

Issue Two 2009

SPORTALOOSA

Quarterly



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REMEMBERING JAN SHEEHY

A very well respected Western rider and friend to many, Jan Sheehy passed away on 26th March in her 80th year at her home in Whakataane, New Zealand.

Jan was a tremendous horsewoman, always one of the first to arrive at a show and often one of the last to leave – always keen to listen and learn from any trainers and happy to pass on her knowledge to others. She was a great encourager of youth riders as well and was always happy to give them a chance to try out her (very well trained) horses.

Fiercely independent and determined to care for and ride her horses “until the end” in spite of years of cancer and treatment she was an inspiration to all who knew her and will be sadly missed. It was hard to believe her age because she never made any allowances for her advancing years or health and continued to drive the same big blue Chrysler and horsefloat to shows until earlier this year.

We remember Jan first with her well-known Palomino gelding Jan’s Pal – also an independent spirit - together they were a formidable Western combination. A number of Appaloosas later joined Jan – Shashone, Timotei and Librian Lady (all by Scottish Prince) and a couple of Quarterhorses, Doc’s TC and Doc’s Debonaire.

Jan never chose “an easy horse” and enjoyed them all for their strong personalities. This often meant they needed plenty of work at home and before entering the showring – she would be out there in the early hours feeding, grooming and warming up often long before the others were even thinking about it!

It’s been a privilege to know her and have her as a friend – she will be missed but never forgotten.

The Davidson family



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4 months of Sportaloosas and the news is good

Welcome to the second issue of Sportaloosa Quarterly. We'd like to thank all of our new members for taking part in this exciting new venture; it's a pleasure to have you on board.

Over the past couple of months, we've improved our registration certificates and membership cards (to those who have experienced a delay, thank you very much for your patience). Please keep your feedback and requests coming so that we can provide you with a service that delivers what you'd like.

We have some important work to do over the next few years and it's a multi-pronged approach. Our goal is to make Sportaloosas desirable to purchase, ride, compete on and own. Breeders have an important part to play in this by producing extremely athletic, level headed spotted horses as future riding horses. In the short term though, talented seasoned competition horses are needed to fly the Sportaloosa flag.

That's where our competition awards scheme comes in. Bronze, silver and gold medallions to reward achievements in competition are available to every registered Sportaloosa. Our points recording form is online now - www.sportaloosa.com/forms.shtml - and, until 31 December 2009, our competition subscription is completely free so it costs members nothing to record points.

If you prefer a quieter and non-competitive time with your Sportaloosa, we'd like to invite you to record your hours in the saddle with our *Let's Ride* programme. Awards begin at 100 hours in the saddle so, whether you're training for the next big competition or just spending time riding, give yourself an extra incentive by tracking your hours.

In case you needed another reason to breed a Sportaloosa, we're proud to present our inaugural \$1,000 video futurity. All foals expected in 2009/10 either sired by a registered Sportaloosa stallion or out of a registered Sportaloosa mare have free entry into this futurity. You just need to have a video camera ready once they're looking sleek and beautiful!

Lastly, we're inviting all Appaloosa, Knabstrupper and spotted horse enthusiasts to join us. More reasons to own, ride or breed a spotted horse; a world wide family of spotted sporthorses, like the Appaloosas used to be.....join us and make them great again.

Petra & Samantha

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Oregon Park Appaloosas

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Talk to us, we know appaloosas back to front!



\$1,000
Sportaloosa video futurity



Ultimate Affair (imp USA)
Bay few spot Leopard 15.3h
Sportaloosa #9
ApHC 573936. AAA60313
Fee \$1100 live Colored foal. AI Available





30th horse registered with Sportaloosa International

From small acorns do mighty oaks grow... At the end of November 2008, we launched the new registry Sportaloosa International. Dedicated to the promotion of spotted horses capable of excellence in demanding disciplines, with cool heads and a user friendly attitude, we've been thrilled with the response to date.

We've just welcomed our 30th addition to the Sportaloosa registry and we're absolutely delighted with the calibre of horse entering the registry. From enormous sport horses to nippy cutting horses, the quality of horse so far is outstanding.

We are especially proud of the Sportaloosa stallion line up we're able to present to mare owners. Some of the highest quality and best credentialed spotted stallions in Australasia are on the Sportaloosa stallion showcase, ready and available to breed your next champion.

Take a look - www.sportaloosa.com/stallions.shtml



All the news, all the issues

click the pictures to read the stories
and visit

horsetalk.co.nz

Sportaloosas at South Australia State Championships

Kerrinna Sie My Affair owned by Kerrinna Appaloosas,
Horsham
Sire - Ultimate Affair Dam - Kerrinna Sierra Sioux

State Champion Mare/Filly Hunter In Hand
State Champion Most colourful at Halter
Res Champion Yearling Lungeline
Res. Champion 2007 Filly
3rd Yearling Halter
3rd Amateur Owner mare/filly
3rd Yearling Trail

Congratulations!!!





Sportaloosa snippets

Sportaloosa section in online foal show

Owners of registered Sportaloosas are warmly invited to enter the All Breeds Online Foal Show 2009.

Run by Australia's Warrimbungle Sub Branch APSB, the Online Foal Photo Show is open to Australian and New Zealand entrants and is judged by international and Australian judges.

Entries close 31 July 2009. Find out more - including all entry details - at www.allbreedsonlinefoalshow.com



Studbook One registrations

A warm congratulations to the owners of Studbook One Sportaloosas registered to date.

- Cayuse Just An Illusion owned by Petra Davidson
- Cayuse Sign Of A Storm owned by Samantha McAuliffe
- Yallawa Playful Times owned by Diane Johnson
- Mighty Trinity owned by Petra Davidson
and a special mention for our first Studbook One stallion
- AP Double Plaudit owned by AP Performance Horses

Producing a Studbook One Sportaloosa is no mean feat - these horses have 75% or more spotted blood in the first 4 generations of their pedigree.



Sportaloosa points & awards - record your points now!

Your registered Sportaloosas qualify for annual awards and lifetime bronze, silver and gold medallions for competition points. Best of all, recording competition points is completely free to all lifetime members until 31 December 2009.

Sportaloosa awards are an extra reason to be spotted on a Sportaloosa, so don't miss out on recording your successes with us and, if you know someone competing on a spotted horse, please let them know about Sportaloosa International.

For the forms you need, visit www.sportaloosa.com and be sure to take them with you to your next event. Fill them out, have a show official sign them to confirm your success and send them back to us.



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Member Profile... **World Renown Artist Maurice Potter**

Born and bred in Barraba, north west slopes and plains, NSW, this unique, colourful character has 'been there, done everything' for the last seventy years. An expert stockman, drover, wheat grower, rodeo rider and retired ladies man, he has always loved good using horses, especially with lots of chrome and colour.

When at school he was always in demand helping the not so bright kids do their work for them. Leaving school at an early age, like most kids in those days he got a top job in the famous Inglis Thoroughbred sale stables, Sydney. For five Easters he expertly prepared the blue blood racehorses for their future careers. A Star Kingdom colt fetching 4500 guineas was one of the higher priced lots he prepared, when in those days on average the horses fetched 25-70 guineas, some going on to win big races like the Melbourne Cup.

He soon became sick of being in the city so came home for good and proceeded to make a lucrative living breaking in stockhorses and driving big mobs of sheep and cattle throughout the district. Over the years, Maurice has seen the rise and fall of the Appaloosa breed in this country. The early years when everyone seemed to be scrabbling to buy one of these fancy spotted horses till now when the breed is unfortunately becoming rare, especially to find one with colour, good legs and ability. The first Appaloosa he saw back in the sixties was at the Moe, Victoria rodeo where the colourful blanketed Lucky Dash Jnr was working cattle expertly.

Also around that time Malheur Tonka was show-

ing everyone how well he could cut a cow too. Maurice was immediately attracted to the breed by their spectacular colours not seen before and the type of horse they were, with more body and hindquarter than the average stockhorse around. At that time too most of the imported Appaloosas were quite athletic and were successfully competing against all breeds in a variety of





events, cutting, rodeo and campdraft, plus jumping and eventing.

Like everyone else at that time he was dying to breed his own Appaloosa, so he thought a big grey mare would be great to put spots on. Greg Lougher soon put him right on that idea, explaining that the grey gene would fade the colour out and not to use it in his breeding programme. He met up with Matt Peel, Ted Hodges and Sam Horden and soon had a good herd of Appaloosa bred horses coming along intermingled with some top quarter horse working blood. One of his favourite colourful cutting horses at that time was Swanlake Commanche King ridden by Fred Johnson.

After a whirlwind 'cowboy crush', Maurice married his long beloved wife of forty five years, Lucy, formerly of Sydney. Together they were very prominent in promoting the Appaloosa in the district, running shows and breed displays and forming the local club that at one time had over seventy members. They ran three shows a month at Moonbi, Narrabri and Inverell which were performance open

to all breeds. Their daughter Jenni grew up with Appaloosas from the word go and still rides them and is teaching her children to love them too.

Jenni was very successful with a big blanketed gelding Moore Park Frantic. He was produced by crossing a good TB mare with the blanketed imported stallion Kimo Malaea, who had come from Hawaii! Frantic was extremely versatile and brought home many awards for hacks, jumping, dressage plus barrel racing and goat tying at the rodeos and Jenni was always at the top at pony club riding him.

Maurice knew many good horses at that time but a couple of his real favourites were Willow Park Peat Ledge by Peat Rock (USA) x Dimray grand daughter successful in camp draft and rodeo events, plus he was especially good and talented in six bar show jumping and Comanche Chief, who was bred from a very good Bruce stockhorse mare by My Liege, a noted sire.

Perhaps one of his favourites was Zulu, a very talented horse that could run a hole in the wind, scorch around the barrels, gymkhanas and goat tying! He was one of the best scrub running horses around. He could chase any wild scrub cow down the steepest mountain and catch her, as he was so sure footed and tough. Perhaps one of his most exciting wins was with Delgany Heyerdahl at the state show over some very top horses of the time. One of his last Appaloosas was Santa Lucille Juana Bill, a stunning snowcap stallion. He was shown for most of his life by a long time friend John Schneider in Qld, winning many titles in the show ring, then came home in the later years for stud duties. He only passed away this year of old age.

Maurice would have spent over eighteen years riding at rodeos too, mainly in the bareback, saddle broncs, steers and bull ride, highlighted by winning an Australian



Santa Lucille Juana Bill



title in the sixties. He still has a passion for rodeo and will go miles to watch a good rodeo.

After being a loyal Appaloosa member for years he became increasingly disillusioned with the way the board of directors decisions were going, so after his daughter Jenni left for University he left the breed to the backyarders, desk jockeys and old ladies in woolly slippers.

Like a lot that left the breed he bred quarter horses and some paints for awhile. But he continued to use the Appaloosas in his stockmans work in the hill country where the motorbikes couldn't go. The highest he went chasing sheep and cattle was 5100 feet in the Nandawar ranges!

Now in semi-retirement, Maurice's days are fuller than ever. He can now fulfill his lifetime passions to have time to make saddles, plait intricate leatherwork and most of all nurture the dormant gift of cartoon drawing he possesses. His drawing skills have blossomed to such a degree that he now is in huge demand and fulfills orders for cartoons in different horse and cattle magazines, calenders and cards. Why his cartoons are so unique is that they often portray actual events of yesteryear and today, plus originals of people's fantasies. Quite a few are now making their way overseas to keen collectors of his special artwork.



South Grafton Finals 1963

Recently, when caretaking at the Cayuse Sportaloosa stud his love of the spotted horse was once again rekindled when he continually saw the versatility and ability of the sportaloosas there. It was a pleasure to work with those kind, gentle horses after he had to contend with the striking chooks, biting dogs and fractious cattle. As he still has a couple of really well bred working Appaloosas he would like to realise his last dream of getting a sportaloosa to the finals of the NCHA cutting futurity and he will quite likely do it!

\$1,000 video futurity

Make sure your video camera is in good working order and start honing your filming skills now... your 2009/10 Sportaloosa foal has FREE entry into the very first \$1,000 Sportaloosa video futurity.

It's the futurity you don't have to travel to compete at and it's your chance to show the world (and our judge) just how good your next Sportaloosa foal crop is.

Prize pool \$1,000
Sportaloosa jacket for the best made video
All entrants get a Sportaloosa goody



If you're expecting a Sportaloosa foal from 1 August, make sure you're a member of Sportaloosa International and that either the mare or the stallion (or both) are registered with us. If you're the owner of a registered Sportaloosa stallion, promote the eligibility of his progeny for our futurity in your ads (it's an excellent selling point for your stallion).

Practise keeping a steady hand on the video camera and get ready to film!

Find out more at
www.sportaloosa.com/videofuturity.shtml

Welcome to New Zealand

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You can be part of a Sportaloosa stallion ad in the Horse Trader magazine, (we're aiming for a full page) plus a whole lot more for a fraction of the usual price.

All you need is a terrific photo of your stallion and we'll do the rest.

Our special price of \$170 is reserved for registered Sportaloosa stallions but this offer is also open to registered Appaloosa and Knabstrupper stallions.

Booking deadline 30 June

PS. Find out about the benefits of registering with us, including the \$1,000 video futurity at www.sportaloosa.co.nz

MAGAZINE

- Your share of a Sportaloosa ad in August Horse Trader*
- Your share of Sportaloosa editorial in Horse Trader

* Your share is a 12th of a page. Larger options available. The total size of the Sportaloosa ad depends on the number of participating stallions.

WEB

- 6 month listing on horsetalk.co.nz stallion directory
- 12 month listing on equinetrader.co.nz stallion directory
- 12 month listing on westernriding.co.nz stallion showcase

TOTAL VALUE

\$432

YOUR PRICE#

\$170 (save 63%)

Price applies to stallions registered with Sportaloosa International. Package available to eligible spotted blood stallions eg registered Appaloosas & Knabstrappers, at a price of \$340 (includes your membership & your stallion's registration).

PLEASE CONTACT

- Petra Davidson
- petra@sportaloosa.com
- 09 423 9552



How Rider Balance & Fitness Affects the Performance of the Horse

How we ride has a huge impact on how the horse performs and sometimes musculo-skeletal discomfort that the horse endures is partly due to our way of riding. The horse constantly is making adjustments to its own balance and movement to carry the rider and obey rider aids.

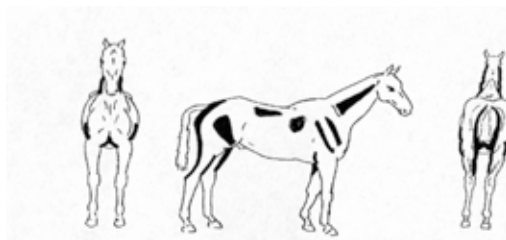
It is important to realise that as a rider, it is the basic core postural muscles, in particular the abdominal and diaphragm muscles that give us stability, balance, stamina and strength.

In our every day life activities if we slouch, breathe too shallowly and allow our core muscles to become weak and dysfunctional, it affects everything we do, not just our riding capacity.

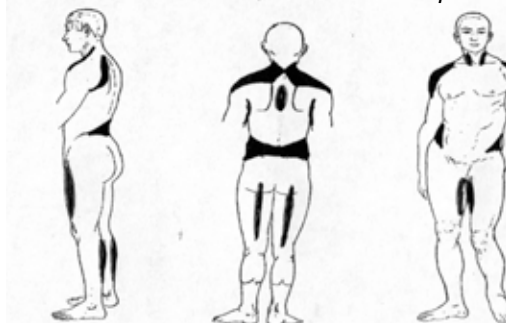
To re-programme and train our bodies to have efficient postural muscle tone and function is not a quick fix and requires effort and discipline, especially as we get older and sustain injuries. Exercise such as yoga and or pilates, also swimming are ideal to increase and maintain fitness and suppleness, prevent stiffness, and maintain core muscle strength.

Rider's knees, low back and shoulders are particularly prone to pain. It is normal for one side to feel more pain than the other, as like horses, humans have a dominant side. It is important for the horse, and ourselves to minimise muscular strain from riding position, and incorrect use of our

bodies as much as possible to decrease the chance of discomfort and strain.




Some areas where horse and rider have problems



While riding our back should flex naturally to balance movement with the horse, no flattening of the back or collapsing of the abdominals. We should have an upright pelvis, This is the posture that as a rider we are able to balance and communicate with the horse most effectively. deep thigh, good upper body posture, square shoulders, a straight spine and the abdominal muscles should

Article by Helen Andrews-Smith
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See – Feel – Ride The difference

be actively engaged.

The horse can feel the minutest muscular activity from the rider's body and is continually compensating and responding to muscle movement, weight placement, rein, leg and seat aids. If the rider has their legs too far back this can cause loss of impulsion, and locking of the rider's pelvis.

If the legs are too far forward this creates a chair seat and the rider pulls more on the reins and hits the back of the saddle too hard, creating discomfort. If the rider is too sloppy or not quiet enough in the seat this can interfere with the horse's movement. A rigid, stiff body will also interfere with the movement of the horse. Messy hands, and jabbing on the reins also causes imbalance through the horse. A nodding head can indicate an unbalanced rider. A pelvis tilt causes the horse to be off centre. Locked jaw and neck muscles affects the forehand. A hollow back locks the pelvis and creates crutch riding and lumbar back pain, and affects the hind end movement of the horse.

How the rider looks with their eyes can also create a balance change. Body awareness is extremely important to allow yourself to recognise subtle levels of influence, and to recognise your own body position and react accordingly.

When a rider has poor musculo-skeletal alignment this changes the balance and centre of gravity. The horse has to adopt a posture and exert unequal forces to compensate for the rider. This over a prolonged period of time has subtle effects on the horse's own musculature and biomechanics.

There are many subtle signs, often that the rider is unaware of. Observe that where the rider is in balance with the horse, the centre of gravity for the horse is correct. The horse's centre of gravity is approximately around the rider's knees, at the heart girth.

The important point is, that no matter what type of discipline, balance between horse and rider and a properly fitting saddle to help place the rider in line with the horse's centre of gravity is required.

The closer to the front legs the rider sits, the less force the horse exerts with its head and neck to restore balance. If the rider is too far back a greater force is required to carry the rider.

You can observe a rider sitting in the saddle. A stiff tight rider will have a stiff tight horse. Look at the pelvis and shoulder position, the head tilt of the rider. An out of symmetry body indicates an imbalance. Other signs of rider imbalance may be after time one stirrup leather is stretched longer, and the rider may need different lengths each side to feel like they are sitting right. The saddle may persistently slip to one side. The rider's toes may constantly turn excessively outwards, even if the heel and toe are level.

In general the rider's upper body and hands affect the horse's forehand. The rider's pelvis, lower back and legs affect the horse's hind end. Many problems in the horse's musculature and biomechanics are from the rider's posture and balance on the horse.



Horse centre of balance

Rider centre of balance



Horse centre of balance

Rider centre of balance



CLINT ALLEN CUTTING CLINIC

The fabulous new indoor equine and livestock events centre, known as Aelec, Tamworth was the venue at the end of February for the New Zealand cutting horse trainer Clint Allen's clinic. He passed on valuable training tips to about twelve keen non pro cutting horse riders.

Born in New Zealand, Clint had been riding and showing in different events all his life. When he was a youth competitor in the late '80's, he and Petra Davidson were part of the youth team that came to Bundaberg Qld for a great time participating in schools and competition. Some of the Appaloosa horses supplied to the team came from the Cayuse stud.

Clint moved to the USA about six years ago for the chance to start training and showing cutting horses, his first love.

He now is the principal trainer at the famous Wrigley Ranch, Weatherford, Texas. In 2007 he was inducted into the NCHA riders Hall Of Fame and his earnings while competing on cutting horses is now over two million dollars!

Vince Mcauliffe took part in the recent clinic riding his three year old sportaloosa colt Chatta Lena. It was quite a 'mind blowing' experience for Chatta as he had never been away from home before or seen more than one rider at a time. Then here he was

confronted with a massive indoor colosseum and riders coming from everywhere! It took a lot of loping to keep the excitement and energy under control.

However he got a couple of very nice works on the cattle and got used to the colosseum which will help when he next goes there for the snaffle bit futurity in late May at the NCHA cutting futurity show.

Vince liked Clint's straight forward approach to cutting and learnt a lot on the methods he uses on the actual cut of a cow, ie, actually removing the cow from the herd at the beginning of the cutting run. Also he had a great system of working a horse on the mechanical cow. His successful training programmes have produced many of the world's top cutting horses.

It is great to see blokes like Clint who have taken advantage of the opportunities that life presents and with hard work and determination make a success story of themselves.

Clint is also dedicated in promoting the sport of cutting worldwide and conducts clinics throughout the US as well as countries like Brazil and Australia.

If you have the chance try to get to one yourself.



Cayuse Mighty Windstorm

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Sportaloosas rock at Victoria State Champs

Sportaloosas by Ultimate Affair (#9), Skip's Supreme (#3) and Cayuse A Grand Illusion (#1) did an outstanding job at the Victorian State Championship Show in February. Results and photos courtesy Ev Lagoon.

Led Galloway 14hh-15hh

1st CA In Conclusion (by Cayuse A Grand Illusion)
2nd Kerrinna Sie My Affair (by Ultimate Affair)

Kerrinna Sie My Affair (top right)

4th Most Colourful at Halter
6th Yearling Hunter In Hand
7th Yearling Lungeline
3rd Yearling Led Trail
6th Yearling Halter

CA In Conclusion (top left - photo by Debra Bawden)
4th Yearling Hunter In Hand

Skip's Supreme

2nd Get of Sire
LV Skip N On Gold (by Skip's Supreme - bottom right)
3rd 2006 Filly

LV Skip The Confewision (by Skip's Supreme)
4th 2004-5 Mare

LV A Little Skipperette (by Skip's Supreme - bottom left)
6th 2007 filly

At the AA Show following the state championships, Sportaloosa yearling fillies took out 1st and 2nd:

Kerrinna Sie My Affair
1st filly yearling and under
1st Yearling Lunge
1st Yearling Trail

LV A Little Skipperette
2nd filly yearling and under



A warm welcome to new members:

Tammy Basham
Kerry Andrews
Amanda Ryan
Maurice Potter
Rebecca McDonald
Filipa Marshall
Natasha Attard
Ben O'Sullivan
Debbie Keen
Diane Johnston
Leane Williams
Lisa Bell
Susan Sargent
Karen Leoncelli
Amanda McHugh
Jackie Lawson
Susan Easton

Merv Tresize
Melanie Torr
John Noble
Sharon Mardling
Tracy Bollard
Ann Howard
Dave Gundry
Dianne Udy
Beverley Davidson
Jason & Natalie
Wilkinson

Registered stud prefixes:

Ascot - John D Noble
AP - AP Performance Horses
Arawood - Arawood Appaloosas
Blackwatch - Lisa Bell
CA - Debra Bawden
Cayuse - Cayuse Appaloosas
Mc - Flying Horse Stud
Mighty - Sparkling Acres Appaloosas
Oregon Park - Ev Lagoon
Savannah - Valmai Jones
Shawin - Shawin Appaloosas
Rocking M Stud - Amanda McHugh

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Training tip – jumping too fast

As with any horse sport, to be successful in showjumping, the horse must be responsive, round, relaxed and obedient to the aids. A horse that rushes its jumps will invariably knock rails down and can become quite dangerous and not at all pleasant to ride. Because of the speed and varying take-off positions with a flat back it can be fatal across country in eventing or hunter trials.

The basic education of the horse has far reaching results, so the early training of the jumping horse should be thorough and one shouldn't be tempted to skip a lot of the early slow work if the horse shows keenness and ability. This can result in the horse becoming tense and confused which then makes him rush the jumps. Some people believe if the horse rushes the jumps they are keen and love to jump but in reality the horse is running away from them, scared and showing a flight response. They run just as fast away from the jump! Often the horse first learns to rush away from the obstacle from the pain and fright of hitting a rail or rider error. One needs to recognise this fault and take steps to eliminate it before it becomes a major problem.

We need to go back and establish a good round relaxed rhythm in both the trot and canter and make sure the horse is immediately responsive to the legs to go and the hands to slow and stop. Also that we can speed up and slow down in all paces without fuss and keeping a steady rhythm all the while. Needless to say this must be achieved by many transitions up and down the paces and within the paces. Scratch our horses on the withers as a reward; this also causes the horse to relax.

Sometimes to relax the rushing horse one needs to sort of 'bore' our horse. Ride around a course of low inviting jumps, first at the trot, strictly keeping that relaxed pace, with a soft easy contact. If the horse tenses and tries to rush, immediately go into a fifteen metre circle in front of the jump, even riding long and low to get that relaxation back. Stay on this circle and make sure it is round and the horse flexed to the inside for as long as you have to.

When you feel the horse relax (and yes you also should take some deep

breaths and sit in a relaxed soft seat) and forget the jump is there, then leave the circle, making sure you have a good centred approach and trot the jump. If you can't maintain a constant speed over the cross poles go back to just a pole on the ground.

Also place two jumps on an imaginary circle thirty metres across. Start with a pole on the ground and canter the circle and over the poles in a nice rhythm. Also practise with the cross poles at the trot first, doing a halt transition after landing. If the horse is slow to halt, include a back up as well. Then proceed, this should encourage the horse to lose the tendency to rush away from the jump. That makes it more controllable in the approach as well.



Warrior Joe, A Grade Showjumper ridden by Daryl Briskey

Another good exercise is to make a cross pole grid down the long side of the arena, which helps the horse to become more athletic and work using its hindquarters. Check that the distances are correct, a crosspole then one stride to a small upright will be good to start off with. When the horse remains quiet and relaxed the distance can be shortened which makes the horse jump from power not speed. Only increase height in the fences gradually when the horse is very confident, happy and content with the previous height and spread.

Make sure you keep your upper body still and don't throw your weight forward in front or over the jump as this encourages the horse to speed up. Also hold a neckstrap if you are unsteady with your hands as jabbing the mouth will cause pain and one of the reasons for rushing in the first place.

In training jumpers it is especially important that the horse is fit long before he sees a fence, this will avoid injury and will keep his confidence levels up. Long distance workouts at slow speeds over hilly terrain are the best way to build general fitness and it will take four to six months to build maximum fitness. To have a well conditioned horse will also ensure soundness in years to come. So with all the time and hard work you spend training, longlasting soundness makes it all worthwhile in the end.



Introducing the trail horse

A well trained trail horse is a joy to ride either in a trail class at a show or doing the real thing: trail riding in the bush, far from the 'madding' crowd. Many people today are joining clubs and experiencing trail riding activities that they enjoy for the non-competitive atmosphere and social contacts. You also get to know and understand your horse at a deeper level.

It was once said to see man's world go by car, but to see God's world go by horse! True to many horse endeavours to attain success and enjoyment from what you are doing it is important to select a suitable horse to begin with. Like people, every horse is a unique individual with differing talents and attributes, so choosing a suitable one for you is the key to success. Some people like and have the talent and patience to bring a youngster on whilst others prefer a made, seasoned horse they can just jump on and go. Whichever is for you I would list some of the qualities you should look for, primarily in the outside bush trail horse, which still applies to the show horse as well.

Number one quality is definitely a good tempered, solid minded horse of a calm disposition. It should have smooth riding qualities because after all you might be aboard for many hours and a rough gaited horse will soon be sending you to the chiropractor! I would look for good open feet and strong legs; an older horse can

have bumps and lumps which on checking will cause no unsoundness problems but make sure before you go ahead. A pronounced set of withers is a must to hold the saddle in the right place all day. I would like a horse that walks out well without continual urging. A slow, lazy horse can be very tiring and wearing on the rider after several hours, so that is why a good traveller is very important. Your trail horse should be intelligent and get on with other horses, not given to jigjogging if behind others, wanting to get to the lead all the time. It should go alone and leave the other horses without objection. It should be surefooted and not given to stumbling and athletic enough to jump small obstacles and turn on tight narrow trails.

Needless to say one that is given to shying and spooking won't be an enjoyable ride for most people, with the danger of being dumped and walking home or worse still injury to both. The horse should tie up patiently anywhere without pulling back and an advantage is if it's used to wearing hobbles. A lot of organised trail rides are not always close to home so a good loader onto a float is a must to get there and back. The horse should be an appropriate size for the rider's weight and height. Select a horse that stands quietly so you can easily get on and off whilst out in the bush using a rock, fallen tree limb or breakaway gully as a mounting block.

As you see a trail horse is a valuable select mount that will give you years of enjoyment and friendship. The trail classes at shows offer you a challenge of precision work with your horse, making it more obedient and supple.





The rider develops and learns to sit balanced and centred, to feel the rhythm of the horse and to guide the horse gently between hands and leg, looking ahead to show the right path. Trail training for both horse and rider can be very beneficial.

If you and your horse get bored with arena work why not set up some trail obstacles to add some spice and get your horse thinking with new challenges. Obstacles give the rider a visual aid to cue the horse correctly which helps fine tune your aids, making you a more skilful rider. Quite often, even a well trained trail horse at a horse show will make mistakes because of slight errors of the weight and leg aids of the rider. The horse is doing exactly what the rider is asking, but as the rider is asking incorrectly the horse bumps or steps over poles at the wrong place.

Your aim in schooling is to be able to move your horse's head, hips and shoulders anywhere at the lightest command. Then even if your horse encounters an obstacle it has never seen before you can successfully negotiate it as your horse is clued up, obedient and trusts you to go and do anything you ask of him.

You can make all sorts of trail obstacles with poles, either wooden logs or plastic drain pipes can be useful and easier to procure from a hardware store, plus being lighter and easier to move around. The poles should be around twelve foot long and 5 inches in diameter and you can have them natural or painted.

Distances to remember between the poles: at walk 90cm, at trot 1.25 metres and at canter 3 metres. A bridge can be made with a sheet of strong marine ply with two logs each side as a guide. You can also fold a tarp and anchor between two logs. Gates are another important feature of the training of the trail horse.

You can use the one into the arena, on a fence line or make a fancy one, being careful it is securely anchored and has no parts that could stick out and injure the horse. Otherwise a piece of heavy duty rope between two posts or close trees works great.

Start your pole work with a single pole at the walk and when the horse is used to it, trot and canter over both ways. Then make three in a line, walking over first then changing distances at trot and canter. A good thing is to have enough poles so you can permanently set up at the different distances for each pace.

A fan of about seven poles on a twenty metre circle is a great challenge to learn the different strides of your horse. You can ride a circle firstly to find the horse's most comfortable and easy stride over the poles. You then can ride different lengths of stride, changing from short on the inside to lengthening on the outside without speeding up. This is great for a lazy horse as they really have to use themselves. Practice maintaining the same length of stride all around the circle, you'll know if the horse changes when he reaches the poles again. When you are doing this really well at the trot try it at the canter, checking the distance is right first.

Of course the poles are used to train the back through and side pass essential for show work. The horse must learn to back very straight; you must be very careful that your weight doesn't shift over accidentally so the horse steps sideways and hits the poles. Always try to stay relaxed and take your time. It's a good idea to give your horse a blow as a reward by just standing beside the obstacles ie. gate with a loose rein. This sends a message that the obstacles are a good place to be.

If you have a conflict of ideas with your horse in

training at an obstacle, maybe it's not understanding your aid, getting frustrated and uptight. Always walk away, figure out exactly what the problem is, eg. not turning on the forehand when negotiating the gate. Then quietly train this manoeuvre away from the obstacle until the horse is happy with it, then and only then go back and retry quietly at the obstacle. This is why in trail training you have to be patient and not bussle your horse. So it is also good to instil this characteristic into the rider as nothing nice and pretty is established without this important ingredient of horse training.

Next time we'll delve into the training of the gate and water obstacles.



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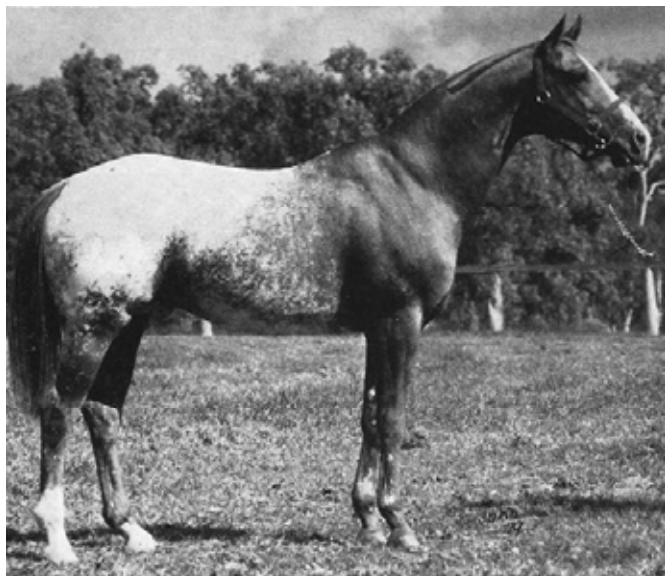


Mararoa River Breeze - stallion at stud



Past influences - Royal Corporal

Article by Ev Lagoon of Oregon Park Appaloosas



Sire Cowboy Joaquin TB, Dam RH Batchicka ApHC 52321, Royal Corporal ApHC104536 (AAA) A 413 was born in California in February of 1968. The bright sorrel colt was a blend of the finest names in Appaloosa history. A grandson of the legendary ApHC Hall of Fame foundation sire Red Eagles Peacock, he also had a double cross of Painters Marvel, a black blanket mare By Painter III.

The "Painter Line" is credited to Claude Thompson of Oregon, the man responsible for bringing the Appaloosa breed back from near extinction. Unfortunately, the Painter line also carried the grey gene, but luckily for Corporal, Red Eagles Peacock was a rich bay and retained his colour all his life. Even when crossed back to Eagelette, a Painter bred mare, the resulting foal, Corporals dam RH Batchicka, did not carry the grey gene.

His sire, Cowboy Joaquin, was an extremely well bred thoroughbred, however due to an early injury he never raced. He was a grandson of Court Marshall, winner of over 11,000 pounds in the 1940's. Convert that to today's money! (Cowboy Joaquin is listed in the 1st AAA studbook as a registered Appaloosa, however on cross-reference with the ApHC, Cowboy Joaquin was a thoroughbred.)

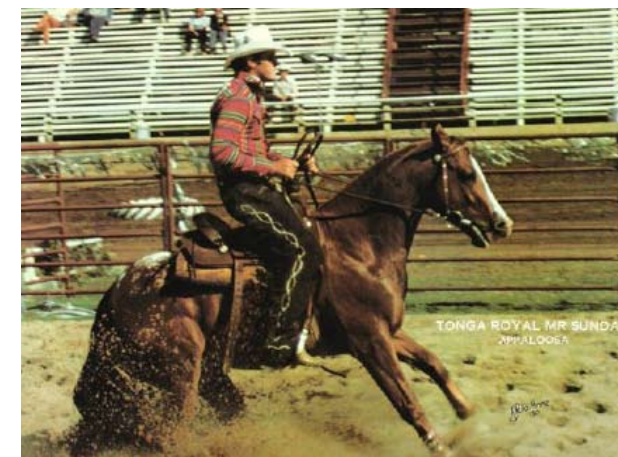
He was imported to Australia by N Everson, who used the Tonga prefix during the 1970's. Looking at the photo here, taken as a 10 year old, he has classic conformation with an elegant head and would stand well in a "Hunter In Hand" line up today, 40 years after his birth. Quality of pedigree never goes out of style.

RH Batchicka had 2 sons exported to Australia, Royal Corporal and Heel Bar Bob, born 4 years later. Both boys contributed to the early days of Appaloosas in Australia, and Royal Corporal's most noted son was Tonga Royal Mr. Sunday T2026. Many of the "Tonga" horses were out of registered Stock Horse mares as was the fashion in those days, and Tonga Lass produced Mr Sunday, Tonga Ci Ci and Cayuse Mighty Exquisite, Cayuse Balliss and Cayuse Trela Lass to name a few.

With Tonga Royal Mr. Sunday, Vince McAuliffe would travel Australia on the back of the flashy copper chestnut stallion with a white lacey blanket. Mr. Sunday was actually $\frac{3}{4}$ thoroughbred, and would form the base for some of Australia's best athletes in a variety of disciplines. He would become the cornerstone of Cayuse Appaloosas, and produced over 50 registered progeny from 1980 to 1992. He could perform as a working cowhorse then come back as a bridle path hack, change hats and win a campdraft and with his elegant good looks, win the fillies' hearts where ever he went. He was a State and National Champion many times and his progeny would follow in his footsteps.

Many of today's Sportaloosas can trace their family tree back to these versatile builders of the breed and today's breeders should take care to retain the quality and versatility of the fine spotted horse that Claude Thompson thankfully saved in the 1930's.

We are merely the caretakers for the next generation, so choose carefully this spring!



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Dam Cayuse Few Moon (National Supreme Champion - Australian Appaloosa National Show)



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