

Haunui Farm Update

December 2009

10 Winners, 9 Days, 4 Countries!

In the space of nine days, **Elusive City (USA)** (Elusive Quality) has had ten winners in four countries and is starting to build some solid momentum leading into summer racing and yearling sales.

The roll started at the end of November when promising four-year-old mare **Dasoudi (NZ)** (Elusive City) lined up over 1400m at Ellerslie. A winner on debut and placed at her second start, Dasoudi saluted the judge for the second time when winning impressively by two-and-a-half lengths in a slick 1.22.

After a flying start in Hong Kong with two winners from three starters, Elusive City has continued to make an impact in what is a very lucrative export market. Four-year-old gelding **Brave Kid (NZ)** (Elusive City) continued the run of success experienced by his sire in Hong Kong with an impressive win on debut for the stable of John Size finding the line comfortably in a Class 4 event over 1000m.

The Graham Richardson-trained **Marzia (NZ)** (Elusive City) fulfilled her promise with a hard fought victory over 1200m at Avondale on Avondale Cup day. Settling mid-field with plenty of racing room, Marzia was taken wide on the turn by jockey Michael Coleman and knuckled down to a tussle with race favourite **Khemosabi (Aus)** (Commands). Marzia won the battle down the straight hitting the line just a head in front with a further three-and-a-half lengths back to third taking her race record to two wins, two seconds and two thirds from just ten starts.

The following day saw an Elusive City double at Matamata with **Sister City (NZ)** (Elusive City) and **Elusive Chik (NZ)** (Elusive City) saluting the judge one after the other. Bred by Trelawney Stud and raced by Brent and Cherry Taylor in partnership with Debora Ho, Sister City broke her maiden status when winning over 1200m. Jumping from the inside barrier she was settled just behind the leaders by jockey Mark du Plessis and finished off her race in smart fashion crossing the line three-quarters of a length clear. By all accounts there is plenty of improvement in this filly.

Elusive Chik followed suit one race later with an impressive two-and-a-half length victory over 1400m. Upon settling from the start, Elusive Chik was three back on the rails giv-

ing runaway leader **Papas Revolution (NZ)** (Istidaad) a good six length break into the straight. Once balanced up, Elusive Chik finished off her race strongly easily reeling in the leader and was eased down to cross the line for her second race win from ten starts.

In Australia, **Sandusky City (NZ)** (Elusive City) recorded his second win over 1200m at Kyneton after finishing third at Geelong in his last start whilst **Flinders City (NZ)** (Elusive City) kept the ball rolling with a win at Ipswich a few days later.

Singapore racing last Friday saw **Williams (NZ)** (Elusive City) break through for an impressive maiden victory at his third start. A promising sprinter from the Laurie Laxon stable, he is a graduate of Haunui's 2009 Ready-to-Run Draft, and is the fourth winner from that draft to date. Elusive City nearly had a double on the same card when last start winner **All Elusive (NZ)** (Elusive City) was unlucky not to add his name to the winners list going down by just a nose over a mile.

Rounding out the list of winners for Elusive City in the last nine days was four-year-old mare **Subashi (NZ)** who recorded her second win and, first start winner **Elusive Magic (NZ)**.

Not to be outdone, multiple stakes performer **Ahdashim (NZ)** (Elusive City) added to his stakes placed tally finishing third in the Listed STC

Festival Stakes over the 1500m trip. A winner on Melbourne Cup day over the Flemington straight six, Ahdashim has been stakes placed on four occasions with a stakes win imminent.

"It has certainly been a very good week for Elusive City," said Mark Chitty, General Manager of Haunui Farm. "Summer racing is just around the corner so it is nice to see Elusive City building some momentum with a number of promising types heading for the Ellerslie and Trentham carnivals coming up and I'm sure the winners will keep coming," he said.



RTR Sale Success

The Ready-to-Run Sale came and went in November with some solid results for the Haunui draft once again.

Offering 11 lots on sale day, eight were sold by sale's end with a top price of \$100,000 paid by Gary Mudgway for Lot 265, a **Don Eduardo** half brother to Group One New Zealand Oaks-winner **Jungle Rocket (NZ)** (Jungle Pocket).

Born and raised at Haunui, this colt was prepared for the sale by Jeff McVean and breezed in a time of 11.73.

"I bought the colt for an Australian client and he will more than likely go to a trainer like Peter Moody," said purchaser Gary Mudgway. "He will definitely get every opportunity," he said.

Lot 88 was another popular lot in the Haunui draft as the winner of a trial leading into the sale. By **Zenno Rob Roy (Jpn)** (Sunday Silence), the colt was out of the stakes winning mare **Sheka (NZ)** (Sandtrap) and fetched \$95,000. He was purchased by bloodstock agent Phil Cataldo for Hong Kong clients.

"In general I feel that the sale was quite solid and as always, there was good money about for nice horses," said Mark Chitty, General Manager of Haunui Farm. "Once again we found that there is every reason to target the right type of horse specifically for this sale as with the Don Eduardo and Zenno Rob Roy colts," he said.

"NZB did a great job in getting a solid buying bench with a strong Asian presence," said Mark. "It was nice to see some of the pin-hookers getting some solid returns so hopefully we will see these people re-investing come yearling sale time," he said.

"Our 2009 draft has already produced four winners and we will once again target this sale with some nice horses in 2010," said Mark. "I would like to think the sale will continue to grow and will be seen as a viable selling option in the future," he said.

Graduate Success

Haunui Farm graduates have enjoyed a run of black type success in December with **Goldschatz (NZ)** (Pins), **Beautiful Girl (NZ)** (Black Minnaloushe) and **Celtic Fantasy (Aus)** (Giant's Causeway) adding their names to the Haunui Honors Board.

After winning over a mile at his last start, Goldschatz lined up an outside chance in the SIN-G3 Pronin Construct Stakes (1700m) for the stable of ex-pat Kiwi Stephen Gray.

Settling just in behind the lead, it looked like Goldschatz was going to be denied a run in the final stages of the race but after finally getting off the heels of the front runners, found the line impressively to win by a good half length. Bred by Marie Leicester, Goldschatz was sold from Haunui's 2004 Weanling draft for \$7,000.

Beautiful Girl has been a consistent performer all season with three wins in-a-row leading into the Concorde Handicap (1200m) on Avondale Cup Day. Once again she didn't disappoint finishing third in the Group Two event.

A graduate of Haunui's 2005 Select Sale draft, Beautiful Girl was purchased by Leeanne Franklin for \$13,000.

Three-year-old gelding Celtic Fantasy got his career off to a promising start in late October with a win on debut at Ellerslie. Tagged by trainer and part-owner Craig Ritchie as a possible Derby contender, Celtic Fantasy subsequently obliged again at his next start at Tau-ranga before his first tilt at black type in the Group Two Avondale Guineas (1600m).

Finishing third, less than a length from the winner **Joey Massino (NZ)** (O'Reilly), Celtic Fantasy is the first black type performer from Haunui's 2009 Ready-to-Run draft and is one of four winners from that draft to date.

With plenty of blacktype on offer throughout summer racing, we look forward to further stakes success from our Haunui graduates.

Yearlings In Full Swing

Preparation of Haunui's 2010 yearling draft is in full swing with all yearlings now in full preparation for the February sales series.

As always, Haunui's yearling draft will feature a number of yearlings by a variety of stallions and the 2010 selection will not disappoint with yearlings by Don Eduardo, Elusive City, Elusive Quality, Encosta de Lago, Falkirk, Fast n Famous, Flying Spur, Hussonet, Keeper, Nadeem, One Cool Cat, O'Reilly, Perfectly Ready, Postponed, Pins, Savabeel, Show A Heart, Starcraft, Thorn Park, Volksraad and Zabeel.

We have already had two yearling parades, the first being the Australian Trainers Tour organised by New Zealand Thoroughbred Marketing at the end of November. The second parade was held in early December for leading trainers Danny O'Brien and John O'Shea who, for the last three years have come to New Zealand on a private tour with a selection of their clients.

"With the breeding season all but complete the pressure now comes on to the yearling staff," said Mark Chitty. "We do a lot of preparatory work with the yearlings from weaning and it always places us in good stead particularly for these earlier yearling parades," says Mark.

2010 will see Haunui offer our largest consignment of yearlings for some time. "We have three quite special colts to offer in the Premier Sale which is quite exciting," said Mark. "It has been quite some time since we have had a colt of their quality so to have three in the draft is quite exciting," said Mark referring to two Zabeel's and Encosta de Lago colt. "Our Premier fillies all have some nice residual value as you would expect from that catalogue and we have our strongest draft of Select colts, on type, that we have ever presented," he said. "The yearling sales will be here before we know it and there is a lot to be done between now and then," he said.

Stallions Winding Down

With the breeding season all but complete the Haunui Stallions have enjoyed another busy season in the breeding barn.

Don Eduardo will complete the season with over 100 mares in foal, which we are delighted with. The early season success in Australia of **Swift Alliance (Aus)** (Don Eduardo) and **Moti (NZ)** (Don Eduardo) undoubtedly gave him a great kick-start to the season.

With some very promising three-year-olds such as last start winners **Elaparado (NZ)** (Don Eduardo) and **Miss Bindi (NZ)** (Don Eduardo) - both possible Classic contenders - as well as the emergence of some of his proven performers, the prospect of further black type success in the near future is very real.

Barn mate **Elusive City** will cover a book in excess of 85 mares for the third consecutive season at Haunui Farm and with his results on the tracks of Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and New Zealand in recent times, there is a lot of confidence going into summer racing.

Like Don Eduardo, Elusive City's results in the sale ring have yielded some sound returns for breeders and as two stallions standing for under \$10,000, their value has not been missed by many.

2009 saw the arrival of the first foals of three-time Group Two winner and Group One performer **Iffraaj (GB)** (Zafonic) and they certainly haven't disappointed. "He has some outstanding types who will make their presence felt come Karaka 2011," says Mark Chitty.

Covering a book of 80 mares in 2009 we now look forward to the success of his first Northern Hemisphere foal crop who will be two-year-olds come the first of January 2010.

"Once again we have had a very successful season in the breeding shed," said Mark. "Coming into the 2009 season we, like most studs I'm sure, were a little uncertain of how the downturn in the economy would impact our numbers however we have been delighted with the support our stallions have received," he said. "Don Eduardo and Elusive City have been well supported as two young stallions who are really starting to get some points on the board whilst Iffraaj was once again well supported by our partners as well as breeder's who utilised him last season," said Mark. "When you take repeat bookings to a stallion on the back of his first crop foals you can be sure that there is plenty of quality about them," he said.

Foaling Completed

With our first foal for the 2009 breeding season arriving on the 1st of August, it seems fitting that the last foal born for the season should arrive on the 1st of December - much to the delight of the breeding team!

August to December has seen 149 foalings here at Haunui with over 95% of foalings going relatively according to plan. "It is the nature of the industry that we are in that there will be complications and inevitably you can lose mares and foals," said Mark Chitty. "All you can do is make sure that all the systems and procedures are in place so that if there is a problem, everyone knows exactly what procedure to follow," he said. "It's very satisfying to get to the end of the foaling season this year with the results we have had and it is testament to our foaling team," said Mark. "There is no doubt that things haven't been easy and I would really like to give special mention to Keith Konn, our Broodmare Manager, and his team for the effort they have put in this season under what has been very trying circumstances at times," he said.

Of note, at season's end there is an 80-69 split between the fillies and colts born on Haunui in 2009.



The last foal born for the 2009 season, a Sunray filly out of Tanzer bred by Paul Cunneen of Ashburton. Tanzer will be covered by Don Eduardo.

A Taste of What's to Come ...



Lot 447 b c Zabeel - Honor Lap



Lot 371 b c Zabeel - Destined



Lot 845 br c Don Eduardo - Applause



Lot 947 b c Elusive City - Della Mimosa