

BUSH FIRE

ASH Reg 18668

"Behind every great man is a great woman," and this was never more true than for the ASH Foundation Sire, BUSH FIRE and the great woman behind this horse was the Foundation Mare, AMBER PRINCESS. Her 12 foals were either sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, great grandsons or great granddaughters of BUSH FIRE and they also were the catalyst that would push BUSH FIRE to Foundation Sire status.



BUSH FIRE

BUSH FIRE was a Thoroughbred horse who was classified into the ASH Society; of even greater interest is the fact that he was bred in Great Britain by the Princess Royal and imported into Australia. He was taken to stand at stud at Dalby by Chris Martin of Pleasantville and two colts were bred by BUSH FIRE called FIRE PATROL and ST FIASTRA who won on Metropolitan tracks as race horses and later were classified into the ASH Studbook as sires and both also won in the showing.

ST FIASTRA was purchased by the Neville Family of "Holmwood" fame and commenced his career, interspersing starts at the races with being shown in the showing. The Nevilles were to stand this horse at stud. One of the mares to come to him in 1975 was AMBER PRINCESS. This mare belonged to a friend of the Neville Family, Bradley Rose who had bought her from his neighbour's estate. He had always admired this filly and when his neighbour died and the horses were put up for sale he was very pleased to buy AMBER PRINCESS. The only problem was that the sons had never been interested in the horses and when their father died the breeding of the mare was lost forever. In 1976 AMBER PRINCESS produced a filly, LOGANDALE FIREFLY who was sold and little is known of her. In 1977 she produced LOGANDALE OPAL who was purchased by the Nevilles and went on to be an extremely successful broodmare. The Neville Family admired this visiting mare and when Bradley Rose talked about reducing his horse numbers, the Neville's jumped at the opportunity to buy her. To



ST FIASTRA by BUSH FIRE

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1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			Man O War
		War Relic	Fiery Carm
	Relic		Black Tones
		Bridal Colors	Valla
Buisson Ardent			Pharos
		Pierceshall	Mah Mahal
Rose Olymp			Easton
	Rocklyn		Rock Ferrari
BUSH FIRE PS ASH Reg. 18668			
		Pharos	Phalaris
	Pharis		Scapa Flow
		Pharis	Clarisimus
		Carissima	Cosquets
Escasida			Tiddy
		Asterro	Arnelia
		Nerissa II	Samsa
		Esclarmonde	Desmond Lassie

their dismay AMBER PRINCESS was not in the reduction catalogue but, after some swift talking by Sylvia Neville, Bradley Rose agreed to the sale.

Time marched on and each year AMBER PRINCESS went to ST FIASTRA and produced three stallions, HOLMWOOD LAURION, AVANTI and HOLMWOOD JASPER. All of these were kept as sires and all proved very successful. This probably would have continued except ST FIASTRA died prematurely in 1980 during the stud season, so the Nevilles decided to send the mares still not served, to ST FIASTRA's sire BUSH FIRE. One of these mares was AMBER PRINCESS. The first foal she produced to BUSH FIRE was HOLMWOOD BUSH GLOW who proved to be one of BUSH FIRE's greatest sire sons with 104 registered progeny. A great all round sire this horse produced show horses, polocrosse horses and polo ponies including the winner of the 2004 ASH Open Ladies Polocrosse Pony, HAYDON BUSH JEWEL, ridden by April Leggett.



AMBER PRINCESS and HOLMWOOD EBONY FIRE (foal)
with HOLMWOOD ASTRA GLORY leading the way

The following year AMBER PRINCESS once more was sent to BUSH FIRE and this time produced BUSH FIRE's most successful sire son, REALM OF FIRE. Purchased at Dalby by Mark Barwick, this horse was to prove so successful as a performance horse and sire that he was to change the Barwick family's life.

"One year I had 118 mares to him and I was still turning people away!" recalled Mark in an interview I did with him in 2004. In 1993 when Mark won the National Futurity on PENTA JUST TIM by REALM OF FIRE, he also ran 4th on another REALM OF FIRE, PENTA MANDALUKE who went on to be a successful sire for Linda and Brian Cutler. Other great horses by REALM OF FIRE are Darryl Smith's great polocrosse mare EDENHOPE BETTAREALM and Troy Palmer's BINNIA GLORY [campdraft]. The following year to BUSH FIRE, AMBER PRINCESS produced a filly, HOLMWOOD EBONY FIRE. Mark Barwick was so thrilled with her full brother that he bought the filly, sight unseen, for his wife as a Christmas present. Once again Mark could not believe what a brilliant mare he had, for only 6 weeks after breaking her in she won her first campdraft! Once again this mare produced a sire son, PENTA SHAKESPEARE who is proving successful at stud.

This second outstanding combination was once more cut short by the death of BUSH FIRE who was 23 years old. AMBER PRINCESS, for her final four foals, went to a grandson of BUSH FIRE, TOD ASTRA who is by ST FIASTRA and once again, she produced four outstanding foals, HOLMWOOD GLEN ASTRA, HOLMWOOD ASTRA CHIMES, HOLMWOOD TIM ASTRA [the great entertainment horse] and HOLMWOOD ASTRA LEGEND. So AMBER PRINCESS proved a remarkable mare that helped BUSH FIRE to prominence.

However, these were not the only horses to represent BUSH FIRE so well. The other colt mentioned earlier, FIRE PATROL, was to win eight races before being purchased by Duncan McConnell of Glenhaughton and later of Cressbrook Studs. FIRE PATROL won Champion Led classes and was second in a campdraft, his second time out, but it was this horse's progeny that were to really put him on the map as he proved a terrific sire. From his first crop he produced GLENHAUGHTON BONFIRE who won the colt class at Dalby in 1976, was sold the next day for \$2,100, a considerable price in those days, and then went on to win over 30 Championships

including Supreme Led, Working and Ridden. He won both the Open and Novice Campdrafts at Widgee. Other good performers were GLENHAUGHTON FIRE KING, a successful campdrafter and GLENHAUGHTON QUICK, GLENHAUGHTON MARINER, GLENHAUGHTON YONDER STAR, HAVENVILLE JODY, Manners and GLENHAUGHTON BONFIRE. A daughter, CRESSBROOK MADAM proved outstanding, winning Champion mare at Brisbane Royal, Gatton and Champion Mare and Supreme exhibit at Dalby in 1983. FIRE PATROL was to prove BUSH FIRE's second most successful son with 128 registered progeny.

Another sire son of BUSH FIRE that was also able to extol the virtues of his sire was JAYLO BUSHMAN. This horse was purchased by the Elliot family of the Captain Creek ASH Stud in Queensland. This sire son left 41 registered ASH progeny.

So, a horse bred in England, by a member of the Royal Family, proved that he had the genetics to breed horses to campdraft and play polocrosse in a strange land at the bottom of the World. These events needed horses with the ability to chase cattle and sponge rubber polocrosse balls - events that most people in Great Britain had never heard of, let alone seen.

It is interesting that when we trace BUSH FIRE's breeding record with the Australian Stud book and The Australian Stock Horse Society we find that with the ASB he has 31 registered progeny, whereas with the ASH Society he has 67 registered foals, showing us that his greater popularity was with the ASH Society where his ability to produce great all round horses was very much valued.

BUSH FIRE was by a successful French Thoroughbred sire called Buisson Ardent. This horse won a Principal Race in France in 1956 called the Poule d'Essai des Poulaises over 8 furlongs. He also produced the winner of the Epsom Handicap in 1968 in Australia, a horse called Speed of Sound.

Buisson Ardent was by Relic [USA] who, besides

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Mark Barwick's
REALM OF FIRE

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producing this horse, also produced another Principal Race winner in France called Mincio [FR], who coincidentally, won the same race as his half brother Buisson Ardent. Relic also produced another Principal Race winner in Great Britain, the Irish horse, Pieces of Eight, that won the Eclipse Stakes in 1966.

Relic was by War Relic who in turn was by the mighty Man O' War [USA]. This horse was a great racehorse himself winning the Belmont Stakes [USA] in 1920 over 12 furlongs and the Preakness Stakes in the same year. Amazingly, he was able to sire three sons that also won the Belmont Stakes, American Flag 1925, Crusader 1926 and War Admiral 1937 who was able not only to emulate his sire in winning the Belmont Stakes but also the Preakness Stakes in 1937. To give you an idea of what a successful sire Man O'War was, he also sired 2 winners of the Kentucky Derby, Clyde Van Dusen 1929 and War Admiral 1937. This family seemed to have a mortgage on the Belmont and Preakness Stakes as Man O'War's sire Fair



all time. Nearco produced the Stakes winners, Dante GB, Nimbus GB and Sayajirao GB. Pharos is by the Stakes winning sire Phalaris who is by Polymelus. This horse produced 11 Stakes winners of 16 races including Parth GB who won the 1923 Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe. This race has come to the fore in today's racing world with many regarding

it as the greatest horse race in the world! [haven't they heard of the Melbourne Cup?] and everyone is predicting that Australia's greatest staying mare Makybe Diva may contest it this year.

Escarmonde [FR] the grand dam of Escasida [FR] is also interesting as she is by Sunstar who won the 1911, 2000 Guineas 8 furlongs and the Epsom Derby Stakes 1911 over 12 furlongs.

As we look at BUSH FIRE's breeding it is a little like the United Nations with horses from France, USA, Ireland and Great Britain all contributing to the genetics of this Foundation Sire. His influence though, is far reaching as much of the tremendous success of the Holmwood Stud over a long period of time was based on the BUSH FIRE connection. But then, what is so different between BUSH FIRE and most Australians for most of us can boast more than one nationality back in our pedigrees! *A.*



Play sired the winners of the Belmont in 1920 Man O'War, 1924 Mad Play and 1927, Chance Shot. Man O'War won the Preakness in 1920 and another son of Fair Play, Display, won it again in 1926!

Buisson Ardent's dam, Rose O'Lynn, was by the very successful French sire Pherozshah. This horse, when exported to New Zealand, produced no less than 17 Stakes winning progeny of over 30 Stakes races including Shahwan NZ [6] and Tudor Prince NZ [5].

Pherozshah was by the good sire Pharos, who produced the Stakes winners, Cameronian, 1931 Epsom Derby Stakes GB and the 2000 Guineas GB, Phideas the 1937 Irish Derby Stakes, Rhodes Scholar the 1936 GB Eclipse Stakes and Pharis the 1939 French Prix du Jockey Club Stakes. This gives Bush Fire an interesting double cross of Pharos as the dam of Bush Fire, Escasida [FR] is by Pharis who is also by Pharos. This sire also produced the sire Nearco, bred by the "Wizard of Dormatello", the Italian breeder, Tessio, regarded by many as the greatest breeder of Thoroughbreds of

Top Right: TOD ASTRA at Brisbane RNA in 1986 where he took out Reserve Champion Led

Centre: HOLMWOOD JASPER by ST FIASTRA, a Grandson of BUSH FIRE

Below: HOLMWOOD TIM ASTRA with owner Gerald O'Brien



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