

DUNSTAN TRAINER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to the incredible training partnership of Murray Baker and Andrew Forsman who won 146 races during the season, were unanimous winners of the Trainer of the Year award, sponsored by DUNSTAN.

The partnership set new benchmarks for New Zealand trainers, with a record number of domestic wins and record stake earnings. Their 142 wins in New Zealand eclipsed their own record of 114 wins and their team earned more than \$4.7 million in stakes in New Zealand. It was first time any stable had topped \$4 million in a season.

The Baker-Forsman partnership, which produced five individual Group I winners and won 24 black type races in total, also earned A\$1,688m in stakes in Australia, bringing the total stake earnings for the season to more than \$6 million.

Not only is this their second consecutive year winning the title, it is also the second consecutive year their horse Bonneval won the Horse of the Year title.

NATIONAL AGM

The National AGM was held at Riccarton on Friday 10th August 2018. All members of the National Executive were in attendance, as well as some Canterbury based trainers. CEO of NZTR, Bernard Saundry also attended and was able to fully understand the views of shared by the trainers.

It was very pleasing to see the re-election of Tony Pike as National President and Nigel Tiley and Michael Pitman as the two National Vice Presidents. Along with the branch presidents the National Executive are providing a great service for their fellow trainers and their contribution is greatly appreciated.

There were many issues discussed – concerns common to most that the Association is constantly involved with on behalf of trainers. The Association has also improved its financial position which will ensure we can operate more effectively.

Following is a brief rundown of the report given by National President, Tony Pike:

ANNUAL REPORT OF NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Tony Pike reported that there had been outstanding results achieved by NZ trainers, despite it having been a trying year. The extreme wet weather as well as abandonments had a negative effect on racing, particularly 3 year olds. The change of government with Winston Peters as Minister for Racing, had resulted in the John Messara report being commissioned. There were rumours circulating that the recommendations may not be going ahead. These rumours have not been substantiated and Tony was having a meeting with Clayton Mitchell and Winston Peters in Tauranga on 29/8/18. The report should be out by then and it is hoped it gives a clear and concise pathway forward. It will be up to the trainers and the industry to support these recommendations and promote it to the rest of the industry. There may be a need to be vocal about this as we need government support. We will

need to get our ducks in a row to advance and prosper. Tony closed by wishing trainers all the best for the new season.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

At the AGM it was a unanimous decision to bestow life membership to the following trainers who have contributed so much to racing and representing the training fraternity over the years. Congratulations and an appreciation from your fellow trainers to:

- Grant Searle
- Sylvia Kay
- Eddie Carson

UPDATE ON THE MESSARA REPORT

This was released on 30th August in Hamilton with a presentation by the Right Honourable Winston Peters. The full report is located by clicking on the following link: [Review of the New Zealand racing industry](#). The Executive of the Trainers' Association will meet to discuss the report and recommendations made. If you have any feedback, please forward directly to Executive Officer, Wendy Cooper, nztrainersassn@gmail.com Trainers will be kept posted on the Trainers' Association website: www.nztrainers.co.nz

WINNER DUNSTAN TRAINERS' MAIDEN NZ AWARD FOR AUGUST

The meeting selected for August was held on the 19th at the Wanganui Jockey Club meeting. The Santo Stables Maiden 1200 was won by Mr Axle, trained locally by Wayne Marshment. As Wayne is a member of the Trainers' Association he will receive a bag of the new Dunstan Speedfeed and a bag of Equifibre Lucerne-Pro.

MICHAEL PITMAN

Michael has recently been in the news in regards the cancer diagnosis and treatment he has been going through. It has obviously been a difficult time, but he has had an extraordinary resilience to the treatment and has continued as National Vice President for the NZTA as well as training winners throughout. Here is a link to his story – many thanks for allowing us to share it here Michael:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yVeMtsnPxl&feature=youtu.be>

A-Z DIRECTORY/DIARY

Sad to say this hasn't been produced this season so unfortunately you have to buy a diary. I found a July 2018 through to end June 2019 diary for \$4 in Whitcoulls which does the trick. Obviously it doesn't have the racedays in, but the calender section of

the NZTR website is probably the easiest and most accurate way to check on dates – it also includes the trial dates: <http://loveracing.nz/RaceInfo.aspx#bm-meeting-calendar>

ASSISTANCE WITH SLOW PAYERS

Unfortunately many trainers are experiencing problems with slow or no payment from clients. The Trainers' Association can write a letter to the client on your behalf and this has proved to be reasonably successful in securing payment. Another suggestion is to offer payment by credit card – the card fees can be added onto the amount owing. Might be worth looking into if this is becoming a regular issue for you.

GETTING NEW PEOPLE INVOLVED IN RACING

Trainers seem to have a constant battle finding suitable staff and the Trainers' Association makes every effort to fly the flag for the industry. With immigration tightening up so much, it is becoming increasingly difficult to bring riders in from India and Mauritius. We need to make the racing industry a viable career option for New Zealanders.

Recently a Careers Expo was held in Cambridge where the racing industry had a stand and there was quite a bit of interest. Thanks to NZTR, NZ Thoroughbred Breeders and to Anna Jones who demonstrated riding on the mechanical horse.

The Ride-to-time program and the recent pony races held are another way to promote our industry to the young people. Congratulations to Caitlin Rennie (daughter of Kim Clapperton) for winning on Tarzino Trophy Day. Here is a link to her after winning her heat at <https://loveracing.nz/News/25391/Caitlin-Rennie%2c-1st-qualifier-for-the-Sheikh-Mansoor-International-Racing-Festival.aspx>