



## **Introduction**

1. My full name is Vicki Margaret Pascoe
2. I am a past President of the Waikato branch of the New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders Assn (NZTBA) who represents stud farms and breeders. Since 2002 I have been a Councillor for the Northern Region and for past 7 years on the Executive of the NZTBA Council.
3. Terry's family were market gardeners and his father was an apprentice jockey. Vicki rode ponies and then horses from age of 11 and for only four months of her life hasn't owned a horse. Our land and horses are very important to us.
4. We built our house on bare 10 acres in Whenuapai breeding from 3 broodmares and agisted race horses for Avondale trainers. Terry had his own building company and I worked for the National Bank. Three years later we purchased 42 acres in Silverdale (Dairy run off) and also set this up for agisting and breeding racehorses. Agistment is the business of providing full care and management of horses on behalf of clients.
5. In 1987 we purchased 100 acres in Gordonton, now known as Club Med Lodge, which was the top producing dairy farm in the area and set about re-fencing off waterways, planting of trees and shelter belts on boundary and in every paddock and fencing these off. Filling in effluent ponds and changing the nutrient balances in soil and pasture to suit horses as our farming is not so intensive. The minimising of uneven growth of young horses is paramount as they to perform not only on race day but also be the best type they can to realise the maximum financial returns to their owner. This effort to produce a top class athlete starts on the day of conception.
6. Over the past 31 years we have been hands on with the running of this farm with very high conception rates (72.2% of our mares conceiving with one service compared to the national average of 65%). We produce all of our own grass supplements on the farm and often get complimented on our pastures and type of horse we produce here at Club Med.
7. Education is important to us and we regularly have Vet & Equine students from Massey, Vet Nurse students from WINTEC and also Equine Management students from Marcus Oldham Victoria annually they all have to do animal and environmental assignments while here.
8. Our business is to produce athletes (racehorses) and it is important we are exacting in the way we manage our property and horses, as wastage is very expensive and counterproductive to our goals.

## **Club Med Lodge Farm Management**

9. Club Med Lodge is 40 hectare flat agistment farm 21 km North East of Hamilton city in Gordonton. It is in the Priority 1 subcatchment of Waikato at Huntly Tainui Bridge.
10. We purchased this property in 1987 and have built a business as a walk-in farm (we transport mares to the appropriate stud to be served to a chosen stallion and returns to our property straight afterwards). This process works well as mares are herd

animals and keeping them settled and happy helps with their fertility. Our clientele are mainly New Zealanders who have a genuine love for their horse and tend to race most of them.

11. Our farm is very intensive, and a lot of time and effort is put into ensuring we have sufficient available pasture at all times, particularly for our young growing horses and our lactating and pregnant mares. We grow all our own grass supplements (150 x 10 bale equivalent square silage bales and 600 conventional bales hay). This is to ensure we know the quality but also don't buy in other weeds.

12. Waste Management.

- i) After grazing by the horses, paddocks are grazed out by the cattle and then are harrowed.
- ii) Stable manure is collected and put in a heap (all away from our one drain) and left to break down to soil. This is then used on our flower and vegetable gardens and by our neighbours.
- iii) We used untreated chipper fines as bedding in the stables which are dug out as required but generally twice a year. This is often taken by a neighbour with an organic garden and orchard.

13. Pasture Management

- i) Around 5 hectare a year undergoes pasture renovation with a tall fescue and ryegrass/clover mix
- ii) We undertake yearly soil and herbage tests and apply a fertiliser mix specific to our requirements which means less wastage.

14. Waterways and Drainage

- i) The property is well drained and also have a Council Board drain through the middle of the farm that goes to the road drain on Lake Road.
- ii) The Board drain is quite deep and one of the first jobs when we purchased the property was to fence this off for safety. We have also planted trees and fenced along the bank to assist with erosion. However, we have had to leave a strip wide enough for diggers to access to clean the drain. The alleys are, grazed by small cattle only when conditions permit.

### **Annual stock numbers**

15. The following provides information on the number of horses on the property during the year. Based on the 2018 season.

a) Spring

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 7  | under lights (to promote cycling) dry mares - to be walked out                          |
| 4  | dry (empty) mares – owners not going to breed or older mares so wait to cycle naturally |
| 32 | wet mares (have foals on them) were walked out last year therefore also 32 foals        |
| 8  | yearlings grown through to racing   |
| 5  | race horses having time out from racing/training  |
| 3  | Nannies who graze with young horses   |
| 3  | ponies  |

## **92 Average**

- b) Summer
  - i) Numbers often come down as mares and foals go back home. Some stay for foal handling but normally home just before or after Christmas.
  - ii) Often at this time those young horses will go in for training and early education. This often involves coming home for short periods and back again depending on individual requirements. Yearlings may leave to continue sales prep and finish off before going to sales.

## **80 Early Summer**

## **60 Late Summer**

- c) Autumn
  - i) Mares with foals and weanlings are put out with nanny mares in small mobs of approximately 6 weanlings per paddock.
  - ii) Often the racehorse numbers and spelling horses goes up as they end racing campaign and track conditions deteriorate.
  - iii) Young horses leave at this time for breaking in and early education staying away on an average month at a time

## **55 Average**

- d) Winter
  - i) Numbers are dictated by the season, available grass and supplements. The correct feeding of youngsters and in foals is critically important
  - ii) We sometimes take on extra mares from clients early to assist with pre-season management.
- e) Other Stock
  - i) Generally we have 16 weanling cattle and 22 yearling cattle are finished depending on pasture availability and the hook price. The cattle are used for cross grazing of pastures throughout the season.

## **Equine information**

- 16. The following is information on equine physiology and behaviour
  - a) Lactating mares will produce 21 L milk a day for 6 months to feed their foal
  - b) These mares come into season 10 days after foaling and can be mated on the first cycle and get in foal with a foal. Therefore, ensuring correct nutrition is imperative.
  - c) A foal will grow at a rate of 1 – 2.5kg per day. The management of this establishes the base for their life.
  - d) While horses don't mind hot temperatures, adequate shade and protection from weather is important to ensure maximum utilisation of their feed.
  - e) Horses canter at 16 – 27 km ph. and often turn quickly so paddock management is important to prevent pugging as well as fence safety to prevent injury. This includes fencing off waterways, other obstacles including trees and safe and secure boundary fencing
  - f) Clean and uncontaminated water is critical to horse health. A horse at pasture will drink 18 – 38 litres of water per day.

- g) Compared to other farming sectors I have considered our stocking rate per paddock is lower as we tend to keep animals in age / sex groups. However, we are aware that Dr Chris Rogers is undertaking research to provide a better understanding of this and any environmental impacts that may occur. We cross graze with cattle following the horses as they are very effective eating off any rank pasture left behind and reduces the risk of worm burden spread. This reduces the amount of anthelmintics that need to be used that can also end up in soils and impact on the earthworm population.
- h) Our stocking rates vary throughout the year.
  - o Our young horse population from weaning thru to racing can vary significantly depending on if they are sold as weanlings, yearlings or kept to be raced.
  - o Some mares visit our farm just to be walked in (stay on average of 2 months – spring time) last year 40% of the mares on the property we walked out. Once in foal return to their owner properties.
  - o As we use a foaling farm (Seaton Park) the mares spend on average 3 weeks on their property.
- i) The dry mares are often put under lights to induce their seasonal patterns (1<sup>st</sup> August – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept) so are only out in paddocks 9 hours a day rest of time in a box.
- j) Early born foals with their dams also spend time in boxes during wet weather otherwise they won't lie down in bad weather and this can cause all sorts of leg / health issues otherwise.
- k) The last two of points also help stop pugging and soil damage and the potential of sediment loss from the property.

**Dated:** 23 April 2019

**Vicki and Terry Pascoe**

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