

# Haunui Farm

Update



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## Onceuponatime wins big in Singapore

Onceuponatime (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy) made quite an impression in Singapore two starts back breaking his maiden with a ten-and-a-half length win over 1200m. On the 27th of July, the big, strong, chestnut colt proved that he could also foot it with the best of his age group, and beat them, in the Group Three Magic Millions Juvenile Championship (1200m), the only major event for two-year-olds on the Singapore racing calendar.

The win gave young sire Van Nistelrooy (USA) (Storm Cat) his first points on the board in the Southern Hemisphere when it comes to Group racing. It was a first for British trainer David Hill too – his first Group winner in Singapore after a very successful career training in Hong Kong. Ecstatic with the result, Hill commented, "whatever he is now, he will be twice as good in a year's time and a year again after that. He is going to develop into a very nice horse."

"He was pretty green in the run," said jockey Ronnie Stewart. "It was a great win in the end, he tried very hard and is a horse that will go far," he said.

Bred by Haunui Farm and Jim & Leslie Ottway, Onceuponatime caused his fair share of problems as a yearling missing both the New Zealand Premier Sale and Sydney Easter Sale due to injury niggles. "He put his foot in a rabbit hole in October which caused significant swelling that was slow to resolve," said Mark Chitty of Haunui Farm. "We finally had to bite the bullet and say we couldn't get him to a yearling sale and instead, we prepared him for the Ready-to-Run," said Mark.



Above: Onceuponatime at Haunui prior to the 2006 NZB Ready-to-Run Sale. He was sold for \$60,000

"Because of his injury, the colt had a slight issue on x-ray and I had a couple of vets come to me at the sale and say the horse would never race," said Mark. "Neither of them bothered to ask the history of the horse or what might have caused the problem and now look what's happened, the horse has had four starts in Singapore for two thirds and two wins – one by ten-and-a-half lengths and the other, the major two-year-old race in Singapore," he said. "This is the second horse we've sold currently racing in Singapore that I have had vets express opinions to potential purchasers at sale time not to purchase – the other was My Royal Captain who was bred by Don McLaren and has won a Group One up there," said Mark. "The results of these two horses are what prompted me to write about the issue of x-rays in the recent Haunui Newsletter, and Bloodhorse are going to print

that this month," he said. "X-rays are only part of the vetting process."

Eventually sold through the New Zealand Bloodstock Ready-to-Run Sale in November, Onceuponatime was purchased by David Hill for \$60,000.

"I was pretty stoked when I looked up the results on Saturday morning and when you watch the video, the horse put in a very impressive effort," said Mark. "It is a fantastic result for Van Nistelrooy as well – his first Group winner," he said.

Onceuponatime was Haunui's second stakes winning two-year-old of the season after the win of Valpolicella (NZ) (Red Ransom) in the Listed Champagne Stakes (1600m) at Ellerslie in the Autumn.

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## Van Nistelrooy Continues Group Success

The 2006/2007 racing season saw the first crop of Van Nistelrooy (USA) (Storm Cat) hit the racetracks and upon season's end, his two-year-olds performing well on Southern Hemisphere soil and they have already made their presence felt only partway through the Northern Hemisphere season.

Arguably the best result to date for Van Nistelrooy was the win of Strike The Deal (USA) (Van Nistelrooy) in the Group Two Richmond Stakes (1200m) at Goodwood in the first week of August. Unlucky when third in his last start in the Group Two Prix Robert Papin (1100m), Strike The Deal has won two of four starts and may head toward the Group One Prix Morny in a fortnight's time.

Van Nistelrooy got his first points on the board through the deeds of Vanny Fair (NZ) who broke her maiden tag in her first start in January. Trained by Ross Elliott, toward the end of the season she became her sire's first stakes performer when finishing second to stablemate and fellow Trelawney graduate Martini Red (Aus) (Red Ransom). "She showed me a lot right from the start," said Ross Elliott. "I couldn't have asked much more of her this season and she's having a well earned rest at the moment," he said. "We'll look at either a Guineas preparation for her or, maybe give her a bit more time in the paddock and look at the nice filly's races around December and the early New Year," he said.

Australia has seen the Peter Moody-trained Pit Lane (NZ) notch up three wins in-a-row



with Moody now aiming to have him firing toward the end of the Melbourne Spring. "I've just bought him back into work and will look to have him going forward to races like the Carbine Club Stakes and Sandown Guineas," said Peter. "He did a lot more than we expected him to last time in so he should hopefully move on from there," he said.

Of course in Singapore, Van Nistelrooy was represented by the smart colt Onceuponatime (NZ), winner of the Group Three Magic Millions Juvenile Championship (1200m).

Victory has also come in Japan for progeny of Van Nistelrooy when at the end of July, two-year-old Cosmo Kilauea (NZ) broke his maiden status against the older horses. This colt would have to be awarded the "Tough Guy of the Year Award" with his efforts at two. In his first raceday start, he was lined up against three-year-olds over

1800m in March and at two week intervals was lined up again over 1800m and 2000m respectively. Lining up consistently since his first raceday appearance, a drop back in distance has proven a success with two seconds in his two starts previous.

From 24 runners from his first Southern Hemisphere crop, Van Nistelrooy has posted five individual winners, a Singapore Group-winner and, a stakes performer. He has also had six individual placegetters.

The Northern Hemisphere has seen 23 runners with eight winners so far, among them Group winner and placegetter Strike The Deal in Europe whilst in the USA he has produced the stakes winning filly Mailey's Cat (USA) and stakes placed colt Set Play (USA).

"When you look at the overall statistics, you couldn't really ask for much more," said Mark Chitty of Haunui Farm.

## Two winners for Fayreform

Three-time Group One-winner and resident Haunui broodmare Fayreform (NZ) (Tights) enjoyed a month of success notching up two winners in July. Four-year-old mare Free Form (NZ) (Octagonal) ran second in her first start on Australian soil from the Graeme Rogerson stable and broke her maiden status at Hawkesbury over a mile. She is now being aimed at another mile race at the Sydney Turf Club's Canterbury meeting on the 15th of August.

In Japan, her two-year-old colt Cosmo Kilauea (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy) won against the older horses after being brought back in distance to 1300m after being sent out in his first three starts over 2000m and 1800m respectively.

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## Iffraaj Arriving Early

It was news to our ears when the email came through from IRT last week to say that Iffraaj (GB) (Zafonic) would be arriving in New Zealand five days ahead of schedule.

Having touched down safely in Australia on the 7th of August, Iffraaj will now arrive at Haunui Farm on the 22nd of August and we are certainly looking forward to that.

"By all accounts he has travelled to Australia very well with all of the other Darley stallions," said Dane Trompert who has been promoted to Stallion Manager this season. "He will spend two weeks in quarantine in Australia and then fly to New Zealand on the 22nd," he said.

With this in mind, we have announced that the Haunui Stallion Parade will be held on Sunday 26th August at 2pm rather than the 7th of September as initially planned.

"We're delighted to be able to have our stallion parade before the season officially begins," said Mark Chitty, General Manager at Haunui. "We have a long list of people who are waiting to see the horse and I'm

sure they won't be disappointed," he said.

"The response to Iffraaj has been fantastic," said Mark Chitty, General Manager of Haunui Farm. "New Zealand breeders have certainly taken note of his pedigree and race performance and at \$12,000 + GST, he certainly represents good value," he said.

Resident stallion Don Eduardo has enjoyed some Australian success with his first two-year-old winners getting the points on the board in Australia. "He had two winners over there over 900m and 1000m and with the new season now upon us, there

will be more and more of them stepping out," said Mark.

Elusive City returns to New Zealand for his fourth season in 2007, his second standing at Haunui after starting his career at Trelawney Stud. "The response to Elusive City this season has been very pleasing and it is amazing the number of people that have booked mares to him after receiving a recommendation about the horse," said Mark. "His yearlings made an impression in the sale ring and we're looking forward to them making an impression on the track in the months ahead," he said.



## One Down, 129 to Go!

The first foal arrived at Haunui Farm at the very reasonable hour of 8.30pm on Saturday, 28th of July.

A colt by Galileo (Ire) (Sadler's Wells), he is the first foal out of the imported mare Destined (GB) (Danahill), a daughter of Group One Cheveley Park Stakes-winner Prophecy (Ire) (Warning).

Owned in partnership by Haunui Farm and Cathy Franich, he has done well in his first week on the ground and will soon be headed off across the Tasman where his mother will visit Elusive Quality (USA) (Gone West) this season.

"Last year we foaled just on 100 mares here at Haunui," said Keith Konn, Broodmare Manager at Haunui. "This year it looks as though we will be foaling closer to 130 so it will be a pretty busy season," he said. "We're lucky to have a very good night watch person in Sharon Wright and each night there is also someone on call as well as a back-up just in case a few start to foal around the same time," he said. "What is a big benefit is the fact that Mark lives right next door to the foaling unit so we have a vet on hand 24-7 in case of an emergency," said Keith.



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## Mark's Corner—Time for Incentives to Participate?

There is no doubt that last month's Broodmare Sale was very disappointing for us and when reviewing the May Weanling Sale, neither were as buoyant as I would have expected after the successful January Yearling Sales Series.

For any number of years, New Zealand's weanling and broodmare sales have been tagged by the public as "cull" sales which in many ways can be attributable to the quality of pedigree and type that these catalogues offer from us "the vendor." But I also believe that there is a degree of perception rather than true reality that has been created by the "cull" mentality and as the saying goes "one man's rubbish is another man's treasure".

So how can we change this? Do we allow the Australian industry to completely dominate these two areas of the thoroughbred sales auction market or do we rely on the private market to sell the best of our bloodstock? We don't in the yearling market so why should we in the weanling and broodmare market?

Before I continue, this is not Mark Chitty having a crack at New Zealand Bloodstock as some might think, and yes I do realise that you can elect to sell privately or within the auction system in Australia, or hold a dispersal sale like the very successful Ra Ora, Fayette and Bloomsbury Stud's have done in recent years when ceasing operation, but I believe this does not solve a New Zealand industry problem which deserves some considered debate to help all participants of our industry to prosper - Breeders, NZ Bloodstock, NZTR and, Race Clubs.

New Zealanders are beginning to take advantage of the new tax laws for breeding and with the renewed emphasis NZTR have placed on increasing returns to racehorse owners, we witnessed this year a significant

number of breeders and investors (which included Haunui and clients) purchase either weanlings and/or broodmares at this year's Bloomsbury Dispersal, Sydney, Gold Coast and Melbourne mixed stock sales.

If the breeding industry within New Zealand is to grow and strengthen with more participation, increased numbers of broodmares, stallions and quality, then healthy weanling and broodmare auction sales, on top of the already successful Yearling and Ready-to-Run sales, will help turn this current dilemma we all face.

Breeding horses, whether commercially or breeding to race, is not an inexpensive business and the more opportunities that present themselves throughout the year to stimulate cash flow, has to be good for everyone. Surely breeders whether "old" or "new," would like to see greater opportunities to realise their investments throughout the year, making it viable to breed for the weanling, yearling, ready to run or broodmare market here in New Zealand alone. We must change the "cull" mindset of the customer - of which the vendor and prospective buyer are such - if we are to attempt to achieve this.

I wonder if it is time to start to take a leaf out of the book of our Australian sale company counterparts to turn this into reality. Let's face it, when Magic Millions offered the opportunity to sell mares and then weanlings for no chargeable commission if they made \$100,000 or more, they broke all the traditional rules that had been operating in the Southern Hemisphere Horse auction systems. Has it worked? Undoubtedly. The June sale has of late consistently attracted Group One winning or producing mares therefore increasing the quality and quantity of the catalogue and expanding the buying bench and whilst there has been an increase at the top level, the trickle down effect

has resulted in a strengthening of the middle and lower markets as well.

The sales auction system versus the private sale helps to profile the industry to a far wider audience than to just those operating within which potentially leads to a greater opportunity for new investors to enter this great industry of ours thereby strengthening it.

Historically, the New Zealand Weanling and Broodmare Sales have seen some great success stories and there needs to be a greater focus on the opportunities that these sales can present not only to buyers but vendors as well. The no offering fee at the Broodmare and Weanling sale is a great start, but following Magic Millions' and now Inglis' lead in no commission being charged to the vendor on weanlings and broodmares over a certain figure, could have some real impact. Whilst short term there is a loss in sales commission, the increase in opportunity to finance, insure and provide freight for bloodstock sold, could be the start of a strengthened sale that could produce the kinds of results that in the long term, may far outweigh those short term losses into the future.

Other incentives to consider could be for the buyer. One option could be to offer buyers a reduced future sale entry should they wish to put a weanling purchase or, resultant foal from the purchase of a broodmare at an NZB sale, through the Yearling or ready to run sales. Again, whilst this may decrease the revenue earned on sales entry fees, there are other areas where the ticket can be clipped such as buyer financing, insurance and sales commission.

The bottom line is that these concessions cannot be made without prospective vendors buying into these changes to help provide a significant

upgrade of the catalogue. With NZ Bloodstock appointing Area Representatives recently, vendor confidence has been strengthened and with ongoing promotion in print, word of mouth in regard to the previous successful sales and pinhooking results, we have a solid base to work from.

The weanling and broodmare sales are an important fixture on the New Zealand sales calendar and in my view, their current perception needs to change. In the paragraphs above, I have outlined some thoughts and I'm sure there are many more out there. Some may consider my thoughts unjustified however, my mother always told me "participating is not always good enough" so, why not challenge ourselves to improve the current status quo for our weanling and broodmare sales for the long term benefit of our industry.