



Above left: ROSEBROOK FINESSE in action at 1997 Bunnun Carnival. Above right: Terry with 18 Rosebrook horses at the 1996 Polocrosse Nationals in Werribee, Victoria

# Quality Foundations

## Rosebrook Australian Stock Horses

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

Australian Stock Horses make up a large proportion of mounts in the sport of polocrosse. One of the studs that has stood out from the others for many years, especially in this discipline, is that of Terry Blake OAM and his Rosebrook Stud in Muswellbrook, New South Wales.

Terry is an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Stock Horse Society, the Polocrosse Association of Australia and Polocrosse Association of New South Wales. He earned his OAM for services to the sport, hence he commands tremendous respect from those in the game.

Chairman, Joy Poole OAM describes Terry as being one of the biggest breeders in the Society. 'In the field of polocrosse the stud has created records that will never be beaten. I would dare to say that there is probably not one polocrosse award that his horses haven't won.'

The Rosebrook Stud held its first sale in 1982, and has held bi-annual sales over the last decade. It attracts regular interstate buyers, especially from Western Australia and Queensland. At its most recent sale in January 2013, the stud achieved 91% clearance, with over half of the Rosebrook lots having ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD - FS and/or ROSEBROOK ABOU - IS HSH in their pedigree.

Terry attributes much of his stud's success to its foundation stock, the most significant of these being ROSEBROOK CEDAR - FM HSH. Joy describes this family as simply, 'outstanding'. When Joy wrote about this mare in 1999 (ASH Journal July/August 1999), she had 750 descendants. This has now

grown to over 1,690 descendants, earning her Foundation Mare status.

A 15hh, brown mare born in 1960, ROSEBROOK CEDAR - FM HSH was a very good type by the Radium stallion Chan, the resident sire at Glengarry station in the Hunter Valley. She had the typical Chan front, which was what attracted Terry to this line in the first place.

'I like horses that are good in the front - head, neck and shoulder. The head and neck are where the horse gets his balance. I had always been keen on the Chan line for this reason,' said Terry. 'The crest on the horses that went back to Chan was and still is easy to pick.'

Terry explained, 'I was looking for a Chan mare to breed a colt from, but they were almost impossible to come by.' Chan was not bred to many Glengarry mares each year and didn't stand to outsiders. Luckily for Terry, his father Frank was a successful campdrafters who was very friendly with Jim Callinan (Senior), the manager of Glengarry station.

Jim had assured Terry that when a quality mare became available he could have the offer on her. Unfortunately Jim passed away soon after, but he had told his son Leo about the agreement. So, Terry snapped up ROSEBROOK CEDAR - FM HSH for 100 pounds, which was big money in the early 1960s.


ROSEBROOK CEDAR - FM HSH had five foals—three colts and two fillies—and she put her stamp strongly on them. 'It is surprising how long the Chan type remains dominant in this family,' said Terry.

Terry kept two of the colts, ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD - FS and ROSEBROOK ABOU - IS HSH, and sold the third. The Rosebrook stud policy is to have its stallions available to the public at a reasonable price; and in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book we see that many breeders have taken that opportunity.

Doug Knapton, who played many times for New South Wales, recalls that at one National tournament, six Rosebrook horses competed in the same team. One of Terry's proudest moments was at the 1996 Polocrosse Nationals in Werribee, Victoria, where 18 Rosebrook horses played in teams from all over Australia.

Rosebrook horses have also been successful in led, hacking, sporting, working, polo and campdrafting, and have taken home the R.M. Williams trophy saddle at the Sydney Royal Easter Show, four times in the last ten years.

Terry's advice is to go for quality, no matter what type of animal you breed. 'With horses, quality usually follows through with ability. If you have quality in your horses, they can go out into most fields of competition.'

As I looked at the sale horses being prepared, it was clear that Terry knew the type of horse he wanted, and he was able to produce that type with admirable consistency. Averaging some 25 foals per year over many years, Rosebrook has successfully produced both quality and quantity, as there are now 701 Rosebrook horses listed in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book. 

# Foundation Sire

## ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD – FS

ASH Reg: 1720

Born in 1969, he was the first foal out of ROSEBROOK CEDAR – FM HSH. Bay in colour and 15hh, he had a very quiet temperament. He went on to be a very successful sire at the Hunter and Eastern Branch shows, with many winning progeny.



Terry explained how he was bred: ‘I wanted a colt out of ROSEBROOK CEDAR – FM HSH, but there were not many good stallions about at the time – especially ones that were close to home’.

Matt Peel, a friend of Terry’s who lived four miles up the road, had a stallion named Quarter Spade. ‘He was a quality horse – the old style of solid, quarter-horse build, 15hh and quiet. Matt’s daughter, Joy worked him on cattle and he showed a fair bit of ability’, said Terry. While he only has six progeny

registered in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book, this family line has been influential.

Quarter Spade’s sire, Vaquero was one of the batch of four horses first imported into the country in 1954. Bred by King Ranch in Texas, United States, he goes

back along classic lines to the foundation stock of the quarter horse breed.

In her book on the history of Australian quarter horses, Karen Thrun quotes Colin McTaggart: ‘He was a beautiful looking horse and the best of the four colts first imported and the best of those imported in the first 10 or 15 years – his progeny were good all-round horses’. He was the mainstay of the King Ranch’s breeding program in Australia and produced well-known sires of the time in Quarter Banjo, Quarter Time, Quarter Mark, Quarter Master and Chilla Seeney’s Chico.

Vaquero is reported to have crossed well with Thoroughbred types, and we see 114 of his progeny in the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book. One of these is Comanchee, a colt that sired Joy Poole’s J STAR FELICITY, dam of her late stallion J STAR CHALLENGE (AUS). Vaquero also sired Terry’s ROSEBROOK CINNAMON, that has produced 12 foals, including ROSEBROOK SPICE that has produced 17 foals. While not campdrafted himself, Vaquero ranks equal 19th in Dan Redgen’s list of most influential campdraft sires by number of placegetters, through being the grandsire of Wormwells Flint and the sire of Fraction.

Terry also bred another good horse by Quarter Spade in ROSEBROOK MARQUINETTE, the dam of his next

### ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD – FS

**Colour:** Bay

**Height:** 15hh

**Lifespan:** 24yrs approx (1969 - 1993)

**Breeder:** Terry Blake, Muswellbrook NSW

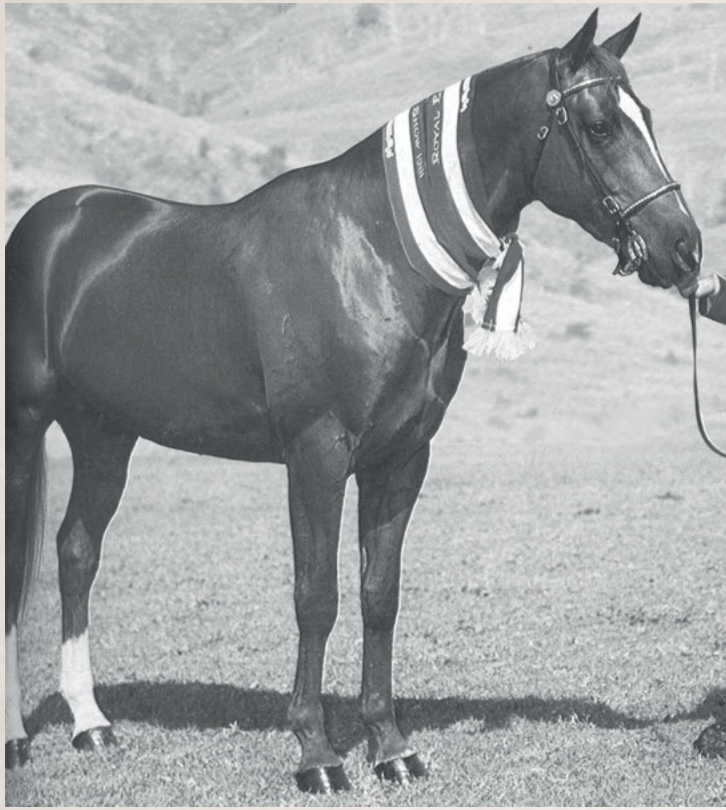
**Performance:** Stock horse

**Progeny:** 164 registered progeny



Sire	quarter spade 02	vaquero 02	hired hand 02
			ojos grandes 02
	quarter hops 02		jackaroo k r 02
			madagrey maid 02
Dam	ROSEBROOK CEDAR – FM HSH	chan 02 – WH	radium 02 – WH
			witzy 02
	melody 08		haydons starlight 02 – WH
			green 02





**The stallion GLENNVALE RELIENCE (ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD - FS/ FAIRLIGHT RETA OLGA - HSH) has 35 registered progeny.**

generation stallion ROSEBROOK SHANTUNG. Terry describes her as, 'possibly the best mare I ever bred, with a tonne of speed, a terrific stop and the ability to maneuver herself into any position you wanted. She won many positional horse prizes as well as champion horse on many occasions. Her progeny have performed extremely well at the Sydney Royal and at ASH National Championships.'

In the case of ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD - FS, his dam played a very big role. Terry said, 'He took after his dam – quality plus ability. He was so good that we kept him entire.' He developed a reputation as a good polocrosse sire. He has 164 progeny, with 82 of those having the Rosebrook prefix. Terry sold horses into most states of Australia, and also two into New Zealand. This Foundation Stallion left a few colts, but only one has become a sire in our Stud Book – GLENNVALE RELIENCE with 35 foals. So, his 1,013 descendants to date have mostly come through his daughters. While Terry sold most of his progeny, he kept a good number of his fillies, saying, 'I think that I have the most broodmares by him'.

With so many good progeny it is hard to know which to include in this profile, but the following run-down highlights most of the better known ones. It also serves to show the lines from which significant numbers of progeny have descended.

Representative New South Wales polocrosse player and breeder, Doug Knapton speaks highly of this stallion, since he sired the best mare he had, KIMRIDGE FERGIE. Out of his good RODEO RUSH mare, KIMRIDGE LADY DI, she won lots of A Grade polocrosse prizes and also placed in campdrafts. He sold her as a broodmare to Western Australia for \$30,000.

Based in Quirindi, New South Wales, Darryl Smith is a legend of polocrosse. He and his family are well known not only for representing Australia numerous times, but also for the output of top horses from their Edenhope Stud. He reckons, with understatement, that ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD - FS produced 'nice-looking horses'. In particular, Darryl described ROSEBROOK FINESSE as a champion mare. Mandy Smith (nee Hammersley) bought this mare privately from Terry as a three year old, in conjunction with David McNeil. They took her back to Western Australia where David trained the horse up for polocrosse. There she took out numerous prizes, including Overall Champion ASH at the Zone Tournament and Overall Champion Pony

at the State Championships, being described in the 1998 ASH Journal as: 'ROSEBROOK FINESSE and Mandy - a magic combination'.

Moving to New South Wales, she brought the mare with her and subsequently established an equally good reputation in the eastern states. She went to two National tournaments, winning Best in the Women's Division at the Narracorte Nationals. Since retirement, ROSEBROOK FINESSE is still breeding and has produced a few foals. A filly is currently playing at a high level in the game and unusually, is able to play well at both No.1 and No.3 positions.

Darryl has another ROSEBROOK CEDARWOOD - FS mare, ROSEBROOK QUONA who has produced five foals. 'They are all good and a couple we have kept as broodmares for our stud,' said Darryl.

Joy Poole OAM has bred eight horses by this Foundation Sire. One of these is mare J STAR APPLAUSE, that won the 1999 Australian Ladies Rookie Horse of the Year ridden by Julie Davison, and has five foals.

Approaching the Australian Stock Horse broodmare fecundity record is his daughter ROSEBROOK SPICE, with 19 foals. Out of ROSEBROOK CINNAMON, she carries a double cross of the stallion Vaquero. Acknowledged by Terry as his pride and joy, her influence has been perpetuated by the 1991 colt ROSEBROOK BALOU that Terry used as a sire. Others from this mare have been ROSEBROOK HARKA, that was Scott Welsh's main horse for many years and played for New South Wales. Another, the colt ROSEBROOK COOL RUNNING, was Supreme Led Horse at the 2005 ASH Nationals in Albury.

ROSEBROOK BALLETT is a 1975 filly that Terry's niece, Louise Parkinson played on for many years, and which then did well for her children in classes at the 2001 ASH National Championships.

Gerald O'Brien's mare ROSEBROOK DIGNITY was a most consistent show horse, winning led, hack and working classes before playing polocrosse for New South Wales. She has now produced three foals. ROSEBROOK SUSIE WONG was a very clever mare that also did well for him in Futurities.

ROSEBROOK BUCKSHEE is a great broodmare that has produced 11 foals. She is the dam of ROSEBROOK SUSIE WONG with four foals, and of ROSEBROOK RHYTHM with seven foals. ROSEBROOK CEDARANNE was a 1987 mare played by Katie Grimmond for New South Wales and the North Coast club.

ROSEBROOK CAMEO, with 12 foals, is the dam of the 1998 filly ROSEBROOK SOLITAIRE, who twice won Champion Horse of the Carnival and is still playing A Grade Polocrosse as well as competing in youth events. ROSEBROOK CEDAR LADY is another good broodmare with seven foals to her credit. The mare ROSEBROOK FILIGREE also did well in the showing in all categories with Loretta Lawson and Melissa Davis, and has produced ten foals.

ROSEBROOK WILLOW is a mare that has had ten foals for Rosebrook, including the filly ROSEBROOK SHANGRILA that won Supreme Led ASH at the 2009 Sydney Royal Show for the Crump family. ROSEBROOK CILLAWOOD, a mare played by Stephen Davidge for New South Wales, went on to produce good show horses, including the stallion JINDALEE CASANOVA.

Ray Davis bred and played the gelding DALES DIAMOND, then sold him to Hugh Radford, a No.1 for Victoria who took him to three Polocrosse Nationals in a row. Hugh has played for Australia five times and ridden some very good horses, but described this horse as 'something special.' Hugh said, 'He was awesome - fantastic! He was a strong, fast horse that gave everything - the sort of horse that would allow you to score six goals in the last chukka when you were five goals down.'

This incomplete list of his successful progeny is impressive. There is no doubt that this stallion's legacy as a broodmare sire will continue to produce even more champions of the future in a wide range of disciplines. 🐾