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NEW ZEELAND - HRNZ Marketing

"Takter has Lazarus but will he do it?"



Takter has Lazarus but will he do it?

14 July 2018
HRNZ Marketing

When news broke of the sale of New Zealand Champion Pacer Lazarus to North American interests in May of this year, one of the biggest questions from his army of fans was who will take on the responsibility of training the great horse.

After all, Lazarus had amassed an impeccable record already for New Zealand trainers Mark Purdon and Natalie Rasmussen.

With 45 starts, 35 wins, 9 placings (he was only once out of the top three) and \$3.8million in earnings, Lazarus had already won two editions of the country's most prestigious race, the New Zealand Cup, and a staggering 15 Group One races in Australasia.

He had won everything from standing start two mile staying tests in his New Zealand Cups, in which he set the record for the fastest ever time paced over the distance, to a scintillating mile mobile victory when he won the Chariots of Fire in 1.49, in New South Wales.

And whilst the New Zealand bred horses currently dominate the North American open class ranks with three of the top seven earners Kiwi exports – Shartin (the richest overall pacer in the US this year to date), Bit Of A Legend and Sell A Bit – the road to glory for New Zealand standbreds abroad has not always been easy.

Adapting from the varied style of racing in New Zealand where race distances can be anything from one to two miles, stand or mobile starts or on grass or all weather tracks, our horses can sometimes find the transition to racing hard and fast miles at every start a steep learning curve.

There have of course been great New Zealand pacers who have flown the flag boldly in previous eras – the great Cardigan Bay of course was the first Standardbred to earn one million dollars and he hit that mark in the United States. So famous and adored by the public he featured on 'The Ed Sullivan Show' following his record setting achievement.

In more recent years Bit Of A Legend has also gathered a legion of fans in North America. After leaving New Zealand at age six with 20 wins to his name, Bit Of A Legend has gone on to win feature races in the US and Canada collecting a further 24 wins and taking his earnings \$2.2million in the past three years.

For Lazarus, the man tasked with guiding him through the next chapter of his journey is New Jersey based trainer, Jimmy Takter. And if he can produce success with Lazarus it will complete one of the most unique and historic training trifectas in harness racing history.



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AUSTRALIA - Paul Courts


"Turning tragedy into triumph"

11/27/2017

Turning tragedy into triumph | Harness Racing News

Turning tragedy into triumph

February 7, 2017



DUNCAN and LYN McPherson with their children Hamish, Tess and Thomas

"Tragedy often prepares ordinary people for an extraordinary destiny..."

LIKE most people, Duncan McPherson was happy within his own slice of world – a successful business, three great kids and a beautiful wife.

McPherson had a nice ordinary life until tragedy struck on March 8, 2010 when his wife, Lyn, lost her battle to ovarian cancer.

All of a sudden McPherson's existence was thrown out of balance and into a certain degree of turmoil.

Sure, he had good friends and family around him, but the pain McPherson was fighting inside, especially when he was home alone, was taking its toll.

"When Lyn passed away I went from carer to losing my life partner and living a very silent existence," McPherson explained. "I found it extremely difficult to find people to communicate it all with."

"Looking after our kids came first, but I struggled. After losing a life partner, the men get left behind and the support process isn't there."

That ignited part of McPherson's transformation from ordinary to extraordinary.

Realising a void needed to be filled, McPherson contacted the Women's Cancer Foundation – Ovarian Institute and offered his service as a counsellor for men.

"Drawing on my own experience, I wanted to assist men with the grieving process," McPherson said. "I would be their 'cold call' so they could have someone to talk to"

<http://harnessnews.com.au/2017/02/turning-tragedy-into-triumph/>

11/27/2017

Turning tragedy into triumph | Harness Racing News

who fully understood what they were dealing with.

"I've been that cold call for quite a few men, with some even calling back after a period of time to tell me how much it helped."

Along with helping men during the aftermath of tragedy, McPherson became active in the initial process involved with ovarian cancer.

McPherson's focus is primarily based on the dire need for better awareness, services and early detection.

Again, it was McPherson's own experiences with Lyn which are catalyst for his passion.

"Lyn was diagnosed on New Year's Eve 2008 after noticing the first symptoms six months before," McPherson recalled.

"She had what we now know are typical ovarian cancer markers such as bloating and sore stomach, and given her profession as a nurse and midwife, she had a feeling it was something serious and was becoming more frustrated as it got worse.


"When she got that diagnosis we got some fish and chips, a bottle of wine, sat down and said 'let's work it out' as we knew she was in a fair bit of trouble."

"She had major operations, blood transfusions, chemo and radiation, but lost her battle after 15 months.

"During that whole time she never complained a day...she was gracious the whole time and worried more about those around her.

"Sadly, the mortality rate among women diagnosed with ovarian cancer is so high, it is a silent killer, which is why I am so heavily involved, particularly in fundraising."

McPherson's tireless work – which saw him named among 2014 Australia Day Honours – stems from Lyn's original effort and wishes.



EMMA HAMBLIN and Jim Cullen presented the first 'Teal Pants' win of 2017

Despite her own failing health, Lyn began fundraising as a way of increasing research and nurses to support those facing the same adversity.

"Receiving the Australia Day Honours was overpowering and terrible at the same time," McPherson declared. "I didn't, and don't do it, for awards, it is all about my wife's wishes."

"If we can assist in fundraising research to find an early detection device it would be a terrific result in improving the survival rate, which is minimal at this point."

Long before Lyn's passing, McPherson was a passionate harness racing participant – a purist with a devotion to trotters, which he shares with well-known industry supporter Michael Taranto.

Aware of McPherson's two loves, Harness Racing Victoria suggested a heart-warming way of combining the pair in the name of charity.

<http://harnessnews.com.au/2017/02/turning-tragedy-into-triumph/>


11/27/2017

Turning tragedy into triumph | Harness Racing News

"I got a phone call asking if I would be okay with the new race series for trotting mares being named after my wife and the Lyn McPherson Breed For Speed was launched," McPherson said. "Naturally I said 'yes' as I was touched right in the heart and so honoured."

"It was then the job of Michael and I to tie the ovarian cancer fundraising to the series."

Hence, the Teal Pants program was born, with reinswomen in Victoria earning a set amount for the cause with every win.



SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S DANE HILL and personal 'Teal Pants' sponsor Gordon Carter proudly display their teal colours

Growing in stature to also include New South Wales, the Teal Pants 'drive' has gone national this season thanks to help from Harness Racing Australia, with every reinswomen in Australia raising money with each triumph between February 1 and March 11 – Lyn McPherson Breed For Speed night at Melton.

"To have each state embracing the Teal Pants concept is amazing," McPherson said. "It goes further than just raising money, which is needed to research and care, it lifts the awareness of ovarian cancer as well."

"During the last week or so we've been hearing and seeing a lot about AFL's Women's League, and even the women's 20/20 cricket, but the women of harness racing have been leading the way in sport for a long time."

"Thanks to all the reinswomen jumping on board with the help of administrators, my wife's wish is continuing to come true."

• PAUL COURTS

Paul Courts

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USA - Chris Gooden
"Shadows"





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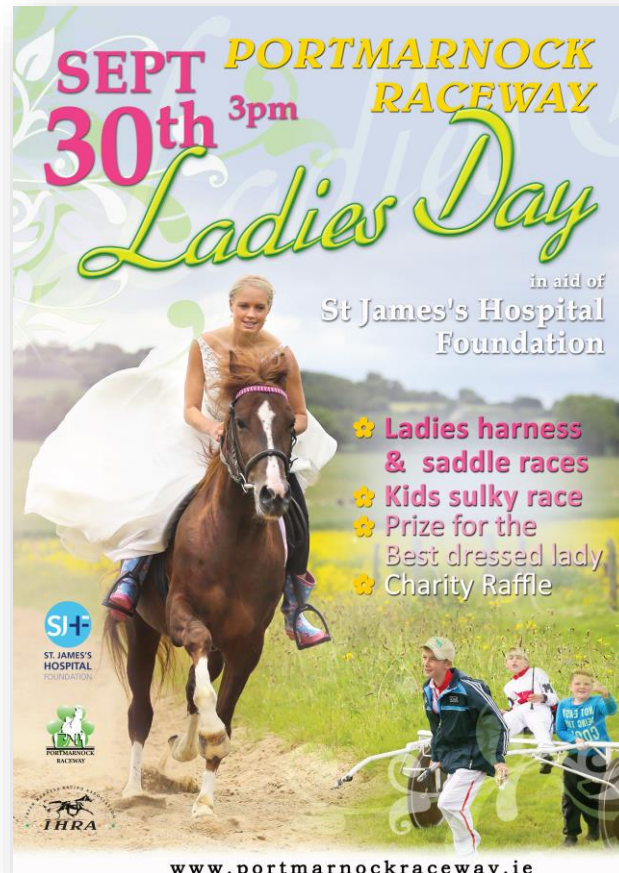
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FRANCE - Le Trot Direction de la Communication

"Prix d'Amérique 2017"





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GREAT BRITAIN - David Wilson

"Breeder's Crown"





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