
BREEDERS' UPDATE

April 6, 2020



THE BREEDERS' AND WOODLANDS
STUD PRESENT **EDITION 78** OF THE
BREEDERS' UPDATE.



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WA Derby for Hobby Breeders'

Brad Reid

Mike and Dawn McQuoid celebrated their biggest thrill as breeders on Friday night when they cheered home Patronus Star in the Group One Western Australian Derby.

Currently in lock down in Roxborough with family, Mike said the family stayed up late to take in the result, win, lose or draw.

"We knew it was on and we thought we would have a punt and either make some money, or lose some money. And as it turned out, we made some money," he laughed.

The North Canterbury businessman owns a scrap metal company and has only been involved in harness racing since 2007.

He attended an auction for the estate of Bill McDonald with the intention of buying a broodmare.

"We purchased Star Command (2000 In The Pocket) as a dry mare for \$7000 after being put onto through a mate of ours who had Nursempocket and she was a close relative.

"When she came into the ring, he made sure to turn around and tell us to not let her get away and pay what we needed too to secure her. We probably would have drawn the line somewhere, but we got what we came for in the end," said McQuoid.

On paper the mare doesn't jump out as mare you have to have, but when you dig a little deeper you soon see this was a family that has a bit more than meets the eye.

And as I have since learned, it was a well-respected breed that was damn hard to get into.

Star Command was unraced but was out of a full sister to the former Open Class pacer Starship in Venetian Star.

Venetian Star and Starship were both by Lordship and the latter took on the town hall company of his era.

Bill McDonald did the training of Starship at two, but the colt ran into Tuapeka Knight who we know was nigh on unbeatable as a juvenile. Starship ran second to Tuapeka Knight an incredible eight times, but still won six races including the G3 Forbury Juvenile and amassed \$70,000 in stakes.



Patonus Star in the hands of young driver Dylan Egerton-Green

At three and four it didn't get any easier running into the sensational Dillon Dean and Godfrey.

After getting his toes wet in Open Class in 1988, he transferred to the care of John Reedy where was produced fresh up in the Ashburton Flying Stakes having not races since Cup Day the year prior to win the Group 3 ahead of Debbie's Boy and his old foe Dillon Dean.

He ran second in the Flying Stakes a year later and finished second in the 1990 New Zealand Cup behind Neroship.

He beat Christopher Vance and Master Musician in the 1991 Kaikoura Cup and was second behind Christopher Vance in the 1991 Auckland Cup.

Although he never won a Group One, Starship was thereabouts in most of the big races in a tough era of racing, winning over \$350,000 and 16 races.

He would be tried at stud and despite some fairly good numbers early on, never quite measured up, leaving 39 winners from 209 live foals.

Starship's full sister Venetian Star was unraced, but as her brother was going to war on the track, she was about to leave a star of her own.

From her first foal in 1991 she left a Vance Hanover colt by the name of Anvils Star.

He never raced at two and waiting for him in the three-year-old ranks was Il Vicolo who was simply a class above.

Anvils Star was second to Il Vicolo in the Sires Stakes final in 1994 however and ran with distinction into his Open Class career without ever bagging a Group One.

Having won the 96' Hannon Memorial, he ran 2nd in the New Zealand Cup that year behind Il Vicolo as the rank outside in the field.

Soon after he was off to Victoria where in his first three runs on Aussie soil, Anvils Star won the Bendigo cup, ran 2nd in the Victoria Cup behind Desperate Comment and was 2nd a fortnight later in the Hunter Cup behind Surprise Package.

On his return home he won the 1998 Waitakere Flying Mile while it was still held at Alexandra Park in a career best 1:54.8, having run fifth in the Auckland Cup four days earlier.

He finished his career with \$444,000 in stakes and won 15 races

Other good performers from the immediate family of Venetian Star include;

- Rocket Star (\$411,000) Out of a full sister to Star Command in Star Rhapsody
- Marshal Star (\$100,669)
- Crystal Star (\$148,406)
- Star Friendship (\$53,000)

What the family lacks in depth it makes up for with some good, tough horses who now with the advent of modern bloodlines, appear to be resurgent with some speed being bred into the breed.

Back to the McQuoid's who bred the Derby winner after having decided to get into the breeding caper as a hobby.

"We've had the mare at Wai Eyre farm for nearly 13 years now and always go out to see the foals and have raced most of the progeny," said McQuoid.

"Kairanga Star was a high gaited thing and a wee bit crazy on it and was sent down to the road to Joe Clementson and is possibly still there," he laughed.

The second foal they bred by American Ideal was much better and was to be the McQuoid's first horse at the races and kick start a bit of success in the 2014/15 season.

"He won three in a row with Phil Burrows and then won the Futurity on Show Day which was a bit of a buzz and shortly after that race we sold him to Perth.

"He ended up running third in the Golden Nugget at his first start behind Libertybelle Midfrew," said McQuoid.

He would win \$145,000 and 12 races in W.A where he finished his career.

The same season Billies A Star came on the scene, the friend (Ray Churches) who had talked the McQuoid's into the breed did a deal on a mare of his own from the same family, albeit a different taproot.

"He wasn't going to serve his mare called Nurseme Pocket (In The Pocket – Star Mystery) so I agreed to breed a few with him," said McQuoid.

"We bred her to Real Desire and got Gracious Star who was a bloody nice mare (won four at four) until she had a freak injury in the Harness Jewels mares' race and broke her front leg," he said.

Although the season finished on a sour note, the McQuoid's had a year to remember in 2015 winning eight races in total.

The next mating of his own mare was to Rocknroll Hanover who at \$20,000 didn't come cheap.

"Perfect Circle won one race, but she was just a wee dot and wasn't very big, but we gave her away as a hack. Someone recently asked me where she is and she's enjoying life as a riding horse for a young girl. Better someone else be having a bit of fun with her but she could be bred from one day," he laughed.

"We actually got a discount mating to Four Starzz Shark for having bred our mare to Rocknroll Hanover and we used it on Ray Churches mare to get Mista Shark.

"He was a nice horse who we sold to Perth and he actually won the San Simeon Final (G2) the same night Lazarus won the Interdominion Final at Gloucester Park," he said.

After missing with American Ideal to Star Command in 2014, the McQuoid's waited another two years before serving their mare with the same sire.

The resultant foal produced a full brother to Billie's A Star and last week's WA Derby winner, Patronus Star.

"We originally had our progeny trained by Phil Burrows but when Ronnie Dawe sold his property and Phil went to work at the Dunn's, we sent Patronus to Gavin Smith," said McQuoid.

Gavin Smith had done a lot of the driving for the McQuoid's charges in their brief time racing horses, so it wasn't a completely new association for either party.

Smith always felt the horse would improve with time, and potentially the style of racing, but admits he never saw Derby potential.

"I couldn't have said he'd win the derby, but he was a really nice horse that was just coming to it after needing time to strengthen.

"His two starts at Blenheim without a trial we're super. He was very much on the up as American ideals tend to do with time and they seem to thrive in Perth as long as they have speed, which he did," said Smith.

Patronus Star barely went a bad race in New Zealand before going to WA.

He won his second start at Timaru after placing on debut, ran third on Cup Day behind Ascalabus paying \$17 a place and did a nice job on the Blenheim circuit with a win and a second over the two-day meeting.

Patronus Star won fresh up over a mile at Bunbury in a 1:53 mile rate and was sent out a \$7.50 chance in the Derby a week later.

In what was an enthralling race with several tactical moves, Gary Hall Jnr launched the favourite, Major Martini with a lap to go making a line of three setting up a third quarter of 27.3.

Patronus Star was sitting four the pegs and sweating a run which never came until several runners tired on the final bend.

With plenty of work to do, Patronus Star gobbled them up right down the outside to nail a gallant Major Martini on the wire.

Having celebrated their greatest breeding achievement under the constraints of the Covid19 lockdown, the next goal for the McQuoid's is understandably to get their Group One producer back in foal.

"We couldn't get her in foal this year, but we will be going to American Ideal this coming season," Said McQuoid.

With the stallion now Vic Bred eligible, the resultant progeny will have a lot of value on both sides of the tasman.

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Advice from MPI regarding the transport of horses under Alert Level 4

Ministry of Primary Industries

Advice current at 4 April 2020

Recognised reasons a horse can be transported from its current location during the covid-19 level 4 alert

There have been multiple situations identified as valid reasons for needing to transport your horse during the covid-19 level 4 alert. This list is by no means exhaustive, it is to act as a guide. The overriding purpose is everyone stays home, but owners still have a responsibility to meet the animal welfare needs of the animals under their care.

- Transport to attend urgent veterinary attention
- No more grazing/pasture at current location, unable to buy in feed and unable to source grazing within walking distance.
- Movement of racehorses to agistment properties.
- Mare and foals, ready for weaning, to be transported to facilities that can manage this process safely.
- Under the direction of a NZ registered veterinarian or Animal Welfare Inspector that the horse should be moved due to animal welfare concerns. However, if transport can be deferred, it should be.

Please follow the guidelines for safely transporting your horse.

Recommendations for transporting your horse safely during covid-19 level 4 alert

If a horse must be moved due to welfare concerns, we recommend that a horse transport company is used in the first instance. These companies have gone through the essential business registration process and they have safe protocols in place for staff, owner and animals. If a transport company is unavailable but you have your own method of transport, please:

- check local travel restrictions first
- make sure those in the vehicle are within your own social bubble
- ensure all necessities are taken with you whilst travelling (food and water) to prevent unnecessary stops
- practice government recommended hygiene, maintaining a 2m social distance for those outside your social bubble.

- Ask that the animal is washed down before collection and all areas you may handle are sanitised
- Take note to sanitise hands after handling horse tack and disinfect this on arrival at destination.

MPI cannot authorise your travel, however animal health and welfare is recognised as essential, this includes providing your animals with food, water and any other aspect that you need to provide to meet your responsibilities under the Animal Welfare Act and relevant codes of welfare.

Advice to horse transport companies when transporting horses

If there are 5 or more people in your business then you need to register as an essential business on the website. Where there are fewer than 5 people you do not need to go through the registration process. The online registration form has now closed. However, if you are an essential service to the primary industries, or a supplier to an essential service you can email us at info@mpi.govt.nz. Your company should follow the guidelines on this website and scroll down to the title: My business is an essential service – what do I need to do to keep people safe?

MPI cannot authorise your travel however animal health and welfare is recognised as an essential service during the covid-19 level 4 alert.

When travelling essential workers may be asked to show who they work for. We encourage essential workers to carry some form of identification to show who they are, who they work for, and their role e.g. business card, letter from their employer or work ID. Any other information that can be kept with essential workers transit that may prove to the authorities the authenticity of the journey, will only support your case if stopped.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will use reasonable skill and care when providing technical advice. However, the technical advice offered by MPI is based on the information provided by you and is intended as general guidance only. The advice is not to be regarded as legal advice. In providing this advice, MPI, its employees and agents disclaim all responsibility for any inaccuracy, error, omission, lateness or any other kind of inadequacy, deficiency, or flaw in, or in relation to, the information provided and all liability of any kind, on the part of any and all of them, to any person or entity (including the recipient of this email) that chooses to rely upon the information.



Vacanza returns to salute the judge having won the Group 2 What The Hill New Zealand Trotting Oaks

Perseverance pays off for Hutton

Brad Reid

The old adage 'you don't know what you've got till it's gone' will ring true with many of New Zealand's trotting breeders.

Muscle Hill is a sire who averages \$100K+ with drafts of 100+ every year in North America. His service fee commands an undisclosed figure rumoured to be north of \$40,000 and yet several of this year's age group trotting winners couldn't get near that figure at the NZ yearling sales when offered by their vendors.

Cracker Hill, the brilliant winner of the Hambletonian was passed in for \$40,000.

Chloe Rose, a New Zealand record holder this term when winning the Sires Stakes Classique, was sold for \$21,000.

New Zealand Two Year Old Trotter of the Year Bolt For brilliance was sold for \$30,000.

Muscle Mountain was knocked down for \$30,000 and Midnight Dash passed in for \$40,000.

What do they all have in common?

They were all sold at the 2018 Premiere Sale in Christchurch and they have all exceeded \$30,000 in stakes. They have achieved this despite the limited prize

money on offer for square gaiters in their two year old season and early into their three year old campaigns, with their lucrative three year old season riches of the Derbies and Sires Stakes Features yet to be run.

New Zealand Oaks winner Vacation Hill is another to add to the same list of Muscle Hill yearlings offered that year, and her breeder Bruce Hutton is still scratching his head as to how.

"I think they must have thought what is Bruce Hutton doing selling this horse when he keeps and races all of his, but I had already made the decision early on that she would be sold and she never got a bid," he said.

Despite having no obvious faults, the daughter of Muscle Hill out of Vacanza, a Dream Vacation NZ record holder from the paternal family of Sundon and Pine Chip was unwanted.

"She was a lovely filly, and a couple of days later Kevin Townley called me to see if she was still for sale and he bought her over the phone.

"I got to break her in which was part of the deal and I remember Kevin coming to look at her and quite liking her," said Hutton.

"He made the comment that his yearlings were usually bowling along a little more when he broke them in.

"I told him because the mother could pull, we've really kept her quiet and never told her that she's got speed and I think he adapted that into his own training of her.

"She just had a great style and she was bred to be good as well. We just thought we will never tell her how fast she is," he said.

Despite qualifying as a late two-year old, the decision was made to tuck the blue-blood filly away to allow her the time to develop into her big frame.

"We all knew very early on she would make a good filly and even as a two-year old Kevin really rated her. She will get better with time and she's in the right hands with Kevin to do so. She was too big and immature to go early and he's looked after which is what she needed," said Hutton.

Vacanza Hill's mother, Vacanza, was a late bloomer and never begun her race career until January of her four-year old season.

After wins at Geraldine and then Methven, she showed she wasn't just a toff for the grass when she then broke the 1950m mobile record for trotting mares at Addington.

She trotted the sprint trip in 2.25.2 and a MR of 1:59, breaking a 12 year old record held by Valley of the Moon.

"She was a funny mare because she pulled terribly in the prelim but in a race she was a dream to drive.

"You put her in the paddock and she takes off at a thousand miles an hour, does one lap around the paddock and then she's as good as gold. I dunno why she did it, cover on, cover off, it didn't make any difference," he said.

Vacanza (Dream Vacation) was in utero as a package deal when her mother Sunny Lane (2000 Lindy Lane) was purchased.

That was a great result in itself because like Vacanza, Sunny Lane was a nightmare to get in foal and only produced three in her time at stud from eleven years of trying.

"She was at Nevele R and she always had breeding issues and didn't get in foal that easy. We just happened to fluke that she got in foal to Dream Vacation first go," said Hutton.

Three years after Vacanza, Sunny Lane produced a Majestic Son colt called Solar Storm who won three but disappeared in Australia after being sold.

Three years later she produced a Muscle Hilly filly called American Jewel who was purchased as a weanling by Pat Driscoll of Yabby Dabby Farm.

"American Jewel was showing exceptional talent as a three year old and was just about to race, but injured herself in a pool accident and hence never made it," said Driscoll.

"She was bred to Love You in 2018 but we lost the foal

and is now in foal to Father Patrick, so hopefully all going well we have a healthy foal this spring," he said.

Both Hutton and Driscoll will be hoping for some good fortune as American Jewel was where the road ended for Sunny Lane as a mare despite several more efforts.

Sunny Lane was bred by Jim Dalgety having successfully raced her dam, the exceptionally talented Sunny Action.

Sunny Action did a lot of her Open Class racing in Mark Purdon's care, but ultimately won her three biggest races in the colours of Dalgety including the Yearling Sales Final and the NZ Trotting Stakes at three.

She was back in his colours with a young Terry Chmiel when she downed Lyell Creek in the 2000 NZ Trotting FFA, ending his unbeaten streak at 20.

The Sundon mare was line bred 2x3 to her grandam Roydon Gal and was one of the few bred on this cross by the great Sir Roy McKenzie to have much success on the track.

A few astute breeders will know this story but when researching the family I came across this nugget in Sir Roy's book, The Roydon Heritage.

It details how fortunate we as an industry were in Sir Roy securing Roydon Gal for many reasons, none more so than the fact she left Arndon, and in turn Sundon.

"At the 1976 'Adios' there was a yearling sale which featured a Super Bowl filly I was keen to secure. My aim was to help breed good young trotters. This was not a very attractive financial investment but probably necessary long term. As well as driving her before the sale, I drove a Noble Victory colt who impressed me as an ideal cross for our Game Pride mares and as a result, I had a difficult decision to make between the filly and the colt.

The sales area was crowded but my wife and daughter Robyn got seats and shortly before the filly came in, I gained one in front of them.

There was some quick and frantic bidding, but I finally secured her, though my family didn't think so. She had cost more than I bargained for. The colt, Noble Art, sold for \$4000 less later in the sale. He was purchased by Del Miller and the Grants and he became the top money winning two-year-old of 1977. He has earned over \$100,000 and he will have a sub 2min record any day.

We named the filly Roydon Gal and she trained really well as a two-year-old but showed some soreness when due to race at that age. We later qualified her in 2:10 and she has now been bred to Arnie Almahurst to whom she is in foal. In 1979 she will be brought back to New Zealand. A full brother to Roydon Gal, Superbly sold at the yearling Sales for \$70,000 in 1978.

The advent of time would tell us that Noble Art never broke two minutes and Roydon Gal would be one of the most influential, if not the most influential trotting mare to the New Zealand stud book ever.

Unfortunately for Hutton, Vacanza has carried on the family tradition of struggling to get in foal.

"She's been to some of the best vets and nobody seems to know what's wrong there.

"She doesn't cycle or ovulate properly. We got her in foal first go with frozen semen (Vacation Hill) and thought it was easy, but she's proved hard since," he said.

Matings to frozen semen consorts in Muscle Hill (2017), Wishing Stone (2018) and Southwind Frank (2019) coupled with two seasons of trying the fresh semen route with Majestic Son (2020) all came up empty.

"We'll try a few different things this year and see how we go," said Hutton.

Hutton is perhaps best known for the deeds of his trotters from the wonderful producer, Belday.

He won the Yearling Sales Final for three-year olds with Rhythm of the Night as well as a heat of the Victorian Trotters Derby.

He still has a full-sister in Fire in the Night who was a bonnie mare and should have won a New Zealand Trotting Oaks if not for breaking in the run home where she still ran fourth and only six lengths from the winner, Commander Jewel.

Hutton has had better luck producing from this breed with three foals from Fire in the Night (in foal to Majestic Son) including a Muscle Hill mare Luminosity.

She was on track to clear maidens having run second four times in her last five starts before Covid-19 abruptly ended the season.

Injured while racing as an early two-year old, Luminosity was put in foal and produced a Love You colt that is doing its early education at the present.

"We like him but he's not a natural trotter at this stage," said Hutton.

"I'm also breeding from Insignificant who has a Southwind Frank colt on her and is back in foal to Majestic Son," he said.

Hutton has never been shy when it comes to trying to improve his breed and has been one of the great disciples of Muscle Hill, well before his stock began to produce the results they have today.

His theories on breeding are simple.

"Both Fire in the Night and Insignificant are nice quality mares with a reasonable pedigree behind them. You've gotta try and back yourself don't ya?

"Breed the best to the best and hope for the best. I sell a lot of horses up to American and I've got a lot of contacts up there who I've always spoken to about their breeding scene and what's working well.

"I've been looking to see if I can find a quality horse up there to bring down and actually race here with a view to breed from, but of course with all the stuff that's happening now it's probably going to be prohibitive," said Hutton.

Another prohibitive factor in recent years has been Hutton's health with the Canterbury horseman battling cancer, but he is fighting back having recently undergone stem cell treatment.



Vacation Hill holds out a game Chevron Action in the Group 2 What the Hill New Zealand Trotting Oaks



Picture of the Week

Lawn Derby (1930 Robert Derby – Childewood)

David McCarhy

This magnificent animal is on his way to becoming the first pacer in the southern hemisphere to break two minutes, away back in 1938 at Addington.

LAWN DERBY, an Australian horse driven here by his trainer Jack O'Shea, ran the trip in 1.59.4. He was a "look Mum no hands" pacer without hoppers, boots, overcheck or any other surplus gear, something rare even today. The legendary Freeman Holmes later drove Lawn Derby in a match race and described the experience as "the biggest thrill of my racing life" due to the feel he got from such a wonderful action. Given his racing life that was saying a great deal.

Lawn Derby had to give 60m start to the NZ Cup winner Morello that year—an impossible task. But he was moving into the race on the home turn when he broke, O'Shea reporting he had been checked. Even the NZ media was critical of the local handicapping and the system was later altered.

Accompanying him on the trip was Logan Derby another wonderful pacer from the Globe Derby line and later sire of Johnny Globe and top trotter Vodka the first New Zealand trained horse to win in America. O'Shea

also trained Springfield Globe another champ of the era on both sides of the Tasman.

Jack O'Shea was a highly popular horseman and also a man of principle. Later accused in Australia of not driving a horse on its merits which he furiously denied he retired completely from the sport rather than be forced to carry on with a black mark on his racing reputation. His son, Peter, was also a successful horseman.

Lawn Derby's most famous son, Ribands, came to Addington in the 1950's as the Australian champion, and caused a sensation winning the 1954 NZ Pacing Championship in world record time for Maurice Holmes thrashing the pride of New Zealand in Rupee (Cup 2nd) Johnny Globe (Cup winner) and Tactician (New Zealand's first two minute race performer), by four lengths after "the fastest sprint (last to first) "ever seen at Addington" according to one scribe. He was later hugely successful in America.

A testament to Lawn Derby was the fact his sub two minute time was not bettered for 10 years until Highland Fling went 1:57.8 in an Addington time trial.

Only seven pacers went sub two minutes in the 25 years after his 1938 performance, they were:

- Gold Bar 1:59.6
- Haughty 1:59.6 TT
- Highland Fling 1:57.8 TT
- Johnny Globe 1:59.8 TT
- Tactician 1:59.8
- Caduceus 1:57.6 TT
- Cardigan Bay 1:56.2 TT



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NZB All Age Sales move to Gavel- house

NZB Standardbred

New Zealand Bloodstock's largest standardbred breeding stock sale is now set to be conducted on the digital platform gavelhouse.com this May, with an early release of the full catalogue available to view.

Initially cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 lockdown, the support and resilience shown by consignors alongside the partnership between NZB Standardbred and gavelhouse.com has seen the transfer of the 2020 All Age Sale catalogue to NZB's subsidiary online auction platform.

The revised format will see only those initially entered in the physical sale offered on gavelhouse.com from Friday 1 May, with bidding open from Wednesday 20 May and the first Lot closing on Wednesday 27 May at 5pm (NZT).

In light of recent and unprecedented circumstances, the pre-launched catalogue on NZB Standardbred's website will give buyers a timely opportunity to conduct appropriate research for the online sale, which would have been initially accessible if the physical sale had taken place.

"When we announced the cancellation of the physical auction we said it was important for the vendors to offer their weanlings within the usual trading period, in order to maintain their on-farm operations," commented NZB Director and Operations Manager James Jennings.

"Having the 2020 All Age Sale as an online sale on gavelhouse.com Standardbred enables that to be achieved.

"We are grateful for the commitment by the consignors to support the sale with 148 lots including 125 weanlings entered.

"Our two largest consignors, Woodlands Stud and Alabar's continued support using this online format presents a wonderful opportunity, which we feel people will embrace to secure quality stock.

"Our intention is to give prospective buyers the best resources we can to assess the offerings and we will be releasing further information shortly with buyer how-to guides as well as announcements on COVID-19 restrictions as we progress through to the Sale," said Jennings.

Taking into account government restrictions where in-person inspections of All Age Sale stock are currently not viable, there will be enhanced features with additional photos and videos able to be uploaded by vendors to showcase their entries.

Alabar Farm's Graeme Henley is encouraged by the new Sale format.

"With the cancellation of the physical Sale, we're grateful that NZB Standardbred are continuing to back the selling of these weanlings by providing us with an online alternative.

"The catalogue being put on gavelhouse.com means that everyone will be able to be involved – which is obviously essential until there is some certainty around travel.

"To be fair and transparent, none of our weanling sale entries are available for prior sale, and most importantly the weanlings offered will still be Harness Million Series eligible.

"There's some really top horses sold at the weanling sale every year. The format may be different this year, but the quality is still there," said Henley.

Buyers will need to register on gavelhouse.com prior to the Sale in order to invest in a wide range of quality stock, featuring proven, emerging and first season sires, plus siblings to Group winners and progeny from Group One-winning dams.

Adding further appeal to the bloodstock that will be on offer, all weanlings offered at the All Age Sale on gavelhouse.com, which had previously been entered in the 2020 All Aged Sale are eligible to be nominated for the NZB Standardbred Harness Million Sales Race Series.

Take an early look at the 2020 All Age Sale catalogue to go live on gavelhouse.com on 1 May online [here](#).

Create a gavelhouse.com account to ensure you are registered for bidding [here](#).

For more information, contact Cam Bray (Cam.Bray@nzb.co.nz) or call +64 21 737 199) or Haylie Martin ([Hay-](#)

No Excuses from Ex Kiwi in Narrogin Cup

Brad Reid

Former Southern Supremacy winner Im Full of Excuses won the transferred Group 3 Narrogin Cup on Saturday Night at Donaldson Park and in doing so notched

his 21st career win and 5th Group Race victory since heading to Australia in 2016.

The son of Jeremes Jet is out of the Holmes Hanover mare Minnie Me who won a race for Mark Purdon before being retired to stud. She hails from a wonderful family detailed in the 2008 Frank Marrion article below.

It is interesting to look back this pedigree analysis from nearly 12 years ago as the extended family from the taproot of Malabella has continued to dish up excellent performers since including: Bettor Cover Lover, Ohokas Bondy, Dancing Diamonds, Be Happy Mach, Princess Tiffany and Major Trojan.

Frank takes over in his article titled: NZ Breed Builders (9 April 2008);

Krina...an old grey saddle mare who was the source of so many classic performers (in this series we are focusing on some of New Zealand's 'breed builders'). For Group race winning strike rates, particularly for Derbys and Oaks, few maternal families if any can compare with that of an oddly-bred grey mare foaled in Napier in 1922 called Krina.

For a family which began relatively late in proceedings and had few foal numbers during that early evolution, it has sent forth a steady stream of fine performers at an amazing rate and just in recent years it has resulted in the likes of star fillies alone in Jovial Jeanie, Happy Hazel, Imagine That, Bellajily, Van Glory, Under Cover Lover, Amongst Royalty and Exotic Lover, the latter one of last season's top juvenile fillies and not far off striking top form again.

The family has not been shy in producing colts either however, and the outstanding Australian pacer Divisive is just the latest advertisement in that respect.

After getting an early education as a milk cart horse around Napier, Krina was lightly raced by Canterbury trainer Manny Edwards, but was a good class saddle mare for her Kaiapoi owner, winning four races including a Nelson Cup and a mile under saddle at Addington in 2.10 4/5 in 1931.

She was by Jewel Chimes, an Australian-bred son of Abbey Bells, from an unnamed mare by Rothschild, which wouldn't have inspired many breeding purists at the time, but there were some very important aspects to her pedigree.

For a start, Abbey Bells was by Bow Bells, a son of Electioneer and noted broodmare Beautiful Bells, who was by the Clay horse The Moor from Minnehaha.

And he was from a sister to a champion mare of the time in Maud S. in Russia, who was by the incestuously-bred and hugely influential Harold from another noted broodmare in Miss Russell.

Harold was by Hambletonian (by Abdallah 1) from a daughter of Abdallah 1 and Abbey Bells, who was thus line-bred 3x3 to Hambletonian with two of the best broodmares of the day in his maternal lines, proved a successful sire in Australia at a time when records were barely kept.



Ollie Haines and Im Full of Excuses

Jewel Chimes was from a mare by Heir At Law, a son of Mambrino King whose dam was line-bred 2x2 to George Wilkes, another famous son of Hambletonian and great rival of Electioneer.

Rothschild was by Harold's champion son Childe Harold and brought more Mambrino blood into the picture. So it was hardly surprising when Krina, bred almost entirely to Jack Potts or his Derby winning son Gamble, left eight named foals for seven winners, which were either roan or chestnut.

Among them were the top juvenile and Inter-Dominion heat winner Sprayman.

A Jack Potts daughter in Ngarimu established one successful branch of the family, but it was her non-winning daughter by New Zealand Cup winner Red Shadow, an Axworthy-line horse, in Mala who really ignited the family.

Mala's first two foals were Malabella (5 wins) and Princess Grace, a Prince Regent (by Springfield Globe) mare who led to the likes of Cup class pacers Vanadium and Sunseeker, big U.S. winner Wilton Royale, Rosebloom (SA Oaks) and more recently Divisive.

Mala, a chestnut, had been acquired in the 1940s by Nick Matyasevic, a popular Christchurch restaurateur from Czechoslovakia, and it was to prove a most fruitful association.

For him her daughter Malabella left seven foals for six winners with her three fillies being NZ Derby winner Bellajily, Van Glory and Trapalanda.

The latter eventually proved a disappointment in Australia, but Bellajily and Van Glory (11 wins, NZ Standard-bred Breeders Stakes, 2nd NZ Derby) were to establish highly commercial families in their own right.

To Van Glory can be attributed the wonderful filly Under Cover Lover, multiple Derby winner Mon Poppy Day and good Australian winners such as Parthenon (WA Oaks), Travcor, Boambee Bay, Rumadrum, Shakhani and Wirrpunda, the latter a Group 2 winner in Perth. Brilliant Australian juvenile Amongst Royalty (14 Aus wins, \$413,740) is from a half-sister to Mon Poppy Day (20 Aus wins, \$318,558).

West Melton's Jim Dalgety had been a stablehand for trainer Ces Devine when Bellajily, a daughter of Devine's NZ Cup winning son of U. Scott in Van Dieman, and it was to prove a masterstroke by Dalgety when he brought her back from the U.S. in the late 1960s. Dalgety had noticed in an American magazine, Bellajily racing well past her best at the age of nine in New York claimers worth \$5000 and Malabella had been one of his favourites.

"Malabella won a Riccarton Stakes and ran third in both the NZ Derby and Oaks," recalls Dalgety.

"She had two dashes of thoroughbred blood in her, and Van Dieman's third dam was also by a galloper."

Bellajily, Malabella's second foal and first filly, was a fine performer herself, often beating the colts as a 3-year-old.

She won the 1963 NZ Derby and was unluckily beaten into second in the Oaks.

After Matyasevic passed away, she was sold to America, where in 1969 from a handful of starts she had managed one placing and \$1380 in earnings.

"To claim a horse you had to be a member of the USTA and so forth.

"So I rang Stanley Dancer and asked him to claim her for me, and he said...what do you want that old Indian mare for?"

First bred to Gene Abbe, Bellajily lost the colt, and then went to reside at Blue Chip Farm where Most Happy Fella was embarking on a stud career.

The result was a filly, but after putting her back in foal to Most Happy Fella and shipping her home, Bellajily slipped a colt on the way.

"His stud fee was US\$35,000, which was a bloody fortune in those days, and he wasn't even proven."

All was not well though when the consignment arrived as the filly had also hurt herself in transit.

But later as Jovial Jeanie, after missing to Noodlum, she was sent north to Roy Purdon to race right-handed - she was hopeless the other way due to her earlier injury - and proved one of the class acts of the 1978/79 season.

She won eight of her first nine starts and another in the Franklin Cup and was the leading stakes winner among aged pacers for the term.

In the meantime, Bellajily in consecutive years sent forth the smart colts Never Bend and Bold Ruler and the class filly Krina Bella.

The latter, a daughter of Lordship, was a juvenile winner here and second in the WA Oaks and her six winners include SA Derby winner Keep It Up (44 Aus wins, \$244,851), and the dams of Flyboys Fun (16 Aus wins, \$77,850), Alert Falcon (US\$154,400), Torbello (16 Aus wins, \$98,894) and Black Flash (24 Aus wins, \$130,393).

Bellisimo was the daughter of Krina Bella who produced the latter trio and more recently she has left the speedy filly Asabella and one of this season's better 3-year-olds in The Cavalier.

Bellajily died in 1985, aged 25, the dam of just six foals. Dalgety, recognising the broodmare potential of Jovial Jeanie, didn't keep her long on the racetrack, and while her six winners to date are mostly moderate performers except for Fella Ship (5 NZ 3yo wins), one was definitely not.

That was Happy Hazel, her 1985 filly by another Dalgety import in Alberton after earlier bringing in leading sires Bachelor Hanover and Out To Win.

She was outstanding in 1989, winning a string of classics including the DB Fillies Final in Auckland in 1.57.6 and the GN Oaks and was only just beaten in the NZ Oaks when a raging hot favourite.

Happy Hazel took a while to produce in kind, but that was worth the wait with ImagineThat (15 NZ wins, \$415,289).

That is just one side of the family, with the Vain Franco and Under Cover Lover one coming through Van Glory being a whole new story, and no doubt something else again in the years to come.

All of which is a very long way from the seemingly humble origins of that old grey saddle mare who at times also made a living pulling a milk cart around Napier.

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