

**Media Release**

21 November 2012

**Reindeer race4Charity© at Christmas Races**

Santa makes an early appearance at Oamaru's Christmas race meeting on Saturday but it is likely he'll be upstaged by his travelling entourage – the reindeer!

The Oamaru Harness Racing Club is staging a NZ first by running a race for Santa's reindeer. The unique event will see Prancer footing it against Vixen and .... (can you name the rest?). However the early money's on Rudolph to win... by a nose! In a novel twist the reindeer will be auctioned before the start and will race for their new owners for an attractive trophy and prizes. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Cancer Foundation and CanTeen's work in North Otago.

But the big man won't be completely upstaged. He's set to make an appearance in startling fashion, that at this stage, remains a well kept secret.

The meeting promises to be a major event on North Otago's calendar. A large number of Christmas parties are being held in a specially themed marquee village where they will be entertained while Santa's elves serve continuous festive fare.

The meeting features the popular Brothers-in-Arms Drivers Series which pits six teams of brothers against each other in a four race competition for a prestigious trophy and \$1000 prize. First run in 2009 the series has remained in the firm grasp of the Butcher brothers from the Waikato.

Other events on an action packed day include a traditional Saddle Pace, Fashion Hats awards, a Siberian husky race demonstration and Kidz Kartz racing. Children are certainly winners on the day. A huge effort has gone into creating a kids playground area including ride-on cars, merry-go-round, bouncy castles, high-ride plane, candy floss, hot dogs and more.... and given that the proceeds from Santa's Reindeer Race will go to Cure Kids you can bet that Rudolph's red nose will firm further in favouritism!

Gates open at 11am with free entry. Ritchies Coachlines will be operating a Race Day shuttle service (see timetable below). First race is at 12.15pm. Please note: No alcohol is to be brought to the event.

**Oamaru to Racecourse**

Every hour 11am-2pm \$2.50 one way

New World South Hill  
Oamaru Opera House (next to Fat Sally's)  
Countdown (Thames Hwy)  
Waitaki Girls High (Thames Hwy)  
North End Shops  
Opposite North Star

**Racecourse to Oamaru**

Every 30 mins 4pm-6.30pm \$2.50 one way

North End Shops  
North Star  
Opposite Waitaki Girls High  
Opposite Countdowns  
Opposite Fat Sally's  
New World South Hill

Scott Elliffe  
Event Manager  
Oamaru Christmas at the Races  
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*Young cancer sufferer Annaka Aitcheson, in the arms of North Otago's Cancer Foundation President Sharon Greaney, gets acquainted with Cupid the Reindeer and her driver Matthew Williamson. Cupid races this Saturday against Santa's other reindeer in New Zealand's first ever Reindeer race4Charity.*