

Hero's homecoming for Interdom champion

By STEVE HEPBURN

INTERDOMINION trotting champion Yulestar will return home to a hero's welcome in Hawera today.

South Taranaki Mayor Mary Bourke said she would consult owner-trainer Lorraine Nolan on whether the town could throw a street parade to officially recognise the champ's feat.

"There may be something happening but we will have to hear what Ron and Lorraine want to do," said Miss Bourke.

She had already spoken to Mrs Nolan and congratulated her on the achievement of being the first New Zealand trainer in 24 years to win the Interdominion pacing championships across

the Tasman. "They have really put Hawera on the map and someone said it's like winning the Ranfurly Shield and bringing it back to Hawera.

"But it takes 15 big blokes to win the Ranfurly Shield, Lorraine has just done it by herself."

Yulestar's withering burst down the straight at Albion Park, Brisbane, was the talk of Hawera yesterday.

The win will be marked by an updated sign erected outside the Hawera racecourse on State Highway 3, listing the win in Brisbane and the New Zealand Cup last year.

A sign listing Yulestar's triumphs had been erected at the racecourse last year but was then shifted to the Nolan's property.

Miss Bourke said Ron and Lorraine Nolan would be made goodwill ambassadors by the

South Taranaki District Council, recognising their achievement of putting Hawera on the map.

Hawera Harness Racing Club president Hec Bell said the win was a dream of any small owner-trainer.

"To win an Interdominion is every little owner-trainer's dream. It shows anyone can do it, no matter how small your operation is."

He said he was there the day Yulestar was purchased by the Nolans. "I remember everyone was going for the younger horses and he wasn't that popular that day. They never thought he'd win so much with the price they paid.

"To even get to a New Zealand Cup is an achievement, let alone going on to win one and then take out the Interdominions."