

HAUNUI FARM UPDATE

YOUR BEST MATCH FOR SUCCESS



October 2008

Another and another and another

Elusive City (USA) (Elusive Quality) must really like being front page news as he's featured on the front page of our last four editions. However, if he keeps getting the results he is, he's sure to be making the front page for a few more issues yet!

Metropolitan (NZ) (Elusive City) became her sire's first stakes winner in the Southern Hemisphere in mid-September when she took out the Listed Canterbury Belle Stakes (1200m), the first leg of the New Zealand Bloodstock Filly of the Year Series. Given that she was her sire's first stakes performer, it seems fitting she become his first stakes winner in this neck of the woods.

Bred by Fairdale Stud and Jim Otway, Metropolitan was transferred to the stable of John and Karen Parsons. "We really think a lot of Metropolitan and she has a lot of improvement in her yet," said Karen Parsons. "She isn't nominated for the 1000 Guineas but if she races like we think she will in her next couple of starts, we will be trying to convince her owner to pay the late nomination," she said, Metropolitan's owner being Phil Bayly.

The news got even better for Elusive City supporters in the last weekend of September with his two-year-old colt Soul City (Ire) (Elusive City) scoring impressively in the Goffs Million.

Already the winner of the Group Three Prix La Rochette in France after running fourth in the Group Two Vintage Stakes at Goodwood, Soul

City now looks a very likely candidate for the Group One Dewhurst Stakes.

Soul City's victory pushed Elusive City to the top of the European First Season Sire's Table on earnings, ahead of Kheylef, Exceed And Excel, One Cool Cat and Bachelor Duke.

The beginning of October brought about another new stakes performer for Elusive City with two-year-old filly Nashmiah (Ire) (Elusive City) placing third in the Group Three Oh So Sharp Stakes (1400m) at Newmarket.

Group Three-winner Elusive Wave (Ire) (Elusive City) cemented her class with a second in the Group One Prix Marcel Boussac Criterium Des Pouliches (1600m) at Longchamp on Sunday 5th October after selling for €660,000 in the Arqana Arc Sale the previous day.

Elusive City's Southern Hemisphere crop are starting to make their mark with six individual winners this season to date—three in New Zealand and three in Australia.

Stakes winner Metropolitan heads the list along with the unbeaten Marne (NZ) (Elusive City) in Australia who has made it two from two for the Lloyd Williams team to date.

Ahdashim (NZ) (Elusive City) and Timecall (NZ) (Elusive City) have also notched up wins in Australia whilst in New Zealand, City Newton (NZ) (Elusive City) was impressive on debut at Taranaki and, Elusive Order (NZ) (Elusive City) added to

her sire's tally with a hard fought victory over 1400m at Te Rapa in only her second start early this month, finishing ahead of a number of fancied Derby contenders.

"Elusive City is certainly making his presence felt among the Northern Hemisphere's first season sire ranks," said Haunui Farm's Mark Chitty, "and he is beginning to build some momentum with his three-year-olds in the Southern Hemisphere," he said.

"We are seeing a new winner almost every week and what is pleasing, is that they aren't taking, three, four or five starts to win, in general, they are running outstanding races in their first handful of starts," said Mark.

Elusive City covered 90 mares at Haunui Farm last season and is already on track to cover over 90 mares this season.

"It would be great if he can cover around 100 mares in his fifth season at stud," said Mark. "It's important for stallions to have the numbers coming through so that breeders can have confidence that the results will keep coming so to serve 90–100 mares would be a great result," he said.

Elusive City stands at Haunui in 2008 for a fee of \$8,000 + GST.

Below: Stakes winning filly Metropolitan in full flight.



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Breeding Shed in Full Swing

The beginning of September signals the start of Spring and with it comes the start of the breeding season with stallions allowed to begin serving from September 1st.

The arrival of Iffraaj (GB) (Zafonic) at Haunui in 2008 has meant a very busy start to the season. Set to cover a full book of 120 mares, he covered almost 50 in September and his fertility has been second to none.

"He has been fantastic from day one," said Mark Chitty. "He is in and out of the breeding shed very quickly but he certainly does the job with over 90% of his mares scanning in foal to date," he said.

While Iffraaj is very workmanlike in the breeding shed, all bases are covered with dismount samples taken and viewed before the mare leaves the barn.

"Sometimes horses can trick you so taking service samples is very important but there are no tricks being pulled with this guy," says Mark. "He's an absolute professional as you would expect him to be after covering two books in the Northern Hemisphere," he said.

Not to be outdone, Elusive City (USA) (Elusive Quality) is also covering well with just under thirty mares served in September.

"Elusive City has covered large books in the Northern Hemisphere for the last two seasons and he's also very workmanlike in the breeding shed," said Mark.

With the success Elusive City has been having on the track of late, he is on track to serve 90–100 mares this season.

"We have been taking a number of bookings and fielding a lot of enquiry about Elusive City on the back of the success he has been having on the track," said Mark. "People are really starting to take note and we are in for some exciting times, especially if his Southern Hemisphere horses

follow in the footsteps of their Northern Hemisphere counterparts," he said.

Haunui's resident stallion Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel) is also enjoying the fact that spring is in the air and has covered his fair share of mares in September as well.

"Dane Trompert, our Stallion Manager, does a great job with the stallions and this year we're also lucky to have Willie Brogan who has come to New Zealand with Iffraaj," said Mark. "They are both very good stallion handlers and the horses are nice and relaxed and into the daily serving routine," he said.

Winners for Don Eduardo

The progeny of Don Eduardo (NZ) (Zabeel) have been enjoying some recent success on the track with seven individual winners for the season to date. Like Elusive City, Don Eduardo's success has been on both sides of the Tasman with four winners in Australia and three in New Zealand.

Last month it was great to see stakes placed filly Vিকেzzchardonnay (NZ) (Don Eduardo) return to the winners circle with two-and-a-quarter length victory over 1600m in her first start this preparation.

Talking to co-trainer Bjorn Baker after the race, it seems a tilt at the Group Two New Zealand Cup could well be on the agenda. "She has come back bigger and stronger," said Bjorn Baker. "She's a great mare to train, she just jumps and settles so well so a race like that could be something we look at for her this preparation," he said. "She will need to win a couple of races to

qualify but we are really happy with her and there's no reason why she couldn't qualify," he said.

Vিকেzzchardonnay is not the only one of Don Eduardo's first crop stakes performers to come to the fore in recent weeks. Dashing Donna (NZ) (Don Eduardo) showed that she is again a force to be reckoned with when finishing an eye catching second at Ellerslie on the 27th of September. In the foreign position of sitting toward the rear of the field, she was impressive in the long Ellerslie straight finishing strongly for second.

In Australia, the Mike Moroney-trained Divine Rebel (NZ) (Don Eduardo) showed her class winning her first start by almost four lengths at Warnambool and then followed this up with an outstanding performance at Moonee Valley to make it two from two. The Moroney team now have her set for some of the nice races toward the end of

the Melbourne Spring Carnival. Gooree Park Stud's Don Eduardo's have saluted the judge on a number of occasions already this year with Ditas (NZ) and Falah (NZ) both winning on debut this preparation.

"The winners are starting to tick over and he looks to have a very smart mare in the form of Divine Rebel," said Haunui's Mark Chitty. "In a way, it is a shame that Il Divo was sold to Hong Kong as he would have been a force to be reckoned with this season however, he was sold for huge money and there is definitely a good market in Hong Kong for Don Eduardo's as he already has another very good horse up there in Silver Blaze who won his first start and placed in his other two starts before a spell," he said.

With his oldest crop now four-year-olds, Don Eduardo is entering into a critical time in regard to his stallion career however, with seven winners to his credit

already this season and the fact that his progeny will only get better with age, there is a lot to look forward to this Spring.

"In terms of this breeding season, the Spring is a very important time for Don Eduardo but as always, there is positive feedback about his progeny and he looks to have a smart up and coming three-year-old in Australia with Gai Waterhouse named Swift Alliance," said Mark. "Andrew Baddock of Gooree Park has reported that the colt is as good as any of their three-year-old colts so far this season so it would be nice to think he won't be far off hitting the track," he said.

Don Eduardo stands his sixth season at Haunui Farm in 2008 for a fee of \$10,000 + GST.

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Yearlings Start Preparation

It's scary to think that our yearlings for the 2009 yearling sales are set to enter full preparation over the next three weeks.

Yearling sale acceptances have just been received and with just on forty yearlings to offer at Karaka 2009, the next four months are set to be as busy as ever in the yearling side of our operation.

Our new yearling manager, Fiona Bassett, who joined Haunui last April, and her team have the yearlings spot on to begin their preparation and the continued handling and monitoring that has taken place throughout, shows that the yearlings are well on track.

"Once again we have a nice even draft of yearlings on offer at Karaka in January by a variety of stallions," said Mark Chitty.

Stallions represented in the Haunui draft include Exceed And Excel, Lohnro, Fusaichi Pegasus, Galileo, Commands, Black Minaloushe, Johar, Pentire, Stravinsky, Pins, One Cool Cat, O'Reilly, Hussonet, Encosta De Lago, General Nediym, Tale Of The Cat, Van Nistelrooy, God's Own and Captain Rio as well as exciting young Haunui sires Elusive City and Don Eduardo.

"I think we have yearlings by twenty one different stallions so there is definitely something for everyone," says Mark.

In the early stages of preparation, the Haunui yearlings are just starting to get into their daily routine of coming in and out of the boxes.

"The first month is a lot about developing routine however, our weekly inspections have already

started and come the end of this month the preparation will be well underway," said Mark.



2007 b f Pins—Scarlet Runner—a half sister to multiple stakeswinner Onceuponatime

Racing Team Shapes Up Nicely

Last month Opportunity Knocks (NZ) (Traditionally) carried the Haunui racing colours to victory at his first start this preparation for the Mark Walker stable. With the New Zealand Cup on his agenda, he is a horse to watch over the coming weeks.

This month it was the turn of Muscadine (NZ) (Van Nistelrooy) who won impressively at Taupo on the 8th of October from the stable of Roger James.

Settling toward the rear of the field for jockey Andrew Calder, the filly relaxed beautifully and ran home the widest runner of the field to win comfortably.

"She has really furnished into a nice filly and to win like that first up was very pleasing," said Mark

Chitty. "Andrew Calder reported that she did it easily so we will see where we go from here," he said.

Tempranillo (NZ) (Faltaat) is another of the Haunui racing team to watch at her next start.

Trained by Stephen McKee, the filly ran a very good second at Avondale with the addition of blinkers looking to have done the trick nicely.

It was good to see these two fillies perform so well and it would be nice to think that Opportunity Knocks could line up in the New Zealand Cup next month," said Mark.

Right: Muscadine as a yearling



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Foals, foals, foals ...

With almost 70 foals on the ground at Haunui to date, we are getting closer to the halfway point in terms of numbers left to go. There have been a number of notable arrivals over the last two months, among them a couple of smart Zabeel (NZ) (Sir Tristram) colts, one out of the imported mare Destined (GB) (Danehill), a half sister to European Group-winner Modern Look (GB) (Zamindar) and the other out of Derby and Oaks-winner Honor Lap (NZ) (Honor Grades).

Other notable arrivals include an O'Reilly (NZ) (Last Tycoon) filly out of Group One-performer Octapussy (NZ) (Octagonal) and a One Cool Cat (USA) (Storm Cat) colt out of multiple Group One-winner Fayreform (NZ) (Tights).

Exciting young stallion Elusive City (USA) (Elusive Quality) has a number of cracking foals on the ground at Haunui including a close relation to the Mark Walker-trained Elusive Fortune (NZ) (Elusive City). The colt pictured below is out of a half sister to the dam of Elusive Fortune in Blissful Dawn (NZ) (Groom Dancer).



2008 b c Zabeel—Honor Lap D.O.B 20/08/08



2008 br c One Cool Cat—OFayreform D.O.B 19/08/08



2008 b c Elusive City—Blissful Dawn D.O.B 09/09/08



2008 br f O'Reilly—Octapussy D.O.B 19/09/08