



Chase the Kiwi dream

Discover the opportunity to compete,
and win big, at New Zealand's
premier racing events.

NEW ZEALAND
THOROUGHBRED **RACING**



PUREI HŌIHO NĀI O AOTEAROA

Now in its second year, New Zealand's revitalised summer racing calendar showcases a world-class line-up of 43 Group and Listed races worth more than \$23 million in stakes across 10 meetings in the Auckland, Waikato and Central Districts regions.

Headlined by Champions Day (7 March), New Zealand's summer of racing reaches new heights - with more than \$8.5 million in stakes on offer in a single day, including the landmark \$4 million NZB Kiwi (1500m) slot race. From sprinters to stayers, there's a race for every stable star.

The TAB Karaka Millions (24 January) delivers a night of high stakes and elite competition, with three \$1 million races on the programme. The \$1m TAB Karaka Millions 2YO, \$1.5m TAB Karaka Millions 3YO, and \$1m Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic create a blockbuster card that blends the sport's future stars with proven performers, setting the stage for one of the most anticipated racedays on the Australasian calendar.

And for Australian contenders, each eligible horse will receive a travel subsidy* of \$10,000 NZD, provided it starts in any Group race, Special Conditions race, or Restricted Listed race listed in this document.

*The allocation of a travel subsidy is at the sole discretion of NZTR.



New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated
18 Dick Street
Cambridge 3434, New Zealand
nztr.co.nz

91
total
races
across 4
venues

Including
12
Group 1
Races

\$27m
in total
prizemoney





Highlighted Race Meetings

SkyCity Boxing Day Races - 26 December 2025 (Ellerslie Racecourse)

SkyCity New Year's Day Races - 1 January 2026 (Ellerslie Racecourse)

Wellington Cup Carnival - 3, 17 & 31 January 2026 (RACE Trentham)

TAB Karaka Millions - 24 January 2026 (Ellerslie Racecourse)

Legends Day - 7 February 2026 (Te Rapa Racecourse)

Eagle Technology Raceday - 21 February 2026 (Ellerslie Racecourse)

Champions Day - 7 March 2026 (Ellerslie Racecourse)

Sires' Produce Day - 28 March 2026 (RACE Awapuni)

These premier racedays showcase the biggest moments of the summer carnival, staged across New Zealand's leading venues in Auckland, Waikato and the Central Districts.

The full summer carnival race line-up can be found in the pull-out calendar - organised by race type to help you plan the perfect campaign for your horses, whether they're sprinters, stayers or age-group specialists.

Want more detail? Scan the QR codes for the complete calendar and race information online.



Scan the QR code
for race calendar
information



SkyCity Boxing Day Races

Ellerslie Racecourse – 26 December 2025

Ellerslie launches Auckland's summer carnival with the SkyCity Boxing Day Races, one of New Zealand's most established and high-profile racedays. The meeting features a strong black-type programme headlined by the Group 1 Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic, alongside the Group 2 Hallmark Stud Eight Carat Classic and the Group 2 Shaw's Wire Ropes Auckland Guineas.

The raceday marks the start of New Zealand's peak summer period, attracting leading horses, trainers and jockeys from across the region, and providing prime conditions and prizemoney opportunities for visiting Australian contenders.

Cambridge Stud Zabeel Classic	G1	2000m	\$500,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 12pm Friday 19 December 2025		

Hallmark Stud Eight Carat Classic	G2	1600m	\$270,000
3YOF SW	Nominations: 12pm Friday 19 December 2025		

Shaw's Wire Ropes Auckland Guineas	G2	1400m	\$270,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Friday 19 December 2025		



SkyCity New Year's Day Races

Ellerslie Racecourse – 1 January 2026

ELLERSLIE

Start the new year at Ellerslie with the SkyCity New Year's Day Races, featuring a high-quality programme that continues the momentum of Auckland's Summer Carnival. The card includes four black-type events including: the Group 2 Rich Hill Mile, Group 2 Sir Patrick Hogan Stakes, Group 2 SkyCity Eclipse Stakes, and the Group 3 Queen Elizabeth II Cup - offering strong stakes opportunities across multiple age and distance profiles.

Rich Hill Mile	G2	1600m	\$270,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 12pm Saturday 27 December 2025		

Sir Patrick Hogan Stakes	G2	2000m	\$270,000
3YOF SW	Nominations: 12pm Saturday 27 December 2025		

SkyCity Eclipse Stakes	G2	1200m	\$225,000
2YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Saturday 27 December 2025		

Queen Elizabeth II Cup	G3	2400m	\$250,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 12pm Saturday 27 December 2025		



Wellington Cup Carnival

RACE Trentham – 3, 17 and 31 January 2026



Held over three Saturdays, the Wellington Cup Carnival in Wellington combines tradition, atmosphere, and strong black-type opportunities, featuring 10 Group and Listed races, headlined by the Group 1 TAB Telegraph Handicap.

3 January 2026

TAB Telegraph	G1	1200m	\$550,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 4pm Tuesday 18 November 2025		
Levin Classic	G2	1400m	\$400,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Monday 29 December 2025		
Advance Gaming Phar Lap Trophy	G3	1600m	\$120,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 12pm Monday 29 December 2025		
JR & N Berkett Wellesley Stakes	L	1100m	\$100,000
2YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Monday 29 December 2025		
Vernon & Vazey Truck Parts Ltd Marton Cup	L	2200m	\$90,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 12pm Monday 29 December 2025		

17 January 2026

Harcourts Thorndon Mile	G2	1600m	\$500,000
3YO+ OPN SW&P	Nominations: 4pm Tuesday 18 November 2025		
NZB Desert Gold Stakes	G3	1600m	\$200,000
3YOF SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 13 January 2026		
Totara Lodge Trentham Stakes	G3	2100m	\$150,000
3YO+ OPN SW&P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 13 January 2026		

31 January 2026

Jennian Homes Lowland Stakes	G2	2100m	\$175,000
3YOF SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 27 January 2026		
NZCIS Wellington Cup	G3	3200m	\$400,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 4pm Tuesday 18 November 2025		
Life Direct Remutaka Classic (Innovation Race)	SPC COND	2100m	\$350,000
0-1 win as at 1 AUG 2025 SW+P at nomations	Nominations: 12pm Friday 9 January 2026		



Konasana (AUS) (Dundeel)
Race: \$600k Gr.2 Westbury Classic (1400m)
Stable: Chris Waller
Jockey: Rory Hutchings



Connections of Konasana (AUS) (Dundeel)

TAB Karaka Millions Ellerslie Racecourse – 24 January 2026

ELLERSLIE

New Zealand's biggest raceday returns as Ellerslie hosts the thrilling TAB Karaka Millions, offering over \$5 million in stakes. The feature events - the \$1.5 million TAB Karaka Millions 3YO and \$1 million TAB Karaka Millions 2YO - headline a world-class card that also includes the Group 1 Sistema Railway, Group 3 Cambridge Stud Almanzor Trophy and \$1 million Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic for 4YOs.

Last season, Australian mare Konasana (AUS), from Chris Waller's stable, made the trip across the Tasman to win the \$600,000 Group 2 Westbury Classic (1400m) on TAB Karaka Millions night at Ellerslie.



24 January 2026

Sistema Railway	G1	1200m	\$700,000
3YO+ OPN SW+P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026		

Cambridge Stud Almanzor Trophy	G3	1200m	\$250,000
3YO SW&P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026		



TAB Karaka Millions 2YO	LR	1200m	\$1,000,000
2YO SW - NZB Karaka Eligible	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026		

TAB Karaka Millions 3YO	LR	1600m	\$1,500,000
3YO SW - NZB Karaka Eligible	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026		



Elsdon Park Aotearoa Classic	G3	1600m	\$1,000,000
4YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026		



Here To Shock (NZ) (Shocking)
Race: \$500k Gr.1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m)
Stable: Lindsay Park Racing
Jockey: Nash Rawiller



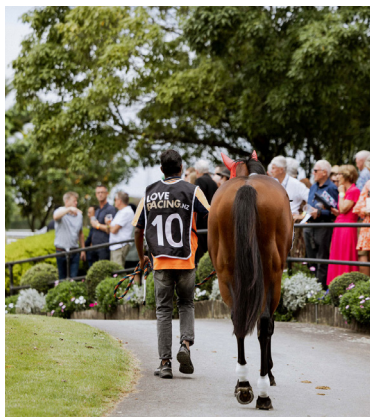
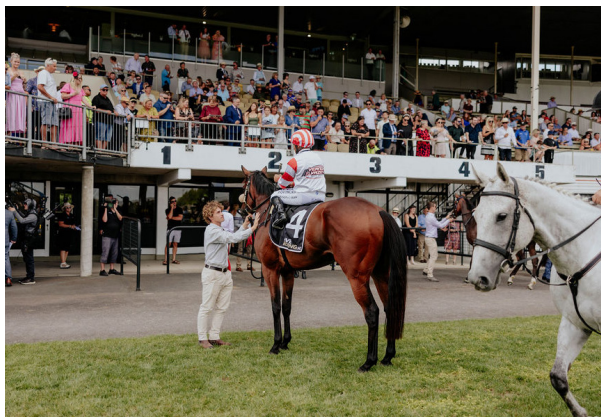
Connections of Here To Shock (NZ) (Shocking)

Legends Day Te Rapa Racecourse – 7 February 2026

WTR
WAIKATO
THOROUGHBRED
RACING
TE RAPA CAMBRIDGE WAIPA

A day to celebrate Champions - past and present. Legends Day recognises the horses and jockeys who have shaped New Zealand racing, while today's stars compete across a premium card featuring two Group 1 races, the Herbie Dyke Stakes and BCD Group Sprint, alongside two Group 2 events, the Legacy Lodge Waikato Guineas and David & Karyn Ellis Fillies Classic.

Australian gelding Here To Shock (NZ) (Shocking), trained by Ben, Will & JD Hayes, claimed the \$500,000 Group 1 BCD Group Sprint (1400m) at Te Rapa, another strong trans-Tasman result during New Zealand's summer carnival.



Herbie Dyke Stakes	G1	2000m	\$700,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 4pm Tuesday 9 December 2025		

BCD Group Sprint	G1	1400m	\$500,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 February 2026		



Legacy Lodge Waikato Guineas	G2	2000m	\$275,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 February 2026		

David and Karyn Ellis Fillies Classic	G2	2100m	\$275,000
3YOF SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 February 2026		

Sir Patrick Hogan Karāpiro Classic	SPC COND	1600m	\$350,000
MDN as at 1 AUG 2025 SW+P at nomations	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 February 2026		



Eagle Technology Raceday Ellerslie Racecourse – 21 February 2026

This season, the Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks will headline Ellerslie's Eagle Technology Raceday on 21 February, providing a key lead-in to Champions Day. The move brings one of New Zealand's most prestigious classics into the heart of the Auckland summer carnival, aligning major races in a high-profile late-summer window.

The raceday features five black-type events, including two Group 1 contests, the New Zealand Oaks and the Ōtaki-Māori WFA Classic - supported by the Avondale Cup, Avondale Guineas, and Uncle Remus Stakes. The programme provides a strong spread of distance and age options for both local and visiting stables.



ELLERSLIE

Al Basti Equiworld Dubai New Zealand Oaks	G1	2400m	\$1,000,000
3YO F SW	Nominations: 4pm Tuesday 16 December 2025		

Ōtaki-Māori WFA Classic	G1	1600m	\$600,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 17 February 2026		

Eagle Technology Avondale Guineas	G2	2100m	\$250,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 17 February 2026		

Eagle Technology Avondale Cup	G3	2400m	\$250,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 17 February 2026		

Eagle Technology Uncle Remus Stakes	G3	1400m	\$150,000
3YO SW+P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 17 February 2026		





Champions Day Ellerslie Racecourse – 7 March 2026

ELLERSLIE

Champions Day unites the former Auckland Cup Carnival racedays into one blockbuster event - a true celebration of the best horses, the best jockeys, and New Zealand's premier racing stage at Ellerslie. The inaugural edition drew record on-course attendance and turnover, cementing its place as the country's pinnacle raceday. With \$8.5 million in prizemoney on offer in 2026, Champions Day delivers a world-class spectacle for racing fans and participants alike.

At the heart of Champions Day sits The NZB Kiwi - the Southern Hemisphere's richest three-year-old race. With a \$4 million purse and a further \$1 million in bonuses up for grabs, it's the ultimate showcase of Kiwi horses. To be eligible, contenders must be New Zealand-bred or conceived (as determined by NZTR) or purchased prior to their 3YO season at an official NZB or gavelhouse.com Sale - ensuring this landmark race remains a true celebration of Kiwi excellence.



Scan the QR code
to view more about
The NZB Kiwi



Scan the QR code
to view more about
Champions Day

Haunui Farm King's Plate	G3	1200m	\$250,000
3YO+ OPN SW+P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 March 2026		

Trackside NZ Derby	G1	2400m	\$1,250,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 4pm Monday 5 January 2026		

Bonecrusher New Zealand Stakes	G1	2000m	\$1,000,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 March 2026		

Sistema Stakes	G1	1200m	\$550,000
2YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 March 2026		

Al Basti Equiworld Dubai Classic	G2	1400m	\$600,000
3YO+ F&M SW+P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 March 2026		

Auckland Cup	G2	3200m	\$600,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 4pm Monday 5 January 2026		

The NZB Kiwi	LR	1500m	*\$4,000,000
3YO SW&P	Slot Race Formal Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 March 2026		

* \$4 million plus \$1 million in bonuses to be claimed.





Southern Hemisphere's richest 3YO race

\$1M BONUS POOL

In addition to the base prizemoney of the \$4 million NZB Kiwi (1500m), an additional \$1 million in bonuses will be available each year to the winners of a number of New Zealand races in the lead up to the March meeting (1st - \$600,000; 2nd - \$250,000; 3rd - \$150,000). With the bonus component, the winner of The NZB Kiwi could take home \$1.8 million in total prizemoney.

To be eligible for a share in the \$1 million Bonus Pool, a horse must win one of the various Bonus Eligible iconic New Zealand races, and also run a top three placing in The NZB Kiwi held on Champions Day at Ellerslie Racecourse - 7 March 2026.

James and Annie Sarten Memorial	G2	1400m	\$150,000
3YO SW	Saturday 1 November 2025 Winner: Swiss Prince (NZ) (El Roca)		

Riccarton Park Racecourse - Christchurch

Barneswood Farm 53rd NZ 1000 Guineas	G1	1600m	\$600,000
3YOF SW	Saturday 8 November 2025 Winner: Well Written (AUS) (Written Tycoon)		

Riccarton Park Racecourse - Christchurch

Al Basti Equiworld Dubai 53rd NZ 2000 Guineas	G1	1600m	\$700,000
3YO SW	Race: Saturday 15 November 2025		

Ellerslie Racecourse - Auckland

Shaw's Wire Ropes Auckland Guineas	G2	1400m	\$270,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Friday 19 December 2025 Race: Friday 26 December 2025		

RACE Trentham - Wellington

Levin Classic	G2	1400m	\$400,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Monday 29 December 2025 Race: Saturday 3 January 2026		

Ellerslie Racecourse - Auckland

TAB Karaka Millions 3YO	LR	1600m	\$1,500,000
3YO SW - NZB Karaka Eligible	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026 Race: Saturday 24 January 2026		

Ellerslie Racecourse - Auckland

Cambridge Stud Almanzor Trophy	G3	1200m	\$250,000
3YO SW+P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 20 January 2026 Race: Saturday 24 January 2026		

Te Rapa Racecourse - Hamilton

BCD Group Sprint	G1	1400m	\$500,000
3YO+ WFA	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 3 February 2026 Race: Saturday 7 February 2026		

Ellerslie Racecourse - Auckland

Eagle Technology Uncle Remus Stakes	G3	1400m	\$150,000
3YO SW+P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 17 February 2026 Race: Saturday 21 February 2026		

PRIZEMONEY

	March 2026	March 2027	\$1m Bonus Pool	Total \$ with Bonus
Base prizemoney	\$4,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$5,000,000
Winner	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$600,000	\$1,800,000
2nd	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$250,000	\$850,000
3rd	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$150,000	\$600,000
4th	\$350,000	\$375,000		
5th	\$275,000	\$300,000		
6th - 14th	\$125,000	\$175,000		

ABOUT THE RACE

Date: Champions Day - 7 March 2026

Venue: Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland

Race Distance: 1500m

Conditions: 3YO restricted race, set weights and penalties

Starters: 14



Sires' Produce Day

RACE Awapuni – 28 March 2026



The Group 1 New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes returns to its traditional late-March date in the Manawatu. As the nation's only Group 1 race exclusively for fillies and mares, it headlines a quality card alongside the Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes, forming a key late-summer target within the national black-type calendar.

New Zealand Thoroughbred Breeders' Stakes	G1	1600m	\$600,000
3YO+ F&M WFA	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 24 March 2026		

Courtesy Ford Manawatu Sires' Produce Stakes	G1	1400m	\$550,000
2YO SW	Nominations: 4pm Tuesday 27 January 2026		



Awapuni Gold Cup	G2	2000m	\$200,000
3YO+ OPN SW&P	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 24 March 2026		

Higgins Concrete Manawatu Classic	G3	2000m	\$150,000
3YO SW	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 24 March 2026		

Flying Handicap	L	1400m	\$110,000
3YO+ OPN HCP	Nominations: 12pm Tuesday 24 March 2026		



Support

Travel Subsidy

To further enhance the experience for our Australian contenders, New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) is delighted to extend a travel subsidy for Group race participants during the summer carnival.

Each eligible horse will receive a *travel subsidy** of \$10,000 NZD, provided it starts in a Group race, Special Conditions race, or Restricted Listed race listed in this document.

**The allocation of a travel subsidy is at the sole discretion of NZTR.*

Stabling & Training Facilities

For seamless preparation on arrival to New Zealand, our Club contacts are on hand to assist in securing stabling and training facilities to suit your planned campaign.

Other Enquiries

Our Club contacts will be able to assist with any other location-based enquiries.

For all other questions, please contact New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing.

Key contacts

Clubs

· ATR · ELLERSLIE

Auckland | Ellerslie & Pukekohe
Craig Baker
Executive General Manager -
Racing & Operations
Auckland Thoroughbred Racing
+64 27 441 2920
craigb@ellerslie.co.nz



Wellington | Trentham & Awapuni
Brad Taylor
General Manager - Racing
+64 27 258 3748
brad.taylor@jointheaction.co.nz



Waikato | Te Rapa
Andrew Castles
Chief Executive Officer
Waikato Thoroughbred Racing
+64 21 384 289
andrew@waikatoracing.co.nz



Mitch Lamb
General Manager - Racing
New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing
+64 21 186 6921
mitch.lamb@nztr.co.nz

National Racing Bureau
Nominations and acceptances for all
New Zealand thoroughbred races must be
lodged with the National Racing Bureau
International +64 4 576 5095
nrb@nztr.co.nz



New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing Incorporated

18 Dick Street
Cambridge 3434
New Zealand

T: +64 4 576 6240

F: +64 4 568 8866

E: office@nztr.co.nz

nztr.co.nz