



23rd March 2009

Sales wrap 2009

The PGG Wrightson yearling sales are over again for another year, leaving many breeders around New Zealand enjoying a better than expected sale. Praise needs to go to PGG Wrightson for paying out vendors within 14 days after the sale, a much needed boost to our breeders receiving payment so quickly especially in these worrying times.

Total sale aggregate over the four days was just shy of \$13 million, again much needed capital being put back into our industry for future stock to be bred and nurtured.

The majority of horses were turned out immaculately again this year, many vendors really raising the bar in the preparation of these potential equine stars.

Top vendor on aggregate sales was Rod Croon who sold all 10 of his horses entered in the Australasian sale with a total of \$462,000. Croon, President of the Auckland Trotting Club has bred standardbreds for the last four years, the last three being top vendor by aggregate sales. This year Croon prepared the horses himself assisted by Gary Jenkins, previous years saw Dennis and Jill Smolenski act as preparers

When asked about his thoughts about the sale Croon said.

“I was more than happy with the 2009 yearling sales, the good horses sold for good prices”

Croon's favourite horse of the sale was Uptown Attitude a filly by Christian Cullen out of Angela Jane, she fetch the top price out of Croon's draft, \$150,000 just \$5000 shy of the sales topper. Price aside, Croon believes this filly really had the X-factor.

Moving south, the top vendor for the three-days of the Christchurch leg of the sales was Bromac Lodge who sold 20 out of 21 horses on offer for an aggregate of \$392,000. Top price for Bromac's draft was Eagle Eyed Bromac, a colt by Artsplace out of Edna Bromac and Tuscan Bromac, a colt by Falcon Seelster out of Trapiche.

Sales topper over the four days was The Muskeg Express, a Christian Cullen colt out of Black Maire consigned by long-time successful breeders Sandy and Jan Yarnley. The Muskeg Express sold for \$155,000 to Tim Butt, not a surprising figure as he is a full brother to sensational pacing filly Lauraella who is leaving all of her peers in her wake.

Prior to the sales a new and innovative series from the Auckland Trotting Club for two-year-olds acted as a great showcase for New Zealand's up and coming juveniles, the aptly named Young Guns series.

Run from December until March, juveniles competed in 6 heats culminating in the final held on 6th March which was won by Anvils Best Ever an Elsu colt by Rosesrredviletsrblue, trained by Nigel McGrath and bred by Steve Stockman of Stonewall Stud.

The series was well represented by horses from all over the country, it was good to see the support of South Island trainer's Nigel McGrath, Cran Dalgety and Kirk Larsen making the long trip north to compete alongside their North Island counterparts.

The evening before the Australasian sale saw the North Island Breeders Association host a Young Guns function with all runners in the series going in a draw to win \$20,000 to spend at the sales.

Graeme Rogerson took away the cheque, which he put to good use over the following days. Rogerson along with new training partner Stephen Reid, spent over \$730,000 at the sales, purchasing 16 horses including Rod Croon's smart filly Uptown Attitude.

This function was superbly organised by Cathie Shaw, hosting the Minister of Racing, Hon John Carter and a myriad of harness racing personalities from New Zealand and overseas, it was a great opening to the yearling sales and one that was well received by the industry.