

# Weekend @ Waikato

16 June 2017



## EXCITING NEW SIRE TIVACI -AS SEEN EARLIER THIS WEEK-

### IN THIS WEEK'S W@W...

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

- Black-Type Runners
- Horses of Interest
- Stallion Awards

#### PEOPLE SPOTLIGHT

- Jeremy Rogers

#### PLUS REGULAR COLUMNS BY

- Garry Chittick
- Gareth Downey
- Mark Chittick



## SATURDAY

**KAISER FRANZ** 10g  
Savabeel – Call Me Lily  
L. Ipswich Cup (2150m)  
Ipswich 5:17pm (NZT)



## SUNDAY

**PREDITOR** 12g  
Savabeel – Bird  
Sgp-1. Patron's Bowl (1600m)  
Singapore 9:00pm (NZT)



## PREDITOR

Waikato Stud's stakes winning Danasinga mare Bird has already produced the impressive stakes performer Flamingo this season and on Sunday, she looks to add to this with her Savabeel son Preditor in the Sgp-1 Patron's Bowl.

Prior to being sent to Shane Baertshiger's Singapore yard where he has already registered the two wins, Preditor had been trained in New Zealand by Trent Busuttin and Natalie Young.

All told, the 4yo gelding has won 4 starts from 13 outings.



**PREDITOR's** 2016 half-sister  
by Ocean Park

# JEREMY SHINES AT GODOLPHIN AWARDS



The admirable qualities that are all part of the Jeremy Rogers make-up came together in stunning fashion last weekend at the Godolphin Stud and Stable Staff Awards.

Rogers, well known on this side of the Tasman from his decade at Waikato Stud and now racing manager for the record-breaking Darren Weir stable, was the star act at the Brisbane awards function honouring the workforce behind the Australian thoroughbred industry. After winning the award for Dedication to Racing, he took away the supreme Thoroughbred Excellence Award.

"I flew up to Brisbane thinking I had done pretty well to get an all-expenses paid weekend off thanks to Godolphin," Rogers told *The Informant*. "Out of 380 nominees I never expected to win the award I was a finalist for, and definitely not the big one."

"The other finalist for the Dedication to Racing award was one of my workmates, Angela Taylor-Moy, and when they announced my name I was conscious of how disappointed she would be, so I held back a bit in my speech.

"Then I really couldn't believe it when it came to the big one. I was pretty stunned up there on the stage, I suppose I just winged it. "As I said to my girlfriend later, this is the highest accolade anyone working as a staff member in the Australian racing industry could expect to win, so it's pretty humbling when you look at it like that."

Rogers has been Weir's racing manager for the past seven years, having identified the former farrier as someone he would like to work alongside when he was scanning job prospects following his decision to move back to Australia.

As the son of a racing journalist, growing up in Adelaide he had soon cottoned on to his father Graham's passion for racing and became his regular raceday companion.

"I used to tag along with my father to the races and on the way home I'd be pumping him with questions about everything that had happened," he recalls. "He'd end up saying 'no more questions, I've had it for the day!' Thinking back, I must have just about driven him crazy."

From childhood Rogers had his own set of challenges, the result of having been born with cerebral palsy that affected the whole right side of his body. But with an attitude that has been a mainstay in his approach to life, he refused to allow his condition to impede him.

"I was always treated like a normal kid; I played footy, cricket, squash, basketball, all those sports my mates played. Even though I wasn't much good, I never tried to use my hand or anything like that as an excuse, I never tried to play on it, just got on with life." Keen to pursue his interests in racing, Rogers won a scholarship to Victoria's renowned Marcus Oldham agricultural college and ended 1998 as dux of the equine course. He then travelled to Europe and worked at Sheikh Hamdan Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's Nunnery Stud in Newmarket before returning Down Under to a job in the dry mare wing of Waikato Stud.

"After a while with the mares I was offered the chance to work in the administrative side of things, mainly dealing with clients keeping them up with the play. I realised that was what I really enjoyed, I never had a job title or anything but it didn't matter, it was me." Ten years at the Chittick family operation went by quickly un-

til, while attending the 2011 Sydney Sales, Rogers decided it was time to move back home. What to he didn't exactly know, save for a hankering to move away from breeding towards the racing side of the industry.

"My time at Waikato taught me a lot and I'll always appreciate what Mark and Garry did for me, that was the turning point in my life," he reflects.

"I had been watching the results from Australia keeping an eye on which trainers were doing the business and there was one who I kept coming back to. I had a mate in Sydney, Merrick Staunton, and I said to him this trainer down in Victoria, Darren Weir, was going to be the next Peter Moody.

"As it turned out Merrick knew him, so he told him about me and Darren said I sounded like the sort of bloke he needed to look after his owner communications and things. It took a while to get the nod but after an interview with Darren he seemed to like what I had to offer and in the end I started work at Ballarat in August 2010."

Rogers remembers those beginnings well compared to the position the Weir operation now holds as the new benchmark on the Australian racing landscape. "That first weekend at Weiry's we had nine runners – two at Caulfield and nine at Colac. Now it's the other way round and a lot more, most of our runners in town, others interstate and a handful in the country.

"It's a busy life keeping on top of everything, between the two stables at Ballarat and Warrnambool we'd have 200 in work, and when one walks out another one walks in.

Weir, who ended up with three staff members amongst the finalists for the Godolphin Awards, credits Rogers with much of his success over the past few years.

"Jeremy is the backbone of our racing operation," he says. "His role is high pressure with the number of runners we have but he does it extremely well and has had a huge impact on my business.

"He was exactly what I needed to help my business grow. His goal for me when he started was to help me win the Victorian trainers' premiership and we did that within three years.

"He's a superstar at his job and despite the hard work and long hours Jeremy puts in, he has earned the reputation and respect for being one of racing's nice guys."

That final comment goes some way to explain why Rogers has been inundated with well-wishers in the days since his dual awards. With a staff of around 100 encompassing the Weir Racing operation, he'll also find the cash bonus attached to the A\$15,000 that went with his two awards very handy in enjoying his good fortune with his workmates.

"There's an extra \$5,000 to be shared with the staff, so that should be a bit of fun," Rogers says in that familiar deep chuckle. "Maybe it won't match the party after Prince of Penzance won the Melbourne Cup, but we might still give it a nudge."

STORY KINDLY WRITTEN & SUPPLIED BY THE INFORMANT'S EDITOR, DENNIS RYAN

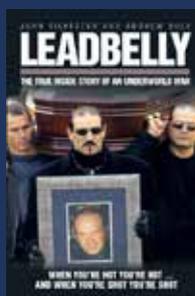
# SIXTY SECONDS



## with Darren Weir's Racing Manager, JEREMY ROGERS



<b>OCCUPATION TITLE:</b>	Racing Manager for Darren Weir
<b>BEST HORSES INVOLVED WITH?</b>	Probably 2015 Melbourne Cup winner Prince Of Penzance but still believe Signoff was the better horse
<b>GREATEST THRILLS IN RACING?</b>	I have a few, obviously being associated with the Melbourne Cup. In 2016 when we took our first two horses to the Magic Millions on the Gold Coast and both won. Also when Akzar won the 2014 Warrnambool Cup and Darren finally won the car.
<b>HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN RACING?</b>	My father was a Racing Journalist for the Adelaide Advertiser and I use to tag along to the races with him every Saturday.
<b>WHAT WOULD YOU DO, IF YOU WEREN'T DOING WHAT YOU DO NOW?</b>	Something that would earn me enough money to own racehorses.
<b>WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT?</b>	The Australian cricket team and the AFL, in particular the Geelong Cats
<b>WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR GREATEST PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS?</b>	Winning Dux at Marcus Oldham and winning the recent Godolphin Australian Thoroughbred Excellence Award
<b>WHAT IS ONE THING YOU CAN'T RESIST?</b>	Tim Tams
<b>WHAT IS ONE OF YOUR PERSONAL LIFE PHILOSOPHIES?</b>	Treat people with respect - people you stand on to get to the top will pass you when you fall.
<b>WHO WERE YOUR CHILDHOOD HEROES?</b>	Malcolm Blight - a South Australian footballer who won both the Magarey Medal and Brownlow Medal before going on to coach Geelong to three Grand Finals.
<b>NAME THREE PEOPLE YOU WOULD ENJOY HAVING DINNER WITH?</b>	Although a fictional character, Hank Moody, a mate from Sydney Merrick Staunton and Mark Baker from Hallmark Stud
<b>WHAT DO YOU DO TO RELAX?</b>	What is that?? In my spare time I generally spend with my four-year-old son Olly.
<b>WHAT IS THE BEST BOOK YOU HAVE READ?</b>	Leadbelly - a book about the Gangland murders in Melbourne
<b>WHERE IS THE BEST PLACE YOU HAVE LIVED/TRAVELLED TO?</b>	Best holiday was ten days in Hong Kong. I am heading to Cambodia at the end of the year for a couple of weeks, looking forward to that.
<b>FAVOURITE THING ABOUT WAIKATO STUD?</b>	Having worked there for ten years, have to say the people - like an extended family. Apart from that O'Reilly - an absolute star!!
<b>WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MOVIE?</b>	8 Seconds - about bullrider Lane Frost
<b>WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A MOVIE</b>	Some B grade actor who supplements their income working at McDonalds
<b>WHAT WOULD PEOPLE BE SURPRISED TO KNOW ABOUT YOU?</b>	I rode in a picnic race in Adelaide one day. The running rail were small scrubs every 100m and I ran inside them and was disqualified - was bolting at the time!!



# NZ STALLION AWARDS

## THE CENTAINE AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$10,736,636
DARCI BRAHMA	\$7,273,925
TAVISTOCK	\$6,999,521
PINS	\$6,848,745
IFFRAAJ	\$6,538,082
O'REILLY	\$5,861,484
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$5,206,962
THORN PARK	\$5,132,091
PENTIRE	\$3,579,751
KEEPER	\$3,562,866

Criteria: Sire whose NZ-conceived progeny have accumulated the highest stakes earnings worldwide

## THE DEWAR STALLION TROPHY

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$7,080,262
IFFRAAJ	\$4,236,120
PINS	\$3,324,152
TAVISTOCK	\$3,100,254
DARCI BRAHMA	\$2,743,112
O'REILLY	\$2,697,181
PENTIRE	\$2,621,437
MAKFI	\$2,572,741
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$2,226,487
ZABEEL	\$2,056,048

Criteria: Sire whose progeny have accumulated the highest combined stakes earnings in Australia & New Zealand

## THE GROSVENOR AWARD

STALLIONS	EARNINGS
SAVABEEL	\$3,003,645
IFFRAAJ	\$1,888,523
TAVISTOCK	\$1,584,327
DARCI BRAHMA	\$1,496,870
PINS	\$1,264,049
MASTERCRAFTSMAN	\$1,097,265
ALAMOSA	\$974,975
PER INCANTO	\$972,305
MAKFI	\$933,160
GALLANT GURU	\$891,408

BEST PERFORMERS	EARNINGS
KAWI	\$378,750
GINGERNUTS	\$665,450
VOLKSTOK'N'BARRELL	\$288,000
DEVISE	\$114,625
REILLY LINCOLN	\$119,062
THEE AULD FLOOZIE	\$305,375
BEEFEATER	\$61,350
SARACINO	\$144,375
BONNEVAL	\$289,000
TOMMY TUCKER	\$155,925

Criteria: Leading Sires by Earnings in New Zealand

HORSES OF INTEREST



SAVABEEL

### SACRED GURU

3YO gelding put a win on the board at start two for Tony Pike and Raffles Racing at Avondale.



O'REILLY

### RAINBOW SONG

Aerovelocity's owner Daniel Yeung struck with this 3YO gelding won for Wexford at Avondale last Friday.



PINS

### LAKE COMO

Registered fourth win for the season at Flemington for Pat Hyland.



# CORNER

What a relief, Ange is going on holiday, which means no Weekend @ Waikato until her return. This means there is nowhere to publish my corner, so this is my last for however long it takes Ange to return.

It is the start of winter, also the sales companies seeking entries. We have spent time going through the weanlings and I can tell you it is a daunting task trying to judge where they are best suited.

We have 130. Clearly there are some that will require different opportunities. It is frustrating to be told by those that don't spend the time we do with them, as to how we should place them. Clearly our only concern is to give them the exposure to maximise our return, which in turn maximises any sales companies result.

Inspections amuse me. I really think sales companies forget we have spent two years from conception to sale for our two minutes in the ring. Argentina has on farm sales over a week, just think the logistics. Waikato's costs are eye-watering.

Enough, we are lucky to have the horses we have and will as always present them with pride, just as well we have one of the world's great racing nations on our doorstep.

The end of year is the time we spend assessing the many divisions to see what can be bettered. There is 1700 acres to be maintained, 2000 cattle will have been purchased and finished, there are nearly 600 horses to winter, stallions to market, and the racing team to get to their various trainers.

It hasn't been our best racing year, but we have bred our customary dozen stakes winners. We will be foaling in seven weeks. Any one that thinks it's a walk in the park, it ain't, but we wouldn't want to swap, imagine the mess 2500 cows would make!

If Ange returns we might find a reason to come out of the corner.

GARRY'S

## PEDIGREE POINTERS WITH GARETH DOWNEY

### Just Three Requests

As our weekly newsletter goes into a winter hiatus, I have just three requests for breeders as you all work on the critical process of planning matings for your mares for the upcoming season:

1. Please do feel welcome to use the TrueNicks and Goldmine pedigree analysis tools made available by the links in this newsletter, as you search for opportunities to find proven genetic synergies for your mares
2. Please do get in touch via either [gareth@waikatostud.co.nz](mailto:gareth@waikatostud.co.nz) or 021 433 073 if you would like to discuss your search for the right stallion choice for your mares
3. Most importantly, please do feel very welcome to contact us if you would like to come to the Stud and inspect any of the stallions we have available on our roster for the 2017 breeding season

We look forward to hearing from you and welcoming you to the Stud



## FREE MATING ANALYSIS TOOLS

CLICK ON THE ICON BUTTONS TO THE RIGHT TO EXPLORE HOW WELL YOUR MARE MIGHT SUIT ONE OF WAIKATO STUD'S RESIDENT STALLIONS...





We had a great time with some of the Tivaci team coming to the farm on Wednesday.

As you can see from the pics, you just can't help but be impressed by what a great physical specimen Tivaci is...



As mentioned earlier, the Weekend @ Waikato is going out for a month spell. During this time we will be focussing on getting our 2017 -18 brochure out and about, so if we don't have your current address in our system, please do just let us know.

Mark.

MARK'S MAIL