

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

Foundation Sire

RED RAY – FS

ASH Reg: 1120

RED RAY - FS was a fair dinkum horse. To Leo Callinan, a 'fair dinkum' horse was one that did the job needed on a bush station. It didn't need a fancy pedigree that said 'imported from the UK or the USA'.

Leo worked for Dick Telfer, on his property at Merriwa in NSW for a few years and had the stallion Chan, with him for that period. Even at an early age, Chan's ability made him a popular sire. Chan was used over one of Dick's mares, the grey Zella, to get RED RAY - FS in 1953 - the only foal this mare produced.

The dam, Zella was by Midnight out of a 'Thoroughbred Mare'. Midnight's sire, Haydons Starlight, was a 15hh bay horse that

produced some good sons that took after him. They were good all-round station horses - good in the bush and good with cattle. "I didn't know Midnight very well," said Leo, "but I saw him mustering in the bush - he was pretty handy. I have a high opinion of those early Haydon bloodlines - they were very good station horses. It's a pity that the Stock Horse Society didn't get started, even eight to ten years earlier, as it would have been able to classify a lot more of those fair dinkum horses."



RED RAY - FS

This bloodline, through Haydons Starlight and his sire Rocket, has been of considerable influence and is recorded in Joy Poole's article on ROSEBROOK CEDAR - FM (ASHS Journal, July/August 1999, p14) To name a few of his descendants, Haydons Starlight is grandsire on the dam's side to the mares ROSEBROOK CEDAR - FM, NEWCOMBE SARINA, COMARA JAQUELINE, HAYDONS JEWELL and the stallions GLEN RAY, DALKEITH WORAKI and GLENGARRY MATLOCK. A number of these families are still breeding on, now into their sixth generation.

The stud book records that Midnight sired only three horses. His first offspring, named Midnight Mare, was dam to two registered stallions, LITTLE CHAN sire of BINNIA CHANDELIER, and sire of LEO who sired a number of Rosewood horses and the sire WANSEY LEON. The second of his get, the mare Stella, only had one foal, COOPLA MING who, amongst others, went on to sire the stallion FINTONA ARTIST, widely used for breeding by the Gower's Chalani stud in South Australia. The third of Midnight's progeny was Zella.

Like the mating to produce RED RAY - FS, many of the Haydons Starlight mares were put to Chan, as the Haydon and Glengarry stations used to send mares to each other's stallions. GLENGARRY DINA, the bay mare that Leo Callinan rates as the equal best horse he has ridden or owned, is also by Chan and very closely related to RED RAY - FS on the dam's side, being out of a Haydons Starlight mare. [For the record, the other horse that Leo rated highly is GLENGARRY KATHLEEN (by Triple Bar out of a Midstream Mare), a top campdrafter. One day at Willow Tree, when beaten by Leo with a score of 98 handed out by Judge Bob Campbell, Bobby Palmer commented that he would like to buy the mare, but that he already had too many. Bob's father Jack commented on the side that, "He hadn't too many as good as that mare!"]

Leo broke the bay colt in as a two year old and got him going. "I remember saying to Dick", said Leo, "I have done everything else with him, I may as well shoe him." Leo went on to ride him for a couple of years and was impressed at how good he was with cattle. "He would fix his gaze on a cow in the mob and be easily able to flick over to hold it in position," said Leo.

After Leo left Dick's employment, the Foundation Stallion was used for breeding at Merriwa for many years until he was sold at the first Australian Stock Horse Society Sale in Dubbo in the early 1970s. "I wasn't there" said Leo, "but I know that some time later Dick regretted selling him."

The early sales seem to have been quite pivotal in the development of the breed as some of the horses that changed hands at them have become foundation breeding stock for a number of present day studs. The demonstration prior to the sale must have set new standards as three of the people referred to in this story remember it well. RED RAY - FS entered the sale ring ridden by Dick, his one-armed rider, and put in an impressive workout. Loud applause came from the crowd - the only time all day. Two NSW women who have



RED OAK - photo by Beryl Gilshenan

pioneered Stock Horse breeding since that day are Ros Waller and Alma Miles. Both were present at the sale and admired not only the horse's ability, but his appearance as, "His reddish coat glistened in the afternoon sun." Doug Knapton also recalls it still, "The performance he gave was just brilliant. It was so good that he won over a bunch of breeders and went to his new owner with a full book of mares." That astute new owner was Ed Monaghan. Doug reckons that Ed paid about \$1,100 for him, while the sale topper was an ABBEY - FS colt which sold for about \$1,200.

Ed stood RED RAY - FS for three seasons at Scone but the horse was then acquired by Doug Knapton. Doug ran a cattle breeding operation and also bred about twenty mares at his stud. He used him for a season at Murrurundi before sending him over to Dubbo for a season with Hamilton Barber, a polo fellow. There he ran with a mob of about fifteen mares, but also served outsiders. Once back at Murrurundi, RED RAY - FS was used on Doug's own mares as he often sold mares in foal to RED RAY - FS. "The Chan blood was really popular in Queensland so that's where we sold most of our Chan bred horses", said Doug. He also stood the stallion to outside mares and generated a lot of repeat business. Being a commercial operation, Doug didn't keep any colts, but sold them all.

Both Doug and Alma say that the thing that characterised the appearance of the Chan progeny was their elegant swan necks, which gave them good length of rein. Their good conformation, along with the fact that they were very good with cattle, is what kept the buyers coming back. Doug states that RED RAY - FS was a good ride himself but his stock were not easy to ride. "They were high spirited 'horseman's horses' and needed an experienced rider, but once mastered they were very good." One of his progeny, KIMRIDGE DINAHRAY was used for polocrosse but she was not well suited to it. "I found that RED RAY - FS progeny were more cattle horses as they got a bit 'hot' for polocrosse" said Doug.

Out of his top mare ALLAWA MARINA, Doug also bred KIMRIDGE REDRINA who produced six foals in all, mostly by EDENHOPE SAM and RODEO RUSH. Through her daughter, KIMRIDGE AREANA, she has gone on to be the great granddam of BALLANDOWN ZORRO (AUS), a stallion exported to the USA and being used by the Keystone Stud in Pennsylvania.

Alma Miles, born into a cattle family that had their property between Gresford and Dungog, was an experienced horsewoman spending many of her early years helping her father, George Tickle, with the stock. A keen polocrosse player, she was also very keen on RED RAY - FS having taken mares to him when he was standing at Dubbo.

"Alma used to bring mares up to us - she really liked the foals he sired", said Doug.

One breeding season they were taking a RED RAY - FS mare, BINGLEBURRA LADY RAY up to the Laws at Swan Vale and stopped off to visit Doug Knapton. Alma's admiration for the stallion must have been very evident. Doug made her the offer,

saying, "You will have an empty float on the way back - why don't you take him with you?" "Well then", she replied, "you had better sell him to me." The deal was done and the stallion, aged about 22, moved on again.

The photos we looked at and the discussion about this Foundation Stallion stirred strong feelings from Alma, "He was a beautiful golden bay a bit dappled, 15.3hh, with no markings. He had a kind nature with no vices". With a rap like that, Alma was pleased to get hold of him for breeding to her mares. "I paid Doug \$2,500 for him - even though he could have asked more". Not sure how many seasons they would get with him, he was used over a number of mares in that first year of ownership.

When asked if she stood the stallion to outside mares, Alma replied, "No fear, we used him on our mares." And that was done well. The progeny of RED RAY - FS bore both the Bingleburra prefix and that of her son, Russell under the Cedar Downs prefix.

With the many progeny by this horse, it is hard to summarise. In his early years, Dick Telfer used him to sire the Gumridge and Parkway lines - seven registered in all. Notable amongst those was GUMRIDGE MELODY - who produced 16 foals between 1974 and 1990, mostly for the Ninness Family Partnership. GUMRIDGE MIST has perhaps bred with the most impact through her mating to the REALITY - FS son, PARKAWAY ALLABY which produced the grey stallion, PARKAWAY ALLARAY in 1981. He has sired 46 foals to date. Peter and Cheryl Squires of Morundah, NSW have had good success with this line, for example, producing MERRIVIEW CRYSTAL sold to Barnett Stock Horses. MERRIVIEW CACTUS came second in the National Championships in 2006 in the Open Campdraft Final. MERRIVIEW CRUISE, a 2001 gelding, placed in the National Championships at Albury in 2005. MERRIVIEW BULLANT, an Open Campdraft winner, gave Peter Squires many placings at the 2006 NSW Breeders' Championships at Scone and also at the Narrabri Branch Show.

Another important mating for RED RAY - FS was with the mare Meretha which produced the filly Mystery, later to become the dam of RYANS FOUREX - FM.

RED RAY - FS has also had influence through his progeny by way of the stallions, BINGO MONARAY (born 1973 and sired 38 foals), MT HOPE RAY DAR (born 1973 and sired 35 foals) and PETIT ABRE LITTLE GUMNUT (born 1972 and sired 15 foals). No doubt if time and space permitted, there would be interesting stories to tell from these Branches of the family as well.

Under the Bingleburra prefix, Alma Miles registered seven progeny by RED RAY - FS. BINGLEBURRA MISS RAY, herself

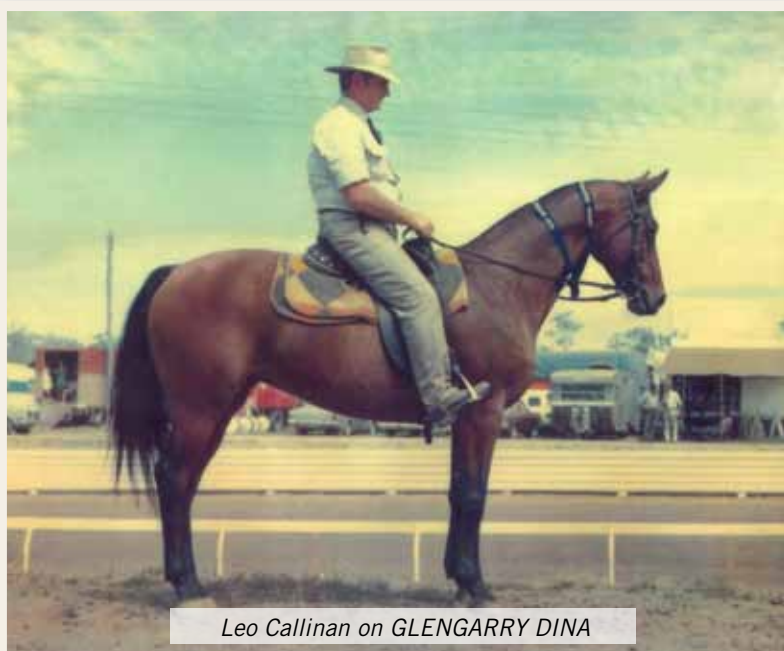
bucket-reared as a foal, commenced her run of thirteen foals with the Miles. The first of these was the filly BINGLEBURRA BLACK BEAUTY who is the dam of BINGLEBURRA CANDY BAR - a mare used by Expected Stock Horses for seven foals and who, amongst others, has produced the gelding EXPECTED BARRISTER. This 1996 horse, by HOLMROSE LAWMAKER, was ridden by Jackie Bright to take both third in the Canning Downs Maiden and fourth in the Warwick Gold Cup Maiden Campdraft in 2005.

BINGLEBURRA MISS RAY was later sold to Ros Waller of Hampton, of the Ophir stud in the central tablelands of NSW, who used SCRUMLO VICTORY - FS for each of Ophir's six foals registered from this mare. One of her colts, OPHIR IMPRINT, a galloway type, has sired most of the more recent Ophir horses since his first drop in 1999 and has 67 foals to his credit to date. Ros also bought the RED RAY - FS broodmares BINGLEBURRA LADY RAY (ten foals with six for Ophir) and BINGLEBURRA XRAY (eight foals with two for Ophir).

Progeny bearing the Cedar Downs prefix have done very well for Russell Miles and his family, particularly over the last decade when crossed with some of the 'Docs' genes. The RED RAY - FS mare CEDAR DOWNS XANDA, born in 1977, was crucial to this success. As an Open Campdraft mare she set the standard for her progeny. Russell's breeding emphasis is on quality of the horse, even ahead of performance. "Her dam, out of TIMOR SHIRALEE, a WALLAROO mare, was a good honest campdraft mare. RED RAY - FS was able to put quality into his progeny and XANDA was the best of the six foals that this mare produced", Russell said. "The old mare has just been put down at the age of 32 - four of her foals were by DOC FRECKLES OAK."

The first foal, CEDAR DOWNS MONIKE, born in 1985 is dam to four performance horses. The second, born in 1989, DOCS MOONLIGHT, was sold to Bruce McNaughton, then on to Terry and Chris Hall and rated by the Hall's as one of the best broodmares they have, producing HAZELWOOD ALIMONEY and HAZELWOOD COPYWRIGHT. The fourth, CEDAR DOWNS MISS PLAYGIRL has produced six foals. One of her fillies, CEDAR DOWNS TRINKETT, by STAR BLACK MINSTREL - IS was sold to Gerald O'Brien and won the National Maturity Series 10, 1999. Another filly out of the same mare, ACRES OF OAK, came second in the Juvenile Campdraft at the National Championships in 2006. Yet another, OAKS RIVER QUEEN, placed Hugh Miles in many youth classes at the NSW Breeders' Championships and the National Championships in 2006.

The fifth foal out of CEDAR DOWNS XANDA, another full sibling, is the Open Campdraft stallion RED OAK, born in 1993. Russell



Below: the black mare, BINGLEBURRA LADY RAY and foals enjoying the sunny open plains





Gerald O'Brien on OAKS FINESS. Photo by Marijana Dugac

claims he is, "The spitting image of his grandsire, RED RAY - FS." He has sired 61 foals to date including SHEZ AN OAK, OAKS ACORN (12 foals) winner of the National Futurity Series 12, 2000, OAKS CENTREFOLD - Champion Two Year Old Hack at National Championships 2005 and OAKS ALPINE WAY, who won and placed in the NSW Breeders' Championships in 2004. The final full sibling out of this RED RAY - FS mare is the black mare, OAKS FINESS, who took out the National Maturity Series 11 in 2000.

Another RED RAY - FS daughter CEDAR DOWNS ZOE, owned by Mrs Karen Miles, has had nine foals, including CEE DEE REPLAY who has sired 21 foals.

During his four years at Bingleburra, Alma Miles adored him, but his end came in an unfortunate way in 1979, after cutting his coronet badly. Alma nursed him for a long time but eventually there was no option but to put him down.

RED RAY - FS was given opportunity at a number of studs and produced well. From 77 progeny, his descendants numbered 1,165 in 2007. Even without following up the outcome of all his first and second generations, it is clear that through different stud masters and the sale of his stock interstate, that RED RAY - FS had good opportunity to spread his quality Australian Stock Horse genes about. His influence as a Foundation Stallion of the breed, comes through his many broodmare daughters and sire sons who have gone on to have long lives and to produce many well performed offspring themselves. 🐾

Profile: RED RAY - FS

- Colour** Bay
- Height** 15.3hh
- Lifespan** 26 years (1953-79)
- Breeder** Dick Telfer, Merriwa district, NSW
- Performance** Station Horse and Campdrafter - good with cattle
- Progeny** 77 (males and fillies). Most notable being the mares CEDAR DOWNS XANDA, BINGLEBURRA MISS RAY, BINGLEBURRA XRAY, Mystery, GUMRIDGE MIST and the stallions BINGO MONARAY and MT HOPE RAY DAR.

RED RAY - FS ASH REG: 1120	Chan	Radium	Cecil	
			Black Bess	
	Zella	Witzy		Medlow
				Part Arab Mare
		Midnight		Haydons Starlight
				Unknown Dam
	Thoroughbred Mare			