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The 2011 Waikato Stud tour group

New Zealand 2011

Our New Zealand tour is growing by the year and this years trip with a fantastic group of people made for the best ever tour to date. Included in this years tour was a trip to the famous Waikato Stud where we visited and inspected two of New Zealand's most successful sires in O'Reilly and Pins and toured the farm including the breeding/foaling areas, all of the stallions, the preparation/stables areas for all of the yearlings and the pre-training area where Waikato have an 800 metre sand track for the pre-training of their horses that race under the Waikato banner. It was followed by a lunch put on in the office area for the group and it was hard not to be taken by the hospitality offered by Neil Ross and his team at Waikato, as it was not hard to be impressed by the tranquillity and beauty of the scenery that surrounded Waikato with the greenness of the grass and the hills and undulation of the property. It was an outstanding day and we hope to next year (with preliminary discussions already having taken place) visit Sir Patrick Hogan's Cambridge Stud which is the home as we are all aware of the champion stallion Zabeel.

The tour also included dining at some of Auckland's finer restaurants down at the viaduct area, as well as the Karaka Million race day at Ellerslie which included free entrance into the New Zealand Bloodstock Corporate marquee which included

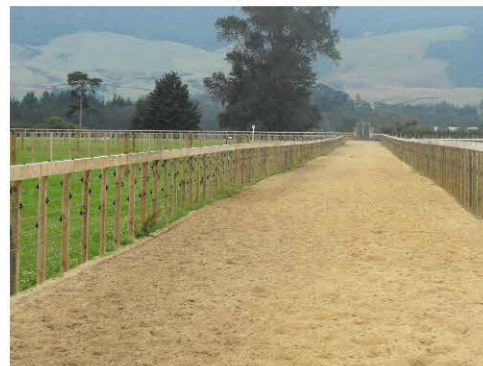


The High Chaparral/Clarens colt purchased at the 2011 NZ Premier sales for \$100,000

complimentary beer and champagne and most of the tour managed to find a winner at some point during the meeting. It was a great day with a couple staying on the big night bash which commenced after the last race and went well into the night — so much so that these two were very hard to find the next day!

Special thanks also goes to Graham Snell who organised a luncheon over at Waiekeke Island for the group during the week of festivities which also went extremely well and next year a sunset dinner cruise on a yacht is well on the agenda, so again many thanks to Graham on his efforts.

Of course it wouldn't be a successful tour without the purchase of a horse and that we did with the purchase of an outstanding colt by no doubt Australia's "hottest" stallion in High Chaparral. Bought from the Windsor Park draft this colt comes from the great Eight Carat family which includes horses of the calibre of **Octagonal, Kaapstad, Mouawad, Danewin, Shower of Roses, Marquise, Don Eduardo, Tristalove, Viking Ruler, Viscount** etc. He will be left in New Zealand for at least 12 months to enjoy the New Zealand pastures before coming over to Australia to come under the care of our syndicate trainer Mick Price. There are limited shares available so any member that is interested in becoming involved in this exciting colt are advised to please contact me at the earliest convenience. New Zealand 2011 closes but will reopen to what I am sure will be just as exciting a tour in 2012.



Waikato's pre-training facility against a beautiful backdrop!

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Lucky me! Pictured with Rachel Hunter at this year's Karaka Million race day at Ellerslie

From the Stable

We have had a relatively quiet time of it on the track recently where we have had to make a couple of tough decisions on some of our horses future, however we have a number of young horses due to be arrived into Mick's stables shortly so we anticipate things to start hotting up soon.

Currently **Loveyamadly**, **Russian Harmony**, **Sir Ready** and **Commandantree** are all going through their paces with John Ledger at Wangaratta and the reports are all positive with each horse to date so there is plenty of optimism for racetrack success in the coming weeks where we anticipate that all horses should be ready to hit the tracks towards the end of March.

Comic Composer will be heading over to Adelaide at the completion of his current spell to join the stables of Leon Macdonald at Morphettville. This guy's done a great job for his syndicate having already won 4 races and \$81,000 in stakes, however Mick is of the opinion that Adelaide will be the best opportunity for Comic Composer to build on his very successful record to date and his Adelaide rating of 74 allows him that opportunity and gives us every opportunity to continue to place him well, at least in the short term. **Le Bonsir** whilst seemingly disappointing in his first run when narrowly beaten at Wangaratta had plenty of excuses and has now been gelded and will be given a short break. He is definitely a horse to follow and will be very hard to beat when he resumes at his next start — expect a different horse next time in!



Beautiful Waikato stud

Our two long-term injury horses **Our Gold Bullion** and **Bella's Bro** are both doing well and follow-up scans on Our Gold Bullion are due next month, which will tell us where we sit with him. He will not resume until ready as we want to give him every opportunity however he has been out for 5 months so the time needed is passing which is good.

Let's hope the next scan gives us some pleasing news! **Bella's Bro** is also not far away after having a very small bone chip removed from his nearside fetlock. His age is the only concern to a successful comeback in this instance however the chip was very small and Leon is confident that the old fella will be resuming pretraining in the next month or so.

Just a reminder that our broodmares are all well with John Lawler at Golden Grove Scone and all are in foal — **Royal Charades** to Snitzel, **Damselfy** to Hussonet and **Ready Made Family** to All American. Both Royal Charades and Damselfy are expecting August foals whilst Ready Made Family who has a lovely Oratorio colt on the ground is expecting her foal in late October.



The 2011 NZ touring party at the Angus Steakhouse



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