

# Haunui Farm

Update



HAUNUI FARM

P 09 530 8736

F 09 530 8690

399 Whitford Park Road, RD, Manurewa, Auckland, 2576

[www.haunuifarm.co.nz](http://www.haunuifarm.co.nz)

July 2007

## Breeding Season Fast Approaching

With August looming, so is the prospect of Spring and the arrival of new season foals. All going according to plan, the first foals born on Haunui in 2007 will be arriving in the first week of August.

In preparation, the mares have been separated into mobs according to foaling date and the earliest to foal will soon receive their pre-foaling vaccinations and drenches as they come under constant observation.

Last season we saw the benefits of Mark moving back onto the farm. Living only a stone's throw from the foaling unit, if there are any problems, he is on site in a matter of minutes which is reassuring for clients and staff alike.

This season we will be foaling down in the vicinity of 120 mares so there will be plenty to keep the broodmare team busy over the coming months.

*Right: The next generation???  
A half brother to Mikki Street  
by Don Eduardo born at  
Haunui last season.*



## Stud Connection Launched

Hopefully you will have all received the Haunui stallion promotion toward the end of June. Once again, we've taken a very different approach which we hope has achieved the goal of differentiating us from our competitors as well as engaging those of you who have taken the time to read the letter and the brochure, watch the DVD and tested your skills against the "Nightmares" by playing our interactive Stud Connection game ([www.studconnection.co.nz](http://www.studconnection.co.nz)).

We hope that the "Haunui Bucks" will come in handy during the season and go

some way to showing our appreciation of your support.



As expected, Iffraaj is proving very popular with New Zealand breeders and is well on the way to filling his limited book of 120 mares. Barnmate Elusive City (USA)

(Elusive Quality) is also proving popular on the back of a very successful yearling sales series earlier this year whilst Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel), who sired his first two-year-old winner in May, continues to get the solid support of previous users and in his fifth season, is still appealing to new clients.

Should you have any questions in regard to spending your "Bucks" or, you would like to discuss our stallions further, please feel free to give Mark or Shannon a call at the Haunui office or on mobile – Mark 021 663 995 – or Shannon -0212 855 513.

# Haunui Farm

## Breakers, Pre-trainers, RTR Draft & Horses in Work

Luke Geddes, our Yearling and Breaking-In Manager, has just brought the last group of youngsters in to be broken in.

With over 25 already completed, Luke and the riding team of Tiaan, Jamie and Rachel have done an outstanding job in breaking in this season's yearlings. It is a great credit to Luke that a number of new clients have chosen to send their yearlings to Haunui to be broken in this season from both New Zealand and Australia, and the numbers continue to rise each year.

Whilst also breaking-in, the riding team have also been pre-training some of the Haunui racehorses including the stakes winning filly Valpolicella (NZ) (Red Ransom). One of last season's graduates of Luke's breaking-in process, as reported in last month's newsletter, she is back in the stable of Roger James in preparation for a spring campaign.

Other horses to have moved out of pre-training at Haunui in recent times is the four-year-old mare Free Form (NZ) (Octagonal) who in her first start for the Sydney stable of Graeme Rogerson, ran second over 1400m at



*Above: Onceuponatime (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy—Scarlet Runner) —a graduate of last season's Haunui RTR Draft. Sold for \$60,000, he won his first race in Singapore by 10.5 lengths!*

Hawkesbury. Waimarie Lass (NZ) (Fasliyev), a rising three-year-old filly, is due to return to the O'Sullivan/Scott stable in late July whilst Opportunity Knocks (NZ) (Traditionally) and Twirlaway (NZ) (Danasinga) will begin pre-training in the next week in preparation for spring/summer racing.

The Ready to Run horses have all been through the stable system twice and are currently having a brief let up before recommencing work later this month in preparation for late October breeze ups. We have six rising two-year-olds headed for this sale by the likes of Desert Prince, Don Eduardo, Reset and Van Nistelrooy.

## 2008 Yearlings

With the breeding season just around the corner, so too is the yearling season. As always, Haunui will be offering yearling drafts across Australia and New Zealand placing yearlings where we believe the horses are best suited.

In 2008, Haunui will be offering close to sixty yearlings at sales throughout New Zealand and Australia with the first draft heading to the Gold Coast in early January for the Magic Millions Yearling Sale.

The preparation for our Magic

Millions yearlings will get underway in September with Karaka yearlings coming in toward the middle of October. In the meantime, all fillies have been through the boxes and covered for the winter and the colts will come in in early August to begin their education – judging by the size of some of them, we'll be in for some "fun"! As always, we continue to monitor their progress with monthly weighing and height measuring to ensure that they are progressing as planned.

As normal, Haunui will offer a

majority of our 2008 yearlings at New Zealand Bloodstock's National Sale toward the end of January and again, a strong and select draft will head back across the Tasman at Easter time for the Inglis Easter Yearling Sale.

Sires represented in Haunui's 2008 yearling draft include Cape Cross, Choisir, Danzero, Dehere, Don Eduardo, Elusive City, Encosta de Lago, More Than Ready, One Cool Cat, O'Reilly, Pins, Redoute's Choice, Red Ransom, Savabeel, Stravinsky, Van Nistelrooy and Zabeel.

# Haunui Farm

## Mark's Corner: X-Rays—The Level of Risk

The notion of yearling x-rays in the southern hemisphere came onto the radar early into the new millennium as international buyers began to play a larger part in southern hemisphere yearling sales. It also coincided with yearling prices climbing to levels never seen before in Australasia.

Events at the Karaka Premier and Sydney Easter Yearling Sale in 2002 were a catalyst to the official introduction of yearling radiographs in the southern hemisphere and since that time, we have seen their use spread throughout the thoroughbred industry to also incorporate weanling and breeze-up sales.

The 2002 Easter Yearling Sale saw a number of high profile buyers demanding the right to x-ray, post sale, select yearling purchases and in a number of cases, yearlings were subsequently returned to vendors deemed to have x-ray faults. So, whilst this was a situation that arose only due to vendor cooperation, it was a situation that saw the playing field become significantly unbalanced and it was the catalyst to sales companies and vendors agreeing to the official introduction of x-rays to sales throughout Australasia.

Used in North America for almost two decades, procedures and protocols for x-rays were implemented in the southern hemisphere mirroring those in the north which would see 34 X-ray films taken of yearling's fetlocks, knees, hocks and stifles to enable veterinarians to ascertain whether any abnormalities were detectable and if so, whether these were deemed to have an effect on the horse's ability to become a racehorse .

So, has x-raying yearlings been beneficial? In a word, yes.

We have seen yearling sales prices rise higher and higher over

the last four years to levels never seen before. Undoubtedly, some of this is due to buyer confidence in knowing that the horses they are bidding on have passed every known element of their selection process.

Feed regimes and research have become increasingly significant with the right combinations of fat, protein and carbohydrates more important than ever to minimise wastage and reduce the incidence of DOD (Developmental Orthopaedic Disease).

We have also seen changes in the management of young horses by not allowing them to get overly gross during the critical 5-11 months of age growth phase.

The number of pre-sale operations on young horses has also increased significantly as pre-sale x-rays and in some case, pre-preparation x-rays, have identified problems either large or small, that require surgery. With this in mind, it can be said that there has been a reduction in unwarranted costs to the new owner which could have been the case in the days prior to x-raying.

However, as a vendor and a practicing veterinarian, I have seen and been exposed to the broad spectrum of opinion passed on our yearlings presented for sale.

My main concern today is the variability of opinion between veterinarians on the significance of radiographic changes in yearlings. In my opinion, this has to change in order to maintain credibility with not only the buying bench but also the yearling vendors as prior to lodging the x-rays with sales companies, we also seek opinions from our own veterinary consultants.

I liken it a little to requesting an AA inspection when purchasing a new car. If you were to request an inspection from two different AA inspectors, when reviewing the results, you would expect them to be relatively close in comparison. Surely the same must apply with veterinarians.

This highlights the biggest issue facing veterinarians - how to interpret x-ray results into the categories of low risk, medium risk and high risk recommendations. Unfortunately it appears that a number of veterinarians are unwilling to go any further than viewing radiographs when an abnormality is shown. Perhaps they should consider more thorough physical examinations of the said individuals as well as querying vendors of the horse's history – a practise that seems rare today.

I appreciate that not all veterinarians are giving advice to "regular clients" so they play it safe to the potential detriment of the yearling vendor. Possibly one also forgets that the biggest risk all potential buyers take when purchasing a new racehorse is that it lacks any ability at all or doesn't possess the "will to win".

We have already seen the results of horses who have "failed" x-rays yet stepped out onto race tracks and competed at the highest level. There is no doubt that there will be many more to come and perhaps some in the veterinary profession should remember this before embarking on their visits to the x-ray repositories in 2008.

My view is that x-rays should be seen as another tool to assist in the decision making process when purchasing a young horse, they shouldn't always be used to make the final decision which invariably, they are.

# Find a Perfect Match

on



Looking for the right match for your mare this season? Look no further than the talent standing at Haunui Farm. Iffraaj, Don Eduardo and Elusive City have the pedigrees, race performances and sales results to breed success – on the track and in the sales ring.

So visit [www.studconnection.co.nz](http://www.studconnection.co.nz) to check out the form of Iffraaj and to play our interactive game. And if you want to make a match with some of the most impressive bloodlines in the business, call Mark Chitty or Shannon Taylor now!



Service fees:  
Iffraaj \$12k  
Don Eduardo \$10k  
Elusive City \$8k  
+GST

Phone: +64 9 530 8736 • [www.haunui farm.co.nz](http://www.haunui farm.co.nz)

Mark Chitty +64 21 663 995 • Shannon Taylor +64 21 2855 513