

# HAUNUI FARM UPDATE

YOUR BEST MATCH FOR SUCCESS



September 2008

## Group Three Winners for Elusive City

The results have kept rolling in for Elusive City (USA) (Elusive Quality) over the last month with his unbeaten filly Elusive Wave (Ire) (Elusive City) adding the Group Three Prix Du Calvados (1400m) at Deauville in August to her win in the Listed Prix Roland de Chambure (1400m) at Longchamp in July.

The winner of her first start at Goodwood for trainer Richard Hannon, the filly was subsequently sold to Elusive City shareholder Marc de Chambure, and Maurice Lagasse and her first start in France for the pair resulted in her first stakes success. "She is very racy and possesses a lot of heart," said trainer Jean-Claude Rouget. "She is learning her job well and it now seems an obvious choice to go for the Group One Prix Marcel Boussac at Longchamp," he said. That race will be run on the fifth of October.

Also in France, two-year-old colt Soul City (Ire) (Elusive City) added his name to his sire's list of stakes performers in winning the Listed Prix Francois Boutin (1400m) also at Deauville.

Trained by Richard Hannon, the former trainer of Elusive Wave, Soul City stepped out at Longchamp in his next start, leading from start to finish to claim the Group Three Prix Francois Boutin (1400m) by half a length.

"I thought we were going to get beaten but he kept finding more and is very good in front," said Richard Hannon. "He is probably a Guineas horse after that but he will go

to the Goffs Million at the end of this month next," he said.

Elusive City's Southern Hemisphere progeny have also started to build some momentum with the win of Timecall (NZ) (Elusive City) at the Sunshine Cost. A \$150,000 yearling trained by Brian Guy, Time Call came from last, swooping down the outside to win by three-quarters of a length.

Marne (NZ) (Elusive City), a debutant for the Lloyd Williams stable, made light work of his counterparts at Geelong. Another six figure seller, Marne also settled at the rear of the field and finished strongly down the outside to win by two-and-a-half lengths being eased down by jockey Steven Arnold.

"Elusive City is starting to look like a very serious stallion prospect with his results in the Northern Hemisphere," said Mark Chitty, General Manager of Haunui Farm. "He's now had two winners in Australia so far for the new season and Elusive Fortune, trained by Mark Walker, was very impressive in his first start finishing second over 1200m at Te Rapa," he said. "He also had two trials winners at Otaki in the first week of September, and one in Sydney so, they are starting to appear on the scene and hopefully the results will start coming in the next few weeks," says Mark.

"It's certainly exciting to have a "He has sold six figure year-horse like this in our stallion lings from every crop and if barn and over the next six weeks the results keep coming like we're looking forward to some they are there will be some further results in the Southern Hemisphere," he said. "At an breeders who have sup-\$8,000 service fee, I think Elu-ported the horse over the last sive City represents great few seasons," said value," said Mark. Mark. "Good luck to them!"



Elusive City

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## Foaling Underway

It may have taken a little while for the first foal to arrive at Haunui, they have certainly been coming thick and fast ever since.

"It's always nice to see the first foals on the ground," said Shannon Taylor, Marketing and Operations Manager for Haunui Farm. "Foals are what we are all about really so it is great to see them hitting the ground and it gives that feeling that winter is nearly over and spring is here," she said.

The honour of first foal on the ground at Haunui in 2008 went to a colt by Ishiguru (USA) (Danzig) out of the mare Vaguely Jet (NZ) (Jetball) owned by Queensland-based Billie Morton, the breeder and owner of AJC Derby-winner Nom De Jeu (NZ) (Montjeu). Vaguely Jet is a half sister to Prized Gem (NZ) (Prized), the dam of Nom De Jeu.

He was quickly joined by a One Cool Cat (USA) (Storm Cat) colt out of multiple Group One-winner Fayreform (NZ) (Tights).

Other notable arrivals to date include a Zabeel (NZ) (Sir Tristram) colt out of Honor Lap

(NZ) (Honor Grades) owned by Don Ha. Midnight Babe (NZ) (Kaapstad), produced a bay filly on the 27th of August. By O'Reilly (NZ) (Last Tycoon), the filly is a close relation to dual Group One-winner Perlin (NZ) (Carnegie). Midnight Babe is owned by Bill Hurlstone who also owns her full sister, Midnight Madam (NZ) (Kaapstad), the dam of Perlin. She is due to foal to Pins (Aus) (Snippets) in early October.

Another notable arrival was born on the first official day of Spring, the 1st of September. The colt by Zabeel is out of the imported mare Destined (GB) (Daneshill) whose pedigree has been boosted in recent months through the deeds of dual Group winner Modern Look (GB) (Zamindar). Destined is owned in partnership by Haunui Farm and Cathy Franich.

"Foal watch is obviously a 24 hour-a-day operation and we are lucky to have a great team of staff on during the day," says Shannon. "We are also very lucky to have Sharon Wright who has been our night watch foal person for the past three seasons," she said. "Sharon does a great job and with the support of the experienced staff

that we have on call, things generally run relatively smoothly," said Shannon. "It is also reassuring to have Mark living on the farm as he can be called immediately if there are any complications during the foaling process and I'm sure this is reassuring for clients as well," says Shannon.

This season, the staff at Haunui are on track to foal down around 130 mares. "Our Broodmare Manager Keith Konn, manages the foaling rosters with a short shift of 5pm–8pm," said Shannon.

"Nightwatch starts at 8pm and this person is backed up by someone on call and there is always another person on backup just in case a number of mares are foaling at once or, if there are any complications and further assistance is required," she said.

"More often than not, mother nature takes care of the foaling process but it's that 5% of the time when things can go wrong, that it's so important to have experienced people on hand and, the right systems in place," she said.



Destined and her Zabeel colt

## Opportunity Knocks Starts Season in Style

Opportunity Knocks (NZ) (Traditionally) opened his season in style in the first week of September with an impressive win over 1200m down South.

The big, bold chestnut settled toward the rear of the field and over the 1200m distance, was expected just to have a nice, solid hit-out with future racing in mind. "Homer" as he is known around the stables, had other ideas and steamed home to

win by a comfortable two-and-a-quarter lengths.

"He surprised us all," said Mark Chitty. "It was his first start for the season and being a stayer you would naturally think the 1200m would be too short for him," said Mark. "He paid 25 to one I didn't have a cent on him!"

Homer's win was also a great thrill for our pre-training team of Gavin Pickford and his able

riders Stacey Smyth and Jess Jack.

Opportunity Knocks was bred by Haunui Farm in partnership with Noel Robinson and is raced under the same ownership. Trained by Mark Walker, the five-year-old is hopefully headed toward a start in the Group Two New Zealand Cup (3200m) at Riccarton in November.

"That's his target for the Spring and hopefully he can get there," said Mark. "He'll be a horse to watch over the coming months anyway," he said.

### HAUNUI HORSES TO WATCH

- Elusive Fortune
- Definitive
- Opportunity Knocks

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## Ron Chitty Honoured by Auckland Branch of NZTBA

Haunui Farm's Ron Chitty was honoured by the Auckland Branch of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association at their annual awards dinner held at Ellerslie on Friday the 5th of September.

Ron was awarded the New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Thoroughbred Industry.

*Excerpts from his dissertation:*

The fourth generation of his family to be involved with horses, Ron developed an affinity with animals at a young age with the horse becoming a big part of his life.

Growing up in a rural Waikato township and having two grandfathers that were adept in handling stock whether it be horses or cattle, Ron attended boarding school from the age of seven. Upon completing High School at Kings College, Ron returned to the family farm which at that stage was predominantly a beef and sheep property. He, along with his wife Carolyn then purchased their own property in Pukekawa also running it as a beef and sheep entity.

Shorthorn cattle were a passion of Ron's for many years and he made a number of trips overseas to purchase bulls. His involvement with cattle also led him to becoming one of the youngest cattle judges at the Royal Show.

Polo was another passion for Ron and he played Polo for a number of years, also venturing into breeding Polo ponies putting a Quarter Horse over some thoroughbred cross mares. This was Ron's first foray into breeding horses.

After running the beef and

expand his thoroughbred operation and horses began to find their way to Ron and Carolyn's beef and sheep farm. It wasn't long before paddocks that were once taken up by bull calves started to be taken up by more and more horses. Eventually, a majority of the beef and cattle were sold and the farm became part of an expanding thoroughbred operation.

This continued for a number of years until the sudden death of Ron's father when the sole responsibility of running both farms fell squarely on Ron's shoulders.

Commuting between the two properties became the norm however in 1981, it was decided to sell the property he and Carolyn had developed to move back to the main family farm—Haunui.

Stallions were already a big part of the Haunui operation prior to Ron taking over the running of the farm however, Ron was somewhat of a visionary when it came to stallion syndication bringing together a group of major industry players to import stallions to New Zealand—a number of these studs are still working together on the same basis of this initiative.

Over five decades of heavy involvement in thoroughbreds, Ron has not only bred and sold sale-topping yearlings that have gone on to win Oaks', Derbies and Cups, but he has also owned, part-owned and raced horses that have won Oaks', Derbies and Cups and in many cases has shared the joy and excitement of racing horses with family and friends.

Contribution to the thoroughbred industry is what Ron has been honoured for and whilst not only operating a successful

thoroughbred stud, Ron has served on the Council of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Association. He has also been heavily involved in the Auckland Racing Club firstly as a steward before being voted onto the Committee where he held the position of Chairman of Tracks and Property throughout his tenure. In more recent times his experience has been called upon for the development of the new training facility at Counties.

A great believer in passing on skills and knowledge, Ron is willing to give of his time to pass on words of advice not only in relation to the industry but farming, business and life in general.

"I was greatly surprised to receive this award," said Ron on Friday night. "The industry has been my life and livelihood for many years and I have had a lot of support along the way, especially from my wife Carolyn," he said.

Mark Chitty was delighted that his father had been duly recognised by the Auckland Branch.

"Dad has achieved a lot in his time in the thoroughbred industry and is well and truly respected by his peers," said Mark. "Although we don't always agree, my respect for him is immense and his stockmanship is second-to-none," he said. "He thoroughly deserved the accolades he received at the Awards dinner," said Mark.



Ron Chitty accepting the New Zealand Bloodstock Insurance Contribution to the Industry Award.