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MEDIA RELEASE – For immediate release

Waikato Stud takes the reins at Auckland Cup Week

The Auckland Racing Club (ARC) is pleased to announce a partnership with Waikato Stud who is joining its stable in the capacity of a Group race sponsor over Auckland Cup Week.

On the opening day of Auckland Cup Week 2019 – Vodafone Derby Day (2nd March) – the Group 3 \$100,000 Open SWP 1200m feature will be run as the Waikato Stud Plate.

ARC chief executive, Paul Wilcox, says the Club is thrilled to reignite a partnership with Waikato Stud. "We are absolutely delighted to welcome the Chittick family and Waikato Stud back to Ellerslie.

"You just have to look at the recent New Zealand Bloodstock National Yearling Sales results to understand that they are leaders in their field – something that we here at ARC are continually striving to be.

"We look forward to seeing the signature green, blue and white colours of Waikato Stud displayed proudly on course on Vodafone Derby Day and in the years to come," he says.

A race Waikato Stud are familiar with, having previously sponsored it, Waikato Stud owner Mark Chittick says it is an obvious fit to renew the partnership, with both organisations having a keen eye on chasing success.

"At Waikato Stud our mantra is that success is our motivation, the driving force behind what we do. "This fits perfectly with ARC who are the leading race club in New Zealand and who put on the best week of racing in the country - Auckland Cup Week."

Waikato Stud takes over the sponsorship of the Group 3 race from Godolphin Australia (Darley) – an arm of one of the world's biggest racing and bloodstock operations. Having sponsored this race since 2005, they could not renew their contract due to global alignment requirements.

Mr Wilcox acknowledged the support of Darley and thanked it for the ongoing support it has provided the Club over the years, wishing it all the best for future endeavours.

Run over 1200m, the Group 3 \$100,000 Waikato Stud Plate is one of four black type races to be run on Vodafone Derby Day, Saturday 2nd March, at Ellerslie Racecourse as part of Auckland Cup Week 2019.

- Ends -

Notes to editors:

About Auckland Cup Week

Auckland Cup Week 2019 is New Zealand's richest racing carnival and features two days of racing and entertainment - Vodafone Derby Day on Saturday 2nd March and Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup Day on Saturday 9th March – at Ellerslie Racecourse.

Over the two days, racegoers can expect to be entertained by: seven black type races including the Group 1 \$1,000,000 Vodafone New Zealand Derby and Group 1 \$500,000 Barfoot & Thompson Auckland Cup; three fashion competitions including the national fashions in the field final, The Ned Prix de Fashion; the first-ever running of the Dunstan Feeds Clydesdale Cup; a live performance by frontman of the legendary Exponents, Jordan Luck; free children's entertainment and more.

To learn more about Auckland Cup Week 2019 and to purchase tickets, visit ellerslie.co.nz.

ellerslie.co.nz

Ellerslie Racecourse, 80 Ascot Avenue, Remuera, Auckland 1050
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About Waikato Stud

Based in Matamata, Waikato Stud has been in existence since 1967 and is one of New Zealand's most successful studs.

Owned by the Chittick family and currently operated by Mark Chittick, Waikato Stud has been awarded New Zealand Breeder of the Year six times.

In the first decade of the new millennium, Waikato Stud was the leading Australasian breeder of Group 1 winners.

For the past six Karaka Yearling Sales, Waikato Stud has topped the aggregate and earned the title of leading vendor (2014 to 2019).

Of Waikato Stud's 21 Group One-producing stallions, eight have been awarded champion sire status. These stallions include: Decies, Pompeii Court, Dahar, Centaine, O'Reilly, Pins, Savabeel and No Excuse Needed.

Stud patriarch Garry Chittick has twice been honoured with a Racing Excellence and Outstanding Contribution Award in 2006 which, ten years later, was followed by his induction into the New Zealand Racing Hall of Fame.

Not only a leading seller of horses, Waikato Stud is a successful owner too, with its colours having been carried by many winners at Ellerslie and various other racecourses over the years.

Visit Waikato Stud online at waikatostud.com .