



18th February 2010

Mixed results at 2010 Yearling Sales

The North and South Island recorded quite different results at the 2010 PGG Wrightson Yearling sales, held in Karaka on Monday 15th February and Christchurch at the A & P Showgrounds on Tuesday 16th to Thursday 18th February.

The Australasian sale at Karaka saw an increase of 5% on last year's downturn with seven lots fetching over \$100,000. Graeme Rogerson was once again at the fore in Auckland increasing his purchasing spend by 50% from last year.

Rogerson was the successful bidder for Rod Croon's joint sales topper "Legs and Lips" a Christian Cullen filly out of Personality Plus. Other top lot sold for \$180,000 was the aptly named "Ace" who was sold by Chris and Tina Barlow. Ace was the sole purchase for Australian Robert Watson, who viewed the colt via the PGG Wrightson DVD.

Love You topped the sires average with his single sale entry "You Rock" a colt out of Rock'n Rhonda sold to Lincoln Farms for \$107,500. This season was the first crop of New Zealand foals sold at the sales for the French stallion.

Total spent at the Australasian sale was \$4,262,000 with the average lot selling at \$34,096, median at \$25,000 and clearance rate of 74%.

Things weren't quite so rosy at Christchurch, a slow start to the first day saw averages and spend down from last year. The second day met with increased averages but not reaching the heights in Auckland for prices paid.

Love You was once again in the spotlight, his stunning colt "Itsinthegenes" out of Eilish Mac was sold to Emilio and Maria Rosati from Australia for \$140,000 topping the sale. The Rosati's purchased a total of six yearlings at both Australasian and Premier sales, they were also big players at last year's sale, purchasing Christchurch sales topper "Our Serene Highness" for \$150,000.

Mark Purdon was the top buyer for the two-day premier sale, buying six lots totalling \$353,000. Graeme Rogerson however, was once again king of the sales, spending a total of \$700,000 over the four days.

Bruce Barlass of PGG Wrightson commented on this year's sales:

"The downturn in economy definitely had an impact as expected on this year's sales, there were good sized crowds but the money wasn't there to be spent."

"In the South there was not a strong offering of yearlings – type wise this year, with a lack of stand-out colts and fillies being sold."

It appears that breeders especially in the South will have a few tough questions to ask themselves; are they providing the right type of horse for the buyers? It seems that buyers are looking for the

well developed “ready to race” types over the smaller, less developed ones. What are the implications for breeders and vendors of the harder southern winter and how weanlings and yearlings are fed and nurtured over winter? Is too much being expected of preparers in the last eight to ten weeks of preparation when it seems that in some cases the ‘base’ preparation has not been put into the sales yearling? Is there a place for the third day sale to be held in late November or December with a much lower preparation cost for vendors.

Studs will also have a part to play; feedback from breeders was inevitably about the cost of stud fees. There is no doubt stallion owners will be listening to the market and their customers, the breeder and make changes.