

Friday 14 April 2017

TIVACI CHASING TOP HONOUR BEFORE RETIREMENT



Waikato Stud bound Tivaci will try for a crucial Group One victory at Royal Randwick tomorrow

The Waikato Stud-bound stallion **Tivaci** (High Chaparral) will have four further opportunities to break through at Group One level before his retirement to the leading Matamata farm.

Twice placed at the top level, Tivaci was a last start fourth in the TJ Smith Stakes (1200m) and will line up in Saturday's All Aged Stakes (1400m) at Randwick before heading to Brisbane.

Moroney is also planning to take Tivaci to Queensland

where there are three Group One sprints in the next couple of months.

"He's got three cracks in Queensland," trainer Mike Moroney said. "Hopefully, the sooner he can get one out of the way, the better."

"He's only had three runs back this preparation so he's got it all in front of him this campaign. We've planned it that way."

Tivaci steps up to 1400m for the first time this campaign in

Continued on page 3



Roster 2017

SAVABEEL Zabeel - Savannah Success
AWARD SWEEPING G1 SIRE
\$100,000 +GST LFG

SACRED FALLS O'Reilly - Iguazu's Girl
4X G1 WINNING, DUAL DONCASTER CHAMPION
\$30,000 +GST LFG

OCEAN PARK Thorn Park - Sayyida
5X G1 WINNING, COX PLATE HERO
\$30,000 +GST LFG

PINS Snippets - No Finer
INTERNATIONAL G1 SIRE
\$25,000 +GST LFG

ROCK N POP Fastnet Rock - Popsy
FASTNET ROCK'S BEST BRED G1 SIRE SON
\$9,000 +GST LFG

RIOS Hussonet - Gussy Godiva
REGALLY BRED G1 PRODUCER
\$4,000 +GST LFG

TIVACI High Chaparral - Breccia
BRILLIANT BLACK-TYPE WINNING SPRINTER/MILER
STUD FEE TO BE ANNOUNCED





Friday 14 April 2017

TIVACI CHASING TOP HONOUR **BEFORE RETIREMENT**

(Continued from page 1)

the All Aged Stakes and Moroney has been pleased with the way he has trained on since the TJ Smith.

“It has always looked his best trip,” Moroney said.

“He won the C S Hayes Stakes over 1400 metres last season but there really hasn’t been the right races for him at 1400.

“We’re quite happy to step him back up to that distance.

“You’d have to think stepping up to 1400 metres he shouldn’t be far away.”

-NZ Racing Desk and AAP



Airfreight[®]

**Flying Auckland to Brisbane
Thursday 4th of May**

BOOK YOUR HORSE'S FLIGHT TODAY

Contact Sharon McDowell: P +64 9 298 0055 E sharon.mcdowell@nzb.co.nz



Friday 14 April 2017

NEWS IN BRIEF



Mongolian Wolf (Pluck)

Mongolian Wolf's turn to shine in Australia

Another graduate of New Zealand's top three-year-old class of 2017 will be out to make his mark in Sydney this weekend.

Off the back of Group One carnival wins for Bonneval (NZ) (Makfi), Gingernuts (NZ) (Iffraaj) and Jon Snow (NZ) (Iffraaj), **Mongolian Wolf** (Pluck) will make his first appearance for new owners Australian Bloodstock and champion trainer Darren Weir in Saturday's Gr.3 Frank Packer Plate at Randwick.

"We're really excited to see him go around in our colours," Australian Bloodstock co-director Jamie Lovett said. [Full story here.](#)



Preferment (NZ) (Zabeel)

Search for preferred track continues

Stud-bound multiple Group One-winner **Preferment's** (NZ) (Zabeel) wait for suitable racing conditions looks set to continue with trainer Chris Waller indicating he will not run in the Gr.3 Japan Racing Association Plate (2000m) at Randwick unless the track is upgraded significantly.

The five-year-old has not run since finishing last in the Gr.1 Chipping Norton Stakes behind stablemate Winx (Street Cry) at Randwick on February 25, with his performance on the heavy track emphasising his dislike of wet ground.

With Randwick in the heavy range for

Saturday, the 27-race veteran might have to wait until the Queensland winter carnival's Gr.2 weight-for-age Hollindale Stakes (1400m) on the Gold Coast on May 6.

"There's only one thing to consider and that's the tracks. You won't see him run unless it's at least a soft seven and improving," Waller said.

"If he doesn't race (Saturday) he'll go fresh up in the Hollindale.

"A few studs have shown some interest with him being a son of Zabeel and a four-time Group One winner. He deserves a really good home," Waller said.



Pure Lorde (NZ) (Darci Brahma)

Mare in top form for Cup challenge

A black type credit at Hastings this weekend will cap a rewarding campaign for the progressive staying mare **Pure Lorde** (NZ) (Darci Brahma).

Lightly-ried with three victories from her 12 starts, she is primed for another bold showing in Saturday's Listed Winning Edge Presentations Hawke's Bay Gold Cup.

"She's still got a bit of maturing to do mentally, but it's worth a crack before the tracks really pack up and she goes out," co-trainer Graham Richardson said. "Lisa Allpress will ride her." [Full story here.](#)



Five To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday)

Latta hoping pair bow out on winning notes

The Lisa Latta-trained representatives **Five**

To Midnight (NZ) (Domesday) and **Lincoln Hills** (All Too Hard) will sign off their seasons at Hastings on Saturday.

"Five To Midnight has trained on well since his last start and he'll head to the paddock after this," she said.

Five To Midnight will run in the Listed Winning Edge Presentations Hawke's Bay Gold Cup off the back of his most recent second in the Gr.2 Awapuni Gold Cup, the sixth black type placing of his career.

Lincoln Hills will defend his unbeaten record in the Fasttrack Insurance 2YO following his impressive winning debut at Tauherenikau last month.

"He's a lovely horse and he's going to be an even better three-year-old in the spring," Latta said.



Miss Three Stars (NZ) (Perfectly Ready)

Beckett welcomes rain in the South

Invercargill mare **Miss Three Stars** (NZ) (Perfectly Ready) will have track conditions to suit when she attempts to complete a hat-trick of wins in the Listed Riverton Cup tomorrow.

"We're finally getting some rain down here, we've been praying for it," trainer Tommy Beckett said.

While the rain was welcome for his versatile mare in her quest for another victory in the Carriers Arms Hotel-sponsored feature, Beckett said the eventual state of the ground was neither here nor there as far as his charge was concerned.

"She runs on anything really, but a wet track will slow some of the others down," he said.

Beckett was happy with Miss Three Stars leading into the race as the seven-year-old mare attempts to record her 10th career win.

"She usually comes right at Easter, but the main thing has been to keep Sam [Wynne] riding her, she just seems to run better for Sam."

continued on next page >



NEWS IN BRIEF

Wynne has a remarkable record on Miss Three Stars, riding her in eight of her nine winning starts.

Best To the Lion first, and then Saas Fee

The last time handy miler **Best Tothelign (NZ)** (Align) ran in a 1200m race was 20 months ago, and he actually won. This Sunday, he is one of 10 runners facing the starter in Singapore's premier sprint race, the \$800,000 Lion City Cup.

Trainer Shane Baertschiger is well aware the Align six-year-old is not really a sprinter - especially over pure speed races - these days, but the Lion City Cup, the third Leg of the Singapore Sprint Series, was the best option for a comeback race towards other targets.

"He's not a sprinter, that's not his go," he said of the 97-rated gelding.

"But there was no other race for him. His main goal is the Saas Fee Stakes in a month's time.

"It's a special conditions race and the 1400m is much better for him, but he needed a first-up run before he gets there."

The \$200,000 Saas Fee Stakes (1400m) will be run on May 14 on Singapore Guineas Day.

Best Tothelign will be ridden by Baertschiger's stable jockey John Powell and has drawn out in barrier No 9.

Ryan readies 'alf for Oakbank

Trainer Patrick Ryan believes an Oakbank dress rehearsal has stable star **I'll'ava'alf (NZ)** (Lucky Unicorn) well placed to deliver him another feature jumps victory in Saturday's Von Doussa Steeplechase (3250m).

Last year's Crisp Steeplechase winner was given his first look at the unique Oakbank course in an Open Steeplechase (3250m) on 2 April in which he ran an encouraging second to defending Von Doussa champion Nishiazabu (Ice Point).

Ryan said the eight-year-old had made the desired progression since that run to feature in the finish of Saturday's A\$100,000 feature.

"I couldn't be happier with the way he's going, he looks a treat and the progression in his lead-up races has been ideal," Ryan said.

Unlike several of his Von Doussa rivals - including Nishiazabu, 2013 winner Lord Of The Song (Song of Tara) and Patrick Payne's last-start Warrnambool winner Zed Em (NZ) (Zed) - the son of Lucky Unicorn will not back-up to contest Monday's A\$160,000 Great Eastern Steeplechase (4950m).

Instead, Ryan said I'll'ava'alf would be saved for next month's May Racing Carnival

at Warrnambool, where he will tackle the A\$300,000 Grand Annual Steeplechase (5500m), potentially via the Brierly Steeplechase (3450m) two days earlier.

"Our main goal is the Grand Annual and we are just wary that there's only a short gap between Oakbank and Warrnambool so we didn't want to bite off more than we could chew," he said.

"I'd be confident Saturday that he'll run super and improve again into the Grand Annual."

Wheeler chasing 10th victory

Jumps maestro John Wheeler will be shooting for his 10th win in the Great Eastern Steeplechase at Oakbank on Easter Monday.

The New Plymouth trainer will be relying on **Racquetor** (Bernardini) to take him into double figures in the 4950 metre feature.

"He'll run on the Saturday (Von Doussa) and then the Monday (Great Eastern) and he's a pretty handy horse so I'd be expecting him to run pretty well," Wheeler said.

Racquetor was accompanied to Australia by Stormin Norman (NZ) (Istidaad), who unfortunately suffered a stifle injury on the flight that will prevent him from travelling on to Oakbank.

Hill Keeps wheels Spinning in Vase

The JBBA Moonbeam Vase was not quite in the picture as the next assignment after **Keep Spinning (NZ)** (Keeper) returned to winning ways at his last start, but it didn't take long for the David Hill team to be lured by its appeal.

It was the Queen Elizabeth II Cup over 1800m which was the main race banded around by Hill hot off that impressive demonstration in a Kranji Stakes C race over 2200m on April 2, but his daughter and assistant-trainer Samantha said the JBBA Moonbeam Vase over 1800m has since popped up as the ideal "stepping stone" in the interim.

"Dad mentioned the QEII Cup, but it's run on June 4 and to get there, he needs to go up in ratings anyway," said Sam Hill.

"The Moonbeam Vase was a nice race for him to run in. Whether he will win or not, we will see.

"The weight is not in his favour as it's a condition race with very special conditions. His rating went from 61 to 68 after his win, but with a rating of 68, he gets 54.5kgs while a horse like Mr Spielberg, who is on 95 gets only 54kgs, but that's because he hasn't won at his last five starts.

"That's the way the handicap has been worked out, but it's still a good stepping stone leading up to the QEII Cup."



Aquilo (Snitzel)

Well-bred colt relishes conditions

The Te Akau stable of Stephen Autridge and Jamie Richards produced well-related colt **Aquilo** (Snitzel) to break maiden ranks on a Heavy 11 track at Rotorua on Wednesday in the Sweeney 2YO (1230m).

Aquilo is a half-brother by Snitzel to Group One winning juvenile Marky Mark (Makfi), and the colt's ability to handle wet ground provides some forthcoming black-type options.

Ridden by Opie Bosson, Aquilo was always prominent and had a head to spare at the finish over Ottavio (NZ), a son of Makfi that had looked useful at his previous two race day outings.

"Aquilo's done some nice work on wet tracks at home and there was a bit of a up on the second horse, so it looks a good result," said Stephen Autridge post-race.

"It looks like we've found a good wet tracker and there is a Listed race or two coming, so we will certainly have a look at the options."

Champion 2YO to stand at Haunui Farm

Haunui Farm will welcome Champion European 2YO, **Belardo** (Lope De Vega) to their stallion roster in 2017.

A multiple Group One winner, Belardo's juvenile season culminated in an explosive victory in the Gr.1 Dewhurst Stakes (1400m) at Newmarket, which saw him crowned the top juvenile of 2014.

However, it was arguably last season's victory in the Gr.1 Lockinge Stakes (1600m) at four, that was his finest moment leaving no less than eight Group One performers in his wake, seeing him retire with a Timeform rating of 126.

Haunui Farm will once again join forces with Darley to bring Belardo to New Zealand, the continuation of a partnership that has been so successful with Iffraaj.

continued on next page >

Friday 14 April 2017

NEWS IN BRIEF

"We are very excited to have been offered the opportunity to stand Belardo and look forward to joining forces once again with Darley to introduce another exciting young sire to the New Zealand stallion ranks," Haunui Farm's Managing Director Mark Chitty said.

"We've had great success with Ifrraaj and will follow a very similar strategy in getting Belardo's stud career off to the best possible start here in New Zealand.

Belardo will stand at Haunui Farm in 2017 for a fee of \$12,000 + GST.



Tavistock (NZ) (Montjeu)

Fee unchanged for popular Tavistock

Sir Patrick Hogan has announced that Tavistock's 2017 fee will remain unchanged at \$65,000 + GST.

He admitted he had serious thinking to do before deciding not to raise the stallion's fee in reaction to the demand from breeders and outstanding racetrack and sales results.

"Marcus (Corban, stud manager) and I have just returned from Sydney and the demand from Australian breeders has remained strong," Sir Patrick said. "We took nearly 30 applications for bookings to Tavistock just in the few days we were there."

Associate stallion Power's service fee has increased to \$12,500 + GST on the back of a terrific season for the sire.

Burgundy's fee has also risen to \$7000 + GST after a strong start for the Redoute's Choice stallion while proven Group One-producing Danehill sire Keeper's fee has been reduced to \$5000 + GST.

Travis next for Group One winner

Sofia Rosa (NZ) (Makfi) will attempt to add to her black type record in the Gr.2 Travis Stakes at Te Rapa on Saturday fortnight.

Last season's Gr.1 Australian Oaks winner will appreciate the step back up to 2000 metres following her last-start fifth in the Gr.1 New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes (1600m).

"Bringing her back to the mile was probably asking a bit much the other



Sofia Rosa (NZ) (Makfi)

day," said Bruce Perry, racing manager to owner Lib Petagna, whose colours were also recently carried to victory by debutant Newton (NZ) (Authorized).

The Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman-trained Authorized three-year-old was a first-up winner at Pukekohe over a mile. His continued progress could earn him a trip to Brisbane for the Gr.1 Queensland Derby.



Joyfilly (NZ) (Highly Recommended)

Sydney beckons talented filly

Youthful Group One performer Joyfilly (NZ) (Highly Recommended) has been sold to clients of a leading Sydney stable.

The Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes placegetter leaves for Australia later this month to do her future racing for Gai Waterhouse and Adrian Bott.

"She's still here and she'll be on a plane on April 24," said Cambridge trainer Chris Wood, who also shared in the ownership of the youngster.

"She only had the five starts so she was lightly-tried and she did a great job." [Full story here.](#)

Distance test for Derby candidate

Tavidream (NZ) (Tavistock) will have his classic hopes tested at his next appearance.

The talented three-year-old will step up to a middle distance for the first time in the Gr.2 Valachi Downs Championship Stakes at Ellerslie on April 22.

"We want to try him over a trip at home



Tavidream (NZ) (Tavistock)

and then we'll think about Brisbane and the Derby there for him," said Donna Logan, who trains the Tavistock gelding with Chris Gibbs.

[Full story here.](#)



Savvy Dreams (NZ) (Savabeel)

Kiwi filly chasing Oaks dream in Adelaide

The connections of Savvy Dreams (NZ) (Savabeel) have been encouraged to try their luck in Australia off the back of Bonneval's (NZ) (Makfi) weekend success.

The Hastings filly will board a flight for Melbourne on Wednesday and from there she will head to Adelaide.

"She'll run in the Auraria Stakes, a Group Three race over 1800 metres, on April 22 and we'll use that as a lead-up to the Gr.1 Australasian Oaks," said Guy Lowry, who prepares the Savabeel filly with Grant Cullen. [Full story here.](#)

Houston trying her luck again in Victoria

Shelley Houston is looking to build on the success she enjoyed on her first visit to Australia with Lucky Tonight (NZ) (Lucky Unicorn).

The Cambridge trainer campaigned the jumper in Victoria last winter, saddling him for runner-up finishes at Casterton, Pakenham and Sandown and in the Grand National Steeplechase at Ballarat. He earned just shy of \$A110,000 from his four appearances.

[continued on next page](#) ➤



Friday 14 April 2017

NEWS IN BRIEF

Since returning from a spell, the eight-year-old has had preparatory runs on the flat at Ellerslie and at Matamata before Houston accompanied him across the Tasman last week. [Full story here.](#)



Charmont (High Chaparral)

Owner happy to have a problem like Charmont

Successful owner-breeder Bob Emery was pondering a serious question on Monday. Should he retire his Group One-winning mare **Charmont** (High Chaparral) now, or race her for another season?

The daughter of High Chaparral and the stakes winning Danehill mare Martique broke through for a well-earned Group One win in Saturday's Fiber Fresh NZ Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes at Te Rapa.

To add further gloss, barely 10 minutes later close relation Bonneval (NZ) (Makfi) added the Gr.1 ATC Oaks to her Gr.1 New Zealand Oaks success. The Makfi filly is a daughter of the fine broodmare Imposingly, a three-quarter sister to multiple Group One winner Champagne (NZ) (Zabeel), the grand-dam of Charmont. [Full story here.](#)



Sacred Elixir (NZ) (Pour Moi)

Group One winner out of carnival contention

Tony Pike has scrapped plans for a return trip to Brisbane for **Sacred Elixir** (NZ) (Pour Moi).

The Cambridge trainer kept the Gr.1 VRC Derby placegetter in work after his courageous run for fifth in the Gr.1 New

Zealand Derby, but has now ruled out a third classic tilt.

"He's not going to Brisbane. He will have a good long spell instead and then come back for the spring," Pike said.

"He's getting there, but we were still not 100 percent happy with him and decided that Brisbane would come up too quickly.

[Full story here.](#)



Saracino (NZ) (Per Incanto)

Stable change for smart 3YO

Saracino's (NZ) (Per Incanto) preference for left-handed tracks has prompted a move to Mike Moroney's Melbourne stable.

The son of Per Incanto has been a multiple Group winner and Group One placed for Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman.

He finished sixth in the Arrowfield 3YO Sprint at Randwick in his final appearance for the Cambridge trainers.

"He covered some ground on Saturday and I thought it was still a good run," Baker said. "He has won three Group Two races this season, but he's better on left-hand tracks."



Start Wondering (NZ) (Eight Wonder)

Queensland carnival for top sprinter

Brisbane has become the offshore destination of choice for the star Wanganui sprinter **Start Wondering** (NZ) (Eighth Wonder).

The Queensland winter carnival has become the top priority after connections decided against setting the six-year-old for the Gr.1 Chairman's Sprint Prize at Sha Tin on May 7.

"He definitely won't be going to Hong Kong, getting there was fine but getting him home wasn't so great," said J.J. Rayner, who trains Start Wondering with her father Evan.

[Full story here.](#)



Maybe Miami (NZ) (Iffraaj)

Riccarton trainers eyeing northern features

Group plans are already in place for the seasoned traveller **Maybe Miami** (NZ) (Iffraaj).

The Riccarton galloper is enjoying a quiet time at home before trainers Kevin and Pam Hughes ready the son of Iffraaj for his next appearance.

"He's having an easy month and then we'll probably run him in the Easter Stakes here over 1400 metres on May 6," Kevin Hughes said.

Maybe Miami was on his third northern visit when he posted a deserved last-start victory in the Listed Flying Handicap at Awapuni where he gave nine kilos and a beating to the in-form mare Ja Ja Binks (NZ) (Falkirk).

"We've always been confident in his ability and I thought it was a very brave run," Hughes said.

Previously fourth in the Gr.2 Manawatu Challenge Stakes and fifth in the Gr.1 Haunui Farm Classic, Maybe Miami is expected back in the North Island early in the new season.

"We'd like to have him ready for the Foxbridge Plate and then on to the Hawke's Bay meeting for the Makfi," Hughes said.

[continued on next page](#)



Friday 14 April 2017

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gavelhouse.com NZ Catalogue Online Now

The latest gavelhouse.com New Zealand catalogue is online with plenty of breeding propositions in the 44-Lot offering. Bidding is set to close from 7pm (NZ time) on Monday 17 April.

The catalogue boasts 27 broodmares, some with foals at foot and some in foal with covering sires including Alamosa, Atlante, Burgundy, Ferlax, Jakkalberry, Niagara, Road to Rock, Roc de Cambes, Shamexpress, Showcasing, Super Easy and first season sire Vespa.

Breeding highlights include:

Lot 24 – A young High Chaparral mare bred on the same cross as Victoria Derby winner MONACO CONSUL and in foal to the Gr.1 winning son of Fastnet Rock, Atlante.

Lot 32 – The half-sister to dominant Singapore winner Tannhauser (NZ) (Tavistock) who broke the track record for 1100m with a nine-length win at just his second start. In foal to Ferlax.

The remainder of the catalogue is made up of seven weanlings, two yearling colts, five two-year-old fillies, and three racing propositions.

Kiwi Karma sold in foal to Irish breeder

One of Kranji's former favourites **Kiwi Karma (NZ)** (Fast 'N' Famous) will continue her new career as a broodmare in Ireland after she was sold in foal at an Australian broodmare sale last Friday.

The Dester Singapore Three-Year-Old Sprint winner was knocked down for A\$200,000 to Irish breeder C Roscoe.

She is believed to be in foal to Vinery Stud stallion, the former Chris Waller-trained star colt Press Statement, and will therefore give birth to her first progeny in Ireland.

Raceday fundraiser at Te Rapa

The Waikato Breast Cancer Research Trust has joined forces with CN Taylor Consulting and the Cambridge Jockey Club to host a fundraiser at Te Rapa's April 29 meeting.

Tickets are \$100 and include entry into the Colours Lounge, a glass of bubbles and a light lunch. There will be a silent and live auction and spot prizes throughout the day.

For more information contact Fiona Johnson on 07 839 8726 ext 97845 or 027 4999 863 or Fiona.johnson@waikatodhb.health.nz



NEW ZEALAND RACING
HALL OF FAME

Remembering our Hall Of Fame Heroes

Maurice McCarten

The complete horseman

A champion jockey in the 1920s and 1930s, Maurice McCarten won two NZ jockey premierships, aged 20 and 21, and moved to Sydney, where he rode three winners at his first appearance on an Australian course.

He won many major races in Australia and turned to training in 1942, winning four Sydney trainers premierships and then finishing second 10 times to T.J. Smith.

Delta, Todman and Wenona Girl were among the champion horses he trained.



CLICK TO PLAY

JOIN OUR TEAM

BROODMARE & STALLION MANAGER

Mapperley Stud, a leading Thoroughbred organisation requires an experienced full time Broodmare & Stallion Manager to join our team at our Matamata based operation.

We are seeking a motivated and high achieving individual who will report to the Stud Manager in the care and management of the broodmares and stallions.

TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS ROLE YOU WILL NEED TO HAVE:

- Excellent management skills
- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to liaise with specialists such as veterinarians, farriers as well as clients
- Capacity to manage a team of staff
- Excellent handling skills and experience
- High level of expertise throughout the covering process

SEND CV AND COVER LETTER TO:

Email jasmine@mapperleystud.co.nz

or call +64 27 495 0082 to discuss the position in further detail



MAPPERLEY
STUD

WWW.MAPPERLEYSTUD.CO.NZ



JUST CALL ME **MURRAY BAKER**



Hugh Bowman salutes on Australian Oaks winner Bonneval

“Maestro Murray.” That was racecaller Darren Flindell’s memorable line as Bonneval (NZ) (Makfi) crossed the line well clear of her rivals in last Saturday’s Australian Oaks at Randwick, bringing up Kiwi trainer Murray Baker’s 20th Group One win in Australia.

Baker, who trains in partnership with Andrew Forsman, had 10 minutes earlier celebrated Group One success with Charmont (High Chaparral) winning the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders’ Stakes at Te Rapa.

And Bonneval brought up a Classic double in Sydney for Baker, after Jon Snow (NZ) (Iffraaj) had won the Gr.1 Australian Derby seven days earlier, a feat that had only once been achieved in the preceding 37 years - by legendary trainer Clarry Connors with his champion filly Research (Imperial Prince) in 1989.

So, Maestro Murray seemed a fitting description.

But it was a tag that didn’t sit well with the trainer himself. He felt a bit embarrassed by it, when reflecting this week.

“I just want to be known as Murray Baker,” he said.

There’s nothing pretentious about Baker, from the old runabout he drives to his stables twice a day, to the way he deflects praise for his 40 years of remarkable achievement in racing towards his star racehorses in preference to accepting any personal accolades.

A Sydney Morning Herald article in the leadup to the Oaks compared Baker’s approach to that of the late Australian training great Bart Cummings.

Again, Baker won’t hear of it, dismissing any suggestion of that notion.

Continued on page 10





Friday 14 April 2017

JUST CALL ME MURRAY BAKER

(Continued from page 9)

He's just Murray Baker, a now veteran trainer who sparked his racing passion by working for Napier trainer Harry Greene as a 12-year-old before school at the now defunct Greenmeadows Racecourse and who now enjoys one of his great pleasures from the dawn trackwork chinwags with an upbeat band of young trainers at the Cambridge gap.

"I just enjoy what I do. I love getting up in the morning and coming down to the stables and being around the horses and horse people here," he says.

"We've got a lot of excellent young trainers here at Cambridge and some very good established trainers as well. I've met some good buggers over the years."

It was back in the late 1950s that Baker would ride his bike or his pony to Greene's stables, where he would complete stable chores and ride pacework.



Murray Baker keeps an eye on proceedings

"Mr Greene was a good trainer - trained a lot of winners - and he was a good jumping trainer as well. I learnt a lot from him."

As Baker recalls all the chapters of his career, he reveals an uncanny knack of remembering all the good horses he has been associated with, along with their breeding.

The first horse he rode in trackwork was Embrace (NZ) (Contact), a stakes-performed half-brother to Bart Cummings' champion filly and Melbourne Cup-winning mare Light Fingers (NZ) (Le Filou).

And it was the same family that provided Baker with his first stakes winner some years later, when Vizier (NZ) (Trophy

Case) defeated Uncle Remus (NZ) (Bandmaster II) to win the Listed Jackson Stakes (now the Ag Challenge Stakes) at Wanganui in 1979.

But before then Baker had a bright cricket career to focus on.

A leg spin bowler and middle order batsman, he made his first-class debut for Central Districts as a 20-year-old and was part of the side which won the Plunket Shield in both 1966-67 and 1967-68, playing alongside a team chock-full of test greats, such as Bevan Congdon and Vic Pollard.

He followed his career to England, playing professionally in the Huddersfield League and indulging his great love of travel.

It was during a break from his job as a pipeliner in Luxembourg that he met his Swedish wife Maryanne in Germany and the pair still regularly make trips to exotic destinations during holiday breaks from the stable.

Baker returned to New Zealand and worked for Ray Cotter at Te Rapa - and again here he reels off a string of Cotter's best gallopers and their breeding, such as Cox Plate winner Summer Regent, by Summertime.

After a brief stint in hospitality, graduating to hotel manager, Baker headed to Awapuni to begin his training career before quickly relocating to Woodville, where he began to make his mark.

"I couldn't get the horses out of my system," he says.

"Woodville was a traditional great training centre, with many top trainers. When I got there Eric Ropiha and Noel Eales were producing a lot of star horses.

"I have just lived racing for so long now. And it does bring back great memories talking about it. I've seen a lot of change."

Since taking his trainer's licence out in the 1978-79 season, Baker has won more than 1370 races in New Zealand, plus made his mark as a big-race trainer in Australia through gallopers the quality of Eagle Eye (NZ) (Grosvenor), The Phantom (NZ) (Noble Bijou), Dowry (NZ) (Bahhare), Prized Gem (NZ) (Prized), Nom du Jeu (NZ) (Montjeu), Harris Tweed (NZ) (Montjeu), Lion Tamer (NZ) (Storming Home), Dundee (NZ) (High Chaparral), Mongolian Khan (Holy Roman

Continued on page 11





JUST CALL ME **MURRAY BAKER**

(Continued from page 10)

Emperor), Turn Me Loose (NZ) (Iffraaj) and his current stars Jon Snow and Bonneval.

“Dundeel was just magic. He’s the only horse to win those four Group One three-year-old races in Sydney, the Spring Champion Stakes, the Randwick Guineas, Rosehill Guineas and Australian Derby.”

Baker and his great mate John Wheeler, whose record of 19 Australian wins for a New Zealand-based trainer he eclipsed last weekend, have both won Group One races in four Australian states; Baker having produced Dowry to win the South Australian Oaks and Prized Gem to win the Brisbane Cup.

“I just love going to Australia. The atmosphere is always electric and there’s always great prizemoney to chase,” Baker says.

“That’s what makes the game in Australia is prizemoney and that’s what we need to get right in New Zealand. Get that right and everything else will follow. You get people wanting to race horses, which encourages breeding and horses will be retained here to race. Stakes have to rise.”

Baker takes great satisfaction from establishing strong partnerships with star jockeys, from Noel Harris as he was making his way through the training ranks to Opie Bosson, James McDonald and Matthew Cameron in more recent years.

He has also nurtured great training talent as well, through current training partner Andrew Forsman and his predecessor, Baker’s son Bjorn, who is now one of the leading trainers in Sydney.

“Bjorn has done well. He went over there with two horses. One was a bleeder and the other was an equine pedestrian. I didn’t want to make it too easy on him,” Baker quips.

“He’s made his own way to the top. He runs a good ship there.”



Murray Baker (left) chats with fellow trainer Mark Brooks (right) at Cambridge

Baker admits there has been times when he has battled, recalling that when Sir Vigilant (NZ) (Sir Tristram) won the 1985 Wellington Derby at Trentham, he told Maryanne that the result was sure to bring in much-needed business for the stable. “We didn’t get another horse until eight months later.”

But he has also identified his edge and has capitalised on it most noticeably in the past few years - New Zealand-bred staying three-year-olds.

“We’ve always got a show in staying races in Australia because we’ve got depth with those horses here. We try and identify horses that will develop into good three-year-old stayers and work from there,” Baker said.

“We like to give them time. The real [prizemoney] action is with an autumn three-year-old and with those we take our time and develop them properly.”

“New Zealand horses, in particular our stayers, are every bit as good as Australia’s best,” Baker said. “The key to winning over there is trainers working out what they’ve got, assess their horses’ potential and get them there when they’re on the way up.”

- NZ Racing Desk





SIGNIFY (NZ)

2017 WINNER
GI TELEGRAPH HANDICAP

\$5,500,
NZB South
Island Sale

SOUTH ISLAND

YOUR LAST CHANCE IN 2017
TO PURCHASE A YEARLING
ELIGIBLE FOR THE
2 X \$1M KARAKA MILLION SERIES

NATIONAL YEARLING SALES SERIES:
SOUTH ISLAND SALE

FRIDAY 21 APRIL 2017
IN CHRISTCHURCH



NEW ZEALAND
BLOODSTOCK

WWW.NZB.CO.NZ • PH: +64 9 298 0055 • RECEPTION@NZB.CO.NZ

Friday 14 April 2017

GLOBAL NZ BRED WINNERS

06/04/2017 - 13/04/2017

AUSTRALIA

Alamosa : Sayonaramosa (NZ) (Mahamaya by Bahhare) 2013;

11/04/2017, 1st Bendigo JC Mawsons H. 1600m
Sold by Bradbury Park at National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale for \$15000

Sold by Regal Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$62500
Sold by Phoenix Park at National Yearling Sale for \$30000

Bachelor Duke : Duke of Boneo (NZ) (Don't Fence Me In by Perugino) 2012;

11/04/2017, 1st Bendigo JC Hughes Maiden Hurdle 3200m
Sold by Mangatiti Bloodstock at Ready to Run Sale for \$70000
Sold by Grangewilliam Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$29000

Dalghar : Only Choice (NZ) (Honor Babe by Honor Grades) 2013;

07/04/2017, 1st Orange JC Broadley & Hayden Accounting Maiden P. 1400m
Sold by Brighthill Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$130000

Darci Brahma : Dagny (NZ) (One Perfect Day by Fusaichi Pegasus) 2012;

12/04/2017, 1st ATC TAB Rewards H. 1200m
Sold by Blandford Lodge at National Yearling Sale for \$34000

Duelled : My Dancing Duel (NZ) (Mylor by Kashani) 2009;

08/04/2017, 1st Mansfield DRC Mansfield Cup 1600m

Ekraar : She Goes Pop (NZ) (Repetition by Kingdom Bay) 2012;

12/04/2017, 1st SCTC Glovers Concreting P/L H. 2200m

Hard Spun : Saucy Mary (NZ) (Ethlen by Hula Town) 2010;

07/04/2017, 1st Mount Gambier RC Australian Wool Network H. 1400m

Istidaad : Slowpoke Rodriguez (NZ) (Inspire by Shinko King) 2010;

11/04/2017, 1st Bendigo JC Schweppes Australia S/Chase 3200m
Sold by Seaton Park Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$9000

Makfi : Bonneval (NZ) (Imposingly by Zabeel) 2013;

08/04/2017, 1st ATC Australian Oaks Gr.1 2400m
Sold by Westbury Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$150000

Mastercraftsman : Beerinawineglass (NZ) (Waltz in the Park by Thorn Park) 2013;

08/04/2017, 1st GCTC PM's Cup 6th May Maiden H. 1400m

O'Reilly : Bonville (NZ) (Ruby Lass by Volksraad) 2013;

09/04/2017, 1st Echuca RC Border Inn Maiden P. 1400m
Sold by Windsor Park Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$95000

Pins : Hirtshals (NZ) (Burnzees Magic by Kinjite) 2013;

12/04/2017, 1st SCTC John Burgess Electrical Maiden P. 1000m

Red Giant : Cadabra (NZ) (Symphony Rock by Fastnet Rock) 2013;

07/04/2017, 1st Cranbourne TC Beraldo Coffee Maiden P. 1600m

Redoute's Choice : Kenric (NZ) (Ready to Lift by More Than Ready) 2012;

07/04/2017, 1st Donald DRC Mackays Leading Edge Jewel Maiden P. 2000m
Sold by Curraghmore Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$210000

Rip Van Winkle : Winkelmann (NZ) (Crepe de Chine by Pins) 2013;

06/04/2017, 1st Pakenham RC IGA H. 1600m
Sold by Mapperley Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$140000

Rip Van Winkle : Bastia (NZ) (Irlanda by O'Reilly) 2013;

11/04/2017, 1st Gosford RC Egroup Security H. 1600m
Sold by Mapperley Stud Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$210000

Savabeel : Bromach (NZ) (Justine's Pride by Keeper) 2013;

06/04/2017, 1st Wangaratta TC Go Tafe Maiden P. 1590m

Savabeel : Grand Chancellor (NZ) (Mont Fay by Montjeu) 2013;

08/04/2017, 1st SAJC Port Adelaide Guineas L 1800m

Showcasing : Cylinder Beach (NZ) (Queen's Colours by Rainbow Quest) 2012;

08/04/2017, 1st Toowoomba TC Toowoomba Cup 2000m

Swiss Ace : Lake Lugarno (NZ) (Rosenborg by Danehill) 2012;

07/04/2017, 1st Orange JC Steeline Cup Day Sprint H. 1000m

Tavistock : Tavonian (NZ) (Singalong by Danasinga) 2012;

06/04/2017, 1st Wangaratta TC Masterking Security Maiden P. 1300m
Sold by Regal Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$100000

Zabeel : Al Shameel (NZ) (Al Shamekha by Al Maher) 2012;

12/04/2017, 1st Ballarat TC Sportsbet's Racing Form H. 2200m
Sold by Brighthill Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$160000



GLOBAL NZ BRED WINNERS

06/04/2017 - 13/04/2017

HONG KONG

Alamosa : King Winsa (NZ) (Sheeza Don by Don Eduardo) 2011;
09/04/2017, 1st HKJC Dengshikou H. 1800m
Sold by Maara Grange at Ready to Run Sale for \$190000

Commands : Momentum Lucky (NZ) (Tampiko by Lonhro) 2012;
09/04/2017, 1st HKJC Beijing Clubhouse Anniversary H. 1000m
Sold by Haunui Farm at National Yearling Sale for \$140000

Dylan Thomas : Beauty Love (NZ) (Mon Beau Cheval by Montjeu) 2012;
09/04/2017, 1st HKJC Dongzhimen H. 1400m
Sold by Windsor Park Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$190000

High Chaparral : The Show (NZ) (The Quarewan by Supremo) 2010;
09/04/2017, 1st HKJC Jianguomen H. 1600m
Sold by Wentwood Grange at National Yearling Sale for \$320000

Postponed : Happy Agility (NZ) (Ballyalla by Encosta de Lago) 2011;
09/04/2017, 1st HKJC Wangfujing H. 1400m
Sold by Diamond Lodge at Ready to Run Sale for \$220000
Sold by Westbury Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$45000

Road to Rock : Montaigne - Beauty Generation (H.K.) (NZ) (Stylish Bel by Bel Esprit) 2012;
09/04/2017, 1st HKJC Jinbao Street H. 2200m
Sold by Highden Park at National Yearling Sale for \$60000

KOREA

Nom du Jeu : Jijang (NZ) (Expectation by Keeper) 2012;
07/04/2017, 1st Busan Class 4 1200m
Sold by Highden Park at National Yearling Sale for \$32000

MACAU

Faltaat : Nothing to Say (NZ) (Mount Albert Lions by Almutawakel) 2009;
07/04/2017, 1st Macau Nagoya H. 1350m

Lucky Unicorn : Pak Lok Angel (NZ) (Fools Gold by Royal Academy) 2010;
07/04/2017, 1st Macau Kobe H. 1350m
Sold by Te Mania Thoroughbreds at National Yearling Sale for \$18000

Mastercraftsman : Lucky and Powerful (NZ) (Molly Dear by Cape Cross) 2012;
07/04/2017, 1st Macau Yokohama H. 1510m
Sold by Beatson Stables Ltd at Ready to Run Sale for \$40000

Tartan Bearer : Eclair Infinity (NZ) (Wave Dancing by Danehill Dancer) 2013;
07/04/2017, 1st Macau Fukuoka H. 1350m
Sold by Hallmark Stud at National Weanling, Broodmare & Mixed Sale for \$1600

MALAYSIA

Coats Choice : Gabbar (NZ) (Ginger Crunch Coup by Howbaddouwantit) 2012;
09/04/2017, 1st Perak TC Horseware Ireland Ice-Vibe Trophy 1000m
Sold by Berkley Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$15000

Darci Brahma : Mayweather (NZ) (An Lass by Generous) 2010;
08/04/2017, 1st Perak TC Euphrates H. 1600m
Sold by Lyndhurst Farm at Ready to Run Sale for \$120000
Sold by Seaton Park Ltd at National Yearling Sale for \$70000

SINGAPORE

Pentire : Mr Clooney (NZ) (Division by Danehill) 2011;
07/04/2017, 1st Singapore TC Class 4 H. 1700m
Sold by Pencarrow Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$130000

Tavistock : Tannhauser (NZ) (Foxette by Entrepreneur) 2013;
07/04/2017, 1st Singapore TC Restricted Maiden S. 1100m
Sold by Cambridge Stud at National Yearling Sale for \$115000

