



*LEO - FS HSH with John Stanton in Dorrigo, New South Wales as a three year old colt.*

## Foundation Sire

# LEO - FS HSH

ASH Reg: 29

Chan is one of the breed's more prolific 'Horses of Historical Significance'. His two Foundation Sires and seven Foundation Mares—the greatest number of Foundation Horses by any sire—have now produced some 9,599 descendants. We continue this series on his Foundation Horses.

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

**T**he stallion with the shortest name of all his progeny is LEO - FS HSH. It is a simple name; no prefix, no pretenses. This stallion was an honest and hardworking stock horse.

Like his namesake, Leo Callinan of Glengarry Station in the Upper Hunter, this bay/brown stallion led a modest life, but still had a significant influence on the breed. Born in 1967, not many years before the formation of the Australian Stock Horse Society, his history involves some of the foundation members as well as the foundation horses of the Society. Despite having only a relatively small number of registered progeny, they include some very good



*Mare GAVINS CHILLI - HSH (WANSEY LEON - IS HSH/WANSEY CLIX - HSH) with Jean Bryant*



horses that excelled in all disciplines for which the breed is known. Those traits are now evident in the fourth generation down from this Foundation Sire.

The year 1968 was tough in the Upper Hunter. When John Stanton of Macksville dropped in at Glengarry to pick up a horse, Leo Callinan also showed him a mare and yearling that he was prepared to sell. John liked the type of both horses and felt they were good value. He purchased them, took them back and sold them for the same price to his friend and long-time employee, Tom Parkins.

Even though the colt was young, John remembers the 'nice long rein that he had on him'. Tom named him 'Leo' and he grew to be a well-conformed horse, about 15.1hh and solid bay/brown in colour, except for a white hind sock. 'The colt was very good to ride. He would go up and down, working hard all day - far better than Chan himself, in my opinion', said John.

Tucked away in the reaches of Taylor's Arm, upstream from Macksville, Tom Parkins now leads a quiet life in semi-retirement. He tells me that he still rides an old horse, 'that doesn't give him too much trouble'.

Tom broke-in LEO - FS HSH at two and used him as a workhorse for mustering and anything that was going. Both Tom and John recognised that 'he was very good in the bush'. Tom said, 'He was very well-balanced. He could gallop down steep hills as he could get his hocks right underneath. He was the horse I used when I had to go out into rough country by myself, as I could be sure that he would always bring me home.'



Above and right: Stallion WANSEY LEON - IS HSH (LEO - FS HSH/Austrum Lass) and Bryant Gavin

Tom explained that he used to travel with the horse a bit, campdrafting and winning a few ribbons. He said, 'A good campdrafter and friend of mine, Roy Langham also rode him a few times.' Tom showed him about the district occasionally, at one time going as far as Dorrigo where he won the championship ribbon for three year olds at the 1971 show.

Naturally I asked Tom about the horse's temperament, to which he replied, 'You couldn't get better. He was dead quiet. Later as a sire, when people were coming to look at him for breeding, my son Tom (Jnr), only about 10 years old at the time, would ride



him around bareback.' Tom (Jnr) today recalls the stallion as being 'super quiet'.

You will notice that this Foundation Sire has a low (therefore early) registration number, #29. In the early years of the Australian Stock Horse Society, horses had to be inspected and classified before admittance to the Stud Book. John Stanton organised for the Society's first classification day to be held around Macksville.

Tom recalls that the classifiers Leo Rosten, Frank Thompson and Ray Gosling came to his place to look at 'Leo' and a few of Tom's mares. 'Leo' got the symbol of approval - the 'big A' brand on his rear.

The classifiers also went to John's place at Macksville. John presented 23 of his horses for classification, with 30 horses in total being classified on the day. Apparently the event was quite controversial, with the Australian Stock Horse Society Committee being skeptical that all horses presented were of sufficient quality for registration. It took a second inspection by then President, Bryant Gavin to confirm the classifiers' decision on John's horses. John recalls Bryant saying that he was surprised that one person could have so many horses that fitted the breed standard.

Little more needs to be said about LEO - FS HSH's sire Chan. (see ASHS Journal, Nov/Dec 2013, pp.16-20). John

## LEO - FS HSH

**Colour:** Bay/Brown

**Height:** 15.1hh

**Lifespan:** 20 years (1967 – 1987)

**Breeder:** Croaker Bros, Glengarry Stn, Wingen NSW

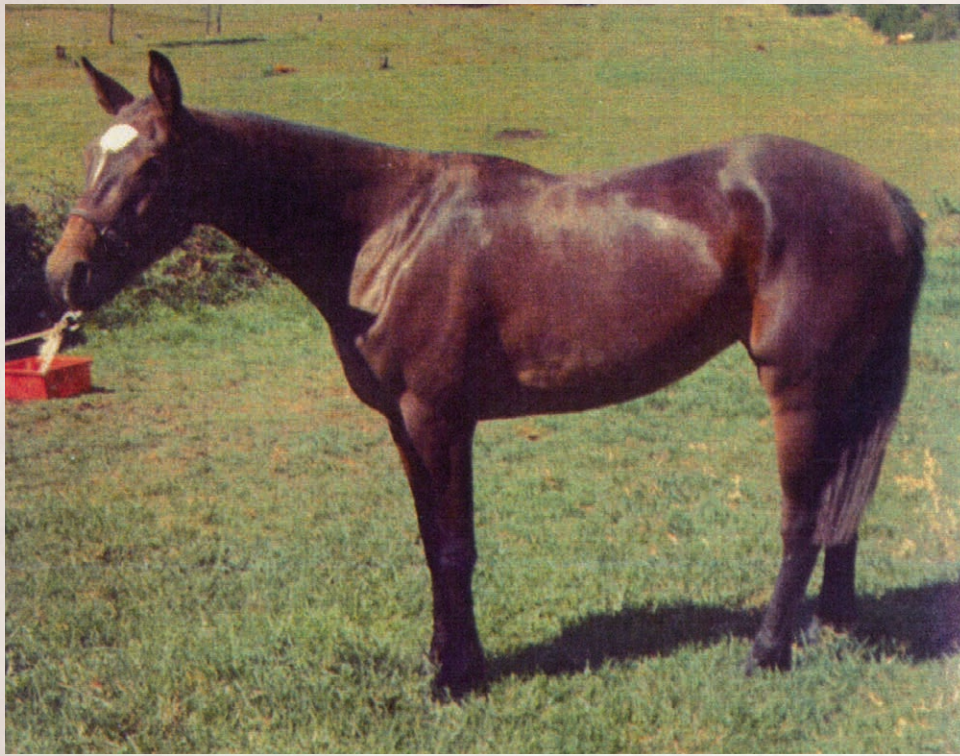
**Performance:** Station horse, occasional campdrafter and show horse.

**Progeny:** 40 registered progeny, the most notable being the stallion WANSEY LEON - IS HSH



Sire	chan 02 - WH	radium 02 - WH	cecil 02 - WH
		witzy 02	black bess 03
Dam	midnight mare 02	midnight 04 - WH	medlow 02 - WH
			part arab mare 01
		meridith mare 02	haydons starlight 02 - WH
			unknown dam
			meridith 001
			unknown dam





**Above: Champion polocrosse mare and successful broodmare, WAY WAY TARA - HSH (LEO - FS HSH/Carrabean)  
Right: A Grade polocrosse gelding WAY WAY INDIGO (MR ADIOS/WAY WAY TARA - HSH) and Kevin Donnelly**



Stanton's viewpoint on this bloodline varies a bit from others. He explained, 'The Chan horses had beautiful necks but they needed time to get their balance. They were also great traveling horses - they would walk fast and get a bit of a shuffle up. They were very tough too, but didn't hold their condition that well when being worked.'

Despite recognising the good qualities of the Chan line, John is also quite critical. 'The temperament of some of them was not good. They were very difficult to break in', he said, 'especially if you tried to do it too quickly or too early. They were not horses for the average person. The first two mares that I culled out of my breeding string were by Chan.'

But John did value the influence of LEO - FS HSH and his good temperament, saying, 'I still have some horses about here, out of mares by LEO - FS HSH.'

LEO - FS HSH was his dam's second foal. She was registered simply as "Midnight Mare". Midnight, by Haydon's Starlight, was one of the Haydon sires which Glengarry station used from time to time. She was out of a Meridith mare. The Midnight Mare's first foal was also

a colt by Chan and was registered as LITTLE CHAN. He sired six foals, with only one of them breeding on. That horse was the 1971 colt BINNIA CHANDELIER - HSH, that produced 34 progeny.

Tom describes the Midnight Mare as, 'a dark bay mare about 15hh. She was a blood-horse type, low set with a good front.' She was blind in one eye when Tom bought her but the upside was that she was in foal again to Chan. The foal, born in 1968, was also a colt and used as a working horse by Tom. The Midnight Mare did not get in foal again.

LEO - FS HSH sired a total of 40 registered progeny, including some colts and many good mares. Tom bred 12 horses by him under his Rosewood Stud prefix. John Stanton recalls the progeny as being 'very good - especially good in the bush'. Tom explained that the progeny 'had fine necks and heads which made them flexible. They had a light touch and didn't need much pressure.' In temperament though, he tells me that they were quiet and easy to break-in.

When young Tom was 12 he broke-in a colt named CHAN LEE that he rode to win the Junior campdraft at Kempsey, New South Wales. CHAN LEE'S dam, CABBAGE

was named for her cauliflower ears. While the Stud Book records her parentage as unknown, Tom and John recalls that she is actually by Bar Eye. CHAN LEE sired the dam of GLEN LEE CLARE, a Special Merit mare used for breeding by the Glen Lee stud.

Tom used LEO - FS HSH a number of times over a chestnut mare named FLICKA to produce some good horses. FLICKA was bred by the Searls in the Macleay Valley and carried respected bloodlines, being by BLACK RADIANT - FS HSH out of Meehan's mare, Shammy, who was a granddaughter of Bullseye.

Tom recalls some of the good ones. Gem, (the mare ROSEWOOD STUD GEMIMA) was sold and produced progeny for the Olsens and also LEO JOE, who was a good type of gelding he sold to Les Rudder who showed him a lot. In 1975 LEO - FS HSH sired a colt named COORABIL ROBBIE MAC RAY for Robin McCarthy of Manilla who went on to sire 15 foals.

LEO - FS HSH also sired some polocrosse horses that were good all-rounders at the game. The best known of these is attributable to Kevin Donnelly who bred an aged, but quality mare named Carrabeen, to LEO - FS HSH. She was a Cecil granddaughter on whom Mike O'Keefe of Yarrowitch had played polocrosse. She produced the filly WAY WAY TARA - HSH, who played only 14 tournaments around the New England zone but won many prizes.

Retired young, WAY WAY TARA - HSH produced 11 foals, but is best known for her first and second foals named WAY WAY INDIGO and WAY WAY CRYSTAL respectively. Played by Kevin and Terry Donnelly, these two horses were exceptional A Grade polocrosse horses, winning over 100 horse prizes between them.

They played at state, national and international level, winning best horse prizes at some of those tournaments. They also won the High Point polocrosse awards in 1986, 1988 and 1991 and were honoured with the Directors awards. At Burradoo, WAY WAY CRYSTAL won Champion Polocrosse Pony of the International Test Series.

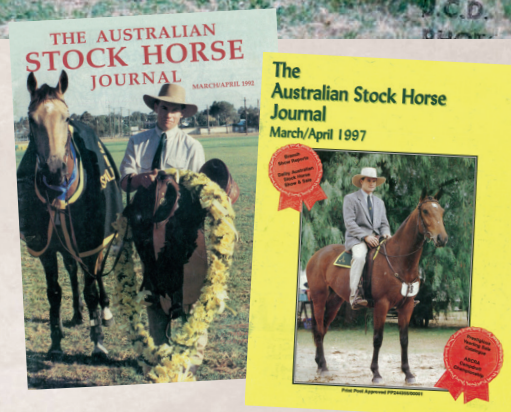
We can see that the agility and temperament required for polocrosse has flowed to other branches of the LEO - FS HSH family, as Tom proudly tells me that his grandchildren represented NSW Juniors on second generation LEO - FS HSH horses. His grandson, Brad recently played at the Nationals at Warwick for NSW Under 21yrs on a third generation LEO - FS HSH horse.

A big breeding opportunity arose for LEO - FS HSH when Bryant Gavin met the horse. Jean Gavin explained that Bryant liked his 'wonderful temperament and good conformation'. Bryant arranged





**Above: Mare GAVINS LISA - HSH (WANSEY LEON - IS HSH/LISTO - HSH) with Mat Holz**  
**Right: Mat Holz on the cover of the Australian Stock Horse Journal with GAVINS LISA - HSH (left) and TALINGA CORIANDER (right)**  
**Left: Bryant Gavin and mare WANSEY GERMAINE - HSH (WANSEY LEON - IS HSH/RIVERVIEW CHARMAINE - HSH)**



for Tom to deliver him to Cumnock and lease him for the 1972 and 1973 seasons. He stood to outside mares at a service fee of \$125. Over those two years the Gavins got seven foals by him; four carried the Gavins prefix and three had the Wansey prefix. There were some good mares amongst them such as GAVIN DIANA who produced several good station horses that the Gavins used. Another was GAVINS STYLO, out of the mare WANSEY STYLE, a Young Valais mare obtained from the legendary big Jack Reilly.

LEO - FS HSH sired a number of horses used for polo, a popular sport in that part of New South Wales. Jean and Bryant's two sons, Duncan and Bruce Gavin played a few of his progeny. Mike Barton also used him to produce two Yarrahapinni mares.

LEO - FS HSH's best known son was purpose-bred by the Gavins in 1973 and named WANSEY LEON - IS HSH. When the Gavins moved to Cumnock from Mendooran in 1968, Jean explained that 'we had a real mixture of mares, so Bryant went looking for a good thoroughbred mare to put to LEO - FS HSH. He found what he was looking for at the 1972 Sydney Easter yearling sales, in Austrium Lass. She was a neat little mare with good conformation - but no show horse', said Jean. Standing at 15.1hh, this six year old brown mare had come third in a maiden race at Gosford. She is by Colour Plate who goes back to Nearco and out of Austrium who is a granddaughter of Phalaris.

Unfortunately, this mare was to have only the one foal. It was a late foal, she didn't rear it well and she died not long afterwards. Being too immature to geld at the time, the colt was put aside, until one day Gavin came in exclaiming to Jean with surprise and satisfaction, 'Have you seen that colt'.

WANSEY LEON - IS HSH now stood at 15.1hh and had grown out so well that they kept him entire. The Gavins report that his temperament was 'extraordinarily good'. Jean rode him a lot, their daughter Jillian showed him and he was also campdrafted a bit. Amongst his wins were the Working Stallion Class at the ASH National Horse show at Canberra and the Working Stallion Class at the Sydney Royal.

His ability to pass his qualities on to his progeny was clear to Duncan and Bruce when they were breaking-in some horses by other sires. There was a big difference in temperament between the WANSEY LEON - IS HSH progeny and the others.

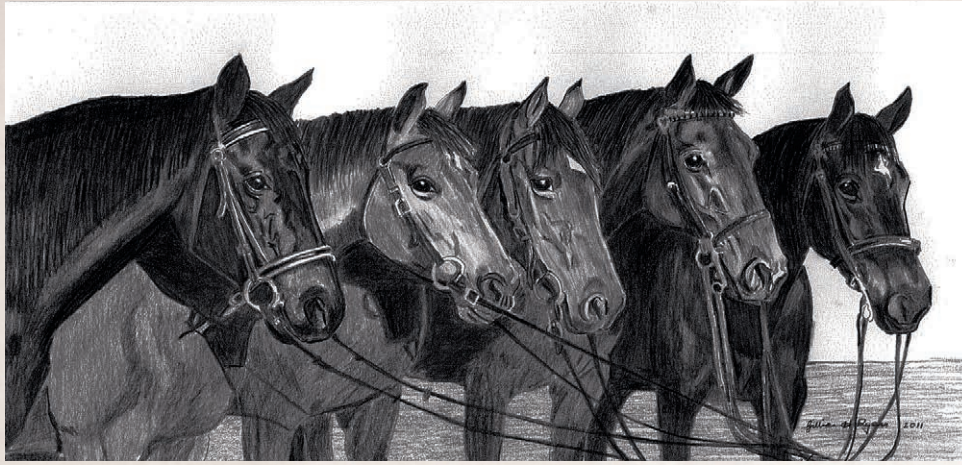
He went on to sire a range of very good horses, with 198 progeny in total. Of these, 96 were bred by the Gavins being registered with either their Gavins prefix or their Wansey prefix. Jean explains that the importance of the bloodline to them was, 'the ability of WANSEY LEON - IS HSH to breed quality foals out of carefully selected homebred mares - but he also had the ability to improve on the type, ability and temperament of the many unregistered mares sent to him.'

WANSEY LEON - IS HSH also sired some very good broodmares. Perhaps the best known of these is the dun mare GAVINS LISA - HSH, out of the SAGE KING - FS HSH mare LISTO - HSH. She is one of the few horses to win the National Futurity/Maturity double, claiming the Series 3 National Futurity in 1991 and then the Series 2 National Maturity in 1992, both with Mathew Holz. She has produced six quality offspring.

The Gavin's son Duncan, and daughter-in-law Barbara, bred 13 foals by WANSEY LEON - IS HSH with the Talinga prefix. TALINGA LEONARDO won the Yearling Colt class and was Reserve Champion at the 1998 ASH Nationals in Condobolin. His full sister, TALINGA CORIANDER won the Series 8 National Futurity in 1996. Barbara is still breeding with a number of WANSEY LEON - IS HSH mares, who have nicked well with KIRKBY'S STUD THEO (AUS) - HSH. Five of these broodmares: GAVINS CHIFFON - HSH, GAVINS LISA - HSH, TALINGA CORIANDER, TALINGA SUE - HSH, and TALINGA MAYFLOWER - HSH were photographed in 2006. A lovely sketch of a five of them was recently done by Mrs Gillian Ryan, a Member who was involved with the very first meetings of the Society and still does a huge amount with the youth camp at Cumnock.

Barbara and her daughter Sally are currently successfully competing on the local circuit with full siblings by KIRKBY'S STUD THEO (AUS) - HSH out of GAVINS LISA - HSH. These horses, TALINGA THEODORE - HSH and TALINGA LIESEL - HSH, won the Breeders Group at the Northern Branch show in Gunnedah in 2012. Since the sire and dam of these horses have won both the





Above: Gillian Ryan's sketch of five mares by WANSEY LEON - IS HSH. (L-R) GAVINS CHIFFON - HSH, GAVINS LISA - HSH (winner National Futurity 1991 & Maturity 1992), TALINGA CORIANDER (winner National Futurity 1996), TALINGA SUE - HSH and TALINGA MAYFLOWER - HSH. Right: Stallion TALINGA LEONARDO (WANSEY LEON - IS HSH/ DYAMBERIN SPICE with Duncan Gavin



National Futurity and the National Maturity, they have a good start on the opposition.

Jill Macintyre (nee Gavin), has also been breeding with the WANSEY LEON - IS HSH bloodlines for the past 15 years, using the Tinagroo prefix. The mare GAVINS MIN has been a state level pony cub mount; an A Grade showjumper; a class winner at the ASH Nationals and a good broodmare. Jill's young children rode two of her progeny with success at the recent Nationals.

The stallion TINAGROO WINCHESTER - HSH, out of the WANSEY LEON - IS HSH mare GAVINS RAMPLING - HSH, is a successful sire with 23 progeny to date and owned by the Frusher Family in Western Australia.

WANSEY LEON - IS HSH also produced A Grade polo horses, such as GAVINS RAMPLING - HSH and GAVINS LEONIE - HSH. At one point the Gavins leased four horses to Jemalong Polo Club to play the Ellerston club, where they acquitted themselves well.

The more prolific of WANSEY LEON - IS HSH's progeny include GAVINS

CLINKER - HSH (16 foals) and GAVINS CLICHE - HSH (17 foals). GAVINS CLIPPER - HSH produced 31 registered foals for the Hannaford stud in Braidwood. He sired Bill Peardon's stallion CLOVERLEIGH BILLABONG, who competed successfully in at least five ASH Nationals Championships and has sired 28 registered foals.

Some of WANSEY LEON - IS HSH's other good progeny were GAVINS ANNA - HSH who won the ASH Journal Snafflebit Futurity at the NSW Championships in 1980. She also won the 2yr Old Led Filly class in 1979. The following year the same class was won by WANSEY CHARM - HSH. Another was GAVINS CHILLI - HSH, who won the Sydney Royal Show 2yr Old Filly class two years later.

They have proven to be very versatile horses, with the Gavin grandchildren now using their progeny to compete on. The gelding TALINGA CAVALIER - HSH has had huge success in dressage and eventing with

his owner Megan Bryant. Other progeny have competed successfully in led, hacking, showjumping, sporting, eventing, polo and campdrafting. WANSEY LEON - IS HSH died in the paddock with his mares and the last of his progeny were foaled in 1999.

In the late 1960s and early 1970s there was a wave of recognition of our working horses that became known as Australian Stock Horses. This son of Chan rode the crest of that wave. LEO - FS HSH had a good life but his teeth went on him in the end, so at about 20 years old he had to be put down.

Time has justified the confidence and respect that both the Parkins and Bryant families have had for this bloodline. They look on with pride as their grandchildren perform successfully on the grand progeny of their chosen sires. No doubt other horsemen and women have found the same. This Foundation Sire has made his place in the breed's history because his 1,071 descendants have proven to be the same type of quality, versatile horse that he was.

#### Leo - The Man

LEO - FS HSH's namesake Leo Callinan lives quietly in Scone these days, but he and his family are part of the story of the horse Chan. Leo is the son of JG (Jim) Callinan to whom Chan was given by Frank Scanlon. Leo followed in his father's footsteps in managing the Croakers large property, 'Glengarry' at Wingen from 1964 to 1984.

Leo looked after Chan and controlled his breeding for much of his life. Leo was a keen competitor in showing and campdrafting, and had great success with the mare GLENGARRY DINA - HSH, one of the most admired horses of all time.

Leo has been acknowledged as a well-respected horseman and was an Olympic 2000 torchbearer for the Scone district. Both Leo the man and LEO - FS HSH the horse are the type of strong foundations on which the Australian Stock Horse has been built. 🇺🇸



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