



HAWKE'S BAY
Racing



ECC
EAST COAST
CHALLENGE



VS  EQUINE
HAWKE'S BAY


BOON
CHALLENGE

LOVE
RACING.NZ

2026 **VS** **EQUINE** HAWKE'S BAY **EAST COAST CHALLENGE**



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INTRODUCTION

Poverty Bay Turf Club & Hawke's Bay Racing is proud to introduce an exciting new feature for the coming season – the **Vet Services Equine East Coast Challenge 1400m Special Conditions Maiden Series**, culminating in the inaugural final with a stake of \$100,000 on Livamol Classic Raceday - Saturday 10 October 2026 during the Colliers Hawke's Bay Spring Racing Carnival.

Created to provide owners and trainers with a valuable new opportunity for emerging talent, the **Vet Services Equine East Coast Challenge** has been established with the vision of becoming a recognised annual feature for maiden horses and a highlight on the New Zealand racing calendar. The series offers an exciting pathway for horses to compete across qualifying races before earning the chance to contest the prestigious final on one of the country's premier race days.

We invite owners and trainers to be part of the **Vet Services Equine East Coast Challenge 1400m** which has been established with the vision of becoming a recognised annual feature for maiden horses and an exciting opportunity race within the New Zealand racing calendar.



2026 **VS** **EQUINE** HAWKE'S BAY **EAST COAST CHALLENGE**

The series will culminate in a \$100,000 minimum stake Final, to be run at Hastings on Livamol Classic Raceday, Saturday, 10 October 2026, during the Colliers Hawke's Bay Spring Racing Carnival, providing a high-profile stage for the series finalists.

This initiative has been developed to encourage participation, reward owners and trainers, and create an opportunity that captures attention throughout every region before reaching its pinnacle during one of New Zealand's premier racing carnivals.

THE CONCEPT

The **Vet Services Equine East Coast Challenge** 1400m will consist of a series of designated qualifying races conducted at selected racing venues across the country.

Key features include:

- Special Conditions Maiden Series format
- Multiple designated qualifying races incorporating all regions of New Zealand.
- Two Wild Card races providing additional opportunities for horses to secure a place in the Final on the First & Second Days of the Carnival
- Winners and second place in qualifying races and 1st & 2nd in the wild card races (exempt from ballot) gain eligibility for the Final.
- A minimum final stake of \$100,000.
- \$1,500 travel subsidy for South Island horses - courtesy of Poverty Bay Turf Club.
- The Final conducted at Hastings during Day 3 of the prestigious Colliers Hawke's Bay Spring Racing Carnival.

The series is designed to generate sustained interest over the early Spring period.



QUALIFYING RACES

The following races are designated as qualifying races (subject to amendment by NZTR).



NEW PLYMOUTH

5 September 2026

WOODVILLE

6 September 2026

TIMARU



TRAVEL
SUBSIDY

6 September 2026

TAUPO

2 races

11 September 2026

HASTINGS



1st & 2nd
Ballot exempt

12 September 2026

RICCARTON



TRAVEL
SUBSIDY

12 September 2026

MATAMATA

16 September 2026

TRENTHAM

19 September 2026

TE RAPA

25 September 2026

RICCARTON



TRAVEL
SUBSIDY

26 September 2026

HASTINGS



1st & 2nd
Ballot exempt

26 September 2026

HASTINGS FINAL

10 October 2026



\$1,500 TRAVEL SUBSIDY FOR SOUTH ISLAND HORSES WHO RUN IN THE FINAL

2026 SPRING RACING CARNIVAL

The Colliers Hawke's Bay Spring Racing Carnival marks the beginning of New Zealand's premier Spring racing season.

CARNIVAL SCHEDULE

Day One	Saturday, 12 September Listed Sir Colin Meads Trophy
Day Two	Saturday, 26 September Group 1 Howden Insurance Mile Group 2 Novara Park Hawke's Bay Guineas Group 3 Gold Trail Stakes
Day Three	Saturday, 10 October Group 1 Livamol Classic Group 3 Spring Sprint





The Carnival showcases some of New Zealand's most prestigious thoroughbred races.

GROUP 1

HOWDEN INSURANCE MILE

The second leg of the Triple Crown, contested under weight-for-age conditions over 1600 metres.

GROUP 1

LIVAMOL CLASSIC

The final and most prestigious leg of the Triple Crown, run over 2040 metres and regarded as one of New Zealand's premier weight-for-age contests.

Additional feature races include:

- Novara Park Hawke's Bay Guineas (Group 2)
- Gold Trail Stakes (Group 3)
New Zealand Filly of the Year Series qualifying event
- Spring Sprint (Group 3)

Together, these races attract the country's leading horses, trainers, jockeys, owners, and racing enthusiasts.

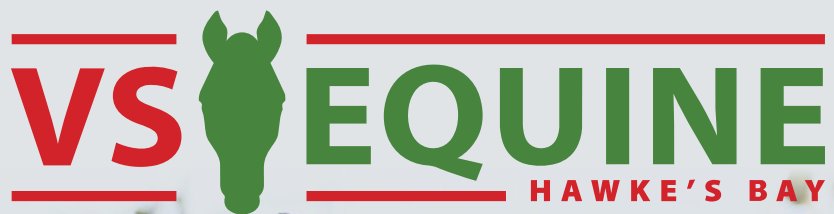
CONCLUSION

The **Vet Services Equine East Coast Challenge** represents Poverty Bay Turf Club and Hawke's Bay Racing's commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for owners, trainers and their emerging horses while adding another exciting feature to New Zealand's racing programme.

We look forward to welcoming competitors from across the country and seeing the inaugural **Vet Services Equine East Coast Challenge** champion crowned on Livamol Classic Day.

We encourage all eligible owners and trainers to take advantage of this exciting new series and be part of the beginning of what we hope will become a celebrated annual event.





**OUR COMMUNITY,
OUR ANIMALS.**

PROVIDING EXCELLENT
AND TRUSTED CARE



The combined skills of our equine veterinarians across the region can be tapped into to create a more comprehensive veterinary service for our clients and horses' benefit.

24/7 Veterinary CARE

Hastings - 876 7001

Napier - 843 5308

Waipukurau - 858 9060

Hawke's Bay Urgent Care & After Hours

Veterinary Clinic: 06 651 7103



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www.vshb.co.nz



HAWKES BAY RACING CONTACT

If you require additional
information regarding the
maiden series please contact -



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Where you experience more than just racing

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