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## Wairarapa's chance on the world stage

By DON FARMER



**A POTENTIAL champion German horse, whose owners aspire to Olympic gold, may turn out to be best-ever advertisement for Wairarapa.**

High hopes are held for the 2-year-old filly from a famous bloodline but it is the name we will be keeping an eye out for.

Silke Gethmann and her husband Thomas Schupp have called the filly Wairarapa after spotting it in a Johnson wine guide promoting this district's wines, and despite never having been to New Zealand. They were so taken with the sound of the name that they messaged the Wairarapa Times-Age asking for the word's Maori meaning and were delighted to find it meant Glistening Water, "it sounds very special, this is the perfect name".

The couple breed warmblood dressage horses from exclusive broodmares and sell foals all over the world.



Wairarapa, which until recently had been given the stable name Waris, is descended from the very old and hugely successful Oldenburger family. Her sire is Fuerstenreich and her dam's bloodline can be traced back to a mare called Wassergrille, foaled in 1907. Many acclaimed stallions and top-notch dressage horses have come from the Wassergrille motherline with the most successful being Olympic Bonfire, winner of the dressage event with Anky van Grunsven at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

When Wairarapa was 6 weeks old, and still known as Waris, she was entered in a foal championship in Bremen, Germany, emerging with the accolade of best foal. Silke Gethmann said Wairarapa is one of the best foals she and Thomas have ever bred " We hope she will fulfil the promise we have seen in her since she was born."

Wairarapa's first season as a competitive dressage horse will be next year, an ideal time to start with the Beijing Olympics in mind in 2008.

Silke Gethmann said although she and her husband have not been to Wairarapa they have now taken a special interest in it, searching the Internet and looking up travel guides. " We have fallen in love with your area. And have now sent our stunning filly's papers to the German Riding Association to fix her name." We want to make sure that our horse is the very first in Germany to have this great name."

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