

# HAUNUI FARM UPDATE

YOUR BEST MATCH FOR SUCCESS



October 2007

## 1, 2, 3, 4 Stakes Performers for Van Nistelrooy in 7 days!

Van Nistelrooy (USA) (Storm Cat) has continued to roll out the winners in both hemispheres since the beginning of the new season. Already the sire of a Grade One winner in the USA, a Group Two winner in England, a Group Three winner in Singapore and multiple stakes performers, the first week of October has seen him add four more stakes results to his tally.

Boundless (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy) became her sire's second stakes performer in New Zealand on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September, running on late for third in the Listed Soliloquy Stakes (1400m) behind the smart fillies Lovetriska (NZ) (Rock Of Gibraltar) and Keepa Cruisin (NZ) (Keeper).

Another stand-out performer of Van Nistelrooy's first Southern Hemisphere crop has been the

Peter Moody-trained Pit Lane (NZ). The winner of three in-a-row as a two-year-old, the chestnut colt finished second in his first start this preparation and lined up at Flemington on Saturday in the Listed VRC Concept Sports Stakes (1400m). Settling in mid-field, Pit Lane was momentarily boxed-in in the run home but once in the clear, finished the race out strongly to claim third and become the first stakes performer for his sire in Australia. "I was very pleased with his run on Saturday and he'll go forward to the Caulfield Guineas with the blinkers back on," says Peter Moody.

In the Northern Hemisphere, Group Two-winner Strike The Deal (USA) (Van Nistelrooy) franked his form by finishing second in the Group One Middlepark Stakes (1200m) at Newmarket on Friday whilst two-year-old filly Raymi Coxa (CAN) (Van Nistelrooy) added to her stakes placing in the Listed Dick Poole Fillies Stakes

(1200m) with victory in the Group Three Oh So Sharp Stakes (1400m) at Newmarket the following day to become Van Nistelrooy's fourth stakes winner from his first Northern Hemisphere crop.

Last season's Champion Juvenile of Singapore and Haunui graduate Onceuponatime (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy) became his sire's first stakes winner in the Southern Hemisphere toward the end of last season when he took out the

SIN-G3 Magic Millions Juvenile Championship (1200m). Friday saw him make a winning return to the track at Kranji after a short spell. Racing over 1200m against the older horses, Onceuponatime impressed his trainer David Hill enough for him to state after the race, "before tonight I thought he was a fair horse, now I think he's a very, very good horse." Onceuponatime has faced the starter on five occasions with three wins and two thirds to his credit.



## Winners Continue for Don Eduardo

The list of winners for Haunui Farm's resident stallion Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel) continues to grow with the addition of Daring Eduardo (NZ) bringing his tally of winners to five.

Sold at the 2006 New Zealand Bloodstock Ready-to-Run Sale for \$60,000 from the draft of Lyndhurst Stud, the three-year-old colt races for owner Lucky Rich Stable and notched up the three-length win over 1200m at only his second start.

Earlier in September, Dashing Donna (NZ) (Don Eduardo) became her sire's first stakes performer when finishing second to Special Mission (NZ) (Towkay) in the Listed Carter-Gib Stakes (1200m) and on the same day, smart filly Latif (NZ) won over a mile at Rosehill in Sydney.

"People didn't think Don Eduardo would have two-year-olds and he had two winners at two—both in Australia over 850m and 1000m," said Mark Chitty of Haunui Farm. "They didn't think he'd have Spring three-year-olds either and he's had three winners and a stakes placed filly so far," he said. "If things can keep ticking along like they have been lately, we'll be more than happy and people are obviously taking note because the bookings to Don Eduardo have been rolling in nicely," said Mark.

It looks as though the family of Don Eduardo could have another emerging star to add to a pedigree page that is already overflowing with performers at the highest level.

Lovetriska (Aus) (Rock Of Gibraltar) put her hand up as a

potential star in the three-year-old fillies ranks with an impressive victory in the Listed Soliloquy Stakes (1400m) at Ellerslie. Lovetriska is a daughter of Tristalove (NZ) (Sir Tristram), a three-quarter sister to Don Eduardo and another outstanding producer from the Eight Carat family.



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"IT IS OBVIOUSLY VERY DISAPPOINTING THAT WE CAN'T GET IFFRAAJ TO NEW ZEALAND THIS SEASON HOWEVER, THE SUPPORT FROM CLIENTS HAS BEEN FANTASTIC AND WE ALREADY HAVE A LARGE NUMBER OF BOOKINGS FOR 2008"

## Iffraaj

After what seems like a long time and a lot of frustration, we have finally been able to officially announce that Iffraaj (GB) (Zafonic) will not be able to come to New Zealand in 2007.

We would firstly like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding throughout this uncertain period and apologise for any inconvenience that has been caused firstly through his initial delay and then, the final confirmation that we wouldn't be able to get Iffraaj into New Zealand.

On Friday 28th September we finally received confirmation from New Zealand Biosecurity that the New Zealand border would remain closed to horses from Australia for a minimum of

six weeks therefore putting paid to hopes of importing any of the stallions destined for New Zealand from Australia.

Iffraaj remains in quarantine in Sydney and will be returned to Kildangan in Ireland as soon as possible.

While we're obviously very disappointed that Iffraaj won't be able to cover his 120 mares this season, we have been delighted with the response of breeders who had mares booked to him and their indications that they have every intention of re-booking mares for the 2008 season.

As always, please feel free to contact Mark or Shannon at the Haunui office should you have any queries.



Iffraaj

## Staff Profile—Keith Konn

Keith is a familiar face to many of you. A permanent member of the Haunui team for just over five years, he has held the position of Broodmare Manager for three seasons and just this season, has added another dimension to his role as Manager of Breeding Operations as well.

"I came to New Zealand in 2002 and just last year, got my New Zealand residency," said Keith. Last year was in fact a big year for Keith with the purchase of his first home along with partner Christabel.

Charged with the management of all mares, foals and walk-in mares that come for service at Haunui, this time of the year, Keith and his team are the busiest on the farm.

"We have around 45 dry mares this season and have around 120 mares to foal down—but that number keeps increasing as the stallions get more bookings," he said. "This is our busi-

est time of the year that's for sure but we nearly have all of the dry mares covered," says Keith.

Each day brings something different on a stud farm however, for Keith, arriving on the farm first thing in the morning sees him check in with the night watch staff to be updated on the status of the mares, any new foals and their status. While that is happening, his team will be bringing in all the mares for vetwork which generally gets underway at around 7.30am.

In the meantime, if there are any services scheduled, they normally get underway at 6.30am.

Following vetwork, necessary procedures and treatments are carried out, mares and foals are returned to their respective paddocks and then the day to day tasks take place such as the feed round and checking of all other mares and foals on the

main Haunui farm, and mares at the Haunui run-offs.

"We are definitely busy but that is a good way to be," says Keith. "We would be worried if we weren't at this time of the year," he said. "I have a good team to work with as well and that makes a huge difference," says Keith.

When asked what he finds most rewarding about his job, Keith replies, "It's challenging and I like that. My goal is to see as many mares as possible foal safely and then following that, ensuring that we have as many in foal as possible at the end of the season," he said. "Working with Mark keeps you focused because he is so focused and pays such attention to detail," says Keith. "We have high standards and do our best to maintain them at all times," he said. "Hopefully this translates into results for our clients and that's the most important thing,"



Keith Konn—Broodmare & Breeding Operations Manager

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## Foundation Family Extends

Foals are arriving thick and fast at Haunui now with more than forty of the 120 or more that we are expecting this season.

The Haunui foundation family has three new foals on the ground. Group One-performer Octapussy (Aus) (Octagonal) welcomed the arrival of her first foal on the 20th of September, a bay colt by multiple Group One-winner and exciting freshman sire Exceed and Excel (Aus) (Danehill).

On the same day Muscatel (NZ) (Kaaopstad), a daughter of On The Rise (NZ) (Crested Wave) foaled a filly by Pins (Aus) (Snippets) whilst the last weekend in September saw the arrival of a half sister to stakes winner Valpolicella (NZ) (Red Ransom) out of Riesling (NZ) (Last Tycoon), herself a half sister to Octapussy. By Zabeel (NZ) (Sir Tristram), the filly has a big future ahead of her.

"We're are lucky in that we have a great foaling team here at Haunui," says General Manager Mark Chitty. "Keith Konn, our Broodmare and Breeding Operations Manager does a great job in organising the 24 hour watch of the foaling mares and whilst there is always the odd complication during the season, clients can be assured that their mares waiting to foal, are in very good hands," he said.

The new members of the Haunui Foundation Family:

Right: b c Exceed and Excel—Octapussy

Bottom Left: ch f Pins—Muscatel

Bottom Right: —b f Zabeel—Riesling



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## Mark's Corner—EI, the Current Situation

We are now six weeks on from the initial outbreak of Equine Influenza in Australia and whilst there has been significant progress made – particularly in terms of salvaging the breeding season in the Hunter Valley and the beginning of vaccination—there is still a long road ahead before EI-free states in Australia can breathe easily, and so too is the case for New Zealand in my opinion.

While we indefinitely close our border to Australian imports new quarantine protocols between Australia and New Zealand need to be formulated along with an action plan which includes containment and vaccination should we be faced with an EI outbreak such as that being experienced now in New South Wales and Queensland.

After the reality of the outbreak had set in and the implications faced by the New Zealand industry as a result, it was my initial belief that we in New Zealand needed to look toward a vaccination programme to ensure that the devastation that the outbreak of EI has caused in the Australian racing industry, was in no way replicated in New Zealand should a similar outbreak occur. Discussions with leading veterinarians on both sides of the Tasman supported this view and I was very mindful of New Zealand being pro-active rather than reactive.

It appears questionable as to whether containment within New South Wales and Queensland has been achieved and only time will tell in these very large states. The concern for New Zealand going forward if a policy of containment was to be adapted, is the close proximity of the main horse populations in New Zealand - a large percentage of the horse population live within a 3 hour radius in the North Island and within 2 hours

of Christchurch in the South Island. I have no doubt should EI arrive in New Zealand it would shut down the entire North Island and South Island – that is scary to say the least! Even with the implementation of a vaccination programme to create a buffer zone around infected areas in Australia we have seen both Warwick Farm and now Rosehill affected, so with no horse movement either people, birds or, flies are the culprits and therefore we see a disease outbreak now out of control.

I have had many discussions over the last three weeks in relation to EI with clients, industry members, veterinarians and the like and we have discussed a myriad of issues which helped to shape my initial opinion of pro-vaccination. However, after attending an industry meeting on EI held by the New Zealand Racing Board on Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, my initially strong stance in favour of vaccination has been somewhat cooled – here's why.

1) For vaccination to be effective, we would need to guarantee that 70% of the horse population was vaccinated and because the disease is not in New Zealand, MAF would not make a pre-emptive vaccination programme mandatory therefore, the required coverage would be most unlikely and therefore prove ineffective.

2) If New Zealand starts a vaccination programme it would appear that the Australian authorities may insist on a three-week quarantine period in New Zealand before importation to Australia, and then a two-week post arrival quarantine once in Australia. This would, of course, have a major effect on New Zealand horses racing and breeding in Australia and our export trade with the likelihood that current New Zealand and Australia quarantine facilities

could not cope with the volume of traffic. This in my opinion needs to be urgently addressed with Australian authorities and for them to confirm that this is definitely what they would impose upon us.

3) As MAF doesn't endorse pre-emptive vaccination at this point in time, if we did vaccinate it would be at industry cost (approx. \$325 + GST per horse in the 1<sup>st</sup> year, followed by 6 monthly boosters), and then to maintain New Zealand's EI-free status within a vaccinated population, we would need to continually undertake passive surveillance on 300 properties, testing 10% of the horses on each of these properties.

I firmly believe that we are still under serious threat from Equine Influenza and our industry needs to be proactive in devising plans and protocols so that we can move forward as an industry and participate fully within the Australasian market place. Questions that need to be answered by early December are:

1) What will the protocol be for importing any horse to New Zealand from Australia over the next twelve months and then beyond?

2) With the spread of EI now into Rosehill where horse movement has been controlled, what message has been given to Australian visitors to New Zealand and how will we accommodate the bloodstock agents and trainers coming to both the Ready-to-Run and yearling sales in the next 4 months?

3) What needs to be done to export horses to Australia either to EI infected or, EI free areas from New Zealand? We need to know what we need to do so that we can prepare yearlings in New Zealand to be sold at Australian sales or if we are sending racehorses and broodmares to Australia and, what vaccina-

tion will they need, will there be quarantine restrictions, will special permits be attainable so these horses can be vaccinated?

4) Is it good enough to have 30,000 doses of EI vaccine on order which may take in excess of 10 days to reach our shores or should it not be already residing within New Zealand? Should we also not be attempting to register in New Zealand, the modified live vaccine being used currently in Australia here in New Zealand and those costs are the costs of preventative action?

5) What implications will there be for New Zealand if the Australian status should change from outbreak containment to endemic?

Not everyone liked science at school and it can be boring but communication and education about EI needs to be foremost for us all at this time and we need to take a very broad view as this disease not only affects thoroughbreds, but potentially, every horse in New Zealand used for any purpose. Whilst our industry is and can be regulated to a very high level, this is not the case in other horse populations.

I congratulate all that has been done already within New Zealand by the Equine Health Association and MAF Biosecurity and while there is a definite basis for a very cautious approach toward vaccination, I still believe that there needs to be strong leadership driving this project as it has the potential to affect the nation –as if the All Black loss was not enough! The NZRB need to lead this with the assistance of MAF Biosecurity and the EHA so that we are prepared well in advance should an EI outbreak occur in New Zealand as the consequences are beyond comprehension.