

## **CHRISTCHURCH TRAGEDY**

Condolences to all those who have been affected by the unprecedented event in Christchurch.

There are many Muslims working in the racing industry and this will obviously have a huge impact on them and their families, whether or not they are directly related.

Attached is some information from Vitae (NZTR's Employee Assistance Programme provider). It includes some tips around supporting staff who might be affected and is also a useful resource to keep on file. Please click here for the link:

<http://nztrainers.co.nz/UserFiles/File/Critical%20Incidents%20Reponse%20guidance%20&%20support%20for%20TL.pdf>

Farrier, Khaled Mustafa was one of the victims and known to many in the industry. Khaled Mustafa came to New Zealand with his wife and three children six months ago through a refugee program helping families fleeing violence in Syria. He and his son Hamza were among the 50 people killed when the shooter opened fire in the Al Noor Mosque during a prayer service. His younger son Zaid underwent surgery and survived. Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

## **MINISTERIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MAC) UPDATE**

The interim report from the committee has been completed and presented to the Minister for Racing as scheduled by the end of February. At time of writing, this has not as yet been publicised.

It is crucial that the report provides a way forward to implement the recommendations of the Messara Review. There are many concerns within the industry that things are not moving fast enough and that nothing has happened. The status-quo cannot continue and urgent action is necessary.

Legislative changes need to be put in place to modernise the industry and to ensure increasing returns to the industry. The Trainers' Association will be sure to keep members updated on the report and any feedback or action being considered.

## **NEWS FOR TRAINERS FROM THE RIU**

Declaration of Riders - Trainers are reminded to declare riders by the required time. If Trainers are having any difficulty, they need to contact the Steward in charge of the meeting.

Gear Changes - Trainers are reminded that the deadline for gear changes is the time of withdrawals and this rule will be enforced.

## **WINNER DUNSTAN TRAINERS' MAIDEN NZ AWARD FOR MARCH**

The meeting selected for March was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> at the Wyndham Racing Club meeting held at Gore. Winning two of the maiden races was a relative newcomer to the training ranks, Amanda Schwarz from Invercargill. Her winners were Sweet Oak who took out race 2, the NZRB Pearl Series Race for Maiden Fillies & Mares over 1200m and Gemstone Jewels who won the Herberts Transport/Vetco Edendale Maiden 1335m. This is Amanda's fifth year as a trainer and she is currently in fifth equal position on the Newcomer leaderboard with four individual winners. As Amanda is a member of the Trainers' Association she will receive a bag of Dunstan Speedfeed and a bag of Equifibre Lucerne-Pro.

## **PEARL SERIES**

A reminder Early Bird entries for the NZB Insurance Pearl Series close on 31st March. The Pearl Bonus scheme is a wonderful incentive scheme for fillies and mares with an additional Pearl bonus to winning trainers. We encourage you to make your owners aware of the benefits of nominating yearling fillies to be eligible for the Bonus scheme.

There are 180 Level B Bonuses up for grabs each season Level B Bonus of \$10,000 to the owner, \$1,000 to the trainer and \$500 to the person who nominated her for the series in the first place.

This Saturday at Tauranga four mares out of a field on nine have a chance of winning a Level A bonus in the NZB Pearl Series rating 82 1300. A Level A bonus is worth an additional \$17,000 to the winner, \$2,000 to the trainer and \$1,000 to the nominator, that is on top of the regular \$30,000 stake for a Saturday meeting. Of the 20 Level A bonuses available this season only one has been struck.

And among their winners this year is the smart two-year-old filly Probabeel, who won a Level C bonus of \$7,000. Level C bonuses are only available on two-year-old races.

It is worth noting that yearlings do not have to have gone through the sale ring to be entered

According to Jamie Richards it is Te Akau's policy to enter all their yearling fillies into the scheme whether they are purchased or home bred. He believes it's a great incentive that gives owners an opportunity to retrieve some of their costs.

The NZB Pearl Series managed by NZTBA has been running now for five years and hundreds of bonuses have been paid out. Fillies must be nominated when they are yearlings, they do not have to be through the sale ring and entries are currently being taken for fillies born anywhere in the Southern Hemisphere in 2017.

Early bird entries close on March 31. Further information about the series is available on the NZTBA website <http://pearlseries.nzthoroughbred.co.nz/> or nominations can be

done online <http://pearlseries.nzthoroughbred.co.nz/page/nomination-form/> - otherwise phone the Pearl Hotline 0508 222 202.

## **NEWS FROM gavelhouse.com**

### **Bargain gavelhouse.com buy proves good investment**

Waipukurau-based Steve and Kirsty Lawrence found themselves on the big stage again over the weekend when gavelhouse.com New Zealand purchase Pep Torque notched up his fourth career win in the \$30,000 Hardy Trade Premier over 1600m at Trentham.

Purchased in June 2017 as an unraced horse for \$2,600 by the husband and wife, the five-year-old Nadeem gelding lifted his earnings over \$72,000 with four wins and four placings – eight times his purchase price.

After a bit of rain earlier in the week the track was a Dead 5 but was downgraded to a Dead 6 after the first race.

“He hasn’t really run on ground like that before so we weren’t too sure how he was going to handle it,” commented Steve Lawrence.

With apprentice jockey Charlotte O’Beirne back in the saddle with a 3kg claim, the pair jumped to settle mid-field. At the 600m mark Pep Torque began his run, sitting five wide turning into the home straight, the pair dug deep to find another gear.

In the final 200m, Pep Torque continued to lift and run down the leader.

“We had a talk with Charlotte and the plan was to get him out to the better ground in the middle of the track,” Lawrence said.

Looking for the better ground looks to have paid off, winning clear of the field by almost half a length.

“He has won three of his four career wins at Trentham and they were over the same 1600m trip.

“We’ve had a few people ask what our plans are with him going forward, he’s so well we will just see what pops up.

“When he’s ready for a spell he’ll let us know, but don’t be surprised if you see him at Tauranga on the weekend seeing as he backs up so well.”

The latest Australian auction is online now and set to close from 7pm AEDT Monday starting with Lot 1. Register online now to bid or phone +64 9 296 4436 for assistance.

Entries for the next New Zealand auction are due by 7pm Monday, email [info@gavelhouse.com](mailto:info@gavelhouse.com) for assistance for listing or phone +64 9 296 4436.