

Your Awapuni, it's more than horseracing!



FMG Manawatu Steeplechase Day – Saturday, June 18th



A message from our Sponsor

FMG are proud to be a major supporter of jumps racing in New Zealand. It gives us the chance to get in behind events that both rural and provincial people are passionate about.

As an organisation that's been backing the Manawatu since 1905 we're delighted to be able to extend our support to the FMG Manawatu Steeplechase. After the success of the inaugural race sponsorship in 2010 we're certainly looking forward to this year's event.

Along with enjoying great race days we also value the opportunity to access the impressive Awapuni Function Centre. We are pleased to be using the facilities for our AGM and Rural Leaders Forum in August, when we will have the opportunity to show off this top class facility to members and delegates from across New Zealand.

FMG is committed to protecting the property and livelihoods of rural and provincial people up and down the country. Today, we're one of the few New Zealand owned and operated insurance companies, which means we'll always put you first and focus on your needs.

I would like to personally extend an invitation to each and every member of the Awapuni based Clubs to visit our local offices in Palmerston North and Feilding, or call our locally based team on 0800 366 466 and find out how we can help you.

And of course, you'll find me at Awapuni on Saturday 18th, where I look forward to sharing another exciting FMG Manawatu Steeplechase with you.

Kind regards

Conrad Wilkshire
General Manager Advice & Insurance



Last year's winner Logan James on the way to winning the 2010 FMG Manawatu Steeplechase

Riddell to ride in Jumps races at Awapuni

Leading Awapuni jockey, Jonathan Riddell will be in action over the fences for the first time this jumping season at Awapuni next Saturday. But don't expect to see his name down every weekend. That is because one of our leading flat and jumps riders is choosing carefully what races he will ride in.



Jonathan Riddell and Jimmy Choux combine to win the 2011 New Zealand Derby

Riddell is having a wonderful season after having teamed up with Jimmy Choux to win three Group One races spread between New Zealand and Australia. The first of those came at Riccarton last November when winning the \$1M Two Thousand Guineas. On to March and New Zealand's biggest race the \$2.2 million New Zealand Derby and Riddell was again victorious on his favourite horse. The winning did not stop there with another Group One coming in Australia in the A\$500,000 Rosehill Guineas in April. Also add the \$1m Karaka Millions aboard the Awapuni trained Fort Lincoln for Lisa Latta and its not hard to see why Riddell heads the Jockeys Premiership for most stakemoney won with \$3.2 million for the season.

Riddell's feat to achieve this should not be lost on anybody as he has only ridden 50 winners (49 in NZ and 1 in Australia) this season. Record-breaking Premiership leader James McDonald who currently sits on 197 winners has amassed \$2.8m in stakemoney. Lisa Allpress (130 wins, \$2m) and Opie Bosson (104 wins, \$2.7m) do not get close to him. Riddell also has a constant battle with his weight. He cannot get below 56kg and is currently only riding at 57kg during the winter to give his body a brief respite from his constant regime of the saunas, gym training and running in an effort to lose weight.

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So the decision to ride over the fences this season may puzzle some people. However Jonathan Riddell was a leading rider over the fences before reverting back to flat riding and has been crowned New Zealand's best Jumps Jockey at the National Racing Awards three times.

Riddell can be seen schooling horses at Awapuni regularly. "I still enjoy riding over fences and its still a buzz to ride a great jumper. I know there are risks associated with riding them but there is a risk every time I get on any horse" said a philosophical Riddell. "Paul Nelson approached me about a month ago and offered me his best jumpers in the big races. I have a wonderful association with Paul so it wasn't hard to say yes especially when he has jumpers in the calibre of Mann O Mann, Solid Steel and Proposition".

With next Saturday jumping races already looking like attracting good jumpers, spectators are now going to get the added bonus of seeing Jonathan Riddell in action over the fences.

Courtesy Ford Owners Day



Courtesy Ford

Next Saturday sees the running of the Courtesy Ford Owners Day, an event being held for the fifteenth time at Awapuni. Every year all owners who have raced a horse at Awapuni from June the previous year through to May, are invited to attend a function in the Silks Lounge where all the Awapuni Clubs thank the owners for their support during the season.

Over 4,500 invites were sent to owners around New Zealand. As like previous years the response has been overwhelming. 600 patrons will receive a carvery lunch courtesy of the Awapuni Clubs along with a subsidised bar for the day. This is just another way the Awapuni Club's feel they can reward those owners who race at Awapuni. Owners will also be able to win some great prizes in the room with a trip for four to the Wellington Cup day the major prize including raceday hospitality and accommodation for the weekend.

Matt Reid resigns from RACE

Dave Bennett Chairman of the RACE Board advised a fortnight ago that current Chief Executive, Matt Reid, had resigned from his position as Chief Executive. Reid resigned in order to commit more time to his young family.

Bennett noted "Matt started at RACE in September 2009 at what was an extremely difficult time for the organisation with a strained financial position and operating in a challenging economy and environment. While the financial position remains tight, in a short space of time Matt led RACE into a more stable position, bringing business acumen, structure and rigor to the organisation, all of which helped contribute to some excellent results, including a record profit for the 2010 Wellington Cup Carnival and despite inclement weather an excellent 2011 Cup Carnival Profit. He also made some extremely positive changes to our customer experience.

Reid begun and progressed a number of significant opportunities that will allow RACE in the future to retire significant amounts of debt".

Dave Bennett on behalf of the RACE Board, the 6 member clubs and all of the staff, wished Matt and his family all the very best for the future.

Rugby World Cup Raceday for Awapuni

While the new dates for the whole of next seasons racing have not been released yet the first three months have been confirmed to help Clubs plan around the Rugby World Cup. A new date for the Manawatu Racing Club will see the Club race on Wednesday September 28th with the Romania versus Georgia game scheduled to be played at FMG Stadium that night. The raceday will have four jumps races and gives patrons a great chance to have a day of rugby and racing.

LAST RACEDAY FOR THE SEASON

Marton Jockey Club, Saturday 9th July

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