

CAREERS IN THE EQUINE INDUSTRY

EQUINE / HŌIHO Careers





CAREERS

THE NEW ZEALAND EQUINE INDUSTRY

The NZ Equine Industry is thriving and contributes around \$1.6 Billion dollars annually to NZ's economy. Our climate, pasture and rural environment provide the ideal environment for breeding and producing quality horses. The largest employers in the industry are harness and thoroughbred racing and breeding.

For a small country we punch well above our weight in all things equine and NZ is recognised worldwide for the quality of horses and equine professionals it produces.

The industry is made up of a variety of specialist area's including:

- Breeding – Standardbred, Thoroughbred and Sporthorse Stud's
- Racing – Harness Racing and Thoroughbred Racing
- Sport horse and Equestrian
- Tourism
- Equine Health
- Equine Businesses, Retail and Professionals.

WHO THE EQUINE INDUSTRY IS FOR?

If you love horses, then there is guaranteed to be a job in the equine industry for you!

If you have any of the following attributes you could be just what the industry is looking for:

- Love of horses and animals
- Enjoy racing and equine sports
- Enjoy working outdoors
- Hard worker who likes to learn new skills.
- Team player who enjoys celebrating successes
- Good sense of humour
- From hands on daily work caring for and exercising horses, to sales and corporate roles there is something for everyone – it's just a matter of getting involved!



RACING INDUSTRY PATHWAYS

There are several ways to get involved in the racing industry starting from a young age and you don't have to have grown up around horses or racing!

Gateway - This is a programme designed to help secondary school students gain the skills and experience they need for an equine industry career. Students complete their selected assessments alongside completing practical work experience in an equine workplace. A good way to get a taster of the industry and kick start your career.

Work Experience

There are plenty of opportunities for work experience in the industry in racing stables and on stud farms.



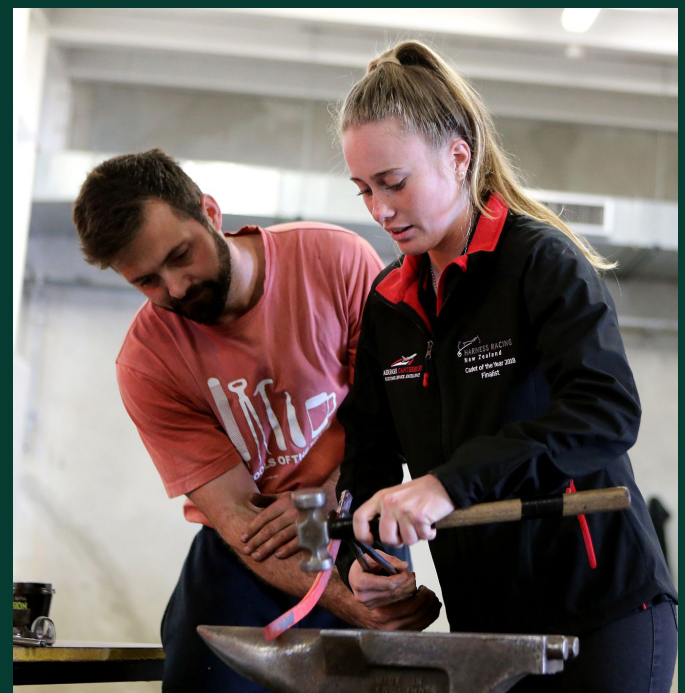
HARNES RACING

Harness Racing has a rich history in NZ with races like the NZ Trotting Cup having first been run over 120 years ago. There is equal opportunity for males and females with some of the country's best Junior Drivers at present being female. Unlike thoroughbred racing, there is no weight restriction for Harness Racing Drivers, providing opportunity to those taller talented horse people!

Harness Racing NZ Cadet Scheme - Harness Racing New Zealand offer the free* Cadet Scheme to anyone wanting a career in the industry. The Cadet Programme offer's the NZQA Certificate in Equine Skills - Harness Racing Stable Assistant (Level 3) and the NZQA Apprenticeship in Equine Racing Industry - Harness Racing Trainer or Driver (Level 4).



Kidz Kartz - Offers Pony Trotting Racing to kids aged 8 - 16 years. Participants learn horsemanship and driving skills, racing rules, and finally get to participate in regular racing at some of NZ's top racecourses. Drivers and Ponies can qualify for their own NZ Cup Race and Australasian Interdominion Race Series!



*To be eligible for the Cadet Programme you must be employed in a Harness Racing Stable, complete required assessments, and attend fortnightly theory classes throughout the programme. The programme has been running for over 40 years and most of NZ's top Harness Trainers and Drivers have completed the programme.

THOROUGHBRED RACING

Thoroughbred racing also has a great history in NZ with many global champions – both equine and human – having first started their racing career here. The World's current leading Jockey, James MacDonald, is a born and bred Kiwi who completed his Jockey's Apprenticeship right here! NZ was also the first country to allow female jockeys to ride in open races and last year's Champion Apprentice was 19-year-old Tayla Mitchell.



Ride To Time – In conjunction with the NZ Pony Club Association, NZ Thoroughbred Racing runs a Ride to Time Workshop annually held at various racecourses throughout the country.

There are several ways to get involved in the racing industry starting from a young age and you don't have to have grown up around horses or racing!

NZ Thoroughbred Racing Training

NZ Thoroughbred Racing offer several NZQA Certificates for stable hands, track riders, race day strappers and jockeys.

While working in a thoroughbred racing stable you can start with the Level 2 NZQA NZ Certificate Intro to Equine Skills, before moving on to the Level 3 NZQA NZ Certificate in Equine Skills – Raceday Strapper or Track Rider.

If it's a Jockey career you are after you will need to complete the NZ Apprenticeship in Equine Racing Industry – Jockey (Level 4). You must be employed full time and meet certain weight requirements to be accepted into this programme.



BREEDING INDUSTRY PATHWAYS

Equine Breeding in NZ is largely thoroughbred and standardbred breeding and both are highly respected worldwide. Horses are bred to be sold as yearlings at NZ Bloodstock's prestigious Yearling Sales, or to take the stage as racehorses when they are old enough. People come from all over the World to buy NZ bred thoroughbreds and standardbreds!

There is a smaller amount of sport horse and leisure horse breeding in NZ which is typically for the local industry.

Thoroughbred Breeding

A job on a thoroughbred stud will see you breeding and looking after mares, birth and raise foals, prepare yearlings for sales, and maybe handle top class stallions. The NZ Thoroughbred Breeders Association offers the NZQA Certificate in Breeding (Level 3) and the NZQA Apprenticeship in Equine Breeding. To be eligible for this you must be at over 16 years of age and employed by a NZ Stud Farm. There is also a range of renowned annual international scholarships available through NZ thoroughbred breeders association.

Standardbred Breeding

NZ Standardbred's are all bred by artificial insemination (AI) and mares can be covered by stallions from all over the world! The NZQA Certificate in Breeding and NZQA Apprenticeship in Equine Breeding is also available to people working on Standardbred studs with the option of completing assessments including AI knowledge and processes. To be eligible for this you must be at over 16 years of age and employed by a NZ Stud Farm.



SPORT HORSE INDUSTRY PATHWAYS

There are a range of professional sport horse stables in NZ however they are on a smaller scale when compared to racing stables and stud farms. Many professional equestrian riders in NZ supplement their business with work involving racehorses such as pre training and educating young horses. Work experience and volunteering is a great way to get involved with sport horses.

Gateway

This is a programme designed to help secondary school students gain the skills and experience they need for an equine industry career. Students complete their selected assessments alongside completing practical work experience in an equine workplace.





PROFILES



Sarah O'Reilly – NZ Leading Junior Driver

Sarah O'Reilly is NZ's leading Junior Harness Racing Driver – for the last 3 years running Sarah took out the NZ Junior Drivers Premiership, attended the Australasian Junior Drivers Championship, and in 2020 won the Young NZ Rural Sportsperson of the Year Award. Sarah is a graduate of Kidz Kartz, Gateway, and the HRNZ Cadet Scheme.



John Morrison – Farrier

John Morrison got started in the harness racing industry helping out at a local stable and later enjoyed success as a Junior Harness Racing Driver, twice winning the NZ Junior Drivers Premiership. An interest in shoeing horses led John to pursue a career as a farrier and he completed a Farrier's Apprenticeship. Now a fully qualified farrier with an established business and still enjoys driving in harness races. John completed Kidz Kartz, Gateway, and the HRNZ Cadet Scheme.



Victoria Bryant – Track Manager Motukarara

After many years working as a banker, Victoria is now the Track Manager for Motukarara Raceway. While Victoria has always been around horses and ridden, she had no previous experience as a track manager. But after helping out at the Motukarara Raceway mowing and driving tractor's, she thought she'd apply for the managers role and give it a go. "I had support from HRNZ's Track Inspector and other track managers and learnt as I went – I love it!" says Victoria.



Nicole Thomas – Wai Eyre Farm - Stud Manager

Nicole grew up around horses with her father a farrier and brother a Harness Racing Trainer. Her road to becoming Stud Manager came after getting work at Nevele R Stud as an apprentice. Now at Wai Eyre Stud Nicole is experienced in all areas of breeding – from stallion handline, to breeding mares, to birthing and handling foals. Nicole won this year's Canterbury Harness Racing Award earning a trip to America to experience Diamond Creek Stud.



Tayla Mitchell – Apprentice Jockey

After riding show jumpers and competing in Kidz Kartz as a youngster, Tayla Mitchell decided she would like to become a Jockey – being only 50 kg she was the right size. Tayla first took out her track riders licence completing the Level 3 NZQA NZ Certificate in Equine Skills, before officially signing up as an Apprentice Jockey and completing the NZ Apprenticeship in Equine Racing Industry – Jockey (Level 4).

Tayla took out the NZ Apprentice Jockey's Premiership for 2023 in only her 2nd season of race riding!



Matt Cross – Race Caller

Matt Cross is a professional race caller and made history in 2019 as the youngest person to ever call the NZ Cup at age 26. Matt completed Gateway while at school, and then went on to complete the HRNZ Cadet Scheme. He is now the chief race caller for the South Island.



Chanelle Lawson – Photographer

Chanelle Lawson first began working in a Harness Racing Stable after leaving school and completed the HRNZ Cadet Scheme. With an interest in photography, Chanelle was often taking photos of horses at work and the races which led to her being asked to be the official photographer of Cambridge Raceway on Race nights.



Josh Whittaker – Equine Dentist

Josh Whittaker is an equine dentist in high demand! Josh is a graduate of Gateway, Kidz Kartz and the HRNZ Cadet Scheme, where he became interested in Equine Dentistry. Josh went to Australia to complete his training as an Equine Dentist – a 2-year apprenticeship – and now has a successful Equine Dental business servicing all the way from Southland to Auckland.

OUR
CAREERS

WHERE CAN THE
EQUINE CAREERS
INDUSTRY TAKE YOU?

AUCTIONEER BLOODSTOCK AGENT RACE CALLER
AGRI-BUSINESS EQUINE PHYSIOTHERAPIST
HARNESS RACING DRIVER FARRIER VET
JOCKEY FILM CREW EQUINE NUTRITIONIST
TRAINER MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
TRACK RIDER JOCKEY AGENT PHOTOGRAPHER
EQUINE VET NURSE EVENTS MANAGER TRUCK DRIVER
PEDIGREE EXPERT STABLE FOREMAN
TECHNOLOGY & IT OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT
TREKKING GUIDE RACING ADMINISTRATION
RACE DAY STARTER STALLION HANDLER





CROON
BLOODSTOCK

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Georgie Bolton

EDUCATION & TRAINING COORDINATOR

Phone (03) 740-0958 | Mobile (027) 309 1756

Email Georgie@hrnz.co.nz

Natalie Gameson

EDUCATION & ANIMAL CARE MANAGER

DDI (03) 964 1193 | Mobile (021) 936 155

Email Natalie@hrnz.co.nz

Brigette Solomon

NORTHERN EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR

Mobile (027) 291 5463

Email Brigette@hrnz.co.nz