

HORSE WELFARE QUARTERLY UPDATE

Horse welfare is at the heart of Harness Racing New Zealand. From rehoming programs to on-course emergency care, every initiative we invest in reflects our commitment to supporting owners and trainers in giving every Standardbred the best chance at a safe, supported, and meaningful life during racing and on retirement.

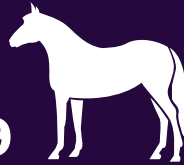
HERO

- 8 HORSES THROUGH THE PROGRAMME
- 4 SOLD // 1 REMOVED // 3 STILL IN TRAINING
- ROBYNS PLAYBOY SOLD "BEAST OF THE EAST"

LIFE AFTER RACING GRANTS

Eight rehomingers applied to our quarterly grants scheme

8
REHOMERS
\$6,389



REHOMING GRANTS

65 HORSES REHOMED
\$12,600

given to our Routine Care Grant Rehomingers

HERO BIRTHDAY GIVEAWAY

HERO Birthday Giveaway ran in November and December. Five lucky winners won a beautiful HERO Hay bag each made by Westwind Equine. It gained great following on Social media.



HORSE AMBULANCE TRUST

The horse ambulance attended 77 harness race meetings across the busy summer racing period, from holiday hotspots in Central Otago and the West Coast, to Kaikōura, Hāwera and Tauherenikau.

There was 100% attendance at all harness meetings. During the busy Cup Week meeting, two ambulances were on track at Addington Raceway to manage any potential incidents in front of a large on-course crowd and to ensure the highest standard of animal welfare at race meetings.

A horse ambulance was deployed six times to assist an injured Standardbred, four of which were on race day.

IRT sponsored a horse welfare race night in December that raised \$4,000 for the NZ Horse Ambulance Trust, and a gold coin donation for entry on Show Day raised \$3,500.

HRNZ OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO LIFE AFTER RACING AWARD - ELIZABETH CHAPPELL

HRNZ is proud to recognise the late Elizabeth (Liz) Chappell as the recipient of the Outstanding Contribution to Life After Racing Award, acknowledging her lifelong dedication to promoting Standardbred horses beyond their racing careers.

A pioneer of Life After Racing, Liz played a significant role in creating opportunities for Standardbreds across New Zealand. As a founding member of the New Zealand Standardbred Riding

Association in 1992, she worked tirelessly to establish and grow showing and competition pathways for retired racehorses, particularly throughout the Canterbury region.

Liz was an accomplished and versatile competitor, showcasing the adaptability of the Standardbred across eventing, dressage, showjumping, and harness disciplines. She produced multiple champion horses, including Lady Rwanda, who remains the only Standardbred to win Supreme All Breeds at the Canterbury A&P Show. Her mare Sweet Temptation also achieved three Runner Up Supreme Champion All Breeds titles, an exceptional achievement.

Beyond competition, Liz was deeply committed to supporting young riders, generously providing opportunities for them to gain experience and confidence with Standardbreds. Liz passed away in June 2024, but her passion and legacy continue to inspire the Life After Racing community. The award was accepted on her behalf by her husband, John Chappell.



NOVEMBER – JANUARY 2026

SOUTH ISLAND PREMIER SHOWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champion Ridden Standardbred – Taylah Dolan riding Michaelangelo Res Champion Ridden Standardbred – Edie Van Der Vis riding Royal Runabout
Sponsored by HRNZ/HERO



ROYAL A&P OF NEW ZEALAND SHOW – HOSTED BY CANTERBURY A&P

Champion Ridden Standardbred –Taylah Dolan riding Michaelangelo Res Champion Ridden Standardbred – Chanelle Dickie riding Bronze Jay
Sponsored by HRNZ/HERO

BATTLE OF THE BREEDS

Battle of the Breeds - held in January for its sixth year of running, hosted by the Cambridge Raceway. The day was a fantastic showcase of Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds in their life after racing. The Event includes three competitions that all competitors must complete in an allocated time frame – In hand Confirmation and turn out, Six Bar jumping and Paced and Mannered Ridden class. The over all competition was won by the Love Racing Thoroughbred team, organiser Jo Ferguson said it was the closest competition ever and the Standardbreds really shone in the Jumping phase which made for an exciting competition.



HARNESS TO HACK

The From Harness to Hack competition was held over two action-packed days, showcasing the versatility and adaptability of Standardbreds across in-hand, ridden, dressage, show jumping and musical equitation classes. Saturday featured in-hand and ridden workouts, while Sunday saw strong performances in dressage, show jumping, and a crowd-favourite musical equitation, highlighting excellent manners, trainability and partnership.

Felicia Thomsen and Bolt for Brillance claimed the Novice Champion title, while Lexi Nolan and No Way Else dominated the Open division and were crowned Grand Champion for highest overall points across the weekend.

A huge thank you to our sponsors and supporters for helping celebrate life after racing and the many pathways available for our Standardbreds.

Grand Champion for highest overall points Sponsored by HERO – Lexi Nolan and No Way Else



The HERO Best Performed Standardbred award was presented to Better Than Most ridden by Tyla Hackett, owner by Krystal Delany. A special thank you also goes to Dunstan Horsefeeds, naming sponsor of the event since its inception.

HERO Team Standardbred

Sarah Kirk & Willow Bay
Tyla Hackett & Better Than Most
Addi Hyde & Liaison
Vicki Traas & Fernando's Star