

# 2010 Westpac Star of the Year CADABRA (AUS)

During 2010, CADABRA (AUS) was one of the most recognised ambassadors for the Australian Stock Horse Society. His time in North America saw the young sire give demonstrations at major public events, as well as completing a highly successful show and breeding season. The efforts of the Icewood team in raising the breed's profile on an international level have been unprecedented.

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**Far left:** The crowd is engrossed in catching one of the yellow promotional frisbees thrown into the crowd at the start of CADABRA's performance. The announcer joked that '...only Australians would bring frisbees to a horse event'. **Middle:** CADABRA (AUS) with owner Maryanne Gough. **Far right:** Craig Cameron, creator of Extreme Cowboy Racing, interviews Maryanne about the ASH breed and her performance.

The 'Mane Event', held in April in Red Deer, Alberta, is an equine fair averaging an attendance of 45,000 over a weekend. In 2010, Maryanne Gough and Jacquie McArthur ran the first Australian Stock Horse information booth at this venue, where they handed out literature, stickers and other promotional items. The booth also directed interested parties to view CADABRA (AUS) at his stable, or at a number of demonstrations scheduled during the event.

The Saturday Night Showcase combined breed demonstrations, clinicians and other performances to entertain the huge, 'standing-room only' crowd. CADABRA (AUS) and Maryanne gave a stylish performance, and were mentioned in the Mane Event blog as one of the Top Ten highlights of the weekend.

In July of 2010, Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) took the plunge and entered the first ever Calgary Stampede 'Cowboy Up Challenge' in Calgary's famous 'Saddledome'. Extreme Cowboy Racing, as the sport is known, developed in the United States and is designed to test horse and rider with an unusual obstacle course, which is timed and point-scored. No one is allowed to view the course until it is walked five minutes before the start, so the obstacles—which included rocking bridges, miniature donkeys, strange jumps, sled drags, bareback riding and much more—were a complete surprise to the horses.

The challenge was a huge hit with the public. After the event, Maryanne was interviewed by the sport's creator Craig Cameron, who commended Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) on an outstanding

performance, and discussed the merits of the breed. Whilst at the Stampede, Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) also performed a one-off demonstration, and attracted a large crowd with loud whip-cracking, fast gallops and lovely controlled work and haunch turns.

These promotional events were interspersed with a heavy show schedule, that saw Maryanne and CADABRA (AUS) constantly competing on the Alberta Reined Cow Horse circuit. When the stallion began to win with regularity, it was more valuable than any demonstration! CADABRA (AUS) finished the year as the ARCHA Reserve Champion \$2,000 Limit Working Cow Horse, which was a wonderful advertisement for the capability of the breed as a cow horse and all-around performance animal.

CADABRA (AUS) was also ridden at polocrosse practices, where stick and balling among Canadian members showed why the Australian Stock Horse is such a sought-after breed in this sport. Breeding services were donated to a number of charity auctions, and there was always one of the dedicated team at these events to educate people about the breed and the Society behind it. The stallion's breeding seasons were very successful, and his foals have already begun to sell internationally.

CADABRA (AUS) returned to Australia with Maryanne in early 2011, but his legacy in North America will continue through his progeny. An exciting new chapter in Australian Stock Horse history has been written, and we look forward to watching on and helping as new faces continue down the trail blazed by this beautiful black stallion. 🐾