

UPDATE ON MESSARA REVIEW

We understand the DIA received around 1600 submissions on the Messara Report. The Trainers' Association made a submission which can be viewed on the website, www.nztrainers.co.nz on the For Trainers page.

Following is a letter to the Trainers' Association received in response to the one published in the October newsletter to the Minister for Racing, the Right Honourable Winston Peters:

Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters



Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing

19 OCT 2018

Wendy Cooper
New Zealand Trainers Association Inc
nztrainersassn@gmail.com

Dear Wendy Cooper

Thank you for your letter of 13 September 2018 expressing your support of John Messara's report (the report) of the New Zealand Racing Industry.

The Minister for Racing notes the valued contributions of the New Zealand Trainers Association Inc and thanks you for your continued support and commitment to the industry.

The Government is considering the report, and your feedback is appreciated. Following the close of the public consultation period on 19 October 2018, officials will prepare a Cabinet paper with a set of recommendations for a future direction for the industry.

Thank you again for your correspondence. Your letter has been provided to officials at the Department of Internal Affairs for their information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', written over a white background.

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister for Racing

WINNER DUNSTAN TRAINERS' MAIDEN NZ AWARD FOR OCTOBER

The meeting selected for October was held on the 14th at the Winton Jockey Club meeting. The Country Jewel Maiden 1200m was won by Drumstorm, trained by local trainer, Leda Beck. It was a good day for Leda and the progeny of Gallant Guru, as she also trained Gold'nguru who won the Winton Cup. As Leda is a member of the Trainers' Association she will receive a bag of the new Dunstan Speedfeed and a bag of Equifibre Lucerne-Pro.

STAFF FROM THE PHILLIPINES

The NZ Trainers' Association members now have an agreement with RD1 Recruitment. They will charge members of the NZ Trainers' Association a standard fee of \$2800+GST which will cover the recruitment and processing for staff from the Phillipines– this could possibly be paid by the employee. A link to the pricing schedule is on the NZ Trainers' Association website on the links page under immigration information.

If you are interested in employing someone from the Phillipines and to find out more about how they operate you can check out their website www.rd1recruitment.co.nz or contact either: Ihaka Rongonui, Managing Director on 021983394 ihaka@rd1recruitment.co.nz or Samaria, Immigration Manager on 0220966033 Samaria@rd1recruitment.co.nz

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Trainers have been assisted by the Trainers' Association and NZTR in becoming compliant with the new legislation regarding health and safety in the workplace. Lack of compliance can lead to hefty fines by Worksafe NZ, should an accident occur and worksafe practices have not been followed.

There have been workshops, recommended advisors, templates provided on both the NZTR and Trainers' Association websites, as well as regular updates and stable visits by NZTR staff.

NZTR now advise trainers of the following:

At the beginning of 2018, NZTR reassessed its role and responsibilities regarding Health and Safety, particularly as they related to the Licence Holders. After careful consideration of various options, it was decided that a different approach would be adopted by NZTR. NZTR no longer conducts stable visits but relies on trainers confirming that they have a Health and Safety Plan in place. NZTR is now removed from the inspection/education role and is moving towards a more regulatory orientated process.

In August 2018 Trainers were asked to confirm on their licence renewal applications, that they had a Health and Safety Plan. A licence was not granted unless this was confirmed.

During October 2018, a number of trainers were chosen at random and asked to provide a copy of their Health and Safety Plan to NZTR. NZTR will work with those trainers who advised they do not

have Health and Safety Plans so they can get one put in place urgently. There may be consequences for those who do not comply but these will be dealt with on an individual basis.

*Having a Health and Safety plan which meets NZTR requirements may not mean that all WorkSafe requirements are met. Trainers must make sure that they also comply with all legal requirements. Please go to the Links page on the Trainers' Association website if you require templates for the required documentation as well as links to recommended professional advisors:
www.nztrainers.co.nz*

For any enquiries with NZTR, please contact *Colin Hall, GM Racing & Equine Welfare, NZTR*

ACC LEVY PROPOSED INCREASES

Unfortunately it appears that ACC intends to increase work levy rates to be paid by thoroughbred employers across the industry's different categories. The increase is disappointing news, particularly in light of ACC's announcement of an overall decrease to Work Account Levy of 6.9%. For LRG 919, the increase represents a 15% increase on the levies paid in 2018 and 2019. Given the relatively high level these levies are already at, in real terms this is an additional cost of 85c imposed on our employers and self-employed.

The Trainers' Association has been involved in a comprehensive submission being put forward by NZTR outlining how our sector has been subject to some considerable volatility in levies paid over the last 15 years. It advises that it is hard to reconcile the increase to actual injury rates, leviable income and the initiatives that the industry has undertaken in an attempt to minimise injuries.

ACC ADVISOR

In light of the above, the Trainers' Association recommends members may like to consider utilising the services of our recommended ACC advisor, Risky Business, who has provided the following:

There are a number of ways we can reduce and or manipulate the amount the Trainers are paying on their levies.

We have outlined a basic example below; obviously everyone's circumstances are different and final figures will need to be based on individual assessment.

Example –

Mr Tom and Mrs Tania Trainer -

- *Both self-employed, both work in the business both are 40 years old and they have 4 stable hands – employees*
- *Toms role is the trainer (hands off – he does not ride)*
- *Tom's income \$100,000*
- *Tania's Role is running the business not involved with the horses actual training*

- *Tania's Income \$75,000*

Scenario for Tom

- *Tom's level of cover through ACC for accident only is \$62,400 (approx.)*
- *Tom's Levies to ACC - \$7900*
- *Change Tom to cover plus extra and add an income protection policy*
- *New ACC levy and insurance premium combined \$5500 approx.*
- *Saving \$2400 and Tom is now covered for not only accident but illness as well*

Scenario for Tania

- *Tania's level of cover through ACC for accident only is \$52,000 (approx.)*
- *Tania's Levies to ACC - \$5925*
- *As Tania does not deal with the horses change her Classification code from horse Trainer to an administration code with ACC*
- *Change Tania to cover plus extra and add an income protection policy*
- *New ACC levy and insurance premium combined \$3500 approx.*
- *Saving \$2400 and now covered for not only accident but illness as well*

Total approximate savings = \$4800 per annum

Please note that there are other options to make changes to your ACC levies; please contact us to go through these in further depth.

For more information or to get in contact with Risky Business, contact details are as follows:

Clinton Whelan, 021616855,

E: clinton@riskybusiness.kiwi W: www.riskybusiness.kiwi

JOCKEY WORLD CUP

Like last year, the Auckland Racing Club will be staging the Jockey World Cup at their Twilight meeting on Thursday, 13 December.

The format will be the same as last year with jockeys to wear silks chosen by the Club and jockeys randomly drawn against accepted horses.

NEWS FROM THE RIU

- Rule 652 – Trainers are reminded to notification when mares have been served.
- To avoid nicotine contamination – avoid smoking around horses or in horse areas.
- Reminder that staff attending raceday must have a current licence.
- Traceability of horses – Please ensure the appropriate forms are completed when horses are sold, die or are retired from racing
- Late Declaration of riders – Advise RIU if haven't declared by the set time and the reasons for this. This is in addition to advising the Bureau.

Message for South Island Trainers from Waikouaiti Racing Club

As you are all aware The Waikouaiti Racing Club New Years Day 2018 meeting was abandoned after the first race. While we still believe extenuating circumstances contributed to the outcome, we have taken on board the advice of NZTR and would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress we have made with our track.

We have had extensive discussions with the NZTR, the IRU and Turftech and as a result the following action has been taken to prepare for our next meeting.

- *NZTR used the Verti Drain Machine in September*
- *The ground breaker was used in October and will be again prior to our meeting if recommended.*
- *A soil test has been done with very good results. High PH and Phosphate but low sulphur so NZTR have recommended 150kg of Ammonia Sulphate which be applied in the very near future.*
- *Irrigation will be used as and when is required.*

We are consulting with NZTR with every step in the preparation.

With two other recent abandonments around the country, it highlights the challenges involved around track preparation. With this in mind we would like to assure you we are absolutely committed to providing you with the best possible surface for racing on.

On behalf of our committee and members, I would like to wish you all good luck for the rest of the season and look forward to seeing you at Waikouaiti on New Years Day 2019.

Kind Regards

*Andy Denham
President
Waikouaiti Racing Club*