

RYANS FOUR EX – FM ASH Reg: 60999

*.....and the vet, as she lay,
dripped some beer on her mane
from the can that contained XXXX*

*Now RYANS FOUR EX became an FM
and the one thing she hates more than work is
to be reminded by folk who have heard of the joke
how she came to be christened FOUR EX
(with apologies to Banjo)*

This foundation mare had a distinctive name, the flavour of a northern Australian beverage of the liquid malt variety. She carries the Radium bloodline through both sides of her pedigree and is another close descendant of the Chan sire RED RAY - FS, whose story appeared in the previous issue of this journal (Nov/Dec 09). Born in New South Wales, she moved from her breeder into the hands of two horsemen of note – Philip Kirkby of Wave Hill at Narrabri and then further north to Rodger Jefferis of Elrose at Cloncurry.

Her story starts with Terry Ryan who came from the Tamworth district in New South Wales. He was keen on the Hunter Valley bloodlines and on good advice, bred his mare, Mystery, to ABBEY - FS.

On Christmas Day in 1978 a black filly was born to Mystery. Rodger Jefferis recalls the story of her name as told to him by Terry Ryan. It has some similarities to the Banjo Patterson poem, A Bush Christening. "Terry told me that as some difficulties were being experienced during the birth, he called the vet to assist. All went well and afterwards, those involved were able to share some Christmas cheer. As they stood over the newly born filly, the vet wet the young ones head, saying – "I christen you Ryan's Four Ex."

Mystery competed lightly, only going to two rodeos and one show. Terry's records show that at the Nundle Rodeo, she competed in the Open Campdraft (New South Wales Open) and placed seventh out of 96 horses. At Walcha, in the same event, she placed sixth out of 110 horses, with 79.5 points. And at the Tamworth Show she placed second out of 20 horses in the Led Galloway Mare Class.

Mystery's dam, Meretha, was known to be a successful campdrafter, but little is recorded in the stud book about this mare. Possibly born during the late 1950's, she was by the Radium sire Dimray and out of an 'unknown' mare. The story of Dimray, one of the breed's Horses of Historical Significance, is told in the Society's Hall of Fame. It introduces us to Carl Mitchell, one of the great Hunter Valley campdraft riders of the era and the breeder of Dimray. This stallion was the sire of REALITY - FS, the grandsire of RIVOLI RAY - IS and the great grandsire of CECIL BRUCE - IS.

One may be excused for thinking that the ability Meretha inherited from her famous sire, came through the male side of his family, that is to say, Radium. Terry Ryan wrote notes to show that Carl also bred Meretha. Her dam turns out to not be 'unknown' but a 'Cecil blood mare', which Carl thought "was a really top mare, well bred and good enough to keep a stallion out of." The notes also show that Dimray's dam, DOREEN by Silvius, and her half sister Creeper, out of the same mare, were also very well respected by Carl and others as some of the great campdrafting horses of New South Wales in the 1930-40's.

Terry's notes provide further interesting insights into these horses and the breeding policies of the time:

"As far as I am aware, Carl Mitchell, whom I knew really well, only ever kept one stallion by Dim Ray – a horse called Dickens on whom I won the northern New South Wales Open Bending race at the Tamworth Show against about 30 horses. Dickens was the full brother to Meretha.

These horses have been line bred and selected for:

- Temperament (kick or buck they were sent to Sydney for dog meat)
- Weight carrying
- Stamina
- Cattle sense (most important)
- A good strong frame, well put together.

Both Dim Ray and RED RAY - FS were the quietest stallions I have ever had anything to do with, as was Dickens.

This, I believe, is as accurate as my memory allows."

From this it would seem that Dickens is likely to be the stallion in the stud book recorded as Dimray Colt 02. This colt sired ten horses and through two of his mares with the Narrengullen prefix, this line has continued through to today to include horses in the Hannaford Stud and also the Bibbenluke and Fernloff Studs as well.

Terry bought the mare Meretha from Carl at the Timor Rodeo. Her mating, probably in the mid 1960's, with the Chan sire RED RAY - FS produced her only registered progeny in Mystery (date of birth unknown).

A difficult breeder, Mystery later went to Phillip Kirkby to be bred to QUIDONG BRIGADIER - IS but unfortunately she got a uterine infection, foundered badly and died on the Wave Hill property.

Phillip Kirkby recalls her as "a lovely-looking bay mare standing almost 15 hands, with a quiet nature." Her first and only other foal was RYANS MYAB, sired by ABDUL - IS and born in 1977. He went with his dam, to Phillip Kirkby as a young colt. Phillip likes to breed his fillies at the age of three or four, getting one foal from them before putting them into serious work. This practice has worked well for him, as it not only allows the fillies time to reach maturity but also increases the rate of the stud's genetic gain.

Phillip Kirkby took RYANS FOUR EX - FM to break in and get going, in exchange for the right to breed her foal for foal, with her owner Terry Ryan. Phillip Kirkby recalls that she was "jet-black in colour with a very quiet nature. Long in the body and very athletic – she was easy to get on with when I broke her in." For her first mating Phillip chose the stallion QUIDONG BRIGADIER - IS – a mating which resulted in the mare KIRKBYS TONIC.

Rodger Jefferis is not only a cattleman, but also a horseman - a founding member and classifier of The Australian Stock Horse Society. He used to do a lot of campdrafting and has judged at many Royals and State Titles across Australia. As a competitor, he has campdrafted at the highest level, having been placed in three consecutive finals of the Warwick Gold Cup.

Rodger was fortunate to buy RYANS MYAB from Terry Ryan, to pursue his active interest in campdrafting. Terry wrote to Rodger in 1981 saying. "You now own a horse with great stockhorse breeding – there is no better in New South Wales. Look after him." Rodger recalls, "He was a real ABDUL type – bay, 15.3 hands, big-boned and stretchy. He was an exceptional horse. One time he won a

REMEDY
Photo by Sue Kirkby, Early 1990's



KIRKBYS TONIC and Sue Kirkby
Photo Supplied by Sue Kirkby, Bowen Show 1987



campdraft at Winton, then we travelled overnight and he won another campdraft the next day. In the times before the big scores of today, he completed eight or nine courses in a row with scores of over 84." His campdrafting record shows wins in 10 Opens and 18 Cut Outs.

Chasing further success, Rodger contacted Terry looking for a horse from the same family. Terry valued his ABBEY - IS mare, RYANS FOUR EX - FM highly and wouldn't sell, but some time later a deal was struck and she was trucked up to Rodger immediately after KIRKBYS TONIC was weaned from her.

Picking up the mare's education where Phillip Kirkby left off, Rodger was able to get the best out of this now mature horse. Rodger describes RYANS FOUR EX - FM as, "a very capable mare - she was especially good in Cut Outs". Her record shows a win in a Maiden and in three Progressive Campdrafts (now called Novice) in the towns of Camooweal, Gregory, Julia Creek and Winton. She also won 10 Cut Outs and was placed in three Opens.

Rodger continued breeding and with her and got two more foals, but only one was registered. This horse is ELROSE HAPPY HOUR, a brown filly born in 1997 by the WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS sire, ARCADIA REALM. "This filly campdrafted well and we had some foals out of her but they were not registered. The unregistered foal out of RYANS FOUR EX - FM, is a brown gelding named Dark & Stormy - also by ARCADIA REALM," says Rodger. He is owned by Geoff Schrader of Bedourie who reports that, "he is a quiet horse - not that big. My son and I compete successfully on him at Open Campdrafts."

RYANS MYAB had most of his progeny during the 1980's siring 22 registered foals, mostly with the Baletta and Elrose prefixes of the Jefferies family. Rodger says, "The line became really popular up here. We had weanlings being sold every year." Rodger rode one son, BALETTA PROOF to his fourth, fifth and seventh placings in consecutive Warwick Gold Cups, amassing wins in 24 Campdrafts and 27 Cut Outs over his career. Not bad for a region where campdrafts were few and far between. Another son, BALETTA SHOESTRING, came second in the Warwick Gold Cup for Geoff Schrader and had 32 Open wins to his credit including a first and a second in the Grandfather Clock Campdraft at Chinchilla. His full sister, BALETTA STING, was "a super-kind mare who won ten campdrafts, mostly Ladies and Novices." His full brother, Will Do, owned by Fred Sheppard at Cloncurry, won three Opens while another son, Well Dun, won six Opens. RYANS MYAB also sired three registered foals for the Bassingthwaighe's at Toomba Station in Charters Towers.

Remembering that many of his foals were not registered, it must have been busy up north in the 1980's as literally truckloads of RYANS MYAB progeny were travelling around competing against each other. Old Ryan was right in his assessment of the colt's quality of breeding. It came as a blow when the stallion broke a pedal bone

and retired from the sport prematurely at the age of eight, preventing his performance record from being even more impressive.

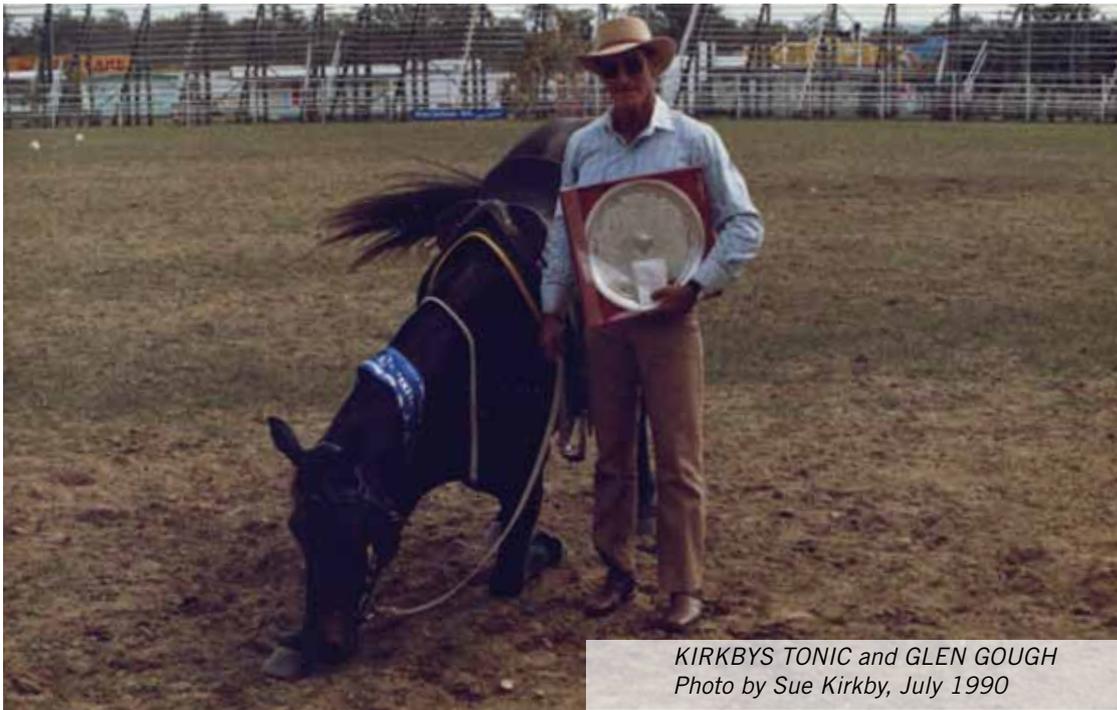
All these horses were used for stock work and campdrafting and while some were bred for one or two generations, many have not been registered. Resignedly Rodger commented, "I love my horses, but the cattle enterprise just took over. We now run the biggest performance-registered, Brahman herd in Australia. Modestly, Rodger omits to add that he is also the immediate past-president and currently a Councillor of the Australian Brahman Breeders Association.

Back with the Kirkby-owned side of this family, Sue Kirkby describes KIRKBYS TONIC as "a lovely natured mare - a good, honest all-rounder. She had a great head and neck." This description echoes what we hear about the descendants of Chan. It is interesting to hear that the "good front" is a pronounced characteristic even down to the fifth generation. In line with the Kirkby breeding policy, KIRKBYS TONIC had one early foal by WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS, who was one of the popular sires of the time. This brown foal, born in 1983 was the colt KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY, who has gone on to make a big name for himself in competition and as a successful sire.

KIRKBYS TONIC quickly became Sue's favourite and was used as a performance horse for a few years, competing very successfully in led, hack and working classes and in campdrafting. Her wins include champion led mare and champion ridden stockhorse at Melbourne Royal.

Glen Gough, the master horseman from Proserpine took her for a while when he was short of horses. He won a Maiden and an Open Campdraft on her. "She was a good type of mare that had a lot of working ability", said Glen. "She would get herself into trouble in the camp sometimes - but she had the ability to get herself out of it again." Unable to do much farm work due to eyesight problems at the time, Glen started to play around with her and teach her tricks. "She was very pliable and easy to teach", said Glen who explained that this was the first horse he put up to his now famous horse tricks. After Glen had trained her, Sue tells me that the mare could come up to the bar, kneel and bow, lie down, pick things up in her mouth and then go back to her stable with the simple instruction - 'off you go'. She was not only a champion at the top level but also proved to be a good pony club mount. Later in life, when in her early twenties and after all her foals, she was teaching youngsters to ride. "She was the perfect kids horse", said Sue.

Having proved herself as a performance horse, she was put back into the role of a brood mare, producing seven foals over the next ten years. Her second foal in 1992 was again by WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS - a bay mare named KIRKBYS STUD REMINISCE. Glen Gough bought this filly and describes her as "one of the quietest horses that I have ever owned." He won Open Campdrafts



*KIRKBYS TONIC and GLEN GOUGH
Photo by Sue Kirkby, July 1990*

with her at Ingham and Proserpine. She has produced a colt and a filly to date. The colt, by YALLATUP REGAL REMEDY, is registered as YALLATUP SIR REGINALD. He won and placed in a number of classes at the 2004 New South Wales Breeders Championships. He has sired a few horses including YALLATUP REGINA (AUS), a filly sold and exported by Glen to Canada with Maryanne Gough's horses.

Kirkby bought from Lindsay Knight, a half share in the grey colt WARRENBRI OMEGA, who is by WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS. A Warwick Gold Cup winner, with nearly 400 foals to his credit now, he was used six times over KIRKBYS TONIC from 1995-2001 for three colts and three fillies. As a commercial breeder, Philip had good success here as, "this combination produced a very marketable horse". All of these foals were sold bearing the prefix KIRKBYS STUD.

Her first foal by this grey sire of champions was KIRKBYS STUD APOLLO, a bay gelding born in 1995. KIRKBYS STUD CHEERS, a grey filly born in 1996, came next and was bought by Peter Allan of Emu Creek Queensland. Her record includes winning the champion working Australian Stock Horse at the Chinchilla Branch Futurity in 2002 and placing in the mare classes at the National Championships in Albury in 2005. So far, she has produced three fillies for the Allans with their Stockhaven prefix. The eldest, STOCKHAVEN BALLERINA, has placed in a number of classes at the 2006, 2007 and 2009 National Championships.

The following foal was KIRKBYS STUD HOPE, a brown filly born in 1997 owned by the Sheedys. On her, Julie took out second place in the national three year old futurity at the National Championships at Scone in 2001 with the horse placing four times at the same show. To date she has produced one foal.

The next was KIRKBYS STUD GLORY, a grey mare born in 1999 and sold to the Atkins Family Partnership from Tamworth. She has produced four foals to date – the first in 2003 was a grey colt by BLUE MOON MYSTIC - IS, registered as GREEN GULLY MYNSTRAL. This horse represented the breed and featured in the 2009 Melbourne Cup Day celebrations by carrying the Cup down the straight, with owner/rider Adam Litchfield presenting it to the officials. (See article in this journal.)

The final two progeny were the colts KIRKBYS STUD ADMIRAL in 2000 and KIRKBYS STUD MATRIX in 2001.

The first born out of KIRKBYS TONIC, the colt KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY, was kept. Sue broke him in and describes him as, "very quiet and trainable". Like his mother before him, he was another favourite of Sues. He had early success winning the yearling futurity at the New South Wales Breeders' Championships at Dubbo. As a two and three year-old Sue competed with success in led and ridden classes. On him she won a Novice Campdraft at Moree and also Ladies Campdrafts. He took out Champion Ridden Australian Stock Horse at Brisbane Royal, High Point Australian Stock Horse at the Queensland championships at Dalby and also won the Australian Stock Horse Ladies Association classes at Dalby in the same year.

During his time with Kirkbys he was campaigned by a number of people. Glen Gough took this colt on as a youngster, and put a lot of groundwork into him and won the Widgee Futurity, the Whitsunday Classic and the Cloncurry Stockman's Challenge on him, the youngest horse ever to win the Challenge. Terry Hall then took him to win an Open Campdraft at Narrabri.

As a stallion, he was leased for a number of seasons in order to earn a better reputation for himself as a sire. At two, he was sent to Bruce Wilson at the University of Queensland vet school for semen collection. While there, he was used by the university stud, resulting in 42 horses sired by him bearing the Vet School prefix. Later, after standing at stud for few years at Wave Hill he was again leased out, spending some time at the Bassingthwaight's Toomba Stud at Charters Towers and then at the Gatton College Stud. He also spent a few seasons with Colin Furney at Blackwater and finally came back to Gunnedah, New South Wales to stand at the Wundurra Stud with James and Jenny Myers, siring 30 horses there. They now have a young stallion by him, WUNDURRA REVIEW, who has the same faultless temperament and the lovely Chan 'front'.

In 2008, at the age of 25, KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY was bought by the Royale Stud at of Toowoomba. In Amanda McLennan-Dehnert's words, "we bought him to breed with our own mares and add the very popular Romeo influence. His broodmares are also very sought after and topped the recent broodmare sales. Remedy is a lovely natured stallion who is fed and rugged by our young sons". At their stud they have found him to still be very potent with his recent semen test proving to be of excellent quality. "This year we have our first crop of foals on the ground - there are some stunning foals amongst them and we are very happy with them, as



*BOONDEROO BLACKWOOD and Anne Jelliff
Photo by Julie Wilson, September 2008*

they have a great nature. We feel the cross of these bloodlines have worked very well. He is looking and feeling great and has come to a good home to retire. We hope that there will be many years of life left for him to imprint his heritage line of breeding”, said Amanda.

KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY, this grandson of RYANS FOUR EX - FM, has gone on to sire some outstanding progeny amongst his 317 foals to date. One of these is YALLATUP REGAL REMEDY – the horse that Glen Gough used to demonstrate the breed at the Horsley Park Equestrian Centre at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He was the recipient of both The Australian Stock Horse Society Commonwealth Bank Star of the Year and The Australian Stock Horse Society Prince of Wales trophy in 2001. This is a feat yet to be repeated. He was a star horse, being extremely well trained, well-performed and a successful sire (101 progeny), all of which was good justification for his record sale price of \$100,000 in 2001. He is the sire of REGAL POWER, also a recipient of the Prince of Wales trophy in 2000 and winner of the Series 13 National Maturity in 2002. REGAL POWER has gone on to sire the winner of the Series 21 National Futurity in 2009, DOONGARA AUSTIN POWERS. YALLATUP REGAL REMEDY has backed up his record of producing winners by siring the winner of the Series 18 National Futurity in 2006, DOONGARA POWER REPEAT.

Another well performed sire son of KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY is the Jelliff's BOONDEROO BLACKWOOD (45 progeny), who has won 18 supreme champions and more than 100 champion ribbons in his show career extending over 14 years to date. He received The Australian Stock Horse Society Prince of Wales trophy in 2007 and is the sire of the EFA showjumper, THISTLEHILL FLEETWOOD. Both these stallions stand in Victoria and with their good looks and inherent ability; do much to promote the versatility of the breed in the southern states.

Another interesting aspect to this foundation mare's name is the use of a surname as a prefix. Phillip Kirkby was a founding member of the Society and along with Theo Hill and 'Tiger' Batterham, was a central classifier who travelled widely in the early days of the Society. As part of the classification process they had to clearly identify the horses and, in doing so, came across a lot of inconsistencies and duplications in the naming of horses, leading to dual identities. For example, apart from the RED RAY - FS by Chan there was also a Red Ray by Radium.

Determined to improve this situation for the good of a better studbook, Philip was the first to use his name as a prefix for his horse registrations and also encouraged others to do the same.

For example, he encouraged Alf Bignell to name his grey stallion BIGNELLS RADIANT (O2) - to differentiate it from Radiant (O2), the black stallion (by Radium ii O2); from Radiant, the grey gelding (by RED RAY - FS) and from the many variants of this name both before and after that time. Eventually, the use of prefixes was a practice which became formalised in the studbook rules of The Australian Stock Horse Society.

RYANS FOUR EX - FM died in about 2000. So goes the current history of another successful branch of the Radium/Chan family which has seen this mare achieve Foundation Mare status with 795 descendants (as at July 2007), despite only having two registered progeny herself. A number of people who knew this humble mare were surprised that she had achieved this position. But, as with her family, so a breed grows - as outstanding individuals come to people's attention, are sought after and bred from. The crossing with other significant lines of the breed has seen this mare's descendants grow in reputation and popularity. 🐾

Profile: RYANS FOUR EX - FM

Colour	Black
Height	15 Hands
Lifespan	22 years (1978 - 2000)
Breeder	Terry Ryan, Tamworth district, NSW
Performance	Campdrafter – placed in Opens and winner of 10 Cut Outs
Progeny	3 (2 males and 1 filly) Only 2 registered - the most notable being the mare KIRKBYS TONIC and the stallion RYANS MYAB

RYANS FOUR EX - FM ASH REG: 60999	ABBEY - FS	Radiant	Radium II
			Lady Squires
	Mystery	Joys Pal	Radium II
			Cooplacurripa Station Mare
	Mystery	RED RAY - FS	Chan
			Zella
Meretha		Dimray	
		Unknown Dam	