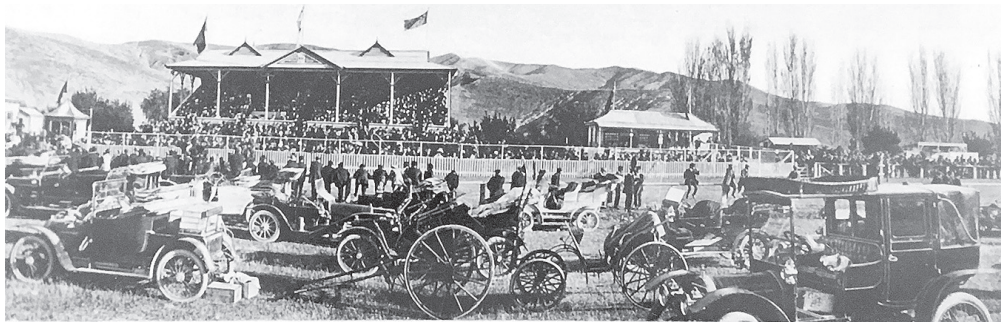


Marlborough Harness Centennial



Racing at Riverlands pre 1920's.

Introduction:

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 100 year celebrations of the Waterlea course. This is the trotting meeting celebrations and the galloping meeting later in the year will also have celebrations to mark the occasion.

Harness racing in Marlborough started in the 1800's. At that time it did seem that the racing was intermingled with meetings having harness racing, saddle trots and gallops with horses starting more than once on the card.

In 1912 the Marlborough claim to fame was the New Zealand Cup winner – Albert H. Bred in Marlborough and sold to Albert Hendrikson. The horse was the leading stakes winner of 1912 – winning the sum of 881 pounds.

Throughout the racebook we have written a few notes and added photos to illustrate the last 100 years.

It is with great interest that we note the connections from decade to decade with generations of harness racing family names still in the sport.

We hope you enjoy your day out with us celebrating this Marlborough milestone.



Albert H the 1912 NZ Cup winner.

*The Marlborough Racing Club wrote offering the use of the Waterlea Racecourse for the 12th March at a rental of £35.
Resolved. That the offer be accepted, and the Racing Club be thanked for same.*

A minutes extract discussing the first ever race meeting at Waterlea.

Acknowledgements:

We the committee would like to acknowledge all the work put in by everyone who assisted in the preparation of this race meeting.

We would also like to acknowledge all the owners, trainers and other personnel who have been part of the history of harness racing at Waterlea for the last 100 years.

Thanks to everyone for being involved.

Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 1920s

The first harness meeting was held at Waterlea by the Marlborough Trotting Club on the 12th of March 1920.

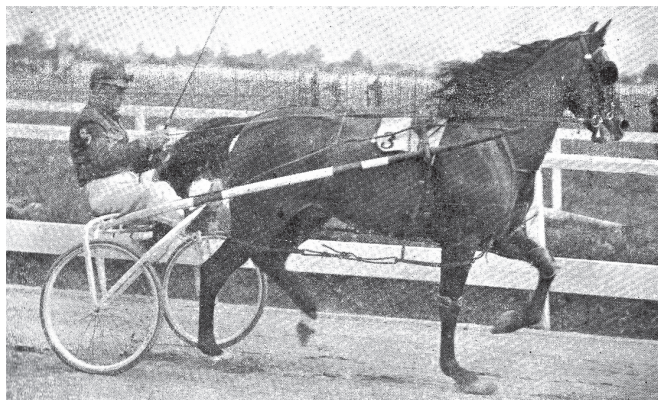
The Trotting Club paid the Racing Club the sum of 35 pounds for the one day meeting.

The Returned Soldier's Orchestra was paid 6 pound ten shillings to play. The entrance fee was 2/6.

The profit for the meeting was some 700 pounds. This earned the secretary a 50 pound bonus. The club also resolved to donate 65 pounds to improve the accommodation for the ladies.

In June 1920 the Racing Club offered a ten year lease at 25 pounds per annum for a trotting track 22 feet wide to be laid down inside the training track. This included use of the stables.

Trotting at Waterlea was off and running!



James Bryce who drove Ahuriri in most of his wins.

From 1922-1929 regular motorbike races were held at Waterlea.

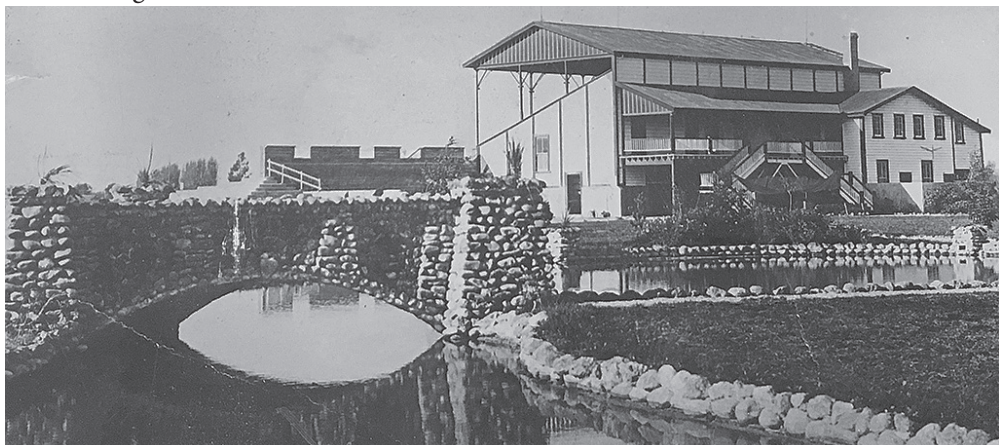
Ron Hebbard's book *Motorcycle Clubs of Marlborough* gives great details on races held there.

On March 10th 1922 an elite record was set on the Waterlea track by Ahuriri (Cathedral Chimes/Muricata).

A new New Zealand two

year old Pacers Mile record of 2:20.0. A top performer, Ahuriri won two NZ Cups in 1925 and 1926 and placed third in 1928. He won the 1927 Auckland Cup and earlier at two, was fourth in the first ever running of the NZ Sapling Stakes at Ashburton. His breeder/owner was RM Morten, trainer Scotty Bryce and driver James Bryce.

BELOW: The lake behind the main stand during the 1920's.



Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 1930s

The 1930's were the depression years. Racing continued over the decade.

There are several race books from the decade which show that racing was strong.

Below is an extract from the 1938 racebook with Golden River as number 1.

Golden River went on to race until he was 9 years old.

He belonged to Bill Murray – a stalwart of the Marlborough Trotting Club.

The last race meeting prior to WW2 was in 1939.

The Marlborough Cup that year was won by Happi – a horse raced by Mr LF Berkett.

The Berkett name is still involved with harness racing – just one of the many links through the generations.

Motorbike racing had stopped during the depression (1929-1932) due to the price of petrol, but recommenced in 1933 continuing until the start of the war.

After the war motorbike racing does not seem to have resumed at Waterlea.



Golden River, winning as a two year old.

4 SEAVIEW HANDICAP (HARNESS) One Mile		Seaview—continued	
Of £58 second horse to receive £7, and third horse £3 from the stake. Horses in this event will be handicapped to do 2.27 or better. Totalisator will not close before 2.15 Race will start approximately 2.20		6 GOLD CUE—Mr. W. Bowen's b.g. 5 yrs Bay de Oro—Belle Pointer Black, Red sleeves and cap, Red and White CapDriver Trainer, Owner, Chestnut	
1 GOLDEN RIVER—Mr. W. J. Murray's b. 2 yrs Jack Potts—Olive Hunt Yellow body and cap, blue handDriver Trainer, Owner, Spring Creek	scr	7 QUEEN DE ORO—Mr. R. P. Droughlan's m. 8 y 12 Bay de Oro—Queen Pointer Green jacket and cap, gold hoopsDriver Trainer, Owner, Spring Creek	12
2 MITEWIN—Mr. L. F. Berkett's ch.g. 5 yrs Timonah Direct—Puniga Bay and Sky Blue hoops, Bay sleeves and capDriver Trainer, Owner, Hope	scr		
3 ORBY LAD—Messrs A. H. Higgs & E. E. Edmonds' b.g. 5 years Grafton Local—Kathie Pointer Gold, Cardinal Stripes, Gold capDriver Trainer, F. E. Edmonds, Barnmoor	scr		
4 RESTRAINT—Mr. K. Smith's br m. 6 yrs Brigand—Wainia White r & y, Red and Blue stripes, Red capDriver Trainer, A. H. Simmons, Blenheim	scr		
5 ULSTER GIRL—Mr. C. Harcourt's b. m. 3 y Frank Worthy—Dorcy Pointer Royal Blue, Tangerine crossed sashes, White sleeves & capDriver Trainer, Owner, Necklarn	scr		
5a WORTHY NOTE—Fannie W. J. Leslie's b.g. 4 y 8 scr Frank Worthy—Pifanella Royal Blue, Tangerine crossed sashes, White sleeves & capDriver Trainer, C. Harcourt, Necklarn	scr		
		Placed Horses	Dividends
		1st	1st £
		2nd	2nd £
		3rd	3rd £
			Tote Total
		Time	mins.secs.



Part of the large crowd filling the stand at the motorbike racing.

OFFICIAL CARD

Marlborough Trotting Club.
(Incorporated)

Annual Meeting
WATERLEA RACECOURSE

Saturday, 5th April, 1930.

E. F. HEALY, Secretary

Published by Authority Price: ONE SHILLING
K. V. MAURICE, Printer, Queen Street, Blenheim

Marlborough Harness Centennial



The Marlborough Trotting Club, Committee and Stewards during the clubs Jubilee 21-23 January 1950. Back row; E.C. Lawerence, C.R. Rabbits, A.G Bailey, W. Gee, H.F. Hursthouse, (treasurer), A. Dry, G. A. Lester, J. D. Dungey, A.C Nathan, Front Row: E.Evans, E.J.Harvey (Secretary), W.J. Murray (Vice President), E.F. Healy (President), A Matson (President NZ TA), D.S. Foley, D.E.McArthur, W.S.Bennett.

Decade 1940s

Racing was abandoned over the war years (1939-1945).

Graham Fuller describes in his book 'Living Every Moment' his time spent in the army.

The use of racecourses was obviously common as he said that they were in the jockeys' room at Riccarton in 1942 before being moved to the Addington racecourse.

At Easter of that year he rejoined the regiment which was based at Waterlea.

Graham was in C Squadron under Major Mick O'Brien (Pat O'Brien's father).

They were camped on the Old Renwick Road boundary.

They washed in the creek as facilities were basic.

Graham was put in charge of the sergeant's mess which was in the old public stand.

4 MARLBOROUGH HANDICAP (Harness)		4
OF £250; second horse to receive £30 and third horse £20 from the stake. Class 4-44		
Two miles		
Totalisator will not close before 1.37		
Race will start approximately 1.42		
1 AUTHENTIC—Mr. F. Wilson's b. g. 6 yrs	scr	
Quite Sure—Royal Crescent		
Red, Gold cheeks, Gold Blower, Red cap		
Driver Trainer, Owner, Marchion		
2 FASHION CLUB—Mr. G. W. Deyell's ch. g. 5 yrs	scr	
Worthy Bound—Saucerous		
White, Green Blower, Gold cap		
Driver Trainer, M. B. Edwards, New Brighton		
3 QUITE EVIDENT—Mr. O. A. Fairbairn's b.m. 6 yrs	scr	
Quite Sure—Marie Logan		
Blue Jacket, Red Star Back and Front, Red Blower, Black Cap		
Driver Trainer, A. T. Fairbairn, Hornby		
4 SCOTTISH ACTRESS—Mr. M. Parks' bk.m. 4 yrs	scr	
W. Scott—Great Actress		
Chestnut, Gold Blower, Gold cap		
Driver Trainer, W. H. Butt, Templeton		
5 TASK FORCE—Mr. P. B. Carmichael's ch. m. 5 y	scr	
Jack Potts—Harold Direct m		
Purple, Red Head and eye		
Driver Trainer A Holmes, Yaldhurst		
6 LORD PETERSON—Mr. C. L. Rhodes' b. g. 5 yrs	12	
Grattan Loyal—Ivy Peterson		
Yellow, Black Back and eye		
Driver Trainer, F. G. Holmes Yaldhurst		

They only spent one winter on the course before moving to the Delta.

The first race meeting after the war was held in 1946.

That year was the 27th running of the Marlborough Cup.

The Marlborough Cup is being run today for the 100th time.

Although it was not run

during the war it was started prior to racing at Waterlea (1913).

Looking at the race book from 1946 the cup field is interesting in that both the Butt and Holmes names feature – names that still feature in race books today.

The winner of the Marlborough Cup that year was the horse Fashion Club.

Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 1950s

In 1935 the Racing Club could not pay the mortgage and foreclosure was the result.

Waterlea was sold to Register and Lane – a wood and coal merchant, who then on-sold it to D'Arcy Gosling.

When it was not owned by the Racing Club the property was rented for race days and farmed for the rest of the time.

In 1952 Mr Gosling offered the property to the Trotting Club.

They could not afford to purchase Waterlea on their own.

The Trotting and Galloping Club joined together, finding some money and a mortgage.

The president of the Trotting Club (Bill Murray) lent the remainder.

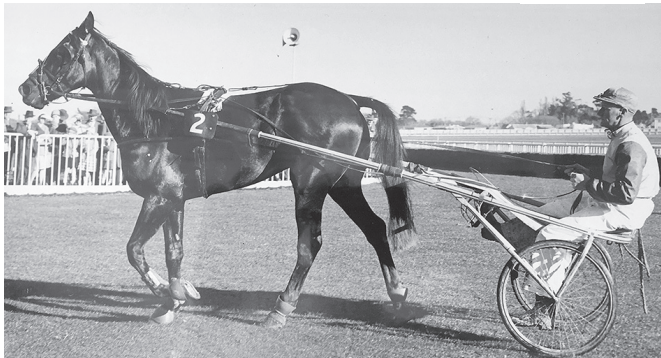
The Clubs took a ten year indemnity policy on Fergus Murray (Bill's son).

When Fergus survived and the policy was paid out debts were paid and Waterlea has been in the joint hands of the two clubs since.

Bill was an owner of standardbreds and gallopers – owning four mares from which foals were bred and sold at the yearling sales.

Bill's pride and joy was the mare Bonny Heather – a full sister to Highland Fling, a renowned pacer of that time.

Bill had some good horses from this mare including Milngavie a Marlborough



John Scott winner of the Canterbury Park Trotting Trial Handicap. Owner: W.J. Murray ; Trainer & Driver A. M. Purdon.

Cup winner in 1963.

Bill was the president of the Trotting Club from 1951-56 and then again from 1960-69.

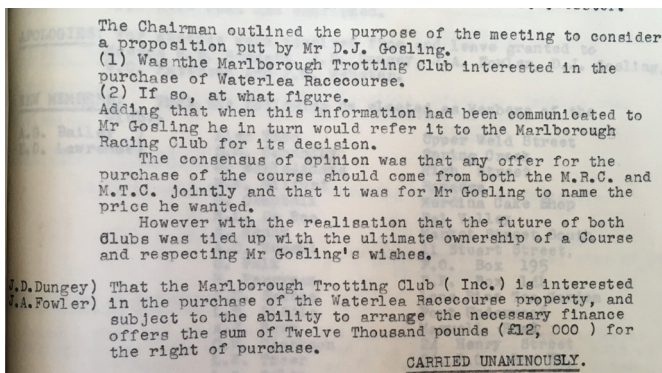
The committee was keen on attracting personalities to the races as indicated by a note in the minutes concerning requesting Denis Nyhan to bring Lordship to time trial.

Although Lordship did not come, Denis Nyhan regularly raced at Waterlea and did win a Marlborough Cup.



W.J. (Bill) Murray.

BELOW: An extract from the club minutes discussing the purchase of Waterlea.



Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 1960s

The Secretary of the Trotting Club for twenty-five years (1954-1979) was Graham Fuller.

Graham was instrumental in arranging the Waterlea Property Committee which has representatives of both the Trotting and Racing Clubs to manage Waterlea itself.

Graham wrote an account of his time as the secretary in which he describes the development of facilities on the site.

He notes that in 1964 he saw an advert for a building at the Omaka Aerodrome.

After some negotiation this building was purchased and re-located to Waterlea.

The pond had to be filled in (which caused some dissension!) and this building became a dining room and members bar.

They also decided to build a public bar to replace the marquee used on racedays.

This building is now the caretakers shed.

1960 was the Marlborough Centennial year.

The race meeting that year was advertised as the Centennial Meeting – very confusing!

In the 1960's Tubby Smith was training on the track and he still is at the track with a horse or two.

Tubby said that back then there were 100 horses on the track with quite a number of trainers.

Tubby's father was the Clerk of the Course when the track was



A swabbing for the brilliant Bragen, winner of the Marlborough Trotting Cup



Pat Henry (Blenheim) with Richmond visitor Maureen Kennedy. Yes, they are tenners that Maureen is holding. She backed £200 divvy, Last Round.

at the Wairau Valley Club and he remembers riding gallopers when he was ten.

Tubby had a good trotter – Petali in the 70's which he took racing to Hutt Park with both Percy Haack and Max Miller – both trainers of the time.

Percy's good horse was Bluegum Surprise – who raced well around the top of the South Island.

In 1961 there was the

well-publicised fire in the stand at the NZ Cup Meeting at Addington.

The committee made particular mention of this and reviewed the smoking rules.

Over the 1960s and 1970s there was a local publication called the Marlborough Pictorial.

It has some great photos and stories of race meetings over that time. Of note were the fashions in the 60s!

The Chairman mentioned a circular sent out by the N.Z. Metropolitan Club after the recent disastrous fire about non-smoking on grandstands. The Committee decided that notices be put up in the grandstand requesting the public not to smoke.

Marlborough Harness Centennial



Mr C Pateman's Grosvenor Lord winning the 1976 Marlborough Cup.

Decade 1970s

The new members and stewards stand was built in 1977.

In the late 70's an all-weather trotting track was installed. This initiative was managed by Peter (Bluey) Hope, a member of a racing family that has been in Blenheim for years. Bluey and his two brothers were part of the racing scene in the 70's and 80's. Bluey trained, Laddie was the caretaker on course and Les was an owner. Their father was the first jockey to ride a winner at Waterlea (Jean Gluten, trained by Mr WA Watson). Bluey part-owned the great gelding Robalan who was trained by Denis Nyhan. Both the Nyhan and Hope families are still well-known names in the harness racing game.

Another local Lionel Scott bought his property and first horse from Laddie Hope. Lionel trained for some years and then his son Paul Scott took over and is still training on the course.

In the 70's and 80's trainers Johnny and Roy Roughan trained a number of horses first on the Northbank and later in Renwick. One of the best of them was JonRoy – named after the training partnership.

Allan McKerrow – came to Blenheim to work after the 1966 Seddon earthquake to carry out rebuilding work and stayed on.

He trained a number of horses – one of which was Soxxygen which raced in the 80s (74 starts for 8 wins, 14 seconds and 8

thirds.

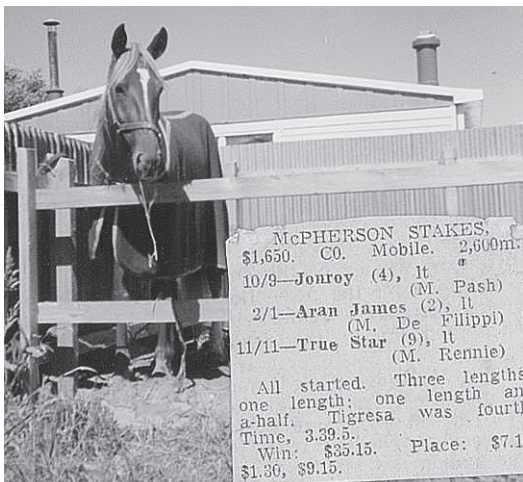
Allan built the current OTB rooms used by the trainers for their morning brew.

Jim Winter trained horses with his son Barry taking over later on. Roger Winter still trains in Christchurch.

Two of the Marlborough Cup winners in the 70's were Grosvenor Lord and King Dillon.

Laurie Wilde – who was the judge and in later years the timekeeper became part of the scene in the 70's.

Laurie and his wife Lee lived on course for a number of years in the 2000's and were wonderful guardians of the course. Laurie used to joke he had done nearly all the jobs on course and was going to line up to clean the birdcage on race day one day.



McPHERSON STAKES.
\$1,650. CO. Mobile. 2,600m
10/9—Jonroy (4), lt (M. Pash)
2/1—Aran James (2), lt (M. De Filippi)
11/11—True Star (9), lt (M. Rennie)
All started. Three lengths
one length; one length and
a-half. Tigresa was fourth
Time, 3.39.5.
Win: \$35.15. Place: \$7.10
\$1.50, \$9.15.

Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 1980s

The 80's saw change at Waterlea with the building of the public stand and racing on the all-weather track.

Arthur O'Brien turned up one day with an old caravan and a horse (Cameo Gold) for a race meeting and never left.

Arthur lived in that old caravan for quite a number of years before moving to the resthome in the early 2000s. The land was sold to the rest home and it was built during the 80's as well.

Peter Neal trained a number of horses as well as standing stallions - Inter du Pas and Take Aim.

His son Ross trained at Waterlea at one time and his other son Andrew is still a trainer based in Cambridge.

Another local of note was Noel Andrews who trained Valley Creek to a track record win in 1983.

His daughter Ann-Marie Best is a trainer here in Marlborough.



Valley Creek as a four year old, Lordship / Bonnie Bouquet. Owned by N.E Andrews and A.M Best. Trained by Noel Andrews and driven by Greg Hope.

In 1996-97 her horse Hanover Mae was Marlborough Horse of the Year and in 2015-16 Tijuana Bromac was also Horse of the Year.

Over the years there have been many great personalities that have assisted with the various roles required on trial

and race days.

These include starters such as Ray Patchett (80s) and Roddy Wild (90s), trial callers such as Eric Percy (who started in the 70's and still helps out today) and Mike Rangi (a current committee man and trial day race caller).

BELOW: The roof goes on the public stand in the late 80's.



Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 1990s

The late 1980's and the 1990's saw a number of current trainers arrive on course.

Allan and Petrina Shutkowski who started out strong in their training with Weka Pass and Todski.

In recent years they have also had success with CA Penny who won in Christchurch and was Marlborough Horse of the Year in 2016-2017 and 2017-18. Petrina is our current president.

Neill moved down from the Wairau Valley to Spring Creek in the late 90's after running up and down the valley for a number of years to train horses.

Graham is second only to Pat O'Brien among the locals in numbers of horses since gaining his licence in 1962.

Graham had Marlborough Horse of the Year with Tozzies Sister who he owned in partnership with George Illingsworth in the 2009-2010 season. Graham was Marlborough Trainer of the Year for the 2017-18 season.

Donald and Shirley Morrison moved up from Invercargill where Donald had been a regular at the Gil Shirley barn.

Donald has had a number of wins on the track – one of the more memorable being when Stephen Doody drove Flash Bang to win the necklace donated by the Boese family in the Don Boese memorial race.

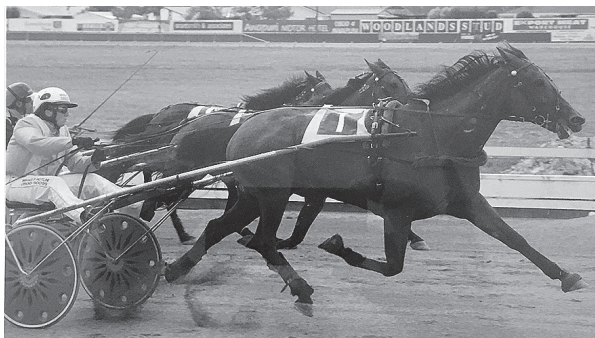
Don Boese was a trainer on the track for a number of years as was his father Wally Boese before him.

Don had some good horses and was trainer of the year in the 1993-94 season with the horse Asian Timer.

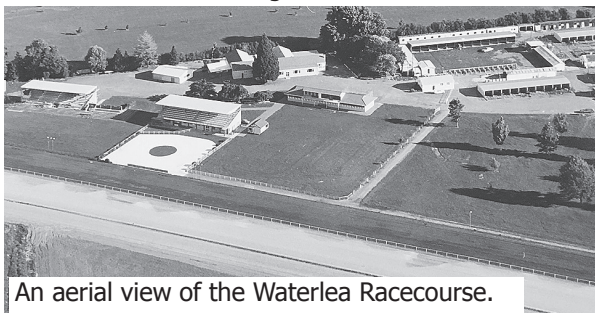
Other trainers around at that time were Dick Harper (Elmo Putney horse of the year 1994-95), Don



CA Penny, Marlborough OTB Association Harness Horse of the Year Award 2016/17 season. Owners A W & P M Shutkowski.



Marlborough OTB Association Harness Horse of the Year Award 2009/10 season Tozzies Sister. Owners G Neill & G Illingworth.



An aerial view of the Waterlea Racecourse.

Burrowes (In Shot horse of the year 1999-2000), Dave Gardiner, Tex Simmons, Max Millar, Murray Jobberns, Jan Gould, Trevor Walsh, Ivan Neame, Ned Black and Eddie Hurndell.

Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 2000s

This decade was dominated by Pat O'Brien as Trainer of the Year for the entire decade.

In the later part of the decade this was in partnership with his son Michael.

In the 1960's Pat O'Brien commenced training at the track.

Pat's father was also associated with the track – training horses and he was also the Major in charge of the army personnel garrisoned on the track during WW2.

Pat's uncle was the caretaker of the track in the 1930's – living on the course.

Pat has many fond memories as a child playing in the creek.

Pat O'Brien (and in later years in partnership with his son Michael) has trained the most horses on the Waterlea track.

There have been some 145 horses raced in the O'Brien name.

The best of them include: Beckinsdale, Il Campione and Joe Tyler – who is retired with Pat at Coleman's Road,

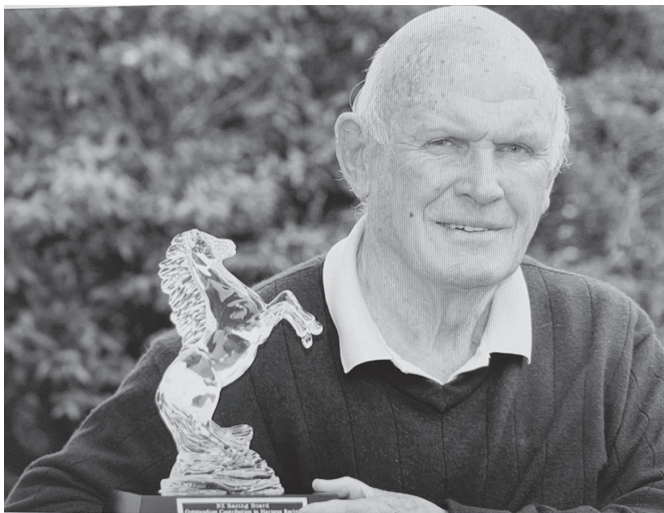
Pat was on the Marlborough Harness Racing committee and was also President of the New Zealand Harness Racing Board (HRNZ).

There have been a number of local entities that have been representatives at HRNZ. Most recently local trainer Brian (Strawbs) Wastney has been on the committee for six years – vice-president for two of those. Brian was president



Joe Tyler, Marlborough OTB Association Harness Horse of the Year Award 2004/05 season.

Owners Pat O'Brien, Paul Mitchell, Warren Croft, Jock McDonald, Alister Skene and Paul Robb.



In 2010, Pat O'Brien, then chairman of Harness Racing NZ, pictured with his "Outstanding Contribution to Harness Racing" award.

of the Nelson Club before moving to Blenheim at the end of the 1990's.

Brian has a number of hors-

es with 'Strawbs' in the name – the best of which was probably the trotter Strawb's Invader.

Marlborough Harness Centennial



Decade 2010's

Brent Weaver came from Christchurch as a trainer to Waterlea and returned to Christchurch to continue training in this decade.

In his time at Blenheim Brent was Trainer of the Year two seasons in a row – 2014-15 and 2015-16.

Brent still trains for some local enthusiasts such as Allan Marshall. Allan is currently the starter at the trials at Waterlea.

Kendra Gill is currently the youngest enthusiast at the track.

Kendra has been at the track since she was a toddler with her Mum Jackie and grandfather Mark Gill.

Mark has trained horses at Waterlea since the 90's with Jackie joining him from a young age.

Kendra has now joined in this three generation team. Mark's horse Flight de Jour was joint horse of the year in 1998-99.

One of our committee – Dean Hunter retired to Christchurch this decade.

Dean had success with the trotter Mo Hahn (2011-12) and took with him to Christchurch his trotter Destiny Jones who has raced exceptionally well. Ken Pointer and the late John Gould were also involved in the ownership. She was Aged Trotting Mare of the Year in the 2018-19 season.

John Gould was also involved in many other horses including Tiger Tara (NZ Cup second, NZ Derby winner and NZ Free For All winner) and Franco Jamar.

There are a number of newer faces this decade:

Mark Heaton, Mark has had some success since starting out several years ago. Mark is regularly helped



Mo Hahn, Marlborough OTB Association Harness Horse of the Year Award 2011/12 season.
Owners D R Hunter & A J Hahn.



Brian (Strawbs) Wastney
with Strawbs Interact

by Lee Oldfield who is a keen horseman in Marlborough.

Merv Byers, Merv came to Marlborough and returned to training after some 25 years and had success this last season with Monaro Mia – who was Marlborough Horse of the Year for the 2018-19 season.