



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NEW ZEALAND THOROUGHBRED RACING**

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26 July 2011

#### **NZTR BOARD ANNOUNCES PRIZEMONEY INCREASES FROM 1 MARCH 2012**

Following support from the Racing Board, Harness Racing NZ and Greyhound Racing NZ for a four-year funding model and calendar for the racing industry, the new Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has today released details of the new structure of prizemoney from 1 March 2012.

Thoroughbred prizemoney will increase from 1 March 2012, in both aggregate and average terms, with further increases in prizemoney projected from 1 August 2012.

NZTR will implement changes to the calendar from 1 March 2012. Race dates for the first seven months of 2011-12 (from 1 August 2011 to 29 February 2012) have already been released to ensure maximum advantage for the industry over the period of the Rugby World Cup and for continuity.

Matthew Goodson, Chairman of NZTR, stated: "NZTR is realigning its racing operations to maximise racing and wagering revenues."

"We have looked in detail at our meeting structures, optimal times of the day that racing should be conducted, where racing is conducted, consistency of racing product, a meeting-by-meeting evaluation, our handicapping system, our rating system and optimising field sizes including enhancing opportunities for fillies and mares."

From 1 March 2012, minimum prizemoney at all categories of meetings, regardless of time of year (Summer/Winter) or location (North/South) will be consistent. Previously thoroughbred racing has operated separate prizemoney structures for the same category of races across the regions and the seasons, and two-tier handicapping for the North and South Islands.

All Premier meetings will be a minimum of \$40K for all Open races, \$30K for R85 races, \$25K for R75 races and a minimum of \$20K for all other races (up from \$15K in the North Island and \$10K in the South Island). On average, there will be one premier meeting per week, with a skew towards the summer season, providing a strong incentive to retain and race better class horses in New Zealand.

Prizemoney at all Feature meetings will be a minimum of \$25K for all Open races, \$15K for R85 and R75 races and \$12.5K for all other races (up from \$10K).

All Listed race minimum stakes will increase from \$45K to \$50K from 1 March 2012.

A new category of 'Tier Two' Feature meetings, run generally on days other than Saturdays, to provide Feature level opportunities and at times when there is already a Feature or Premier meeting, will replace a number of Central Region and some Northern Feature meetings. Prizemoney for these meetings will be a minimum of \$15K for all Open races, \$12K for R85 races, \$10K for R75 races and \$8K for all other races except Maiden races at \$7K (up from \$5K in the North Island and \$6K in the South Island).

All races on Industry days will be run for a minimum of \$7K. Current minimum prizemoney is \$5K in the Northern and Central regions and \$6K in the South Island.

“After several very difficult years, we are pleased that our structural changes will allow sustainable and much needed prizemoney increases. While a solid step in the right direction, much remains to be done.”

The new race meeting structure will see at least seven thoroughbred meetings on five to six days per week. The major change will be the addition of meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays. The current lack of Australasian racing on Mondays provides a window of opportunity for high quality coverage which will particularly enhance the appeal of New Zealand racing to an international audience.

Each week will incorporate a Monday-Wednesday-Thursday-Friday pattern of meetings and, for six months of the year, the addition of Tuesdays during September to November and March to May. Racing will be programmed on Sundays from December to February, and there will be at least two Saturday meetings per week.

On a full season basis, 39 additional meetings will be held with an unchanged number of races. This has been generated by eliminating poorly performing morning races from across the season and moving them to the new race days, which will generally start from midday onwards.

In the event that NZRB performance meets expected targets, NZTR is anticipating further stakes increases from 1 August 2012 as the first full season impact of the structural changes take effect.

In advance of the 2012-13 race date allocation process, NZTR will determine an equitable funding mix between regions to ensure the benefits of additional race meetings and minimum prizemoney are appropriately shared.

Matthew Goodson, Chairman of NZTR, and Greg Purcell, Chief Executive of NZTR, will be holding a series of Regional Meetings across New Zealand during August to discuss these changes. An invitation is extended to all interested industry stakeholders:

12.30 pm Tuesday, 9 August:	Ellerslie Racecourse, Auckland
5.30 pm Tuesday, 9 August:	Te Rapa Racecourse, Hamilton
1.00 pm Thursday, 11 August:	Riccarton Park Racecourse, Christchurch
10.30 am Wednesday, 17 August:	Wingatui Racecourse, Dunedin
5.00pm Wednesday, 17 August:	Ascot Park Racecourse, Invercargill
11.00am Thursday, 18 August:	Awapuni Racecourse, Palmerston North

*Ends*

For more information please contact:

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## Appendix A: Increased Prizemoney Levels from 1 March 2011

<b>Class PREMIER</b>	<b>NEW 1-Mar-12 All Regions</b>	North Island Premier Currently	North Island Winter Premier	Sth Island Premier Currently	Sth Island Winter Premier
<b>Open</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	\$40,000	\$30,000	\$40,000	\$30,000
<b>R90/85</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>	\$30,000	\$22,500	\$30,000	\$22,500
<b>R80/75</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$22,500	\$20,000
<b>R70/65</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000	\$16,000	\$17,500	\$15,000
<b>Spec Cond</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000	\$16,000	\$17,500	\$15,000
<b>3YO</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$20,000	\$16,000	\$15,000	\$12,500
<b>Mdn</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>2YO</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	\$15,000	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000

<b>Class FEATURE</b>	<b>NEW 1-Mar-12 All Regions</b>	Northern Feature Currently	Northern Winter Feature	Central Feature Currently	Central Winter Feature	Sth Island Feature Currently	Sth Island Winter Feature
<b>Open</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	\$20,000	\$17,500	\$20,000	\$16,000	\$18,000	\$15,000
<b>R90/85</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$15,000	\$13,000	\$12,000	\$11,000	\$12,000	\$10,000
<b>R80/75</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$13,000	\$12,500	\$10,500	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
<b>R70/65</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	\$13,000	\$10,500	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$8,000
<b>3YO</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$8,000
<b>Mdn</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>2YO</b>	<b>\$12,500</b>	\$11,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$8,000	\$10,000	\$8,000

<b>TIER 2 FEATURE</b>	<b>NEW 1-Mar-12</b>	Currently Sth Island
<b>Open</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	\$12,000
<b>R90/85</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	\$8,000
<b>R80/75</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	\$7,500
<b>R70/65</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	\$7,500
<b>3YO</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	\$7,500
<b>Mdn</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$7,000
<b>2YO</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	\$7,500
<i># Northern Tier 2 Feature new classification replacing low key Feature licences</i>		

<b>INDUSTRY</b>	<b>NEW 1-Mar-12</b>	Currently North Island	Currently Sth Island
<b>Open</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	\$12,000	\$12,000
<b>R90/85</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	\$8,000	\$8,000
<b>R80/75</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$7,000	\$7,000
<b>R70/65</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>Spec Cond</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>3YO</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>Mdn</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$5,000	\$6,000
<b>2YO</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>	\$6,000	\$6,000