

# Haunui Farm Builds a World Class Stud Facility

One of Auckland's oldest thoroughbred farms Haunui Farm is on the move to Karaka.

For over fifty years the Chittys have farmed the Whitford property and with Transpower buying that property for the Whakamaru to Otahuhu pylon project the need arose to relocate Haunui Farm. Fortunately they were able to stay in the South Auckland area by securing 250 acres of prime land on the Karaka peninsula.

The new property encompasses the old Twin Pines property in Kidd Road and the adjoining Stoneybridge stallion property in Linwood Road.

"The Kidd Road property was originally set up as a pre-training establishment that went on to become a stud property so it didn't really have the facilities we needed to move forward," Mark Chitty told the NZTBA Bulletin, "so with a clean slate we decided to commence our building project with Ron (Mark's father) as our Project Manager,"

"He sourced quotes from various barn building contractors and after some pretty thorough research we decided that the NZTBA commercial partners Magnum Industries and Goldpine had all the products we wanted."

In recent years the NZTBA has developed some long term strategic relationships with commercial partners who would complement their members. One of the more recent partnerships is with Magnum Industries and Goldpine, leaders in the construction of quality stables, and they are currently constructing all the new farm buildings at the new Karaka location for Haunui Farm.

Magnum Industries specialise in the manufacture of quality horse walkers, aqua walkers, stables, stable hardware, feed systems and grain crushers and are now the New Zealand agents for horserail, whereas Goldpine is renowned as outdoor timber specialists specialising in poles, posts and kitset sheds.

"Our association with the NZTBA is our way of showing support for the breeders. Without them we don't really have an industry," said Mark Brady of Waikato based Magnum Industries.

"It's a nice fit for both brands, Magnum and Goldpine, and the support we have received from the breeders has been outstanding and we are very grateful."

According to Dave Edgar from Goldpine, it is definitely a worthwhile relationship.

"It puts us in touch with our target market. We have been very happy with the relationship and the feedback we get from the NZTBA is great. Goldpine's association with the NZTBA came about with our partnership with Magnum, we build the buildings and Magnum Industries fit out the interiors, and this seems to be the case at Haunui Farm.

"Goldpine have to date built three of four specialist buildings at the new property incorporating our designs Haunui's specifications which include a serving barn and crush, a veterinary barn with a crush and

yards, a broodmare barn with eleven boxes and a wash-bay and office included inside the barn. We still have the final construction to work on being a 35 box yearling barn.

"I find that horse people all have their own ideas about what works best for them and it is our job to construct what they want. We start with a standard plan and make a version to suit each individual.

"Their vision is to have one of the best breeding facilities in the Southern Hemisphere and I believe we have helped them achieve that," he said.

Mark Chitty pretty much concurs with Dave's sentiments and states that they have been fantastic to work with.

"The reps have worked closely with us and they have come up with some great ideas. They have great contractors who know their product well and in some cases they have manufactured new products for us," he said.

"All the new buildings have wooden frame work, with steel walls lined with Magnum's new product Magnaclad, and all the internal hardware like the feed bins, hay racks, sliding doors, and opening doors are Magnum products.



Haunui Farm's new tailor-made breeding barn in South Auckland

"Our loose boxes are pretty standard except that all the feed bins and the water buckets are at the front of the box. This way the horses can be fed from outside the boxes and staff members are not at risk going into a stable with a horse.

"Inside our boxes we wanted a long-wearing, durable product that horses wouldn't chew and would clean up with a water blast, and that is what Magnaclad provides.

It's very flexible and has plenty of give in it which reduces the likelihood of horses injuring themselves when they kick out at it or it being damaged.

"It requires no framework which means that even though the price per metre seems quite expensive, it's quite a comparative cost when you deduct the price of the framework and the need for maintenance. And more importantly it looks smart."

Magnaclad is a high impact flexible plastic product that comes in a variety of colours that is guaranteed to last up to twenty years. Unlike a wooden product it doesn't require painting or staining, is maintenance free, and is hygienic and easy to clean. It is easy to install as it can be manufactured to suit any size, and is not restrictive like plywood which comes in standard size sheets, requiring additional framework. It is manufactured in New Zealand and is 100% recyclable.

Over the past twelve months since the land sale was first completed there has been an immense amount of activity at the property, not just the construction of the new buildings.

"We have done a lot of fencing and a lot of tree planting. We have planted in excess of 2000 trees for shelter and aesthetics. As well we

## Haunui Farm Builds a World Class Stud Facility Contd from p3

have moved a lot of trees to cut down on the mowing and have developed new stallion paddocks at the front of the Kidd Road property. We have undertaken a lot of pasture renovation on the property and have completed a third of the farm already, we will do another third next autumn and the final third the autumn after that."

Haunui is extensively using Horserail fencing products in preference to traditional post and rail. Ron Chitty stated he believes Horserail will be used in preference to post and rail in the future as it is a very forgiving product on the horse, unlike timber.

"At this stage we hope to be fully operational at Karaka by August 2011 with all our foaling and mating to be done on the new property next season. We prepared our Ready to Run horses there this season and 25 Select and Festival yearlings will be prepared from the new property for Karaka 2011.

"Although leaving Whitford will be the end of an era for Haunui, we are very much looking forward to becoming fully operational at the new Karaka farm" said Mark Chitty, looking towards the future for Haunui Farm and future generations of the Chitty family.



The broodmare barn includes eleven boxes, a wash-bay and office.