

FOUNDATION SIRE

WARDANCE

ASH REG 93

BY JOY POOLE (OAM)

WARDANCE breaks the mould of most Foundation Stallions, as he was not born in NSW but in Queensland at Toomba Station outside Charters Towers. WARDANCE was sent to NSW, as a sire, to return a favour to Mr Jack Hayes by Mr EED White. Apparently AJ [Jack/John] Hayes had lent Mr EED [Ernest Edward Duckett] White his very good mare Simmer, to ride and Mr White had really appreciated this kindness. Following is the letter, written over half a century ago, from EED White telling John Hayes of his intentions regarding the colt.

Telephone 6 Greenmount

Woodlands
Greenmount QLD
18th April, 1953.

Dear John,

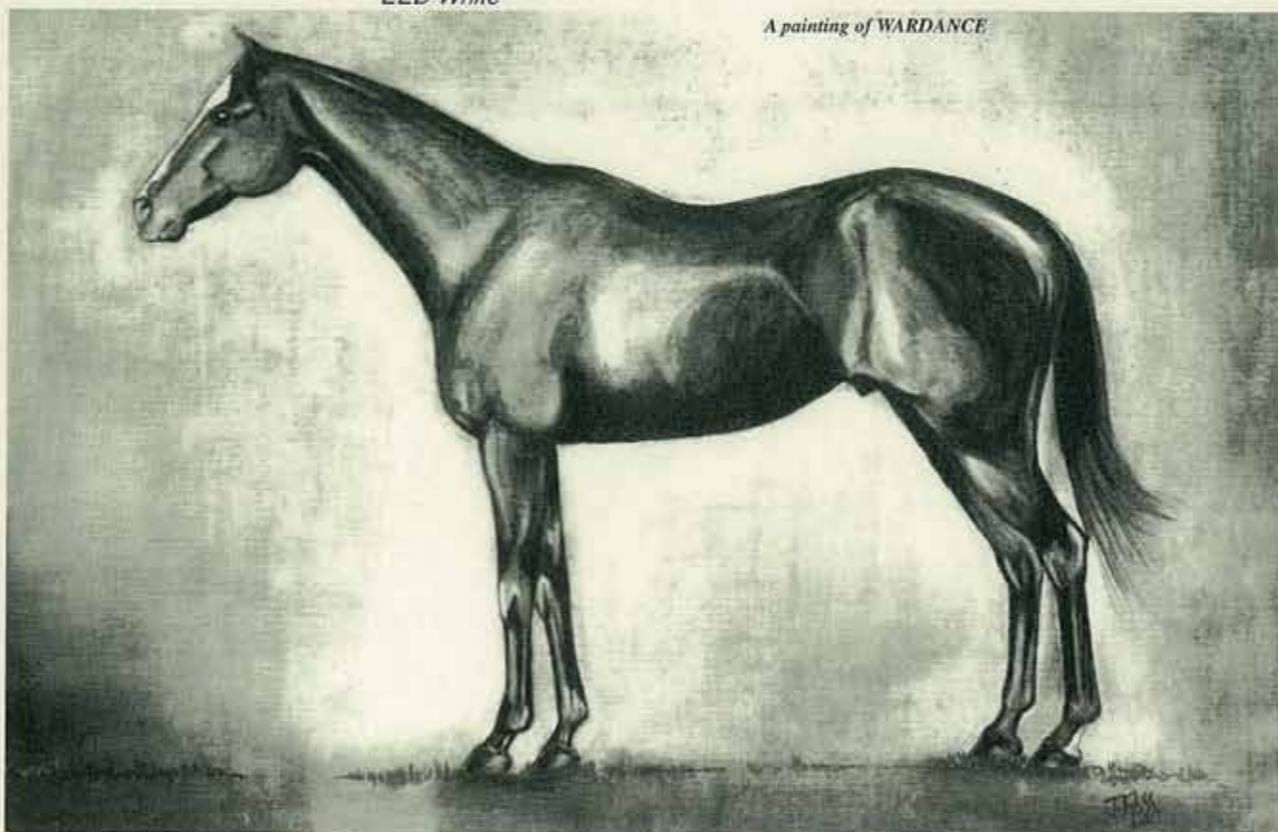
I remember the talk we had at the last Brisbane Show. And at last, at Toomba last week I found a colt that I think will suit you, now rising 3 yrs old.

I have never forgotten your kindness in letting me have Simmer to ride and the pleasure that it gave me. They are putting this colt on a truck up at Ball's Creek near Charters Towers on the 11th May and it will take a week to get there. It will take him a few weeks to get over the trip on the QLD railways. I wish a man like Cameron could break him in and train him for campdrafting. This fellow has splendid action. We will let you know when he is ready to go forward.

With Kind Regards.

Yours Sincerely,
EED White

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
			The Welton
		Elure	Terpo
	Warsash	Martin	
	Warimo	Sameer	
Sunrise		Inheritor	Sunrise
	Sunbriest		Unknown Dam
		Blue Bonnet	
WARDANCE			
ASH REG 93			
		First Barrel	
		Bronzewing	Cricket
	Lodestar	Venus	
Berri			
		Tina	The Welton
		Chapeau	Terpo
		Caroline	



A painting of WARDANCE



The late Jane Turnbull jumping on KOTUPNA CRACKERJACK

A second sheet is either attached to the original letter or sent later, along with a very detailed pedigree.

Telephone 6 Greenmount
Woodlands
Greenmount QLD

Every line in this pedigree runs back to famous horses Flying Fox, Martian, Ladas, Robinson Crusoe, Grandmaster, Le Grand [one of the greatest horses ever bred in Queensland], St Leger NZ, Goldsborough, Fireworks, Abercorn, Carbine, Marvellous, St Hippo won NZ Derby and Cup at 3 yrs old.

I think it would be impossible to find such a concentration of Fisherman [whose line has now died out] blood through Robinson Crusoe anywhere. This colt is inbred to Lily a grey half bred Arab mare that arrived at Bluff Downs [where I was born] in 1874 with the first cattle to stock the place.

For 80 years this family has produced good looking stock horses and hacks.

This colt has splendid action and I will be surprised if he does not get good horses. I bred Sunrise, his sire and Warsash, his Grandsire. They and the great Grandsire Three all got first class riding horses.

Then a detailed pedigree is in place going back six generations, showing methodically all the references that Mr White makes in his breeding notes.

It is interesting that this horse links in with an interview I did with Ernest Bassingthwaite, the current occupant of Toomba station and a grandson of Mr EED White. Following is information from that article in ASH Journal July/August 2002.

Toomba was originally an outstation of Bluff Downs, a conglomeration of over 1,600 square miles put together by Ernest's great grandfather, Albert William Duckett White and grandfather, Ernest Edward Duckett White. It was Albert who drove the original mobs of Shorthorn cattle north to Bluff Downs to commence its development in the 1870s.

"I think Toomba was always highly regarded by my forbears," said Ernest, "as it had such a wonderful, natural supply of water in most years and particularly in dry years."

Horses were and still are important at Toomba.

"Today we need 30 horses in our mustering plant," said Ernest, "we work on 8 to a stockman - four in and four out. Once it used to be 10 per stockman but today, with trucks to cart horses to outstations and smaller paddocks the amount of cattle work has decreased."

The horse record books at Toomba have been kept since 1871. The old books are written in beautiful copperplate handwriting and the only sire book that is missing is one prior to 1920 that was lost in the 1950 flood.

"When Albert White drove the cattle north in 1875," said Ernest Bassingthwaite in that article, "Two of the mares he brought to Bluff Downs were Florence, a Thoroughbred mare, and Lily, a grey part Arab mare. Some of our horses on Toomba today descend from these two mares."

"Lodestar, a Thoroughbred horse by Bronzewing by First Barrel by Goldsborough out of Venus by North Star from Decot has had a very big influence on our horses, appearing in the pedigrees of all our top cattle horses."

It is interesting that all these horses mentioned by him and his forbear, EED White, all appear in the breeding of WARDANCE.

"Over the years," continues Ernest, "our horses have gone everywhere and into a range of activities - hacking, campdrafting, polocrosse, polo. As a matter of fact, we had two polo ponies playing in America at one time. One of these received an extensive write up in the Polo magazine."

When the first classifiers went to Toomba Station in 1972 they classified 40 horses and flew in by plane. Today all the horses on Toomba Station [over 100] are registered.

So WARDANCE had the advantage of a pedigree that had been put together for over 80 years,

at that time in 1950, by the Whites, who were astute horse breeders. The horses had also been performance tested over

"Most of WARDANCE's progeny were quite big horses, around 15.2 to 15.3 hands high and were very versatile. They were very good campdrafters and very good at all equestrian events. They were big horses for campdrafters compared to what you see today but of course back then we were drafting bullocks, whereas today they are drafting calves or weaners!"



KOTUPNA STRIDE out of FREEDOM by WARDANCE. Stride successfully competed in equestrian events and was Champion Hack at Brisbane RAS

countless years on the huge Bluff Downs conglomerate for ability, stamina and conformation.

Jack Hayes, who was to receive this horse, was well known as a cattle breeder and ran the well known Hereford Stud, Bexley, at Bingara, along with his brother, Bill Hayes. WARDANCE, who may have had another name when with Jack Hayes, was only used as a sire. Don Turnbull, a grazier from Ebor, and breeder of horses for work on his property and for campdrafting for sport, used to go with his family to the beach every summer and there he would meet Jack Hayes, who likewise was on holidays. Naturally, both men being interested in cattle and horses, it wouldn't be long before the talk turned to that subject when they met. On one such occasion Don mentioned to Jack that he was looking for a colt and Jack replied that he had a black colt at home that he thought would suit him, so the two men arranged that Don would go up to "Llangollan" where Jack lived and have a look at him.

"When I got up there," said Don, "there were all these beautiful horses by WARDANCE so it wasn't the colt I was then after, it was the old horse himself! WARDANCE was about 15 years old or so when I bought him from Jack. He was 15.2 hands high, bay and with a blaze. I had him registered with The Australian Stock Horse Society and I named him WARDANCE."

He must hold the record for the oldest Foundation Stallion to get his name!

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WARDANCE lived to a great old age, well into his thirties and Don still has one of his progeny left who is either 32 or 33.

One aspect of WARDANCE's pedigree that Don is pleased about is that one of the dams in WARDANCE's



RACHAEL and KOTUPNA FRISCO were both successful in equestrian and rodeo events

Although WARDANCE was quite an old horse, 21 years of age, when The Australian Stock Horse Society was founded in 1971, there were 63 of his progeny registered. It was a case of quality with WARDANCE as he has an influence in some very high quality Australian Stock Horses.

pedigree is by Martian, who has the distinction of siring the dams of three Melbourne Cup winners, Beau Vite, Cuddle and Gain Carrington.

Although WARDANCE was quite an old horse, 21 years of age, when The Australian Stock Horse Society was founded in 1971, there were 63 of his progeny registered. It was a case of quality with WARDANCE as he has an influence in some very high quality Australian Stock Horses. His most successful sire son was KOTUPNA RIVOLI BOY owned by the Oakwood Pastoral Co. This sire had 97 registered progeny with a number bearing the Oakwood and Yandooya prefixes. COLLUM SIMMER [38 progeny] another WARDANCE sire was the sire of Brian Fahey's very good sire, CEDAR LOG MUSTARD [28] who produced some

excellent polocrosse ponies and Simmer was also the sire of the Foundation Mare, STAR GLENNAS DAUGHTER.

This incredible mare was the dam of YARRANOO MUSIC, Bruce McNaughton's great campdraft mare and producer, STAR CARUSO [44] a very good sire, and STAR BRIGADOON [48] and STAR PAVAROTTI [57], two very successful sires also. COLLUM SIMMER was also the sire of the successful sires TENERIFFE VENTRY [26] and YARRANOO GLENCOE [20].

Other sires by WARDANCE were KOTUPNA ORTOGO [15] and YANDOOYA CORROBOREE [30] owned by Peter Tindal.

This is one of those occasions when the breeding of an Australian Stock Horse family has been meticulously kept since 1871 so that over 130 years of breeding is there for reference.

When I spoke to Don, he said, "I think a lot of WARDANCE's progeny would be too big for people today, looking at what they are riding." But I said nothing could be further from the truth for, going on many of the enquiries we are receiving from potential overseas buyers, WARDANCE could be just the sire we need today. A.



FELTEX with colt foal by WARDANCE, who later sold to Lord Vestey as a 3 year old in Queensland