by Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel) for \$61,000. "It's great that the Williams team have purchased a Don Eduardo from us," said Mark. "They have had some great success with Haunui graduates including

Perlin, Gallic and Legible so hopefully they have bought another Group One-winner from the farm," he said.

The last lot to be offered by Haunui was Lot 382, a colt by Desert Prince (Ire) (Green Desert) who was knocked down to the bid of John Morrissey for \$87,500.

"As always, the nice horses stood out and there was strong competition for them," said Mark. "This sale has a strong record for producing some outstanding racehorses so it will be interesting to see what comes out of this crop," he said. "It's also good to have the first major sale out of the way after the EI outbreak," said Mark.



Lot 382—Desert King—Zafonique colt sold for \$87,500

"IT LOOKS AS THOUGH HE COULD BE A VERY, VERY GOOD HORSE." - MARK CHITTY ON ONCEUPONATIME

Haunui Graduates Chase Black Type

With summer racing beginning to get into full swing, three Haunui graduates will be chasing black type over the coming weeks.

Mission Critical (Aus) (Fantastic Light) is headed toward the Group Two Avondale Guineas (1600m) to be held on the 9th of December.

A graduate of Haunui's 2006 yearling draft, Mission Critical was purchased by Paul Moroney for \$75,000. "His recent work has been very pleasing

and he's starting to look like he knows what he's out there for," said Paul.

Onceuponatime (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy), last season's Champion Juvenile of Singapore, proved his class yet again in beating his older counterparts in early December making it two from two in his three-year-old season.

"He is still very green but is learning all the time," said trainer, David Hill who will aim the gelding toward the SIN-

Group Three Stewards Cup (1400m) on the 16th of December.

Stakes winning filly Valpolicella (NZ) (Red Ransom) is well on her way to her main summer target of the Group Two Royal Stakes (2000m). Galloping between races at Avondale on Cup Day, 'Polly' will head toward the Group Three Eulogy Stakes (1600m) at Awapuni on the 16th of December and will then line up in the Royal Stakes on New Years Day.

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A Busy Time Ahead for Yearlings

Yearling preparation is definitely in full swing and the next two weeks will see the first parades of the yearling season.

Last year, Haunui was instrumental in introducing the Central Districts/South Island Trainers tour which saw six of Auckland's yearling vendors group together to bring trainers and agents from the Central Districts and South Island regions to Auckland to preview yearlings.

This year, the tour is set to take place on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th of December with 27 trainers, trainers clients and agents taking part. "In the past, a majority of these trainers haven't been able to inspect yearlings prior to the sale," said Mark Chitty. "A lot of them have also never been to the farms so it provides an opportunity to not only view the yearlings but to also get an

understanding of our operation, the way we do things and what we're trying to achieve," said Mark.

Also on Monday, Haunui will see a group of twelve Australians inspecting yearlings as part of the 'O' Tour. "We were approached a month or so ago by both John O'Shea and Danny O'Brien for a private parade of yearlings for them and a group of clients," said Mark. "We are participating in this initiative with seven other studs from the Matamata and Cambridge area," he said. "It's certainly encouraging given the EI crisis in Australia, that these guys are keen to inspect yearlings prior to Karaka—it's very positive," he said.

Also visiting in December is the Australian Trainers Tour which is organised by NZTM. This year, 21 Australian trainers are set to take part in the tour

which has become a regular occurrence over the last five years. "It has been a very positive initiative for New Zealand and I know the trainers look forward to it each year," said Mark.

December will also see a number of private yearling parades for trainers and agents leading into the Christmas period with January also a busy time for on-farm parades.

"It's always a busy time of the year and with parades starting in early December, the yearlings need to be ready to parade," said Mark. "I'm very happy with where the yearlings are at in the preparation and now the weather has warmed up, they are starting to fly," he said. "The intensity level really lifts now and the yearling team are doing a great job," he said.

HAUNUI YEARLING

PARADE

SUNDAY 20TH JAN 2008

2PM ARRIVAL, 2.30PM START

TO ASSIST WITH CATERING,
PLEASE RSVP TO SHANNON
BY 16TH JANUARY 2008.

P 09 530 8736

E shanont@haunui farm.co.nz

Staff Profile—Gavin Pickford

Gavin will be a familiar face to some of you as a regular member of the Haunui yearling team for nearly four years.

Originally from South Africa, Gavin emigrated to New Zealand in 2004. "My girlfriend was in New Zealand and there were much better employment opportunities here as South Africa was still struggling with Equine Influenza," said Gavin.

Now a New Zealand resident, Gavin returned to South Africa in September to get married. Gavin and his wife Kira live on our Hinu Road property in Karaka.

Since joining the Haunui team,

Gavin has worked predominantly with the yearlings but also assists in the breeding shed during the season and for The past two years, has deputised to Wayne Milliken during the weaning process.

Gavin will now step-up to lead the weaning of foals here at Haunui beginning in the early New Year. "It is a big responsibility but I am looking forward to the challenge," said Gavin. "The initial handling a foal gets is probably one of the most important stages of its life so its crucial to get it right," he said. "A majority of foals are relatively easy to handle and take things quite well but there are

always some toughies and they're the ones that present the biggest challenge," says Gavin. "They're also the ones that you have to make sure you get it right with," he said.

"Gavin has some big shoes to fill but I have every confidence in him," said Mark Chitty. "I wouldn't have given him the responsibility otherwise," he said.

Gavin will be in charge of weaning and handling around 100 foals with the first stage set to begin on the 7th of January.



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Mark's Corner—What do I do with my foal now?

With the breeding season almost completed and many mares and foals beginning to depart back to owner's properties or, other agistment farms, I thought it timely to take a look at the care of the foal through the Summer period until weaning and also, beyond.

There are many aspects of managing foal growth and development to be considered in particular, those foals that are destined for the sale ring. Many foals are born each season with an array of different issues – some that can't be rectified and some that can - and with persistence and perseverance, the end result can be astounding. I am still often surprised at the results that we can achieve through the careful management and constant monitoring of a certain issue and undoubtedly, this has been rewarded through results achieved in the sale ring.

A mistake that can easily be made, especially at this time of year, is to turn your mare and foal out into a lovely lush paddock and leave them to it, checking on them daily from a distance to make sure they're both upright and in one piece and maybe feeding them once a day if required.

Believe me, it doesn't take long for changes to occur in foals and whilst some changes are just a natural part of the growing process, there are ways to manage these changes that can decrease any risks of Developmental Orthopaedic Disease especially in the forms of physitis of the fetlocks and knees, capsulitis of the fetlocks and OCD.

It always pays to remember that ideally throughout a foals life, we like them to average between 0.66 to 0.75 kg weight gain per day and at different times of the year this can escalate up to 1 to 1.5kg/day – this is the dangerous and can easily happen in the first 30 days of

life, springtime and the early autumn.

Listed below are some aspects of foal management that we adhere to at Haunui Farm and they might be of interest/assistance to you in managing your foals through to yearling stage.

Some numbers I work with:

The average weight of a foal at birth is between 45-60kg. Their weight at weaning (5 – 7 months of age) should be 200-230kg. If, during the winter we can have horses averaging a weight gain of 0.5kg/day, I'm happy.

Feeding programme

Despite varying grass levels, we hard feed our mares and foals and then weanlings right through to their second spring between 3-5kg of NRM Evolve. I believe this helps people in checking their young stock on a daily basis, gets foals used to eating hard feed in a herd situation and supplements any deficiencies in the soil or grass. If your foal is not doing as well as expected, get a thorough history of the foal and check the condition of the mare as peak lactation occurs at 8-10 weeks and a significant increase in feed may be required to be of benefit to the foal. Taking a blood can also be of assistance as ulcers can be a problem in young foals (can be seen as doing poorly, dry coat, teeth grinding) and a simple 7-10 day course of omeprazole can provide a simple solution.

Hoof condition

Young foals start to suffer wall separation from about 3-4 months of age and this can cause slight lameness and as the foals off-load weight, it can affect conformation. Therefore farrier work at this time is implemented to avoid problems later on.

Skin condition

Rain scold during a wet spring/autumn is ideally rectified with a bluestone or iodine wash ensuring skins are nice and clear going into the winter. This is imperative to avoid issues with yearling skins. Ticks also pose a problem and the use of Permaxin/Baytical usually does the trick as well as keeping pastures short rather than allowing seedhead to develop in the late spring/summer.

Drenching programmes

Foals are drenched at three weeks, seven weeks and then every 6 – 8 weeks thereafter. Faecal egg counts can alter the frequency but we do now live with Ivermectin resistance especially with the Roundworm (*Parascaris equorum*) and with more and more pasting rather than tube drenching please ensure 2 things – 1) don't underestimate your horses weight and 2) ensure the horse gets all the dose.

Vaccination programmes

Here at Haunui we vaccinate our foals/weanlings against Strangles, Tetanus and Salmonella and this is usually undertaken from 4-5 months of age.

Branding, DNA, microchipping

This has to be completed for 2007 born foals by 31 July 2008. At Haunui we do this during our three-week paddock weaning and handling period. After 10-12 days of intensive foal handling the foals are branded, microchipped and DNA sampled by the veterinarians. Branding can be done by registered Freeze branders.

Weaning/handling

The initial handling of your foal is arguably one of the most important stages of its life. Many foals have fantastic temperaments and breeze through the entire process with relatively little resistance however it is still important that they are taught the basics without befriending them. Remember,

they need to do things when you want them to not when they want to and they don't stay 45-60kg individuals for very long! Teach them well – how to lead, pick up feet, be groomed, washed, come in and out of stables, have a cover put on and taken off etc. This initial period of handling undoubtedly affects the way a horse acts in the paddock/stable environment for the rest of its life. If in any doubt, the best advice I can give is to have your foal professionally weaned and handled either by sending them back to stud for a certain period or, by having a recommended professional come to your property to handle the foals. Believe me, if this process is completed properly, it makes things a lot easier.

Weaning – Yearling Stage

The programme after the weaning stage should ideally see you reassess your weanling on a monthly basis on a firm surface where you can see the horse walk, see how the foot lands and its shape, what the joint structure (fetlocks and knees) above the foot is doing as the horse weight bears and look at the symmetry of all joints. You should also assess skin condition and general body condition – I like to be able to feel the ribs on all young growing horses. This assessment, along with monthly weighing and height assessments helps to avoid surprises with a rapidly growing animal which is the thoroughbred foal and weanling.

Hopefully some of these points will assist you in the management and care of your foal through to the yearling stage. If at any time you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Finally, I wish you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2008.