



# The NEW ZEALAND HANOVERIAN SOCIETY (inc.)

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 15 No. 2

August 2007



**KH Arvan, Open Medium Dressage Horse of the Year, 2007.**  
Photo courtesy of Barbara Thomson. (thomsonphoto@xtra.co.nz)

## RISING STAR

*Sue French*

If vision, focus and determination are pre-requisite for success, then success is assured for this young woman, in whatever she wants to do.

I am speaking of rising dressage star, Vanessa Way, whom I met recently for the first time. Vanessa is already successful in her chosen sport here in New Zealand, but a short time spent in her company convinced me that she is destined to go on to greater heights.

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look for us on the web at [www.nzhanoverian.com](http://www.nzhanoverian.com)

## NEW MEMBERS

*A warm welcome is extended to new full members:*

Mrs Christine Warren,  
Waipukurau

Mrs Judith Winks, New  
Plymouth

## Editorial

**H**ow often I seem to mention the weather in this editorial! Well, it is so much a part of our lives when our well-being and that of our animals is so closely affected by it. My thoughts go out to any one, especially our members, who might have been caught up in the terrible winter weather we have been experiencing in many parts of the country. Climate change is certainly here.

The mid-winter issue of this newsletter is often the most difficult to fill. There is not much happening in NZ equestrian circles, and the flurry of breeding activities is in pause mode, while breeders wait for the arrival of this season's packages. Therefore, I was very pleased when one of our members was willing to share with us the ordeal she and her horse have been going through since March this year. My hope is that by sharing experiences like this we will be a help and encouragement to any others unfortunate enough to encounter similar problems. Paying it forward, so to speak. My wish is that any member who has a story of triumph, tragedy, or sheer entertainment, will contribute to this publication for the benefit of us all.

I have been reminded that there is nothing ever in the newsletters about show-jumping. This, of course, is because there are very few of our horses being used for showjumping. Could the reason for that be that we are not breeding them? If any of you has information about any Hanoverians showjumping, please let me know.

Our 30th anniversary AGM and Awards dinner will be the next important date on our calendar. I am very much looking forward to meeting new and past members, and catching up with other members whom I have not seen since last year's AGM. I hope to see many of you there.

Cheers,

*Sue French*

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## Announcements

### Raffle

Once again we are indebted to Ad Astra Hanoverians, owners of the licensed stallion, Limonit. They have donated a service to Limonit to be raffled as a fundraiser for our Society. The raffle is advertised on Horsetalk and there is a ticket request form on our website. The form can be printed, to be filled out and sent to Kellie. If you would like more of the yellow fliers, please contact Kellie.

### AGM and 30th Anniversary Annual Awards Dinner

Yes, it's that time of year fast approaching. This year, the AGM will be held in Taupo at the Suncourt Motor Hotel and Conference Centre, on the 25th August, 10.30.a.m. After the meeting, 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. there will be a boat cruise on the lake, followed by a wine tasting at Scenic Wine Cellars. Both of these activities are optional.

**2007 is the 30th year** since the inception of the Society, so the committee has plans to mark the occasion. Invitations to attend the Awards dinner have been sent to as many past members as we can locate. Good food, good wine... who knows what tales will emerge? So if you have not already done so, make your bookings now.

**Accommodation:** [www.suncourt.co.nz](http://www.suncourt.co.nz) phone 0800 786 268 or 07 378 8265

**Pre-registration for Saturday lunch, Lake cruise, Wine tasting, Awards dinner:** Angela Smith, Harrisville Rd, Tuakau. Phone 09 236 9556  
john.w.f.smith@xtra.co.nz

**Memorabilia for 30th Anniversary:** Do you have any old photographs, printed articles or magazines? Do you have any amusing/interesting anecdotes, reminiscences about any Hanoverian related matter or entity, either human or equine? We hope you will come to the Awards dinner prepared to share memories, information and anecdotes.

Otherwise, please forward relevant material to: Judy Wear (09-415 9968) or Bridget Sutton (09 236 3630)

Please help make our 30th Anniversary Awards dinner an occasion to remember.

# Thoughts:

*A regular contribution from rider, trainer and coach, Bill Noble*



To say that judges are important to the sport of dressage really is stating the obvious. Were it not for them, the sport as we know it simply wouldn't exist. There has always been debate about any sport whose results are dependent on subjective assessment – such sports as gymnastics, diving, skating, etc have long been under the microscope certainly at Olympic level. The disadvantages of sports relying on personal judgement are fairly obvious: judges will have different levels of technical abilities, concentration, honesty, and so on; personal issues impact on management problems more than in other sports. But there is an advantage to having this subjectivity, an advantage we could perhaps exploit. This stems from the fact that the judges are in a position to influence the direction the sport takes; more of this later.

***“The relationship between judge and rider is the crucial element determining the future health of our sport”.***

What do we want our judges to do? To provide the results of competitions, of course. Silly question. How do they do that? By watching a horse going through its tricks for a few minutes, and using those observations to make assumptions about possibly years of training. It is fairly easy to make a list of the strengths and weaknesses of the performance in front of them – we could program a machine to that, I suppose – but as to the relevance of those strengths and weaknesses, that's a completely different matter. These assessments are intimately linked to the concepts, knowledge and experiences of each individual judge, and since no two judges have those in identical measure it is hardly surprising that there can be considerable variation between judges.

It would be wonderful if the current performance of a dressage horse were a true reflection of its prior training, but sadly I think that this is not always the case. Take for instance the situation of a horse trotting beautifully around the arena; this will be rewarded, regardless of the cause of this great trot – it may be a fantastic horse which just happens to have great natural balance, roundness and rhythm, or it may be beautifully trained, or both – do we really expect the judge

to be willing and able to discriminate?

When I first started judging, many years ago in the UK, we were definitely encouraged to try to assess the training of each horse. But gradually over the years, as the game exploded in both numbers and quality, this has of necessity changed toward a concept whereby the judge assesses the performance regardless of the preceding training.

***“why, if dressage was all about training, [would] a well-trained but ordinary horse be beaten in competition by a less well-trained but flashier horse.”***

Some 20 years ago I asked an Olympic judge why, if dressage was all about training, a well-trained but ordinary horse would be beaten in competition by a less well-trained but flashier horse. The answer was a politician's dream: a five minute speech which said absolutely nothing. I think that now the judges would be quite open and honest about this: they would say that one test showed cadence, and the other didn't, and it's not up to them to state why: they look at the performance only. This change has been inevitable as the standards of both horses and training have risen; improved test riding techniques and the rise of freestyle competitions have altered the gamesmanship which exists between rider and judge to the point where it is extremely difficult for any judge to be accurate about assessing years of training based on a five minute performance in front of them.

It has been implicitly assumed for years that the more first-hand knowledge the judge has, the better. This assumption is fairly easy to understand: a judge with training and competition experience will appreciate the significance of what they are seeing, and be able to mark accordingly; they tend to show more empathy toward the rider (because they know just how difficult the game is...); the very best judges of each generation have all been experienced riders – for example, Yook Hall both rode and judged in the Olympics; Stephen Clarke almost made the British team in 1988; both became top of the judging tree in their respective eras. But if we were to take a poll of just who is judging advanced classes around the world, I'm willing to bet that the majority of these people are judging at a level to which they have never ridden. Does this matter? Are these people capable of being good judges?

Without question these people are hugely important to the sport: the advanced classes would grind to a halt was it not for them. And I believe that they are capable of becoming top judges, even to Olympic level: we could even raise an argument for saying that they are perhaps more objective than “riding” judges since their opinions are not clouded or contaminated by their own competition experiences. As I've mentioned in an earlier article, we do not have uniformity of view of how horses should be trained to Grand Prix – even though we are in agreement about how the GP work should appear – and this means that riders will have differing views of what “good novice work” etc will be. Judges with extensive riding experience are much more likely

*cont'd page 4*

## Bill Noble: Thoughts

from page 3

to impose their own training biases on their judging results than would non-riding judges, who will probably tend to compare the horse in front of them with some theoretical picture of perfection, rather than an image based on their own experiences. Perhaps for this reason there are several top international judges who have very little riding experience, and yet who are very good judges. I think that it is much easier for these people to become great advanced judges than to become great at lower levels: indeed, having attended judges courses in the UK with a couple of non-riding international judges, the comments on work up to Prix St Georges level were rather strained and unconvincing, but as soon as advanced level came, it was as if a switch flicked and they were away on familiar territory, confident and very helpful.

There are two ways of looking at most levels of competition: either as an end in itself, so that we end up with a “novice” or “medium” champion, regardless of what came before or what may come after for that combination; alternatively, we can think of each level as merely a step on the way to grand prix. The first route gives us considerable freedom to impose whatever conditions or restrictions on the performances we choose; we can define what we consider the ideal “novice” or “medium” pictures to be in a reasonably arbitrary way, and so long as everyone involved knows the rules, the sport will survive. Educating the judges for such a sport will be fairly easy; they just have to know the rules and decide how to mark deviations from them.

**“who knows what that most suitable path is [to GP]?”**

But if we want to take the second option, and decide that the best “novice” horse is the one whose training is the most suitable for the path to GP, we immediately come up against a huge problem: who knows what that “most suitable path” is? In an ideal world these two options would of course be identical, but if this were the case in the real world, then would we not have many more horses being successful over the whole range of competition levels, from novice through to GP? This subject has been raised before, but I only want to consider it from a judging perspective here. I suggest that one of the reasons for horses so rarely having success at every level is that there may be some discrepancy between what we define as “correct novice work” etc and the work produced by our leading trainers. It would be an amazingly fascinating project to make a retrospective study of video of the world’s current top dozen GP horses through their early training; this might give us a different perspective on what we wish to see at the different levels.

Fascinating, but does this have an impact on judges and their education? Some countries have tried giving judges more practical experience by sending them off to watch “real” training (as opposed to the sanitised public versions) – this was very popular in the UK a few years ago – which is really quite an interesting concept. If it worked, it would go a long way to merging these two options into one; we would be confident that what we are looking for at any level really did tie in with the steps toward Grand Prix. But I don’t think that it did work, I’m happy to say, because judges had more sense than to be brainwashed by trainers.... This is a hugely complex, sensitive issue: the trainers are the people

who have the most knowledge about training, and dressage in general, and yet to give them too high an influence in the sport would create chaos. The trainers should be advancing the sport, with the judges regulating, assessing, if necessary moderating, this progress. It seems to me that both parties should truly respect the other, each recognizing the roles the other plays.

Think of the difficulties in “inventing” a system for training, testing, grading judges. We have unpaid judges, who take up the role for a variety of reasons:- for the good of the sport, to gain a judges perspective to help with competing, for power and influence...the list goes on; our system could be anywhere on the spectrum from the ultra right-wing “we must thoroughly train our judges, test them rigorously, keep a uniformity and continuity..” to the centre-left wing “let’s have anyone who wants to come, aboard; they will gain training “on the job”; market forces will determine who to use..” Both ends of the spectrum have advantages and disadvantages; having lived in a country (UK) with a right-wing philosophy, compared with NZ’s more centrist attitude, I have no doubt which I prefer – I think that there are far too many dangers in having a stringent testing policy (for instance, we lose far too many quality judges, who cannot cope with the strict and potentially humiliating testing procedures; it gives too much power to existing high-list judges; progress tends to be stifled...); I much prefer NZ’s more liberal approach – in fact, I would like to take it even more in that direction.

I think that judging here is pretty good, particularly compared with other countries. There are a couple of issues which I feel need addressing, both of which I’ve raised with the Powers That Be (PTB): one is the question of higher marks, a problem which (hopefully) will become more and more important. Think of the difference between a 4 and a 7: pretty big, yes? Is there the same gap in the minds of the judges between a 7 and a 10? My feeling is that there is not. I feel that ideas become rather muddled at the top end; we really require our judges now to start being clearer in their

**“safe mediocre riding is not what we are trying to encourage. It is easy to make mistakes when riding more flamboyantly, with more freedom; it is easy to be mistake-free when riding cautiously.”**

thinking with this mark range. It makes a great difference not just to the final score but sometimes to the results, for if a good horse getting only 7’s and 8’s for a lot of work makes a few silly errors it may well be placed below a more ordinary mistake-free performance, and this kind of safe mediocre riding is not what we are trying to encourage. It is easy to make mistakes when riding more flamboyantly, with more freedom; it is easy to be mistake-free when riding cautiously.

Related to this is the second point: if the judge is wanting to give a 10, the comments should be giving reasons why the 10 was not given – in other words, the comment should be negative. If an 8 is given, we don’t need to be told that something was good – the mark tells us that – we need to know what more we need for a 9. These comments would not only be more helpful but would also help the judge to sort out in his or her own mind whether the mark really should be an 8, a 9 or even a 10. When I mentioned this to the PTB their comment was that for the bulk of the riders,

cont’d page 6

# Rising Star

from page 1

Vanessa comes from non-horsey parents who had neither the wealth nor the inclination to encourage a horse-mad child to fulfill her dreams. As a youngster Vanessa spent hours hanging around stables, A&P shows; anywhere she could gain contact with horses and a chance to help and learn. By age 16 she had saved enough money to buy her first horse, a four-year-old Thoroughbred straight off the track. He was in poor condition, but Vanessa could easily see his wonderful bone structure and she loved his colour – bright chestnut! He only had two gaits – buck or gallop – and was so difficult at first

**“He only had two gaits – buck or gallop –”**

that Vanessa was frequently in tears. However, he redeemed himself to become a superstar in the eventing and pony club circuit, winning the New Zealand young rider eventing three day event 1993 and numerous other titles.

At Pony Club, Vanessa found herself the butt of many jokes about her “old and strange” gear. She did not stay long, although she did return later to compete in Pony Club Champs. She worked to pay for lessons with Christian Theiss whenever he came to her area and enjoyed continuous support and lessons from dressage riders Jill Tompkins and Jenny Atkinson.

Like other serious riders, Vanessa initially competed in eventing, buying and training up horses off the racetrack and selling them on. Eventually her interest turned to dressage. After training a Thoroughbred up to Grand Prix level, Vanessa decided that in general, the conformation and superior paces of a good Warmblood horse would make it a better choice for dressage.

Hanoverian horses were familiar to Vanessa because she had spent many years around John Magrath and Sally Conquest, helping them with turnout and riding. She was working for Mary Wilson at the time that Mary and four others went to Germany to choose and buy Anamour. Vanessa was caught up in the excitement of this plan, and naturally was among the first to see the stallion when he arrived in New Zealand. Like many others, she was thrilled by the quality and elasticity he displayed.

**“[Arvan] possesses everything she looks for in a good dressage horse.”**

John and Sally had a son of Anamour, out of the Dynamit mare Demure. Vanessa had always admired him. To help her on her way, John sold him as a two-year-old to Vanessa, at a price she could afford. He is, of course, KH Arvan, 2007 Open Medium Horse of the year and Bates NZ Dressage Open Medium Champion. Arvan was Vanessa’s first horse by Anamour. To Vanessa, he possesses everything she looks for in a good dressage horse. He is rideable and trainable, has a good attitude to his work, good “uphill” conformation, with good legs and is “strong and quick behind”.

Based on the premise that where there is one, there might be more, Vanessa entered into a mutually beneficial relationship with friends Gary and Wendy Freeman of Bilbar Lodge, where Anamour stands at stud. Now they keep her supplied with high quality young horses by Anamour, and Vanessa has become an ambassador for Hanoverian horses in general, and Anamour in particular.

As well as Arvan, Vanessa’s stable is home to the weanling BLAward and his three-year-old full brother BLArawn, both of which are out of the Genius/Witzbold mare Georgie Girl; yearling Anamour out of Cinnamon (by Witzbold), a full brother to Sue Hobson’s Aristoc; KH Allendro, a two year-old, out of the Winter Koenig mare Waitangi Wind. They are all by Anamour. A sixth Anamour offspring, BL Antonio (out of the Winnebago mare, Argentina), Vanessa sold to a good, competitive dressage home in Australia.

It was on a flight to Nelson in 2002, (in her other life as an air hostess), that Vanessa managed a quick side trip to view Winter’s Realm (Winter Koenig/Distelfink), bred by Jane Hawthorne. Financially, his price was out of Vanessa’s reach, but Sam Kelt, of Kelt Capital, who appreciated Vanessa’s enlivening presence on his frequent flights, generously helped her buy the horse. Winter’s Realm will have his first Grand Prix competition in September this year. Future aspirations for both him and Arvan include the Kentucky WEG and the London Olympics.

Two years ago, Vanessa made the trip to Germany with Andrea Raves. They visited Klaus Balkenhol and watched him training the American dressage team in the lead up to the final of the World Cup. I had several questions for Vanessa about this, which are best answered in her own words:

**Sue:** “What impressions did you get?”

**Vanessa:** “We are not lacking the horse flesh; it is the training and the riding letting us down.”

**S:** “Do NZ dressage riders need the experience of visiting Germany?”

**V:** “Yes, I think you need to visit to observe. Once you have watched the true masters ride, then you must assess your own riding and be crucifyingly honest to yourself and your horse.”

**S:** “What advice can you offer with regard to training of horse and rider?”

**V:** “You must continually watch the best horses and riders in action to train your eye so that you can learn to discern what is brilliant and what is not. I believe if you fail but get back up and keep getting back up then one day you will succeed.”

**S:** “Who are your own coaches?”

**V:** I’m always open minded with my training, never relying solely on one trainer. However I’m lucky to have some superb help with Andrea Raves training me on a monthly basis and horseman and trainer Micheal Putz who keeps my horses and myself in total harmony. Michael will be training me for two weeks in September. I still plan to visit another amazing horseman and trainer, Carl Hester.

**S:** “From a rider’s point of view, do you think NZ breeders are on the right track?”

**V:** “Yes, I believe the breeders are breeding quality horses which, with the correct riding and training, have the potential to be international horses.”

cont’d page 6

## Bill Noble: Thoughts

from page 4

particularly at lower level, negative comments are a complete turn-off. This attitude I agree with completely, so I guess I'm suggesting that judges become rather selective in their com-

**"the marks or the comments can be critical, but not both".**

ments in that when judging using the higher marks they can afford to be critical in their comments, but when the marks are consistently low they need not be too critical with the comments. In other words, either the marks or the comments can be critical, but not both.

The art of being successful often seems to be a matter of turning apparent weaknesses into strengths: can we turn the "weakness" of a subjective judging process into a strength? I think we can. We are in an era where "success" is solely dependent on the final result; the winners are the only ones seen as being "successful". The end justifies the means. The jumping horse clearing a high fence is "successful" regardless of its style or method of training. But if the dressage judge could look "behind" the test to understand how it was produced, and allow that information to affect his or her judgement, then that judge would be acting as some sort of

**"Should we have a sixth judge at major shows judging the working-in"?**

ethical policeman in the sport. Would we want this? I believe that this has already happened to a small extent: at the Seoul Olympics, the chairman of the judges, Mr. Niggli, often walked around the working-in arenas. Should we have a sixth judge at major shows judging the working-in? Some of the stuff we see in these practice arenas is not pretty (in NZ as well as Europe) – why should we – and more importantly, why should those affected horses – be subjected to this? It seems to me that we may be able to create an atmosphere where, in one sport at least, the results do not justify the means.

Finally, just about everything I feel about judging can be summarized by a paragraph I read many years ago. I do not know who wrote it, and my memory may not be too accurate, but it goes something like:

"Remember the importance of the salute at the beginning and end of the test. From the rider, it signifies: "I present myself before you in good faith, I will respect and accept your judgement, and thank you for your time and effort in assessing our work". On the part of the judge it signifies: "Thank you for the honour you do me in appearing before me; I promise to assess your work with honesty and to the best of my knowledge and ability"."

*Bill Noble is a successful rider, trainer and coach who lives at Ardmore, South Auckland, with his wife and family.*

You can contact Bill on 09 296 2414  
noblebf@wave.co.nz

## Rising Star

from page 5

S: "Do you think there is enough communication/good relationship between riders and breeders?"

V: "I love talking to the breeders as they are so passionate about helping riders on an international competitive level. Without the breeders, a rider is never better than the horse; however, from a breeder's point of view, the horse is only as good as the rider. This relationship is intertwined and of significant importance."

S: "Have you developed an interest in other stallions besides Anamour?"

V: "I'm always following the bloodlines entering New Zealand."

S: "What about the frozen semen that some NZ breeders are using?"

V: "Don't forget that the most important factor is the quality of your mare, however frozen semen gives us an even more level field for potential international contention."

S: "If you could give the breeders a wish list, what main items would be on it?"

V: "Use a stunning mare and breed for active hocks, naturally uphill horses with well set on necks and sloping shoulders. Basically, aim to get a very well conformed horse that is elastic and uses its body. Good temperament is a must, however, I believe that many problems can be avoided with correct handling and riding."

Vanessa's career as an air hostess is over and she now supports herself entirely through horses – training and giving lessons.

Recently, an exciting development has taken place that will see the inclusion in her team of a young Hanoverian stallion imported from Germany. From October this year, Vanessa will have the ride of the licensed Hanoverian stallion, Banesto (Bergamon/Matcho AA).

Vanessa is utterly passionate about horses and dressage, confident enough to believe in herself and her methods, individual enough to have her own opinions and courageous enough to voice them when necessary. Her pupils love her, and there is that about her which inspires those who know her well to help her on her way to success. As well, she has several sponsors. Her name is by now well known in NZ dressage circles. It must surely be only a matter of time before we see Vanessa's name appearing in International results.

### 30th Anniversary

**We have tried to locate all past members.**

**If you know of someone who should be invited to attend, please email their name and postal address to Kellie Hamlett-Coombs**

**kelliehc@xtra.co.nz**



**Above: Aerodynamic and Sandra Stanford in action at Woodhill Sands**

## An Owner's Nightmare...

*you find your horse on three legs in his paddock  
what do you do?*

**Sandra Stanford**

Several issues ago, we were introduced to the showjumper, Aerodynamic (Dynamit/Norfolk Isle xx), owned and ridden by Sandra Stanford.

Sandra and Aero won everything they were eligible to enter at the 2007 Waitemata Showjumping Championships, and had two second placings at the Horse of the Year show, one of them in a title class.

Then disaster struck! A week after the HOY show and after a pleasant evening hacking out the day before, Sandra found Aero in his paddock, literally on three legs. Sandra's own words tell the story of how she and Aero coped with this horse owners' nightmare...

***"it's hard work getting a three-legged horse from a paddock to the barn..."***

"He stayed on three legs for the next 11 days ...it's hard work getting a three- legged horse from a paddock to the barn 300m away! The emergency vet at first thought he had done his suspensory ligament and bandaged him, said to wait a week and get my vet to change the bandage. I didn't

wait that long because after doing some research, I decided the diagnosis didn't match up. I called my own vet out, who instantly diagnosed a fracture... that broke my heart!

"The vet xrayed the leg, but couldn't find the fracture. He was certain he knew where it was, so it was box rest for Aero. He isn't used to being inside, and didn't cope at all well... the drugs weren't cutting it and he wasn't eating. He quickly began to look like a welfare horse..."

"I got out another vet for another opinion and to see if he could find anything... still no luck and told to wait. After five weeks inside, I had to take Aero out and put him in small outdoor yards (for his sanity and mine). That worked for a short while, but he soon became destructive.

"We tried again to find the fracture but once again, without luck.

"Just keep him confined", [said the vet], (easier said than done!) "and we will reassess in a few weeks time". Apparently, fractures pull apart further before they heal up, so then it is easier to see them.

**cont'd page 12**

***Have you got the winter blues?  
Tired of mud and slush?***

*Would you enjoy a weekend away, time spent with old friends  
the chance to meet new friends?*

*good wine, great food, terrific fun and not a dab of mud anywhere!*

***30th Anniversary AGM and Awards Dinner, Taupo,  
Saturday, August 25th 10.30 a.m***

*have you booked yet?*

Accommodation: [www.suncourt.co.nz](http://www.suncourt.co.nz) phone 0800 786 268 or 07 378 8265

*Pre-Registration for Saturday lunch, Lake Cruise, Wine Tasting, Awards Dinner  
send to Angela Smith, 124 Harrisville Rosd, Tuakau. Ph. 09 236 9556  
email: [john.w.f.smith@xtra.co.nz](mailto:john.w.f.smith@xtra.co.nz)*

***Brochure:***

*A copy of our new advertising brochure  
has been included with this mailing, for  
your interest.*

*If you would like more copies for distribu-  
tion to friends, or at relevant events or  
locations, please contact Judy Wear 09 415  
9968, or Sue French 06 322 1656*

***Stallion Parade:***

*There is to be a Sport Horse stallion parade  
at Cambodge Lodge on Sunday, August  
26th, 11.00 a.m*

*We will have an information booth at the  
parade, managed by Prue Jackson. If you  
can be of help to Prue, please phone her  
07 825 4825*

**FMG DRESSAGE NORTHLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS  
20 - 21 October 2007**

The 1st Tournament to support Hanoverians.

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# 2007 World Equestrian Festival CHIO Aachen

**Sue French**



**Above: Airborne - Meredith Michaels-Beerbaum and Shutterfly  
Photo: Kit Houghton**

Sometimes, an opportunity just presents itself and you have to decide quickly whether to take it or leave it. This happened recently to a friend of mine, Stewart Mitchell.

Stewart is a racehorse trainer who runs an immaculate stable to very high standards. For Stewart, horses are more than his bread and butter; they occupy his leisure time as well. He is an avid hunter, riding with both the Rangitikei and Egmont hunts, and in an earlier life he rode show-jumpers.

When he was offered, at short notice, a place in Andrea Raves' World Equestrian Festival tour in July, everyone close to Stewart knew he had to go. To make it possible, Stewart's wife, family, friends and neighbours all rallied around to cover his workload during his absence. The owner of Horsemise (tack shop) in Fielding, gave him their lucky mascot, a small toy horse named Chippy, to take with him on the condition that he bring back photos of Chippy in Aachen.

Stewart is a skilled horseman and rider, but this was his first chance to see the world's best horses and riders in action, in the flesh. I was very keen to hear his impressions.

One of the first visits the group made was to Klaus Balkenhol's yard to observe a training session for the American [dressage] team. There, Stewart met British rider Emma Hindle and American Steffan Peters.

Another memorable visit was to the German Olympic Federation training centre, where Stewart was amazed to observe that pupils ranged in age from as young as 14 years. He was also amazed to find that the centre has built a replica of every cross-country fence ever used in any international competition, anywhere in the world!

And so, on to the main thrust of the tour, which was the World Equestrian Festival, the CHIO, Aachen.

Stewart told me that his first impression [at the show in Aachen] was of the sheer scale of everything, on a magnitude that we never encounter here in New Zealand; the numbers of people and therefore, the size of the facilities, the noisy enthusiasm and responsiveness of the full capacity crowds. He came away feeling that the whole event was so huge, there had been a lot he did not see.

The trade stands area was like a small city, with anything and everything remotely pertaining to horses or equestrian sport available, and a lot of other stuff besides. There was even a stand where you could purchase your own private jet!

The tour was oriented for dressage enthusiasts. However, Stewart's real passion is for showjumping. Fortunately, he was able to procure tickets for some of the showjumping, including the Nations Cup rounds. The highlight of the tour for Stewart was seeing each of the four riders in the German team come into the arena and do clear rounds. The German team had such a strong lead that their fourth rider in the second round, Ludger Beerbaum, did not have to start. The excitement of the crowd was infectious and electrifying; the most memorable horses (Stewart said) were Shutterfly and Goldfever. Hmmm, both Hanoverians – was he just trying to please me? No, surely not. (Why would he bother?). In fact, Stewart's exact and spontaneous words were:

"That Shutterfly's a star!"

(I did ask Stewart if he remembered any of the dressage horses: his response? – Salinero.)

The jumping competition rounds were spectacular and thrilling, but like any true horseman would, Stewart found the opportunity to visit the practice arena where he spent two hours observing and taking mental notes. Two hours watching the world's best showjumpers and their riders behind the scenes must surely be beyond price!

Stewart was interested to see if they used anything special in the way of gear, but found that mostly the bridles, bits and martingales were not out of the ordinary. What did impress him was the degree of protection the horses were provided; bellboots, leg boots, heels taped, studs,

**cont'd page 12**

# From the Stud Book Keeper

## Exciting news

*Robin Potter*

It is with the greatest pleasure that I can announce that from next season we will be able to enhance our standing in the breeding world and in the eyes of Germany by being able to include in a PRE-STUDBOOK all the mares which, for a variety of reasons, have slipped through without being birth branded.

This will allow us to put to bed the conundrum that we started at the AGM weekend in Blenheim two years ago – HOW to get the blue paper mares into the system. Thanks to John Smith once again – who made us brain storm the whole issue - we have been able to take the resulting thoughts forward to the point where we now find ourselves.

The details are yet to be fully finalised but the key issues are...

- mares with a minimum of two approved stallions in the first and second generations and
- overall classification score of at least 7.0

.....can be included.  
All the other criteria remain.

This gives us a huge opportunity to achieve growth in our mare population, a necessity which Dr Wilkens suggested during his last visit here is our biggest challenge.

The foals [from these Pre-studbook mares] by Licensed stallions, will therefore be eligible to be birth branded and their daughters will be eligible for the Main Studbook.

I will add further news on this in future newsletters and keep those members posted who may have mares eligible for use this coming season. Ideally we would like to keep a good number to be presented to Dr Wilkens when he visits in 2009, as I am sure this will make him very happy.

If anyone has a mare, or has a friend with such a mare, please contact me to register your interest and of course, if there are questions, then I will try to answer them.

## Foal Names

I can report that I have allocated 46 numbers – not too bad after a slow start.. Foal names to report again, following a request that their colour and sex be included –

Anarain	Anamour/Paris Rain xx	Dark brown colt	Chris Paston
Abracadabra	Anamour/Devon	brown filly	Debbie Smith
Award	Anamour/Georgie Girl(Genius)	bay colt	Bilbar Lodge
Aberdeen	Anamour/Cinders xx	grey colt	Bilbar Lodge
Anabar	Anamour/Victory Pride xx	brown filly	Bilbar Lodge
Alonso	Anamour/Exclusion xx	chestnut colt	Bilbar Lodge
Academy	Anamour/Cinnamon (Witzbold)	black colt	Bilbar Lodge
Donnervogel	Dream Boy/Monier Bay xx	black colt	Rebecca Horne
Henton For Fun	For Edition/Galatoire (Genius)	bay colt	Henton Lodge
Anton	Anamour/Waitangi Wind (Winterkoenig)	bay colt	John Magrath
Andy Desfresne	Anamour/Looks Sharp xx	brown colt	Robyn Hirst
Henton Eragon	El Bundy/Delft (Dynamit)	brown colt	Henton Lodge
Henton Allegria	Anamour /Henton Dungarven (Dynamit)	bay filly	Henton Lodge
BL All Amour	Anamour/Benefit Babe xx	grey filly	Bilbar Lodge
Ajazzco	Anamour/Raging Jazz xx	chestnut filly	Bilbar Lodge
Abby	Anamour/Delta (Dream Boy)	black filly	Jacquie Quinn
Auditor	Anamour/Rocky xx	brown colt	Bronn Twigg
Lang-Syne	Limonit/Sound Return xx	bay colt	Karyn Giffin
Louis Lamont	Limonit/Kings Wish xx	bay colt	Ad Astra H.
Lorelei	Limonit/Melody Maid xx	bay filly	Ad Astra H.
Lena	Limonit/Andiana (Anamour)	bay filly	Ad Astra H.
Rosari Samarkand	Sandro Hit/Donna (De Niro)	black filly	Fiona McCrostie
Rosari Georgia	Gymnastik Star/Weltnader (Weltmeyer)	bay filly	Fiona McCrostie
Rosari Don Juan	Don Frederico/Anastasia (Anamour)	black colt	Fiona McCrostie



Rosari Dante	Don Picardi/Gera (Gymnastik Star)	bay colt	Fioana McCrostie
Parkridge Luke	Londonderry/Anagain (Anamour)	chestnut colt	Carol Eivers
Parkridge Drama	Don Frederico/Parkridge Diva xx	chestnut colt	Carol Eivers
Parkridge Adamant	Anamour/Grosvenor Belle xx	brown colt	Carol Eivers
Dancing MH	Dream Boy/Waltzintanz	brown filly	Matthews H.
Fiesta MH	Fabriano/Greta Garbo	Bay filly	Matthews H.
Dante MH	De Niro/Adelheid	black colt	Matthews H.
D`Lana MH	Dream Boy/Grimalda	grey filly	Matthews H.
Dorian T	Dream Boy/A`Dynasty /Allermund	chestnut colt	AngelaTovey
Worf	Weltmeyer/Suzanne Paul xx	chestnut colt	Nicolette Rendle
(to be decided)	Riverdance/Ultamia xx	chestnut colt	Marina Trapski
Stoneylea Dazzle	Dream Boy/Madame la Rouge xx	chestnut filly	John & Angela Smith

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2006-7**

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**Limonit**

021 613 392  
Annie Wills  
Ph (09) 426 0501 or 027 433 7358  
Chilled Semen available

**\*Riverdance**

Contact Kinnordy Stud, Australia,  
Holger and Melanie Schmorl  
www.schmorlkinnordy.com  
Ph. +61 7 4969 1190  
Email: schmorlkinnordy@bigpond.com

\*Riverdance has returned to Kinnordy Stud in Australia. Enquiries should be directed to Holger or Melanie Schmorl as above.

## Breed Orientation Course 2007

### **Sue French**

**What is it?** The purpose of the course, as I understand it, is to educate students about the Hanoverian horse, the history of its bloodlines, the development of the breeding programme and the principles on which it is based. Included are classroom lectures and hands-on assessment of horses, both for conformation and gaits, and for jumping technique and scope.

Students participate in the evaluation of mares in a mare performance test held at the Hanoverian riding and driving school in Verden, and are given feedback on their assessments. Also included are visits to selected breeders' farms, to the State Stud at Celle, and to the stallion performance testing station at Adelheidsdorf during the performance testing of the young stallions from the previous year's licensing.

Unforgettable highlights are the licensing and subsequent auctions of the current year's Stallion Licensing candidates and the Gala evening.

**Why would I attend?** The course is an intense learning experience. No matter how good a judge of a horse you might be, your eyes will be opened, your consciousness raised; you will still be having "Aha" moments long after you return home.

If you are interested in any of the stallions with frozen semen available, there are opportunities during the course to view some of them and/or their progeny in the flesh. Quite apart from anything else, you will have a lot of fun.

If you have been thinking about it, I strongly encourage you to attend this course. There is one held every year, usually in October. Value for money, they are excellent.

Your primary contact in Germany, Monika Meyer, speaks fluent English and is always extremely helpful. You can contact her by phone: +49 4231 67314 by fax: +49 4231 67312 email: MMeyer@hannoveraner.com

## Owner's Nightmare

from page 7

"So we played the waiting game some more. Aero began to improve and could walk somewhat without too much trouble. Then one morning I came out and he was on three legs again... he had tried to escape! He had redone all the ligament damage and it looked as though he had re-broken it also! From there, it was the slowest time of my life... they still hadn't found the fracture site and he wasn't showing any improvement, in fact he began to get worse.

***"It turned out to be a spiral fracture to the top of his hind tibia, with extensive ligament damage".***

"We took him down to the clinic for more xrays and they found the fracture. It turned out to be a spiral fracture to the top of his hind tibia, with extensive ligament damage. It looked to be healing, so we continued with the waiting. The plan was to keep him on minimal drugs and re-assess in a month's time... (sigh).

"We went home and by now had to have Aero in a small paddock so he wouldn't try to escape. He started to get worse. He began dragging the leg and, instead of resting it normally, he would fold it over so that the front of his fetlock was almost touching the ground... it just looked awful! He was miserable and off his food again.

"I rang the vets. They didn't want him to fold it the way he was doing, but they also didn't want him to feel too comfortable as they wanted him to be still. What do you do!? It was the most heartbreaking thing to see.

"Finally, Aero was so miserable, I rang the vets and asked if I could increase his pain-killers, (he had been on the drugs for almost three months by this time). They said he was low risk for an ulcer, given his age, but they recommended I didn't... that they wanted to wait another six weeks before they made a decision. By this stage he had no muscle what so ever in the leg... except in the area he was using to drag it... there was no stability in the leg, hence no ability to use it.

"I came to a decision. If Aero had only six weeks left... he may as well be comfortable and happy... if he were to do something silly then so be it... but I couldn't keep seeing him like this every day. I hoped that if I reduced the pain he might be able to build up some good strength in the leg to support it better. So I did it...I increased the drugs to where he would stand on the leg and not drag it.

"Aero slowly began to walk, trot and even manage the odd canter on it. After a week and a half, I could feel the muscle returning and decided to reduce the meds by one ml every day or two. Within another week and a half he was completely off the drugs.

"Aero is now happy, putting on weight and trotting comfortably at about 90-95% (just not quite bringing it through 100% but not lame on it either). So I'm a very happy mum right now, and so glad I trusted my gut!"

**Editor's note: At the time of going to print, Aero is still improving. More news next issue.**

## CHIO Aachen

from page 9

(two in the front, three behind), and huge studguards. He was intrigued by the precision and control he observed, and by the quiet unflappability of the riders.

There was still an obligation to fulfill: that of getting a recognisable photo of Chippy in Aachen. Stewart was halfway across the arena heading for the biggest fence, with Chippy ready to pose, when he spotted three officials approaching him, full of purpose. He immediately strode out as if walking the course. The officials melted away, and Stewart's friend was able to get a great photo with the help of a telephoto lens!

Stewart's general impression was that there is a huge gap between the skills of European riders and New Zealand riders; that New Zealand coaches and riders who aspire to International competition need to spend time riding and learning in Europe if they possibly can. We have the raw talent, and at least for dressage we are breeding some horses with International potential. What our riders lack is affordable, consistent access to good training and good competition.

Stewart has the travel bug now, and I think the fire for show-jumping has been re-kindled in his soul. I am waiting to see what happens next.

Meanwhile, is anyone out there breeding show-jumpers....?

## Hanoverians in the results:

### Eventing:

The DHL prize for first place in the eventing competition went to German rider Frank Osthalt riding the twelve year old Hanoverian gelding, Air Jordan (Amerigo Vespucci xx/Wittensee). The German eventing team, which as well as Air Jordan, included the Hanoverian Little Lemon FRH, took team honours.

### Dressage:

The GP Speciale, which took place on Saturday, July 7th, was won by Isabell Werth on her elegant bay gelding, Satchmo (Sao Paulo/Legat). They scored 77.6%. Just behind them with 76.8% were Dutch rider Anky van Grunsven and Salinero (Salieri/Lungau).

The German team of Isabell Werth and Satchmo, Ellen Schulten-Baumer and Donatha S (Donnerhall/Pik Bube) and Nadine Capellmann with Elvis (Esprit/Garibaldi) won the Dressage Nations Cup.

In the GP Freestyle on Sunday, Isabell and Satchmo prevailed again, to win with 82.5%, against Salinero's second-place score of 81.45%.

### Showjumping:

As we have already reported, the German team, which included Hanoverians Shutterfly and Goldfever, had a decisive victory in the Samsung Nations Cup.

As well, the Hanoverian mare Argelith Ghia (Graf Grannus/Calypso II), carried Eva Marie Bitter of Germany into third place in the six-bar jumping competition. This competition was won by Nick Skelton of Britain and the Holsteiner stallion, Russell. They cleared a final fence of two metres in height.

## International News



### Hanoverian mare placed at Badminton

The Hanoverian mare **FRH Serve Well**, with rider Andreas Dibowski of Germany, has taken second place in the 2007 Badminton Horse Trials.

The pair sailed in on their dressage score of 41.6.

FRH Serve Well (Sherlock Holmes/Warkant) has an unusual pedigree for an eventer. She shares her paternal grandsire, Salvano, with Anky van Grunsven's triple World Cup dressage horse, Salinero, while her damsire, Warkant, is well known as a sire of dressage horses.

In New Zealand, Salvano appears in the pedigree of resident stallion Limonit, on the dam's side.

A snippet of information which may be of interest to NZ breeders is that Salvano's dam, St.Pr.St.Dina, is full sister to our resident stallion, Dynamit (deceased).

**Left: FRH Serve Well and Andreas Dibowski well on their way to second place at Badminton Horse Trials, 2007.  
Photo: Kit Houghton**



### 2007 Dressage World Cup: Hanoverians triumphant

The Hanoverian gelding **Warum Nicht FRH**, by Weltmeyer, out of a Wenzel mare, and rider Isabell Werth, of Germany have won the 2007 Rolex FEI World Cup for dressage with a decisive score of 84.25%.

Reserve Champion was the Hanoverian auction horse, **Sunrise** (Singular Joter/Waidwerk), ridden by Imke Schellekens-Bartels of the Netherlands. They scored 77.95%.

**Left: Warum Nicht FRH and Isabell Werth - Victory dance.  
Photo AK Hilsted**

# Vaccination in Equine Populations

## Why vaccinate?

Vaccines are among our most potent weapons against disease. Over the past 100 years they have saved many thousands of horses' lives and helped render many terrible equine diseases exceedingly rare.

Routine vaccination should be part of any comprehensive health maintenance program for ALL horses.

The objectives of vaccination fall into three categories;

1. To prevent disease
2. To reduce the severity of disease
3. To minimize the extent to which horses spread the disease.

If you have only one horse, then the important aspect is disease prevention; but if you own a big farm, you will want to reduce the impact of an outbreak.

## How Vaccines Work

Vaccinations work by introducing weakened or killed microorganisms into the body to 'train' the immune system to recognise and destroy specific disease-causing pathogens (virus or bacteria). On subsequent exposure to a specific pathogen, the horse is then able to mount a much more rapid and effective response to prevent or minimize the clinical symptoms.

## Vaccines Currently Available

A horse's vaccination regimen should be based on its age, occupation, and social arrangements, as well as the prevalence of particular diseases in the local area. Therefore an old companion in the back paddock will have different requirements from an elite athlete that travels the world.

- **Tetanus Toxoid:** A rigid paralytic disease caused by the toxin of *Clostridium tetani*, an anaerobic bacteria that lives in soil and faeces but can infect wounds.

**PLEASE NOTE** that Tetanus Anti-Toxin (TAT) is just that, it is an anti-toxin that is only useful as a preventative cover when we don't know the full vaccination history or status of an animal. It is NOT a vaccine and only protects the horse for up to six weeks. That is, for the period of the wound that you may be treating it for.

- **Strangles:** Highly contagious infection of the lymph nodes, usually of the head, caused by *Streptococcus equi* bacteria. The abscesses may become so large as to restrict the airway (hence the term 'strangles') and may break internally, draining thick yellow pus through the nose, or externally through a spontaneous or surgical opening in the skin.

- **Rhinopneumonitis:** a contagious disease caused by herpesviruses (EHV1, EHV4) and characterised by fever, respiratory infection, and in mares' abortion. This can be one of 'the viruses' to affect racing yards. There is also a paralytic form of the disease that caused serious losses in the United Kingdom just 3 years ago.

- **Rotavirus A:** a type of virus that causes profuse diarrhoea in foals younger than 3 months old. In addition to diarrhoea infection includes depression, failure to nurse, and recumbency. With this disease you need to vaccinate the mares at 8, 9 and 10 months of pregnancy.

- **Salmonella:** a highly contagious bacterial disease that causes diarrhoea and colitis in horses of all ages, usually brought about in stressful conditions.

Other vaccines available but not usually applicable for horses living in New Zealand include Influenza (Equine Flu), Botulism, Encephalomyelitis (brain and spinal cord disease), West Nile

Virus, Rabies, and Equine Viral Arteritis (some importance for Standard bred breeding stallions but not yet prevalent in the Thoroughbred population).

## When to vaccinate

The horse has an excellent immune system, on a par with any other species. However, a foal's initial immune protection is from the absorption of colostrum milk from the mare. This level of absorption can be checked by measuring the immunoglobulin level (IgG) of the blood at 24 to 48 hours of age.

This passive absorption of maternal antibodies means that the foals' own immune system won't respond properly to vaccination until around 4 to 6 months of age. This is the best time to start a programme.

Another practical tip is to vaccinate your mares just prior (one month) to foaling. This will boost their colostrum antibody levels to the maximum level and help to ensure that your new born foal is receiving all the protection it can until it's own immune system is functioning properly.

## Record Keeping

Keeping accurate records is important to the success of any vaccination programme so that doses are being given regularly and at the right time. The introduction of a horse passport or identification/ vaccination card may be very useful for this purpose. This system is commonplace overseas.

## Summary

As we have already discussed, you need to take each horse and farm on its own merits. But remember that without the progress that has been made with vaccines many diseases that we now hardly encounter would still be commonplace.

A sick horse or one performing below its peak, or a mare abortion is in real terms very costly. Especially if it could have been prevented, or the effects minimised, by the relatively small cost involved with an effective vaccination programme.

As a guide, consider protection at this time of year to the following diseases:

**Tetanus and Strangles:** this comes in a '2 in 1' package. Give three doses not less than two weeks apart as a primary course then an annual booster.

**Rhinopneumonitis/ Equine Herpes Virus:** Pregnant mares should receive doses at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy. Competition horses can have a primary course of two doses a month apart, especially at the start of the season, and then go to a 6 monthly or annual booster programme depending on the risk of cross infection from mixing with other horses. Rotavirus is then given at 8, 9 and 10 months of pregnancy.

Boost all your mares with Tetanus/ Strangles one month prior to foaling.

And remember, vaccination programmes should be periodically re-evaluated and adjusted based on new threats, changes in local/ regional conditions and any modifications that have occurred in a horse's activity level or surroundings.

*We are grateful to Matamata Veterinary Services Ltd. for the contribution of this article.*

## Fillies for Sale: (born2005)

Wegeli, chestnut, Weltmeyer x A'LaLique - Anamour - Winnebago

This stunning filly by Weltmeyer is out of the Award winning mare A'LaLique. A'LaLique was 2year old Sport Horse of the Year at HOY 2001, judged by Herr Lopp. At 3 years she was award the Mare Stud Book Award for Top Classification in NZ assessed by Herr Heemke. She is very feminine, very pretty, with elegance and all the "to dance" factor any dressage rider could wish for. An intelligent thinking horse and very trainable, she will be very competitive in the dressage arena and has a pedigree second to none as a broodmare.

POA

A'Limoges, Black, Anamour x Delight - DreamBoy - Winnebago

This filly has the movement and the jumping all rolled into one. Intelligent, sensitive and yet bold and interested in all that is going on around her. Should mature 16.2 -16.3; correct conformation, strong hindquarters, she has already shown her natural jumping ability! She will be more than competitive in Dressage, Eventing or Show jumping, along with her pedigree as a future broodmare.

POA

Both these fillies are registered and branded, have been well handled and have had regular worming and Farrier since birth.

If you are interested in either of these quality horses, please contact Sue Nation, ph.06 857 3721

Email: punawaitai@xtra.co.nz

## Horses For Sale

This free service for members has been re-instated by request, and I am pleased to see that it is being utilised. To place an advertisement, simply go to the Horses for Sale page on our website, click where it says "place an ad", and fill out the form. You can also access the form from Horsetalk. Go to "Classifieds" > Horse and Pony > Hanoverian.

Alternatively, you can post or email your ad to me and I will post it for you. Your ad will be removed after six weeks, but you may renew it as often as you wish. Your ad not only appears on our website, it is also accessible directly from Horsetalk.

Where else can you advertise online for free?

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## Annual Fees 2006-7

**Annual Subscriptions:**

Full breeding members \$85.00

Associate members \$40.00

Broodmare registration \$10.00

Stallion Registration \$300.00

A breeder page or pages hosted on the Society's web-site (development costs borne by the member) \$49.00

**Once only Fees**

Foal Registration \$30.00

Mare classification and registration  
Single mare \$90.00

Group of three or more \$30.00 each

Mare Performance Test \$40.00

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**Verband Magazine in German**

Application should be made to the Secretary

All breeding members will receive the English supplement

### New Zealand Hanoverian Merchandise

Remember the new range of navy blue clothing to go alongside the black with gold

Item	Sizes	Colour	Price
breathable Vneck shirt, very light, easy wash, cool (neat fit)	10,12,14	Navy only	\$38 each
Polo fleece Jacket (nicely fitted)	S M L	Navy only	\$58 each
Socks (cotton)	2-5, 6-10,10-13	Black/Navy	\$5.00 pair
Polo Shirts	10,12,14,16,18	Black/Navy	\$30 each
Sweat Shirt	small, medium, large	Black only	\$38 each
Caps	One size	Black/Navy	\$12 each
Vests	small, medium, large	Black/Navy	\$58 each
Scarves	One size	Black only	\$10 each
Truck Towel	18" long	Black only	\$10 each
Lapel badges	small enamel	yellow/black	\$2.50 each
Umbrella	large	black/gold trim	\$25 each
Saddle Blanket Patches	75 x 50	Black	\$8 each

All items with Hnz logo in gold.

Photos available on the Web-Site in the Merchandise section.

orders to: Jenny McNaught, Silverhope, 14 Aerodrome Rd, R.D.2 Dannevirke

Ph.06 374 7669

silver.hope@xtra.co.nz

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Please add \$5.00 for packing and postage

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