



**28<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

### **Cleland Murdoch new NZSBA Chairman**

At a recent NZ Standardbred Breeders' Association Executive Meeting, Cleland Murdoch was nominated for position of Chairman by outgoing office holder John Mooney.

John did not offer himself for re-election being very keen to maintain the policy agreed when NZSBA factions came back together two years ago, rotating the HRNZ Executive position and Chairman position among the three regional associations.

John was been instrumental in developing the business plan that received HRNZ support which in turn enabled NZSBA to employ fulltime manager.

Ingoing Chairman Cleland Murdoch, comes from a strong harness racing background, having raced horses for over 30 years and been involved in breeding for over 20 years. He is a lawyer by profession and practices in partnership in Invercargill.

Cleland joined the Southland Standardbred Breeders in 2005 and was appointed to the National Executive soon after.

He served as President of the Invercargill Harness Racing Club for six years and was on the committee for twelve. In recent times Cleland has turned his focus towards breeding, hence his involvement with the Standardbred Breeders.

He currently breeds from three mares and has shares in four others; one of his most successful progeny to date is Announcement, by In The Pocket out of Watch Your Step. Cleland owns the dam and was involved in the syndicate who bred and later sold Announcement at the yearling sales.

Announcement is currently sitting on eight wins from 48 starts and over \$88,000 in prize money. Dam Watch Your Step is due to foal to Bettor's Delight.

In taking up the Chair, Cleland said:

"The industry is in for challenging times, we need to be a bit smarter in how we deal with the issues facing us. It is not all doom and gloom though, the economy is showing signs of improvement but we must not rest on our laurels"

Cleland made mention:

"to the fantastic work previous Chairman John Mooney had accomplished and I look forward to building on the foundations that have been laid. It is business as usual with the NZSBA, looking after our members and ensuring their voices are heard is a priority."

The NZSBA is continuing to grow, the recent membership campaign has successfully attracted new members to join the association. We offer a great membership package valued at over \$450

including: Sires Register, Breeding Matters, Voucher Booklet, Comprehensive Website plus much more.

For more information about the NZSBA please visit [www.harnessracing.co.nz](http://www.harnessracing.co.nz) or call Kiely Buttell on 03 3417093.

If you would like to talk to Cleland he can be contacted on 03 214 0777 (wk) or 027 228 9783, Email: [cleland@wmlaw.co.nz](mailto:cleland@wmlaw.co.nz)

Kiely Buttell, Executive Manager